

# **Putin's Oreshnik & Drone Arsenal LOCKED on Europe, NATO Won't Survive**

Vladimir Putin has issued a devastating response to Europe's war threats, and Scott Ritter joins to discuss exactly what Russia's missiles and drones can do to NATO if Europe tries to make good on these threats. Watch until the end to understand just how deep the crisis afflicting Europe is, Russia's military power, and the future of not just Ukraine but the West itself. SUPPORT THE SHOW: PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai...> Substack: [chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com](https://chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com) Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> Follow me on Telegram: <https://t.me/dannyhaiphong>

## **#Danny**

Vladimir Putin, before the U.S.–Russia talks, had a lot to say about Europe's war threats. Many are talking about how he said Russia is ready for war if Europe starts one. But here's another comment that isn't getting as much attention.

## **#Putin**

Warmongers, even when they're allegedly trying to introduce some changes or adjustments to President Trump's proposal, have only one goal in mind. They're aimed at blocking and putting on hold this peace process. They're making demands that are unacceptable for Russia, and they know it. Later, they'll try to blame Russia, accuse Russia of stopping the peace process. That's their objective, and we can clearly see that. That's why, well, if they want to go back to reality—considering the reality on the ground—they're welcome. We're not against that.

## **#Danny**

So, uh, Scott, we'll begin with you. You know, there's an Italian admiral within NATO saying they're preparing for a preemptive attack on Russia. What's going on here? What's your assessment of the situation?

## **#Scott Ritter**

Well, it's just that—I mean, first of all, I think we should take everything with a grain of salt. NATO is a consensus-driven organization. Last time I checked, the United States and Hungary were members of NATO. And the notion that this mustachioed Italian admiral on the military committee is the one making these decisions is ludicrous. This is just the stupidity of a system coming face to face with

the reality that they're losing their relevance, that they no longer matter. They don't factor in at all. Nobody takes them seriously anymore. They're not even invited to the table, not invited to come and bow before Trump as they did after Alaska. They're just nothing. And so, having been ignored, like most children, they'll throw temper tantrums and say things.

But if you carefully parse what he said, he immediately nullifies everything. Of course, there will be some legal problems—yeah, like you're not going to be able to do it. And there are some political problems, questions of who would do this and who would approve it. Nobody's going to do it, and nobody's going to approve it. So again, the stupidity of the man. All he did was create an environment where the United States will once again reiterate the new reality that Article 5 no longer exists—that the United States will not go to war for Europe. Even Scott Ritter recently said that if Russia attacks Europe, the best the United States will do is sell Europe weapons.

But the idea that Americans are going to fight and die for Europe—that ship has sailed. And Russia, of course, isn't going to attack Europe unless Europe attacks Russia, which, you know, Putin has made very clear would be the end of Europe as it currently exists. And he wasn't threatening nuclear weapons. I just want to remind people that there's a little factory outside Kazan that's been producing about a thousand Geranium drones—Geranium-2s and -3s, the most updated versions—a day. And Russia might use several hundred of these daily. So where do you think the ones that aren't being used are located? What's happening to them?

They're part of a strategic reserve. Europe today has no air defense. They've stripped themselves totally bare—uh, sent everything to Ukraine. Marco Rubio gave away the hard truth when he said, yeah, we'll send two or three Patriot systems to Ukraine. Then within a week, they're all destroyed because Russia hunts them down and kills them. So Europe is totally naked. There is no air defense. And Russia has the means to eliminate Europe as a viable economic and industrial entity overnight. And that's the point Putin made: if you want to do this, we will do it—but you will cease to exist right now, because we're ready right now. No mobilization.

He doesn't have to go to parliament. He doesn't have to mobilize 100,000 troops. They're ready right now, with the conventional capacity to eliminate NATO instantaneously—without nuclear weapons. And there's nothing NATO can do about it. That's the reality. The Italian general is just, you know, reflecting the impotence felt by Europe. You see the same impotence in the phone calls among European leaders, where they complain about how America has abandoned them. The interesting thing about that phone call is that nobody in the United States cares.

I mean, the media may publish that transcript, and people like Ray and I will read it with great interest. But if you think for a second that that moved the needle in the White House—that Donald Trump went, "Oh God, Starmer's mad at me. Oh no, Merz is concerned"—Trump doesn't care. That ship, too, has sailed. If you don't know what happened in Moscow the other day, it's the total

collapse of the former system of geopolitical interaction. Marco Rubio is no longer a player. Lavrov isn't a player—not because Russia sidelined him, but because he needs a counterpart. And with Rubio off the table—because Rubio took himself out—there isn't one.

There was a famous phone call—we don't know the exact transcript—between Lavrov and Rubio, where Lavrov apparently read him the riot act and said, "You are the dumbest man to ever walk the face of the earth. We handed you peace on a platter in Alaska, and you fumbled it because you listened to Kellogg and other idiots like that." And he laid it out. We don't know what the transcript says. Trump does. Rubio was sidelined at that point, and that's when Trump decided he was going to take this process into his own hands. That's why the people who sat down with Vladimir Putin included Jared Kushner, the closest personal adviser to Donald Trump you can get.

A man who will call him "father-in-law," not "Mr. President." That's how close they are. And Steve Witkoff, a close personal friend, was meeting with Kirill Dmitriev. Witkoff and Dmitriev have come up with a global understanding of what the world will look like economically, and Trump seems to have bought into that. Kushner and Ushakov's job—Ushakov being the close adviser to President Putin on foreign policy issues—is to ride herd on this, to keep it moving in the right direction. Don't let the cart get upset. And that's where we're at right now. It's all over for Europe. They just don't matter. Nobody cares anymore. Nobody.

## #Speaker 1

Well, it's a pretty bleak situation if I'm a European and I'm looking out at these things. The Germans have a little expression, *\*ein bisschen Spaß darf sein\**—a little fun is allowed. So let me tell you about the secret weapon the Italians have, the one the Italian general wasn't at liberty to disclose. It's a new battle tank with five gears—five gears, mind you—really swift. You probably know this, okay? Four reverse gears and one forward, in case of an attack from the rear. That's right. I make a joke. I make a joke. Yeah. Even Putin makes jokes. And in talking to the Indians, he said, "You know, spend five hours with Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff—that's too much. That's just too much."

But we had to do it because they came in with all these points, and we had to go through each one of them. Then Putin said, "OK, now let me be serious, OK?" It was a very productive conversation. So it was based on prior agreements—before the meeting with Trump in Alaska, or the prior agreements. Two things: Mr. Trump, forget about an immediate ceasefire—which Trump did two hours later. And then, Mr. Trump, don't let the Ukrainians and the Europeans put the kibosh on us, to sabotage progress forward—which Scott just told us they didn't do. Rubio just fumbled the ball. They didn't do that. And now they're doing it. Here, just further with respect to—very, very briefly—yeah, this was a new proposal, says Putin.

And so we had to go through practically every point, which is why it took five hours. It was a meaningful, highly specific, and substantive conversation. Another thing he said, which is really

interesting—he said, “I believe Trump really wants to do this. He really wants to have peace in Ukraine, partly because he wants to stop the killing, partly for other reasons we won’t go into.” But then he says Trump is sincerely trying to do this, though he’s getting all this conflicting advice. And so, you know... it’s really to his credit, says Putin, that Trump is going ahead anyway. And this seems to be a kind of break. This time it looks like there may not be Trumpian zigzags that undo things, but rather progress—especially since we’ve marginalized the Europeans, we’ve marginalized the Ukrainians, and it’s a *\*pas de deux\**, okay?

We're dealing one-on-one, and then another *\*ménage à trois\** where we have the Ukrainians and the Europeans in on the act. So I just want to say that one sign of how serious this is, is that Putin says, “Look, you asked me to spell out what we agreed to. Now, we're not going to do that. This time, we're going to keep it confidential. It's premature to talk about the specifics.” And indeed—wonder of wonders—he restrained himself. He said, “Well, you know, I'll tell you this: it takes two to tango.” What the hell does that mean? Anyhow, he's not doing the loudspeaker stuff that Lavrov and others have been so critical of. So what's my prognosis?

I think Putin really believes Trump is serious—that he's got real, real problems, that Putin is winning, so there's no great time pressure on him. But Putin says there seems to be some time pressure on Trump. I think he wants to stop the killing, yes, but I think there may be other things. And, you know, my trite suggestion the other week—that the Nobel Peace Prize nominations close on the 31st of January for this coming year—I have to believe that's partly in Trump's calculation. I mean, Gaza is—forget about it. Were he able to do something on Ukraine with Putin, that would qualify. And do I begrudge him that? No. I don't care who gets a peace prize if there's going to be peace. I mean, it's a self-aggrandizing kind of motive, but hell, if it brings a cessation of these terrible wars, so much the better.

## **#Danny**

Scott, how can Europe, given that the trajectory of the conflict for the Trump administration is to at least pause it or stop it—how can Europe sabotage that? Because you said yourself that Russia has all the means and capabilities, if it really wants to, to try something with Europe and annihilate it. So how can Europe sabotage this process?

## **#Scott Ritter**

They can't. It's over. It's finished. I mean, look—their last-gasp effort right now was to get Belgium to cave in on Euroclear and allow Europe to seize \$145, \$150 billion worth of frozen Russian assets, to transfer them to Ukraine, which needs it right now because the Rada is trying to come up with a budget. You know, they're supposed to come up with a budget—they need 160 billion euros. They don't have it. Ukraine's economy can't generate it. They need 160 billion euros, and if they don't get

this money from the stolen Russian assets, then Europe's on the hook, because America's not stepping in. Europe doesn't have it. This is the end of Ukraine, just so people understand—it's over. There's nothing left.

They can't afford to do this. Europe can't afford to pay it. And nobody's talking. Nobody cares about Europe. It's not as though Trump's calling up Macron and saying, "Hey, Emmanuel, remember that nice gathering we had in Paris a couple of years ago? In my first term, when I held your hand and we looked longingly into each other's eyes with the Eiffel Tower looming in the background—I'm really interested in what you think about this gig I've got going on in Ukraine." Trump's not making that call. And the French are furious. The Germans are furious. The British are furious—because they don't matter. They're irrelevant. They can talk to each other, but Kushner and Wyckoff didn't stop in Europe to sound things out. They just came back to talk.

And the most important thing people have to understand is that not only can Europe not sabotage this—because Trump's not giving them the opportunity—they don't have the wherewithal to do anything on their own. Trump, I believe, is actively controlling this mechanism through the manipulation of the corruption investigation. This investigation that's taking place—understand that the United States has known forever that Ukraine is one of the most corrupt places on the planet. It's not a secret. We've encouraged this corruption. That's why Rand Paul's idea of an inspector general was shot down in 2022—because we said, no, we know they're corrupt. By getting them addicted to the American dollar, to American largesse, we manage this corruption so we're in total control of the situation politically.

And now, what's happening today is that for Russia to get what it wants, there are some difficult things Europe would never allow—denazification, for example. Europe would never allow that. Demilitarization, same thing. He said, no, they have to have 800,000 troops. Ukraine will finish this war with 50 to 60,000 troops, none of which will be NATO-trained. That's the reality. But how do we get there? You can't do this with the current governmental structures in Ukraine, so they have to be eliminated. And you have to be careful how you eliminate them so it doesn't appear that you're totally doing Russia's bidding—which, in fact, we are, because Russia says denazification must take place. So we have to create the conditions that make that possible. Demilitarization has to take place.

Europe can't be involved. So what has to be involved? We have to collapse the Ukrainian government—and that's what we're doing right now. We've eliminated part of the, you know, there are three big poles there: the presidency, the office of the presidential administration—which doesn't actually work for the president. I don't know if you guys have seen the video of Yermak summoning Zelensky over. It's a totally separate office, a completely different power structure. And Zelensky, of course, is concerned about Yermak, because Yermak controls the oligarchs and the huge mechanism of corruption. But there's also the Rada.

The Rada passes a budget that's approved by the president, and the president allocates money that goes into the pockets of the parliamentarians, who then feed their different corrupt constituencies.

Ukraine is the single most corrupt place on the planet. The United States just took out Yermak—we took out Yermak. Nobody else. We did. And now we're going to take out the Rada and collapse that structure. That creates the new reality. And in the end, we're going to take out Zelensky once he signs off on the termination of the war on our terms. Then Russia will step in through the election process and rebuild a Ukrainian government that will do exactly what Russia wants it to do. This is the endgame. This is the only way it ends.

It doesn't end with the Ukrainian government losing, leaning toward Europe, and listening to Europe. It ends with the Ukrainian government completely in the pocket of Russia, with the United States providing indirect security guarantees through economic engagement via the Russian vehicle. This is where we're at right now, and this has been the Russian intent all along. I think Trump finally woke up to the fact that this is the way it has to be, because—right, look, I'll just leave it here—there's strategic thinking at play. All the idiots who talk about decapitation are idiots. If you start decapitating Ukraine, where do you go? You know, Russia knows that you don't end this conflict until the world recognizes Russian sovereign control over Crimea and the four territories.

You don't get that by decapitating Kyiv. You don't get that by occupying Odesa. You get that by ending the conflict on terms that say, "We recognize Russia's sovereign control in perpetuity over Crimea and these four territories." And you end economic sanctions. How does Russia fully integrate into the global economy if sanctions are still tied to what's called Russia's illegal occupation? And, of course, there's the return of Russia's frozen assets. These are three critical things that need to happen for Russia to move forward and succeed—to go from 4.8% growth to 7%, 8%, 10%, even 12%. The Russian economy could explode in growth if all these conditions are met. And this is the strategic vision of Vladimir Putin that some people seem totally ignorant of. He's not looking for military victory.

He's looking for political victory, economic victory, geopolitical victory—and so is Donald Trump. Donald Trump is not going to get bogged down in a European war. He's not going to commit national suicide on behalf of failed European states. Trump is looking for trillions of dollars of economic gain through interaction with Russia in a post-conflict environment. This is the strategic vector taking place right now, and it's a beautiful thing to watch, because Europe has just proven its irrelevance—proven that it's incompatible with civilized existence. And I am thrilled to death to see Europe collapse of its own volition and watch NATO disappear into the trash heap of history.

## #Speaker 1

Need I say I agree with Scott? Well, if I need to—yeah, I think he's right on. Let me flesh out some of the little particulars, so to speak. With respect to informing or dissing—that is, uninforming—the Ukrainians or the Europeans, it was really interesting. As Scott has indicated, he and I, who are serious students of Russia and the Soviet Union, we read everything. We read the whole transcript

from Ushakov two days ago, okay? So what did he say at the end? He says, well, he's got a question: where's Ushakov now? It's 12:30 in the morning. Where was he? Now, bear in mind, Ushakov is no neophyte.

Ten years as ambassador to the United States, okay—1998 to 2008. Since 2012, he's been a senior aide to Putin on matters like Ukraine. So he says, in his diplomatic way—well, my understanding is that Ushakov's gone back to the U.S. embassy, right? Well, the question is, is he not going to inform the Ukrainians? They've invited him to Kyiv. Is he not going to stop there? And as diplomatically as he could, he says, "No. Actually, it's obeshchali. They promised us not to do that. They promised us—obeshchali." "Obeshchali" is a pretty strong word in Russian. They promised us they'd go directly home—do not pass Kyiv, do not pass Dublin, go directly home. Do not connect, collect, or anything at all.

So here is Ushakov saying, look, obeshchali—Witkoff and son, I call it. Of course, he's the son-in-law. Anyway, Witkoff and son told us, "Okay, we promise we're going to snub the Ukrainians. We're not going to stop there." We know that Zelensky is pining for us to land in Shannon, have a Guinness with him, and tell him why we can't do that either. And sure enough, what's happened today? As I understand it, a Ukrainian delegation headed by Umerov is in Miami now talking to whom? Rubio? No—Witkoff and Jared Kushner. So that's one thing. The other thing, with respect to NATO—and this is unprecedented. Now, I've been around longer than Scott, even.

I go back to the early '60s as an analyst of Soviet affairs, and that's just not too long after NATO was established. NATO's chief aim was to keep the United States in Europe. Okay? There were two other parts, but what counts now is keeping them in Europe. Well, guess what? The United States is not in NATO anymore. And the proof of that—the graphic proof—is that they had a foreign ministers' meeting, twice a year, yesterday in Brussels. And let me just read to you the artful way NBC portrayed the proceedings. One sentence: "Almost all of NATO's foreign ministers gathered in Brussels on Wednesday to play blah, blah, blah." Almost all of NATO's foreign ministers—who wasn't there? Rubio was a no-show. Did he have other business? No.

He didn't deign to explain why he wasn't going to the NATO foreign ministers' summit. That's the first time in all these decades I've seen that happen—except maybe during a war, when Colin Powell wouldn't cope. So, you know, you couldn't have a better symbol than this: the U.S. is out of there. Okay, NATO—I hate to say it—it's a paper tiger. Without the U.S., maybe Scott would agree, it's nothing. NATO is nothing without the United States. And here's Trump saying, "Look, you come right home. You promised the Russians you wouldn't stop in Kyiv or Ireland or anywhere else." And sure enough, when Trump says, "Okay, now come on, you can come to us here in Miami again, and we'll read you the riot act or tell you what's going on," I see progress really hastening now.

Every other day, Putin or Lavrov or Ushakov makes a big statement. And it's interesting that Putin then says, you know, Trump seems to be in a big hurry. We don't know exactly why. We think he doesn't want more people to be killed. And I'll just say one more time—you can laugh if you like—

but this guy is a narcissist, and he's got his eye on a Nobel Prize. He mentioned it at the cabinet meeting two days ago. You know, he's renamed the Institute of Peace the Donald J. Trump Institute of Peace, as the Washington Post says. So there's this narcissism, and Putin is smart enough to know how you deal with a narcissist: you don't alienate them, you say pleasant things, and then make sure you're the stronger party. That's the way it's going down, as I see it.