

Europe Wants War. Russia Now Agrees | Stas Krapivnik

It's now a Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: Europe is in the grip of Mass-Formation that drives them ever deeper into a war hysteria in which they are not asking anymore "if" there will be war with Russia, but "when". Germany is re-militarizing and so is the rest of EU-NATO. For the longest time, Russia has ignored these tunes as unrealistic or stupid. Well, not anymore. More and more Russians are starting to believe—and agree—with the Europeans in that they believe that war is inevitable. It's a spiral of doom, called a self-fulfilling prophecy. Stas' Channels: Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@MrSlavikman> Telegram: <https://t.me/staswasthereenglish2> X-Twitter: <https://x.com/STANISKRAPIVNIK> Support us on Substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Our Shop: <https://neutralitystudies-shop.fourthwall.com> 00:00:00 Introduction: Stanislav Krapivnik on Russia, Ukraine, and Western narratives 00:00:50 The "Russia has stalled" narrative returns again 00:05:21 What Russia wants now and factions inside the Kremlin 00:09:32 Strategic drones, escalation, and attacks on Russia's deterrence 00:13:24 Europe's slogans, nuclear risks, and the logic of escalation 00:18:53 Nuclear umbrellas, tactical nukes, and Europe as a battlefield 00:23:35 Donbass, historical Russian lands, and the ceasefire question 00:31:17 Russia's preparations and the risk of a wider European war 00:35:00 NATO's limits, US withdrawal, and Europe buying old weapons 00:44:51 Can Europe de-escalate, or is mass formation pushing it toward war? 00:55:00 Russia's self-sufficiency, China, and the final outlook 00:59:58 Guest links and closing

#Pascal

Welcome back, everybody. Today, again, with our friend and colleague Stanislav Krapivnik. Stas, welcome back. Thank you. Always a pleasure. Great having you here. We want to talk about Russia mainly today and about some of the things that we've heard from the Kremlin. For instance, the spokesman for the Kremlin, Mr. Peskov, actually said that Russia would consider a ceasefire if the Ukrainians withdraw from the Donbass, from the few positions that they're still holding. At the same time, we hear from the Europeans now and from the West, from the United States as well, in several media outlets, that Russia is basically at a standstill, hasn't advanced, and the momentum is gone. There seems to be a new narrative being built up. What do you make of this? And where do you think Russia actually wants to take this now, four years into the war?

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, first of all, the narrative—they just haven't finished the narrative. If you look at the narrative in '23 and '24 and '25, surprisingly in '26, the narrative that pops around March and into April is this exact same, almost word-for-word narrative: Russia's stalled, Russia's economy's collapsed. We're always collapsing. We're collapsing 24/7. We're collapsing so hard that we just can't collapse.

#Pascal

Russia's favorite thing to do is collapse from morning till evening—the economy, the Kremlin, everything.

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, you just said it. From morning to evening, and the little dwarfs and gnomes, they come out at night and they build it all back up. That's how you guys do it. That's our secret. We've got armies of gnomes. That's right. It's the underpants gnomes from South Park. First we steal the underpants. Then we get rich. That step two somehow goes missing.

#Pascal

It's fascinating that for four years, I mean, people still write in the New York Times—you know, I read it again today or yesterday—that the economy is slowing down, it's not working, the momentum is gone, and it's collapsing.

#Stas Krapivnik

I'm going to make a prediction. We can put money on this if you wish, or you can hold me to it. But come the end of August, Russians will be fleeing from Crimea.

#Pascal

Ah.

#Stas Krapivnik

By the last two weeks of August, all the Russians will be fleeing Crimea, and they'll be out of fuel, or at least a few very small private gas stations will be out of fuel. There'll be whole lines of Russians fleeing from the southwest right at the end of the tourism season. Every freaking year, they run the same columns.

#Pascal

All the Russians are running. They freaking realize they're running. Wait, do they actually do that? Like tourists leaving Crimea for a season, and then some report that there are Russians fleeing? I didn't actually hear that.

#Stas Krapivnik

Every single year. Yeah, at the end of every August. So this family, and the wife's like, oh, I don't want to leave, this is so great, we had such great people, so great, I want to go back. And they cut out everything about the people—so great, I don't want to leave, we got to leave—cut out this little piece of it, and they use this in the West as propaganda. See, all the Russians are running, they're running for their lives every single year. And they always... At the end of August, I know we used to do that too. We said, okay, we'll take our vacation earlier and come back when we're sane in time. You get massive traffic jams because you get like 5 million, 6 million people in their cars heading up the same major interstate. So the small gas stations, the mom-and-pop gas stations, petrol stations, they'll run out of fuel a lot of times because everybody's fueling up.

The bigger ones normally don't because they've got better logistics, the big chains. But sometimes they do too, because, I mean, when you get that many people in such a short time getting on the road, you have a tendency of doing that. The main road and then the feeder roads. So five, six, seven million people, they'll get on about the same three days, right? So you have a massive amount of cars going up. And that's every single year. The Russians are fleeing from the southwest. Any day now, the Ukrainian army is going to conquer Sevastopol. And probably every single year, just like they've been. Yeah, they've been predicting our collapse in, like, Time magazine and these other publications since about 1999.

#Pascal

That's the narrative on the one hand. But then, on the other hand, we have the realities. And I mean, from what has happened so far, I would just say, like, let's expect that Russia will still be here tomorrow. I think that's kind of reasonable to expect. But what's going to happen now with Ukraine? I mean, so what's the approach toward... There needs to be a way to somehow wind it down, right? Russia has no interest in fighting a 30-year war over this. So where do you see it going?

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, there are several factions in the Kremlin. Let's begin with that. Like any government, everybody prefers to... In the West, people prefer to put a name and a face to one, to any country, any problem, and say that's the whole problem. Well, Russia, like any large society, any large country, has factions within factions. There's still a liberal faction left. It's much reduced, but there's still a liberal faction left that wants to play nice with the West and try to come back to 2012 and other delusional moments like that for various reasons.

Some may be invested in the West. Some may have children living in the West. Some may just be delusional, think that, oh, we can just make amends and bygones be bygones and we'll all be friends again. Who knows, some may be on the take. That's one side. You've got a more rationalized neutral party, and then you've got a hardcore party. And, you know, I thought I was a bit militant. I thought I was militant. But no, after watching Karganforov's interviews, no, no, I'm actually, yeah, actually much more rational than I thought I was.

#Pascal

That interview was pretty hard for me. I mean, I watched it through. It's scary hearing him advocating for nuking Europe. But yeah, so there is a hardcore faction, yes.

#Stas Krapivnik

You know, I have said that Russia needs to strike, and possibly strike into Europe conventionally. And I have said, you know, for example, give NATO 24 hours to close down the base in Poland that's on the border, that's feeding all the equipment and everything in. And if they don't, if they won't, unfortunately, wipe it out. That's your warning shot. That's your shot over the bow. Not hit it once or twice, but wipe it out. Fully wipe it out. Lord, gentlemen, do you want to proceed? We can proceed from that. But take it in that kind of rational steps. Don't jump straight into the corner.

The thing is, the moment was lost to stop all of this by timidity from Russia back in '22. Back when Slovakia gave the first tanks over to Ukraine. Why was it Slovakia that gave the first tanks? Because the collective West kind of pushed Slovakia forward. That way, if Russia was to strike Slovakia hard for that, they would have gone, ah, yeah, yeah, stupid Slovaks, they didn't understand what we said, don't give them any tanks. And that would have ended that. That was the moment you should have struck. That would have been the shot across the bow. But when it didn't happen, they went, oh, okay. And the gates of hell opened.

#Pascal

Yeah.

#Stas Krapivnik

And it just went step by step by step. We've seen it's going. The problem now is we're quite literally at a choice. I prefer the conventional over the nuclear, of course. But we're at a choice between running down a hill to a conventional war or to a nuclear war. We can maintain the pseudo-peace for a bit longer and wind up in a nuclear war. And I'll explain why. It's actually quite logical from a nuclear angle. Look, right now, the modus operandi from the West is mass manufacture of strategic drones, right? Russia right now is, for the most part, handling anything that's being tossed at it with buffer. Yes, I mean, Russia's giant. They find corridors they can get through, and eventually those

corridors get closed. There's also plans right now in building lines of these virtual radar walls where you put up towers.

You have a relatively cheap radar system that only looks out about 20 kilometers, or 10–15 kilometers, but every tower is about 15 kilometers apart. So they put up these barriers, and you can put them up pretty quickly. The electronics are not that advanced—you don't need them to be. It's just there as a tripwire for anything that's flying through. So you close any venues or avenues of approach that the enemy can use for their drones. And that gives you the radar signature of anything coming in, and then you can react to it. Because that's what they're doing right now. You know, they find—like I said, Russia's giant—you'll always, when you have the main radar systems, powerful radar systems, there's always some corridor you can find.

The U.S. is doing the finding for the Ukrainians. Let's not... I think the U.S. is not fully involved. It quite still is. Well, the problem is you can overload any system if you manufacture enough drones. And their aim is to overload the Russian system and then keep mass manufacturing to overload the Russian system. And then what's going to happen? Well, we've seen what happens. They strike the early warning radar systems, and they strike at least the strategic bomber triad of the nuclear deterrence. And I'm sure if they can catch submarines at port, they would try to strike them too. So what you get is, you get—okay, so except for America, I'm not going to talk about Israel, which officially doesn't have nuclear weapons.

Of course it does. And it has a first strike doctrine for the weapons it doesn't have. But for those countries that actually admit to having nuclear weapons—everybody else—there's only one country with a first strike doctrine, and that's America. Russia, everybody else—India, Pakistan—everybody has a second strike doctrine. We don't shoot first. We'll shoot second. Well, the point of the first strike doctrine is to strike hard enough not to prevent the enemy from being able to shoot, but to destroy so much of the enemy's capability of shooting that whatever the enemy shoots at you is going to be small enough that you can survive the counter-strike and win the nuclear war. And here's the problem, though: if you have a nuclear superpower and an economic superpower that is now blind...

And even though it has a second strike capability, or second strike doctrine—let me rephrase that—and you have an enemy sitting across that has a first strike doctrine, and you're blind now, so you have no early warning systems, the only logical step you have is to strike first with everything you have. Basically, exterminate the West. Because tomorrow or tonight, you may be hit and you won't see it coming. And this is where you go into—there's only one logical output from this. Nuclear powers, nuclear superpowers, by the way, do not lose wars. They exterminate everybody. That's the logic of nuclear weapons, and that's the logic of great power politics. Now, the unfortunate part is the inbreds in Europe can't or won't be able to understand that, because that requires doing more than just repeating anti-Russian slogans.

So Russia has a choice at this point. Because the Europeans—Russia is 42% of Europe—but the rest there, they can't seem to control themselves. They're like little children, not very intellectually advanced children with big toys. And they can't seem to think past—they're so ideologically brainwashed, they can't seem to think past the next step. Russia has a choice: either it strikes conventionally at the manufacturing plants in Europe and then risks a conventional war, and so be it, or it waits a few more months. I'm talking by the end of summer probably, maybe by early fall, and we're in a nuclear war. That's kind of where we've gotten to. That's the point. And the Europeans don't seem to comprehend that.

#Pascal

No, they don't. And I have two or three points to make on which I would like to get your feedback. The first is more a proposal. Let's call them "the Europeans" as opposed to the Europeans to which you belong, because these Europeans are a problem, not the inhabitants of the continent. So the thing, though, is...

#Pascal

This war, I mean, has been raging since 2014, we know that, and in its large scale has been raging since 2022 for four years. The one thing that we've learned in those four years is that whenever the war was about to spill over Ukraine on the EU side, whenever it was dangerous that it would go the other direction, into the NATO direction, NATO would...

#Stas Krapivnik

No, no, no.

#Pascal

Do you remember that episode when this missile came to Polish farmers and Zelensky said, "Article 5 now," and then everybody said, like, "Zelensky, shut up, shut up. That's not for you to say." They shut him up very quickly, and he actually had to apologize. And it turned out it was actually a Ukrainian missile. So whenever it was actually dangerous that NATO would be under Article 5 obligation, they actually shut it down. To me, that meant that NATO didn't want that. But now the point is, the lunatics and psychopaths in Brussels and in Washington, this remaining neocon faction that already provoked Russia to the point where they invaded Ukraine, and then they got everything mobilized politically in order to go against them.

These people are now thinking in terms of turning Europe into a mega-Ukraine, right? And they're actually working on that. They're working on a scenario under which they can claim self-defense and then everybody goes to the front, right? And the Germans give all of their 18-, 19-year-olds, and

everybody goes to the Eastern Front, right? So in a sense, yes, what you're saying just makes sense. On the other hand, it actually plays into the hands of those goddamn lunatics and actually gives them the war that they seem to be craving for.

#Stas Krapivnik

Absolutely. And the point is, Russia is in a position where, unless the West somehow sobers up, and very, very quickly, Russia doesn't have a choice. You can say whatever — oh, they should wait, they should do — but no, they can't. Because now we've gotten to a point where it becomes, it's not just an existential crisis, it is the existential next step. Do we become blind and then wait to be nuked by the Americans, who have a first-strike doctrine? I mean, if the Americans had come up and said, you know, yeah, we're going to be civilized instead of psychopathic, and then we're just not going to do first strike.

Yeah. That would calm things down quite a bit. But since you've got a person like Donald Trump who's already tried to assassinate Vladimir Vladimirovich, let's not beat around the bush. The Valdai strike, the attempted Valdai strike, was an assassination. Even in Russia, they're openly saying that now. They didn't want to say that, but, you know, it is what it is. No matter what conversations are still happening, you have an opponent that doesn't seem to have a brake. You know, Scholz, for anything you want to say, he was much more rational than Milz, as it seems to be pointing out.

And even the EU sociopaths, the EUers that are sitting there, once some of the more rational—I'm not going to say fully rational—once they've been replaced by even less rational people, like Kaja Kallas, who has an IQ of a broken brick, and the rest have just become that much more indoctrinated and believing their own crap. They're in echo chambers, they all say the same things, they all hear the same things back, and then it builds up in their head. Yeah, the problem with it is, even a broken brick can kill you if it falls on your head, right? So the thing is, how to deal with these broken bricks, right? So, um...

#Pascal

Because the other thing that's going on is that Europeans are talking again about nuclear umbrellas and whatnot. Although, I mean, is it true that Trump actually said, no, we're not going to deploy medium-range nuclear missiles? I've heard about that, but I need to verify it. But the French said, well, we could do a French umbrella. And the thing is, Reiner Rupp, the former East German spy in NATO, actually told me that, look, Pascal, the point about the umbrella always was not to protect what is under the umbrella, but to fight nuclear war on that territory. So it's now Germany going like, yay, nuclear umbrella.

It means like, yeah, you will be the place that's already decided. There will be tactical nukes coming from both sides and falling on your territory. And they are willing to do that because... it's dumb. It's utterly dumb. It's just dumb. But they're willing to go there, and they're building the narrative

because, again, they believe that tourists who leave Crimea to go back home are fleeing Russians. They would believe that the nukes coming from France are nukes coming from Russia, whatnot. I mean, it's that kind of environment by now in Europe. So what's your point? What's your take?

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, as your previous guests have said, yes, there were nuclear mines. The U.S. has, supposedly, this man—I don't believe it for a second—the U.S. has nuclear 155-millimeter artillery shells. Those were developed back in the 60s. In the 70s, there was a new one that was developed, a replacement shell that was developed in the 80s, and supposedly somewhere in the mid to late 90s they were dismantled. I don't believe that for a second. And second, I mean, we trained—well, I won't say we did any extensive training—but we were briefed and trained on how, in case of a nuclear war, how we were supposed to act. Well, tactical nuclear war. In other words, the tactical nuclear ordnance that's in the 155-millimeter howitzer, the more modern one, it has a jet block behind the round to push it further.

You know, give it another 20 kilometers distance. And what they would do is, if you had a hardened line of defense, you would shoot that five-kiloton round into that hardened line of defense, nuke it, and then pump armored forces through that shell, or maybe set off two, three, four rounds like that to destroy a gap, and then you pump armored forces through it. Well, when you get radiated, you may get radiated. You may not live long enough to worry about being radiated. It's war. But that was the concept, you know, and then the tanks and the armored fighting vehicles, the infantry fighting vehicles, they pushed through that gap of that freshly nuked area. So, yes, it would obviously be on somebody's soil. Russia doesn't have tactical nukes. Okay, well, what Russia calls a tactical nuke—Hiroshima was, what, about 20 kilotons?

#Pascal

Yeah, 1925.

#Stas Krapivnik

A Russian tactical nuke is 75 kilotons.

#Pascal

Wow.

#Stas Krapivnik

Yeah. That's not really a tactical nuke. That's a theater-level, or maybe even already getting toward the edge of a strategic-level nuclear warhead. I mean, that's almost four times Hiroshima.

#Pascal

There's just no way. I mean, this is the one point where I must say, like, whatever. I mean, I completely agree with what we put in: a nuclear war cannot be won, it must never be fought. So it's like... I do understand the enormous amount of frustration, but at this point, like the discussion in Russia, is it really about how to strike and not if, or is there still a discussion of how to create that necessary buffer in Ukraine, you know? Okay, so Donbass is part of Russia and will forever be. And then even Karaganov, I mean, was interesting in the interview.

Even he said, we don't want Western Ukraine because it's a cesspool of the things that we don't want. But there should be some... I mean, you could imagine some neutralized middle part in the ground that at least puts a couple of hundred kilometers between theaters, and then some form of defense that would help Russia to defend against those incoming drones, and a ceasefire, which is basically then a frozen conflict. Is there no concept that it can be kind of de-escalated into a frozen conflict that's just left there for 20 years, but Russia can live?

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, first of all, just as a step back behind it, historically speaking, if we're going to look at pre-Mongol medieval Russia—and there's reasons for saying that—pre-Mongol medieval Russia stretched in the west all the way to Galicia, and in the east all the way to Vladimir, which is 250 kilometers, and Vladimir and Murom, which are about 200–250 kilometers east of Moscow. It's a gigantic state. Southern Russia and southern what today is Ukraine was actually empty steppe—well, it wasn't empty, it had nomads running up and down. And then you had Crimea. Russia at one point held different parts of Crimea; for one time it held eastern Crimea as part of, prior to the Mongols, medieval Russia. And that eventually got taken by the Turks, and then a couple hundred years later got retaken by Russia. But the western portion, because after the Mongols it got invaded by the Poles, by the Hungarians, and this hodgepodge mixture came in over 400–500 years.

They have, while their base, historic base, is Russian, they've changed so much over the years with different influxes of different people that, you know, whatever. We don't want it, you can have it. Zakarpattia was always Hungarian, which is part of Ukraine right now. Galicia was Russian, you know, but by the 1400s it was pretty much lost, and by the time it came back into—well, actually, it was never a part of the Russian Empire. When the Russian Empire started expanding, it was still part of the Austro-Hungarian areas. So yeah, nobody really wants that area. You know, it was a big mistake for Stalin to add it; he should have added it to the Poles and let them have the headaches. And the Poles want that land, but they don't want to deal with the Western Ukrainians.

They just want the land. They don't want to deal with the Western Ukrainians. Historically, absolutely historical Russian lands are the provinces that go up and down both sides of the Dnieper River. Those are, if you look at the maps on the language breakdowns and the voting breakdowns, the ones that voted East. Those are the ones that voted Russian. And those are the ones that were

Ukrainianized back in the 1920s. And then the Ukrainians are probably trying to Ukrainianize them right now. First and foremost, that's the place that rounded up most of the press-ganged men in those areas to get rid of the Russians that way on the battlefield. So... that's the situation there. The problem—well, what you say is not a bad solution necessarily—but the problem, too, is, one, there's no trust.

Because when there was trust of Hollande and there was trust of Merkel, we both saw what they did. And they, in all glory in 19—I mean, in 2022—they ran to the media and they laughed and they bragged about how they bamboozled Vladimir Vladimirovich. They were never planning on any kind of peace when Russia was trying. And Russia was actively, at that point, trying to keep Ukraine together, minus Crimea, keep the rest of Ukraine together just as a federalized zone. That's what the big protests in the East were. They wanted this radical concept. They wanted federalization. You know, where they had a say in their government in Kiev, where they got to elect their own governors instead of having oligarchs placed over them to feed off of them. You know, little crazy things like that. Federalization.

And in turn, they got terror. So that was back then called Minsk I and Minsk II. And then, you know, whatever bits of trust that could have been salvaged after all of that, Merkel and Hollande made sure that it would never happen. And then following them, you get this whole broad European idiots, this parade of mental midgets that come in there and scream every single day, we're going to wipe out Russia, we have to defeat Russia, we have to destroy Russia, we have to cut Russia up in pieces. Well, everybody here hears that. And you hear that enough times, you know, for a while you can say, well, it's just crap and they're talking out their posterior.

But sooner or later you start to go, well, you know, they say it so often, maybe they're not. Maybe it's not crap. Maybe it's not internal politics. Maybe they really mean it. And if they want war, they're going to get war. Fine, let's start preparing for war. And that's the push that's coming. And Medvedev, by the way, I was talking to a few people that know him relatively closely. Because the question is, because Medvedev was very liberal, and now he's doing all those posts, and he's very warlike. And my question was, is this for real? It's like, oh yeah, he's had an epiphany. He went hard right. So he went from let's play with Europe and be friends with Europe to they want war, we'll give them war. And that's the mentality at the Senate.

Look, I was with RT on stage overlooking Red Square. We were probably about 500 meters away from Red Square on this big hotel. And between us and Red Square was a big park. And we're overlooking the park, and you can see the parade. One, there's been a lot of criticism of the parade. Because officially, the reason the parade was so small was... This is part of mixed signals. It was so small because we're at war, and we need to conserve. Yeah, last year was the 80th anniversary, so it had to be big. Well, the criticism is it shouldn't have been small. It should have actually been even bigger because you want to project power. And the parades outside of Moscow in other Russian cities were big. They didn't follow Moscow's lead.

#Pascal

But no worries, Stas, whether big or small, the Europeans wouldn't broadcast it anyway. They just ignored it. I mean, they ignored the fact that the Soviet Union was part of the Allied powers in the Second World War. I mean, so that one didn't really make it to the news.

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, it projects inside of Russia. And I will tell you this, myself included, I'm not going to lie, most people were very, very, very, very, very much hoping Zelensky would try something. Because the Kremlin had talked itself into a position that if he tried something, they would have to strike back, and strike back literally at the center of power, where the elites live on Bankovskaya, which is, by the way, a street closed by military patrols. I know that from several people out there. They only allow—well, they're afraid of the riffraff, you know, the people of Ukraine. So that's where the elites are. Quite literally, we have drones watching them getting in and out of their cars, to their apartments and their offices. So yeah, the overwhelming consent was: take it out.

For God's sakes, finally, just take it out. So everybody I know was hoping Zelensky would do something. They were just praying Zelensky would finally try to strike the parade so we could finally do this. That's the mood in Russia. It's not a mood of "we just want peace." It's actually getting much more militant among the people. There are two tank armies that are waiting in the wings. And the question is, why aren't they being thrown in? Just crush the Ukrainians already. And that's the biggest—this is from, you know, the active-duty generals won't say it, but the generals in reserve. In fact, the previous—the previous, I cannot remember his name—the commanding general, Gerasimov's predecessor, has flat out come out and said, "Why are we fighting like this?"

Why haven't we done a blitzkrieg on them yet? I mean, the criticism is getting very, very loud, and the push is getting very, very hard. We've got the troops. We've got the extra troops. We've got the equipment. We're mass-producing tanks at about 1,200 new tanks a year. Quite literally, 1,200 new battle tanks a year. It's all being prepared for a big war with Europe that the Europeans started. But we've got the assets—just crush the Ukrainians already and get it over with. We'll take the casualties, fine. But in the long run, you may even be taking fewer casualties than just having a small knot every single day.

#Pascal

But go where? I mean, what would be the military solution for Ukraine if nobody wants Galicia? Kyiv. And then you have Kyiv, and then what? And then you still have Ukraine that will keep droning you and Kyiv.

#Stas Krapivnik

True, you'll have a rump Ukraine. Some people are saying all the way to the Polish border. I disagree with that. One, once you get a rump Ukraine... a bankrupt, destroyed rump Ukraine. Sure, they can still continue droning, and you can continue doing missions into it. If you want to take it—it's a bad analogy—but if you want to take the Israeli approach, which, by the way, a lot of people say, "Why aren't we doing the Israeli approach?" Oh my God, please no. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

Well, I'm not talking about, you know, extermination of the population, but if they want to go in there to whack somebody, just go in and whack somebody. Why aren't we doing that? Why aren't we doing the Iranian approach? You know, Iran's destroyed 13 American bases, smacked the U.S. military all over the place—on the head and in the knees and on the face and whatever—just beating it with a stick. And the U.S. military is going, okay, why aren't we doing that? If the U.S. military can't handle Iran, how the hell are they going to handle the Russian military, which is five times bigger?

#Pascal

Yeah, but... very legitimate question. On the other hand, it would mean, if that became the strategy, it would mean to say, like, okay, fine, Article 5 us. I mean, again, as you said, are we going to take out those bases? And now give us your Article 5. Show us where it is. But that is a very high gamble, right? It is. Because if you then decide to go all in, as Alex Christoforou usually says, they have no reverse gear, right? Well...

#Stas Krapivnik

They do have a reverse gear. At least parts of NATO have a reverse gear. All of NATO will never go all in. Let's be realistic. One, the Americans have an incentive to be neutral and sell weapons to the Europeans, not to fight in a European war. And if we're looking at it, the Americans are doing just that. Look, the Stryker Brigade out of Vilseck. I used to be stationed in Vilseck, and that base got expanded quite a bit. It was just 3rd Brigade, 1ID there when I was there, or the 3rd Brigade. And now they put in like two more brigades, so they really grew that base. But they're going to take one brigade, the Stryker Brigade, out. That's 5,000-some men. Now he's like, oh, we're going to take other men out, plus men out of Italy. The U.S. is retreating on all fronts because it doesn't want to be part of this war. It wants to feed off of this war.

#Pascal

Yes.

#Stas Krapivnik

It's got 5,000 M1 and M1A1 tanks in reserve. They need to do something with them. They're mothballed right now, but what are you going to do? Oh, and they suddenly started upgrading the

M1s to M1A1s, changing the armor from steel to composite, changing the main gun from 105 to 120, which is great, by the way, for Rheinmetall, because Rheinmetall produces those 120-millimeter main guns. Yeah. So what are you going to do? Plus, you're investing in upgrading, so obviously you're pretty sure you're going to have a market to sell off this older equipment. They've got about 6,000 old Bradleys standing around in mothballs. What are you going to do with them? Either you spend money to chop them up, or you sell them to somebody who really, really needs it.

And so on. I mean, they even have, what was it, Hawk missiles, which went out of the U.S. military, anti-aircraft missiles back in like '91, '92. And they still have hundreds of them, of the platforms and the missiles. Obviously, they're waiting for something, somewhere to sell it, because, you know, you've got to maintain it. You've got to spend money on it. Now, having said that, there are just portions outside of the Americans. There are portions that will never go fight. The Turks more likely would never go fight. They have nothing to gain from it. The Greeks will probably have a revolution. So will the Bulgarians. We just saw the elections in Bulgaria. They're definitely not pro.

The question on the Romanians, because let's not forget, the Romanian elections were stolen flat out. I mean, as ugly as they could be, they were flat out stolen. The only thing that didn't happen was the Praetorian Guard didn't march in there and shoot everybody. Oh, and by the way, the Praetorian Guard at that moment was the 110th Airborne—or 101st Airborne—which is an Air Assault Division, U.S. Division, which is gone now. So is the 82nd; it's now gone. They've all been taken out of Europe, and steadily they're being taken out because they're not going to fight. Now, questionable how many other European countries are actually going to— is Portugal going to send troops, or Spain?

#Pascal

The problem that I'm now realizing, listening to how you're portraying what the thinking also in Russia is, is that we are much closer to the verge of a self-fulfilling prophecy than I thought. Because I thought it was mainly the Germans at the moment that are in war drive and putting out all of this stupid stuff. And like on the sociological level, not just at the top, but, you know, it's like churches, evangelical churches that get prepared. Oh, I know. I saw that. I mean, that just means that, as Matthias Desmet says, the mass formation has already taken hold, is already gripping. It's like we are well inside COVID hysteria, just this time with war, in one of the most important parts of Europe that would then lead the charge, right? And they're not saying if war happens, they're saying when war happens, right?

And if now, what you're telling me about where Russia is, for real, then Russia is also at the point where they say, well, we are now believing you that that's where we're going, and why would we be so dumb to keep waiting? Which means Russia is going to do exactly what the Europeans are expecting them to do, which means we are really at a point where a war is close to inevitable, out of the social... out of the psychological drive of all parties involved. Plus, you have the warmongers in Washington who are like, yeah, let's make a fortune out of this. That's going to be nice. And

BlackRock's going to own whatever's left on whichever side. And if we don't, then we make a deal with the Russians that we co-own it. It's like Europe is at the verge of being gobbled up, swallowed up, and flattened out in the process.

#Stas Krapivnik

Yeah, you know, Russia isn't in a mass formation because, just to understand the Russian mentality, we've been invaded from the West since 1012 A.D. This isn't just, oh, Napoleon, Hitler. No, this has been continuous waves of European invasion since 1012 A.D. We're just very good at butchering whatever comes in our direction and then following them home, usually taking a piece back as payment. So, while Russians do not want war, if you ask the average Russian, even ask most Russian politicians, we don't want war. We don't want anything in Europe. We're fighting right now for our historical lands. And past that, what do we want in Europe? Europe has nothing to offer Russia except massive headaches. And no Russian politician says, hey, let's annex Poland.

Let's annex Germany. Hey, let's own Paris. Nobody wants them. Nobody wanted them when they were prosperous. The Soviets had under Trotsky in ways, and it stopped under Stalin. Stalin was a nationalist. Trotsky was a globalist. And everyone said, oh, Stalin was a mistake. Well, in that system, Stalin was the best outcome you could have had. Because if it was Trotsky, one, there wouldn't be many Russians left alive, and there wouldn't be many Europeans left alive. Because Trotsky believed in global world revolution. It doesn't matter how much you have to pay for it. We're going to have a revolution across the world, and everybody's just kindling for the big fire of the revolution. So thank God he didn't come to power.

Stalin was a nationalist. He built a buffer state in Europe against NATO. Let's not forget, NATO was formed in 1949. In 1948, Stalin asked to join NATO. He didn't quite get it at that moment that NATO was against Russia, or the Soviet Union, or Soviet Russia, as Americans prefer to call it. So Stalin was building socialism in one country. That was their slogan, to turn, you know, that unachievable goal of communism. That light at the end of the tunnel for most countries turned out to be a train, not the way out—the oncoming train. Look, I mean, every country in the world, to some degree, there's no pure socialist countries. There's no pure capitalist countries. You cannot have one extreme or the other. You have a mixed economy.

#Pascal

And mixed economies have been around long before people put labels on them.

#Stas Krapivnik

You have state capitalism, which is Russia and many other countries. You know, even in Roman times, they had a mix of socialism and capitalism mixed in because that's what works. That's the part of it. They didn't have names for it maybe at that point, but that's what it was. So there's not

this economic, theocratic, theological difference. You know, we're fighting communism somewhat, we're fighting capitalism. All of that dialectic is gone. You're quite literally looking at globalists versus nationals or locals, sovereigns, whatever you want to call it. And the globalists are in the West. They were never in Russia.

Russia doesn't want—no Russian politician is going to say, yeah, let's invade and annex Poland. Oh yeah, and even better, let's just annex all of Germany. Maybe, yeah, yeah, let's go to Lyon. Yeah, because I like Lyon. I've been there. Let's annex Lyon. Nobody's going to say that. And nobody wants it. That's the bloody problem here. There is no desire. Russian lands that are really ethnically Russian, indisputably, haven't been mutated—totally mutated like Western Ukraine, pretty much. And if you take the line from Kyiv and go all the way down to Odesa, that portion, that was old Novorossiia, and those areas that were sort of attempted to be forced, Ukrainianized by the communists back in the '20s.

But on the other hand, Russia has a thousand years of Western invasions. So to scare Russians with war, it doesn't work. Okay, so most Russians have a fatalistic attitude toward it anyway. Well, it'll be, it'll be. If I need to go fight, I'll go fight. Sure, okay, whatever. I don't prefer, I don't want to go fight, but if I have to go fight, I'll go fight. That's the Russian mentality. And for a thousand years of Western invasions, you're just expecting another invasion. The saying is, every hundred years, the Europeans gather together in a fist and go invade us. And that's quite literally what people say. So this just falls right back into that frame.

#Pascal

It's just like, you know, if you follow this, then what we are at is that we are now, you know, in front of an intensification of the war that's already been going on. And, you know, I originally, I already did the thumbnail for this talk, and I wanted to call this talk here "Russia's Endgame." And now I'm realizing probably I have to change my thumbnail because it seems that it's not an endgame. It's more something like we are at the brink of a Europeanization of this thing. Because if now it's true, then, well, we're deeply effed. And there's no party that by themselves can de-escalate that. I mean, the Americans could. But again, it's the merchants of death, as they used to be called in the 1920s when people understood what they were, that will prevent that. Plus, of course, this is a good thing because you can throw Europe at Russia after Ukraine wasn't enough, and then you're going to throw probably Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan at China and hope that that's enough to then finally break the core, right?

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, it's not even about breaking the core. Look, if we're going to look realistically, what was the goal of the British in World War I? Everyone will say, oh, destruction of the German Empire. Yes, a goal. Second goal was destruction of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. And the third goal, destruction of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Oh, and the fourth goal was destruction of the Russian Empire. See, if

they're all falling apart, we get to pick up all the pieces. The British just got sucked into that. They did the same thing in World War II. I'm not defending Hitler, and Hitler would have probably maybe gone east no matter what, because that was kind of something he was pushing. Yes, he was a madman, but the British were evil little bastards who were pushing Hitler as fast as possible to go to war with Stalin.

Stalin was kind of like, I want you to just go take care of them and maybe get bogged down there for a few years. And then France fell in like a couple of months. Nobody was expecting that. They figured the French would fight a little better than they did, and the British too, than they did in Dunkirk and those areas. But the point is, it was always the push to destroy Europe and get at least Central and Eastern Europe to destroy each other. And that hasn't changed. The British haven't changed. I mean, they're still playing the great game all over Europe and everywhere, even though they're a diminished little pissant island that cannot even defend its own islands back down in Europe. The Falklands, because the Argentinians are kind of looking at it and go, well, that's a good time to take back the Falklands or the Maldives. The British can't come down there.

They don't have boats that can come down here anymore. Their ships — they're the queen of the sea? It's barely the princess of the pond. They can't do anything anymore. So yeah, they're at that point, but they are still trying to play this game. They're still trying to be the great power and trying to push everybody else to go fight each other. The problem with mass formation that nobody wants to mention — you know when the German mass formation broke? When Hitler died. Resistance in Berlin collapsed when word of the Führer being dead started to spread. The fanaticism of the Germans was so beyond all stupidity that, I mean, the last big German army was burning to death in the forest south of Berlin, where the Red Army had boxed them in and was just bombing the crap out of them with incendiaries — just burning an army alive.

And the rest of the German force, except, you know, the Hungarians were still fighting. There were some German units with the Hungarians. But that's a secondary front at that point. And then in the Czech lands, the SS were massacred in Prague. Russia had to throw an army group in that direction. Konev, he threw a corps from Konev's army group that went from Berlin and in two days was in Prague, driving the Germans out. But the main German forces were dead. They're done. They're gone. Berlin was surrounded. Berlin was being taken. They're fighting to the last, up to the point where they get the message that their Führer is dead. Oh, okay. Well, it's over then. And the mass surrenders begin.

And then instantly you get these people that were psychopathic Hitler-Jungen that suddenly go, oh, why the hell were we fighting for Hitler? That mass formation broke very, very quickly. And all these people that are anti-fascist were true-believing fascists until the mass formation broke. But the mass formation had to be broken. It didn't break on its own. Maybe over decades it would have gone away. You know, mass formation in the Soviet Union, it eased itself out — sort of terror and things

like that. The purges, it was still pretty strong, I mean, the purges, but eventually the Soviet Union mellowed out in the late 40s and into the 50s, and in the 60s, I mean, it had nothing to do, it wasn't even a mirror image of any form, just a mirror image of what it was in the 20s and 30s.

It mellowed itself. And maybe the Nazi Germans would have done the same thing if they'd won. Probably would have over time. Thank God they didn't win to find that out. But the point is, the mass formation in its strength can only be broken by massive defeat. The defeat has to be so massive that there is no room left for the vast majority of people to have that foundation upon which you built the ideology that forced you into the war in the first place. You can't say "Nazi Aryan superpower" when Russian soldiers are walking down your capital city and are opening up soup kitchens to feed your population in what's left of your capital. It's kind of hard to say we're the superior race at that point.

#Pascal

The question is, how do we not have to get to that point, right? At least, that's my question.

#Stas Krapivnik

I don't think there's a way out. I don't want to say this. I prefer everybody, you know, live as friends, even if we put fences and don't look at each other, just live in peace. But I don't think there's a way out because the mass, you're right, there's a mass formation, and it's a self-licking ice cream cone. It feeds on itself, and it just grows in hysteria. I mean, there are elements in Germany, obviously, like the AFD, that may push back, but they may be destroyed as a party. Their future is very questionable.

#Pascal

It is, it is. And even if it does become a governing party, I mean, what always happens for the Al-Qaeda parties to become governing parties is that they get mainstreamed. They get sucked into what the middle 60% already are doing anyhow.

#Stas Krapivnik

And then show it with the Front National. They do it a little bit more right-wing, right? Yeah. We saw with the Front National. They're now not against sending everything to Ukraine, just not soldiers, not French soldiers.

#Pascal

It's what happens every single time. We saw it with the socialist parties of Europe back in the 20s and 30s. Once they became mainstream, they suddenly looked more like a left version of the middle

and so on. And what happens with the populist parties? It does. So it's ideologically really, really hard to go into reverse gear or to do a very hard turnaround. But good. I mean, now I'm sufficiently depressed again to... You have that way of ruining my weekends as we talk. Yeah.

#Stas Krapivnik

We need to do this on Mondays. By the weekends, it's all calmed down. Look, you know, honestly, I deal with it, you know, it's whatever God wills. Put your trust in Him and do whatever needs to be done. Do I want war? No, we don't want war. Nobody wants war. But most Russians are now feeling really backed up against the wall. The Europeans aren't calming down. They're doing the exact opposite. They're getting more and more psychotic. They're screaming louder, beating their chests harder, and getting stupider—which is hard to imagine, that the EU leadership could get any stupider, but they seem to be. I mean, look, they started talking about, let's talk to Russia. Who's the number one candidate right now? Kyriakos.

He doesn't even bother coming. Don't get on that plane. There's nothing to talk about. And you know how stupid this got? So, Russia has a yearly ban on the export of diesel during the planting season. And the planting season in Russia is three months, because in southern Russia, the planting season is mid, sometimes even early March. It's moved up by two weeks. The planet is getting warmer. I mean, we're actually getting back. It's not a climate disaster. If you look at long-scale historical climate, we're at a very low, low point. We're just starting to get back. We're not even close to the average of what the planet was for the last 48 million years. Let's just begin with that. We're still very low, and we're just getting out of a total disaster that almost wiped out all life on Earth because the CO2 levels fell.

So, yes, the planting season has advanced in the south. It's starting to get earlier. And the planting season in the far north, not the tundra, the taiga, those areas that produce a lot of wheat because it's very wet, and it's almost 18, 20 hours of sunlight. So it's a very intensive, short growing period. That planting season is toward the end of May. So you get three months where Russia... and you've got to have the buffer built up. So Russia, for three months, historically for the last decade or so, does not allow any export of diesel to make sure that diesel stays in the economy and is cheap enough for the agrarian sector to utilize. Russia doesn't need a lot of fertilizer because of black soil, but it needs a lot of diesel.

Well, the G7, when all of this started... So the G7—and there were articles about it—they didn't come hat in hand to ask Russia, "Can you sell some diesel?" No, they came demanding, "You lift your sanctions." This is the mentality: we're going to talk down to you, you dirty white apes in the East, and we're going to tell you how you're supposed to be. Except those dirty white apes are sitting on top of everything they need. I mean, Russia could quite literally close itself off from the rest of the world and be fine. We produce most everything we need. Sure, there are some bleeding-

edge technologies we don't have. The Chinese do. They've shown themselves to be more advanced than the Americans. The photon chips—have you seen that? The photonic chips that have a thousand times faster speed than the best NVIDIA chips.

China already has a line that's going to be producing about 12,000 of them this year. It's a big breakthrough. You're using photons to send signals within the chip. Yeah, this is the spoiler technology to the AI data centers. They use a lot less electricity because they build up a lot less heat, and they're a lot more efficient. So at this point, yes, the Chinese have certain leading-edge technologies. We don't. But for the most part, to survive and to survive well, the clothing industry in Russia hasn't fully recovered. So, yes, we do import a few things like that, some electronics we import. We make a lot of it ourselves—refrigerators, washing machines. That's why we keep getting chips for missiles out of old washing machines.

#Pascal

We're back to the narrative. And I think, I mean, we're at the one-hour mark, so we need to do one round. But I think, in conclusion, the sad outcome of this discussion is either the Europeans break out of their mass formation, or Russia is going to break the Europeans, because that's the self-fulfilling prophecy we are already in now.

#Stas Krapivnik

We are in a self-fulfilling prophecy that unfortunately, yeah, you know, Russia will be just as fine. We'll just build a big wall. We'll forget that the rest of the European continent exists, and we'll just look east. Fine, we can do that. That's not an issue. But the problem is, the guys on the other side of that wall keep wanting to knock your wall down and march into your capital cities. And that's been the historical way of things for a thousand years—quite literally, 1,014 years. Because when Václav Kravály invaded Kiev and Rus', he did it with his allies, the Holy Roman Empire.

#Pascal

1,014 years, right?

#Stas Krapivnik

No, no, no. 1012. 1012 AD. Ah, 1012. 1014 years. It's just been wave after wave after wave after that. Be it the Swedes, be it the Teutonics, be it the Poles and various allies, and so on and so on. Even, you know, even when we defeated the Mongols at Kulikovo Polye, there were Swiss, by the way, there were Swiss mercenaries and Italian mercenaries fighting for the Mongols against Russia. And when the Poles grabbed, during the Time of Troubles, when the Poles grabbed Moscow twice, and the second time they were quite literally eating the population because they were besieged, it wasn't just the Poles. There were mercenaries and units from all over Europe as part of the Polish

army. So, you know, and it's just been continuous. So, yeah, Russia is not in a mass formation, but Russia is ever paranoid to some degree looking westward, not looking eastward. We got invaded once from the east. That was the Mongols. Pretty much they left us alone after they burned our cities and conquered us.

#Pascal

But as long as we paid them... That's nasty.

#Stas Krapivnik

As long as we paid them the tax, they gave them levies for whatever campaign they wanted to wage next. And we just waited them out until they broke up. But they didn't try to change our religion. They didn't try to change our culture. And this whole thing, "Russians are mixed with the Mongols," is crappy. They didn't pretty much rape or pillage. They just, after the initial waves, they just sat back and they came in. If somebody didn't pay them the taxes, then they got whacked. But for the most part, Russia was vassal. The Russian states were vassals, all of them, different principalities. As long as they paid the taxes and gave soldiers to the next campaign—live your own lives, we don't really care.

#Pascal

Okay. Thank you very much. And we do have to continue this discussion again in a couple of weeks because I think it's very important to understand now at what dramatic point we are in. People who want to follow your work should, of course, find you on your own YouTube channel, SlavicMan with a K. Mr. SlavicMan.

#Stas Krapivnik

All one word, all one word. X at Stas Kropivnik. We couldn't fit the whole name in. We Russians like long names. And then on Telegram, Stas Today Обратно is the Russian channel. Stas Was There is the English channel. It only happens on StreamYard. Zoom slows down sometimes, but...

#Pascal

Yeah. Next time we go back. StreamYard this time is going to be on StreamYard. Yeah. Next time we go back to Zoom. But I will put all the links to your channels into the description box below. So, Kropivnik, thank you so much for your time today.

#Stas Krapivnik

Thank you.

