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زبانهای ارویائو

By Pablo Jofré Leal 23.12.2021

NATO vs. Russia



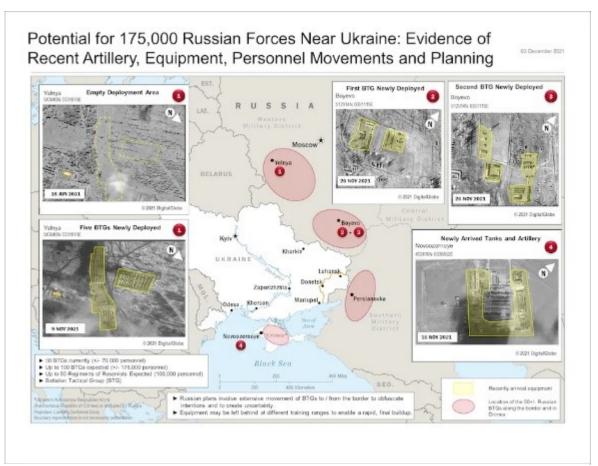
Sources: Rebellion

The defense policy of the Russian Federation, with regard to the advance and presence of the military force of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on its western border, obliges it to concentrate defensive power, mainly in its Western Military District.

This action, within the Russian borders, signifies the sovereign right that assists any country in the world to move its troops based on consideration of the situation analysis, which is the case of the Eurasian nation. This, unlike the advance and concentration of

NATO troops and armaments, which are added to the national troops of the countries bordering the Eurasian nation. Military personnel and war material, coming from countries, beyond these demarcations, as is the case of the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain, among others. As well as the realization of military exercises such as the so-called Defender Europe 21, by which 40,000 troops and 15,000 units of war material, including strategic aircraft, were deployed during the months of May and June of this year 2021, provocatively maneuvered on the borders with Russia.

The media, linked to the Western powers, on both sides of the Atlantic, have complemented efforts, to carry out a strong propaganda aimed at showing Russia as an aggressor, a source of discord, a country that strains relations with its European neighbors and endangers the notion of peace that the North Atlantic organization manages. Thus, the German tabloid bild – the first circulation in Germany and third in the world, close to the most conservative media of the Teutonic country – published a map on the areas of the hypothetical Russian invasion of Ukraine. A map very similar to one published days ago by the American media The Washington Post. This fact made the Russian Foreign Ministry declare in the mouth of its spokesperson, Maria Zakharova: "Obviously, the source of inspiration for this material must be sought on the other side of the Atlantic. Because yesterday The Washington Post published a similar map in relation to Russia's alleged invasion of Ukraine, [...] the Germans creatively reworked the images of the Americans... Ideological propaganda destroys common sense completely" (1)



USA Intelligence document on Russian military movement. (Obtained by The Washington Post.



Bild Newspaper of Germany

The ideological propaganda, to which the Russian Foreign Ministry mentions, includes the media, political, diplomatic work and that has already set a date for this invasion of Russian forces to Ukraine: early 2022 that contemplates the use of at least 175 thousand troops. A propaganda that selfishly conceals the maneuvers of the North Atlantic organization, its coordination meetings, the increase in contributions for expenditures on weapons – which is already rising – in a third of the members of this organization made up of 30 nations – to 2% of GDP, which constitutes this political-military organization in the largest concentration of troops, weapons and the world's military budget. Consider that the United States alone had a 2021 military budget of \$811 billion. Britain with \$72 billion, Germany with \$64 billion and France with \$59 billion. Figures that far exceed the 66 billion dollars of the budget of the Russian federation.

El gasto en defensa de los países de la OTAN

Gasto en defensa de países de la OTAN y su relación con el PIB en 2021 (en mill. \$)*

		% del PIB
Estados Unidos 🅌	811.14	3,52
Reino Unido 👭	72.765	2,29
Alemania 🛑	64.785	1,53
Francia 🌗	58.729	2,01
Italia 🅕	29.763	1,41
Canadá 🕙	26,523	1,39
España 📀	14.875	1,02
Países Bajos 🔷	14.378	1,45
Polonia 👄	13.369	2,10
Turquía 📀	13.057	1,57
Noruega 💨	8.292	1,85
Grecia 🥞	8.014	3,82
Bélgica 🌗	6.503	1,12
Rumanía 🌗	5.785	2,02
Dinamarca 🛟	5.522	1,41
República Checa 🥌	4.013	1,42
Portugal 😥	3.975	1,54
Hungría 🔷	2.907	1,60
Eslovaquia 🥹	2.043	1,73
Croacia 🍩	1.846	2,79
Lituania 🛑	1.278	2,03
Bulgaria 🛑	1.253	1,56
Letonia 🔷	851	2,27
Estonia 🛑	787	2,28
Eslovenia 🍅	760	1,28
Luxemburgo 🔷	474	0,57
Albania 📵	239	1,44
* Estimación. Cifras e Fuente: OTAN	en dólares estadounidenses.	
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The clear and provocative expansion of NATO to the east, trying to encircle Russia, involves the Kiev government, which has dedicated itself to increasing the repression of the population of the Donbass – whose war against the inhabitants of this region in eastern Ukraine has already generated 14,000 deaths and which catalyzed the decision to create the Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics. Republics historically and culturally linked to Russia where a significant percentage of the population, which is also 98% Russian-speaking, has acquired Russian nationality which logically, in case of increasing the hostile policy of Ukraine against this region can request help from Moscow.

In April of this year 2021 we warned on our <u>portal segundopaso.es</u> that Kiev struggles to join a warmongering entity, submit to the dictates of Brussels (headquarters of NATO) and follow the guidelines given to it by Western powers. We also point out the need to remember that "in 2014 in the middle of the process of what the West called Euromaidan, the inhabitants of the Donbass opposed the coup d'état given in Kiev, with Western support, against the government of Viktor Yanukovych. A process of uprising and political awareness, which led them to declare their independence on the basis of democratic processes, thus creating the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics" (2)

Add to the above, the military actions, exercises, presence of NATO warships sailing in the waters of the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea which has generated, especially in the latter area, more than one clash that has not reached the direct confrontation, between those North Atlantic forces and Russian forces stationed in the Crimean Peninsula. Same situation in the area of the Sea of Azov. The Russian government's view is that Ukraine is being converted into a land aircraft carrier to attack Russia and as a "springboard of confrontation" that can generate serious negative consequences and a destabilization of the political-military situation throughout Europe. Opinion that is endorsed in the face of the decision of the corrupt Ukrainian government presided over by the actor and comedian Volodymyr Zelensky to request membership of NATO and with it the sending of military, financial and effective aid from the forces of European countries, which have begun to arrive in Ukraine (3). Petition to which the Russian government strongly opposes and which endorse Moscow's decision to concentrate troops, within its territory, to contain any attempt at Western aggression, either on its border with Ukraine or on the Black Sea.

Russia demands that NATO cease its rapprochement and provocations on its western border, which not only involves refusing to let NATO accept Ukraine as a 30th partner, but involves the deployment of troops and offensive weaponry. Putin demands reliable and long-term security guarantees and that he will insist in his talks with the United States and its allies that he rule out any NATO expansion towards its western border. For the Russian president, "legal guarantees are required because in matters of verbal commitments these have been violated, ignoring the legitimate concerns of the Russian government in matters of security.

The response of NATO through its Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, is to consider it unacceptable for Russia to talk about "spheres of interest by vetoing the entry of new members." Rather hypocritical opinion because NATO does create areas and spheres of interest, advances towards the western borders of Russia, moves troops, equipment, offensive military material, but denies the concerns of those who feel attacked. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has reminded Western political and military leaders that there is the so-called "principle of indivisibility of security [...] which states that no one should strengthen their security at the expense of the safety of others."

The last scene of this theater of statements came from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who said that the deployment of attack complexes on the territory of Ukraine would mean crossing a red line. "And what should we do? Then we will have to create something similar in relation to those who threaten us in this way. And we can do it now." Such a statement brought out hives in Washington that through the veteran US president, Joe Biden, affirmed that "he does not accept red lines from anyone. We are aware of Russia's actions for a long time and my expectation is that we will have a long discussion with Putin."

Discussion that lasted for two hours, virtually, on December 7 between both presidents. Meeting that takes place five months after the last meeting in which both leaders saw each other in person in the city of Geneva, Switzerland, and that in the total sum already consigns five meetings. Both leaders focused on issues of cybersecurity and strategic stability and where the relevant topic of the day, as expected, was the issue of tensions arising from the Ukraine issue and its effects. From the White House, the conflict in that Eastern European country means advancing the implementation together with its European

NATO partners in a package of economic measures that increase the policy of pressure exerted on Russia.

Sanctions that are looming in the energy sector, as well as stripping the Eurasian nation of its access to the Swift banking data system (acronym for Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunication) that implies a clear attack on the Russian economy. This, because the Swift system is considered today one of the essential infrastructures of international finance, since it constitutes an effective tool for the integration of services such as interbank payments, transfers, investments, foreign trade among other actions. Biden's threats are complemented by those made by European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen, who said they will approve a series of retaliatory actions without Russia invading Ukraine: "The European Union will respond appropriately to any further aggression."

Putin, for his part, was emphatic in pointing out that measures aimed at sanctioning Russia or threatening it militarily will have a response and insisted on carrying out the proposal that was made to NATO where it guaranteed stability in exchange for Ukraine not joining the Alliance. Russia wants to stop any NATO advance towards its western border, which means excluding Georgia and Ukraine, reminding them that this was promised in 1999 and 2004 in breach of those agreements defined within the framework of Russian security concerns. Putin has made it clear that the Minsk agreements must be complied with, which constitute the road map aimed at giving a political solution to the current conflict in the Donbass and that any "attempt by the current Ukrainian Government to forcibly subdue the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics will have an adequate response", as was endorsed these days by the Chief of the Russian General Staff, General Valeri Gerasimov. For the Russian government, the Ukrainian issue is the excuse for NATO's advance to its western border and this constitutes the real threat at the moment.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has asserted that "Russia has a peaceful foreign policy, but it has the right to defend its security", and has pointed it out in all possible tones and has denounced NATO for its hostile policy, which considers Russia its adversary, leading to take clearly provocative actions such as trying to incorporate Ukraine into its bosom that will mean "the deployment of the corresponding military contingents, bases and weapons that will pose a threat to us." The Russian president described as a "criminal

inaction on the part of Russia to stand idly by" in the face of the expansion of the North Atlantic military blockade commanded by the United States to eastern Europe encircling the Eurasian nation. A convulsive scenario is the one that is lived and that has scenes of threats, dialogues, sanctions, calls for calm and restart. The dice are rolled, Alea Jacta Est (4) where the question today is who will cross the Rubicon.

SegundoPaso ConoSur article

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1. https://segundopaso.es/news/1476/Donbass-Escalada-de-un-Conflicto-Que-S%C3%B3lo-Beneficia-a-Ucrania

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