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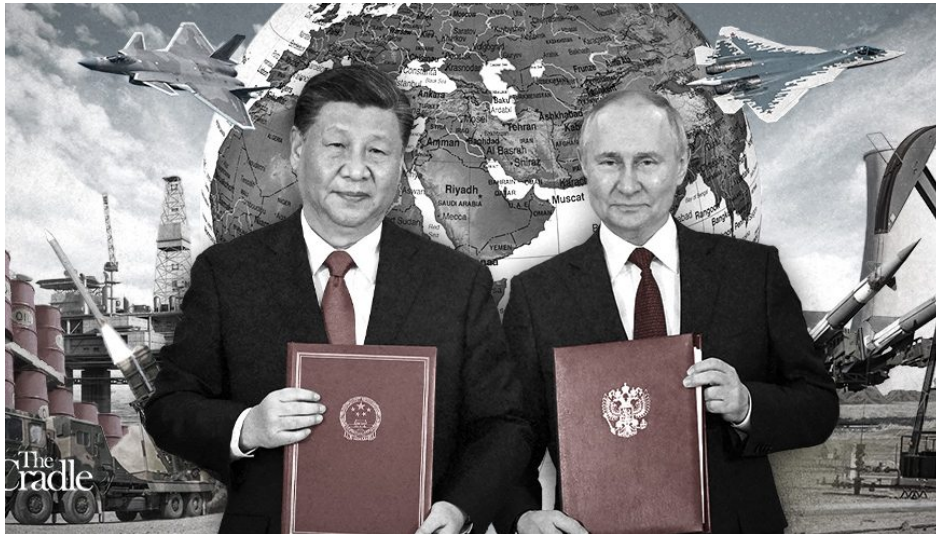
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In Moscow, Xi and Putin bury the "Pax Americana"

Then, the Xi-Putin summit definitively sealed China-Russia as comprehensive long-term strategic partners, committed to developing serious geopolitical and geoeconomic competition with the declining Western hegemonic powers. This is the new world born in Moscow this week. Putin previously defined it as a new anti-colonial policy.



"The West only managed a temporary lead in human history." Now the East is slowly regaining its former importance as a civilization.

What has just happened in Moscow is nothing less than a new Yalta, which, by the way, is in Crimea. But unlike the momentous meeting of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Soviet Crimea in 1945, this is the first time in possibly five centuries that a global agenda is being set.

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It is Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin who are now spearheading a multilateral and multipolar world. Western exceptionalists can return to their weeping rhetoric as much as they want: nothing will change the spectacular optics and underlying substance of this developing world order, especially for the Global South.



The leaders of China, Xi Jinping and Russia, Vladimir Putin, outlined the basis for a new world in which multilateralism prevails.

What Xi and Putin intend to do was spelled out in detail ahead of the summit, in two op-eds written by the presidents themselves. As a highly synchronized Russian ballet, Putin's vision was presented in *the People's Daily in China*, focusing on a "*future-oriented partnership*," while Xi's was published in the Russian Gazette and *RIA Novosti* website, focusing on a new chapter in cooperation and common development.

From the start of the summit, Xi and Putin's speeches led NATO into a hysterical frenzy of anger and envy: Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova captured the mood perfectly when she commented that the West was "foaming at the mouth."

The front page of the *Russian Gazette* on Monday, March 20, was iconic: Putin touring Nazi-free Mariupol, chatting with residents, along with Xi's op-ed. This was in a nutshell

the response to the provocative flight of Washington's MQ-9 Reaper drone and the "kangaroo" antics of the International Criminal Court (ICC). "*Foam at the mouth*" as much as you like, because everything indicates that NATO is in the process of being completely humiliated in Ukraine.

During their first "*informal*" meeting, Xi and Putin spoke for no less than four and a half hours. In the end, Putin personally accompanied Xi to his limousine. This conversation was really important: they outlined the guidelines for multipolarity, which begins with a solution for Ukraine.

Unsurprisingly, there were very few leaks from the Sherpas, but there was a fairly significant one for an "*in-depth exchange*" over Ukraine. Putin politely stressed that he respects China's position, but that Beijing's 12-point plan has been completely rejected by Washington. Meanwhile the Russian position remains ironclad: demilitarization, Ukrainian neutrality and consecration of the new facts on the ground.



In parallel, the Russian Foreign Ministry completely ruled out a role for the US, UK, France and Germany in future negotiations with Ukraine: they do not consider themselves neutral mediators.

A multipolar patchwork quilt

The next day there was talk of business: everything from energy and "*military-technical*" cooperation to improving the efficiency of the trade and economic corridors that run through Eurasia.

Russia already ranks first as a supplier of natural gas to China, surpassing Turkmenistan and Qatar, most of it through the 3,000km Power of Siberia pipeline stretching from Siberia to northeast China's Heilongjiang province, launched in December 2019. And negotiations on the Power of Siberia II gas pipeline through Mongolia are advancing rapidly.

Sino-Russian cooperation in high technology will skyrocket: 79 projects worth more than \$165 billion. There will be everything from liquefied natural gas (LNG) to aircraft construction, machine tool construction, space research, agribusiness and improved economic corridors.



Xi Jinping, President of China

The Chinese president explicitly said he wants to link New Silk Road projects to the routes of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). This BRI-EAEU interpolation is a natural evolution. China has already signed an economic cooperation agreement with the

EAEU. The ideas of Russian macroeconomic super strategist Sergey Glazyev are finally paying off.

And last but not least, there will be a new push towards agreements in national currencies, and between Asia, Africa and Latin America. For all practical purposes, Putin endorsed the Chinese yuan's role as the new preferred trading currency while complex discussions continue over a new reserve currency backed by gold and/or commodities.

This joint economic/trade offensive is linked to the concerted diplomatic offensive between Russia and China to rebuild vast swaths of joint activity in West Asia and Africa.

Chinese diplomacy functions as a matryoshka capable of conveying subtle messages. It is far from coincidental that Xi's trip to Moscow coincides exactly with the twentieth anniversary of the "shock and dread" US bombing that anticipated the occupation and destruction of Iraq.

In parallel, more than 40 delegations from Africa arrived in Moscow a day before Xi to participate in a parliamentary conference "*Russia-Africa in the Multipolar World*", an activity ahead of the second Russia-Africa summit next July.



The area surrounding the Duma resembled the days of the former Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), when most of Africa maintained very close anti-imperialist relations with the USSR. Putin chose this moment to repeal more than \$20 billion of the debt that African countries held with Russia.

Also in West Asia, Russia-China are acting in total synchrony. The rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran was actually driven by Russia in Baghdad and Oman: it was these negotiations that led to the signing of the agreement in Beijing. Moscow is also coordinating rapprochement discussions between Syria and Turkey. Russian diplomacy with Iran, now under the status of a strategic partnership, has long maintained its own path.

Diplomatic sources confirm that Chinese intelligence is completely certain of Putin's great popularity in Russia, even within the country's political elites. That means regime change type conspiracies are out of the question.

This was central to Xi's decision (and the leaders of Zhongnanhai, China's party and state officials) to "*bet*" on Putin, as a trusted partner for years to come, considering that he could run and win the next presidential election. China is always in favor of continuity.



Putin

Then, the Xi-Putin summit definitively sealed China-Russia as comprehensive long-term strategic partners, committed to developing serious geopolitical and geoeconomic competition with the declining Western hegemonic powers.

This is the new world born in Moscow this week. Putin previously defined it as a new anti-colonial policy. Now it is presented as a multipolar patchwork quilt. There is no turning back in the demolition of the remains of the '*Pax [Norte]Americana*'.

'Changes that haven't happened in 100 years'

In the book *Before European Hegemony: The World System AD 1250-1350*, Janet Abu-Lughod conducted long research showing that the multipolar order is advancing. The historian explains that "*the West only achieved a temporary lead in human history because the East has been in disarray.*" Now the East is slowly regaining its former importance as a civilization.

We may be witnessing a historical shift characterized by the revival of a kind of Confucianism (respect for authority, emphasis on social harmony), with the inherent balance of Tao and the spiritual power of Eastern Orthodoxy. This is, in fact, a struggle of civilizations.

Moscow, finally welcoming the first sunny days of spring, recalled that popular aphorism: "in life there are weeks that seem like decades" compared to "decades in which nothing happens."



The presidents of Russia, Vladimir Putin and China, Xi Jinping, have been meeting with some frequency to jointly confront the strategic stupidity of their common adversary: the United States.

The two Presidents bid a moving farewell.

Xi: *"Now, there are changes that haven't happened in 100 years. When we are together, we drive these changes."*

Putin: *"I agree."*

Xi: *"Take care of yourself, dear friend."*

Putin: *"Have a good trip."*

Let us toast the dawn of a new day, from the lands of the Rising Sun to the Eurasian steppes.

Pepe Escobar

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