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## The course of the war

The Chinese are clearly preparing against the extension of the war advocated by the United States and have asked the Russians to transfer their most modern air defense systems, including the newly manufactured and perfected S-400 and S-500 models. Obviously, Russia will receive industrial/military support from China in return, the more intense the more NATO becomes militarily involved against both.



The Russians' seizure of Bakhmut is an indicator that Ukraine is losing. The West reacts by escalating

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The Russian army, or rather the Wagner group associated with it, has concluded this week the conquest of Bakhmut. Until 2016 that city of Donbas today turned into ruins was called Artiomovsk, in honor of the Bolshevik leader Fyodor Sergeyev [Ruben and his ancestors – Rafael Poch de Feliu](#) (nom de guerre "Artiom"). Sergeyev was the inspirer of the Donetsk Republic during the civil war and fought in 1918 against foreign interventionists, White Russians and Ukrainian nationalists. When the population of Donbas proclaimed the Donetsk People's Republic in 2014, in reaction to the regime change sponsored by the United States and the European Union in the heat of the popular revolt in Kiev, the new republic declared itself the successor of that first republic of 1918. So, in 2016, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko changed the name of the city as part of the campaign to cancel the names of Soviet monuments and symbols and replace them with the nationalist narrative of the new regime.



Zelensky, the Ukrainian leader, is losing the war.

In the current war the city was declared an "impregnable fortress" by the Kiev government, which built one of its three fortified lines of defense there. A few months ago, the Western and Ukrainian press glossed over the "strategic importance" of Bakhmut/Artiomovsk. Now that it has been taken over by the Russians in a military standoff that began last February, the same media and people refer to the city as "strategically irrelevant". The same thing happened with Bajmut as with the journalist Seymour Hersh, "brilliant and award-winning journalist" and "winner of the Pulitzer" until he revealed in detail how the United States blew up the NordStream gas pipelines on the

orders of President Biden, at which point Hersh became a "controversial journalist". Now the Russian conquest of Bakhmut has hardly made headlines here.

The capture of Bakhmut, where Ukraine stationed elite units that it planned to use in its announced "counteroffensive," is an indicator that Ukraine is losing the war and recording many more combat casualties than the Russian army, according to the most reliable analyses.

Russian analysts take very seriously the announced – and it is not known very well if it has already begun – Ukrainian "counteroffensive". They know things can go wrong, but the numbers don't add up. Unlike last year, Russia now has numerical superiority in troops and artillery, the weapon that decides a campaign that would be more like those of the First World War than those of the Second, if not because Moscow practices a clear economy of human lives in its ranks. Naturally, that is not what Western war propaganda and its media transmission belt, with its image of war as a Russian meat grinder, explains to us. Make no mistake, let alone celebrate: those who are now putting the most dead in this dramatic carnage are the Ukrainians. And its availability of human material is much lower than that of Russia.



The current Ukraine, with its exodus of eight million abroad, more than three million of them to Russia (another revealing hidden fact), must have about 25 or 30 million inhabitants, compared to 145 million in Russia. Ukraine is desperately recruiting citizens on the street who do not want to go to the front. In Kharkiv, for months now, men of

military age have avoided sheltering in the subway when there are alarms, as they did last year, for fear that a raid will send them to die at the front in 48 hours. Many avoid leaving home for the same reason. Hundreds of thousands of young Russians have left the country to avoid being drafted, and the same is true in Ukraine, where in December the border service reported 12,000 detainees trying to cross the border illegally into Romania. According to reports from German antimilitarist organizations, there are more than 175,000 known deserters and objectors in Ukraine. And that's in a country where the military exemption is bought with a few thousand dollars conveniently delivered to the right person.

It is widely held in both Russia and the West – widespread but barely publicized – that tanks and aircraft supplied by NATO or yet to be supplied will change little that correlation of forces. We are facing a war of attrition for which Russia, despite the manifest disproportion of forces vis-à-vis NATO, seems well equipped from the industrial point of view. It has a good air defense system and a good missile system that, it seems, has already canceled some very expensive American "Patriot" battery, as suggested, beyond the respective propaganda, the fact that the stock price of the company that manufactures these weapons has fallen this month in reaction to the news about its ineffectiveness. which will have dramatic consequences for the sale and export of these weapons sold as "infallible"...

All that is not to say that things are going well for Russia. The new Western weapons, British missiles, German tanks, American planes, fuel the war escalation and will surely make possible more concentrated attacks on Crimea. On the other hand, the incessant bluster and accusations of the head of the Wagner group, Evgeni Prigozhin, against the Russian army, insulting his generals and the defense minister himself and claiming that they do not supply him with ammunition, portray very well the internal Russian turmoil.



Beyond the strictly military, Russia has lost the bulk of the capital of Russophilia that existed in Ukraine before the invasion. Ukrainian ethnic nationalism, previously only dominant in Galicia and the western regions of the country, has advanced many positions throughout the territory. Outside Crimea and the Donbas, Russian-speaking Ukrainians' resentment of Russia has grown irreversibly. That is the only victory achieved by Ukrainian nationalism in this war and the Russians have served it on a platter.

Western pressure, political and media, supporting the most delirious sectors of Ukraine who dream of a "complete victory", with reconquest of everything that the Russians have annexed, Crimea included, is extremely dangerous. Such a reconquest still seems impossible without a direct military intervention of NATO soldiers in the conflict and in that case, the Russian nuclear hypothesis would take on great possibilities.

As far as Russian society is concerned, it is still not on a war footing. The conflict is not noticeable in Moscow and Petersburg, beyond the harshness of the repression against a marginal opposition in the rare cases in which it manifests itself. In this context, greater Western military involvement, as well as Ukrainian actions and attacks on Russian territory, such as the military raid of "Russian far-right volunteers" in the Russian border region of Belgorod, will only cement the support of a society in general very little passionate towards the war.



Biden and his 'lapdog', the Ukrainian Zelenky.

The Ukrainian attacks in Russia against civilian figures who support the war are already openly acknowledged by their perpetrators. "What they call terrorism, we call liberation,"

said Kirill Budanov, the young general responsible for the attacks at the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. "That didn't start because I went crazy and started killing people in Moscow, but because they invaded our country since 2014. I'm not going to dwell on this, but we will kill Russians and we will continue to kill Russians anywhere in the world, until the complete victory of Ukraine." In this series, dozens of "collaborators" have been killed in the Russian-occupied regions, the writer Zakhar Prilepin, on May 6 in Nizhny Novgorod, who survived the bombing of his car, which cost the lives of his bodyguard and driver; ultra blogger Vladlen Tatarski, killed by a bomb on April 2 in a café in St. Petersburg during a talk in which dozens of attendees were injured, and the young journalist Daria Dúgina, daughter of a right-wing philosopher last August, by a bomb planted in her car. "These cases have happened and will continue, these people will receive their well-deserved punishment that can only be their elimination that I will carry out," proclaims Budanov, a 37-year-old Russian from Odessa.

Last year the stated position of the United States was to deter Ukrainians from attacks on Russian territory, while Ukrainians did not recognize the paternity of their actions. This year, things have changed, Budanov says it very clearly, and even the timid German defense minister, Boris Pistorius, describes Ukrainian operations on Russian territory as "completely normal".

"We know very well that decisions about these terrorist attacks are not made in Kiev, but in Washington," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

These facts, as well as the various sabotages against railway lines and others committed in Russia, will turn against Ukraine and the West, because they will narrow the internal Russian social consensus towards a war that today still does not provoke enthusiasm, and eventually towards a full mobilization with closure of ranks, if NATO intervenes directly. At the same time, these attacks are an announcement of what awaits Russia in the regions it occupies of Ukraine, in case of military "victory" with a freeze on the conflict.



At the international level, the last G-7 summit in Hiroshima has insisted on escalation: capitulation and unconditional and full Russian military withdrawal, more "unwavering support for Ukraine for as long as necessary until a just peace is reached" and green light to the delivery of modern warplanes, while on the other hand the pincer against China is hardened. The response has been greater industrial and military cooperation between Moscow and Beijing, with the visit to Beijing this week of Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishutin, accompanied by a third of his cabinet ministers, and the visit to Moscow of the head of security of the Politburo of the Chinese party (i.e. the number one in security, much more than a minister), Chen Wenqing.

The Chinese are well aware that Washington wants to "reproduce the Ukrainian crisis in the Asia-Pacific region," reads the Chinese newspaper *Global Times*. The goal is a proxy war against China and the formation of an Asian NATO, he says. The Chinese are clearly preparing against the extension of the war advocated by the United States and have asked the Russians to transfer their most modern air defense systems, including the newly manufactured and perfected S-400 and S-500 models. Obviously, Russia will receive industrial/military support from China in return, the more intense the more NATO becomes militarily involved against both.

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