

# افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد  
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

[www.afgazad.com](http://www.afgazad.com)

[afgazad@gmail.com](mailto:afgazad@gmail.com)

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

Johannes Stern

24.09.2023

## ***German Chancellor Olaf Scholz delivers anti-Russian tirade at the United Nations***

Wednesday's warmongering anti-Russian diatribe at the United Nations by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has made clear that German imperialism, guilty of the most horrific crimes in human history, is again on the warpath.

Scholz condemned those who call for an "immediate ceasefire" in the Ukraine war. Rather, the German chancellor declared, "Peace without freedom is oppression. Peace without justice is a diktat."

These warmongering and demagogic statements could have been delivered by Nazi Propagandist Joseph Goebbels or Adolf Hitler.



Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz speaks during a high level Security Council meeting on the situation in Ukraine, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023 at United Nations headquarters [AP Photo/Mary Altaffer]

Scholz portrayed Russia as waging a war of annihilation against Ukraine, using murder, torture and the mass extermination of civilians as instruments of state policy. “Russian troops have murdered, raped and tortured. They are razing towns and villages to the ground,” Scholz said.

Such language has, up to now, been used almost exclusively to describe the crimes of Nazi Germany in the Second World War, which waged a racially-motivated *vernichtungskrieg*, or war of extermination, involving the deliberate starvation and mass murder of civilian populations, accompanied by the extermination of Eastern Europe’s Jewish population.

As long as humanity exists, the crimes of German imperialism will be associated with the depths of barbarism.

### **An appeal from David North: Donate to the WSWS today**

Watch the video message from WSWS International Editorial Board Chairman David North.

### **DONATE TODAY**

In a 1963 speech at Georgetown University, US President John F. Kennedy described the effect of the Second World War on the Soviet Union. “At least 20 million lost their lives,” he said. “Countless millions of homes and farms were burned or sacked. A third of the nation’s territory, including nearly two-thirds of its industrial base, was turned into a wasteland—a loss equivalent to the devastation of this country east of Chicago.”

Even amid the Cold War, the leader of American imperialism felt obligated to acknowledge the extraordinary toll of the war on the Soviet Union.

But now, for a leader of Germany to condemn “peace” with a country that German imperialism had burned, exterminated and starved exemplifies the extent to which revanchism has taken hold throughout the German political establishment, along with the residence of openly fascist political parties in German politics.

But Scholz is not just speaking as an individual. He is speaking for German imperialism which tried twice to subjugate Russia in the 20th century—and failed. Now it is trying for a third time.

At the summit, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock called for Germany to be given a seat on the security council. At the same time, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky demanded Russia’s exclusion from the body.

Scholz's provocative remarks were aimed at inflaming the war in Ukraine, in order to further intensify the war being waged by NATO and German imperialism against Russia. Some historians have argued that it was a mistake for Nazi Germany to also declare war against the United States in December 1941. This time the German ruling class—at least for the time being—considers it far more advisable to wage war against Russia in alliance with the United States.

German imperialism saw the dissolution of the Soviet Union as an opportunity to expand its influence in Europe. It instigated the break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. And in 1999, it participated in the US-NATO bombing of Serbia in order to hive off Kosovo. Now it is resuming its old war and great power policies in Ukraine and against Russia.

In the First World War, pushing Russia back by creating a Berlin-dominated Ukrainian vassal state was one of the war aims of the Kaiser's empire. This was achieved in 1918 with the establishment of an "independent" Ukraine under a German governor, the "hetman" Skoropadsky, at least for a short time—until the German Empire had to withdraw in the East as well after the defeat in the war in the West and the October Revolution also triumphed in Ukraine.

In the Second World War, Hitler continued this policy, and control of Ukraine played a central role in the war of extermination against the Soviet Union. Between 1941 and 1944, Hitler's Wehrmacht occupied western and central Ukraine and established the so-called *Reichskommissariat Ukraine*. It was administered by the Berlin Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories, which was led by the Nazi chief ideologist Alfred Rosenberg. For millions of Ukrainians, above all the Jewish part of the population, Nazi rule meant exploitation through forced labor, massacres, and systematic extermination.

Even if, for now, the German imperialists are not using the same methods of their Nazi predecessors, Germany's involvement in the Ukraine war is in this imperialist tradition. In their renewed "drive to the East," the German ruling class, as in the past, is pursuing long-term imperialist interests that far outweigh the immediate economic impact of the Ukraine war on Germany.

"The war in Ukraine is also a struggle for raw materials," notes a strategy paper by the federally-owned foreign trade agency Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI). The paper declares that Ukraine has "large deposits of iron, titanium and lithium, some of which are now controlled by Russia." Under the guise of "reconstruction," German business is working to secure its influence in Ukraine. The same plans exist for a Russia "after Putin."

A central role in these revisionist machinations is played not only by leading politicians and the media but also by academia. At the beginning of September, Humboldt University hosted the photo exhibition “Russian War Crimes,” which in turn echoes the atrocity propaganda of the Nazis and avowedly serves the goal of escalating the Ukrainian war. At the same university, the right-wing extremist Professor Jörg Baberowski claims that Hitler was “not vicious” and did not want to hear about Auschwitz and the mass extermination of the Jews. Baberowski is courted and financed internationally—among others by Princeton University—and defended against criticism by the university administration and all the parliamentary parties.

While all the nominally left parties in the country support German imperialism in its war with Russia, the *Sozialistische Gleichheitspartei* (Socialist Equality Party, SGP) has consistently fought against the return of fascism and militarism in Germany and internationally from the very beginning. In 2014—shortly after the pro-Western coup in Ukraine—the SGP warned of the implications of the return of German militarism:

History is returning with a vengeance. Almost 70 years after the crimes of the Nazis and their defeat in World War II, the German ruling class is once again adopting the imperialist great power politics of the Kaiser’s Empire and Hitler. The speed of the escalation of the war propaganda against Russia recalls the eve of World War I and World War II. In Ukraine, the German government is cooperating with the fascists of Svoboda and the Right Sector, which stand in the tradition of Nazi collaborators in the Second World War. It is using the country that was occupied by Germany in both world wars as a staging ground against Russia.

Now this policy is being put into practice. Germany and NATO are preparing a direct military confrontation with Russia, creating the danger of a nuclear Third World War. The international working class, driven into struggle worldwide, must develop its own political counter-strategy. There is only one way to prevent a catastrophe: building a powerful socialist antiwar movement of workers united internationally against war and its cause, capitalism.

World Socialist 23.09.2023