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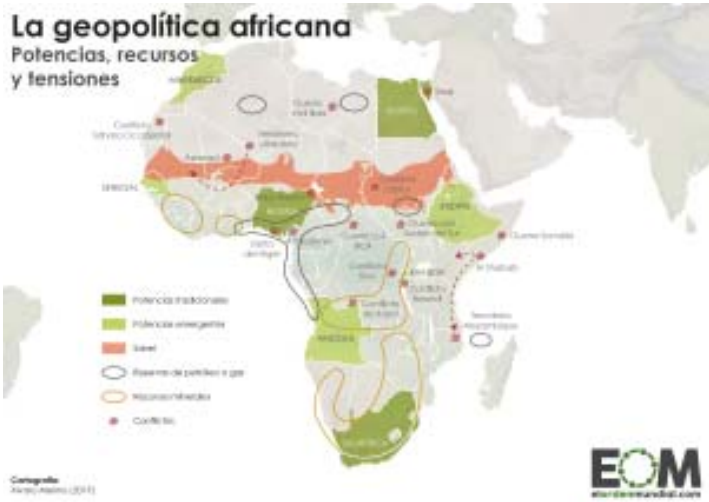
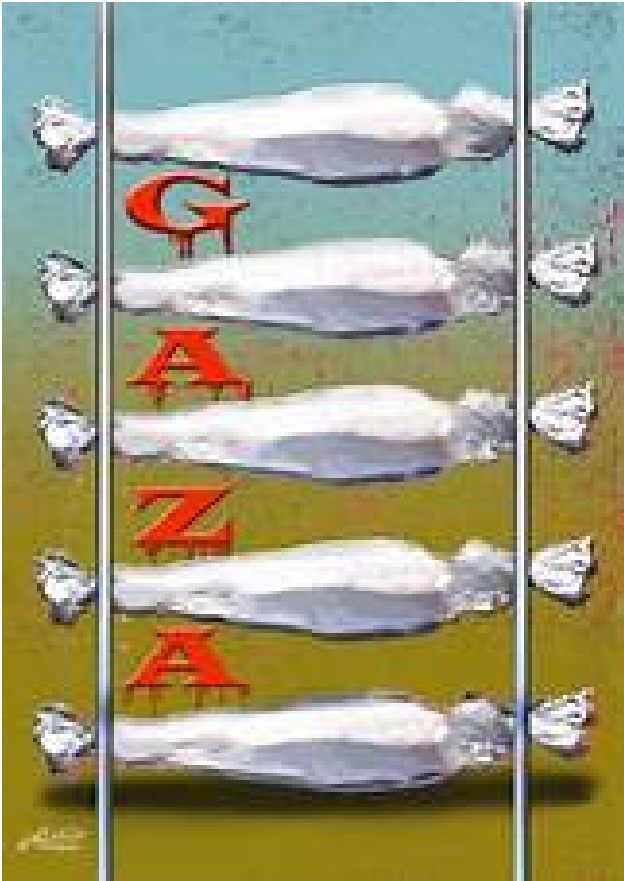
## War in Ukraine: Two years of lies and a defeat for NATO

The chairman of NATO's military committee, Admiral Rob Bauer, acknowledged that the West was in 2023 "too optimistic about the conflict against the Russian Federation." NATO assumed, Bauer said, that the training, logistics and ammunition delivered to Kiev would limit Moscow's capacity, weaken Putin's home front and/or drag him into an economic crisis.



Between 16 and 18 February, the Annual Security Conference was held in Munich, nicknamed the "Davos meeting of defence" due to its importance on war issues and the presence of defence ministers and representatives of intelligence centres related to NATO, dedicated to the analysis of regional and global problems. The agenda focused on the

situation in Eastern Europe, Israel's military offensive in Gaza, the wars in Africa and the situation in the Gulf of Aden in the Red Sea.





Every year, at the end of the event, a survey is carried out in which the key challenges addressed are prioritized. This agenda is known as the [Munich Security Index](#). Conspicuously, the [Russian Federation](#) was not listed as a priority issue in that report. The four most important themes were: environmental threats, cyberattacks, mass migration, and the threats of radical Islamic terrorism. The 2024 Munich Security Index makes explicit fatigue and pessimism about Ukraine.



This indicator highlighted the disappointment about Kiev's ability to sustain the war and, at the same time, the need to start a process of distancing itself from the certain defeat of NATO. The participants of the Conference assumed that the economic sanctions imposed against Russia were not effective and that, on the contrary, they allowed Vladimir Putin to deploy a war economy that ended up expanding his GDP, at the same time that [Germany and France](#), the two largest economies in the EU, were entering recession.

The chairman of NATO's military committee, Admiral [Rob Bauer](#), acknowledged that the West was in 2023 "too optimistic about the conflict against the Russian Federation." NATO assumed, Bauer said, that the training, logistics and ammunition delivered to Kiev

would limit Moscow's capacity, weaken Putin's home front and/or drag him into an economic crisis. However, "Russia is producing more munitions and equipment than we can collectively provide within NATO." Michael [McFaul](#), director of Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and former U.S. ambassador to Moscow, said there is a "real sense of frustration" among Ukrainians.

Donald Trump's supporters in the U.S., confronted with much of the globalist logic upheld by the Democrats, appear to be the most convinced about an imminent NATO defeat. One of the most influential publications of the Republican collective, *The American Conservative*, published an [article](#) on February 7 making an analogy between the deceptions spread around the Vietnam War and the lies that are instituted around the conflict in Ukraine, promoted by the media related to the Joe Biden administration.



The note, signed by James W. Carden – a former adviser on Russian-American affairs at the State Department during the Obama administration – describes the White House's media campaign on Ukraine as a replica of what was disseminated during the fight against the Vietcong. "Now," Carden notes, "that it is all too obvious that Russian troops are imposing themselves in Ukraine, the U.S. media is finally giving an account of what is really happening on the battlefield, having helped prolong the confrontation with its lies."

Carden's note was published as Zelensky was present at the Munich Conference, two days after he had accepted defeat at Avdivka, the last major stronghold in the vicinity of Donetsk. On February 13, the U.S. Senate approved a \$71 billion aid package for Kiev, but in the [House of Representatives](#) there are doubts about its passage. To try to convince

House Republicans, State Department spokesman [Matthew Miller](#) argued that security assistance to Ukraine is returning to the U.S. "because 90 percent of that input is invested in the Military Industrial Complex."



Munich Conference

One of the exclusive dinners held during the Munich Conference at the B&L Bank was attended by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen; NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg; former Secretary of State John Kerry, German Finance Minister Christian Lindner, and Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klichko. According to [Bild](#) magazine reporters present, the unofficial slogans of the night were: "Cheers to Putin!, Let's toast to Putin!" In the face of such sarcasm, accredited journalists hesitated to interpret the toast as an irony, or as a premonitory lapse of the irrefutable Russian victory.



*Jorge Elbaum for La Pluma*

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