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## Ukraine, Year Three (and III) All Conflicts Point to the Same Crisis

The risk of nuclear war is much higher today than it was during the Cold War. The three open fronts involve at least five nuclear powers: the United States, Israel, Russia, China, and North Korea (seven if we include Britain and France).



We speak separately about the war in Ukraine, the massacre in Gaza and the tensions around Taiwan, ignoring that these three war, or pre-war, fronts opened in Europe, the Middle East and East Asia, respectively, point to the same crisis of Western decline. That turning point, in the hitherto undisputed global preponderance of the West, is what Chinese President Xi Jinping refers to when he says that "the world is witnessing changes unprecedented in a century."

Let's look at some of the symptoms and trends of these changes in ten points:

The gap between the Western bloc (formed by the US, the European Union, England, Japan and Australia to contain Russia and China) and the rest of the world, which rejects sanctions and calls to close ranks, is widening. From the support, understanding or non-alignment of the global South towards Russia, the loneliness of the West results.

*The gap between the Western bloc and the rest of the world widens*

The massacre in Gaza and the Western, political and media complicity with it (the situation in France and Germany is much worse than that of Spain in this respect), consecrate a true moral suicide of the West. Its credibility in the areas of human rights, conflict mediation and global justice is zero. Their double standards in measuring Ukraine and Gaza is evident.

The same powers that are funding and arming Ukraine are funding and weaponizing genocide by Israeli racial supremacist forces in Gaza. That lends new plausibility to the Russian narrative that without its military intervention, ethnic cleansing, expulsion and massacre of pro-Russians would have taken place in Crimea and the Donbas by forces partially animated by a far-right ideology with the support and blessing of the West.

Any death in prison of a political opponent is suspicious by definition, whether it is Aleksei Navalny or Gonzalo Lira, an American "incorrect" blogger of Chilean origin based in Kharkiv, who died in January in a Ukrainian jail without shame or glory. Both were accused by their jailers of working for secret services (Western or Russian). We should not expect a credible investigation into the cause of these deaths in countries where the elimination of opponents has recent and known traces. The governments, politicians and media that most protest Navalny's death are the same ones that have ignored Lira's death, or the fate of Assange, and have supported the Gaza massacre. They have no credibility. The only ones who can credibly express their dismay at such crimes are those who take human rights seriously and therefore reject the hypocritical use of human rights as a weapon in the fight against the adversary.

## How US media covered the deaths of Gonzalo Lira and Alexey Navalny

### Number of publications

	Gonzalo Lira since 12.01.2024	Alexey Navalny 16.02.2024
CNN	0	16
CBS news	0	17
NBC news + MSNBC	0	17
The Wall Street Journal	0	7
New York Post	1	6
Newsweek	1	8
The New York Times	0	22
The Washington Post	0	12
Bloomberg	0	14

**Bonus: Reuters wrote 0 publications about Gonzalo Lira and 26 about Alexey Navalny**

U.S. media coverage of the deaths of Gonzalo Lira and Alexey Navalny.

The effort to exclude Russia from Europe backfires on the European Union, strengthens "greater Eurasia" and weakens the West in the eyes of the rest of the world. The exclusion has caused Russia to look to the East to chart its strategic partnerships and put an end to 300 years of integration with Europe.

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Eurasian Russia has become much less dependent on the EU (its strategic industries, transport corridors and financial instruments are less dependent on the West) and at the same time its approach to Asia strengthens cooperation between India and China.

The European Union has not learned that Moscow no longer needs it. Sanctions are turning against it, which imports Russian oil and derivatives through India and buys liquefied gas from the US at three to four times the price of Russian gas, weighing down its economy. Result: Russia is Europe's leading economy (forecast of 4% growth in 2024) and Germany is close to recession (forecast of 0.2%).

The European Union becomes more politically and economically dependent on the United States and thus weakens. [Russia's strategy is not to integrate the country into Europe](#), but

to integrate the European Union into the great Eurasian continental pole whose engine is Chinese.



Organización de Cooperación de Shanghai, miembros, observadores y asociados.

China's New Silk Road initiative expands its weight in Asia and East Africa, displacing U.S. influence. Latin America develops its relations with China, India, Iran, eroding the hegemony of the United States in the Western Hemisphere.

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Western sanctions spur Russia's industrial reorganization and integration between Russia, China, and Iran for common civilian and military programs.

The confiscation of the dollar reserves of countries such as Iran, Venezuela, Russia and Afghanistan complicates the ability of the United States to finance its global projection. The dollar is viewed with caution and Washington's sanctions push many countries to trade in other currencies and create alternatives to the International Financial Transfer System (SWIFT). All of this undermines the effectiveness of sanctions as a foreign policy tool. [Republican Senator Marco Rubio puts it this way](#): "In five years we will no longer be able to talk about sanctions because there will be a lot of countries that will trade in other currencies and we will lose the possibility of sanctioning them."

U.S. military superiority is in question, and in the event of a major war, it could lose it. [In the words of former Deputy Secretary of State Aaron Wess Mitchell](#): "That would happen because unlike the United States, which must be strong on three points of the map at once, each of its adversaries – China, Russia and Iran – only need to be strong in their own region to achieve their goals."

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There is growing discontent with the American system of domination at the end of the 20th century and a desire to replace it with a multipolar order. But, as former U.S. ambassador Chas Freeman, author of some of these ten points, says, "so far no one has considered what the new international system will lead to, which involves more complex interaction between states than before, so we must remember the old saying: be careful what you wish for, because it can come true."

\* \* \*

All the cabals and forecasts about the global correlation of forces would be venial if it were not for the fact that the dynamics of conflict in which we are entering are very contradictory to the moment that humanity is going through in this century. We live a race with time. A time of unsolvable existential challenges without a great international consensus. Challenges, such as global warming, that grow and increase as we do not act against them.

The conflict between powers is something that we can no longer afford as a species threatened by our own action, or, rather, by the metabolism of the socio-economic system invented by the West a couple of centuries ago.

*Rafael Poch de Feliu for La Pluma*

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Read in the pen:

[\*\*Ukraine, Year Three \(I\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Ukraine Loses War\*\*](#)

[\*\*Ukraine, Year Three \(II\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*The Transformation of Russia\*\*](#)

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