The 'regime change' path to world war

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Lead Editorial

1 March 2023 Vol. 25 No. 9

The world is living with the foreseeable result of more than two decades of regime-change wars. Those interventions commenced in reaction to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the USA, but had nothing to do with bringing the perpetrators of those actions to justice or protecting Americans from terrorism. Rather, they were designed to unleash more chaos and terrorism—in strategic theatres. The overarching targets? Russia and China.

Afghanistan 2001. Al-Qaeda had been unleashed during the previous Western intervention, when the US, UK, and Saudi governments deliberately sponsored and armed fanatical jihadis against the Soviet Union, starting in the late 1970s. This was part of British "orientalist" Bernard Lewis's "Arc of Crisis" strategy of fostering extremists in central Asia to destabilise the Soviet Union and China—a strategy still being pursued today in Xinjiang. Look at the state of Afghanistan now! It is left to China and Russia, working through Eurasian cooperatives, to rebuild.

Just weeks into the Afghanistan campaign, as he famously told American broadcaster Amy Goodman in 2007, retired American General Wesley Clark was shown a memo by a Joint Staff general that spelled out plans to "take out seven countries in five years, starting with Iraq, and then Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and, finishing off, Iran."

Iraq 2003. Twenty years ago this month the Coalition of the Killing kicked off the effort to overthrow Saddam Hussein based on fabricated evidence of weapons of mass destruction, killing hundreds of thousands of people in the process. Another ruined nation with big implications—ongoing—for the region.

Libya 2011. The Russians were lied to, in order to get them to abstain from the UN Security Council vote to intervene against Muammar Gaddafi, but it would be the last time they would fall for such deception. The powers of the United Nations were "usurped", said then-Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, in a "cynical deception [that] occurred at the UNSC's roundtable". Weapons caches, liberated from Libyan government stores, flooded into Syria, arming the al-Qaeda networks that would form ISIS. Extremists who cut their teeth in this war fanned out across Europe, opening a new era of terrorist attacks.

Syria 2011. After the Libya experience, Russia and China vetoed a UNSC resolution condemning Syrian President (and Russian ally) Bashar al-Assad, who was facing a jihadi uprising backed by the West. Nonetheless, the subsequent destruction of Syria, with ongoing Western blockades and occupation, is evident in the aftermath of the Turkey/Syria earthquake.

Ukraine 2014. With this backdrop, following the Western-engineered 2014 coup against the elected government of Ukraine, it was clear Russia was in the crosshairs. Referring to the rise of Islamic State and the wave of terror facing the globe, Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a 2015 UNGA address, asked the collective West to reflect upon the consequences of its regime-change operations: "I cannot help asking those who have forced that situation: Do you realise what you have done?"

Russia, China 2022. As Russia watched the radicalisation of Ukrainians in the war against the Eastern regions which had resisted the regime-change plan, it is no surprise that it did not accept claims this was not aimed at a larger war plan against Russia. Especially given that all the new US-UK

strategic and defence doctrines adopted from 2017 explicitly said that the greatest threats to them came from Russia and China. The US-NATO refusal to take seriously Russia's December 2021 proposal to draw up a new security architecture to defuse the Ukraine conflagration ("Biden in Kiev: sprinting towards Armageddon", p. 7), was the last straw. Russia felt it had little choice but to intervene in the worsening situation.

The question could well be re-posed: "Do you realise what you have done?" Our fight for an alternative to the imploding Anglo-American financial order, its collapsing power base, is crucial to derailing this war drive.

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First regional banking hearing tomorrow in Sale! Ahead of the hearing, Westpac has run this fullpage ad in the local paper. announcing it won't be closing its Sale branch, for now. This ad proves that not closing branches is good PR, because Westpac knows its customers want branches-contrary to its claim they are all going online. (See back page for Coober Pedy's fightback against Westpac.)

