

Scott Ritter: this is ‘how global terrorism is born’

By Elisa Barwick

What the USA, UK, NATO and other countries including Australia, are doing in Ukraine right now—heavily arming radical groups in a war against Russia—replicates the chaos sparked by regime-change wars in Iraq, Libya and Syria, which unleashed terrorism on an entirely new, global scale, and is still playing out today. The Australian Citizens Party documented the impact of this scourge on nations worldwide in [*Stop MI5/MI6-run Terrorism!*](#) (June 2017), which reveals how such sponsorship of terrorism is in fact a geopolitical tool to divide the planet.

Former UN Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter, who exposed the Iraq “weapons of mass destruction” lies, in an 11 March 2022 [interview](#) with George Galloway published on the former British MP’s YouTube Channel, elaborated on the dangerous, uncontrolled operation being conducted in Ukraine:

“Ukraine has given up 5,000 weapons to civilians ... who will literally be slaughtered if it comes time to fight. [President Volodymyr Zelensky] has freed prisoners from prison to fight. He has opened the door for illegal warriors, the mercenaries from Europe, who if they are captured by Russia will more than likely be given a cursory trial, put up against the wall and shot because they have no rights or protections. They are the worst types of scum, the exploiters of conflict. And now ... they brought in the jihadists, they brought in the people, because they ostensibly want to kill Russians. It’s a pure propaganda move but it’s a poison pill, not for Ukraine, because Ukraine’s going to be destroyed. ... But now we are going to have these jihadists—who are being armed, by the way, with Javelin missiles and Stinger missiles. Now, imagine what happens when a bunch of bloodthirsty jihadists take these weapons into Europe? Would you like to be the German Chancellor driving on a highway knowing that up in the hills could be a jihadist hit team, armed with Javelins that could take you out? Would you like to be the President of the United States, visiting Germany ... [or] would you like to be trying to land [US Presidential aircraft] Air Force One at an airport in Europe, knowing there are Stinger missiles down there ready to shoot you down? This is literally the worst kind of decision-making ever ... to put that much weaponry into Ukraine in an uncontrolled fashion, because even before the jihadists came in, you’re giving it to neo-Nazis who can’t surrender. They can’t surrender because they’ll be killed. And rightly so. So what do desperate people do when they can’t surrender and they don’t die? They run away with the weaponry they have. They’ll be burying it, making caches, falling back on it, continuing to form a resistance, and in their anger to the West, they’ll lash out at the West and become, you know, global terrorists. That’s how global terrorism is born. This is literally the worst possible decision one can make and it will have heavy consequences for years to come.”

Compare this to the explicit warnings made prior to similar interventions in Iraq, Libya and Syria.

Iraq. Sir John Chilcot’s Iraq Inquiry Report, released July 2016, declared that the Prime Minister at the time of the Iraq invasion, Tony Blair, went to war regardless of intelligence that contradicted his claims. Blair presented his “dodgy dossier” to the UK parliament in September 2002, despite having been warned that military action would increase the threat from al-Qaeda to the UK and create fertile ground for the establishment of an Islamist Caliphate.

Numerous warnings at the time from British intelligence agencies and government departments established the case for this, as documented by Chilcot, including: a cabinet office



Scott Ritter (right) speaks with former British MP, George Galloway. Photo: Screenshot

paper warning of the rise of an “Islamic state with potential for much greater fundamentalism” in a post-war Iraq; three UK Joint Intelligence Committee assessments warning “a Coalition attack may radicalise increasing numbers of Muslims, especially Arabs, and boost support and recruitment for extremist groups”; a 2002 Foreign and Commonwealth Office report warning it was “almost certain that political Islam would become more prominent in post-Saddam Iraq”; a 6 November 2002 report by the Ministry of Defence’s Strategic Planning Group which stated that a Western intervention could end up “fuelling the very international tensions we have sought to diffuse and arming the forces of extremism”; a special group of the Defence Intelligence Staff report, warning that the vacuum created by removal of Saddam, “will give AQ [al-Qaeda] fertile ground it can use to... further its own aim of removing the Western presence from the Gulf region and establishing a modern Islamic Caliphate.” (“Chilcot’s Iraq findings are grounds to bring Blair to justice”; “Blair was warned that Iraq invasion would create Islamic State”, [AAS, 13 July 2016](#).)

Libya. In 2011, similar lies asserted that Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi was killing his own people, who were rising up against his “regime”. After a regime-change operation by the USA, UK and France, which included the brutal assassination of Qaddafi, had turned Libya into a failed state and safe haven for terrorists, the UK House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee in September 2016 released a report on the Libya intervention, which stated in its opening paragraphs: “*This policy was not informed by accurate intelligence.* In particular, the Government failed to identify that the threat to civilians was overstated and that the rebels included a significant Islamist element.” (Emphasis added.)

The Libya Report stated that the Americans, British and French did not bother to secure Qaddafi’s arms stockpiles, which allowed weapons to fall into the hands of terrorists who spread them all over North Africa and into Syria. Investigative reporter Seymour Hersh, in his 17 April 2014 article “[The red line and the rat line](#)”, exposed that this was deliberate.

Terrorists fostered in Libya were soon wreaking havoc in the UK, among them the perpetrator of the 2017 Manchester Arena suicide bombing, who was a member of a Libyan terrorist group used by London to fight Qaddafi. ([Stop MI5/MI6-run Terrorism!](#))

Syria. In another attempted regime-change operation, the USA armed and trained “moderate rebels” who opposed the elected government, including al-Qaeda sub-groups. (For example, in July 2016 members of the US-backed Nour al-Din al-Zinki Movement broadcast themselves beheading a 12 year-old boy.) The US Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) had warned the White House in 2012 that it was supporting radical Islamist groups, and that those groups would establish an Islamic State. According to then-DIA head Lt.-Gen. Michael Flynn, who later served briefly as President Donald Trump’s National Security Advisor, the Obama White House made the “wilful decision” to ignore the warning.