

‘Break up Russia’ schemers play with fire

April and May 2023 saw an escalation of overt and covert attacks on the territory of Russia, attributed to anti-Kremlin insurgents, but admittedly conducted by Ukrainian forces using NATO-supplied equipment and unacknowledged British and American military support under the Resistance Operating Concept. The AAS reported these escalations in the 12 April *Washington Insider* “USA-UK wage clandestine war against Russia” and in “London insists on perilous escalation against Russia”, 10 May. This week’s *Almanac*, first published in the *Executive Intelligence Review* of 5 May 2023, explores one side of the propaganda and organising support for irregular warfare against Russia—a drive to make the break-up of the Russian Federation an official goal of NATO. The article was edited and abridged for the AAS by Rachel Douglas.

By Gretchen Small and Carl Osgood

As the world wavers between “World War III with nuclear fires”, as Belarus President Alexander Lukashenka puts it, and the start of a serious peace process as openly urged by many in the Global South, Anglo-American ideologues of permanent war have launched a drive for the disintegration of the Russian Federation to be officially declared the only acceptable outcome of the NATO-provoked and NATO-led war in Ukraine. “Strategic defeat” or the “ruin” of Russia is not enough; it is their stated intention that Russia be erased from the world map, allowing perhaps, grudgingly, a small “Muscovy” to exist.

The current operation builds on efforts of the past three decades, focused on Russia’s North Caucasus region,¹ but its roots are deeper. Its escalation is shaped explicitly upon the precedent of World War I-era British geopolitics, exploiting turmoil in and around Ukraine. In 1919, for example, Foreign Office head Lord Curzon dispatched that doctrine’s author, Halford Mackinder, to Kiev. His mission, which failed, was to orchestrate a Baltic-to-Black Sea alliance, including what is now Ukraine, between Russian General Anton Denikin’s anti-Bolshevik White Army and Polish Chief of State Józef Piłsudski, giving Britain a chokehold on western Eurasia—an area where British interests had been lately threatened by German and Russian industrialisation and railroad-building that imitated the successes of President Abraham Lincoln during our Civil War. The geopolitical approach, continuing to this day, has been to use Poland, Ukraine and the Baltic states, especially, as an external battering ram against Russia (Czarist, Soviet, or today’s Russian Federation equally), while fomenting and arming ethnic and regional revolts inside the country.

To pursue this same goal under today’s conditions—when trust and, for all practical purposes, formal relations between the world’s largest nuclear superpowers, the United States and Russia, have been destroyed—is the most dangerous policy conceivable.

Russia’s nuclear doctrine has long stated that the Federation would not use nuclear weapons except in case of a threat to its existence. The doctrine was reiterated in the 40-page “Concept of the Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation”, issued by Presidential decree on 31 March 2023, which states that



Free Nations of Post-Russia Forum activists, touring the USA in April, display “Northern Eurasia 2023” map of 41 new “countries” to be carved out of Russia. Photo: FNPRF

“in response to unfriendly actions of the West, Russia intends to defend its right to existence and freedom of development *using all means available*” (emphasis added).

As you read the following profile of the British-authored, United States-centred drive to make eliminating Russia as a nation the official strategic goal of the ever expanding NATO alliance, be aware that it is founded upon sweeping, false premises: that the Russian Federation, like the Soviet Union before it, was never and cannot be anything but an expansionist empire, oppressing its own population and threatening its neighbours. Ruled out is the reality that a large, multiethnic country can exist and progress. Ruled out is the principle of mutually beneficial cooperation between neighbouring countries.

Keep in mind, too, the fearsome implications of Lukashenka’s 31 March warning: “It is impossible to defeat a nuclear power. If the Russian leadership understands that the situation threatens Russia’s disintegration, it will use the most terrible weapon. This cannot be allowed to happen.”

Killer think tanks

One of the most outrageous Washington think-tank and government-sponsored events to promote breaking up Russia was “Decolonising Russia: A Moral and Strategic Imperative”, a 23 June 2022 live-streamed seminar organised by the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). That body was created by US law in 1976 as a government agency to coordinate policy related to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which had arisen from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the “Helsinki process” that was a key venue for détente in the 1970s. Yet here was the modern CSCE sponsoring a “briefing” on the dismemberment of Russia!

The lead speaker was Casey Michel, then of the Hudson Institute, whose 27 May 2022 [article](#) in the *Atlantic* magazine, “Decolonise Russia: To Avoid More Senseless Bloodshed, the Kremlin Must Lose What Empire It Still Retains”, was the premise of the conference. Michel argued that now, with the Ukraine war, the USA can complete what then-Secretary of Defence (later Vice President) Dick Cheney had demanded in 1991: “the dismantlement not only of the Soviet

1. “Who Is Behind the Drive to Dismember Russia?”, *Fact Sheet*, *EIR*, 19 Dec. 2014.

Union and the Russian empire but of Russia itself, so it could never again be a threat to the rest of the world.”

The Hudson Institute and the Jamestown Foundation have led in promoting this policy. Over the past year these two notorious war-mongering US think-tanks have published a book, issued policy memoranda, written myriad articles, organised a seminar by an official US government agency, and held their own joint seminar, “Preparing for the Dissolution of the Russian Federation”, urging that this become US and NATO policy.

It’s not just talk. The two institutions provide public cover for US-UK military and intelligence operations attempting to build up separatist-terrorist forces both inside and outside the Russian Federation to be the shock troops of this would-be “decolonisation” project.

The public instrument of this hybrid warfare today is the Free Nations of Post-Russia Forum (FNPRF), founded in Warsaw, Poland in May 2022 by representatives of Russian regional and ethnic “independence” movements, made up mostly of exiles, fanatically committed to wiping Russia off the map. The FNPRF’s “Northern Eurasia 2023” map depicts a would-be “post-Russia” utopia with 41 new “countries” carved out of the Russian Federation, as well as China. The FNPRF thus identifies itself as a successor of the “Captive Nations” fronts run by British MI6 and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during the Cold War (many of them led by people who had worked in Nazi Germany’s anti-Soviet operations) and of post-war British projects such as the Unrepresented Peoples Organisation.²

Four FNPRF conferences were held in 2022. Anglo-American operatives and Russia-haters from Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland and elsewhere—as usual, representing only a small, ideology-driven segment of those countries’ populations—took part. Since the start of 2023, the pace of their “march through the institutions” of NATO member countries has accelerated. At the invitation of two Polish Members of the European Parliament, the fifth conference was held in the European Parliament. The sixth was a four-day affair in April of this year, held in three cities in the USA.

The Hudson Institute hosted the FNPRF’s two-day conference in Washington, DC, 25-26 April, with a keynote speaker from the Jamestown Foundation. One-day conferences followed in Philadelphia and New York. Their proclaimed goal was to organise US help for “the captive nations and regions to free themselves from a century of imperial occupation and exploitation by Muscovy”—the name, dating from the 13th century, by which these Russia-haters refer to Russia. In bone-chilling language, they presented “our efforts to streamline the uncontrolled process of disintegration of a nuclear state”.

The Jamestown Foundation, created in 1984 as a private-sector cover for the CIA, in the late 1990s served as a base for the late Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Jimmy Carter’s former National Security Advisor. Well known for his lifelong campaign to break up Russia, Brzezinski was on Jamestown’s Advisory Board and then its Board of Directors until 2008. This was the time frame in which Brzezinski wrote his book *The Grand Chessboard*, promoting a maniacal scheme to revive geopolitics and break Russia into three entities. (Map.)

The Jamestown Foundation hosted Brzezinski’s American Committee for Peace in Chechnya (ACPC), created in 1999. By “peace”, the ACPC meant that Russia must accept the independence demands of the brutal Chechen jihadists, armed by the Anglo-Americans with the intent of ousting Russia from its North Caucasus region. The board of Brzezinski’s ACPC was packed with people from the Project for a New American



Zbigniew Brzezinski, former US national security advisor, designed this map of a dismembered Russia for *Foreign Affairs* magazine in 1997.

Century (PNAC), otherwise infamous for pushing war against Iraq; William Kristol, Robert Kagan, Norman Podhoretz, Michael Ledeen, James Woolsey, Richard Perle, et al.

The Hudson Institute has a similar profile, boasting among its “experts” an array of war hawks from the Bush-Cheney era, including Doug Feith, a key player in launching the illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003, and Cheney’s former Chief of Staff Lewis “Scooter” Libby. Since its founding by Herman Kahn, author of *Thinking the Unthinkable* (1962), Hudson has been a bastion of lunatics who scheme to fight and win a nuclear war. As recently as November 2022, Hudson published a document titled “New Nuclear Threats Require Homeland Civil Preparedness”, ridiculing talk of nuclear “Armageddon”, because, they delude themselves, Moscow’s current doctrine and weapons are designed “to avoid an all-out exchange with the US and NATO”; therefore, they say, the USA need not concentrate on preventing nuclear war, but rather on planning to survive one.

Key separatist ‘handlers’

The joint Hudson-Jamestown seminar “Preparing for the Dissolution of the Russian Federation” was a three-hour affair on 14 February 2023. Anchoring the event were Luke Coffey of the Hudson Institute and James Bugajski of the Jamestown Foundation. Coffey elaborated on his December 2022 policy memo, “Preparing for the Final Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Dissolution of the Russian Federation”, while Bugajski presented his book *Failed State: A Guide to Russia’s Rupture*, published by Jamestown in July 2022.

Coffey and Bugajski are “hands-on” operatives assigned to the FNPRF project. Both are fanatical proponents of the defunct unipolar world order, equally as obsessed with crushing China and recalcitrant Global South nations, as they are with breaking up Russia. And both are as much British operatives as they are American.

Born of Polish parents and educated in the UK, Bugajski started his career with BBC-TV. After a stint at the US Government-funded Radio Free Europe (RFE) in Germany, he relocated to the United States, employed first at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), then at the even more-rabidly anti-Russian Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), and finally at the Jamestown Foundation. He has been “consultant” for the US Agency for International Development, the Department of Defence, the International Republican Institute, and the Free Trade Union Institute (AFL-CIO). At one point, he ran South Central Europe Area Studies at the State Department’s Foreign Service Institute.

2. “Xinjiang: China’s western frontier in the heart of Eurasia, Part 4 – Pan-Turkism”, AAS, 20 Jan. 2021.

Coffey, like Bugajski, studied at the London School of Economics. He served as a commissioned officer in the US Army, but prides himself on his service to the British military and Conservative Party.

The February 2023 seminar started with a video exchange with Coffey's "friend" Ukrainian parliamentarian Oleksiy Honcharenko, who had led a successful effort to get the Supreme Rada (Ukraine's Parliament) to extend diplomatic recognition to the "Chechen Republic of Ichkeria" last October—in Honcharenko's view, the first of many planned resolutions recognising non-existent "independent" governments. Addressing the seminar in person was Inal Sherip, the "Foreign Minister" of that Chechen "government-in-exile" in London, which he proudly identified as "the successor" of the terrorist leaders who waged two brutal separatist wars in the 1990s-2000s; their "tactics" included the mass murder of civilians by bombing subways and airplanes, the 2002 Moscow theatre hostage-taking in which 170 died, and the Beslan school siege of 2004 in which 333 people were killed, including 186 children.

Glen Howard, president of the Jamestown Foundation, introduced the first panel by identifying himself and Bugajski as having had "the great honour of being affiliated with Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski", whose legacy and writings continued to be valid. Howard had been the long-time executive director of Brzezinski's ACPC. Howard invoked the anti-Russian efforts of Pilsudski and his Polish Legion between the last two world wars, and spoke happily of a possible revival of "Prometheanism", a reference to the so-called Promethean League of ethnic minorities from regions within the USSR. That project overlapped British schemes (ongoing still today) to create a confederation of nations against Russia between the Baltic, Black, Aegean and Adriatic seas, dubbed the "Intermarium".

Both Bugajski and Coffey *dismissed democracy as a goal!* They foresee decades of conflict across the giant Eurasian territory of Russia, requiring that NATO rule over the former Russia's neighbours in Europe.

These people may be evil, but creative they are not. Bugajski's chapter on scenarios for Russia's rupture reads like the output of a poorly programmed computer, a series of "if this, then that" algorithms. Often a scenario begins with the blanket assertion that "this will happen," based on earlier-asserted reasons. Then, when "this happens", the scenario predicts that some people may do such-and-such and others may do this-or-that. Embedded in his logical sequence are such lying assumptions as the claim that the 2014 Maidan coup in Ukraine was entirely a popular uprising.

Bugajski urged formation of a policy team in Washington to plan for Russia's "impending rupture", to work in parallel with a similar "conflict planning" centre at NATO HQ in Brussels "to deal specifically with scenarios of regional instability generated by Russia's state failure".

Coffey, too, insisted in his December 2022 "Preparing for Dissolution" memo, that "Western policymakers start planning for the new geopolitical reality on the Eurasian landmass"—an envisioned future of regional and national "revolution, insurgency and civil war" in Russia. "Policymakers should assume" that when Russia shatters, it "will be more like Chechnya in 1994 (brutal conflict) than Estonia in 1991 (peaceful and straightforward)... Private armed groups will proliferate.... The breakup of the Russian Federation will likely lead to internal fighting between different centres of power".

Coffey eyes "unemployed combat veterans ... [the] thousands of young men from ethnic minorities [who] will have combat experience from Ukraine" as a pool of candidates from which Anglo-American military and intelligence can recruit cannon fodder for the war they are preparing inside Russia. He

urges NATO and the EU to begin planning now, to "take advantage of Russia's weakness and push for a 'big bang' enlargement". Equally necessary, from the standpoint of this military-industrial complex



London-educated Luke Coffey (l.) of the Hudson Institute and James Bugajski of the Jamestown Foundation are hands-on coordinators of the "Post-Russia" scheme. Photos: C-SPAN, Hotnews.ro

spokesman, is to head off anyone arguing that "the end of the Russian Federation will remove any need for a strong US military presence in Europe". Even if Russia disappears, the USA and allies must remain on guard "to mitigate, marginalise, contain, deter, and if necessary defeat Russia for the foreseeable future".

Among the seminar speakers were old Cold War ideologues, beating the same drum as they have for decades. Jamestown Foundation "Distinguished" Senior Fellow Paul Goble, for example, in the 1980s was an enthusiast of Brzezinski's scheme for breaking up the Soviet Union through Islamic insurgencies aimed at its "soft underbelly"—the strategy that gave rise to al-Qaeda and ISIS terrorism from the cauldron of war in Afghanistan. A veteran of the State Department, the CIA and RFE/Radio Liberty, Goble is now a professor at the Centre for Intermarium Studies of Washington's Institute for World Politics. He argued against banking on national and ethnic movements to lead the way in breaking up Russia, recommending instead to work for declarations of independence by large regions. He gleefully forecast that resource-rich Siberia will be the first to declare independence.

No one questioned the underlying premises of these discussions. It is taken for granted that Ukraine will defeat Russia militarily, and that Russia's resources will be so drained by the combination of the costs of fighting in Ukraine and Western economic sanctions, that conditions of increased impoverishment and anger can be created in outlying and poorer regions, necessary for Western intelligence agencies to mount serious insurgencies—which do not now exist.

The pro-terrorist 'Free Nations of Post-Russia Forum'

The Free Nations of Post-Russia Forum was officially launched at an 8-9 May 2022 conference in Warsaw, Poland, which brought together Russian opposition exiles, "representatives of nations enslaved by Russian imperialism, and experts and politicians from Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine and the United States" to debate the future shape of Russia after it loses in Ukraine, according to the Polish Journalists Association, which opened the conference

It was evident that the "Post-Russia" movement born in Warsaw has never been intended to be "non-violent".

Prominent in the Forum is the Russian exile Ilya Ponomaryov (sometimes written "Ponomarev"), notorious for cheerleading overt acts of terrorism and urging that sabotage and arson be carried out inside Russia. Ponomaryov claims that he founded the Forum. The former Russian Duma member left Russia in 2014 and today lives in Ukraine, where he has been given citizenship and claims to have enlisted in Ukraine's Territorial Defence Forces.

Shortly after participating in founding the FNPRF, Ponomaryov challenged the Free Russia Forum of chess champion and émigré Garry Kasparov to support covert acts of sabotage inside Russia. Within hours of the August 20 car bomb

assassination of journalist Darya Dugina on a road in Moscow Region, Ponomaryov pronounced himself the public spokesman for those behind the assassination, reading a statement from a previously unknown "National Republican Army", which claimed credit for the murder. While he described himself as merely a supporter who was trusted by the group, but not a member, Ponomaryov hailed Dugina's murder as a "new page in Russian resistance to Putinism. New—but not the last."

Once again, after the 2 April 2023 assassination of Russian war journalist Maxim Fomin, a.k.a. Vladlen Tatarsky, in St. Petersburg, Ponomaryov read a declaration from the same National Republican Army, which hailed Fomin's assassination and the wounding of 30-some people by the bomb. It called for the "destruction" of Russia's government.

Interviewed 20 March on Germany's Deutschlandfunk radio, Ponomaryov claimed to have an active network of National Republican Army "partisans" (disingenuously using the Russian word for irregular warfare fighters against the Nazi occupiers during World War II) in forty regions of Russia. He asserted that his partisans were behind unexplained fires at defence industry and scientific facilities inside Russia over the past year. The question has to be asked, whether Ponomaryov's often extravagant claims are providing cover for not-yet-exposed Anglo-American special operations. Besides being on the ground in Ukraine to train Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel, British and American special ops teams have been especially active in the Baltic states, NATO members where there are many Russian speakers suited for undercover work.

Russia-hating Ukrainian fascists are a major element of the FNPRF. Ukrainian politicians have spoken at all its forums to date. Radio Svoboda (an RFE/RL subsidiary) described the FNPRF last August as the fourth attempt since 1917 to free the Russian "prison of nations", writing that once again, as in the past, "the key to the collapse of the [Russian] empire is in the hands of the Ukrainian people". It identified the historical "second attempt" as the 1943 insurgency of the "Bandera OUN" (Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists)—collaborators of Adolf Hitler as of 1941, and in 1943 the butchers of tens of thousands of Jewish and Polish civilians in bloody ethnic cleansing, the Volhynia Massacres—which organised the first "Conference of Enslaved Peoples of Eastern Europe and Asia".

Oleg Magaletsky, a Ukrainian who calls himself "co-organiser" of the FNPRF, detailed to Texty.ua on 20 March his ideas on how the Ukrainian regime "can speed up the historical process of Russia's disintegration" by ensuring representatives of these "national" movements are provided with the military aid they require "to rebel and wage armed struggle". His goal, he said, "is for the name 'Rus' to remain only in the name 'Belarus' on the world map".

The sole American to address the Post-Russia founding forum, by videoconference, was retired Army Col. Christopher Miller. His active-duty career was in special operations, an expertise he has continued since retiring from the military in 2014, as a strategic planning advisor to the National Security Council and at the Pentagon as deputy assistant secretary of defence for special operations and combating terrorism, and then assistant secretary of defence for special operations/low intensity conflict. He has been responsible in those posts for "overseeing the employment of special operations forces in counterterrorism ... unconventional warfare, irregular warfare, direct action, special reconnaissance, foreign internal

defence, counter proliferation, sensitive special operations".

The public involvement of Anglo-American agents and the size and radicalism of the FNPRF have grown over the subsequent Forum conferences.

The II Forum, held in Prague, Czech Republic 23-24 July 2022 "set bold and ambitious goals for the post-Russia future", the Jamestown Foundation's Eurasia Daily Monitor reported afterwards. Jamestown operatives Bugajski and Goble addressed the event online. Paul Massaro, a staff member of the US government's CSCE agency, which had sponsored its own seminar on breaking up Russia the month before, also addressed the conference; he celebrates Ukrainian Hitler-collaborator Stepan Bandera. Joining the retinue was Edward Lucas, former senior editor of the London *Economist*, who has written countless columns and books attacking Russia.

Among the "bold and ambitious goals" adopted was a Declaration on the Decolonisation of Russia. It calls for "all citizens of indigenous peoples and colonial regions to immediately begin active actions for the peaceful decolonisation, liberation, declaration/restoration of sovereignty and independence of their countries", calling on "the peoples and governments of the UN Member States to support and assist us ... in our efforts"—and here, already, came the scary set phrase—"to streamline the uncontrolled process of disintegration of a nuclear state."

That assistance is supposed to include recognition of "the independence and sovereignty of the following states of indigenous peoples and colonial areas: Tatarstan, Ingria (historical region in the north-west of Russia, including the current St. Petersburg region), Bashkortostan, Karelia, Buryatia, Kalmykia, the Baltic Republic (Königsberg, East Prussia), Komi, Cherkessia, Siberia, the Urals, the Republics of Don, Tyva, Kuban, Dagestan, the Pacific Federation (Primorsky Territory and Amur Region), the Moscow Republic, Erzya Mastor, Sakha, Pomorie, Chuvashia, Chernozym region, Mordovia, Volga region, Khakassia, Udmurtia, Tyumen Yurga, Mari El, Altai, Ingushetia, etc."

The Declaration likewise mandates the formation of "National Transitional Governments/Administrations"; regional parliaments to declare state sovereignty and start inter-parliamentary consultations on a mechanism for seceding from the Russian Federation; and Constitutions to be prepared.

As for the "peaceful" nature of this call, the declaration called for "acts of sabotage of imperial orders" and "the formation of national legions (Self-Defence Forces)".

The IV Forum was held in Helsingborg, Sweden in December 2022, under the pompous title "International Conference for Peaceful Decolonisation, Reconstruction and Territorial Organisation of the States on the Post-Russian Space". Bugajski again took part. Its highlight was the release of the so-called Declaration of Independence of the Siberian Confederation.

Most of the same players were on the program of the FNPRF's April 2023 travelling road show in the USA. The opening event was hosted by the Hudson Institute in Washington on 25 April: a conference on "Peaceful and Non-Violent Decolonisation, Reconstruction and Territorial Organisation on the post-Russian Space".

This policy is fantastical on many counts, but do not make the mistake of dismissing it as too extreme, too dangerous, too crazy to actually be adopted and implemented. At this time, it *is* policy; it *is* being implemented, and Russia *is* responding to those facts.