

# British, EU, Obama Gun For Showdown with Russia

by Rachel Douglas

Dec. 10—The dangerous lunacy of British strategists and their henchmen among European Union and U.S. officials is on full display in the events in and around Ukraine. Evidently some who were disappointed in the failure to launch a big war by bombing Syria three months ago, are now gunning for a direct showdown with Russia, using Ukraine as a touchstone.<sup>1</sup>

After Ukraine's Nov. 21 decision not to capitulate to the EU's brutal conditions for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), attacks on President Victor Yanukovich and the government of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov sharply escalated both inside and outside the country. Dr. Andreas Umland, a foreign agitator on the Ukrainian political scene, wrote in *Le Monde Diplomatique* Dec. 5 that the specter of civil war is looming in Ukraine, and that Russia will be to blame for it. He demanded that the EU threaten Moscow: "The West should quickly make clear to Russia's leadership the array of economic, financial, political, and diplomatic repercussions against Moscow, of a Russian strangulation of the Ukrainian economy" (that is, of Russia's adopting protective barriers for its own economy, in the event that Ukraine accept the DCFTA).

*The Economist* of London headlined Dec. 7, "The situation in Ukraine is volatile and dangerous: the West must act." It warned that the stand-off in Kiev is not "destined to end peacefully." The British outlet advised Yanukovich that "his country is becoming un-

governable," and that he should sack Prime Minister Azarov and form a coalition government with the opposition, while "the West should ensure that any further violence has a high price. The EU's envoys should be at the barricades, facing down the skull-crackers not in support of any politician but in the cause of peaceful protest. And the Europeans should make clear to Mr Yanukovich and his henchmen that, in the event of an escalation, they will be punished where it hurts through travel bans, and asset and bank-account freezes."

Germany's President Joachim Gauck jumped out front in confronting Russia for shortcomings in "democracy," announcing on the weekend of Dec. 7-8 that he will not attend the Sochi Winter Olympics in February. In Kiev, pro-EU opposition parties took to the streets to demand the ouster of the government and of Yanukovich. An opposition no-confidence motion against the government fell 40 votes short of passage in the Ukrainian Supreme Rada (Parliament) Dec. 3, but opposition leaders escalated. Arseni Yatsenyuk, head of jailed ex-Premier Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna (Fatherland) Party, declared the goal of forcing Yanukovich to fire the government anyway and call early Parliamentary and Presidential elections.

## EU's Blatant Meddling

The most glaring element during tense demonstrations in central Kiev on Dec. 8, was the blatant meddling in Ukrainian affairs by EU officials and other British operatives. On the official level, the would-be dictators from the EU staked a claim to mediate the internal political situation in Ukraine. The European Commission announced that EC president José Manuel Barroso had spoken to Yanukovich and would send British Lady Ashton, the EU's "foreign minister," to Kiev on Dec. 10.

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1. Such a scenario has been circulated for several years, as in a notorious London *Economist* futurology article in March 2007, which "looked back" from 2057 as follows: "In the dangerous second decade of the century, when Vladimir Putin returned for a third term as Russian president and stood poised to invade Ukraine, it was the EU that pushed the Obama administration to threaten massive nuclear retaliation." Quoted in "British Imperial Strategists Push EU to Confront Russia," *EIR*, March 7, 2008.

Several Western officials went beyond mere calls for a “coalition government,” acting in line with what some Ukrainians call “the Libya scenario”: simply start treating the opposition parties as if they were in power. This approach was stepped up even as Yanukovich completed successful trade talks in China Dec. 3-6; met with Russian President Vladimir Putin Dec. 6 to prepare for the important Russian-Ukrainian Inter-governmental Commission meeting of Dec. 17; and announced that he would join in round-table discussions with Ukraine’s previous three post-independence Presidents and with government and opposition representatives, to seek a way out of the political crisis.

Arriving in Kiev Dec. 10 for a second visit within a week, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland met first with opposition party leaders, ahead of a possible meeting with President Yanukovich. The French Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, announcing Dec. 8 that Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius had invited opposition figure Vitali Klitschko to visit, quoted Fabius as insisting on acceptance of the already rejected DCFTA. According to German press reports, European conservative parties are trying to boost Klitschko’s public profile as a future President of Ukraine, by inviting him to address their conference in Brussels the week of Dec. 9.

Poland’s *Rzeczpospolita* newspaper reported that Foreign Ministers Carl Bildt of Sweden and Radek Sikorski of Poland, co-initiators of the EU Eastern Partnership for Ukraine and others, are pushing Kiev to set up a Council for Eurointegration and Reform, jointly with opposition parties.

### **Racist Thugs for Free Trade and Democracy**

A preliminary review of the activity of U.S. and EU-backed NGOs vis-à-vis Ukraine, during the years since the George Soros-sponsored Orange Revolution of December 2004, reveals ominous new elements. In this same period, the EU launched the Eastern Partnership project to try and lure Ukraine and five other former Soviet republics into the full-scale free-trade regime of the “Troika” (EC/European Central Bank/IMF), the looting scheme now rejected by Kiev.

The Eastern Partnership initiative came in December 2008, hard on the heels of Russia’s repulsing the attack by Georgia (under Michael Saakashvili, who has now popped up in Kiev to support the opposition rallies) in South Ossetia. From the outset, the Eastern Part-

nership, run directly by the EC, included enhancement of NGO activities in the target countries, with an Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum as a coordinating body.

Among the 2,200 foreign-funded NGOs operating in Ukraine, Soros’s International Renaissance Foundation (IRF) has been hyperactive in cultivating a new generation of deployable political forces. The IRF has built support in Germany through its Kiev Dialogue project. IRF project manager Myhaylo Banakh is one of the promoters of Klitschko, the former WBC Super-Heavyweight Boxing Champion who resided in Germany for many years, but is now in Kiev as a high-profile leader of the street demonstrations and head of the Udar (“Punch”) Party in the Supreme Rada. Klitschko, known as the only heavyweight champ with a PhD, has set his sights on the Ukrainian Presidency.

Banakh also works closely with Umland, the German academic who explicitly calls for turning the Ukraine crisis into a showdown with Russia.

Human rights supporters who are cheering the Kiev demonstrators as “pro-Europe forces” should realize that this year’s crowds also include an increasingly vocal and active neo-Nazi component. Oleh Tyahnybok, head of the Svoboda Party (formerly called the “Socialist-Nationalist” movement), is another of the main street-demo leaders, appearing side-by-side with Klitschko and Yatsenyuk, and meeting with the State Department’s Nuland. Tyahnybok rails against the government as a “Jewish-Russian” dictatorship over Ukraine, using vile ethnic slurs. On Dec. 4, the left-wing German website Telepolis drew attention to the growing visibility of extreme nationalists and fascists on the Kiev streets, and their involvement in provoking a Nov. 30-Dec. 1 violent episode with Ukrainian riot police, through which the political crisis was fanned. Telepolis reported that the rioters attacked police with heavy chains and that many of them wore not only face masks, but bullet-proof vests and gas masks.

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry has accused both Tyahnybok’s Svoboda and a formation called Bratstvo (the Brotherhood), formed in 1999 by Dmytro Korchynsky, of complicity in touching off the melee, in which many students were then beaten. Korchynsky’s group, emerging from paramilitary wings of the Ukrainian National Self-Defense (UNSO) and Ukrainian National Assembly (UNA) groups, have combat experience from three wars: Transdnistria in 1992-94,

Chechnya in the mid-1990s (on the insurgents' side), and on the side of Georgia against Russia in Abkhazia in 2008.

Svoboda members appear to be driving violent confrontations during the demonstrations. On Dec. 8, Svoboda claimed responsibility for toppling a statue of Lenin in Kiev, left over from the Soviet period. They replaced it with the EU flag and the red/black banner of the brutal 20th-Century radical nationalist Stepan Bandera. That day, Svoboda cadre also oversaw the erection of barricades on streets leading to government headquarters, Kiev's *Zerkalo Nedeli* (ZN) reported; police actions to remove them, the next night, led to violent clashes in which young demonstrators were injured, and rumors spread online that people had been killed. Communist Party sources in the city, in communications to friends abroad, expressed concern for their physical safety. Pavlo Viknyansky, leader of the independent Student Republic movement, said in a statement that students were being used as cannon fodder.

### **Criminal Charges, Dire Warnings**

Also on Dec. 8, ZN reported a Ukraine Security Service (SBU) announcement that a criminal investigation has been launched into attempts by unnamed "individual politicians" to make a coup d'état. Separately, the ruling Party of Regions Deputy Chairman Alexander Yefremov, according to Interfax-Ukraine, accused Batkivshchina MP Alexander Turchinov of "inciting people to armed actions." Yefremov said that Turchinov is well aware of such possible consequences, thus any further such actions "will be criminal in nature."

The Dec. 8 edition of *Vremya Nedeli*, the weekly news recap on Russia's largest national TV channel, included a segment on the danger of civil war in Ukraine. The Channel One Russia (1TV) program led with a statement by Ihor Smeshko, former head of the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU), that in the absence of a "unifying national idea," Ukraine "cannot resolve the disputes" between the two halves of the country, West and East. 1TV then aired interviews with Serbian professors and politicians who compared the Ukraine situation to the EU- and NATO-backed regime-change in Serbia in 2000. One of them argued that for the West, having Ukraine "in Europe" is above all a military-strategic proposition. The story included the role of Oxford-groomed, Boston-based irregular warfare special-

ist Gene Sharp's colleagues in the early training of the Serbian Otpor group, which, in turn, helped to foment the Orange Revolution.<sup>2</sup> The message was that the West is intervening to play on existing frictions within Ukrainian society.

*Vremya Nedeli* also highlighted a video clip of the Nov. 21 speech in the Supreme Rada by MP Oleh Tsar'yov of the ruling Party of Regions, when he accused the U.S. Embassy of sponsoring and assisting forces to foment "civil war" in Ukraine. The reporter cited the figure just announced by the State Department, that the USA spent \$100 million over the past year to "help Ukraine" prepare for Eurointegration.

The Russian TV segment concluded with footage of Victoria Nuland at an OSCE meeting in Kiev the previous week, overtly supporting the demonstrators and the EU against the decision by Ukraine's elected government to put the DCFTA on hold. Nuland said, "There should be no doubt where the United States stands on all of this. We stand with the people of Ukraine, who see their future in Europe and want to bring their country back out of economic chaos." The narrator commented that Nuland's intervention eclipsed even the appearance of German Foreign Minister Westerwelle and Polish MPs marching with the opposition parties in Kiev.

*Rainer Apel and Roger Moore in Germany contributed reporting for this article.*

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2. "Destabilizing Russia: The 'Democracy' Agenda of McFaul and His Oxford masters," *EIR*, Feb. 3, 2012.