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## Strategic Map

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Britain's Margaret Thatcher and her pet poodle, President George Bush, set into motion the "Reform" which has brought Russia to the brink of an explosion. Since the fall of communism in 1991, Russia has been ringed with British-backed wars and destabilizations, while internally, its leaders have foolishly sought to implement the International Monetary Fund's shock therapy demands.

The map gives a schematic picture of the following British-sponsored operations:

### Free market advisers

Some of the most influential detrimental advisers on economic policy, entering Russia since the Bush-Thatcher period, came under the auspices of:

**From the U.K.:** the Mont Pelerin Society's Institute for Economic Affairs, the London School of Economics;

**From the United States:** the National Endowment for Democracy, the International Republican Institute, the Kriebler Institute of the Free Congress Foundation, the Heritage Foundation, Harvard Business School.

### Current warfare

**Chechnya**, the breakaway republic in Russia's North Caucasus. On the British-shaped origins of the conflict, see Roman Bessonov, "Chechnya, the Russian Sicily," in *EIR*, April 28 and May 5, 1995, and several articles in *EIR's Special Report*, "The British Monarchy Rapes the Transcaucasus, Again," April 12, 1996.

Also in the North Caucasus and Transcaucasus are other areas of recurrent conflict, not shown, including Ingushetia and North Ossetia in Russia, South Ossetia and Abkhazia in Georgia, and the Armenian-Azerbaijani dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh.

**Afghanistan** plunged back into civil war, when the Taliban movement seized Kabul in late September. See "Why the Afghanistan War Does Not End," *EIR*, April 12, 1996, and "Taliban Takeover of Kabul Portends New Threats to Central Asia Region," *EIR*, Oct. 11, 1996.

### Other political and military hot spots

**Crimea**, in southern Ukraine, is the scene of an ongoing Russian-Ukrainian dispute over the Black Sea Fleet and the port of Sevastopol.

**Belarus** is in the throes of a confrontation between President Lukashenko and the parliament, in which reintegration with Russia is a major issue.

**Armenia's** political crisis has only somewhat abated,

since International Monetary Fund collaborator President Levon Ter-Petrosian won reelection in a fraud-ridden vote this September. Hovhannes Galajian recounted the violent aftermath, in *EIR*, Oct. 11, 1996.

**Northern Iraq** and eastern **Turkey** are the scene of intermittent Kurdish insurgencies. See "Kurdish Interests Hurt by Geopolitical Games," *EIR*, Sept. 13, 1996.

**Pakistan** is in political crisis, following the ouster of Benazir Bhutto as prime minister.

**Tajikistan.** The intermittent civil war there has heated up, since the Taliban surge in Afghanistan. Russian troops patrol the Tajik-Afghan border.

**Korean peninsula** and **Japan-China** territorial and political disputes. See Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., "Ring Around China: Britain Seeks War," in *EIR*, Nov. 22, 1996.

### NATO expansion under discussion

**Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary** have stated their desire to join NATO. Such membership, or closer collaboration with the Atlantic military bloc, is under discussion by leaders or leading factions in **Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine.**

### Foreign interests in pipeline projects

The Caucasus and Central Asia conflicts have erupted or been instigated in two main zones, where British and Bush-league petroleum firms have projects in and around Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

#### Pipeline zone 1

A) Caspian Sea oil consortium (shipment via Baku, Azerbaijan). The participants, as of 1996 are: Amoco (U.S.), BP (U.K.), Unocal (U.S.), SOCAR (Azerbaijani state oil company), LukOil (Russia), Pennzoil (U.S.), Statoil (Norway), Tpaoc (Turkey), Exxon (U.S.), McDermott (U.S.), Ramco (U.K.), and Delta Oil (Saudi Arabia). The project is supposed to pump at least 511 million tons of crude over 30-year period, yielding profits of \$50 billion or more at current prices. In September 1995, the 11 consortium members, meeting in Houston, Texas, agreed on two pipeline routes: one through Russia by the existing route (via Grozny, Chechnya), and the other through Georgia and eventually to the Turkish port of Ceyhan on the Mediterranean Sea.

B) Caspian Pipeline Consortium, for developing Kazakhstan oil fields and shipping oil via Baku, or, alternatively, through Astrakhan, on the Russian Caspian coast. Formed in 1992 by participants from Kazakhstan, Oman, and Russia, along with representatives of the U.S. firm long involved in oil development plans for Kazakhstan's Tengiz fields, the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, as of March 1996, had been joined by LukOil (Russia), ARCO (U.S.), Mobil (U.S.), British Gas (U.K.), and Agip (Italy).

#### Pipeline zone 2

C) Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan natural gas proj-

FIGURE 1

The encirclement of Russia by British and Bush-league geopolitics



ect. Turkmenistan's President Saparmurat Niyazov and the head of Unocal (U.S.) signed an agreement Oct. 27, 1996, giving Unocal exclusive powers to form the consortium for this project, projected to make annual deliveries of natural gas up to 40 billion cubic meters by the year 2002—if the \$2 billion new pipeline can pass safely through Afghanistan and Pakistan to the Indian Ocean. An alternative route through Iran is not in this consortium's plans. Other consortium members are Gazprom (Russia), Turkmenrosgaz (joint Turkmen-Russia), and Delta Oil (Saudi Arabia). The remaining participants of the consortium will be determined by Unocal-Delta Oil alliance.

D) Uzbekistan natural gas project. A \$1.3 billion oil and natural gas development project for Bukhara and Surkhandarya, Uzbekistan, was launched in August 1996 (after preliminary agreement was reached in 1995) by Enron Oil and

Gas Co., in a joint venture with Uzbekistan's national oil company, Uzneftegaz. Enron officials forecast Gazprom's participation.

Note: Gazprom, Russia's only natural gas firm, was formerly headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, now Russian prime minister. Its current head, Rem Vyakhirev, works closely with the Houston-based Enron Corp. (In 1992, when George Bush was still in the White House, Enron chairman Kenneth Lay chaired the Host Committee for the Republican National Convention where Bush was renominated). In March 1996, Vyakhirev visited Dallas, Texas, where *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported, businessmen from all over the United States flew in to meet him: "Texas state Gov. George Bush, Jr., noted this interest and promised his personal support in widening ties between the big players in the U.S. oil and gas industry and the Russian company."