

# The Volodin plan to save imperial Russia

by Konstantin George

The Russian policymaking elites, beset with economic breakdown, a systemic crisis, dissolution along national lines, and the demise of the Communist Party as a ruling institution, have come up with a program for preserving the core of the empire, in preparation for future expansion. The plan was outlined in an article written by Eduard Volodin, titled, "The New Russia in a Changing World, A Realistic Prognosis," which appeared in the Jan. 26 issue of the Russian Writers' Union weekly, *Literaturnaya Rossiya*.

As *EIR* has reported, the demise of communism in the Soviet bloc means that the Soviet Union itself has now come under the rule of a statist dictatorship, the Presidential Council—a new "Politburo," a veritable Imperial Russian Council, headed by a Czar Mikhail Gorbachov. The Presidential Council, faced with a lowered threshold of internal crisis, highlighted by Lithuania's Declaration of Independence and the moves towards independence by other non-Russian republics, has adopted the Volodin plan as a guideline for action.

The Russian Writers' Union is no talk-shop of academics; its leadership represents the very highest echelons of the policymaking elite. One of its leading figures, the Russian chauvinist writer Valentin Rasputin, is a member of the new Presidential Council, and another of its leaders, Sergei Bobkov, is the son of the number two man in the KGB, First Deputy Chairman Gen. Filipp Bobkov, who directs all KGB internal security functions.

Volodin himself is one of the top figures in the Russian elite. He is co-founder and a leader of Raisa Gorbachova's Slavic Culture Fund (see *EIR*, July 28, 1989). The Culture Fund was created in March 1989 to draft policy options for keeping the empire's Slavic core intact.

Volodin's prime concern, now being openly implemented in Gorbachov's dealings with the Baltic states and Eastern Europe, is how to pull Russia through its systemic crisis by converting any territorial losses into net gains for Russia's economic strength and military strategic position, ensuring its status as number one military superpower.

Volodin's main points were:

- Consolidate Russia, and develop "its well-equipped, technologically advanced Army";
- At all costs, keep Ukraine and Belorussia "in union with Russia," to prevent "a national tragedy";
- If secession of non-slavic republics cannot be avoided, then prolong the process as much as possible; negotiate new borders by detaching parts of their territory and ceding it to the Slavic core; Russia will maintain post-independence "embassies" in these republics to protect the "interests" of ethnic Russians, and Moscow's foreign and domestic debts will be "shared" on a "proportionate" basis with these republics (every one of these tenets has since become Soviet policy in the brutal campaign against Lithuanian independence);
- Georgia and Armenia, should they choose independence, will receive no Russian military help, and be on their own to face any future Turkish or Iranian military threats.

## U.S. plays Russian roulette

Rather than causing alarm bells to be sounded in Washington, U.S. policymaking circles have hailed the Volodin document as providing a justification for the West's appeasement of Gorbachov. Leaders of the U.S. intelligence community and of the Eastern Establishment—as exemplified in the former category by Hoover Institute Senior Fellow John Dunlop, and in the latter category by publications such as the *Boston Globe* and *Forbes* magazine—have cited Volodin as proof that Russia is "turning inward." They have misread his document as a call for Russia to "go isolationist," and be willing to abandon large parts of its empire. Volodin has been invited to the United States, to be followed later this year by Valentin Rasputin of the Presidential Council.

These U.S. strategists are making the same fatal appeasement mistake that was made concerning Adolf Hitler, when his statements that he was interested solely in consolidating the German-speaking world, his *pre-foreign conquest goal*, were falsely identified as his end goal.

For the Russian elite, consolidating Russia is the necessary precondition for the empire's next round of *expansionism*. Volodin said so, quite explicitly, in the part of his article that Washington chose to ignore. Quoting the famous czarist general Alexander Suvorov, he wrote, "We are Russians, and we can overcome anything," adding that a "reborn Russia" will be able to relaunch, in the code language for expansionism used by Fyodor Dostoevsky in the last century, Russia's "universal appeal."

There is another ugly parallel to the 1930s appeasement. As the United States and Britain appeased Hitler, so they betrayed the pro-Western German Resistance. Today, there is also a positive process under way among certain urban strata of the Russian population, generated by the democratic revolutions in Eastern Europe, and reflected in the desire of millions for Russia to *join Europe*. By playing the "Imperial Russia card," the West is betraying, not only the captive nations, but the true interests of Russians themselves.