

## EIR Feature

# Bush's 'democracy' lobby instigates breakup of Russia

by Roman Bessonov

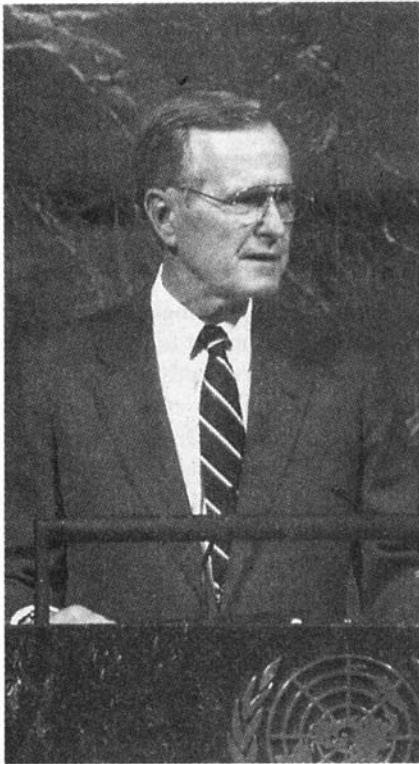
*Part 4 of a series on "The Anti-Utopia in Power" in Russia. The author subtitled this section, "How to Build a Bomb." Parts 1-3 appeared in EIR on Sept. 16, Oct. 4, and Oct. 18.*

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the two world superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, were economically developed enough to have charted a policy for the whole world, based on the peaceful use of advanced technologies, the joint exploration of space, development of infrastructure, reform of modern education, and overcoming backwardness and poverty in the Third World.

The most popular genre of Soviet literature, in those years, was science fiction that depicted the future world as a community of strong and brave people. The heroes of these novels were neither studying Marx and Engels, nor exporting "proletarian" revolution to Ibero-America. They were building cities on new planets and growing gardens in the Sahara, conquering wild nature and making it serve Man, with a tremendous passion of selfless creativity. One book, perhaps the most popular in my youth, was titled *People Like Gods*. It expressed a view directly opposite to the misanthropic image of "people like animals," pushed by the House of Windsor through supranational institutions like the United Nations, as well as in the permanent bureaucracies of both the United States and the Soviet Union.

The resonance of Lyndon LaRouche's International Development Bank proposal (1975) was tremendous within the Non-Aligned Movement and elsewhere in the Third World, because leaders of those nations hoped to enter an era of economic development. But such perspectives collided with the poison of post-industrialism and the "information age," which had already become a weapon of the transnational cartels that sought total financial control of the world.

Inside the Soviet Union, the interests of international petrochemical giants, for example, matched the corporate appetites of the Soviet petroleum bureaucracy. The resultant shift of the lion's share of investments into oil and natural gas,



*The process of destruction which we see today in the former Soviet Union, began with the imperial "new world order" of the "Gang of Three" (left to right): George Bush, Mikhail Gorbachov, and Margaret Thatcher—all shown here at the United Nations.*

contributed to the stagnation of the country's technological development, already in the Brezhnev period (1965-82).

The Soviet economy's stagnation, as it became dependent on petroleum export revenues, coincided with the end of the fixed-parity currency system in the Western world (1971), and the beginning of the subsequent upsurge of financial speculation, ever more decoupled from the real economy. The Russian side of that global process of sacrificing real economic development to financial priorities, helped set the stage for the final corruption of the Soviet elite and the collapse of the U.S.S.R. (1989-91), but that collapse did not bring freedom to the independent states. They found themselves in another prison, in the deadly grip of the international financial institutions. Today, it is difficult to still be glad about the end of the Cold War, because Russia is totally destabilized, its military technologies in the hands not of space explorers, but of organized crime.

The last stage of the destructive processes which led to the miserable result we can witness today, began under the world's domination by the "Gang of Three," Margaret Thatcher, George Bush, and Mikhail Gorbachov, in 1988-91, the period when Gorbachov and Bush proclaimed the anti-nation-state "new world order."

### **Gorbachov's 'new thinking'**

The "new thinking" of Mikhail Gorbachov, who took office as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) in 1985, initially consisted of two intercon-

nected parts: "democratic socialist" changes in ideology and economy, rooted in the concepts of old Bolshevik Nikolai Bukharin, and post-industrialist environmentalism, pushed under the cover of "repentance" (for the crimes of the Soviet past) and "humanism." The latter was a Soviet version of the self-fixation of Baby Boomers in the United States: Gorbachov's propaganda campaign for the "human factor" in society and the economy, diverted people from thinking about common values, about the goals of the country's economic development, to concentrate on themselves, their biology, physiology, and physical circumstances.

Criticizing the bureaucracy (in order to initiate purges that improved his position), Gorbachov blamed high state and industrial functionaries for damaging people's health in heavy industry, with poor environmental protection. But the oil *nomenklatura* retained and enhanced its privileges, according to the Bukharinite formula, "Enrich yourself," which was applied in such a way as to encourage officials to run semi-legal businesses. The petroleum bureaucracy achieved an advantageous position from which to "privatize," later becoming a part of the world elite. In the late 1980s, this part of the *nomenklatura* controlled the regions where oil was extracted and refined.

Before becoming a powderkeg, the Caucasus, especially Chechnya, was an oil barrel. The oil men in this area were probably the first to realize that the trappings of the state, especially tax obligations, were nothing but an obstacle to their private and clan interests. Outside interests, those cen-

tered in London, as well as associated U.S. companies like Amoco, could exploit these private appetites for their own advantage, here and in other regions. As elsewhere in the world, the old instruments came into play: ethnicity, pagan mythologies, and environmentalism.

Not a one of those political and cultural currents failed to receive funding from the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy, and its sub-groups. Over and above those cases in Central Asia, where NED-approved groups are embroiled in the exploding “cockpit of war” around Afghanistan, the association of the NED and its subsidiaries with movements that have contributed to the fragmentation of Russia, fuels hostility toward the United States on the part of many patriotic Russians. A letter published in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* on Oct. 19, attributed to “the collective of officers of the General Staff,” gave voice to such passions: Denouncing the “trans-Atlantic sponsors of the Kremlin,” the letter alleged a U.S.-instigated design “to crush the system of military leadership today, [which] means that, tomorrow, impoverished people will, on the pretext of a deterioration of the internal Russian situation, call in NATO forces under the UN flag to come help, and the latter will take control of the administrative centers and all military-strategic facilities.”

The collapse of communism and the inability of the 1989-91 “democratic reformers” to find any formula by which to unite the nation, aside from primitive neo-liberal rhetoric, left the field open for synthetic, as well as spontaneous, particularist ideologies. The soil (especially the soil rich with oil) was well prepared for classic British Intelligence manipulations. Mixed up with human rights rhetoric, and fueled by great sums of money, environmentalism, especially under pretext of the “protection of indigenous populations,” was to play a key role in a multitude of ideological and parareligious left-right games, which promoted a process of destabilization throughout Eurasia.

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## I. The ‘separatist’ card in Russian politics

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Some years before the collapse of the CPSU and the Soviet Union, when Gorbachov transformed the official ideology into a vague mixture of “pink and green” conceptions, he opened the gates to a resurgent Orthodox culture, while permitting all sorts of formerly forbidden *samizdat* literature to be printed, at first only for the limited readership of the journal *Naslediye* (*Heritage*), of the Soviet Culture Fund. It was under the auspices of this state fund, headed by Raisa Gorbachova, that George Soros launched his activity in the U.S.S.R. Soros was able to make friends with leading intellectuals of the “left” and the “right,” such as the historian Prof. Yuri Afanasyev, future head of the “radical liberal” Democratic Russia movement, or the Slavophile writer Valentin Rasputin. Out of this milieu came the separatist card, which was to be played with force in

the Russian political battles of the 1990s.

Afanasyev developed Gorbachov’s theme of “repentance,” by insisting that the Soviet republics should not be forced to remain in the U.S.S.R. His motto was, “For your freedom, and ours!” The idea of a Declaration of Independence of Russia itself from the U.S.S.R., meanwhile, came from the Russian nationalist Rasputin, who argued that the other republics were “eating Russia’s bread.” Rasputin especially attacked the peoples of Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Both these lines in public thinking, the “radical liberal” and the “nationalist,” had the backing of high officials in the CPSU ideological apparatus. The support for both sides, resembling a great ideological game, evidently originated with Aleksandr Yakovlev and some younger officials from the “thaw” generation, such as Aleksandr Degtyaryov, deputy head of the Central Committee’s Ideological Department.

The Russian opposition of the early 1990s was not quite fair, when it accused Boris Yeltsin of “destroying the Russian state.” Gorbachov pointed the way, with the policies he summarized in his famous, much-ridiculed phrase, “The process has begun.”<sup>1</sup>

The power of the central Soviet administrative bureaucracy was significantly undermined by official or semi-official protection for the first generation of cooperative proprietors and other shadow economy operators. The bureaucracy adapted to the new situation, spawning semi-private commercial operations out of the existing management structures; these would later be “institutionalized” by Russian Premiers Ivan Silayev, and then, in 1992, Yegor Gaidar.<sup>2</sup>

As the central economic structures abandoned their management duties in favor of these private economic projects, the leaderships of Soviet Socialist Republics (S.S.R.), Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics (A.S.S.R.), and provinces were left with only one weapon for pressuring Moscow. They used the advantages of their respective economic specializations (in the Soviet system, many industries were concentrated in one or a few regions), as leverage for demanding privileges. The famous miner strikes of 1989, effectively used by Russian politician Yeltsin against Soviet President Gorbachov, could only have happened with support from the Ural elites, who were seeking a more privileged position in the country.

The Ural elites have a tradition of regionalist ambitions, reaching back at least two and a half centuries, which was expressed in many plans for a separate Ural Republic, even during periods of strong central leadership in Russia. The famed industrialist Demidov, granted privileges by Peter I in

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1. When Yeltsin supporters, later, were mocking Gorbachov, one Supreme Soviet deputy completed the phrase: *Tualeta ne nashol, a protsess uzhe poshol*, which means, “He hasn’t found a toilet, but the process has already begun.”

2. Roman Bessonov, “IRI’s Friends in Russia” (Part 1 of this series), *EIR*, Sept. 6, 1996, presents the notion of “institutionalization,” developed in Russia by Vitali Naishul, according to which the “informal,” or criminal economy should be promoted to a central role in the national economy—“institutionalized.”

the early eighteenth century, illegally issued his own Siberian currency. There were similar developments during World War I; in 1918, Siberia and the Urals became the headquarters of the White Russian troops, opposing the Bolsheviks.

In 1991, one of the regional concerns established in Sverdlovsk-Yekaterinburg,<sup>3</sup> started issuing “Ural francs.” In the summer of 1993, Boris Yeltsin was effectively forced to support the project for creating a Ural Republic; he granted special raw materials export privileges to the Sverdlovsk clan, which had brought him to power. Yeltsin needed their political and financial support, in his drive to crush the Russian parliament, the Supreme Soviet. But when, after Yeltsin prevailed in the October 1993 massacre in Moscow,<sup>4</sup> the Sverdlovsk provincial *soviet* dared to adopt a Constitution of the Ural Republic, Yeltsin dissolved it, along with all the other regional legislative bodies in the country. In 1995, the rebellious regional leader Eduard Rossel ran for the Sverdlovsk governorship, and Yeltsin again felt obliged to support him, although Rossel won against the candidate of Our Home Is Russia, set up as the “party of power.”

In the framework of the Soviet Union, other centers of regionalist ambitions were the Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Chechnya) and the Volga (Tatarstan and Gorky Province, now Nizhny Novgorod). Several powerful elite groups, or economic clans, had their home in Ukraine, concentrated in Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Odessa, and Simferopol. The last all-U.S.S.R. “congress” of organized crime was convened in the south Ukrainian industrial city of Dnepropetrovsk in the late 1970s. Still, the majority of the Russian “thieves-in-law,” or “godfathers,” originated from the so-called Caucasus criminal brotherhood; their next generation grew up in the Moscow suburbs.

### **A desert with casinos: the case of Artyom Tarasov**

The neo-Bukharinist shift in economic policy, introduced in order to boost the “living creativity of the people” (the theme of Gorbachov’s speeches in London, in December 1984, when he received the accolades of Mrs. Thatcher, just months before his elevation to the post of CPSU General Secretary), included a relaxation of responsibility for economic crimes. The criminal revolution made its first headway, under Gorbachov.

The mass media, in those late 1980s days, promoted certain young adventurers, as heralds of the “new thinking” in the economic realm.

One such herald was Artyom Tarasov from Lyubertsy, an industrial town in Moscow Province—a place as famous for its organized crime traditions as Dolgoprudny, Balashikha,

and Solntsevo. In his interviews, Tarasov emphasized the fact that he was half-Armenian. Tarasov’s first co-op, called Tekhnika, was co-founded by a prominent local criminal, Vladimir Ponomaryov, who had made his fortune reselling stolen cars. Tekhnika bought and resold computers. The first criminal investigation of Tarasov for tax fraud was halted, due to the fact that a relative of U.S.S.R. General Prosecutor Oleg Soroka was involved in his business. Then Tarasov offered his service to high officials of the Yeltsin leadership in Russia, making friends with Academician Tikhonov, head of the Cooperatives Union. His new structure was called Istok (which means “source,” or “outflow”).

In 1989, the Russian leadership launched a highly publicized program called Crops-90, under which Russian peasants sold their crops for vouchers, later exchangeable for consumer goods. Some crops were traded for oil (40 million metric tons of it!), to be sold abroad. Tarasov won exclusive rights to handle these transactions. At the time, the state’s monopoly on foreign trade had been loosened enough to allow semi-private operations; the thing to do was to found a “foreign-trade economic association.” Along with his association, also called Istok and co-founded by the same Ponomaryov, Tarasov established a Russian-British joint venture, with an account in Paribas-Monaco Bank. The money from the oil sales never returned to Russia.<sup>5</sup>

In the summer of 1990, Gorbachov’s police were about to arrest Tarasov. The obstacle was his parliamentary immunity as a deputy of the Russian Supreme Soviet, to which he was elected earlier that year with assistance from the Washington-based Kriebler Institute of the Free Congress Foundation.<sup>6</sup> Tarasov escaped arrest, and emigrated; he entered Britain on the passport of a citizen of the Dominican Republic. (Such passports could already be purchased from Moscow criminal firms.)

In London, Tarasov set himself up to assist Russian businessmen who had escaped prosecution in Russia, and founded a special institution for harboring flight capital. Evidently, his service to the Yeltsin “reformers” was rather significant, since in November 1993 he easily returned to Russia, on the same passport, won election to the State Duma (parliament), and took a seat on the Duma Commission for the Supervision of Law Enforcement Agencies—still being a citizen of the Dominican Republic! In 1995, he ran for the Duma as a top environmentalist, one of the leaders of the “ecological” election block, Kedr.

In summer 1994, Artyom Tarasov gave a remarkable interview to Radio Liberty, on Russian statehood. In his view, Russia consists of a large number of regions with quite differ-

3. Yekaterinburg was called Sverdlovsk in the Soviet period. It has reassumed the old name, but the surrounding area is still Sverdlovsk Province.

4. On Sept. 21, 1993, Yeltsin abolished the Russian Constitution and the parliament, the Supreme Soviet. The Supreme Soviet’s resistance was ended on Oct. 4, with many casualties, when Army tanks shelled its headquarters.

5. According to an unconfirmed report, published in the not-always-reliable Russian weekly *Zavtra* in 1994, another of Tarasov’s partners in this deal was the Swiss oil magnate (and fugitive from U.S. tax evasion charges) Marc Rich.

6. *EIR*, Oct. 4, 1996. Part 2 of this series reported on the Kriebler Institute (p. 55), and its help to Tarasov’s campaign (p. 57).

ent specializations; these regions are “self-sustainable” and can function as separate states, which is a “natural way of transformation.” He did not make clear how a future Tyumen Republic, possessing oil, will solve its border questions with some republic of the Far North that has no fuel or food, but a lot of nuclear warheads. Maybe he was just an optimist, but more likely this was the typical thinking of an experienced organized-crime figure, who knows very well what it means to control a territory with all its industries.

The example of the Kalmyk Republic, where a person with a similar career, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, established a dictatorship, ignoring a federal laws and owing trillions to the national budget—shortchanging other regions, as well as his own people—gives an impression of what a Tarasov-headed “independent region” would look like: a desert, with casinos.

### The ‘human rights’ war

The Artyom Tarasov story is just one example of how shadow economy figures, used by Gorbachov and Yeltsin against each other, were themselves a conveyor belt for the kind of oligarchical thinking, according to which a “confederalist” model for Russia is preferable to the model of a nation-state. In the Tarasov case, we also see that the U.S. Republican neo-conservatives, and people like Tarasov, whom they support in Russia, are pupils of that same school of oligarchical thinking, which is headquartered in London and promotes the “decentralization” of both the United States and Russia. They abhor a strong central system of economic development.

The pro-separatist strategies of the British don’t contradict the option of a monarchical model for Russia, or the ideological instigation of U.S. “hawks” against Russia, for their purpose is not only to undermine the United States and Russia, but to get them into a bitter and disastrous conflict against each other. As we shall see, there are examples of the “peaceful coexistence” of separatist and monarchic models, even inside one conception.

One of the favorite Russian politicians of the National Endowment for Democracy, Galina Starovoitova, may be the best illustration of this “yin-yang” coexistence of pro-separatist and monarchic ideologies in one person. In 1990-91, she was the most passionate supporter of the idea of dividing Russia into dozens of entities. A year later, she offered herself as candidate for defense minister, made friends with Cossack groups, and spoke (on Artyom Borovik’s “Top Secret” TV program) about the need for a strong, reformed intelligence service on the base of the former KGB. In 1994, she promoted Marshal Shaposhnikov for the Russian Presidency, and said that Russia would take back the Crimea from Ukraine; in a talk with St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoli Sobchak, she expressed delight with the West European constitutional monarchies. As soon as the new war began in Chechnya, she returned to pro-separatist positions, betraying the President in the most difficult period for him. In general, her activity results in nothing but destruction, and even Democratic Russia members admit, off the record, that she is responsible for the blood of



*A collage on the front page of Argumenty i Fakty, the largest circulation daily in Russia, on Jan. 3, 1996, titled “Chechen Shashlik.” The picture reflects the anger of Russian nationalists at the growth of separatist insurgencies: Russia is being carved up and served on a skewer, by Chechen separatism.*

Armenians, Azerbaijanis, Chechens, and Ingushi, to a greater extent than any of the regional warlords.

But Starovoitova is only a part of a task force, formed years before, dating back to the 1960s. Her political mentor is considered to be Viktor Sheinis, a graduate of the Institute for the World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), who was in disgrace after 1956, for protesting against the Soviet invasion of Hungary. In the early 1960s, after the new round of destalinization at the 22nd Party Congress (1961), he was accepted to Leningrad State University (LGU), where Aleksandr Degtyaryov, son of a repressed CPSU official, was head of the Komsomol (Communist Youth League) organization. His wing of the “thaw” generation was the source of the Bukharinist revival within the CPSU, campaigning for “internationalism” as opposed to “imperialism,” and becoming a most useful tool for British subversive operations.

Those Anglo-American strategists who thought in terms of dismembering the Soviet Union and then Russia, saw a good opportunity, when dissident Academician Andrei Sakharov was vilified in 1973 and exiled to Gorky in 1980. The Sakharov Congresses, which began to be held in the United

States when Richard Nixon was President, heavily concentrated on ethnic problems in the U.S.S.R., especially the problems of Caucasus peoples oppressed by Stalin, the Crimean Tartars, and others. After Sakharov died, it became clear that his widow, Yelena Bonner, daughter of a purged Armenian Comintern official named Gevork Alikhanyan, would continue to be active for such causes. Through her and a group of intellectuals in Soviet academic institutions, the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh (a province of Armenia, assigned to Azerbaijan under Soviet rule—a complex ethnic and territorial problem with similarities to the Jewish-Arab problem in Palestine) became an object of political speculation, and the detonator of the late-1980s wave of wars in the Caucasus.

The aged Sakharov, or rather his image, was used as a universal tool for pushing geopolitical games, under the cover of human rights. There were very decent people among the political convicts, rehabilitated together with him, but only a tiny group of militant radical liberals like Sergei Kovalyov and Gleb Yakunin made a career.

At the Second Congress of the U.S.S.R. People's Deputies in the fall of 1989, Sakharov's document on the reform of the U.S.S.R. proposed equal status for all the ethnic regions within the Soviet Union. Later, after his death, this naive approach would be exploited by powerful private interests in the clashes between Georgia and Abkhazia, Georgia and South Ossetia, and the Russian Federation with Tatarstan and Chechnya.

Lastly, Sakharov was used to make careers. During the election campaigns in 1989, politicians like Gavriil Popov (famous for legalizing corruption), Sergei Stankevich (now a fugitive), and Konstantin Zatulin (one of the first big Moscow privatizers) were photographed with Sakharov, and thus paved their way to power.

The core group of influentials most active in the Caucasus in 1989-91 included Bonner, Starovoitova, Viktor Sheinis, Anatoly Shabad, Fyodor Shelov-Kovedyaev, and others. In this period, the full-scale Armenian-Azerbaijani war was fueled by multiple ethnic conflicts, started by new leaders, who were brought to power with assistance from this group. Their projects were far from what Sakharov had proposed, but exactly replicated British operations back in 1917-20. The new "anti-Communist" (and, therefore, regarded as positive) Georgian leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia blew up Georgia by eliminating the autonomous status of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, while in Azerbaijan, Popular Front leader Abulfaz Aliyev (Elchibey) pushed a Greater Azerbaijan project, with support from the Turkish Grey Wolves.<sup>7</sup> The industry, infrastructure, and science of the Transcaucasus went to pieces.

The victory of criminal elites in the Transcaucasus, prepared by the decades-long existing might of the Caucasus criminal brotherhood, was obvious for those who saw the situation from the inside. The unwanted rivals of Gamsakhurdia (Georgia), Ter-Petrosian (Armenia), and Elchibey (Azer-

baijan), though belonging to the anti-Communist forces, were physically eliminated. This happened to Merab Kostava in Georgia, Gamsakhurdia's friend, whose dissident biography, unlike that of Gamsakhurdia, included no episodes of repentance before the authorities. Georgi Chanturia, another prominent Georgian politician who was hard to manipulate, was murdered later.

After Yeltsin came to power in Russia, documents from CPSU archives (those parts that did not "disappear") exposed the fact that the Popular Fronts, which propelled the careers of such leaders as Elchibey in Azerbaijan, enjoyed direct sponsorship from the CPSU Central Committee. Some Gorbachovists tried to explain this pattern as reflecting an intention to "rotate" corrupt elites in the republics, but eyewitness reports from the bleeding Transcaucasus suggested some alternative explanations.

In Karabakh, one could see such a scene: A Soviet Army commander has an unofficial meeting with an Azerbaijani, who pays for a military operation against Armenian positions. The operation is carried out, several more villages, roads, and bridges are destroyed, hundreds more inhabitants and soldiers killed. The next day, an underground Armenian dealer comes to the same commander, and an anti-Azerbaijani attack follows. In both cases, the officer or a group of officers shares the incomes, derived from stolen weapons and equipment (officially listed as "destroyed"), with local criminals. The same picture was seen in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict in 1992.

The arms trade became a Klondike for organized crime. The shadow elites which started it were born in the Brezhnev era and grew strong in the period of neo-Bukharinite "co-ops." One of Gorbachov's orders introduced semi-private structures in every plant, including most of the military industry. The "shop men" (*tsekhoviki*) needed a market for their products. In 1987-88, they were powerful enough to dictate their conditions to the Soviet leadership. In 1989-90, they were powerful enough to create shortages of basic goods, sabotaging the old state-run retail system.

The human rights milieu was sensitive to unofficial decisions made by the world oligarchy and to the preferences of the criminal community, alike. On Aug. 8, 1991, Yelena Bonner and Yuri Afanasyev issued an open letter to Yeltsin, claiming that "Russia does not need two leaderships." Yeltsin owed his election victories, first as chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet (1990) and then as President of Russia (June 1991), to the Afanasyev-led Interregional Group in the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet. With its constant promotion of a regionalist, even separatist, agenda, however, the Interregional Group was pushing in the direction of the dissolution of the country, of which Yeltsin would be president.

### The Caucasus trap

On April 16, 1990, the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, under pressure from the Interregional Group, adopted a law declaring all the republics (both the S.S.R. and the A.S.S.R.!) to be "subjects of the Soviet Union." Gorbachov's yielding to this

7. Joseph Brewda, "The Neo-Ottoman Trap for Turkey," *EIR*, April 12, 1996.

option, by which he hoped still to secure the loyalty of the “autonomies” inside Russia, triggered the process later known as “the parade of sovereignties.” The ethnic architecture of the state, previously regarded as the most sensitive problem of domestic policy, was in shambles.

The first autonomies within Russia that hurried to upgrade their status and become “Soviet Socialist Republics,” were strategic regions with fuel resources, refining industries, as well as an ethnic diaspora—citizens from this area, but living in Moscow, other Russian cities, and abroad, who could serve as lobbyists in those locations. These were Tatarstan and Checheno-Ingushetia (at that time headed by the “pro-Moscow” Doku Zavgayev). Yeltsin answered by carving out Ingushetia as a separate entity, which was a small part of the former Checheno-Ingushetian A.S.S.R. (or now S.S.R.). This brought two immediate results: the rapid decrease of Yeltsin’s popularity in Chechnya, and territorial claims by Ingushetia against the Prigorodny district of the North Ossetian A.S.S.R.; this district, inhabited both by Ossetians and Ingushi, had been a part of Checheno-Ingush S.S.R. in the early Khrushchov period.

Naturally, over 90% of Chechnya’s and North Ossetia’s populations voted against Yeltsin in the June 1991 Presidential elections, and during the August 1991 putsch attempt in Moscow, Chechnya’s leadership supported it, not Yeltsin’s resistance. This set the stage for members of the Interregional Group, together with Yeltsin loyalists Mikhail Poltoranin and Gennadi Burbulis, to promote an alternative leadership for the area. Three years later, Poltoranin and Burbulis explained their support for Jokhar Dudayev, the Chechen general who declared the republic independent of Russia, by saying they thought that if they offered one more “star” to a general, they would gain his total loyalty.

The real explanation was more serious, as it does not require a great intellect to realize, just looking at the map, what games a separatist leadership headquartered in Chechnya can play, with encouragement from the imminent new, foreign proprietors of the Baku oil.

Yeltsin failed to learn from the mistakes of Gorbachov. He allowed the same people who started the Caucasus wars in the 1980s, to dominate Caucasus policy again. Moreover, in the autumn of 1991 Gorbachov was still the formal President of the U.S.S.R. The Soviet military leadership had still two supreme institutions (the Soviet Defense Ministry and the General Staff), but there was not yet a Russian Minister of Defense. When Yeltsin, disgusted by Dudayev’s declaration of Chechen independence, tried to introduce a state of emergency there at the end of October 1991, this order was disobeyed. Democratic Russia, the movement that had ensured his elections in June, turned against him; Bonner and Afanasyev, in October 1991, promulgated a conception that Russia is “united but separable,” alluding to Yeltsin’s own populist phrase, pronounced in a fit of anti-Gorbachov rhetoric, that “everybody can take as much sovereignty as he can.”

Yeltsin was trapped. The Belovezhye agreement ending

the U.S.S.R.,<sup>8</sup> for which he is now constantly blamed by the Communists, was his attempt to get rid of the “dual power” situation, and solidify his rule in Russia.

### **Eighty-nine constitutions: the regional issue in Yeltsin’s clash with the Supreme Soviet<sup>9</sup>**

In late 1991, State Secretary Gennadi Burbulis, and the young, radical liberal-privatizer crowd around him, pushed a draft law to prohibit all those who had remained CPSU members until the Aug. 19, 1991 putsch attempt, from holding positions of power. Had this option been implemented, Yeltsin would have lost his most loyal people from Sverdlovsk, who had at least some experience in management (such as Oleg Lobov and Victor Ilyushin). Burbulis, Ponomaryov, Murashov, and other “photographed-with-Sakharov” people, participants in British Tory seminars and pupils of the Kriebel Institute, used all their might to create tensions between Yeltsin and the Supreme Soviet, which they had called “the real democratic power” in 1990, but now regarded as “a remnant of Soviet dictatorship.”

The argument that the Supreme Soviet was elected in 1990, when the CPSU still ruled the U.S.S.R., was widely retailed in the Western press, to justify Yeltsin’s struggle against it as a crusade for “democratic” values. The fact that the “world progressive opinion,” shaped by the mass-media, has no historical memory, was well exploited by those British and U.S. manipulators who were on the inside of the process all along, and remembered quite well that Yeltsin, too, was elected when the CPSU still effectively ruled (although Article 6 of the Soviet Constitution, certifying the “leading role” of the CPSU in society, had been eliminated in 1990). They also remembered quite well that Ruslan Khasbulatov was elected chairman of the Supreme Soviet as a candidate of the democratic forces.

Khasbulatov, who comes from Chechnya, also significantly depended on the crew that was playing separatist games in the North Caucasus, which were so profitable for the weapons trade mafia. Together with Burbulis and Starovoitova, he had promoted Dudayev for the Chechen Presidency, and was also involved in projects for a Greater Adygea and a Greater Circassia, in the North Caucasus. He was also somewhat responsible for adoption of the Law on Rehabilitation of Oppressed Peoples, promoted by Bonner and Starovoitova in the autumn of 1991. This law served as an instrument for an armed clash between North Ossetia and Ingushetia, as it legitimized the right of the Ingushi to take back the Prigorodny District of North Ossetia. The efforts of First Deputy Prime Minister Lobov and Security Council Secretary Yuri Skokov managed

8. In December 1991, the Presidents of Russia, Ukraine, and Belorussia met at a hunting lodge in the Belorussian forest, and issued a statement that “the U.S.S.R., as a subject of international law and a geopolitical reality, no longer exists.”

9. There are 89 “subjects of the Federation”—provinces, cities, and republics—in the Russian Federation.

to avert a full-scale war in the region, despite the November 1992 publication in *Izvestia* of an open letter by Bonner, Afanasyev, and others, calling to carve out a separate Prigorodnaya Republic from North Ossetia. But Ingushetia became a "free economic zone" dominated by British companies.

A burning issue during the closing months of 1991, was who would be the prime minister of the new Russia, the person to preside over economic reform. Yeltsin's preferred candidate was Oleg Lobov, but though he belonged to the Sverdlovsk clan, it was impossible to choose him: He was too much attacked by the Thatcher-Bush lobby, such as the publications of the RF-Politika center.<sup>10</sup> Finally, Yeltsin chose Gaidar, whose nomination was suggested by Aleksei Golovkov, an "institutionalist" and the former head of the Interregional Group's staff. Gaidar's candidacy had the overwhelming support of Anglo-American finance and intelligence circles, who knew him well through the Mont Pelerin Society's seminars in the late 1980s.

The shock therapy reform, started by Gaidar's team, seriously affected Russian regional leaders outside the "autonomies." With central budget subsidies reduced, they envied the tax privileges of the "ethnic" autonomies. When a national payments crisis blew up in May 1992, due to an absolute cash shortage with inflation running at a 2,000% annual rate, some regional barons teamed up with the directors of major plants (who were furious not only because of the collapse of industry, but due to the sharp decline of their own fortunes). Since most of them lacked a "democratic" image, they used the "Sakharov-photographed" Boris Nemtsov, governor of Nizhny Novgorod Province, to wave a regionalist threat. Nemtsov's economics aide at that time, Grigori Yavlinsky, introduced a separate Nizhny Novgorod currency.

Yeltsin replaced Central Bank head Yuri Matyukhin with Viktor Gerashchenko, thereby effectively authorizing the money printing presses to be turned on. The old directors' *nomenklatura*, more broadly, rushed to improve their position by regrouping around the Civic Union of ex-CPSU Secretary Arkadi Volsky, now head of the Union of Industrialists and Businessmen. Its draft program, designed to establish the Civic Union as an alternative to Democratic Russia, contained the inevitable nod in the direction of regional bosses' desires: "Each subject of Federation [i.e., provinces, as well as 'autonomies'], should have its own constitution and its own parliament."

Before the Civic Union consolidated as any kind of effective opposition to the total elimination of industry under "shock therapy," its leaders and leaders of member parties like the Democratic Party of Russia found themselves being diverted into courtship rituals in London and elsewhere. DPR leader Travkin was invited to the international conference of the Conservative International, returning to announce at the 1992 DPR Congress, that his party was now not only "democratic," but also "conservative." The Gorbachov Foundation

invited DPR activists into their "image training" programs, teaching the use of Orthodox-patriotic rhetoric with the impoverished Russian population.

Finding no effective flag-bearer in Moscow, the regional elites broke loose in a new wave of regionalism, which greatly shaped the course of the showdown between Yeltsin and the Supreme Soviet in 1993. The clash between the Executive and Legislative branches provided new openings for pro-separatist tendencies. Exploiting the confusion in the center, the regional barons reached for as much privilege as they could.

Beginning in March 1993, as tensions rose between Yeltsin and Khasbulatov, Khasbulatov was recognized by the regional barons as an instrument for taking more economic power from Moscow. The first to speak up was the leadership of Chechnya, whose foreign minister, Shamsuddin Yusef, warned that if Yeltsin removed Khasbulatov, the safety of the Russian population in Chechnya could not be guaranteed.

In eastern Siberia, Khasbulatov won the sympathy of the newly formed Siberian Agreement movement, which grouped together several key regions.<sup>11</sup> Another interregional coalition, centered in Samara, called itself Greater Volga. Another group of regions convened in the northwest, where the strongest autonomist tendencies were in Vologda Province, which even declared itself a republic.

The most active supporter of the Supreme Soviet was Kalmyk leader Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. Having established a sort of feudal regime in his region, without any legislature, he spoke out among regional leaders, in favor of strong parliamentary power! Other organizers of regionalist congresses were Boris Nemtsov of Nizhny Novgorod, St. Petersburg City Council leader Aleksandr Belyayev (regionalist tendencies were very strong there), and Ingushetia's President Ruslan Aushev.

Pro-Yeltsin propagandists railed against regional separatism, as a way to attack the Chechnya-born Khasbulatov. From early 1993 on, the Poltoranin-Burbulis-supervised paper *Prezident* served as a mouthpiece for such hysterical support for

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11. In the summer of 1994, *Zavtra* published an article called "The Shift to the East," which fit into *Zavtra*'s brand of pan-Slavonic and Eurasian "continentalist" conspirology. It sheds some light on the background to Khasbulatov's courtship by these circles. The author, Boris Isakov of the International Slavonic Academy, argued that the so-called "democenter" of Eurasia, i.e., "the heart of the people's biological field" (*biopole*, a term used by parapsychologists), as well as the epicenter of "ethnic passionarity," had begun to shift from the Moscow area in the fourteenth century, and had now reached eastern Siberia (Krasnoyarsk Territory), while the "geocenter" of Eurasia, i.e., "the center of the biological field of the flora and fauna," had reached the Southern Urals (Chelyabinsk Province), and might proceed on to northern Kazakhstan, which would be "very dangerous." This outstanding "research" was produced by the newly established academy, in collaboration with the Moscow Economic Academy named after Plekhanov. Ruslan Khasbulatov was a professor at the Plekhanov Academy. His most vehement attacks against Yeltsin began in March 1993, after he visited Novosibirsk. After that excursion, Khasbulatov was consistently supported against Yeltsin by the Siberian "regionalist" *nomenklatura*. During the siege of the Supreme Soviet, there was serious discussion of transferring it, and the status of the legitimate capital of Russia, to Novosibirsk.

10. *EIR*, Oct. 4, 1996, p. 59. Part 2 of this series introduces RF-Politika.



Yeltsin, carrying constant crude attacks at the Chechens and other peoples of the Caucasus, ascribing organized crime exclusively to them. At the same time, associates of Bonner and Afanasyev established their influence in one of the centrist factions of the Supreme Soviet, which was speaking for more privileges to the regions. This was the Concordance for Progress faction, established by Victor Sheinis and associated with Grigory Yavlinsky. It was joined by Yuri Nesterov, a close associate of the Starovoitova team (and later a functionary at Interlegal, an NED-sponsored non-governmental organization). Its St. Petersburg branch, headed by Olga Starovoitova, Galina's sister, later merged with the pro-separatist Confederation of National Associations of Russia (KNOR).

After the Supreme Soviet was besieged at the end of September, the centrist factions did not hurry to leave the building, but attempted to remove Khasbulatov from his post—not in order to help Yeltsin, but to promote a “zero option” which would throw both Khasbulatov and Yeltsin out of power, diminish the status of Vice President Rutskoy, and promote a weak figure, Valentin Zorkin, to the Presidency.<sup>12</sup> The behind-the-scenes mover of this operation was Veniamin Sokolov, deputy head of the Supreme Soviet. Some regional bosses coordinated their actions with his group, which included some odd birds like Vladimir Yurovitsky (author of a theory of “informational money”), Yuri Yarmagayev (a regionalization fanatic, linked to Trotskyite groups, who advocated the total elimination of the Executive branch), and Yevgeni Gilbo (a St. Petersburg economist with a “green” bent, sometimes to the left and sometimes to the right). The group of such “theoreticians,” around Sokolov, elaborated a plan for the emission of unlimited quantities of currency, and not only in the capital city, which they claimed was an “anti-monetarist,” “anti-Gaidar” alternative! After the October 1993 suppression of

12. The groundwork for this “zero option” was laid by a group of Supreme Soviet deputies, associated with the Shatalin Foundation (of Academician Stanislav Shatalin, supervisor of the 500 Days radical privatization scheme in 1990), which played a very sophisticated power game. The Shatalin Foundation worked to elevate Valeri Zorkin to the post of the head of the Constitutional Court. Zorkin was then to promote the “zero option,” a “draw” between Yeltsin and the Supreme Soviet leadership, followed by simultaneous Presidential and parliamentary elections.

While Burbulis's radical democrats were loudly agitating for the Supreme Soviet to be dissolved, the centrists were more quietly at work. In early September 1993, when it was still possible to attempt to make peace between Yeltsin and Khasbulatov, Viktor Sheinis drew up a draft new Russian Constitution on behalf of the Constitutional Conference, although that institution had not cleared it. That move triggered a new anti-Yeltsin speech by Khasbulatov, which, in turn, pushed Yeltsin over the edge. On Sept. 21, the President abolished the Supreme Soviet, and the armed denouement followed two weeks later.

In the spring of 1994, at the time of Yeltsin's first serious illness, Zorkin was again promoted as a key figure in a project for a new Russian leadership—the “Accord in the Name of Russia” initiative, which ousted Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy (in jail from the Oct. 4, 1993 showdown until Feb. 26, 1994). A key organizer of the “Accord” was the last of its signatories: Dr. Aleksandr Tsipko, top official of the Gorbachov Foundation, promoter of regional self-determination, and author of articles in the NED's *Journal of Democracy*.

the Supreme Soviet, this group rounded out its ideology by incorporating the idea of a constitutional monarchy, and even located an odd-looking candidate who regarded himself as Nicholas III, the real successor of the Romanov dynasty.

Phantasmagorical, but real. If a criminal kingpin participated in the Constitutional Conference as the representative of some Far East Cossack movement, why not have a Nicholas III ruling with help from the local *soviets*? If the prayers of Shoko Asahara from the Aum Shinrikyo sect sounded on Russian radio for a whole hour on Oct. 3, 1993, what might happen the next day? Anything.

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## II. Centrifugal forces with an environmentalist spin

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Environmentalist propaganda, imported by Gorbachov and his cronies from the United Nations, the Club of Rome, and their affiliates, played a significant role in the degeneration and criminalization of the Soviet central and local elites. It helped set the pattern, by which Communist rule collapsed and the U.S.S.R. broke apart, but it also contributed to a process of Russia's own disintegration, which appeared as a threat almost immediately after 1991.

The heavy involvement of criminal groups in Russian privatization, along with the dubious state of Russia's strategic arms arsenal, make clear that the collapse of this country poses a threat to all mankind. The intentions of the pseudo-scientific public institutions that promote ethnic types of environmentalism, appear to reflect private interests in Russia's regions, especially those of the oil and metals companies that are violently struggling for market share. The injection of British-cultivated tribal indigenism, brings various kinds of neo-paganism, which resembles a raw material for misanthropic, neo-fascist conceptions. In the Russian Far North and Siberia, rich oil, gas, and precious metals deposits are adjacent to huge stores of military equipment and nuclear arms. Imagine a pagan tribe, possessing nuclear weapons along with a neo-fascist conception, that might establish itself as a Sovereign Kingdom of Novaya Zemlya Archipelago!

From the very beginning, the green ideological movements in Russia targetted large-scale infrastructure projects. The relevant organizations also attacked nuclear energy, in a fashion that provoked mistrust and tension among republics and regions. This undermined the security of the nuclear industry, rather than improving it.

In the late 1980s, green propaganda fell on sensitive ears in Ukraine and Belarus, which had suffered the most from the Chernobyl accident in 1986. People in those two countries felt like victims of a “Moscow experiment,” at the very time when Gorbachov-promoted greens were denouncing the projects for diversion of part of the flow of Siberian rivers, to irrigate the deserts of Central Asia. Kazakhstan's delegates nearly fell on their knees at the First Congress of U.S.S.R.

People's Deputies in the summer of 1989, pleading for urgent action to save the Aral Sea. Getting no answer, they could only conclude that they had no hope for their industry, but could only save themselves by the sale of oil, natural gas, and minerals—and they could do that more profitably, if they didn't have to pay into the U.S.S.R. central budget. Even the thoughtful layers of the Russian opposition, not to mention foreign analysts, pay scant attention to such events, when analyzing the reasons for the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The green denunciations of the big power projects in Siberia and on the Volga, were promoted by the same Western institutions that promoted the disastrous privatization of basic industry, including fuel and energy production. *Novy Mir* editor Sergei Zalygin, who led the campaign against the Siberian river projects, invoked the work of Prof. Douglas R. Weiner from the University of Arizona, whose "Ecology in Soviet Russia. The Archipelago of Liberty: National Parks and Environmental Protection" was sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Russian Research Center of Harvard University.

Contacts of British and American ideological institutions in the Soviet Union had been maintained for years, under the cover of environmental science, religion, and anthropology. Thanks to Gorbachov's close collaborator, longtime Soviet Ambassador to Canada Aleksandr Yakovlev, who now oversees ideology policy from his seat on the CPSU Politburo, these channels came alive.

Yakovlev's closest associate, Prof. Aleksandr Degtyarov, was head of the ideological department of the Leningrad Party Committee when the infamous "Russian nationalist" Pamyat movement launched its rallies in Rumyantsev Square, not far from Leningrad State University (LGU). Along with blatant anti-Semitism, these Leningrad CPSU-approved nationalists proclaimed green views. In the late 1980s, one of Pamyat's founders, Yuri Riverov, headed up an organization called the Committee to Save Lakes Ladoga and Onega, which campaigned against heavy industry, especially nuclear energy, from an environmentalist standpoint.

Around the same time, a Committee to Save the Volga emerged out of the Russian Union of Writers, which also promoted the "Ladoga" group. The Russian Union of Writers was seeking independence from the U.S.S.R. Union of Writers leadership, but by 1990, it had split into "democratic" and "nationalist" sections, thanks to efforts by Yakovlev's lobby in the "creative intelligentsia."

The propaganda campaign against the projects to irrigate the deserts of Central Asia was pushed mostly through the "Russian nationalist" lobby, but radical "westernizers" became even more successful wielders of the environmentalist agenda than the "slavophiles." A young friend of Academician Sakharov, physicist Boris Nemtsov, launched a campaign against the plans to build a nuclear power plant in the Gorky (Nizhny Novgorod) Region; the project was never carried out. Another young radical democrat, Sergei Belozertsev, was elected to the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet by launching an

environmentalist movement in Karelia, in northwest Russia near the Finnish border. Its activists later merged into the so-called Republican Union, a group demanding Karelia's independence from the U.S.S.R. and Russia. (There were probably not enough indigenous Karelians, not to mention a lack of oil and of Caucasus-type temperaments, for that operation to go live!)

Environmental ideas also surfaced in Siberia, rich with oil, gas, and precious metals. The intellectual center of such right-left environmentalist operations was Novosibirsk, with its special Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences. Aurelio Peccei, founder of the Club of Rome, had visited Novosibirsk already in 1967. The adjacent Chelyabinsk region was a playground for anti-industrial propaganda around the Metallurgical Plant and the consequences of a nuclear accident there in the 1950s. Sergei Kostromin, a radical liberal from Chelyabinsk, became a violent anti-Semite in 1992, headed the Party of Russian Nationalists, and demanded a separate South Ural Republic.

Western Siberia, just east of the Urals, is the main oil province of Russia. The richest oil deposits are concentrated in its northern part, which was established as the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region in the 1920s. Khanty (Ostyaks) and Mansi (Voguls) are two small ethnic minorities, which had no written culture before the *likbez* (liquidation of illiteracy) program of the Soviet Russian People's Commissariat of Education.

These two minorities, which comprise less than 5% of the population of the district since oil extraction was started there in the early 1970s, have been an object of study by foreign anthropologists since years before Gorbachov's perestroika. Beginning in 1975, Marjorie Mandelstam Balzer, then a Harvard anthropologist, conducted "ethno-historical and field research" in West Siberia, with assistance from Leningrad State University. Her reports concerned not only "menstrual taboos and pollution beliefs," but Shaman rites and other elements of pagan religion. In her 1981 paper, analyzing gender relations among the Khanty and Mansi from a psychoanalytical standpoint, Balzer cited an array of anthropological studies carried out by Oxford, the Finnish Academy of Sciences, as well as Harvard, and expressed special gratitude to Prof. Rudolph F. Its of LGU, who organized her trips to Western Siberia.

Last year, I read the obituary of Rudolf Its, head of the Anthropology Department at LGU, and not just in any publication. It appeared in *Rodnyye Prostory* (*Native Expanses*), which is published by one of Its's students—philosopher Victor Bezverkhy, a specialist in "Kantian anthropology," and one of the most radical neo-pagans of the Nazi sort. The frontispiece of his journal is usually adorned with a swastika. Another one of Bezverkhy's teachers, the pagan philosopher Yuri Lisovoy, died in London in 1992; he had gone to England at the end of World War II, through the British zone of Germany, lived in Leeds, and had many friends among Oxford specialists.

The ethnically defined entities within Russia, so exten-

sively profiled by foreign, as well as homegrown ethnographers, and susceptible to environmentalist agitation, became tools in the hands of both the ruling circles and the opposition. A society which had lost its identity, could be split more and more. As early as 1991, Gennady Burbulis, who was a co-author of Chechen separatist Jokhar Dudayev's career, and later eagerly supported the nationalist ambitions of Tatarstan (having enough oil deposits to earn the label of a "New Kuwait"), also backed the idea of separating the Khanty-Mansi national district from the Tyumen Province, on an "indigenist" pretext.

### Shamanism, Islam, and UFOlogy

The target areas of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF, the former World Wildlife Fund) were also concentrated in Siberia: on the Taimyr peninsula, close by the Norilsk Metallurgical Plant (now Norilsky Nickel); in Yakutia, rich with gold and diamonds; and in the Far East, at the Chinese border, where the WWF hires military personnel to protect tigers from poachers. Besides tigers, the WWF is very anxious about the white stork, which lives in the oil-rich Komi Republic and spends its summer migration period in Afghanistan.

Stork-seekers from Britain were followed by oil-seekers from the United States, and Scandinavia, who formed the Komi-Pechora oil consortium in the 1990s. That is when the Komi people, who also lacked literacy until the 1920s, found out that they have a long and developed culture, tightly connected with Finno-Ugric civilization.

In the nineteenth century, British Intelligence circles had already circulated the myth of a relationship between the Finnish-Hungarian and Turkic civilizations.<sup>13</sup> In 1990, a tiny group of intellectuals representing the ethnic minorities of the Far North started promoting the "ancient cultural traditions" of their ethnic groups, along with environmentalism. Yuvan Shestalov, an ethnic Mansi with close ties to the Russian nationalist group in the Russian Union of Writers, issued a newspaper called *Shaman*, which revived the pagan traditions of the Finnish-Hungarian minorities, mixed with mysticism and, for some reason, UFOlogy. Other New Age/pagan periodicals published articles by Hungarian scientists, boosting the human rights of the "fraternal peoples"—primarily those ethnic groups (Komi, Khanty, and Mansi), which inhabited the oil-rich areas of the Russian Far North.

Related Finno-Ugric groups inhabiting the Volga valley (Chuvashes, Udmurts, and Mari) were told of their common origin with the Turkic nations. On this basis, the leadership of the Tatar A.S.S.R. (soon to be Tatarstan) planned to form a federation of Volga republics, splitting European Russia right in the middle. Tataria's Muslim union separated from the all-Russia Muslim Association, DUMES; the splinter structure, DUMRT, controlled the Muslim communities along the whole middle Volga.

13. Joseph Brewda, "David Urquhart's Ottoman Legions," *EIR*, April 12, 1996.

The British influences in Tatarstan followed the old pattern of David Urquhart's experiments with the North Caucasus peoples in the nineteenth century. In December 1991, an article entitled "We Must Get Rid of the Russians" appeared in the Tatar paper *Vechnyaya Kazan*, signed by one "Yakup Zaki." According to local investigator Gumer Sabirzianov, that author's real name is James Dickey, and he is not a Tartar, but a professor at the Muslim Institute in London.<sup>14</sup>

Such dirty games were pushed not only through the mass media, but through scientific institutions in sore need of financial support, such as the Institute of Africa of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg University, the Institutes of Anthropology and Ethnography in St. Petersburg and Moscow, and others.

Pagan mysticism, mixed with New Age abracadabra, was also served up for ethnic Russians. The first idea was to explain to them that they are *ethnic*. The next idea was that, as some regions of Russia are not ethnically pure, they should be separated, and the remnant (resembling a sort of a sausage) would proudly be called the Russian Republic, as an alternative to the Russian Federation. This option was introduced, not at usual political meetings, but through a so-called "meditation" procedure, which began with a pagan address delivered in old Slavonic, under the sign of a Sun with a three-armed swastika. All this was packaged under a superconception called "authenticism," its ideal being the return to ancient times, when people ate raw meat with no chemicals that cause cancer and intestinal diseases. The weird organization espousing this doctrine was born in 1987 as the Club of Psychic Culture, and reestablished in 1992 under the name of ROD, the Russian Liberation Movement. Based out of the New Age Center in St. Petersburg, ROD sought cooperation with other ethnic cultural societies. In 1993, it founded a Humanist Party, which participated in the Moscow Congress of the Humanist International (Oct. 2-3, 1993), along with Club of Rome members Ivan Frolov (the former editor of *Pravda*) and Academician Nikita Moiseyev, the head of the Russian Green Cross.

ROD's founder, Sergey Semyonov, began his philosophical evolution with Buddhist literature on non-traditional medicine. Buddhism has played a role in a number of political operations in Russia. The march of soldiers' mothers to Chechnya in early 1995, was led by a procession of Buddhist monks. There are "Friends of Tibet" groups in several Russian regions, exclusively in the border areas.

Since 1986, the Dalai Lama has made several tours across Russia, visiting various scientific institutions in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Siberia. In the 1990s, he began to display specific "regional" sympathies. He favoured Kalmykian

14. Webster Tarpley, "Palmerston's London During the 1850s," *EIR*, April 15, 1994, p. 12, relates how Urquhart "went native," beginning in Constantinople. The modern case of James Dickey, a.k.a. "Yakup Zaki," is reported by Gumer Sabirzianov, *Volzhskiy Tatars i Russkiye v serkale simpatii i antipatii (Volga Tartars and Russians in the Mirror of Sympathies and Antipathies)*, Kazan, 1993.

FIGURE 1

**The Caucasus chessboard**



leader Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, visiting the Kalmyk capital, Elista, in the company of some Uighur Buddhists. This was not just a coincidence: Kalmyks and Uighurs are a part of a previously numerous ethnos, which used to inhabit the whole territory of today's Kazakhstan.<sup>15</sup> Another target area of the Dalai Lama was the underdeveloped Tuva Republic, which was formally independent of the U.S.S.R. until 1944. The population in Tuva is very poor, but its soil is rich with asbestos and uranium. Kalmykia does not play any strategic role, but under certain conditions it might; during the mostly unofficial discussions of the fate of Baku oil, after Azerbaijan became independent, one option reportedly promoted by then Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev was for the Caspian Sea resources to be equally divided among the littoral countries. Approximately one-third of Russia's Caspian shoreline is in Kalmykia (see Figure 1).

**Pagans, diamonds, and submarines**

In June 1994, the "indigenous peoples" of the Russian Far North were favored by a conference organized by the Cultural Committee of "Barents Region." The term "Barents Region" is supposed to subsume the Scandinavian countries, plus several regions of northwest Russia—several, but not all of them. Vologda Province, for example, is not involved, while Arkhangelsk, located farther east, is favored and even serves as a center of the Cultural Committee's activity. There is a curious

coincidence in this selection: Unlike Vologda, which is covered with thick, swampy forest, Arkhangelsk Province includes part of the Timano-Pechora oilfield, and has rich diamond deposits.

The "Barents" ideologues' concern for indigenous peoples is so strong, that it extends from Sweden to eastern Siberia, across thousands of kilometers to Yakutia—this time under the aegis of the Council of the Barents-Euroarctic Region. Yakuts are neither Finno-Ugric, nor even Islamic, and the only thing they have in common with the inhabitants of Arkhangelsk, is the diamond-rich territory on which they happen to live.

The name "Barents Region" originates in Sweden; still, it is attributed not to Swedish officials, but to a frequent guest in Stockholm, former Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

At a recent pagan meeting in St. Petersburg, a self-styled Russian nationalist from Arkhangelsk Province boasted that he had received New Year's congratulations from "one of the Volga Presidents," i.e., the head of one of the Finno-Ugric republics. The sect to which the Arkhangelsk nationalist belongs (he goes by the name of Vladimir Bogumil II) calls itself Yarl-Pomors, and claims to promote the interests of "indigenous" Ingrian (or Ingermanland) Finns. That is on the "right" side; on the "left," the Ingrian community, representing less than 1% of the population of Leningrad Province, belongs to the "radical liberal" Confederation of Russian National Associations (KNOR), which also includes the Abkhazian and Chechen cultural societies, along with one of the organizations called Friends of Tibet. The first promoter of a separate Ingrian Republic on the territory of Leningrad Province, was radical environmentalist Yuri Shevchuk, currently deputy head of Gorbachov's Green Cross in St. Petersburg.

The former head of the Ingrian Union (Inkerinliitto), Dr. Aleksandr Kiryanen, also runs the local branch of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)<sup>16</sup> (see Figure 2). The Inkerinliitto headquarters building was a Finnish church before 1917, and later became the House of Nature. Dr. Kiryanen is a cousin of Marina Salye, leader of the Free Democratic Party of Russia, one of the most convinced advocates of "self-determination." In 1995, Salye became the number-two person in a newly established political party called Preobrazheniye (Transformation), headed by Eduard Rossel, governor of Sverdlovsk Region and the ideologist of an independent "Ural Republic." Kozyrev was midwife to the new party.

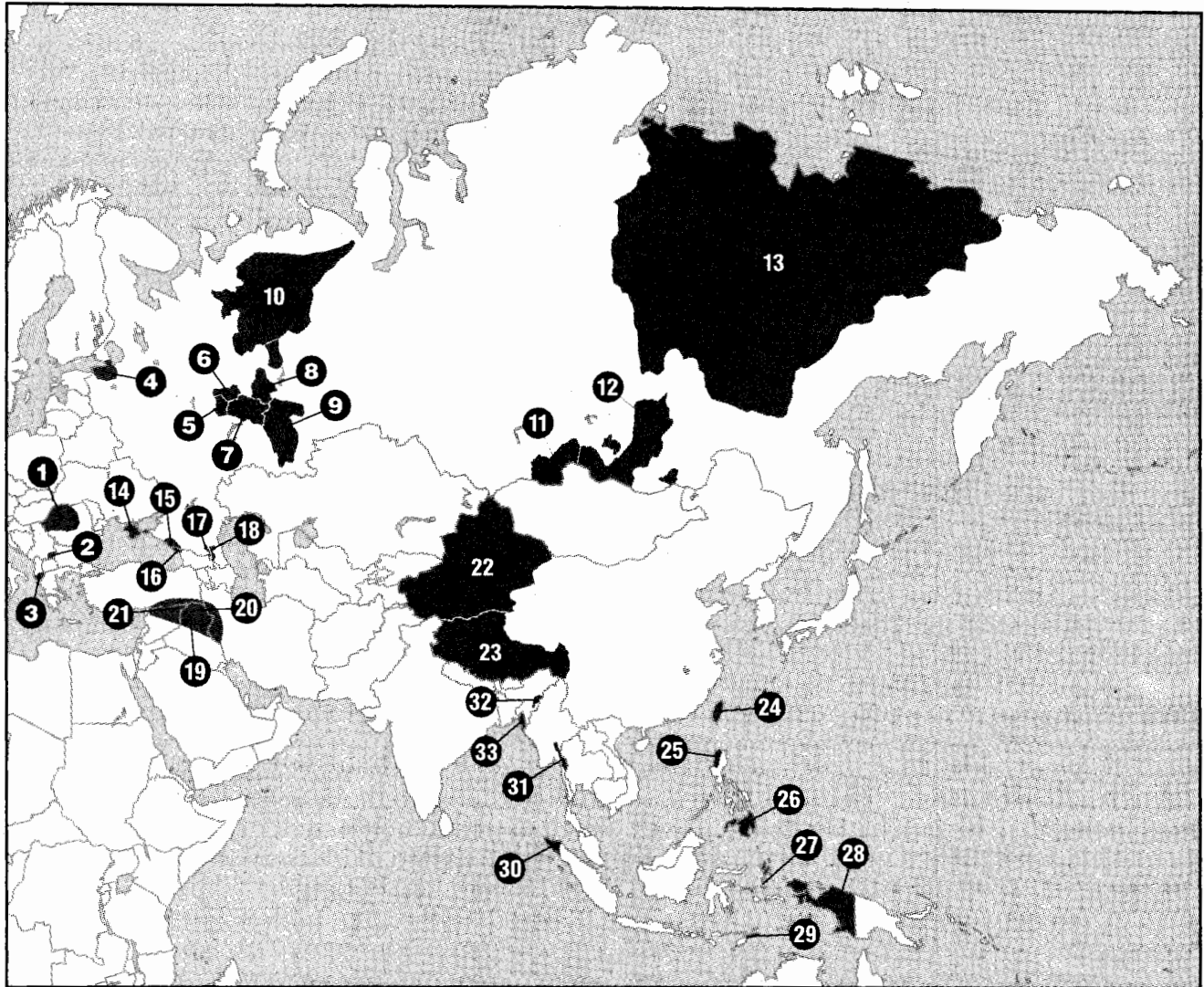
Unlike many Russian political players, who prefer the warm climate and clean air of the North Caucasus, Andrei Kozyrev has gravitated to the cold and damp Russian northwest. Twice he was elected to the Russian Parliament from Murmansk Province, bordering Norway. Kozyrev attracted various United Nations institutions to the region, apparently

15. Joseph Brewda, "Pan-Turks Target China's Xinjiang," *EIR*, April 12, 1996.

16. Mark Burdman, "UNPO Plays Key Role in Transcaucasus Blowup," *EIR*, April 12, 1996.

FIGURE 2

The 'parade of sovereignties,' as seen by the UNPO



The map shows some of the 50 "peoples" and "nations," which, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) says, should be independent states. The names of those targeted areas within Russia and other CIS countries, which are mentioned in this article, appear in bold.

- |  |                            |   |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| 1. The Hungarians of Romania                             | <b>6. Mari</b>             | 20. Assyria                             |
| 2. Kosova  | <b>7. Tartarstan</b>       | 21. Kurdistan                           |
| 3. The Greeks of Albania                                 | <b>8. Udmurt</b>           | 22. "East Turkestan" (Xinjiang, China)  |
| 4. <b>The Ingrian Finns of the St. Petersburg region</b> | 9. Bashkortostan           | 23. Tibet                               |
| 5. <b>Chuvash</b>  | <b>10. Komi</b>            | 24. Taiwan                              |
|  | 11. Tuva                   | 25. Cordillera (Philippines)            |
|  | 12. Buryat                 | 26. Mindanao (Philippines)              |
|  | <b>13. Yakutia</b>         | 27. Moluccas (Indonesia)                |
|  | 14. <b>Crimean Tartars</b> | 28. West Papua (Indonesia)              |
|  | 15. <b>Circassia</b>       | 29. East Timor (Indonesia)              |
|  | 16. <b>Abkhazia</b>        | 30. Aceh (Indonesia)                    |
|  | 17. <b>Ingushetia</b>      | 31. Karenni state (Myanmar)             |
|  | 18. <b>Chechnya</b>        | 32. Nagaland (India)                    |
|  | 19. Iraqi Turkoman         | 33. Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh) |

for reasons having to do with the problem of nuclear waste.

Nuclear waste pollution troubles Norway, and not only due to the personal views of the country's former prime minister, the environmentalist Gro Harlem Brundtland. The 1989 catastrophe of a Soviet submarine in the Norwegian Sea reminded the local population of Chernobyl. To prevent new accidents, requires investments for the utilization of spent nuclear fuels, and to provide security at the Kola nuclear power plant in Murmansk Province. Any foreign diplomat knows the glistening of Russian officials' eyes, at the word "foreign investments."

In June 1994, a delegation from British Nuclear Fuel paid a visit to Murmansk. In autumn 1995, the object of British interest, the floating nuclear waste-processing base, was put up for auction. Against expectations that a well-known Russian company would place the winning bid, it went to an Anglo-French consortium.

While the European Union was discussing nuclear security, a group of Russian sailors, led by a captain of second rank, was caught stealing some uranium-containing cylinders. This was in autumn of 1995. Since the used cylinders were hardly a saleable commodity, the theft looked for all the world like a pretext for mass media hysteria. The officer turned out to be a member of a Pentecostal sect with an office in Murmansk, frequented also by Norwegian citizens.

A month later, a new scandal broke out, which is intensively discussed up to the present day. Russian security forces searched the Murmansk office of a Norwegian environmentalist organization called the Bellona Foundation. The whole Russian and international green and human rights beaumonde mobilized to denounce the KGB and support the Norwegian institution. Besides Academician Aleksei Yablokov, a fierce opponent of nuclear energy and former member of the Interregional Group of Deputies, and former Soviet Minister of Ecology Nikolai Vorontsov, the outcry came from Greenpeace, National Resources Defense Center, former French Minister of Ecology B. Lalonde, and even the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)—although Bellona, judging by the results of its own fact-finding mission, was interested less in evidence of environmental pollution around Murmansk, than in the location of the nuclear objects of Russia's Northern Fleet. (Bellona's two reports on the Murmansk area, with detailed maps, have been posted on the Internet, where—thanks to the efforts of financier George Soros to expand Internet access in the former Soviet Union—any Russian or Chechen youngster can also find instructions for a "human rights" militant, entitled "How to Make a Bomb.")

Capt. Aleksandr Nikitin, a Bellona author who was arrested on Feb. 6, 1996 in St. Petersburg, before he could escape to Canada, was sincerely surprised when the Bellona office was searched by Russian intelligence. "Why," he said, "but for three years nobody interefered with our work! Some officials even praised it. For example, Andrei Kozyrev." "And Mikhail Gorbachov," added a Norwegian Bellona member. "We just met him on the plane to Moscow. We gave him our

report, and he said we're doing a very useful work."

After the 1995 Duma elections, International Republican Institute officials boasted that their greatest image-making success was the victorious campaign of Andrei Kozyrev in Murmansk, coordinated by the Moscow IRI office. They changed their tune after Kozyrev's resignation and Nikitin's arrest. "Now we'll have to quiet down, and cancel public seminars for some time," the same official said nervously.

He didn't have to worry. Kozyrev is travelling around the world, saying that if he were the International Monetary Fund, he would do to Russia just what the IMF is doing. He said that as a featured speaker at the IRI's event, held in San Diego during the Republican convention this past August. Nikitin is in jail, but this fact is a great advantage for the Human Rights Bureau (co-chaired by Yelena Bonner), which was hired by Bellona at \$20,000 per half-year, to campaign for his exoneration. Amnesty International has already declared Nikitin the next "prisoner of conscience," after Sakharov, and uses him in its fundraising material. Mikhail Gorbachov, surrounded by an odd-looking crowd of Buddhists, tries to make Russians fall in love with him again (when he is not making well-paid appearances in California, or Sioux Falls, South Dakota).

They think themselves secure amid the disaster they wrought—although, they should hear the warning signals, as George Bush's role in the world drug trade is discussed in U.S. newspapers.

In late autumn 1995, Russian TV channels broadcast a short report from the town of Khalmer-Yu in the Komi Republic, where coal mining had stopped, due to a complete lack of finances. It was a horrible picture of a deserted town, comparable to Chernobyl. The last inhabitants were leaving. The TV cameraman zeroed in on a reindeer-drawn sledge with two Nenets peasants in it; through a snowstorm, they were gazing at the cross-barred doors of the last shop, already closed. With the miners leaving, the local population, comprised of the ethnic minorities, was left with nothing. Probably the next time the liberal mass media would speak of real problems of the Far North, was when its inhabitants starved and disappeared.

Gorbachov and Bush don't care for them, as nor for the unfed miners and hungry soldiers. They travel across the world, hold press conferences and order banquets. They are at the feast in the time of the plague.<sup>17</sup> But nobody in the world, including them, can really be secure, while the resources vital to feed people, to educate children, to provide high-technology energy sources and infrastructure, are siphoned into the dope and arms trade, to prop up financial speculation, or fund table-turning, Shaman dancing, and environmental spying. If the situation doesn't change in the nearest future, the world will be doomed. The feast during the plague doesn't last an age—not even a decade.

17. "The Feast in the Time of the Plague," is one of the "little tragedies" of Russia's poet Aleksandr S. Pushkin (1799-1837). Edgar Allan Poe's *The Masque of the Red Death* treats the same theme.