

Bush And Putin Have Joined Forces For War Avoidance

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Leon Fuerth, Al Gore's wanna-be national security guru, curses under his breath about it. Zbigniew Brzezinski spends all his waking hours plotting its subversion—as does British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The subject of all this scheming is what American statesman Lyndon LaRouche, pre-candidate for the Democratic Party Presidential nomination in 2004, has described as “George Bush's Sept. 11 epiphany.”

When Russian President Vladimir Putin placed an emergency call to President Bush, shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, informing him that Russian military forces would not be placed on heightened alert, in response to the American security mobilization, and that Russia was prepared to help the United States in any way possible, a new chapter in history was opened. It could return the world to a strategic geometry not seen since the premature death of Franklin Roosevelt in 1945, or the period preceding the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901.

19th-Century American history, particularly during the Abraham Lincoln Presidency and the post-Lincoln era, featured a strong element of strategic cooperation between the United States and Russia. Its included purpose was to bring prosperity and peace to Eurasia, based on the American System of political economy, associated with individuals like Henry Carey, Friedrich List and the Russian Count Sergei Witte. To kill that prospect, the British murdered an American President and later set in motion World War I.

As the result of those geopolitical machinations, with the sole exception of the FDR Presidency, the 20th Century—particularly the 50 years of the Cold War—saw the complete

erosion of the 18th- and 19th-Century Russo-American partnership.

‘Entering Into A New Era’?

The importance of President Putin's unambiguous push to put the Cold War era to rest and revive a strategic cooperation between Washington and Moscow—particularly under the circumstances of the ongoing coup d'état plot against the U.S. government—has not been lost on President Bush and his top policy advisers.

During the recent Bush-Putin summit meeting, when the two Presidents appeared together at a high school in Crawford, Texas, Bush underscored the significance of the Sept. 11 Putin call, telling the students:

“I was on Air Force One the day of the attack, working my way back to Washington via Louisiana and Nebraska—[laughter]—making sure that the President was safe and secure. First phone call I got from a foreign leader was President Putin. He told us that he recognized that I had put our troops on alert. I did so because for the first time in a long period of time, America was under attack. It only happened once—twice, I guess: the War of 1812 and Pearl Harbor.

“In the old days, when America put their troops on [alert], Russia would have responded and put her troops on alert, which would have caused the American President maybe to put a higher alert, and Russia a higher alert. And all of a sudden, we would have had two conflicts instead of one. But not this President [Putin]. This President recognized we're entering into a new era, and his call was, ‘Don't worry. We know what you're up against. We stand with you. And we



Secretary Powell's new Middle East peace initiative, against so many "wider war" cries from around, and within, the Administration, shows the impact of President Bush's collaboration with Russia's President Putin. Will it last?

will not put our troops on alert, for the good of the United States of America.' ”

A week later, Secretary of State Colin Powell delivered a major foreign policy address on the Middle East at the University of Louisville, in Kentucky. Before addressing the Israel-Palestine crisis, he, too, invoked the events of Sept. 11. Powell told the audience that at the White House and Crawford meetings, “the two Presidents built on the unprecedented cooperation Russia has given us since Sept. 11. President Putin was the first foreign leader to call President Bush, and not just to offer sympathy and condolences, but to offer help, to align Russia with us in this new campaign against terrorism.”

Powell continued, “President Bush and President Putin are creating a new U.S.-Russian relationship, based on finding areas for more cooperation; on counter-terrorism, of course, but also on reducing the number of nuclear weapons in our inventories and by taking steps to strengthen the Russian economy to allow them to draw more to the West and become part of the Euro-Atlantic partnership. And notice the two, security and economic development, because with security must come economic development and prosperity.”

For the past 50 years, such strong words of partnership have been reserved, among U.S. leaders, exclusively for Great Britain and Israel.

The Implications Of A Bush-Putin Partnership

The Sept. 11 Bush-Putin collaboration prevented the successful policy coup d'état in Washington, and continues to be the chief impediment to the outbreak of a hideous religious war in the Middle East, and South and Central Asia, the area

at the heart of Lyndon LaRouche's Eurasian Land-Bridge plan. This area has been targetted by British Orientalist Bernard Lewis, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Samuel Huntington, and other Anglo-American geopolitical madmen, for a new and worse version of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), pitting the West against the Islamic world and China (see article on p. 62). Chief among the Anglo-American assets in this war drive are Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and top commanders of the Israeli Defense Forces, who threaten to launch military provocations against a range of Arab targets, possibly even using Israel's extensive arsenal of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of mass destruction.

The stakes are enormous, and so far, the fragile Bush-Putin collaboration has averted disaster. In fact, Secretary Powell's Louisville speech signaled that he has been designated by President Bush as the Administration's point-man in the U.S.-Russian joint war-avoidance effort, centered on the Middle East. At Louisville, Powell, for the first time ever by a top U.S. official, publicly denounced Israel for its illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, and specifically demanded that the Israeli settlement expansion be ended.

“In the absence of peace,” he told the Louisville audience, “Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza has been the defining reality of Palestinians' lives there for over three decades, longer than most of the Palestinians living there have been alive. The overwhelming majority of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have grown up with checkpoints and raids and indignities.” He continued, “The Israeli settlement activity has severely undermined Palestinian trust and hope. It preempts and prejudices the outcome of negotiations, and, in doing so, cripples chances for real peace and security. . . .

For the sake of Palestinians and Israelis alike, the occupation must end.”

While the mainstream American media tried to downplay the importance of the Powell remarks, and in some cases tried to portray them as backing down to Israeli pressure, the Anglo-American/Israeli “geopoliticians” could barely contain their fury at the Secretary’s speech.

Powell announced the appointment of retired Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni as his personal emissary to the Middle East. Earlier this year, General Zinni completed a tour in his capacity as Commander of the U.S. Central Command, which covers the area from Turkey to Afghanistan and Central Asia, including the entire Middle East. He knows every head of state and top military figure in the Arab world, as well as in Israel, on a first-name basis. He is despised by the Israeli right wing and by the American neo-conservatives. This is all the more true, since his devastating insult of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) “Contras.” Richard Perle and Paul Wolfowitz wish to back this formation in one variant of the war against Saddam Hussein, a favorite trigger for the subversion of the Bush-Putin joint efforts to avert war in the Mideast.

On Nov. 27, General Zinni and Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs William Burns arrived in the Middle East. The two American diplomats further enraged Sharon and the U.S. “neo-cons” by holding a lengthy and cordial meeting with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, following a far stormier session with the Israeli Prime Minister. General Zinni will remain there indefinitely — as a guarantor against an Israeli “breakaway ally” provocation to launch a general war in the region.

Change Is Still Fragile

Lyndon LaRouche has warned that the Bush-Putin war-avoidance partnership is facing formidable attack. The coup d’état against the Bush Administration, on behalf of the “Clash of Civilizations,” has been suppressed but not crushed. Sources report that President Putin faces significant opposition to his bold initiative toward the United States, from within the ranks of the Russian military, as well as from the powerful criminal oligarchs, some of whom, like Boris Berezovsky, are closely allied with the Sharon criminal circles in Israel.

LaRouche has vowed to throw the weight of his political movement — internationally — behind the efforts to forge a revival of the historic Russian-American partnership, that nearly defeated the British and other European imperial forces during the late 19th Century, through precisely the kinds of policies now associated with the LaRouche Eurasian Land-Bridge. For that effort to succeed, many more forces around the globe are going to have to join with LaRouche, to give the kind of backing to the fragile and highly personal effort now being pursued by the Russian and American Presidents and a handful of trusted aides.

Crimes Against Humanity: The Case Of Ariel Sharon

by Elisabeth Hellenbroich

“The fate of the disappeared of Sabra and Chatila will come back to haunt [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon when a Belgian court hears a suit brought by their relatives alleging his involvement in the massacres.” This quote is taken from an article in the London *Observer* on Nov. 25. It is one of several such articles in the British press, including the *Independent* and the *Guardian*; the latter published exclusive material that sheds light on the responsibility which Sharon bore 20 years ago when, under his purview as Defense Minister, an atrocious massacre was carried out by the Phalange, Israel’s Lebanese Christian allies, in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Chatila near Beirut, in September 1982.

The massacre was followed by acts of “ethnic cleansing” which the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) committed against hundreds of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, who “disappeared” while in the hands of the Israeli soldiers, and whose fate to this day is unknown. “The people who disappeared during and after the massacre are the forgotten victims of Sabra and Chatila,” writes the *Observer*. “What is crucial is that they disappeared while in the hands of the Israeli army during an operation under the direct control of Israel’s then-Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, now Prime Minister. The fate of the disappeared of Sabra and Chatila will come back to haunt Sharon. . . .”

On Nov. 28, a Belgian appeals court held hearings on the “Sharon case,” in which 23 Palestinian plaintiffs allege he committed crimes against humanity. The case against Sharon was opened on June 18, 2001, before a Belgian court. Now, new material, which had been anonymously placed into the plaintiffs’ lawyers hands, has been obtained by the *Guardian*.

A Devastating Political Flank

This case against Sharon offers a devastating political flanking move against the drive for generalized religious war in the Middle East. It could help tilt the balance in the Mideast in favor of a peace solution — including an independent Palestinian state — which U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and his Mideast envoy, Gen. Anthony Zinni (ret.), are desperately seeking to bring about.

In open defiance of those peace initiatives, which are supported by the European Union, Sharon and the IDF have been staging one provocative act after another, seeking to wreck any peace initiative which is not on Sharon’s terms, and to set