

LT. COL. ULRICH SCHOLZ

Interest Monsters: Democracy, Human Rights and Other Hypocrisies

Lt. Col. (ret.) Ulrich Scholz is a former NATO planner. This is an edited report, combining his prepared address with the transcript of his speech. He spoke on Panel I, June 30, 2018.

Good morning. Thank you very much, Mrs. LaRouche and Mr. LaRouche, for having me here again to speak what's on my mind and in my heart. I was here two years ago, and talked about war as a pathology of the West. Just a few words about myself. I flew, in the first third of my military career, Phantoms and Tornados. In the second third, I planned wars. In my third, in my military education, I understood war. And now, I'm in my final stage of learning, and I am trying to find out why we still engage in wars, and how we can change that.

I'd like to start with George Bernard Shaw, who once said, "Sometimes I like to quote myself. It puts spice in the conversation." I'll quote myself here: In March 2003, I was at Queen's University at Kingston, teaching on the subject of security policy, and I gave a speech to local business and political people. Six weeks prior to that speech, President George W. Bush had invaded Iraq, and that was my topic. My American colleague on the left argued for the war, and I argued against the war. And sometimes, I didn't know what was going to happen; but my feeling was that if we didn't put the UN in charge of the world, we would end up where we are now. And we ended up there.

After that, I went through several educational processes. I thought about how to change the UN—I now think it's not an organizational change we need. I think the problem is not the structure of the organization—the problem is that the UN, which failed in its main mission of keeping peace in the world, needs instead to concentrate more on brokering interests. This word interests—



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I've heard it many times this morning—is very important. I think the problem is that nations have interests, and we don't pay attention to those, especially the big ones. The second is the human element when we talk about interests. We are humans and what works on the micro-level, with families and individuals, has a record of working very well when applied seriously. When we try to resolve political conflict, we disregard this aspect. We often view NATO and the U.S. government organizations, but forget that inside those organizations there are human beings. We should focus more on

how we get those people in those organizations together.

Let us not forget the hypocrisies in international relations. The West has waged war since 1990, many times—Kosovo, Libya, Iraq several times, and Afghanistan. All these wars were always begun with an alibi: "We do it on behalf of the international community"—whatever that is. Or the UN flag is used under the banner, "responsibility to protect," or "humanitarian intervention." I argue, and I can prove it—I won't go into that full proof today—that these are all alibis. These are hypocrisies. The real reason the West goes to war is for interests.

The following is from the prepared address.

The World Needs an Effective UN

Since its founding in 1945, the main mission of the UN as a world organization has been to keep the peace. Despite all merit due in creating a kind of international order, the many wars and conflicts that have taken place since then are sad proof that the organization has failed in its main mission.

I would like to suggest that we understand and use the UN more as a global interest moderator rather than a peacekeeper. Because, by focusing on the first, suc-

cess in the second is much more likely; and last but not least, the UN as an effective broker of interests could become the driver for projects like the New Silk Road.

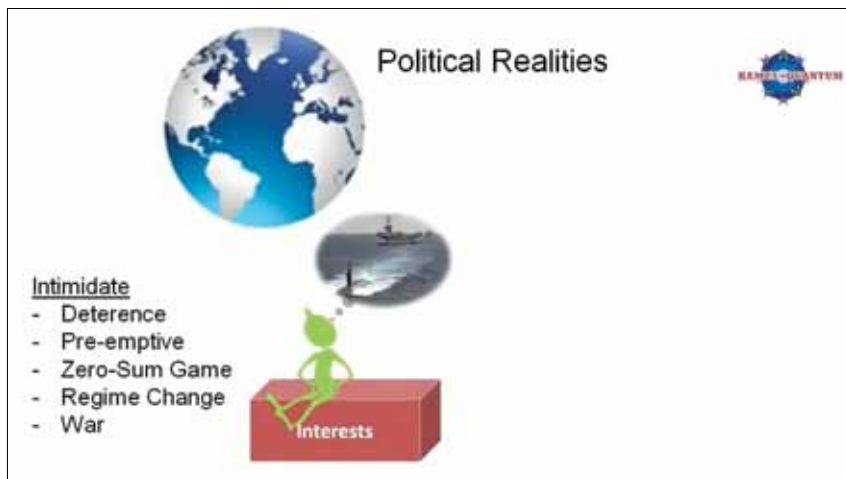
In my short presentation I am going to make the argument that the main reasons for the UN’s failure to keep the peace, and for the resistance to the New Silk Road Project from some international figures, are the disregard for the importance of interests of all international actors and the neglect of the human dimension in dealing with those interests. Since the end of the Cold War in 1990, democratic states have waged war and violated their ethics quite a few times. They waged war in the Balkans, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Libya, and in Syria. In doing so they also killed those whom they pretended to protect. They invented ethical terms like “responsibility to protect” and “humanitarian intervention” to cover up their real intention for going to war: National Interests!

At the beginning of the air campaign to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, U.S. Air Force General Chuck Horner, commander of allied air forces of Desert Shield/Desert Storm, told his pilots to break off an attack and bring back their bombs if they ran the risk of being shot down. He said that there was no target in the whole of Iraq worth dying for. I would like to alter his statement to make it a universal one: There is no target in the world worth killing for.

The Philosophical Foundation

America’s post-World War II foreign policy has been greatly influenced by Hans Joachim Morgenthau, a German-born American political scientist whose basic idea of an all-mighty state refers back to Thomas Hobbes’ *The Leviathan*. In 1948, Morgenthau published his work on foreign policy, *Politics among Nations*. It contains the essential ideas of “Political Realism.”

The following four ideas are my selection. They reflect the history of states from 1648 (the Peace of Westphalia) until today. The first idea is almost a no-brainer:

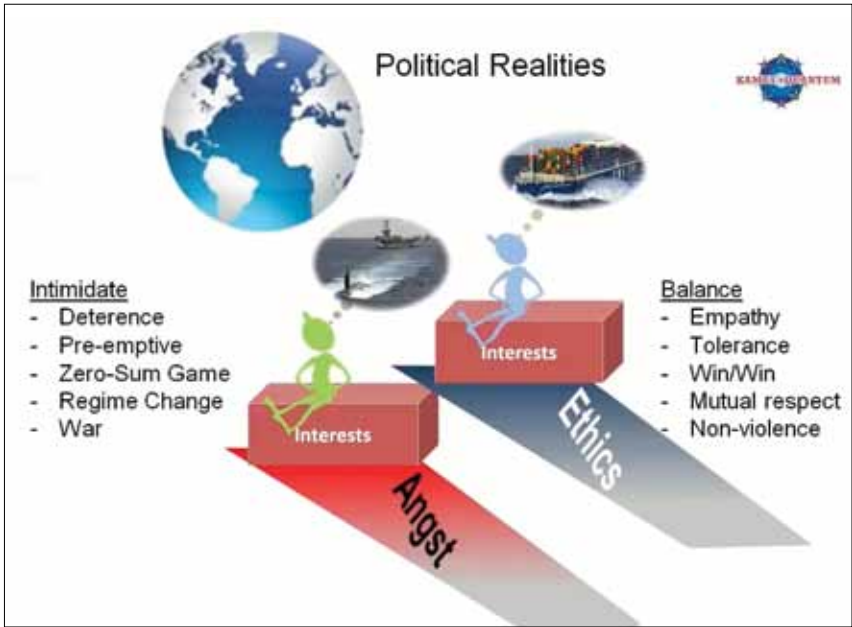


Political power serves interests. Countries and peoples have interests, and it is the duty of their leaders to use their power to secure them. The next three ideas, I call essentials: Balancing not intimidating, Values are interests = hypocrisy, and thirdly, Limits of universal values. I call these essentials because they contain the main reasons why politicians fail to secure the interests of their peoples.

Morgenthau’s arguments against the Vietnam War support this argument. I dare to say that all wars America and the West have waged since Vietnam have not been in the interest of their peoples for the same reasons.

Balancing Interests vs. Intimidation

To make my argument, I would like to focus on Essential Number Two. It is here that post-Cold-War neo-



worse, such as global terrorism or nuclear war. Lasting security, based on one's own interests, is achieved best if those interests are balanced in a mutually benefitting way.

At this point I would like to come in with ethics, which are not an Interest per se. The real power lies in living ethically, not in preaching ethics. A foreign policy based on balancing interests rests on human values: empathy, tolerance, and mutual respect.

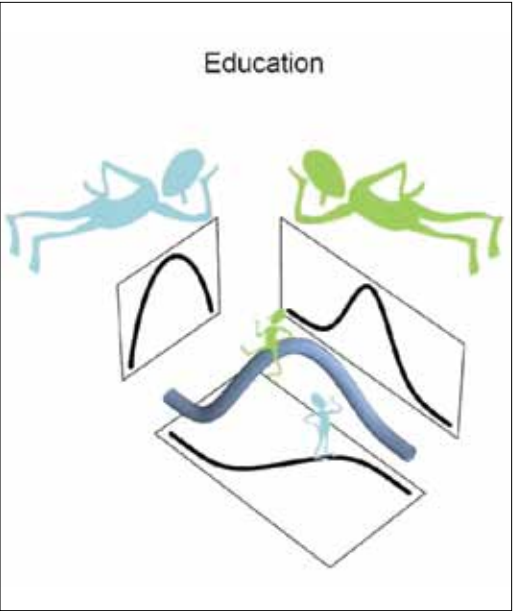
Ethics flows like an underground river. If we allow intimidation to run foreign policy, the underground river carrying intimidation is called Angst.

Trust and Education

When people of different countries, political systems, and cultures meet to resolve conflicts and to balance interests, it is important that they know, understand, and like each other. The ultimate goal is trust, which should not just be the result of empathy, but sympathy. Relations developed in such a way must be set up on a long term basis (years!). The people selected should be of special character with outstanding soft skills in an intercultural realm. They don't have to be the subject matter experts, rather they should be facilitators at the

conservative politicians in the United States deviate from classical realism. Instead of trying to balance interests with other stakeholders in the realm of foreign policy, they either go to war as they did in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, and Syria, or they intimidate others as they are (have been) doing with Russia, North Korea, and Iran. I argue that in all these conflicts they have failed to secure American interests.

But intimidation not only jeopardizes one's own interests. It also increases the risk of armed conflict, which entails the danger of escalating to something



various levels of cooperation, governmental and non-governmental. Outside the functionalities of projects, their interaction should be autonomous. Cooperation should be driven mainly by the spirit of the common goal and not so much by organizational interests of the day.

One final word on education. I consider failed communications as one of the main reasons for violent conflict resolutions, which is not a matter of language but a

matter of perceiving and thinking. Conflict parties discuss their differences in the first order of cybernetics, not understanding that they are dealing with second order problems. I suggest therefore that everybody who is in the business of conflict resolution and balancing interests should get a thorough education in systems theory and the philosophy behind it. There cannot be any objectivity, because “Everything that is said, is said by an observer.”