

# **SCOTT RITTER: The Onus Is on Biden & Putin**

SCOTT RITTER—Gurulyov was convinced that the nature of Russia's military victory over Ukraine would be so decisive that NATO might feel compelled to intervene to stop Russia.

If NATO were to indeed dispatch troops into Ukraine, and those troops engaged in large-scale ground conflict with Russian forces, then Gurulyov envisioned that Russian nuclear weapons could, in fact, be used against NATO targets.

Gurulyov was convinced that the United States, fearing Russian strategic nuclear-retaliation capabilities, would not unleash its own nuclear arsenal against Russia, even if NATO were struck by Russian nuclear weapons. But here Gurulyov was operating from a false premise – U.S. nuclear doctrine clearly states that “They [Russia ] must understand that there are no possible benefits from non-nuclear aggression or limited nuclear escalation.”

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# **DIANA JOHNSTONE: Omerta in the Gangster War**

DIANA JOHNSTONE—It cost billions of dollars to lay the Nord Stream 2 pipeline across the Baltic Sea, from near Saint Petersburg to the port of Greifswald in Germany. The idea was to ensure safe natural gas supplies to Germany and other European partners by going around troublesome Ukraine, known for readiness to use its transit rights to siphon off gas for itself or blackmail clients.

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# “The War Has Just Begun”

BIG SERGE—Many western nations have advised their citizens to leave Russia immediately, suggesting they are worried about escalation (this coincides with Ukraine’s unhinged claim that Russia may be about to use nuclear weapons). For the time being, I expect Russian escalation to remain confined to Ukraine itself, likely coinciding with the deployment of additional Russian ground forces. If Russia feels compelled to undertake an out of theater escalation, targeting American satellites, digital infrastructure, or forces in Syria remain the most likely option.

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## **UKRAINE Submits NATO APPLICATION, Russia EXPANDS, Putin HISTORIC Speech**

Jackson Hinkle comments on the latest developments in Ukraine, especially how the battle for Ukraine (and what it implies) has now changed dramatically with the recent Russian mobilisation and referenda, the latter returning to Russia four important oblasts in Eastern and Southern Ukraine. It’s worth noting that Putin’s latest speech celebrating the restoration of these lands to Russia also made history by its frank language, forthrightly accusing the West of bad faith, hypocrisy, appalling disloyalty, and vast criminality, including acts of terror such as the blowing up of the

Nordstream pipelines, which may sink the EU economies and penalise EU populations. Putin also attacked and rejected in forceful terms the West's "identity" values implicit in its "Woke philosophy", which the US seeks to impose by force and coercion.

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## **Roundtable #25: George Galloway, Syrian Girl, Alex Thomson**

An outspoken and well-informed discussion of breaking news affecting the Ukraine War and the rest of the world.

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## **Russian allegations of rampant Nazism in Europe**

GILBERT DOCTOROW—A couple of weeks before Vladimir Putin announced his 'special military operation' in Ukraine, he met in the Kremlin with Germany's chancellor Olaf Scholz. At their joint press conference following the meeting, Putin mentioned in passing that Ukraine is controlled today by neo-Nazis. This remark was famously ridiculed by Scholz as "laughable," thereby earning for him the Kremlin's utter contempt. German-Russian relations have undergone a sharp deterioration ever since, with Germany gradually stepping up its supplies of cutting-edge lethal weaponry to Kiev and Russia, in its

internal political discussions, placing Germany alongside the United States and Britain as de facto 'co-belligerents' which may be subjected to Russian missile attacks if the war escalates further.