

The Narrative That This War Was “Unprovoked” Prevents Peace

Be sure to distribute this article as widely as possible. Pushing back against the Big Lie is really up to you.

Caitlin Johnstone

[ROGUE JOURNALIST](#)

Select Language ▼



[Listen to a reading of this article:](#)

Going Rogue With Caitlin Johnstone · The Narrative That This War Was "Unprovoked" Prevents Peace

Vladimir Putin has [approved the annexation](#) of four territories in eastern Ukraine, whose addition to the Russian Federation

now await authorization from Russia's other branches of government.

The Zelensky government responded to the move by applying to join NATO, only to be immediately [shut down by US and NATO officials](#). Can't have sacrificial pawns trying to rise above their station on the grand chessboard, after all.

But the empire's proxy war against Russia continues, and the Ukrainian government has announced its intentions to drive out Russia from all of the Ukrainian territories it has claimed as its own.

"For our plans, [Russia's annexation] doesn't matter," Zelensky advisor Mykhailo Podolyak [told Politico](#), adding that Ukraine will "protect our land using all our forces" and "should liberate all its territories."

Ukraine Vows To 'Liberate' Territory Annexed by Moscow

A top aide to President Zelensky said Russian forces will be "exterminated"

by Kyle Anzalone [@KyleAnzalone_](#) [#Ukraine](#) [#Russia](#)
<https://t.co/tqUd3ALRhp> pic.twitter.com/Gw1X0SJRCg

– Antiwar.com (@Antiwarcom) [October 1, 2022](#)

The plan to reclaim territories annexed by Russia will according to Zelensky [also include Crimea](#), which was annexed in 2014.

All this talk about preparing a massive western-backed counter-offensive to recapture annexed territories from Russia – whose ranks are being reinforced with an [additional 300,000 reservists](#) – comes as Putin [suggests](#) that nuclear weapons may be used to protect what Moscow considers parts of Russia. Russia, like the United States, is [one of the nuclear-armed nations](#) without a No First Use policy.

So we appear to be on a collision course toward a massive

escalation between two nuclear-armed powers. The more things escalate the more likely it is that a nuclear weapon may be used, either deliberately or as a result of miscommunication or malfunction as [nearly happened many times](#) during the last cold war. Once one nuke is used the odds go up astronomically that a great many more will immediately follow, with variables on this outcome including the location where it detonates and how cool all the relevant heads happen to be at that particular historic moment.

It is therefore no exaggeration to say that the human species has a vested interest in de-escalation and detente right away. Avoiding nuclear war is the single most important agenda in the entire world, without exception. It is the single most important agenda that has ever existed in all of history.

But whenever you advocate for this supremely important agenda in any kind of public forum, you get a bunch of brainwashed empire automatons bleating about “appeasement” and accusing you of supporting a monstrous madman. And they do this because that’s what they were trained to do.

the world is now closer to nuclear war than it has ever been, even the Cuban missile crisis, and the entire Western media and political class is just doubling down on getting closer and closer to nuclear apocalypse. It's seriously the most deranged shit I've ever seen in my life

– *🐿 (@zei_squirrel) [September 30, 2022](#)

As Noam Chomsky has been [pointing](#) out [repeatedly](#), the political/media class has been continually indoctrinating the public with the [completely false narrative](#) that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine was “unprovoked”. Every time the war comes up the imperial spinmeisters utter that slogan, in much the same way Michael Jackson [had a quota](#) for how often MTV hosts were obligated to refer to him as “The King of Pop Michael Jackson” when his name was mentioned.

But what does it mean if the war is “unprovoked”? It means Putin didn’t invade Ukraine because of anything the western empire was doing, so it couldn’t have been prevented by the western empire behaving less aggressively on Russia’s borders. It means Putin necessarily invaded because he is some kind of evil lunatic who loves to commit war crimes, or a megalomaniacal tyrant who wants to conquer the world because he hates freedom and democracy. Which means he will keep attacking and invading other countries unless he can be stopped. Which means the only answer to the Putin problem is more war.

This is why empire apologists get angry at those who advocate the only sane and rational position toward nuclear brinkmanship by calling for de-escalation and detente. It’s because they’ve been aggressively indoctrinated into the belief that war is the only answer.

The moronic narrative that the invasion of Ukraine was “unprovoked” poses a massive obstacle to peace, because if Putin is just attacking and invading countries solely because he’s crazy and evil it means detente is impossible and he won’t stop until he’s decisively crushed. If it’s accepted that the US empire has played no role in provoking Putin’s actions, that means there’s nothing the empire could do to make continued Russian aggression less likely apart from regime change, or at least severely crippling and punishing Russia militarily.

It's Not Okay For Grown Adults To Say The Ukraine Invasion Was "Unprovoked"

"So as you can see, the notion that this war is 'unprovoked' is a fart-brained fairy tale for idiots and children" <https://t.co/EmznLi02Xq>

– Caitlin Johnstone (@caitoz) [September 7, 2022](#)

As long as the fact that this war was provoked remains unacknowledged by the side that provoked it, the sane path of de-escalation and detente will look like reckless appeasement of an irrational madman, and aggressive escalations of nuclear brinkmanship will look like sanity. The absurd position that Putin is an irrational actor with some kind of weird sexual fetish for war crimes is a one-way ticket to endlessly escalating war and eventual nuclear annihilation, because it leaves you with no options but continually intensifying military confrontation.

The claim that peace is impossible and Putin must be crushed imperils the whole world. Even to deliver total victory in Ukraine (pushing Russia back to pre-2014 borders) could easily end up costing millions of lives and trillions of dollars and exponentially increase the risk of nuclear war, with no guarantee of success at all. But even if you did push Putin all the way out of Ukraine, what then? He'll still be a crazy madman who wants to invade countries because he's evil and hates freedom. The internal logic of your narrative says the attacks on Russia must continue until you get regime change. There's no stopping point on your line of thinking until there's a direct hot confrontation between nuclear superpowers.

Be an adult and engage your critical thinking. Does a madman who goes around invading countries solely because he's evil and hates freedom sound like a real-life human being to you? Or does it sound made up? Like something you'd see in a Hollywood movie? Like something that was concocted by people responsible for [controlling the dominant narratives](#) of our society and [funneled into your mind](#) using media?

Marvel supervillains have more depth and complexity than the one-dimensional characters the imperial spin machine concocts to represent its official enemies. Thanos was a more

believable character with more understandable and nuanced motivations than the propaganda machine's fictional representation of Putin. That representation has been overlaid on top of the actual government official who you might not necessarily agree with, but can definitely understand and engage in diplomacy and negotiation.

People who believe the empire's narratives about its official enemies have fewer critical thinking skills than your average Marvel movie viewer. Think. Be a grown up and *think*. Someone's benefitting from the aggressively promulgated narrative that peace is impossible and war is the only solution. And that someone isn't you.

Thanks for reading! The best way to get around the internet censors and make sure you see the stuff I publish is to subscribe to the mailing list for at [my website](#) or [on Substack](#), which will get you an email notification for everything I publish. My work is [entirely reader-supported](#), so if you enjoyed this piece please consider sharing it around, liking me on [Facebook](#), following my antics on [Twitter](#), throwing some money into my tip jar on [Patreon](#) or [Paypal](#), purchasing some of my [sweet merchandise](#), buying my books [Rogue Nation: Psychonautical Adventures With Caitlin Johnstone](#) and [Woke: A Field Guide for Utopia Preppers](#). For more info on who I am, where I stand, and what I'm trying to do with this platform, [click here](#). Everyone, racist platforms excluded, [has my permission](#) to republish, use or translate any part of this work (or anything else I've written) in any way they like free of charge.



Bitcoin donations:1Ac7PCQXoQoLA9Sh8fhAgiU3PHA2EX5Zm2

This is a dispatch from our ongoing series by Caitlin
Johnstone



ABOUT THE AUTHOR **Caitlin Johnstone** is a brave journalist, political junkie, relentless feminist, champion of the 99 percent. And a powerful counter-propaganda tactician.

NOTE

^1000 Careerist lackeys serving the elites control the American press.

Ever pushing for war and inequality, covering up the oligarchy's crimes...

They are in reality shameless disinformers.

No wonder the world is in such terrible disarray.



[This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.](#)

Photo Credit: GDA via AP

Covid-19 has put this site on ventilators.

DONATIONS HAVE DRIED UP...

PLEASE send what you can today!

JUST USE THE BUTTON BELOW



**IMAGINE A DAY
WITHOUT
THE GREENVILLE
POST...**

**Make sure it does
not happen.**

**SEND YOUR DONATION
TODAY.**

(We need it urgently!)



• FINIS •



NOTE : ALL CAPTIONS AND PULL QUOTES BY THE EDITORS, NOT THE AUTHORS.