Why is Britain patrolling in the Black Sea, right up against Russia, and why are the Brits moving troops and armor into the Baltics? They say it's to stop Putin from invading, as he did in the Ukraine. But Russia shares a long common border and history with Ukraine, and had they invaded, it would have been sudden and dreadful. As for Russia invading the Balkans, that's ardent, unfounded lunacy. Would Britain be okay with Russian battleships patrolling off the Isle of Mann?

It's all about the sale of weapons. Britain, in 2016, became the second largest arms manufacturer, two thirds of which go to the Middle East. The nice thing about arms sales is no customer return desk. If a two million dollar missile that you bought, fails, you own it. That's a lucrative business model, one that might persuade some to lie through their teeth about Putin getting ready to invade Estonia. Besides, your queen and country need the revenue.

Back to Ukraine—which by the way is the breadbasket of Eastern Europe— their Nebraska/Kansas. It's also where the US, and undersecretary Victoria Nuland (whose husband is a lobbyist for Monsanto, GMF producers—illegal in Russia), allegedly spent five billion dollars to defeat a Ukrainian proposal for closer ties with Russia, in support of closer ties with Europe—and a NATO membership. When the Ukrainian government rejected the European option, in favor of closer ties with Russia, their parliament, in an not-so-soft coup, voted to impeach President Viktor Yanukovych—an action supported by the US and NATO, which, in the end, turned Ukraine into a failed state, with our fingerprints all over it.

And that created a situation in Crimea, where, amidst the chaos in Ukraine, a referendum was held, one in which the citizens of Crimea voted overwhelmingly to rejoin Russia. Neither Europe nor NATO recognized that referendum because it's against Ukrainian law, and because they view it as a military annexation. But Ukraine, at the time, was a lawless, non-functioning state, home to Russia's only warm water port—Sevastopol—over which Russia have held dominion since Catherine the Great.

Was Crimea annexed? Do we accept the will of the Crimean people? We don't accept the referendum in Crimea, but we do accept one we promoted in Kosovo,
which violated the constitution of Yugoslavia. And what do we do with the 135 observers from 32 countries who validated the Crimea referendum as a fair vote, expressing the will of more than 70% of the people?

Are we the good guys here? Vladimir Putin has done his share of despicable things, but is he any worse than the United States or Britain, who, while paying lip service to democracy, seek regime change and destabilization to promote the sale of weapons and support for the dollar and the pound? Have Russia and Vladimir Putin been given a fair shake? Economically, Russia is a weak country. Militarily, Russia is powerful (although in the process of reducing their military budget by one-third). Bet you didn't catch that on MSNBC.

I know I've said it before, but it's important: The US promised no eastward expansion of NATO in return for the re-unification of Germany. Since then it has added ten countries, some of which are neighbors of Russia, and has tried for more. Remember those war clouds in the country of Georgia, which almost led to war with Russia? That was allegedly caused by an invitation for Georgia to join NATO. And that damned Putin wouldn't go along with it.

Why do we keep breaking our agreements—and with impunity? What was the deal in Ukraine? We wanted Ukraine to be closer with Europe? Not really. We wanted them in NATO, in order to further strangle Russia and get rid of Putin. We wanted what we often want, regime change, leading to a vassal state. Just the other day, John McCain said of Senator Rand Paul: "The senator from Kentucky is now working for Vladimir Putin.”, because Paul would not bring tiny Montenegro into NATO, by unanimous vote. The United States is fast becoming like Germany in the 30's—where you better be careful what you say, because civility is at a low ebb, and questioning the accepted narrative is seen as treason. But, if we don't speak up, who will? There was hope that President Trump would do something to stop this insanity with Russia, but keep in mind that he is an authoritarian, and not a libertarian. He ran on some good ideas, but now, from Russia's view, not since the Wehrmacht massed along the Russian border, in 1941, before Adolf Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa, which claimed the lives of more than 20 million Russians, has Russia been under the kind of threat it faces today from NATO. And what's that about? In my view it's about the insane world of money and power—in sanity to the point where some fools are willing to risk WW3, rather than lose their crony despotism.

In the final analysis, the only common ground we have with Russia is to defeat ISIS, which is not enough, because ISIS, in some sense, promotes our agenda of destabilization and regime change. Will Russia be willing to stand aside in Syria and Ukraine, as they did in Libya? There, they saw, as a result of their compromise—the total annihilation of a country. And who did that? Mostly the United States and the Brits. Are there countries with a foreign policy as loony as ours? Maybe the Brits?

neverhadaboss.com. The only way my blog grows is when you tell your friends. Get on my blog email list: erik@neverhadaboss.com