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Personal remarks related to the monograph written by

Ashfaque Hasan Khan

“RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS. DAWN OF A NEW WORLD ORDER?”

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Sciences & Technology. 2023. 132 PP.**

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Islamabad, March 17, 2023

GENERSAL REMARKS: POSITIVE

The author has assessed substantiate amount or information, especially in economic, and financial domains, like conclusions, *inter alia*, “Russia has so far successfully blunted the impact of western sanctions and launched counter offense by itself... “ [p.76], “... Russia’s financial health has been strengthened” despite strong Western sanctions: [p.79], “the process of de-dollarization has intensified across the world” [p. 89], “Russia and China ... have the potential to come up with an alternative reserve currency as well as alternative cross-border payment system” {p. 91}. etc.

Generally speaking, Ashfaque Hasan Khan’s findings in many portions are correct and correspond to the current situation and developments.

A number of conclusions formulated by the author have practical significance.

IMPORTANT FACTS AND FIGURES THAT HAVE TO BE NOTED

Donbass never crossed the administrative border with Ukraine – neither on April, 13, 2014 nor by February, 14, 2022, nor by March, 17, 2023

Donbass did not open fire before Ukraine initially attacked Donbass on April, 13, 2014

Donbass has not threaten Ukraine, when Kiev brutally attacked Donbass on February 14, 2022 (Note: in April 2014 Donbass freedom fighters had only 6 AK-47 assault rifles

Since April 13, 2014 till February 14, 2022 Armed Forces of Ukraine killed nearly 14,000 civilians and injured over 34,000 civilians in Donbass. Plus 5,000 civilians in Donbass have been killed after February 14, 2022

A straightforward question:

Who has criticized such barbaric Ukrainian policy in Donbass and who saved the life of so many civilians in Donbass? Who has protected people of Donbass from such cruel aggression? The UNO, NATO, the EU or the OSCE?

NOBODY IN THAT LIST

INCORRECT TERMINOLOGY AND ASSERTIONS IN THE MONOGRAPH

“Russia launched a Special Military Operation against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, setting off the largest **armed conflict in Europe since the World War II with a view to preventing the later joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)”. [p. 7]**

REALITY:

- 1. Ukrainian President a.i. Turchinov’s Decree # 405/2014 dated April, 13, 2014: announced “ATO” or Anti-terrorist Operation or de-facto armed aggression vs Donbass.**
- 2. It is not a “conflict” , but Ukrainian aggression that has two stages:**
 - A) direct Ukrainian aggression vs Donbass since April 13, 2014;**
 - B) it is a combined Ukrainian/NATO massive aggression vs Russia since February 14, 2022**

WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF THE SMO: DECLARED ON February 24, 2022:

- A) To protect citizens in Donbass from intimidation and genocide;**
- B) To guarantee demilitarization and denazification in Ukraine;**
- C) To maintain national security of Russia**

NOTE: no VIP in Russia mentioned that the SMO began with a view to preventing Ukrainian entry into NATO

**UKRAINIAN
PLANNED
AGGRESSION
VS DONBAS on
February, 14
2022**



“Russian **invasion of Ukraine has changed the global politics monumentally.” [p. 9]. No, not invasion. But expansion of NATO, the end of arms control, forward-based U.S. NW near Russia**

“... the US and its Western alliance **were anticipating the invasion of Russia on Ukraine and were well equipped to fight the economic warfare against Russia. “ [p. 11]**

“Russia has monumentally **changed the global politics with the launch of the SMO against Ukraine on February 24, 2022” [p. 9].**

As far as natural gas is concerned, **Europe has not yet imposed any sanctions against Russia.” [p. 12] . No: Germany, Norway, Poland, Ukraine have imposed them.**

“... Russia was chosen **as a target of the US led western alliance”. [p.11]. No, NATO has chosen Russia as the aim for its disintegration.**

“... the Russia-Ukraine war has **caused serious issues of food security, hunger, and poverty in many parts of the world” [p. 13]. No, it is not correct in terms of Russia: no sanctions from Russia**

“Since 1994 onward, the US tried to maintain a balanced approach ... with Russia”. [24]

“... NATO officially stated in January 2022 to include Ukraine in NATO” [p.28],

“... Russia is ‘weaponizing gas’ against the Europe. From their perspective, Russia is “blackmailing” Europe by suspending gas supplies.” [p. 77]. Not correct. This is Western view. For more than 50 years the USSR and Russia have not violated any gas contract with any country. Germany refused to certify the new Nord Stream pipeline and Canada deviation to return to Russia a pipeline turbine it repaired? Many Western countries refused to return to Russia its money earned by selling natural gas.

“...Russia has annexed those areas of Ukraine [totally 5] which it has captured after February 24 invasion of Ukraine” [p. 85]. After five referenda conducted in these territories such term [annexed] is incorrect. Correctly: “they joined voluntarily” .

“Russian troops are tired, Ukrainian troops are exhausted” [p.112]. No, RAF are not tired. Positive sighs on the battlefield (20% territory liberated; Azov Sea became Russian).

“Russia must undertake reconstruction activities in Ukraine” [pp. 114-115]. Yes, but in 5 new territories only. Aggressors must undertake it in the rest of Ukraine.

GENERAL REMARKS: NEGATIVE

1. Too big portion of the book was devoted to economic and financial issues not related to the main title of the book “Russia-Ukraine Crisis”. E.g. Chapter 9 on the future of US \$.

2. Military and political part of the book is a limited one:

- a) what are the strategic goals of the two sides in Donbass, if the one (Ukraine) launched the aggression vs Donbass, and the second (Russia) protected it;**
- b) no critical remarks related to the NATO/EU huge heavy weapons supplies to Ukraine (by March 17th it was 33rd ‘arms basket’ from the USA only; totally for more than \$ 34 bln);**
- c) lack of analysis about the results of the official talks between Moscow and Kiev before they have been interrupted by Ukraine since March 2022;**
- d) no assessment of the most significant political plans for ‘restoring peace’ in that part of Europe (put forward by Moscow, Kiev, Beijing, etc.);**
- e) Russia got assurances for the export of food grains and fertilizer without any hindrance under the Black Sea deal [pp.103-104]; No, Russia has not got**
- f) in Reference section (pp.116-132) there are no Russian sources. It is impossible to present objective analysis exclusively relying upon Western sources.**

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE PEACE ACCORD BETWEEN MOSCOW AND KIEV. KIEV SHOULD:

- 1. Fully recognize full independence of all five territories that have joined the Russian Federation.**
- 2. Fully recognize new interstate borders between Russia and Ukraine.**
- 3. Adopt political and juridically-binding commitments: fixing non-accession of Ukraine to NATO and other military pacts, banning of construction of NATO military bases and using by NATO all Ukrainian military bases.**
- 4. Refuse to accept foreign nuclear weapons and create its own nuclear weapons in any form, and to shell nuclear power plants and any critically important assets in Ukraine and in Russia.**
- 5. Disband all neo-Nazi formations and ultra-nationalist factions and military units in Ukraine.**
- 6. Reduce the limit of the Ukrainian Armed Forces by 50,000 men, provided all 5 previous items are implemented.**
- 7. Pay money compensation to all citizens of Russia and five territories that joined it by 2022 for loss of life, injuries and damaged or destroyed personnel belongings, including houses and social infrastructure assets.**
- 8. Pay to Russia all financial, commercial and economic debts borrowed by Ukraine since 1991.**