**Europe Should Be a Force for**

**Peace in the World**

[Jean-Marie Choffray](https://www.amazon.com/kindle-dbs/entity/author/B00DNUGN64?_encoding=UTF8&node=283155&offset=0&pageSize=12&searchAlias=stripbooks&sort=author-sidecar-rank&page=1&langFilter=default#formatSelectorHeader)\*

Liège, May 22, 2023. Revised May 29, 2023.

“The Russia-Ukraine War has been an unmitigated disaster. Hundreds of thousands have been killed or wounded. Millions have been displaced. Environmental and economic destruction have been incalculable. Future devastation could be exponentially greater as nuclear powers creep ever closer toward open war […] The immediate cause of this disastrous war in Ukraine is Russia’s invasion. Yet the plans and actions to expand NATO to Russia’s borders served to provoke Russian fears. And Russian leaders made this point for 30 years. A failure of diplomacy led to war. Now diplomacy is urgently needed to end the Russia-Ukraine War before it destroys Ukraine and endangers humanity […] Deliberate provocations delivered the Russia-Ukraine War. In the same manner, deliberate diplomacy can end it.” ([The U.S. Should Be a Force for Peace in the World](https://eisenhowermedianetwork.org/russia-ukraine-war-peace/))

\* Emeritus Professor of Computer Science, University of Liege School of Management.

PhD-77, Management Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

*Winston Churchill said, “Meeting jaw to jaw is better than war.” It’s high*

*Time the U.S. facilitated jaw-to-jaw diplomacy rather than*

*feeding more war and death in Ukraine.*

[Ltc. William J. Astore](https://twitter.com/MediaEisenhower/status/1658523032850137102)

**Europe Should Be a Force for**

**Peace in the World**

Key points from an ad (op-ed?) that appeared in the [New York Times](https://twitter.com/MediaEisenhower/status/1658482070551924740) on May 16, 2023.

“Since 2007, Russia has repeatedly warned that NATO’s armed forces on Russian borders were intolerable – just as Russian forces in Mexico or Canada would be intolerable to the U.S. now, or as Soviet missiles in Cuba were in 1962. Russia further singled out NATO expansion into Ukraine as especially provocative.”

“The Russians made their red lines clear. In Georgia and Syria, they proved they would use force to defend those lines. In 2014, their immediate seizure of Crimea and their support of Donbas separatists demonstrated they were serious in their commitment to defending their interests. Why this was not understood by U.S. and NATO leadership is unclear; incompetence, arrogance, cynicism, or a treacherous mixture of all three are likely contributing factors.”

“Most important to our understanding of the hubris and Machiavellian calculation in U.S. decision-making surrounding the Russia-Ukraine War is the dismissal of the warnings issued by Williams Burns, the current director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In a cable to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in 2008, while serving as Ambassador to Russia, Burns wrote of NATO expansion and Ukrainian membership:

*Ukraine and Georgia’s NATO aspirations not only touch a raw nerve in Russia, they engender serious concerns about the consequences for stability in the region. Not only does Russia perceive encirclement, and efforts to undermine Russia’s influence in the region, but it also fears unpredictable and uncontrolled consequences which would seriously affect Russian security interests. Experts tell us that Russia is particularly worried that the strong divisions in Ukraine over NATO membership, with much of the ethnic-Russian community against membership, could lead to a major split, involving violence or at worst, civil war.* *In that eventuality, Russia would have to decide whether to intervene; a decision Russia does not want to have to face.* ”

**Key dates and events** (as presented in the [New York Times ad](https://eisenhowermedianetwork.org/russia-ukraine-war-peace/))

1990 – U.S. assures Russia that NATO will not expand towards its border “…there would be no extension of… NATO one inch to the east,” says US Secretary of State James Baker.

1996 – U.S. weapons manufacturers form the Committee to Expand NATO, spending over $51 million lobbying Congress.

1997 – 50 foreign policy experts including former senators, retired military officers and diplomats sign an open letter stating NATO expansion to be “a policy error of historic proportions.”

1999 – NATO admits Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic to NATO. U.S. and NATO bomb Russia’s ally, Serbia.

2001 – U.S. unilaterally withdraws from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

2004 – Seven more Eastern European nations join NATO. NATO troops are now directly on Russia’s border.

2004 – Russia’s parliament passed a resolution denouncing NATO’s expansion. Putin responded by saying that Russia would “build our defense and security policy correspondingly.”

2008 – NATO leaders announced plans to bring Ukraine and Georgia, also on Russia’s borders, into NATO.

2009 – U.S. announced plans to put missile systems into Poland and Romania.

2014 – Legally elected Ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovych, fled violence to Moscow. Russia views ouster as a coup by U.S. and NATO nations.

2016 – U.S. begins troop buildup in Europe.

2019 – U.S. unilaterally withdraws from Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty.

2020 – U.S. unilaterally withdraws from Open Skies Treaty.

2021 – Russia submits negotiation proposals while sending more forces to the border with Ukraine. U.S. and NATO officials reject the Russian proposals immediately.

Feb 24, 2022 – Russia invades Ukraine, starting the Russia-Ukraine War.

**“A Universal Lie” (Col. Douglas Macgregor)**

For those who want to understand what’s happening today (May 29, 2023) in Ukraine, and what might happen tomorrow, a recent exposé by John Mearsheimer at The Committee For The Republic, and an article by Col. Douglas Macgregor, provide a disturbing and probably realistic analysis. “Mearsheimer is best known for developing the theory of *offensive realism*, which describes the interaction between great powers as being primarily driven by the *rational desire* to achieve *regional hegemony* in an *anarchic international system*” ([Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Mearsheimer)). Whatever the propaganda we are exposed to, it is becoming every day more likely that the Federation of Russia won’t lose this war. For better of for worse, a “frozen conflict” is what should reasonably be expected.

John Mearsheimer, Committee For The Republic, [Where is the Ukraine War Going?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-rHBRwdql8) May 22, 2023.

Col. Douglas MacGregor, The American Conservative, [After Bakhmut](https://www.theamericanconservative.com/after-bakhmut/), May 23, 2023.

In the fog of war… [Erdogan states intent to create gas hub in Turkey](https://tass.com/world/1624255).

**Europe Should Be a Force for Peace in the World**

Europe's long history reminds us that it must not allow itself to be drawn into a new conflict involving foreign forces on its territory. While our world is facing an impressive number of new challenges – technological, economic, social and ethical – it should mobilize the forces of its diplomacy to make reason prevail.

Wars have never solved any problems and only benefit arms dealers. The deaths and destruction they cause are always an irrecoverable loss for society (Frédéric Bastiat: [The Broken Window](http://bastiat.org/en/twisatwins.html#SECTION_G002)). It is high time to allocate our limited resources to a more inclusive development of the world and our continent. The worst can be avoided (Daniel Ellsberg: [That’s insane](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOk9wql0QTM)). « Être plus, c’est s’unir davantage » (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: [Le phénomène humain](https://www.amazon.fr/Ph%C3%A9nom%C3%A8ne-humain-Pierre-Teilhard-chardin/dp/2020948818/ref%3Dsr_1_1?__mk_fr_FR=%C3%85M%C3%85%C5%BD%C3%95%C3%91&crid=20FYUP2C5OZT1&keywords=teilhard+le+ph%C3%A9nom%C3%A8ne+humain&qid=1684748757&sprefix=teilhard+le+ph%C3%A9nom%C3%A8ne+humain%2Caps%2C325&sr=8-1)).

**\* \* \***

*Today we have become what Eisenhower’s worst nightmare predicted in his farewell address… We are the merchants of death for seven billion people.*

[Col. Lawrence Wilkerson](https://eisenhowermedianetwork.org/about/)

U.S. Army (Ret.) and Chief of Staff to Gen. Colin Powell

*The warmongers are trying to drag us into WW3, which can only end in one way: nuclear annihilation and the suffering and death of all our loved ones. Zelensky, Biden, NATO, congressional and media neocons are insane. And we are insane if we passively allow them to lead us into this holocaust like sheep to the slaughter. We find hope in the fact that the vast majority of Americans are sane, but sanity is not enough. We also need courage. The courage to stand up to the powerful warmongers, and in unison declare: “No! we will not allow you to destroy our families, communities, environment, country, and world!”*

[Tulsi Gabbard](https://twitter.com/TulsiGabbard/status/1660242661767516163)

Former Congresswoman. Soldier.

*They only pretend to think it was unprovoked. They are lying to us, manufacturing consent for war. The administration has dragged us into a proxy war on false pretenses. The blood of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians is on their hands, not to mention over $100 billion U.S. taxpayer dollars.*

[Robert F. Kennedy Jr](https://twitter.com/RobertKennedyJr/status/1661478810926317568)

Presidential candidate

**\* \* \***