RUSSIA'S CONFLICT WITH POLAND AND THE BALTIC STATES OVER THE SOVIET UNION'S ROLE IN THE WWII. SINCE 2005 RUSSIA PROMOTES THE MYTH AS LIBERATOR OF EUROPE FROM THE NAZIS. THE COMMON VIEW IN EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IS THAT THEY WERE ANOTHER OCCUPIER, NOT LIBERATOR

AT THE START OF THE UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENT STATE IN 1991 THE RUSSIAN RULING CLASS STARTED A WAR OVER HISTORY

IN THE MINDS OF RUSSIAN POLICY MAKERS UKRAINE WAS NOT A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY

FIRST RUSSIAN HYBRID OPERATION AGAINST UKRAINE IN 2003 BY TAKING OVER THE TINY ISLAND OF TUZLA THAT ENABLED ACCESS TO THE SEA OF AZOV

ERASURE OF ANYTHING CONNECTED TO THE SOVIET PAST BEGAN IN UKRAINE. A TURNING POINT IN MEMORY POLITICS MAKING IT MORE UKRAINIAN

THE MEMORANDUM WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH HELSINKI ACCORDS

1994 MEMORANDUM ON SECURITY ASSURANCES SIGNED BY THE US, UK AND RUSSIA WHERE THEY PROMISED TO RESPECT THE SOVEREIGNTY AND EXISTING BORDERS OF UKRAINE. IN 2009 US AND RUSSIA RELEASED A JOINT STATEMENT CONFIRMING THE CONTINUED VALIDITY OF THE DOCUMENT

RUSSIA JUSTIFIED THE ATTACK BY STATING THAT THE SECURITY ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN TO THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE, NOT TO THE FORCES THAT CAME TO POWER AFTER THE COUP D'ETAT

ALREADY IN 1993-94 THERE WERE APPEALS FROM DUMA THAT SEVASTOPOL AND CRIMEA ARE RUSSIAN TERRITORIES

ACCORDING TO PUTIN'S CULT OF GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR THE FASCISTS WERE NOT ALL DEFEATED IN 1945 AND THE PLAN IS TO FINISH THEM NOW

A CONCEPT THAT FIRST EMERGED IN THE 16TH OR 17TH CENTURY AS UNITY OF RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH. IN ITS CONTEMPORARY SHAPE IT RE-EMERGED IN THE 1990'S AMONG IDEOLOGISTS OF YELTSIN'S AND PUTIN'S ETHNIC NATIONALISM. A TOXIC CONCEPT THAT REGARDS RUSSIAN SPEAKERS PART OF RUSSIAN NATION, AND A UNIQUE CIVILISATION WITH ITS OWN PAST AND MISSION. ACCORDING TO A SPEECH IN THE RUSSIAN DUMA IN 2005 FOR PUTIN THE DISINTEGRATION OF SOVIET UNION IN 1991 WAS THE LARGEST CATASTROPHE OF THE 20TH CENTURY. RUSSIAN WORLD (RUSSKIY MIR) IS A CONCEPT THAT ASSIGNS PUTIN A ROLE AS PROTECTOR OF "RUSSIAN CITIZENS" LIVING ABROAD.

PUTIN'S MINDSET IS THAT UKRAINE IS NOT A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY, BUT A PART OF RUSSIA, "NEW RUSSIA". PUTIN BLAMES LENIN FOR THE MISTAKE OF GIVING UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE IN 1917. RUSSIAN WORLD -CONCEPT WAS STRONGLY EXPLOITED DURING THE ANNEXATION

THE CONCEPT BECAME A PEJORATIVE IN UKRAINE

THE CONCEPT THREATENS THE BALTIC STATES IN PARTICULAR

MANY FAR RIGHT GROUPS PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE DEMONSTRATION. RIGHT SECTOR WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT AND IN VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH THE POLICE AND THE GOVERNMENT WERE NOT SO MUCH INTERESTED IN EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION AS IN THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION

DOCUMENT SIGNED BY THE CLOSING MEETING OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE IN 1975. CONTAINED AGREEMENTS ON THE EXISTING BORDERS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN THEM, AND MUTUAL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL HELP. CONTRIBUTED IN ADVANCEMENT OF DÉTENTE.

FROM LATE 70'S ONWARDS THE OPPOSITION IN MANY WARSAW-PACT COUNTRIES TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CLAUSE OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS IN FORMULATING THEIR DEMANDS. THEY GROUPED UNDER "HELSINKI RIGHTS MOVEMENT"

HELSINKI ACCORDS HELPED EASE COLD WAR TENSIONS

ACCORDING TO PUTIN NATO PROMISED NOT TO EXPAND ONE INCH EASTWARD AFTER MEMBERSHIP OF EAST-GERMANY, WHEN THE WARSAW PACT DISSOLVED. HE ACCUSES NATO OF BRAZENLY BETRAYING HIS COUNTRY WITH FIVE WAVES OF EXPANSION AGAINST RUSSIA'S INTERESTS

THE POLITBURO'S ADMISSION OF THE EXISTENCE OF MOLOTOV-RIBBENTROP PACT IN THE 1980'S DELEGITIMISED THE SOVIET RULE IN THE BALTIC STATES AND GAVE THE OPPOSITION IN THOSE COUNTRIES A TREMENDOUS BOOST.

ALLIANCE OF POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA, BULGARIA, ALBANIA, EAST-GERMANY AND THE SOVIET UNION, OF FRIENDSHIP, MUTUAL AID AND CO-OPERATION. ESTABLISHED IN 1955. ALBANIA LEFT IN 1968

THE REVOLUTION WAS A KIND OF A FINAL SALE

BROAD PRIVATISATION OF UKRAINIAN HEAVY INDUSTRY IN LATE 90'S AND EARLY 2000'S, WHEN SOME 83% OF IT WAS SOLD FOR 6 BILLION DOLLARS

WESTERN ADVISORS PROMOTED RAPID PRIVATISATION AND LIBERALISATION LEADING TO AN ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

AFTER THE REVOLUTION UKRAINE'S POLITICS FOCUSED ON LIBERALISING FOREIGN TRADE, AND DEREGULATING & PRIVATISING DOMESTIC ECONOMY

THE REVOLUTIONS FAILED TO BRING RADICAL TRANFORMATIONS IN FAVOUR OF THE POPULAR CLASSES, DESTABILISING THE STATE JUST ENABLED THE DOMESTIC AND TRANSNATIONAL ELITES TO ADVANCE THEIR INTERESTS

THE REVOLUTION INCREASED THE ERASURE OF SOVIET PAST IN UKRAINE WHICH NOW BECAME CONSISTENT. RUSSIA VILLAINISED THE PROTESTERS FROM THE OUTSET AS NATIONALIST AND FASCIST

EUROMAIDAN WAS A FORUM FOR EGALITARIAN IDEAS AND UTOPIAS

FOUNDED IN 2010-11 BY RUSSIA. BELARUS AND KAZAKHSTAN JOINED. FROM RUSSIA'S POINT OF VIEW THE ALLIANCE IS NOT COMPLETE WITHOUT UKRAINE. IT WAS CHANGED IN 2014 TO EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION, MEMBERS OF WHICH ARE RUSSIA, BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRGIZSTAN, AND TAJIKISTAN. UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA DID NOT JOIN.

EURASIAN CUSTOMS UNION WAS FOUNDED AS A RIVAL TO EU. IN 2013 EU MADE UKRAINE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE AS THE UKRAINIAN POPULACE AND ECONOMY WERE DEPENDENT ON BOTH: INDUSTRIAL EAST MORE ON RUSSIA, WEST ON EUROINTEGRATION

YANUKOVYCH'S REFUSAL TO SIGN THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH EU TRIGGERED THE MASS PROTESTS

PUTIN TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE POWER VACUUM FOLLOWING THE MAIDAN REVOLUTION

A DEEP ROOTED REASON FOR THE REVOLUTION AGAINST UKRAINE'S KLEPTOCRATIC REGIME IN WINTER 2013-14 WAS THAT YANUKOVYCH REDIRECTED THE INTERNATIONAL AID INTO THE POCKETS OF HIS FAMILY AND ALLIED OLIGARCHS.

PUTIN WANTS TO RESTORE RUSSIA'S SUPREMACY WITHIN THE FORMER SPHERE OF THE SOVIET UNION. THAT IS WHY HE HAS DEMANDED NATO TO WITHDRAW FROM ITS EASTERN MEMBER STATES

BY EARLY 1990'S NEOLIBERAL ECONOMIC POLICY HAD EMERGED IN ALMOST ALL POSTCOMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH PRIVATISATIONS, FLAT TAX RATES, OPEN MARKETS AND WEAKENING THE STATE. IN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE IT GAVE BIRTH TO OLIGARCHY, RAIDER CAPITALISM, CORRUPTION AND AGGRESSIVE PRIVATISATION

NEW EU-STATES HAVE BEEN VERY BENEFICIAL TO EU

ESTABLISHED IN 2009. COVERS SIX POST-SOVIET STATES: ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, GEORGIA, MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE. PARTNERSHIP WAS NOT DESIGNED WITH ENLARGEMENT OBJECTIVES IN MIND

UKRAINE, MOLDOVA AND GEORGIA WERE GRANTED EU-MEMBERSHIP PERSPECTIVE IN JUNE 2022, BUT REMAIN PART OF EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

POLITICAL END-POINT OF THE PEACEFUL TRANSFORMATION PERIOD OF EASTERN EUROPE THAT STARTED IN 1989

UKRAINIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS WERE FIGHTING RUSSIANS AND PRO-RUSSIANS IN THE DONBAS-REGION

RIGHT SECTOR
- FAR-RIGHT NETWORK OF GROUPS WHICH EMERGED FROM PARAMILITARY STEPAN BANDERA TRIDENT, ACTIVE IN THE BEGINNING OF 90'S. MANY FOOTBALL FANS JOINED

EXTREMIST GROUPS WERE UNOFFICIALLY SUPPORTED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT. NO-ONE SUPPRESSED THEM IN THE PAST. NOW PART OF THE ARMED FORCES THEY ARE EFFECTIVE AND MOTIVATED, BUT DO NOT MAKE THE WEATHER.

SVOBODA
- RIGHT WING POLITICAL PARTY FOUNDED IN 2004. WAS SECRETLY SUPPORTED BY PARTY OF REGIONS, WHICH IS A NOW BANNED PRO-RUSSIAN PARTY IN UKRAINE

UKRAINIAN RIGHT WING BECAME THE CASUS BELLI FOR PUTIN. THEIR ROLE IN UKRAINIAN POLITICS IS OVER-SPECULATED AND IT BENEFITS PUTIN'S PROPAGANDA

RUSSIA IS THE PROBABLE SOURCE

THE BALTIC STATES ARE TARGET OF INTENSIFYING CYBERATTACKS CAUSING RESTLESSNESS IN THE BALTIC COUNTRIES

RUSSIA HAS BEEN WAGING WAR IN UKRAINE SINCE 2014

TUZLA CRISIS SET THE TRAIN IN MOTION THAT LED TO THE FULL SCALE INVASION

PUTIN GAVE HIS SPEECH IN THE RUSSIAN DUMA IN 2005 SHORTLY AFTER EU'S EXPANSION TO EAST

AS RESPONSE TO THE ANNEXATION EU BEGAN WITH SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA. THEY WERE HALF-HEARTED AND OPENLY UNDERMINED BY GERMANY THROUGH NORDSTREAM 2, WHICH WAS MOSTLY CONSTRUCTED AFTER THE AGGRESSION

THE AGREEMENT EXPIRED IN 2007. AFTER THAT THERE WERE DELAYS IN SIGNING A NEW ONE UNTIL 2010. THE ANNEXATION CAUSED A SUSPENSION IN THE RELATIONS

PARTNERSHIP AND CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN EU AND RUSSIA SIGNED IN 1997

ENLARGEMENT OF NATO & EU, POSITION OF THE WEST OVER THE CONFLICT IN KOSOVO, DEPLOYMENT OF US MISSILE DEFENCE COMPLEXES IN POLAND AND CZECH REPUBLIC WERE CONSIDERED AS UNFRIENDLY ACTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO WORSENING OF EU-RUSSIA RELATIONS.

THE 2008-09 ECONOMIC CRASH HIT ESPECIALLY HARD THE EASTERN EUROPE. THERE WERE DRASTIC SOCIAL CUTS DEMANDED BY THE IMF RESULTING IN HUGE LABOUR MIGRATION TO THE WEST

COLD WAR SUPERPOWER RIVALRY BETWEEN THE WARSAW PACT AND NATO IN 1948-90. BY 1942 USA AND BY 1949 THE SOVIET UNION HAD NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS DETERRENT DEVICE

POLAND, CZECH REPUBLIC AND HUNGARY WERE THE FIRST EX-WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES TO JOIN NATO IN 1999, AFTER GERMAN UNIFICATION AND SUBSEQUENT EAST-GERMAN MEMBERSHIP IN 1990. THE BALTIC STATES, ROMANIA, BULGARIA AND SLOVAKIA JOINED IN 2004.

MARSHALL PLAN DIVIDED EUROPE. FROM 1989 ONWARDS HELMUT KOHL'S CONSERVATIVE-LIBERAL COALITION TRIED TO RESOLVE THE TRANSFORMATION CRISIS BY PUMPING AROUND 1 TRILLION EUROS INTO EAST-GERMANY BY 2003. IT WAS FAR MORE THAN WHAT THE MARSHAL PLAN HAD COST.

THE PACT WAS FORMED AGAINST RENEWAL OF GERMAN AGGRESSION

IN 1945 AS PART OF THE DENAZIFICATION PROCESS GERMANY WAS STRIPPED FROM ARMS AND PREVENTED FROM BECOMING A MILITARY SUPERPOWER AGAIN. OTHER AXIS-POWERS DID NOT GO THROUGH A SIMILAR PROCESS. ALSO IN GERMANY THE DENAZIFICATION WAS A FAILURE, ONLY VERY FEW NAZIS WERE MADE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR CRIMES.

NATO SPRANG FROM THE BRUSSELS PACT

MUTUAL DEFENCE ALLIANCE BETWEEN FRANCE, BRITAIN AND THE BENELUX-COUNTRIES

FOUNDED IN 1949, NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION WAS SIGNED BY THE US, CANADA AND 10 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IT'S FIRST GENERAL SECRETARY SAID IN 1952 THAT NATO'S GENERAL PURPOSE IS TO: "KEEP THE RUSSIANS OUT, AMERICANS IN, AND GERMANS DOWN." IN 1954 EISENHOWER ANNOUNCED THE "NEW LOOK" POLICY, WHICH MEANT THAT NATO WAS TO BE NUCLEARISED.

GERMANY HAS A DUAL ROLE IN THE NEW PLANS, BOTH AS A LOGISTICAL HUB FOR DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS AND MATERIAL AND BEEFING UP DEFENCE CAPABILITIES ON NATO'S EASTERN FLANK. WEST-GERMANY JOINED NATO IN 1955, AND THE EAST WITH GERMANY'S UNIFICATION IN 1990. IN 1953 NATO MOVED NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO GERMANY.

AIM OF THE MARSHALL PLAN WAS TO LOWER THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY LANDSCAPE IN WHICH AMERICAN INTERESTS WERE INEXTRICABLY INTERWOVEN WITH THOSE OF A FRAGILE AND SICKLY EUROPEAN SUB-CONTINENT

AGAINST ECONOMIC COLLAPSE OF WESTERN EUROPE AND ITS FALL INTO COMMUNIST HANDS IN 1947-52. ENABLED WESTERN EUROPE'S RAPID RECOVERY FROM THE WAR

COMMITTED THE USA FOR A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY PRESENCE IN EUROPE FOR INDEFINITE FUTURE

1948-49
TWO GERMAN STATES EMERGED. REAPPRAISAL OF WESTERN MILITARY CALCULATIONS. NEW DEUTSCHE MARK WAS INSTALLED BY USA IN 1948

THE IDEA BEHIND FOUNDING THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY WAS TO MERGE ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND THUS WAR BECOMING IMPOSSIBLE AMONG THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED

THE ROOTS OF EU ARE IN A COMMON WEST EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF SIX COUNTRIES: WEST-GERMANY, ITALY, FRANCE AND THE BENELUX COUNTRIES, AT FIRST UNDER THE TITLE "EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY" FOUNDED IN 1951

EU HAS GIVEN UKRAINE EMPTY PROMISES ON MEMBERSHIP. UKRAINE IS FOR EU AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE TO EXPLOIT AS THE MAIN SOURCE OF GRAIN AND ROUTE OF RUSSIAN CHEAP GAS TO EUROPE. ALSO UKRAINE SUPPLIES EU WITH GAS. AS THE WAR IS ONGOING MANY EU-COUNTRIES ALREADY PLAN INVESTMENTS IN UKRAINE TO ENSURE THEIR BUSINESS PROFITS FROM REBUILDING THE SHATTERED COUNTRY. EU'S AID TO UKRAINE HAS REMAINED SMALL DESPITE PROMISES AT THE START OF THE FULL SCALE INVASION.

24. FEBRUARY 2022 RUSSIA ATTACKED ON UKRAINE

DUE TO SHORTAGE OF AMMUNITION AND OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS DECREASED MOTIVATION AMONG UKRAINIANS TO CONTINUE SOLEMN FIGHT AGAINST MUCH LARGER RUSSIAN FRONT THE WAR COMES TO A STANDSTILL AND VICTORY OF RUSSIA BECOMES LIKELY

CONFLICT IN LATE 2024 OR EARLY 2025 BETWEEN NATO-COUNTRIES POLAND AND/OR LITHUANIA ON ONE SIDE, AND RUSSIA & BELARUS ON THE OTHER CAUSED BY MOVING RUSSIAN TROOPS FROM KALININGRAD TO BELARUS VIA THE POLISH-LITHUANIAN BORDER AREA.

EU IS WAGING AN ECONOMIC WAR WITH RUSSIA

EU IMPOSED SELECTIVE SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA AFTER THE START OF THE INVASION. NO SANCTIONS ON NICKEL AND GAS, WHICH THE EU IS DEPENDENT ON FROM RUSSIA. IN 2023 EU AND US IMPORTED RECORD AMOUNT OF URANIUM. HUNGARY TRIES TO BLOCK EU'S SANCTIONS

NEW EU-STATES HAVE BECOME THE EXPANDED WORK-BENCH OF GERMAN INDUSTRY ENABLING IT TO PRODUCE AT LOW COST. IT HAS HELPED GERMANY TO ACQUIRE AN OVERWHELMING LEVEL OF ECONOMIC POWER IN EUROPE

THE AUSTERITY POLITICS OF THE TROIKA HAVE SEVERELY DAMAGED EU'S REPUTATION

NATO HAS GIVEN UKRAINE EMPTY PROMISES REGARDING MEMBERSHIP. IN APRIL 2008 IT WELCOMED GEORGIA'S AND UKRAINE'S EURO-ATLANTIC ASPIRATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP. BUT AFTER THE RUSSIA-GEORGIA CONFLICT OVER SOUTH-OSSETIA IN JULY-AUGUST 2008 NATO EXPLICITLY REJECTED THE IDEA OF GEORGIA OR UKRAINE AS NEW MEMBER. THE FULL SCALE INVASION WAS SPARKED BY THE FAILURE OF US/NATO TO RESPOND TO RUSSIA'S DEMAND TO STOP MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE AND TO GUARANTEE THAT UKRAINE WILL NOT BECOME A NATO MEMBER. NATO MEMBERSHIP IS THE LONG-TERM STRATEGY OF UKRAINE. FOR NATO UKRAINE IS TESTING GROUND OF NEW WEAPONS. NATO LOST ITS PURPOSE AFTER THE END OF COLD WAR. IT HAS NOW FOUND IT AGAIN.

THE SPEECH WAS GIVEN FIVE DAYS AFTER RUSSIA'S INVASION ON UKRAINE. NOW SCHOLZ REFUSES TO SEND LONG-RANGE TAURUS MISSILES TO UKRAINE AS THAT WOULD LEAVE GERMANY WITHOUT ITS MOST POWERFUL WEAPON AND DETERRENT

RUSSIA'S ATTACK ON UKRAINE INCREASED THE POPULARITY OF THE RIGHT WING

THE NEW PACKAGE IS IN FACT CREDIT. ALMOST HALF OF IT GOES TO THE US MILITARY SYSTEM. US HAS ASKED UKRAINE NOT TO BOMB RUSSIAN OIL REFINERIES BECAUSE THAT WOULD RISE THE GLOBAL OIL PRICE. ALSO UNTIL NOW US HAS BANNED UKRAINE FROM USING US-MADE WEAPONS INSIDE RUSSIAN TERRITORY.

THE AID DOES NOT REACH ALL THE WAY TO UKRAINE. RUSSIA TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE WEAK MOMENT IN THE USA AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND TIMES THE CONFLICT AT THE SUWALKI GAP TO THAT MOMENT

IN APRIL 2024 US CONGRESS, AFTER MONTHS OF DELAY, PASSES AN AID PACKAGE TO UKRAINE WORTH 61 BILLION US DOLLARS

IN 2024 POLAND AND GERMANY ACTIVATED AN "ARMOUR CAPABILITY COALITION" IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE. BY 2025 GERMANY PROVIDES NATO WITH 35 000 TROOPS FOR QUICK DEPLOYMENT. 4000 GERMAN SOLDIERS ARE PERMANENTLY STATIONED IN LITHUANIA

SPEECH BY OLAF SCHOLZ DECLARING GERMANY BECOMING THE GUARANTOR OF EUROPEAN SECURITY

ZEITENWENDE WILL GROW GERMANY'S MILITARY SPENDING ENORMOUSLY, MAKING IT A MILITARY SUPERPOWER AGAIN

THE RISE OF THE RIGHT WING IN EUROPE BECAME EVIDENT IN EUROPEAN ELECTIONS OF 2014

CONSISTS OF EU-COMMISSION, IMF, AND EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK. THE TROIKA WAS LED BY MERKEL WHEN IN 2010 IMPOSED REFORM PROGRAMS AND CUTS IN THE SO-CALLED PIGS-COUNTRIES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE ERODING THE WELFARE STATE. IMF AND EU HELPED LATVIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA AND UKRAINE WITH BAILOUT PROGRAMS IN 2009 WITH STRICT CONDITIONS OF NEOLIBERAL REFORMS. IMF'S MOTIVATION WAS TO PREVENT LOSSES FOR WESTERN BANKS THAT HAD INVESTED LARGE SUMS IN THOSE COUNTRIES

MERKEL ADVOCATED FISCAL POLICY AND AUSTERITY RATHER THAN A SOCIAL MARKET ECONOMY OR SOCIALISM. THIS CAUSED RISING SUPPORT FOR POPULIST PARTIES

COVID-19 AND THE WAR IN UKRAINE RESULTED IN COST OF LIVING CRISIS. POPULARITY OF THE RIGHT WING INCREASED RAPIDLY SHIFTING THE ENTIRE POLITICAL DISCOURSE TO EVEN MORE RIGHT

IN THE EARLY 1990'S WITH THE CRISIS OF THE WELFARE STATE, FIRST IN FRANCE BY LE PEN AND IN AUSTRIA BY HAIDER, AND THEN ON INCREASINGLY EVERYWHERE IN EUROPE THE POPULIST RIGHT AND THE FAR RIGHT GAINED IN POPULARITY WITH RACIST ANTI-IMMIGRATION POLITICS. A RESULT OF THE NEOLIBERAL TURN, WHICH AMONG OTHERS BROUGHT A SHIFT TOWARD TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES, A GROWING CLASS DIVIDE AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

NATO MOVES 300 000 TROOPS TO ITS EASTERN BORDER, INCLUDING 30 000 GERMAN TROOPS

IT TURNS OUT THAT THE HIGHLY TRAINED AND WELL ARMED WAGNER-TROOPS, WHICH HAVE BEEN STATIONED IN BELARUS, WERE BEHIND THE BORDER ASSAULT AT THE SUWALKI GAP KILLING LITHUANIAN AND POLISH BORDER GUARDS. RUSSIA DENIES HAVING ANY PART IN THE VIOLENCE, AND WITH A MASSIVE MEDIA CAMPAIGNING GETS THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN ITS INNOCENCE. NATO TROOPS HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED TO THE ASSAULT WITH FORCE, AND RUSSIA GETS AN EXCUSE TO HIT BACK EQUALLY STRONG FROM KALININGRAD TO GDANSK.

THE WAR IN UKRAINE FADES AWAY WITHOUT A CLEAR END. ZELENSKYY IS OVERTHROWN AND A PRO-RUSSIAN QUISLING REGIME IS INSTALLED. UKRAINE JOINS THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION. EASTERN AND SOUTHERN UKRAINE ARE PERMANENTLY ANNEXED TO RUSSIA AND RENAMED AS THE REGION OF "NEW RUSSIA".

RUSSIA PULLS AWAY FROM UKRAINE AS UKRAINE IS FAST-TRACKED INTO FULL MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND EU. UKRAINIAN CITIES ARE IN RUINS, THE FIELDS ARE MINED, WATER IS POISONED. UKRAINE RECONSTRUCTION BANK IS ESTABLISHED WITH THE FINANCIAL BACKING OF BLACK ROCK AND JPMORGAN. OTHER INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS FLOCK INTO UKRAINE. AS PART OF UKRAINIAN EU-MEMBERSHIP NEW EXTENSIVE REFORM PROGRAMS ARE IMPOSED ON IT BY THE TROIKA. UKRAINE IS ATTRACTIVE TO BIG MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE DESPERATE FOR WORK AND INCOME AND THEREFORE EASILY EXPLOITED. ANY REMAINING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ARE PRIVATISED.

TRUMP IS ELECTED AS THE PRESIDENT OF USA ON HIS SECOND TERM. RIGHT WING MOB GROUPS IN USA AND EUROPE START TO FORM AUXILIARY FORCES TO BACK UP THE NATO-TROOPS. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS ARE MOVED TO THE EASTERN BORDER OF NATO. FULL MOBILISATION TAKES PLACE IN RUSSIA AND BELARUS. EUROPE IS DIVIDED IN TWO ENEMY FRONTS. RUSSIAN NAVY BLOCKS TRAFFIC ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC CAUSING ADDITIONAL TENSIONS. LATEST TECHNOLOGY AI-PILOTED TANKS AND FIGHTER JETS ARE DEPLOYED FOR THE FIRST TIME ON BOTH FRONTS.

IN THE WAKE OF A POSSIBLE NUCLEAR WAR A PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION TAKES PLACE IN RUSSIA. THOSE FORCIBLY DRAFTED TO FIGHT AGAINST AND KILL UKRAINIANS JOIN THE REVOLUTIONARY UPRISING. PUTIN IS CAPTURED AND SENT TO HAGUE TO PAY FOR HIS WAR CRIMES. DEMOCRACY IS INSTALLED. WAR REPARATIONS ARE PAID TO UKRAINE. CRIMEA AND DONBAS ARE RETURNED. RUSSIAN SCHOOL BOOKS WITH SOUTH OF UKRAINE AS "NEW RUSSIA" ARE REPLACED BY ONES, WHERE UKRAINE IS PRESENTED FULLY SOVEREIGN. THE NEW PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF RUSSIA INSPIRES A HIGHLY POPULAR AND WIDESPREAD SOCIALIST MOVEMENT IN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES AND DOMINANCE OF THE GLOBAL NORTH IS CONTESTED FROM WITHIN. NATO LOSES ITS PURPOSE AGAIN.

THE ESCALATION COMES TO A SUDDEN HALT AS PUTIN DIES IN NOVEMBER 2024, AT THE AGE OF 72 YEARS. IN DEMOCRATICALLY HELD ELECTIONS IN EARLY 2025 A CANDIDATE WINS, WHO REGARDS THE ALARMING CLIMATE CONDITION - LARGELY CAUSED BY RECENT WARS - AS HER PRIORITY. SHE DIVERTS RUSSIA'S DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY TO COMBATTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES, AND INFLUENCING OTHER SUPERPOWERS TO ALIGN WITH ITS STRICT PATH TO CARBON NEUTRALITY. CHINA AND THE US AGREE TO COMMIT TO THE PROGRAM. BIDEN, AT THE INAUGURATION OF HIS 2ND PRESIDENTIAL TERM SUFFERS A HEART ATTACK AND DIES ON THE SPOT. THE VICE PRESIDENT TAKING OVER SHOCKS THE US MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX BY STATING THAT THE INTEREST OF USA IS NO LONGER WAR MONGERING AND GLOBAL DOMINATION, BUT WELFARE REFORMS AIMING TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR.