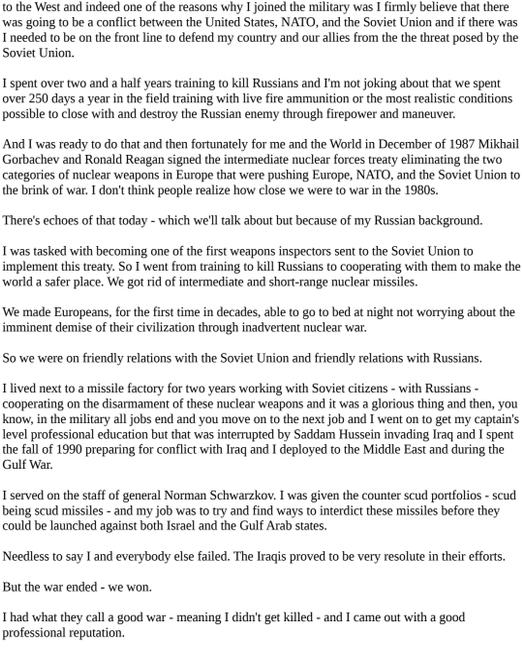


Scott Ritter Finland and Russia



Scott Ritter, for better or worse, explores some of the more controversial storylines of Modern European History *en route* to delivering a strongly worded warning to the people of Finland.



Scott Ritter: Ukraine, Finland and Nato, a Warning to the People of Finland
to kloka beslut [Swedish: make wise decisions] - 8 May 2022
<https://youtu.be/ciUNBfKXNM8>

I joined the Marine Corps out of college. United States Marine Corps commissioned 1984 as an intelligence officer. I specialized in combat intelligence. The reason why I became an intelligence officer of course was the Cold War that was very active at that time. I was a Russian history major.

I was the child of a career military officer and I grew up overseas in Turkey and in West Germany - the front lines of the Cold War - and I was very familiar with the threat posed by the Soviet Union to the West and indeed one of the reasons why I joined the military was I firmly believe that there was going to be a conflict between the United States, NATO, and the Soviet Union and if there was I needed to be on the front line to defend my country and our allies from the the threat posed by the Soviet Union.

I spent over two and a half years training to kill Russians and I'm not joking about that we spent over 250 days a year in the field training with live fire ammunition or the most realistic conditions possible to close with and destroy the Russian enemy through firepower and maneuver.

And I was ready to do that and then fortunately for me and the World in December of 1987 Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan signed the intermediate nuclear forces treaty eliminating the two categories of nuclear weapons in Europe that were pushing Europe, NATO, and the Soviet Union to the brink of war. I don't think people realize how close we were to war in the 1980s.

There's echoes of that today - which we'll talk about but because of my Russian background.

I was tasked with becoming one of the first weapons inspectors sent to the Soviet Union to implement this treaty. So I went from training to kill Russians to cooperating with them to make the world a safer place. We got rid of intermediate and short-range nuclear missiles.

We made Europeans, for the first time in decades, not to go to bed at night not worrying about the imminent demise of their civilization through inadvertent nuclear war.

So we were on friendly relations with the Soviet Union and friendly relations with Russians.

I lived next to a missile factory for two years working with Soviet citizens - with Russians - cooperating on the disarmament of these nuclear weapons and it was a glorious thing and then, you know, in the military all jobs end and you move on to the next job and I went on to get my captain's level professional education but that was interrupted by Saddam Hussein invading Iraq and I spent the fall of 1990 preparing for conflict with Iraq and I deployed to the Middle East and during the Gulf War.

I served on the staff of general Norman Schwarzkov. I was given the counter scud portfolios - scud being scud missiles - and my job was to try and find ways to intercept these missiles before they could be launched against both Israel and the Gulf Arab states.

Needless to say I and everybody else failed. The Iraqis proved to be very resolute in their efforts.

But the war ended - we won.

I had what they call a good war - meaning I didn't get killed - and I came out with a good professional reputation.

But, by the time the war ended, I was confronted with a couple things. One, the Cold War was over. That which I thought I was going to do - kill Russians - no longer applied. And, I just fought my war, I had served my country and I felt that maybe it's time to get out of the military and move on with civilian life and see what that could offer me.

But as Michael Corleone says in the Godfather: Every time I try to get out they drag me back in.

And my phone rang in August of 1991. It was a colonel I worked with in the Soviet Union and he was now the Chief of Staff of a United Nations organization called the United Nations Special Commission in Iraq which was formed in the aftermath of the Gulf War to disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction capability - including the scud missiles that I hunted.

And because of my arms control experience, my intelligence experience, my experience with scuds, I was asked to come to the United Nations and form an intelligence capability that would enable the inspectors to uncover the lies and deceit and the concealment that Iraq was using to hide significant aspects of its weapons programs from the inspectors.

Long story short. I did that job for seven years. A very difficult job under very trying circumstances. I participated in over 40 missions inside Iraq. I led 14 of them as a Chief Inspector and by the time I resigned in protest in 1998 we could account for 95.0 of Iraq's WMD capability but the problem was the Security Council said that the standard was 100. So we weren't allowed to finish our job until we could find that last five percent which meant digging deeper, harder, working more strenuously in a confrontational manner and the United States decided that was inconvenient.

Rather than seeking the disarmament of Iraq they wanted the perception of Iraqi non-compliance to be continued so that they could continue economic sanctions as part of their overall program of regime change - getting rid of Saddam Hussein.

My job as an inspector wasn't to get rid of Saddam Hussein but to get rid of Saddam Hussein's weapons. So I resigned in 1998.

And since that time I've been very critical of foreign policy decisions. When I view them to be not supportive of the ideals values and standards of the United States. I've been speaking out against bad policy ever since. I love my country. I think America is a nation. I think we have the finest document in modern civilized history in the form of the constitution but I think that the values and ideals that are enshrined in that document are imperfectly implemented and I think that the role we play around the world often contravenes what we stand for as a people here at home.

So I think a lot of people get confused they say: Well you're very critical of your country.

I'm critical of my country because I love my country and I understand what my country stands for and I want my country to be the country that it can be. Not the country that it is.

I think I need to touch on three things before we get to the actual war.

One is NATO.

What is NATO?

NATO, of course, is a defensive alliance.

Ostensibly a defensive alliance whose origins date back to the end of the Second World War and the fear among many in Europe that they needed some sort of collective security structure to hold back any potential westward expansion of the Soviet Union.

This was purely fictional.

The Soviets weren't planning on expanding west. Anybody who studies World War II will understand that the Soviet Union was exhausted by that conflict. Even though they were victorious they were no mood to continue a conflict west. They were more interested in consolidating their gains and ensuring that never again would they be threatened by a European power - such as Germany - who would invade them again. So that was their focus.

But Winston Churchill, of course, gave a very brilliant speech in Fulton, Missouri I think in 1946, or 48, you know the Iron Curtain speech and his rhetoric is wonderful. Even though the substance is fictional the rhetoric is wonderful and Americans, like everybody else, love a good speaker with a British accent. And we fell for it. And Europe fell for it.

They took what was supposed to be this small collective defense alliance between the Benelux nations - Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, maybe Great Britain was involved - and they expanded it into NATO to bring the United States in.

Lord Ismay, the first Secretary General of NATO, famously said NATO was designed to keep the Russians out, keep the Americans in, and keep the Germans down.

And we speak about that third part and I'll talk about that in a minute because it's very controversial today to forget about that: to keep the Germans down.

Never forget that NATO was formed only less than a decade after Nazi Germany was defeated and when Nazi Germany was defeated the World was struggling what to do with the Germans.

Would we allow them to be defeated the industrial nation?

Would we allow them to unify?

Would we allow them to exist?

Germany lost the right to have a vote on that.

They had endorsed the most odious ideology that the World has seen in modern times.

Especially, that the Western World has seen in modern times.

Nazi mind-boggling as defined by Adolf Hitler and implemented by his henchmen.

It's just mind-boggling that people forget about this.

But no, we created NATO and then a few years later we allowed Germany to enter NATO.

So this defeated Nazi state - which had never been thoroughly de-Nazified - was now militarized and their industry was brought back into the business of making weapons, now, ostensibly in defense of Europe.

NATO was a defensive alliance and pretty much you can say that NATO lived up to its vision during the Cold War. The defensive alliance was very effective. I have to tell you I lived in Germany in the 1970s and 1980s and I saw first hand the reality of NATO's front line in the German villages where we lived. Twice a year the American tanks came rolling out in the farmers field as they practiced for war and we're talking about war on a scale that Europeans today can't imagine, even those in Ukraine, millions of people ready to fight with the most modern weaponry possible including nuclear weapons.

Fortunately the Cold War ended and we didn't have to have a conflict.

But the question now is: What was NATO's purpose when the Soviet Union collapsed?

What was the purpose of NATO especially given the fact that assurance has been given to Mikhail Gorbachev by the United States - and other NATO members - that if Germany was allowed to reunify after the fall of the Berlin Wall then NATO would not expand one inch eastward. That there would be no movement, not only into Germany, but by extension east into any other nations that might leave the Soviet orbit. That's in keeping with the defensive alliance.

But it became clear that Europe has an identity problem and what I mean by that is: for the decades of the Cold War Europe was completely and utterly under the umbrella of the United States defense capabilities.

Yes, Britain had a nice military - the British Army on the Rhine - very professional.

The Germans had their own wonderful military.

The French had their military.

The Dutch had their military.

Everybody had their military.

None of it worked without the United States.

None of it worked without the United States.

So now the question is: Now that the Soviet threat is gone what does Europe do?

And Europe had a problem almost immediately after the Soviet Union collapsed.

You had the Warsaw Pact.

You had the Warsaw Pact collapsing as Eastern Europe open up with great unknowns.

What's going to happen?

You saw potential for unrest in Romania where Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife were gunned down in a back yard, the Yugoslavia was destructing it in front of your eyes with horrible horrible civil conflict and NATO was the only unified military structure available to Europe to deal with this.

So NATO's mission changed.

It became not a defensive alliance but it became an offensively oriented security alliance where NATO was now deployed into Yugoslavia and then, later on, this NATO was involved in an offensive regime change oriented action against Serbia where NATO participated in something that Europeans said they would never again do: the redrawing of the European map.

You know one of the key aspects at the end of the Second World War is: We don't mess with the maps man. We drew the lines. We gave a chunk of Poland to Ukraine and we gave a chunk of Germany to Poland and now the lines are solid.

We don't renegotiate because the second you start erasing the lines the Germans are going to start saying: Remember those Germans I told you about, that Silesia is Germany. That Prussia is Germany. Maybe we need to march East again and take them over.

It's the last thought you want to enter any German's mind.

But we did it. NATO did it in Kosovo.

And since then NATO has expanded eastward in violation of every assurance they gave to the former Soviet leaders and, also, to the new Russian leader Boris Yeltsin.

The conversations between Clinton and Yeltsin are stunning.

To listen to how dismissive the United States is of Russia concerns about NATO expansion. That this is purely, you know: Don't worry about it. It's benevolent. We're here to do good things.

Really? Ask the Serbs about that.

And then you have a situation where a new Russian leader comes in, Vladimir Putin, and almost immediately he reiterates: Hey, we're not happy about this NATO expansion. This is a threat to Russia. We have to choose you: Why are you expanding? If it's about European security then let us in, let us join, because if we join then we're not going to be afraid of what your real intent is. But, right now, it looks like you're coming right up to our borders with an aggressive, militarized alliance that has carried out regime change not only in Serbia (where they got rid of Slobodan Milosevic) but in Libya (where they got rid of Muammar Gaddafi).

This is not a defensive alliance anymore.

This is an offensive oriented alliance.

And I'm a little worried Putin was thinking about the rhetoric coming out of Washington DC and Europe, about how, maybe, you don't like the fact that I'm president and you want somebody like Boris Yeltsin to be president again, a weak president, and maybe you want to put pressure on Russia to have my best speeches, remove me and replace me, a little worrisome.

One of the best speeches ever given in the last three decades was the 2007 speech given by Putin at the Munich Security Conference. Read it. Not just the speech but the questions, the answers that he gives to the questions afterwards. He put it right on the line. This is unacceptable. This expansion of NATO is unacceptable to Russia. We view it as a threat.

And yet what did NATO do?

In 2008, in Bucharest, they offered a membership application to Ukraine and Georgia, two former Soviet Republics.

How did Russia feel about that?

Well we don't even have to ask the Russians - although we know.

Why don't we ask William Burns, the U.S ambassador to Moscow, who wrote a memorandum called *Nyet Means Nyet* - No Means No - in February of 2009 where he said this is a red line for Russia and that if the United States continues to insist on NATO expansion to include Ukraine then Russia will have no choice but to go to war.

This is 2009.

So people need to understand that what's happening today is not something new.

This isn't Vladimir Putin waking up one morning going:

Oh man I'm a little irritated,
I'm going to invade Ukraine.

No, it's worse, in 2014 the United States and the European Union orchestrated a regime change operation in Ukraine to get rid of the dually elected president Yanukovich and replace him with our boys. Remember, I'm not making this up. This is Victoria Nuland, who was that time a senior State Department person, who got on the phone and said, you know, Yatseniuk (future prime minister of Ukraine) he's our boy.

And was this something that the United States was working in concert with the European Union?

No. No. No. Remember what Victoria Nuland infamously said: F*** the EU.

I won't use the real word but F*** the EU.

You guys know what I'm talking about: That was her dismissive attitudes towards Europe.

This was an American orchestrated regime change operation in Ukraine for the sole purpose of undermining the authority and the legitimacy and the sustainability of Vladimir Putin's regime in Moscow.

That's how the Russians saw it because that's how it was, Russia's got the receipts, man. They got the intercepted conversations. They got everything. They know everything.

But the West is ignorant: Oh no no this is just sort of, this is the impression of democracy in Ukraine, it's the people's will.

Well, no.

It was actually the people's will being hijacked by a very virulent, aggressive Neo-Nazi Ukrainian nationalist identity coming out of Lviv, operating under the memory of a guy named Stepan Bandera.

Stepan Bandera is a Ukrainian nationalist who was operating in the 1930s 40s 50s. This is a guy who believes in the purity of the Ukrainian people. He cooperated with Nazi Germany during World War II. People talk about, for instance, that Babi Yar infamous murder of 30 000 plus Jews ordered by the Germans. The trigger men were Ukrainians working for Stepan Bandera.

People need to remember this: These aren't good people. These Ukrainian nationalists they're Nazis. Eighty thousand of them joined the German forces immediately after the Germans entered. Over a quarter of a million ended up fighting for Germany during World War II.

A quarter of a million Ukrainians fighting for Nazi Germany during World War II motivated by the nationalism of Stepan Bandera.

Now when Germany lost the war Stepan Bandera - being the Ukrainian nationalist that he is - jumped ship and went west rogue, fought his own operation against, now, the Soviet occupiers.

Who supported this?

Well, during World War II Bandera was supported by an organization, I think, was called the 12th Directorate - basically the German intelligence in the east, on the eastern front, run by a general name Galen.

When the war ended the Galen organization was taken over completely by the United States and incorporated into the CIA structure to continue anti-Soviet resistance.

Nazi Germany was defeated by American troops and Soviet troops but we took the Nazi intelligence organization in the east, made it part of our intelligence organization, so we could continue to fight the Russians.

And they did for 10 years with CIA funding.

Over 300,000 people lost their lives in that conflict.

100,000 Poles and a lot of Russians and a lot of Ukrainians

Why Poles? Why Russians?

Because Ukrainians are racist.

Stepan Bandera was a Ukrainian nationalist who viewed the Poles and the Russians as sub-humans.

And they needed to purify Ukrainian soil from these subhuman elements.

I'm not making this up. It's all documented fact.

The atrocities that they committed are mind-boggling.

But this is the ideology that moved in on the Maidan because even though they were defeated militarily, around 1954, the CIA continued to fund them from 1954 to 1990. Fund their political activities including not just the activities inside Ukraine but also the activities of the immigrant populations that came to the United States and in Canada.

So you have very strong Bandera organizations, movements in the United States and Canada which are promoting this notion of Ukrainian nationalism. Trying to clean it up because nobody likes to admit that. You want to make a Ukrainian national unbecomingly, ask him what grandpa was doing between 1936 1954. They'll start shrieking and getting nervous because they don't want to admit grandpa was killing Jews, grandpa was killing Poles, grandpa was killing Russians.

Grandfather was a murderer because that's what he was.

But now they cleaned it up, it's purely Ukrainian nationalism and they got away with her from 1990 when the Soviet Union started to move on. Ukrainian independence came up until 2014.

But in 2014 Ukrainian nationalism raised its ugly head. It came to the Maidan. Took over peaceful demonstration. Turned it violent. Evicted Yanukovich and then used the threat of force even though they're a political minority. These nationalists they were able to expand their influence through the threat of force and they bullied their way into power. They took over of the interior ministry. They took over the police force.

They created these volunteer units of thugs who went down to Odessa, for instance, and burned to death 46 Russians. Burn or smoke inhalation that they crowded into the Union of Russian building.

They went to Mariupol where they carried out brutal street fighting against the Russian majority population there. Seizing control of that city. Establishing their headquarters there. That's why this Nazi movement is called the Azov regiment. The Sea of Azov is the body of water next to Mariupol. Mariupol is a Russian city but the Azov movement, these Nazis, came down and put their headquarters in Azov basically saying we're in control.

Then they set their eyes on the Donbas. Started to make a move on Donetsk and Lugansk and the Russian populations there who stood up and finally said enough is enough and they started fighting that led to eight years of incessant warfare between the Russian separatists (because they don't want any part of Ukraine that seeks to murder them) and Ukrainian nationalists.

Now, you know, the interesting thing is people say: Well these were volunteer units, we brought them into the military so they're not as bad as people think.

Imagine in the United States the Ku Klux Klan (you know those white guys that wear the sheets and run around, burn crosses, good people, stand up Americans) imagine if all the Ku Klux Klan thugs in the South got together and formed a militia battalion and then the US army went: Oh we're just going to invite you in, we're going to bring you up to the US army intact and you get to do whatever you want to do, you can burn crosses, wear the stuff, it's okay but now we control you. The US army just became a racist institution because it allows a racist unit inside.

The Ukrainian military by allowing the Nazi intelligence organizations to be incorporated intact became a Nazi unit. It's impossible to say otherwise. And now these officers permeate throughout the Ukrainian military. Remember these are the front-line troops. These are the heroes - they're fighting the Russians.

The Orcs. That's what the Ukrainians call the Russians. The Orcs, you know, they're sub-humans.

So this is the conflict that that's going on and now they they control everything.

They put pressure on Ukrainian political leaders.

They put pressure on Poroshenko, the president before Zelensky, saying that if you implement policies that we disagree with we will Maidan you.

Remember that term: Maidan, Kiev.

That means that you're going to ransack his office, which they did, they mean they're going to threaten to kill him, which they did.

Then when he was voted out and Zelensky came in they did the same thing to Zelensky.

There's a videotape out there a senior Azov regiment official saying that if Zelensky signs the Minsk agreements - which is the peace accord negotiated under the Normandy format with Germany and France participating besides - it we will hang him by the neck kill him in the streets of Kiev.

Now normally when someone says that about a sitting president your security services sweep in and remove them because they committed a crime threatening the president.

No. No. No. Because the security service is the Azov movement, is the Neo-Nazis.

And today we have a situation where Zelensky is totally under the control of this odious Nazi ideology. All of Ukraine is, they saran wrap citizens to poles, pull down their pants, beat them, paint their faces green, call them Orcs. They interrogate anybody who has a Russian background, they murder many of them, they terrorize their own people.

And this is who we're defending.

And we're defending them because we claim that they have a right to join NATO.

Really?

So NATO is now going to allow a military and a nation that is imbued with Nazi ideology to join.

This is insane. This is literally the definition of insanity.

And yet NATO hung out the promise of membership to Ukraine from 1914 to 2022.

They trained the Ukrainian military to be a de facto proxy of NATO. Provided them some of the finest military training. They had great leaders, they had great equipment, they were well organized, they were big, they were 160,000 active duty with up to 600-700,000 trained reservists.

This was the Ukrainian military and what's happened to it?

It's being destroyed on the battlefield as we speak.

They're losing a battalion's worth of men a day.

They're going to lose this war to the Russians.

And the reason why is because Ukraine bought into the premise that it could join NATO. That this was a good move. That Russia wasn't serious when Russia said that eastward expansion of NATO represents an existential threat to us.

So now, in the midst of this, where Russia said (and has been saying since 2009) that if you continue to push for Ukrainian membership we will go to war and that war will result in the dismemberment of Ukraine, the destruction of Ukraine as a modern nation state.

Nobody believed Russia until now.

And yet, in the midst of this, we have Finland and Sweden saying: Maybe we should join NATO.

I don't know how you define eastward expansion of NATO other than saying Finland joining NATO. It's to the east. It brings it right up to the Russian border.

But there's a more important thing here: The history of Finland.

You know, I'm an American.

Seems to me I have a better recollection of Finnish history than maybe the Finns do.

Finland used to be part of Russia.

Then the Russian revolution came.

Finland fought a civil war to free itself from Russia.

But there was always this tenuous relationship that Russia couldn't trust the Finns and in 1939 Russia said. Yeah, we can't trust you enough. You're too close to Leningrad. We need you to back up a little bit so we're going to take over some of the Vyborg peninsula but we're going to trade you some land up here, some valuable land that has some nickel - stuff that you can mine and make money - but we need to push you back from Leningrad because you're too close.

The Finns said. No.

So it started a war. It's the the Winter War of 1939, 1940.

Finns glorified this: We won the Winter War.

No you didn't. You won the first couple months of the Winter War. Russians came in ill prepared. They ambushed them. Winner came.

But when the winner ended Russia reorganized and kicked Finland's butt and Finland had to sue for peace because otherwise they were going to be destroyed, literally, they're on the cusp of losing everything. So they surrendered.

Do Finns remember that? They didn't win that war. They lost that war.

They had to surrender because they were about to be destroyed and one of the things that Russia said is: We're taking the Vybor peninsula. It's ours because we can't trust you. You're too close to Leningrad.

What did the Finns do in 1941?

They allied themselves with Nazi Germany and they allowed Nazi Germany to use Finnish soil as a springboard to attack Leningrad, surround Leningrad, subject more than a million Soviet citizens to death by starvation.

They allowed Finnish soil to be used as a springboard to allow German troops to attack into northern Russia to try and seize strategic port facilities in Archangel, the Murmansk, and the Kola peninsula.

And they did this for three years.

And then here's the other lesson for them: You lost.

The Russians beat you man. The Soviets - they crushed you. They're on the verge of sweeping through you, taking you down, absorbing you, making you disappear as a nation state. But you sued for peace and the Soviets said: Okay, if you evict the Germans we'll, come up with a negotiated treaty. So this defense turn on their German allies, kick them out, and then in 1949 the Soviets signed a treaty.

And here's an important part of that treaty.

In exchange for allowing Finland to exist as a nation-state because it should never be allowed to exist as a nation-state because you fought alongside the Nazis and you killed a million Soviet citizens but in exchange for letting you survive as a nation state you have to promise to be neutral in perpetuity.

I don't know what the Finnish word for perpetuity is but in English it means forever.

Neutral forever.

Now people say: Well, you know, you can't hold Finland to that.

Yes you can and Russia will.

And it's not as though Russia has been dictating unreasonable terms.

When the Soviet Union collapsed and Russia re-upped this treaty Russia had no problem with Finland joining the European Union if they wanted to, if they want to join the European Commission, they want to be part of Europe economically.

Go, do it, but you can never allow your soil to be used as a potential facing point for foreign troops to threaten Russia. That's sort of a given and if you decide you're going to do that you lose the right to exist instantly. It's going to happen.

Finland needs to understand that Russia means what it says when Russia says no eastward expansion of NATO. That it represents an existential threat to Russia. They mean it, especially when we're talking about Finnish soil so close to Russia's number two city Saint Petersburg, Finnish soil so close to the Kola peninsula which has strategic value to the Russians.

They're not going to let NATO operate on Finnish soil.

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Feels like: Wait a minute, the Russians, they're a little weak right now, you know, they mobilized, they got their army down there in Ukraine, they can't really pull a threat, that six army got pulled out of the northern military district and sent down to Ukraine.

Yeah, I get it Finland.

You and your huge massive military, you know that Russia is probably on the verge of declaring war in Ukraine which then allows Putin to order general mobilization of the Russian military capability which allows millions of Russians now to be mobilized into the military which means that the pathetic little Finnish military will be swamped. Swamped. It ain't gonna be 1039 Finland. You're not going to have some heroic resistance. Your boys ain't that tough anymore. Okay? It's not like you're raised lots of farm boys out there that are ready to go off and play winter warrior. You're like the rest of western Europe: soft capitalist, have a nice lifestyle, like your cell phones, like your coffee, like everything else.

The Russians are going to bring some bad boys out of Siberia and they're mad now.

You want to join NATO? Bad things are going to happen.

In Sweden what do you got?

26,000 active duty troops.
40,000 reservists.

Great you can send enough guys to help fight in Finland and last a week.
Last a week. That's all you would last.

You got nothing!
And you don't need anything.
That's the beauty of it.

Come on Finland and Sweden.
You guys have some of the greatest economies in Europe.
Finland's a paradise compared to many other nations.
Sweden has some problems but there's still a paradise.

One of the reasons is you don't have to divert all your resources into building a military.
For what purpose?
Russia does not threaten you.
Russia won't threaten you.
Russia doesn't view you as a threat.

Unless you join NATO.
Then you're an existential threat that has to be destroyed.

This is one of the most mind-boggling things and it scares me to death because it just seems to me that the Finnish leadership and the Swedish leadership have forgotten how to think independently.

Neutrality means neutral.
It means you don't take sides.

So when Europe's in there screaming about Ukraine then Finland and Sweden should say: We don't take any sides on this one, you know, we're sorry. That's your problem.

Especially when we're talking about a Ukraine conflict that the blame for which solely rests on the shoulders of NATO and their irresponsible expansion and their support for a Neo-Nazi ideology.

Now I know that Finland has a history of Mannerheim and some right-wing movements fought alongside the Nazis. And, may be, deep down inside the Finnish DNA there's some sympathy for Stepan Banderá nationalists.

I'm being facetious here because I'm hoping the Finns are smarter than this.

But the point is Finland should not be aligning itself with Ukraine, with the Neo-Nazi ideology that resides there. Finland doesn't have to support Russia's special military operation. Indeed Finland can speak out against it - they should because if you're part of the civilized world you have to say that war is not the solution - that's just sort of a given.

War only accomplishes one thing and that's the destruction of humanity.

So you know Finland can be critical of the Russian actions in Ukraine, so can Sweden, but to sit there and align themselves with NATO and say that we support what the West is doing in Ukraine so much so that we want to become part of it. It's just foolish. It's suicidal. And it makes no sense.

You know there's this notion going around about what's called the open door policy of NATO.

There is no open door policy.
Read the NATO Charter very carefully.
It doesn't have an open door policy.

Just because you qualify for membership doesn't mean you get to be a member.

Article 10 of the charter discusses this.
It says if a nation qualifies and submitted an application that NATO must consider this application from the standpoint of: Does it enhance the security of the organization?

Pro hint:
Allowing Finland in - knowing Russia will attack Finland - does not enhance European security.

Now people say: Well we can't allow ourselves to be bullied by Russia.

Russia is not bullying anybody.
Russia says if Finland remains neutral there's just literally no problem here

But the only thing that can stop Finnish membership - besides Finland withdrawing its application or not submitting an application - is NATO as a consensus organization.

So, hopefully, there will be at least one of the 30 members who will say: Nah, we ain't doing that. We already got one war here on European soil. Why do we want another?

And what does Finland give us?
It gives us a nightmare.
A lengthy border with Russia.

It pretty much guarantees that we're going to go back into, at a minimum, the Cold War because Finland has to understand that even if Russia doesn't invade you're going to have to militarize your whole border. You're going to have to turn it into a fortified zone and you can't do that alone. So you have to invite NATO nations. You're gonna have to allow foreign troops on your soil.

Is this really the future that Finland wants?

It's absurd.

But more importantly: Is it the future that Europe wants? Can Europe afford this?

This is like Finland pulling up to the Titanic after it hit the iceberg and saying: Hey! Got any room for extra passengers? Come on board but we're sinking.

NATO is going down. It's part of a Europe that can't function cohesively any more.

People speak of NATO unity.
There is no NATO unity.
Poland and Hungary are almost at war with one another.
Turkey doesn't want to be a part of NATO anymore.
Turkey blames NATO for the conflict in Ukraine.

When we get into energy policies Slovakia and Hungary have said: We're not going to participate in European sanctioning of Russian energy.
Germany will die as an economy if they do this.

So is this really what Finland wants to join because it's not working man. Europe's not working and any smart European country will say the only chance we have of pulling out of this thing is to create less friction with Russia - instead of more friction.

So I'm hopeful that at least one nation, hopefully more, will speak up and say: No. Sorry Finland, Europe is better off with you being neutral.

Finland has to think about what it's doing.

Does anybody have a thinking cap in Finland?

This is the question - I don't ask this facetiously.

They have a great fighter in the FA18.
If they want to get a better fighter they can.
But why the F-35a? Why the F-35? Hey, it sucks as a fighter.
Please Finland, do your research, it breaks all the time, it doesn't work, it's been oversold.

Thank you for supporting the American military industrial complex.
We'll enjoy the billions of dollars you'll be sending us.
But we're giving you a piece of garbage airplane.
You'll be lucky to get sixty percent operational rates in peace time and in combat it breaks instantly.
Plus you can shoot it down because it's not as stealthy as everybody thinks it is.

But what's more important about that aircraft is that it is nuclear capable.

That means that it's designed to be able to deliver nuclear weapons and NATO just did a posture review where it talks about taking US B61 nuclear bombs which are currently stationed in Europe and making them available to non-nuclear nations and they've expanded this now to any nation that has the F-35a.

Poland, for instance, will now become a nation that is capable of delivering American-made B-61 nuclear bombs. Wow! And Finland, when you bring in your F-35a (trust me) the first thing that NATO is going to say is: You need to start cross-training your pilots to deliver nuclear weapons.

Is this really the direction Finland wants to go because you have to understand Finland when you join NATO you give up a whole bunch of sovereignty because now you're part of an alliance that's going to start dictating things to you. Saying you have to do this if you want our support. You have to do this right now.

Russia has declared the Baltics to be a nuclear-free zone.

They've respected this.

If Finland joins NATO and survives (because look it's not a guarantee) Russia is going to go to war against Finland. Russia's got a lot of problems of its own right now, economic sanctions are hurting its economy, it's bitten off a lot in Ukraine, it's got to digest that first before it swallows Finland.

So maybe they'll just seek to militarize for the moment but part of that militarization will be the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons throughout the area and every Finnish city will now be targeted with a nuclear weapon, or two, or three, or four, or a dozen.

Okay?

So Finland, you do know that if there is a war with Russia that begins, for instance, in Moldova then the Finns ready to die for Transnistria?

And this is a question I want to ask the average Finn in Helsinki: Are you ready to die for Transnistria? Because you're going to. You're going to die because when that goes to war and then the Romanians attack and then the Russians counter-attack, the Americans send in a brigade and it gets annihilated so the Americans use a tactical nuke.

Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom - it's all over - Helsinki disappears in a cloud of radioactive dust that quick, 200,000 degrees sun, I know you live like your sun but you're going to get a big tan. You're going to burn to death. You're gonna fry because the Russians are gonna nuke you automatically. Automatically, it doesn't matter anymore that you know you're Finland and you have nothing to do with Moldova. You're part of NATO therefore you're now part of the target package man and when the Russians start pushing the buttons target package is all-inclusive. It doesn't prejudice against anybody. So every Finn will die. Every Finn will die. That's your future.

There's no other future. It doesn't get better than this - it only gets worse.

Joining NATO is a suicide pill.

They're short-term, with a mercifully bloody Russian invasion, but at least Helsinki still survives, Finns still live, or long term, with a thermonuclear holocaust that kills everybody.

That's Finland's future.
Literally, that's your future.
There is no other outcome.
NATO is not going to prevail.
NATO is collapsing and the best that Finland can hope for is to remain neutral.
Stay above the fray. Survive.

I just would ask the people who see this to sit back and reflect on the life they have now and look around and see how wonderfully simple it is, comparatively.

How little they spend on defense because there's no need to spend a great deal of money on defense and the luxury of life because that will all come to an end the moment you join NATO.

Whatever you think NATO is going to bring it isn't going to bring, the life you enjoy today is not going to get better, it's going to get much worse. You're going to be spending money on defense that doesn't need to be spent. You're going to be asked to do things from a defense standpoint that you never would have considered before.

And people need to really sit back and say if I enjoy the standard of living that I have now and I want the standard of living for my children and my grandchildren then joining NATO's not the path.

You're just guaranteeing that your grandchildren, if they're alive at all, will live in a regime of fear because the Cold War - I'm just here to remind you I lived in West Germany during the Cold War - it was an atmosphere of prevalent fear. Every day we had to worry about Soviet troops coming over the border. I lived next door to a nuclear storage facility, North Point, which would have been one of the first places struck. So when you went to bed at night you didn't know were some generals gonna make a decision that resulted in a tactical nuclear weapon hitting North Point - so I would never wake up in the morning. When I got on the school bus and went to school was I going to be able to come home to a place or was I some Soviet missile going to hit it.

This was a daily existence.

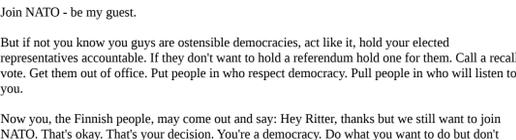
That's the future you want?

To be worrying about whether or not you're going to live to see tomorrow in the morning.

Join NATO - be my guest.

But if not you know you guys are ostensible democracies, act like it, hold your elected representatives accountable. If they don't want to hold a referendum hold one for them. Call a recall vote. Get them out of office. Put people in who respect democracy. Pull people in who will listen to you.

Now you, the Finnish people, may come out and say: Hey Ritter, thanks but we still want to join NATO. That's okay. That's your decision. You're a democracy. Do what you want to do but don't allow your government to make a decision for you of this magnitude without you having the ability to weigh in. That's the important thing. You're giving up everything when you do that



Footnote #1

David Cornwell was also surprised by the realisation that West Germany hadn't been de-Nazified.

Thus it happened that in 1951, a mere six years after the end of the war, and two years after the creation of West Germany as a state, Dr Hans Globke achieved a stroke of legislation on behalf of his former and present Nazi colleagues that today remains barely conceivable.

Under Globke's New Law, as I shall call it, civil servants of the Hitler regime whose careers had been curtailed by circumstances beyond their control would henceforth receive full restitution of such pay, back-pay and pension rights as they would have enjoyed if the Second World War hadn't taken place, or if Germany had won it.

In a word, they would be entitled to whatever promotion would have come their way had their careers proceeded without the inconvenience of an Allied victory.

The effect was immediate.

The old Nazi guard clung to the plum jobs.

A younger, less tarnished generation was consigned to life below stairs.

Chapter 2. Dr Globke's Laws
The Pigeon Tunnle: Stories from My Life
John le Carré - 2016
Amazon US <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0241976898>
Amazon UK <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0241976898>

Hans Josef Maria Globke (1898-1973) was a German lawyer, high-ranking civil servant and politician, who was Under-Secretary of State and Chief of Staff of the German Chancellery in West Germany from 28 October 1953 to 15 October 1963.

In 1936, Globke wrote a legal annotation on the antisemitic Nuremberg Race Laws that did not express any objection to the discrimination against Jews, placing the Nazi Party on a firmer legal ground and setting the path to the Holocaust during World War II.

By 1938, Globke had been promoted to Ministerialdirigent in the Office for Jewish Affairs in the Ministry of the Interior, where he produced the Namensänderungsverordnung, a law that forced Jewish men to take the middle name Israel and Jewish women Sara for easier identification.

In 1941, he issued another statute that stripped Jews in occupied territories of their statehood and possessions.

Globke was identified as the author of an interior ministry report from France, written in racist language, that complained of "coloured blood into Europe" and called for the "elimination" of its "influences" on the gene pool.

...
In 1951, he issued a statute that restored back pay, pensions, and advancement to civil servants who had served under the Nazi regime, including himself.

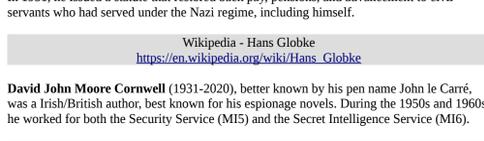
Wikipedia - Hans Globke
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Globke

David John Moore Cornwell (1931-2020), better known by his pen name John le Carré, was a British author, best known for his espionage novels. During the 1950s and 1960s, he worked for both the Security Service (MI5) and the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6).

Wikipedia - John le Carré
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_le_carre

Footnote #2

It appears the *Soviet-Finnish Wars* are still being fought on the pages of Wikipedia.



Soviet equipment and fallen soldiers - Battle of Raate Road - 1 January 1940

The **Winter War**, also known as the **first Soviet-Finnish War**, was a war between the Soviet Union and Finland. The war began with a Soviet invasion of Finland on **30 November 1939**, three months after the outbreak of World War II, and ended three and a half months later with the Moscow Peace Treaty on **13 March 1940**. Despite superior military strength, especially in tanks and aircraft, the Soviet Union suffered severe losses and initially made little headway. The League of Nations deemed the attack illegal and expelled the Soviet Union from the organisation.

Hostilities ceased in March 1940 with the signing of the Moscow Peace Treaty in which **Finland ceded 9% of its territory to the Soviet Union**. Soviet losses were heavy, and the country's international reputation suffered. **Their gains exceeded their pre-war demands**, and the Soviets received substantial territories along Lake Ladoga and further north.

Finland retained its sovereignty and enhanced its international reputation.

The poor performance of the Red Army **encouraged** German Chancellor **Adolf Hitler** to believe that an **attack on the Soviet Union** would be successful and confirmed negative Western opinions of the Soviet military. After 15 months of Interim Peace, in June 1941, Germany commenced Operation Barbarossa, and the Continuation War between Finland and the Soviets began.

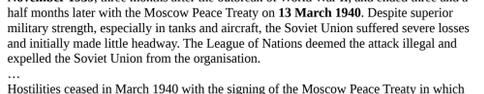
Wikipedia - Winter War
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winter_War

The **Continuation War**, also known as the **Second Soviet-Finnish War**, was a conflict fought by **Finland and Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union** from 1941 to 1944, as part of World War II.

...
Numerous reasons have been proposed for **the Finnish decision to invade**, with regaining territory lost during the Winter War being regarded as the most common. Other justifications for the conflict included Finnish President Risto Ryti's vision of a Greater Finland and Commander-in-Chief Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim's desire to **annex East Karelia**. Plans for the attack were developed jointly between the Wehrmacht and a faction of Finnish political and military leaders, with the rest of the government remaining ignorant.

...
Hostilities between Finland and the USSR ended with a ceasefire, which was called on 5 September 1944, formalised by the signing of the Moscow Armistice on 19 September 1944. One of the conditions of this agreement was **the expulsion, or disarmament, of any German troops in Finnish territory**, leading to the Lapland War between Finland and Germany.

Wikipedia - Continuation War
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continuation_War



Finno-Soviet Agreement of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance
Signed in Moscow 6 April 1948

Under the treaty, which was signed on 6 April 1948, the Soviets sought to deter Western or Allied Powers from attacking the Soviet Union through Finnish territory, and the Finns sought to increase Finland's political independence from the Soviet Union.

...
Under the pact, **Finland was obliged to resist armed attacks by "Germany or its allies"** (in reality interpreted as the United States and allies) **against Finland, or against the Soviet Union through Finland**.

Wikipedia - Finno-Soviet Treaty of 1948
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finno-Soviet_Treaty_of_1948

Baron Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim (1867-1951) was a Finnish military leader and statesman.

He served as the military leader of the Whites in the Finnish Civil War of 1918, as Regent of Finland (1918-1919), as commander-in-chief of Finland's defence forces during the period of World War II (1939-1945), as Marshal of Finland (1942-), and as the sixth president of Finland (1944-1946).

The Russian Empire dominated the Grand Duchy of Finland from 1917, and Mannerheim made a career in the Imperial Russian Army, rising by 1917 to the rank of lieutenant general.

He had a prominent place in the ceremonies for Emperor Nicholas II's coronation in 1896 and later held several private meetings with the Tsar.

After the Bolshevik revolution of November 1917 in Russia, Finland declared its independence (6 December 1917) – but soon became embroiled in the 1918 Finnish Civil War between the pro-Bolshevik "Reds" and the "Whites", who were the troops of the Senate of Finland, supported by troops of the German Empire. A Finnish delegation appointed Mannerheim as the military chief of the Whites in January 1918.[citation needed]

Mannerheim was appointed as Commander-in-Chief of the country's armed forces in November 1939 after the Soviet invasion of Finland.

He personally participated in the planning of Operation Barbarossa and led the Finnish Defence Forces in an invasion of the USSR alongside Nazi Germany known as the Continuation War (1941-1944).

Wikipedia - Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Gustaf_Emil_Mannerheim

Footnote #3

Scott Ritter, in context, states "Ukrainians are racist". However, the histories [for example] of the Jews and the Roma indicate it's also accurate to state: **Racism is widespread throughout Europe**.



Soviet POWs covering a mass grave after the Babi Yar massacre - 1 Oct 1941

Babi Yar or Babi Yar is a ravine in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv and a site of massacres carried out by Nazi Germany's forces during its campaign against the Soviet Union in World War II.

The first and best documented of the massacres took place on 29–30 September 1941, killing some 33,771 Jews.

The decision to murder all the Jews in Kyiv was made by the military governor Generalmajor Kurt Eberhard, the Soviet Commander for Army Group South, SS-Obergruppenführer Friedrich Jeckeln, and the Einsatzgruppe C Commander Otto Rasch.

Sonderkommando 4a as the sub-unit of Einsatzgruppe C, along with the aid of the SD and Order Police battalions with the Ukrainian Auxiliary Police backed by the Wehrmacht, carried out the orders.

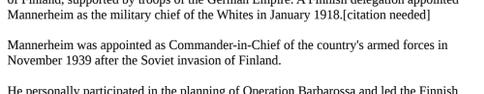
Sonderkommando 4a and the 45th Battalion of the German Order Police conducted the shootings. Servicemen of the 303rd Battalion of the German Order Police at this time guarded the outer perimeter of the execution site.

The massacre was the **largest mass-murder under the auspices of the Nazi regime and its Ukrainian collaborators** during the campaign against the Soviet Union, and it has been called "the largest single massacre in the history of the Holocaust" to that particular date.

It is only surpassed overall by the later 1941 Odessa massacre and more than 50,000 Jews in October 1941 (committed by German and Romanian troops), and by Aktion Erntefest of November 1943 in occupied Poland with 42,000-43,000 victims.[need quotation to verify]

Victims of other massacres at the site included Soviet prisoners of war, communists, Ukrainian nationalists and Roma. It is estimated that **between 100,000 and 150,000 people were murdered at Babi Yar** during the German occupation.

Wikipedia - Babi Yar
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babi_Yar



Mass execution of Soviet civilians - 1941

Einsatzgruppen were Schutzstaffel (SS) paramilitary death squads of Nazi Germany that were responsible for mass-murder, primarily by shooting, during World War II (1939-1945) in German-occupied Europe.

The Einsatzgruppen had an integral role in the implementation of the so-called "Final Solution to the Jewish Question" (Die Endlösung der Judenfrage) in territories conquered by Nazi Germany, and were involved in the murder of much of the intelligentsia and cultural elite of Poland, including members of the Catholic priesthood.

Almost all of the people they murdered were civilians, beginning with the intelligentsia and swiftly progressing to Soviet political commissars, Jews, and Romani people, as well as actual or alleged partisans throughout Eastern Europe.

Under the direction of Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler and the supervision of SS-Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich, the Einsatzgruppen operated in territories occupied by the Wehrmacht (German armed forces) following the invasion of Poland in September 1939 and the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941.

The Einsatzgruppen worked hand-in-hand with the Order Police battalions on the Eastern Front to carry out operations ranging from the murder of a few people to operations which lasted over two or more days, such as the massacre at Babi Yar with 33,771 Jews murdered in two days, and the Rumbula massacre (with about 25,000 Jews murdered in two days of shooting).

Wikipedia - Einsatzgruppen
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonderkommandos_of_Einsatzgruppen

Stepan Andriyovych Bandera (1909-1959) was a Ukrainian politician and theorist of the militant wing of the far-right Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) responsible for ethnic cleansings also implicated in collaboration with Nazi Germany.

Born in Galicia (at the time Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, part of Austria-Hungary) into the family of a Greek-Catholic priest, young Bandera became a Ukrainian nationalist.

After the Empire disintegrated in the wake of World War I, Galicia briefly became a West Ukrainian People's Republic; following the Polish-Ukrainian War of 1918-1919, it was integrated into eastern Poland. In this period, he became radicalized. Bandera enrolled at the Lviv Polytechnic, where he organized Ukrainian nationalist organizations.

For orchestrating the 1934 assassination of Poland's Minister of the Interior Bronisław Pieracki, Bandera was sentenced to death but the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

In 1939, as a result of the joint German-Soviet invasion of Poland he was freed from prison, and moved to Kraków in the German-occupied zone of Poland.

For a time, Bandera collaborated with Nazi Germany. When Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union, he prepared the 30 June 1941 Proclamation of Ukrainian statehood in Lviv, pledging to work with Nazi Germany. For his refusal to rescind the decree, Bandera was arrested by the Gestapo and on 5 July 1941 held under house arrest.

After January 1942 Bandera was transferred to Sachsenhausen concentration camp but kept in special, comparatively comfortable detention.

In 1944, with Germany rapidly losing ground in the war in the face of the advancing Allied armies, Bandera was released in the hope that he would be instrumental in deterring the advancing Soviet forces. He set up the headquarters of the re-established Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council, which worked underground. He settled with his family in West Germany where he remained the leader of the OUN-B and worked with several anti-communist organizations such as the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations as well as with the British intelligence agencies. Fourteen years after the end of the war, Bandera was assassinated in 1959 by KGB agents in Munich.

Wikipedia - Stepan Bandera
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stepan_Bandera

The Roma people of Europe provide mute testimony that European History in the 1st millennium is a dark secret and the story of European Civilization in the 2nd millennium is intrinsically a story of barbarism.

Malaga Bay - Catastrophic English: R Is For Roma
<https://malagabay.wordpress.com/2016/07/02/catastrophic-english-r-is-for-roma/>