

Russia's Struggle for Justice and Independence of Europe and World



Alexander Vorontsov

Head of Korea Department, Institute of Oriental Studies,
Russia Academy of Sciences

I am honored to speak at the national Juche idea seminar on the 81st anniversary of the birth of General Secretary Kim Jong Il. It is well known that independence and sovereignty are the quintessence of the Juche idea. Today the struggle for independence of states and peoples has sharpened to the maximum, and at the edge of this global struggle is Russia, which is forced to wage it by armed means. The United West is trying to present the conflict in Ukraine because of "unprovoked aggression of Russia". In fact, it is the result of the unstoppable eastward expansion of NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organization), which yesterday encircled Russia and today is already rushing into East Asia.

Today we see two lines of world politics clashing: the attempt to extend the unipolar domination of the West by the United States control to the entire world. On the other hand, the aspiration to build a multipolar world, providing equal development of sovereign states, preserving national values and their own identities.

Describing the above-mentioned U.S. strategy, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov highlights its following components:

“I would recommend going back to at least President Barack Obama's stint in office and read (it should not be a problem since the text is readily available) what he had to say about the exceptionalism of the United States. You can go ahead and read similar remarks by former President Donald Trump who said that America was an exceptional nation and there was no other nation like it in the world and that they had an enormous responsibility in that regard. President Joe Biden has promoted this idea on several occasions, and his staff then formalized it. For example, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the Americans must implement their leadership and their exceptional

ability to lead, because if they don't, the world would plunge into chaos. To be sure, it's a humble statement to make. In 2021, having barely assumed office as National Security Adviser to the President of the United States, Jacob Sullivan wrote an article where he discussed US exceptionalism and stated (I think it's a terrible thing to say) that exceptionalism means that the United States cannot afford to be focused on ethnic or historical identity, but must spread new and free democracy around the world. This means only one thing: everyone else is denied the right to remember their history.¹

Describing the West general approach Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed that it totally denies any kind of parity, "this is a universal rule: they try to turn everyone into a tool, in order to use these tools for their own purposes. And those who do not yield to this pressure, who do not want to be such a tool are sanctioned ...And in the end, if nothing at all can be done, the aim is the same: to destroy them, to wipe them off the political map. But it has not and will never be possible to draft and implement such a scenario with respect to Russia." ... "As an independent and distinctive civilization, Russia has never considered and does not consider itself an enemy of the West. Russia is simply upholding its right to exist and to develop freely. Importantly, we will not become a new hegemony ourselves. Russia is not suggesting replacing a unipolar world with a bipolar, tripolar or other dominating order, or replacing Western domination with domination from the East, North or South."²

According Russia Foreign police analysis today, the "collective West," which achieved its prosperity mostly after centuries of plunder and exploitation of developing countries, is trying to preserve its global domination, so as to continue to deal with its development problems and to support its economy at the expense of other countries. The West continues to hinder the development of democratic international relations. With this aim in view, it has been aggressively trying to force a neocolonial, US-centric "rules-

¹ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's interview with Rossiya 24 and RIA Novosti, Moscow, February 2, 2023.

https://mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/1852042/?lang=en

² Valdai International Discussion Club meeting.
The President took part in the final plenary session of the 19th meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club., October 27, 2022
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/69695>

based order” onto the international majority, with rules they themselves invent and apply at will.

The United States and the rest of the West, which is fully answerable to it, have launched a policy of dividing the world into a small group of “exceptional” countries and their subordinates. To attain this goal, they have introduced a new black-and-white paradigm according to which the world consists of “correct” democracies that are approved by Washington.

Others are named by autocracies as Russia, China, Iran, Venezuela, Cuba and the DPRK.

The United States and its European allies are acting in the worst traditions of colonialism. Those who refuse to follow Washington’s instructions and act independently are being restrained through unilateral sanctions, blackmail, threats, intimidation and often direct use of forces. Those who pledge loyalty are given a free hand. A case in point is the open support they provided to Ukrainian nationalists, who committed persecution and waged cleansing campaigns and used violence on ethnic and language grounds. They have been doing this for years. In fact, the United States would like to spread the philosophy of the notorious Monroe Doctrine, which was designed for the Western Hemisphere, throughout the world. Their wish is to turn the planet into their back yard.

Russia has always been at the forefront of international efforts to uphold the basic principles of the UN Charter, including the fundamental principle of respect for the sovereign equality of states.

In this context, it is logical that about three fourths of the world’s countries, which have kept their dignity and independence, refuse to live in the Western system of coordinates and know about the manners of their former parent states from their own experience, have not joined the anti-Russia sanctions. They have taken a balanced stand on the conflict in Ukraine, which stems from a longtime security crisis in Europe.

Russia Foreign Ministry outlined the main direction of Moscow activity: We are working actively to explain the factors that have led to the current situation. Our regular contacts with African, Asian and Latin American countries show that they understand our position. This is why we are actively developing relations with them in all spheres. We are steadily strengthening our strategic partnership with China. Relations between Moscow and Beijing are the best ever. We are steadily and intensively developing relations of privileged, strategic partnership with India. Despite the Western pressure, we

are promoting close and multifaceted cooperation with Southeast Asian countries, especially ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) nations. Our relations with the majority of Asian countries, namely Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the DPRK, are on the rise.

As part of efforts to overcome the consequences of colonialism, we are giving special attention to cooperation with Africa, which is gaining new momentum. Latin America is playing an increasingly prominent role in the emerging polycentric world system. It is a friendly region for us. A versatile dialogue has been established by the overwhelming majority of Latin American states.

We continue interacting with developing countries – the world’s majority –both bilaterally and at various multilateral organizations. Let me note in particular the dialogue within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS. There is no heavy-handed discipline there (like at NATO and EU), nor are there leaders and followers, with decisions taken based on a true balance of interests. Owing to this, they live up in full to the UN Charter’s demand to respect the sovereign equality of all states. This is one of the chief factors encouraging an increasing number of countries to promote relations with, and eventually join, these associations of a new type.

We are promoting relations with the League of Arab States, the African Union, and many sub-regional associations in Africa.³

Coming back to the Europe region, as President Vladimir Putin emphasized, I will add that multipolarity is a really and, actually, the only chance for Europe to restore its political and economic identity. To tell the truth – and this idea is expressed explicitly in Europe today – Europe’s legal capacity is very limited. In results now the Europeans are cannibalising themselves. It has been announced who will take the decision. They have signed the Joint Declaration on EU-NATO Cooperation, under which they are committed to supplying NATO with whatever it will want, including the territory of non-NATO countries, if it needs to redeploy weapons of any type closer to Russian borders. All of this is in black and white.

³ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s remarks at a meeting of the United Russia General Council’s Commission on International Cooperation and Support for Compatriots Abroad, Moscow, February 3, 2023.

https://mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/1852223/?lang=en

Olaf Scholz went on record as saying the other day that Europe's security depended on the United States alone. It makes no sense for the EU to make any pleas to Washington for it to spare the European economy and industries or be magnanimous with regard to business subsidies in the US territory.

As the French Economic Minister Bruno Le Maire said rather long ago, the current cost of electricity to businesses in Europe was four times higher than in the United States. President Emmanuel Macron declared that they would urge Washington to make adjustments and provide discounts or exclusions.

Nevertheless, despite their total non-sufficiency and subordination to Washington, vestiges of racial superiority and neo-colonial thinking suddenly and vividly appear in the minds of Europe's leaders.

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell unexpectedly, recently stunned the world with the announcement that Europe is a blooming garden, while the rest of the world is a jungle, which Europe should fence off from but at the same time keep watch over. This assessment and this mentality are regularly shown by one or another Western speaker who are constantly calling themselves beacons of democracy.

One of the main characteristics of Western politics is its increasing lack of agreement. The world is diverse in nature and Western attempts to squeeze everyone into the same pattern are clearly doomed. Nothing will come out of them.

The conceited aspiration to achieve global supremacy and, essentially, to dictate or preserve leadership by dictating is really reducing the international prestige of the leaders of the Western world, including the United States, and increasing mistrust in their ability to negotiate in general. They say one thing today and another tomorrow; they sign documents and renounce them, they do what they want. There is no stability in anything. How documents are signed, what was discussed, what can we hope for – all this is completely unclear.

It happened to be also evident in relation to the crisis in Ukraine, specifically the Minsk agreements of 2015. A few weeks ago, all their signatories except President V. Putin, namely former French President F. Hollande, former Ukrainian President P. Poroshenko and former German Chancellor Angela Merkel publicly admitted that from the very beginning they did not intend to implement them and signed them only in order to gain time to rearm Ukraine. It is clear the fact that the seeds of the crisis were sown back then.

In concluding my report, I think it is appropriate to show a global characterization of the modern era and how Russia sees its place in it, which was presented by Russian President Vladimir Putin. In his concept, he highlighted the following basic assessments:

“The collapse of the Soviet Union upset the equilibrium of the geopolitical forces. The West felt as a winner and declared a unipolar world arrangement, in which only its will, culture and interests had the right to exist.

“Now this historical period of boundless Western domination in world affairs is coming to an end. The unipolar world is being relegated into the past. We are at a historical crossroads. We are in for probably the most dangerous, unpredictable and at the same time most important decade since the end of World War II. The West is unable to rule humanity single-handedly and the majority of nations no longer want to put up with this. This is the main contradiction of the new era. To cite a classic, this is a revolutionary situation to some extent – the elites cannot and the people do not want to live like that any longer.

“This state of affairs is fraught with global conflicts or a whole chain of conflicts, which poses a threat to humanity, including the West itself. Today’s main historical task is to resolve this contradiction in a way that is constructive and positive.

“The change of eras is a painful albeit natural and inevitable process. A future world arrangement is taking shape before our eyes. In this world arrangement, we must listen to everyone, consider every opinion, every nation, society, culture and every system of world outlooks, ideas and religious concepts, without imposing a single truth on anyone. Only on this foundation, understanding our responsibility for the destinies of nations and our planet, shall we create a symphony of human civilization”.⁴

(Lecture given online at a National Seminar on Juche Idea to commemorate birth anniversary of General Secretary Kim Jong Il, in Osaka on February 12, 2023)

⁴ Valdai International Discussion Club meeting.
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