
"RASHISM" - THE MYTH, OR THE NEW SEVERE, ESOTERIC CHALLENGE FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY?

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ABSTRACT

A bloody war is going on in Ukraine, almost in the middle of Europe. In connection with the mentioned war, the term Rashism, which is an expression of Russian fascism, is mentioned more and more often in the world press and scientific societies. The purpose of the present study is to identify the mentioned issue and determine whether this concept is used only superficially, or if it actually has esoteric prerequisites and similarities with fascism and Nazism, which destroyed the whole of Europe, in the 20th century? For this purpose, taking into account the relevant experience, an analysis of the Russian propaganda system was carried out and a particularly important area for research was determined: the political-philosophical basis of propaganda - a set of doctrines developed by Alexander Dugin. Among the objects of research, the theory of "Noomakhia", presented by Dugin as a new philosophical direction, was especially important. The term "Noomakhia" means the "wars of minds". At the same time, was performed a content analysis of the materials, related to Dugin's political orientation and his interest in esoteric teachings, taken from the world's scientific and open media sources. After summarizing the obtained results, it was revealed that the main ideological vector of the modern Russian propaganda machine is aimed at the demonization of the so-called "collective West"; In this case, Dugin's political philosophy has a fundamental role. However, at the same time, the roots of Dugin's teachings are deeply rooted in occult, Nazi, and fascist, Nordic, pagan teachings. Based on the above-mentioned issues, it was concluded that Rashism is not a myth. It is just a serious threat to European and world security.

Key words: Rushism, Fascism, Nazism, Dugin's Political Philosophy, Noomakhia, Propaganda, Occultism

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INTRODUCTION

French journalists, Louis Pauwels, and Jacques Bergier published the book "The Morning of the Magicians", in 1960. Its main theme was the esoteric, occult ideology of the 3rd Reich. The authors argued that Adolf Hitler, his closest entourage, and almost all Nazi Party were obsessed with a kind of esoteric worldview, which eventually caused tens of millions of victims, unprecedented destruction, and social cataclysms not only in Europe but the whole world.² Although the above-mentioned book became an instant bestseller and was translated into many languages, it was described by Mircea Eliade, a great scholar of religion and specialist in occult traditions, as "a curious mélange (mixture) of popular science, occultism, astrology, science fiction, and spiritual techniques".³ Nevertheless, time has shown that Bergier's and Pauwel's work was not baseless. Moreover, scientists from many countries consistently substantiated the occult roots of the Italian-fascist⁴ or German-Nazi⁵ regimes. At the same time, the high authorities of science warn us that the threat of sacralization of politics and turning it into a kind of religion is still a constant and dangerous reality not only in the authoritarian environment but even in the democratic world itself⁶ (Gentile 2006); Moreover, as past experience shows, the possibility of subordinating the scientific field to these processes is also very real.⁷ After all the above, it should be noted that during the ongoing bloody war in Ukraine, in the middle of Europe, the term "**Rashism**", which is used as an expression of Russian fascism, appears in the world media more and more often. **The present research examines whether the mentioned concept is used only superficially, for anti-Russian propaganda, to falsify Russian politics, or if it actually has esoteric prerequisites and similarities with fascism and Nazism, which destroyed the whole of Europe, at the beginning of the 20th century?**

British scientist, David Welch, an expert in propaganda and public relations, for a better understanding of National Socialism, performed a study of Nazi propaganda-specific aspects.⁸ The same method is used in this work. The Content Analysis of data from open scientific sources and world media, related to the modern Agitprop system, will make it possible to enlighten some deep features of contemporary Russian politics.

² Louis Pauwels, Jacques Bergier. 2009. The morning of the Magicians. Destiny Books.

³ Eliade Mircea. 1976. Occultism, Witchcraft, and Cultural Fashions: Essays in Comparative Religion. London: The University of Chicago Press Ltd.

⁴ , Emilio Gentile 1996. The Sacralization of Politics in Fascist Italy. Harvard University Press.

⁵ Richard Steigmann-Gall, 1999. The "Holy Reich": Religious Dimensions of Nazi Ideology, 1919-1945. National Library of Canada.

⁶ Gentile. 2006. Politics as Religion. Princeton University Press.

⁷ Hans Kelsen, 2012. Secular religion: a polemic against the misinterpretation of modern social philosophy, science, and politics as 'new religion'. Springe.

⁸ David Welch, 1983. Nazi Propaganda: The Power and the Limitations. Taylor and Francis.

MAIN PART

The term “Propaganda” apparently comes from the Latin name of the organization created in 1622 by the Roman Catholic Church: "Congregatio de Propaganda Fide".⁹ As a political tool, it was mentioned in Vladimir Lenin's work "What Is to Be Done?", which was first published separately in 1902), and was associated with the term "**agitation**".¹⁰ The new term, "**Agitprop**" ("agitation-propaganda"), was formed in Soviet reality¹¹ (Smith 1999). Though the propaganda machine's most terrifying and unbelievable results were demonstrated during the Nazi regime in the Third Reich, real conceptual development and transformation, even into nowadays actual fields of "public relations" and applied sociology, “Propaganda” had undergone in the United States, in the early 1910s, by such great scientists and public figures as Walter Lippmann (1889-1974), Paul Lazarsfeld (1901-1976), and Edward Bernays (1891-1995) were. Edward Bernays' book "Propaganda" is a classic of the above-mentioned spheres. The current Russian System of "**Agitprop**" inherited the accumulated knowledge, experience, and methods of all its predecessors.

In the present research, the Kremlin Propaganda System is divided into five layers:

1. **I layer** – “On Battlefield Level” - the most superficial level
2. **II layer** – “Mass-Media level”
3. **III layer** – “Military Experts’ level”
4. **IV layer** – “Scientific level”
5. **V layer** – “Philosophy level” – the deepest level of the System.

Each of them requires a detailed discussion, but the purpose of this work is to cover the deepest layer of the system - **The political philosophy** that underlies the contemporary Russian "**Agitprop**" – because, as it will be shown, this sphere has a cardinal influence on all the upper components. Also, **the special interest of the research is to clearly show where the mentioned philosophy takes its roots.**

In this case, it should be discussed the metaphysical doctrine "Noomakhia", developed by Alexander Dugin, a famous propagandist, historian, and political philosopher in Russia. The term "Noomakhia" was coined by himself. In the ancient Greek language, it means "wars of minds". This cycle of books includes up to 24 volumes. Dugin has the ambition to establish an

⁹ Lannes B. Smith, 1999. Propaganda. July 26. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/eBN58>

¹⁰ Vladimir Lenin, 2008. What Is to Be Done. Accessed November 16, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/iuFG6>

¹¹ Lannes B. Smith, 1999. Propaganda. July 26. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/eBN58>

alternative to traditional philosophy.¹² However, after listening to his lectures, anyone will be convinced that we are dealing with an ideological theory based on religious mysteries.

Dugin's "Noomakhia" is built on the principles of the so-called "3 Logos". In his understanding, "Logos" is the basis of worldview, which characterizes both, - an individual person and various micro-social and macro-social associations, including nations.¹³

He separates the logos of **Apollo, Dionysus, and Cybele**.¹⁴ After that, he determines the civilizations and the nations, carrying each of these logos. According to him, the historical past and subsequent destiny of each nation are determined by their inclination to a certain Logos:

- The Logos of "**Apollo**" - is the logos of "Great Father", "Olympus", and "spiritual, vertical consciousness". It is a "**Bright Logos**";¹⁵
- The Logos of "**Cybele**" - is the Logos of "Great Mother", Underworld, "Hades", and "Material Consciousness". It is a "**Black Logos**";¹⁶
- According to Dugin, the logos of "**Dionysus**", is the intermediate concept between them, having a connection with both, - to Olympus (heaven) and to Hades (underworld). The Logos of Dionysus is the "**Dark Logos**", though **not black** - this is the important aspect¹⁷.

The main aspects of Dugin's ideology are related to the eternal struggle between the logos of Apollo and Cybele:

- The carriers of the "Apollo Logos" are Indo-European ethnicities, nomadic, militant, conqueror people who originated in the central and southern regions of Eurasia; The conspicuous representatives were the ancient Hellenes; Nowadays, the "Logos of Apollo" is most strongly expressed in the Slavic ethnos;¹⁸
- As an exemplary representative of "Cybele Logos" nations, Dugin considers the Pelasgians, the inhabitants of the archaic age of the Balkan Peninsula, whom the Indo-European Hellenes conquered. According to him, the logos of "Cybele" includes all the ethnic groups

¹² Александр Дугин. 2019 -1. Беседы о Ноомахии (1). Введение в Ноомахию. Ум как война. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/bijG1>

¹³ Александр Дугин, 2019 - 2. Беседы о Ноомахии (2). Три Логоса. Обнаружение Кибелы. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/eflvH>

¹⁴ Александр Дугин, 2019 - 2. Беседы о Ноомахии (2). Три Логоса. Обнаружение Кибелы. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/eflvH>

¹⁵ Александр Дугин, 2019-3. Беседы о Ноомахии (3). Логос Аполлона - Небесный Патриархат. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/nwBU7>

¹⁶ Александр Дугин, 2019 -5. Беседы о Ноомахии (5). Логос Кибелы. Нигилистическая метафизика Демокрита. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/euyGS>

¹⁷ Александр Дугин, 019 - 4. Беседы о Ноомахии (4). Логос Диониса. Феноменология центра. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/bgwSX>

¹⁸ Александр Дугин, 2014. Ноомахия: войны ума. Три Логоса: Аполлон, Дионис, Кибела. Москва: Академический Проект

of Anatolia, the Caucasus, the Mediterranean, and Western Europe, which followed an indigenous, agricultural way of life. The vast majority of these people disappeared into the Indo-European "Apollo logos" people. Some Caucasian ethnos, like Georgians, Chechens, or Basks in Europe can be considered as Cybele logos people nowadays;¹⁹

- **Dugin's most important ideological postulate is that:** despite the victory of the “Apollo people” over the “Cybele People”, it was historically difficult to defeat the Cybele Logos's material, matriarchal spiritual roots and worldviews, itself. **Over time, these roots and worldviews successively arose again and spread in the "Apollonian" conquering people, causing them to "degenerate".**²⁰

According to the above-mentioned, reviewing European history, he concludes that the fate of the Western European people developed in the same direction of degradation, after the late Middle Ages when the Lutheran and Calvinist Reformations in Christianity began and the Cartesian era came in philosophy and science. All this was followed by the so-called "Enlighteners", the French Encyclopedists. Finally, a materialist, modernist, matriarchal, "Cybele Civilization" had been established in the "West".²¹

With Noomakhia cycle, there are lots of his other monographs, articles, interviews, conference speeches, and videos-monologues, which are distinguished by one sharply defined narrative: **Western liberal civilization is a dark, corrupt, hellish, “satanic” civilization, and the sacred mission of the "Russian World" is to stand up against it.**²² (Дугин 2023 - 1)

During the Scientific and practical conference “Nazism in Ukraine: a view through the prism of a special military operation”, one of his replicas Dugin finished with the phrase: "In order to effectively fight fascism, as our president (Putin) says, we have to be well aware of the satanic essence of Western civilization".²³

In this sentence from the Russian Ideologist, **the components of the modern Russian ideological trends are well-shown:**

1. The **Patron** of the campaign - **President Putin's** administration;
2. The **Adversary** - “**Collective West**”;

¹⁹ Александр Дугин, 2014. Ноомахия: войны ума. Три Логоса: Аполлон, Дионис, Кибела. Москва: Академический Проект

²⁰ Александр Дугин, 2021. Мечь, отложенная на 1000 лет. Как сложилась одна из главных цивилизаций Европы. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/adqKX>

²¹ Александр Дугин, 021. Мечь, отложенная на 1000 лет. Как сложилась одна из главных цивилизаций Европы. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/adqKX>

²² Александр Дугин, 2023 - 1. Философ и общественный деятель Александр Дугин: «Сатанизм — как постановка материи над духом». Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/fBDE0>

²³ Александр Дугин. 2023 - 2. Дугин: надо осознать сатанинскую сущность современного Запада, тогда мы победим. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/etFV8>

3. The **Strategy - Demonization** of the “Collective West”- (literally);
4. The **Main Message - Russia is in a Holy War against Western Satanism and Fascism.**

The “Noomakhia” is just a war instrument, developed by Dugin.

The next very important expression from Dugin is the following: “Noomakhia - on the one hand, is **an aspiration to give the theory of a multi-polar world a systematic basis**, and on the other hand, it is **an activity aimed at obtaining and protecting the sovereignty of the soul**”.²⁴

With this sentence, he clarifies two main directions of his "struggle": The Political and The Esoteric.

Dugin’s political narratives are built on the basis of the terms like “**Great Russia**”, “**Russian World**“, “**Greater Eurasia**”, and “**Multipolar world**”. Where do these concepts come from? According to Russian historian Andrei Zubov, the ambitions of the “Russian Empire’s greatness” and the “Russian Nationalism”, take their roots from the so-called “Slavophiles” – the political-philosophy association of 19th century’s beginning;²⁵ The other above-mentioned terms (“**Russian World**“, “**Greater Eurasia**”, and “**Multipolar world**”) are intellectual products of the first “Evrazists” – politicians in the Russian emigration in 1920th.²⁶

For presented research especially interesting are the beginnings of Dugin’s esoteric ontology. As it was found out, there are lots of scientific works and media articles, dedicated to this subject. It is no longer a secret that Dugin was deeply fascinated by occult, magical, and alchemical doctrines and practices.²⁷ As a member of the Soviet underground occultist group “Yuzhinsky Circle”, he shared the esoteric teachings available in this organization, which were divided into two main groups: “**Traditionalism**” (René Guénon (1886-1951), Julius Evola (1898-1974)) and **Völkisch Occultism** (People’s Occultism – Eng.) (Guido von List (1848-1919), Herman Wirth (1885-1981) and others). These years have dapple influenced Dugin’s mentality and further activities.²⁸ He was particularly influenced by the works of Hermann Wirth, which he got for study with the help of his father, a KGB officer, in the archives of this organization²⁹ (Лихачев 2002) He dedicated special works to Wirth’s inventions, like the book - “Signs of the

²⁴ Александр Дугин, 2019 -1. Беседы о Ноомахии (1). Введение в Ноомахию. Ум как война. Accessed November 15, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/bijG1>

²⁵ Андрей. Зубов, 2020. История Западной философии. Лекция №35. «Философия в России: славянофилы и западники». January 28. Accessed November 16, 2023. <https://bit.ly/3ulBLV2>

²⁶ Савитский, Совчинский, Фларовский, Трубецкой. 1921. Исход к Востоку. Sofia: Balkan

²⁷ Andreas Umland, 2010. Aleksandr Dugin's Transformation from a Lunatic Fringe Figure into a Mainstream Political Publicist, 1980–1998: A Case Study in the Rise of Late and Post-Soviet Russian Fascism. Vol. 1(2). Journal of Eurasian Studies.

²⁸ Jafe Arnold, 2019. Mysteries of Eurasia: The Esoteric Sources of Alexander Dugin and the Yuzhinsky Circle. Amsterdam: University of Amsterdam.

²⁹ Вячеслав Лихачев, 2002. Рассизм в России. Панорама. <https://shorturl.at/bwCIK>

Great Nord - Hyperborean Theory”³⁰ (Дугин 2008), and the article – “Herman Wirth: the sacred proto-language of humanity. In search of the holy grail of meanings“.³¹

There must be a little bit told about **Herman Wirth's** personality. He was a Dutch-German historian, **Nazi ideologist**, member of the **National Socialist German Workers' Party** and **Schutzstaffel**, known best - as **SS**. Wirth was co-founder of “**Ahnenerbe**” – the pseudo-scientific organization into **SS**.³²

How did Dugin manage to bind Nordic Nazism to the Great Eurasian theory and to the Great Russia concept? This becomes clear through his above-mentioned work, “Herman Wirth: the sacred proto-language of humanity. In search of the holy grail of meanings”, in the last chapter of which - "The Secret Word of Tatar"- he claims that Hermann Wirth regretted not having the access to carry out an archaeological study of the Siberian spaces in order to complete his concept. Dugin also relies on the words of the Swedish philosopher, theologian, and mystic, Emanuel Swedenborg, that the ancient knowledge, the so-called "lost word", "Parole Delassee", must be found „between the “wise men of Tartaria”. That means - here with as, in our mysterious and great Russian-Tatar Fatherland. But we can open this Word only with the help of sacral polar knowledge.”³³

How influential is Dugin's ideology in Russia and in the World? According to specialists from different countries, Dugin’s influence is really significant:

- on public opinion,
- on the system of secondary and higher education,
- and even on the narratives of the highest political and religious hierarchies.

In international media, Dugin has been called: “Putin’s Brain”³⁴ (Barbashin Anton, Thoburn Hannah 2014), “Putin’s Rasputin”³⁵ and “Kremlin Guru”.³⁶ He is evaluated as “the most dangerous philosopher in the world”³⁷ and as “the best-marketed of all Russian ideologists, both in Russia and in the West.”³⁸

³⁰ Александр Дугин. 2008. Знаки Великого Норда - Гипорборейская Теория. Москва: Вече.

³¹ Александр Дугин, 2002. "Герман Вирт: священный праязык человечества. В поисках Святого Грааля смыслов." *Философия Традиционализма* 135-166. <https://shorturl.at/yDL04>

³² Horst Junginger,. 2013. "Nordic Ideology in the SS and the SS Ahnenerbe." *Civilization and History* N24 39-69.

³³ Александр Дугин, 2002. "Герман Вирт: священный праязык человечества. В поисках Святого Грааля смыслов." *Философия Традиционализма* 135-166. <https://shorturl.at/yDL04>

³⁴ Anton Barbashin, Hannah Thoburn. 2014. Putins Brain. *Foreign Affairs*.

³⁵ Scan MacComac, 2015. Alexander Dugin: Putin's Rasputin? *Center for Security Policy*

³⁶Goce Trpkovski, 2018. ""Kremlin 'Guru' Rouses Anti-Western Feeling in Macedonia." *Balkan Insight*

³⁷, Paul Ratner, 2016. "The Most Dangerous Philosopher in the World." *Big Think*.

³⁸ Laruelle. 2018. *Alexander Dugin and Eurasianism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dugin is the founder of the “International Eurasian Movement”, which has 33 representative offices in 17 countries of the world. Experts note Dugin's special influence on right-wing political forces operating in many countries of the world.³⁹

Some strategic characteristics of the ongoing war in Ukraine are sharp proof of Dugin's Geopolitical Concepts' influence on modern Russian politics: Dugin published his book, “Foundations of Geopolitics” in 1997.⁴⁰ In chapter 4.4.-“The problem of sovereign Ukraine”, of the book's 5th part, named “Domestic Geopolitics of Russia” (“domestic”!), is told – “The sovereignty of Ukraine is such a negative phenomenon for Russian geopolitics that, in principle, it can easily provoke an armed conflict... Ukraine as an independent state with some territorial ambitions poses a huge danger to the whole of Eurasia, and without solving the Ukrainian problem, it makes no sense to talk about continental geopolitics”; Moreover, in chapter 5.6.-“Geopolitical Decomposition of Ukraine”, Dugin represents the plan of fragmentation of Ukraine: **“The continued existence of unitary Ukraine is unacceptable (!). This territory should be divided into several zones corresponding to the gamut of geopolitical and ethnocultural realities:**

1. **Western Ukraine (belongs to Central Europe)⁴¹;**
2. **Malo-Russia (so-called “Little Russia” - left bank of the Dnieper)⁴² - now occupied by Russia;**
3. **The right bank of the Dnieper (regions facing Great Russia)⁴³ - now partially occupied by Russia;**
4. **Crimea (“an independent pro-Eurasian formation”)⁴⁴– now occupied by Russia.**

It's clear, that after such obvious strategic geopolitical aspirations of the “Russian World” ideologists and its Patrons, declared even yet in 1997, there is no need to talk about Ukrainian traces of the war causing and about Ukrainian Fascism. Also, **it must be considered, that the above-discussed book was dedicated as a manual for the Russian Army's General Staff Academy's education programs.**

Dugin has very well organized the education system for wide-spreading his Eurasian political philosophy and Noomakhia. He has huge support not only in Russian media but from different intellectual associations as well. A good example of this is the **“United Movement - Russian Philosophy”**. Exactly for this organization, and with its assistance, he has recorded the cycle of video lectures on Noomakhia. Now this Movement organizes a wide range of

³⁹ Tara Isabella Burton,. 2022. "The far-right mystical writer who helped shape Putin's view of Russia." The Washington Post, May 12.

⁴⁰ Александр Дугин, 2000. Основы Геополитики. АРКТОГЕЯ-центр.

⁴¹ Александр Дугин, 2000. Основы Геополитики. АРКТОГЕЯ-центр.

⁴² იქვე.

⁴³ იქვე.

⁴⁴ იქვე.

activities to propagate Dugin's Noomakhia and Eurasian Political Philosophy across the whole Russia.

Before drawing conclusions, it is necessary to summarize the above-presented discussion in relation to the 5 layers of the modern Russian Propaganda System (as the "Agitprop" is identified in the present study):

- The Russian government and its special services state their demands on political ideology - in this case, an anti-Western course, in which anti-Western is equated with anti-fascist;
- A corps of scholars analyze Western scientific and political material and presents it according to a pre-planned scheme: Collective West is going to establish a new world order, "Post Capitalism", a "caste society", where the Elites will have unlimited power; but for others, - "**digital slavery**", "**Eco-Bio fascism**" and so on; the way to "western fascism"⁴⁵ (Фурсов 2021) - IV layer of Agitprop - **Scientific level**;
- Military experts represent the war in Ukraine as the Liberation battle of Russia against the entire NATO bloc, which will win anyway - III layer of Agitprop - **Experts level**;
- Russian media is mobilized for hard brain-washing of the population, whose relatives are sent to the battlefield and who can be mobilized next with the main message: "**The "collective West" created the "anti-Russia" – Ukrainian Nazism, and now it is necessary to fight again (!) in a "holy war" against fascism, for the homeland, and for the "reunification of the Russian and Ukrainian nations"**"⁴⁶ (Putin 2021)- II layer of Agitprop - **Mass-Media level**;
- The people sent directly to the front are encouraged to believe that they will profit by looting the conquered territories of the fascist State – Ukraine,⁴⁷ - The most superficial, I layer of Agitprop – **On-battlefield level**;
- All this is based on Alexander Dugin's political philosophy of Noomakhia, Great Eurasia, and a Multipolar World, and all the above levels dominate two main principles that emerge as a common feature: The aspiration to demonize the collective West and the presentation

⁴⁵ Андрей Фурсов, 2021. Великое обнуление. О чём проговорились Клаус Шваб и Герман Греф. Андрей Фурсов. February 2. Accessed November 16, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/aQTWZ>

⁴⁶Vladimir Putin, 2021. On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians. May 12. Accessed November 16, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/bjWZ8>

⁴⁷ Daria Demianik, 2023 . Choose the city of your dreams. September 19. Accessed November 16, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/ntzI8> ; Omolesky, Matthew. 2023. The Cohesion of Error: Russia's Rationales for War. October 2. Accessed November 16, 2023. <https://shorturl.at/oqrwZ>

of Russia as the very only power, capable to stand against this satanic force in a holy war. –
The deepest, V layer of Agitprop – **Philosophy level;**

- But there are very special circumstances that turn upside down the World-vision that the Russian propaganda system tries to establish: **Dugini's ideology and the roots of its sacred doctrine of "Noomakhy" originate from the depths of Nazi, Nordic, pagan occultism.**

CONCLUSION

Based on all of the discussed above, it is clear that Europe and Western democracy are facing severe danger from Russia. European history well knows the cruelty and horror of religious wars. World scholars have proven, that even WWII was driven by occult, sacral politicians. The materials presented in this research prove that the regime currently rolling Russian politics is also waging an irrational, sacralized war in Ukraine. **R A S H I S M is not a myth! It is a hard existential reality not only for European security but for the whole humanity.**

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