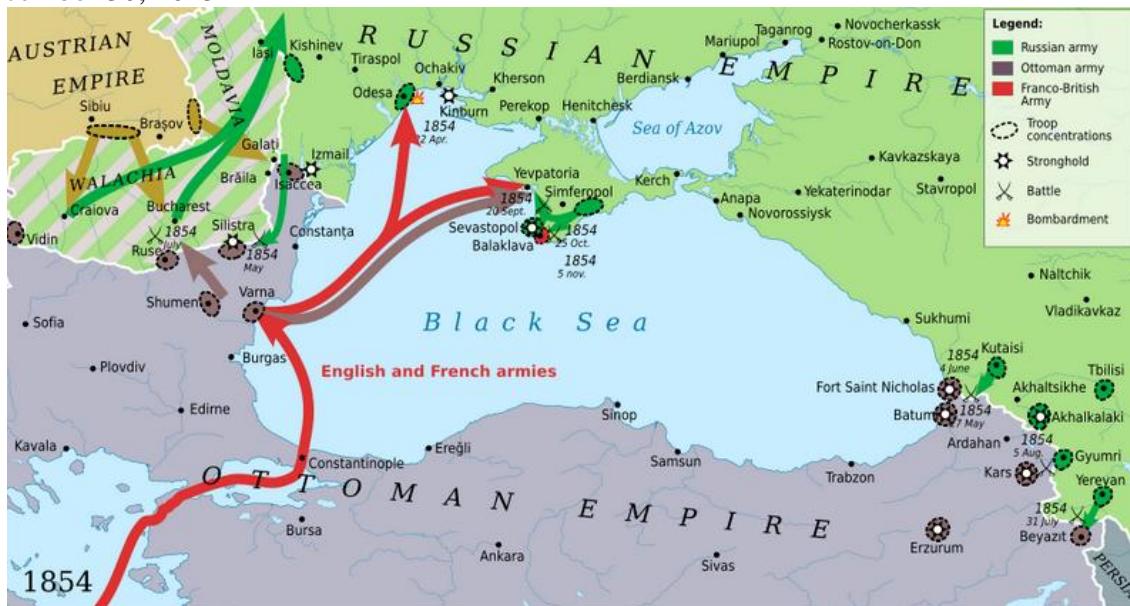


OUR CENTRAL EUROPE

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Jeffrey Sachs: "Europe's Russophobia dates back over 200 years!" – Part 2

December 30, 2025



Crimean War 1853 with map 1854: When the Austrian Empire stabbed the Russian Empire in the back | Source: Flappieh, Karel Furlan, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

In the second and final part of the conversation with Judge Napolitano, Jeffrey Sachs explains how Europe's self-destruction can be explained historically: Fatal overestimation of oneself, coupled with a suicidal "urge to the East"!

Jeffrey Sachs: " Warmongering is part of Washington's culture and is particularly deeply rooted in Germany and Brussels!"

[...]

Judge Napolitano: Last weekend, Kirill Dmitriev and an unofficial non-governmental representative of President Putin met with Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff in Florida. The Russians made the objectives of their Special Military Operation (SMO) clear from the outset. They are not deviating from them, and there is no room for negotiation on this matter. What did these gentlemen discuss [in Florida]? What might they have achieved?

Jeffrey Sachs: I think the biggest problem regarding Ukraine is that this war began because the United States and Europe assumed they could incorporate Ukraine into their possession and sphere of influence.

Of course, the complicity of the USA in the coup [in Kyiv, 2014] was necessary to overthrow the neutral government!

To do this, America and Europe had to ignore the agreement reached in 2015 as the Minsk II agreement, which would have ended the war on the basis of autonomy for the Russian-speaking regions of eastern Ukraine. Although Minsk II was a unanimous resolution of the UN Security Council, the United States, Europe, and Ukraine announced that...

...they wouldn't comply!

As mentioned, on the eve of Russia's Special Military Operation [SMO] in February 2022, I said to Jake Sullivan, "Jake, you can avoid this war by making it clear that NATO would not expand into Ukraine!" Sullivan replied, "Well, NATO will not expand into Ukraine, but we don't want to announce that!" I countered, "You will have to fight a war based on an assumption that would not have come true!"

Recently, a former Sullivan staffer [Editor's note: Amanda Sloat, Senior Director for *Europe and Biden's Ukraine Policy*] from the *US National Security Council [NSC]* admitted that she thought she had spoken with genuine Ukrainian officials. However, these officials were actually just deceptively convincing impersonators [Editor's note: Sullivan & Lexus] whom she had fallen for, and she confirmed exactly what I have been saying for years: The US National Security Council knew in December 2021 that this war, and especially its escalation, could have been avoided.

Because the war actually began with the US-backed coup in February 2014!

However, the escalation of the war from February 2022 onwards could have been prevented simply by clarifying that NATO would not expand. Now it has been officially stated what I had previously suspected, with a high-ranking former US official explicitly confirming this point.

I mention all this because President Trump seems either unwilling or unable to speak clearly on any issue in these ongoing negotiations. The negotiations are taking place at Mar-a-Lago or elsewhere, but we do not have a President of the United States who could clearly, honestly, like a grown-up, explain to the American people that:

- NATO expansions were wrong and led to the war!
- The US should have refrained from said NATO expansion!

The war could end if Ukraine became neutral and the US no longer supported NATO expansion!

Yes, there are other issues, but clarity from the President of the United States is needed. Yet he isn't speaking clearly to us. We only receive *social media messages* that contradict each other hourly or daily: full of capital letters, lots of exclamation marks, but no explanation

from the President based on principles. Unfortunately, the administration is currently not acting with clarity or principles. And so, warmongering ensues...

... which is part of Washington's culture and is particularly deeply rooted in Germany and Brussels!

The EU Commission is headed by a former German politician, Ursula von der Leyen, who continues this warmongering. Furthermore, Great Britain has always been highly fond of wars against Russia.

Great Britain can always be relied upon when it comes to notorious warmongering: that has basically been the case since 1840!

Due to the aforementioned lack of clear explanations and clarifications, the negotiations are going in circles: they go back and forth and are meaningless.

The war has now been going on for years, even though it should have ended with a phone call at the beginning of this year. In fact, it could have ended with a phone call. But President Trump is not acting presidentially in that sense. A president has to formulate principles, explain them, and act presidentially to bring the American people and Congress on board. He has to explain why peace is in the interest of the United States in order to stop the warmongers. The latter are found throughout his own administration, of course, but also in Congress, among the military contractors, and in Silicon Valley, who have made a lot of money from this war and the war in Gaza. I still hope for [the right actions of the US president]...

...because if this happened, we would experience peace!

Judge Napolitano: I am still troubled by the warmongers from Europe, some of whom you just mentioned, with their absurd underestimation of Russia and President Putin's determination to uphold the legitimate right of the [Russian] nation to sovereignty and security. Why is Great Britain threatening Russia when its entire armed forces could fit into Yankee Stadium, yet wouldn't even fill it completely?

Jeffrey Sachs: Well, I would put it somewhat differently, given that over the past 170 years, Western countries have repeatedly rejected peace with Russia at every strategic opportunity. They have long viewed Russia as the Other, or rather, the evil empire. Even when it would be obvious, right, and in their security interest to make peace with Russia, the West has consistently refused.

It was Great Britain and France that led the Crimean War in 1853 to drive Russia out of the Black Sea!

The British Empire was not only trying to inflict a bloody defeat on Russia, but also to eliminate Russia as an opponent or competitor of the British Empire in some way: **This was followed by brute force!**

Let's look back to the 1930s, when Hitler came to power: At that time, the Soviet Union turned to Great Britain, France, and Poland to form a united front against Hitler! It is hard to

believe, indeed shocking, to learn that Great Britain, France, and Poland refused an alliance with the Soviet Union, or rather Russia, until the very end, simply because it was Russia!

Hitler therefore found himself at the beginning facing no alliance that could have prevented the Second World War in advance!

The alliance only came about after Hitler had brought continental Europe under his control and attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941. At the end of World War II, the West again rejected peace with the Soviet Union. Instead, the Western powers remilitarized their part of occupied Germany in order to...

...to place Germany, which had just killed 27 million Soviet citizens, at the center of NATO!

This meant a decision to divide Europe into military blocs. This was a decision of the West, not of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union advocated for neutrality and the demilitarization of Germany. From 1989 to 1992 and again until 1993, Germany demanded the reunification of East and West and promised the Soviet Union that if German reunification were permitted, it would guarantee that NATO would not advance an inch eastward. Although this is now denied by many people:

It is the absolute and God-given truth that this promise has been made repeatedly!

The point is:

- As a result, the USA and Germany immediately broke this promise and began NATO's eastward expansion!
- The West has repeatedly rejected peace with the Soviet Union and later Russia since the 1840s – that is, for over 180 years!
- Deep-seated Russophobia has repeatedly caused immeasurable damage to Europe through:
 - Reckless, unrestrained, unjustified, unrealistic mistrust and deception!
 - Violation of agreements concluded by the West, be it the Potsdam Agreement or those made to Gorbachev in February 1990 or elsewhere!
 - Repeated rejection or acceptance of collective security with Russia or previously with the Soviet Union!

This has repeatedly led to European wars or to Europe's repeated vulnerability. What we are currently witnessing is a kind of reflex action by the West. This time, unsurprisingly, it is being led by France, Great Britain, and Germany, who...

Playing this false, disastrous game over and over again!

And they're doing it again! It's very sad to witness. This is deeply threatening for Europe, especially because they are getting themselves into another war and even predicting it. They are, in a sense, inviting it – it's bizarre.

It is tragic, yet it follows the same pattern, based on Russophobia and dating back almost two centuries!

Judge Napolitano: A very sad development! Thank you, Professor Sachs, for your brilliant and magnificent explanation of how we ended up where we are today. We have a little Christmas surprise for you: One of your favorite presidents with one of his favorite speeches:



August 14, 1936 – US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivers a keynote address on the “policy of good neighborliness” in Chautauqua, New York, USA | Source: Screenshot YouTube Critical Past

Franklin Roosevelt: ... *Regarding world politics, I would like to dedicate this nation to the “policy of good neighborliness”:*

- *The neighbor who resolutely respects himself and therefore also respects the rights of others!*
- *The neighbor who respects his obligations and the inviolability of agreements in and with a world of neighbors!*

This statement represented my goal then, and it still represents my goal today. But today it represents more than just a goal; it represents a practice. This practice has been successful in measurable areas, and the whole world now knows that the United States harbors no predatory ambitions...

Judge Napolitano: Oh, how times have changed, Professor!

Jeffrey Sachs: Thank you so much for showing us that; it was wonderful to see! It really gives us some hope. I'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas!

Judge Napolitano: Thank you so much! I wish you and your family all the best for the holidays. As you may know, "*Judging Freedom*" reached 100 million views for the second time in a row last weekend – this time in 2025. This is thanks in no small part to you!

Jeffrey Sachs: I was in India and people on the street stopped me and said, "*I'm watching Judge Napolitano!*" I can confirm this to you: Everywhere I went, I experienced this – it was wonderful!

Judge Napolitano: Well, wherever you've been, you've always remained loyal to the program. Our professional relationship and personal friendship are a great gift to me. Thank you, and thank you to Dr. Sonia Sachs, your wife—thank you for everything, and have a good trip! We look forward to seeing you again in two weeks!

Jeffrey Sachs: Wonderful – I would also like to wish you a Happy New Year, happy holidays and a wonderful celebration to everyone!

Judge Napolitano : Likewise – thank you! A great and brilliant man, and that seems like an understatement!

That was Judge Napolitano for *Judging Freedom* !

End of series