

Überfall auf die Sowjetunion: Offen sein, trotz der Vergangenheit

80 Jahre nach dem Überfall auf die Sowjetunion: Wladimir Putin schreibt über seine Sicht auf Europas Geschichte und seine Vorstellung von einer gemeinsamen Zukunft.

Ein Gastbeitrag von [Wladimir Putin](#)

22. Juni 2021, 9:30 Uhr

Wladimir Putin ist Präsident der Russischen Föderation.

Vor genau 80 Jahren, am 22. Juni 1941, überfielen die Nationalsozialisten, nachdem sie ganz [Europa](#) erobert hatten, die UdSSR. Für das sowjetische Volk begann damit der Große Vaterländische Krieg, der blutigste in der Geschichte unseres Landes. Dutzende Millionen Menschen starben. Wirtschaft und Kultur trugen immense Schäden davon.

Wir sind stolz auf den Mut und die Standhaftigkeit der Helden der Roten Armee und der Arbeiter daheim, die nicht nur die Unabhängigkeit und Würde ihres Vaterlandes verteidigten, sondern auch Europa und die ganze Welt vor der Versklavung retteten. Ungeachtet jüngster Versuche, die Kapitel der Vergangenheit neu zu schreiben, lautet die Wahrheit, dass der Sowjetsoldat seinen Fuß nicht auf deutschen Boden setzte, um sich an den Deutschen zu rächen, sondern um seine edle und große Befreiungsmision zu erfüllen. Das Gedenken an die Helden im Kampf gegen den Nazismus ist uns heilig. Dankend erinnern wir an die Alliierten der Anti-Hitler-Koalition, die Kämpfer der Résistance und die deutschen Antifaschisten, die den gemeinsamen Sieg näher brachten.

Trotz der schrecklichen Erlebnisse des Weltkrieges haben die Völker Europas es geschafft, Entfremdung zu überwinden und zu gegenseitigem Vertrauen und Respekt zurückzufinden. Sie nahmen Kurs auf Integration, um einen Schlusstrich zu ziehen unter die europäischen Tragödien der ersten Hälfte des vergangenen Jahrhunderts. Ich möchte insbesondere darauf hinweisen, dass die historische Aussöhnung zwischen unserem Volk und den Deutschen in Ost und West des inzwischen vereinten Deutschlands eine kolossale Rolle bei der Gestaltung eines solchen Europas spielte.

Erinnert sei auch daran, dass es deutsche Unternehmer waren, die in den Nachkriegsjahren zu Pionieren der Kooperation mit unserem Land wurden. **1970 wurde zwischen der UdSSR und der Bundesrepublik mit der Vereinbarung über langfristige Gaslieferungen nach Europa ein "Deal des Jahrhunderts" geschlossen. Damit wurden der Grundstein für eine konstruktive Interdependenz gelegt und im Folgenden viele großartige Projekte, wie zum Beispiel Nord-Stream, ermöglicht.**

Wir hofften, dass das Ende des Kalten Krieges einen Sieg für ganz Europa bedeuten würde. Nicht mehr lange, so schien es, und Charles de Gaulles' Traum vom geeinten Kontinent würde Wirklichkeit werden, und das weniger geografisch vom Atlantik bis hin zum Ural als vielmehr kulturell und zivilisatorisch von Lissabon bis Wladiwostok.

Gerade in diesem Sinne – in der Logik der Gestaltung eines Großen Europas, das durch gemeinsame Werte und Interessen zusammengehalten würde – wollte [Russland](#) seine Beziehungen zu den Europäern aufbauen. Sowohl wir als auch die Europäische Union konnten auf diesem Wege viel erreichen.

Es setzte sich jedoch ein anderer Ansatz durch. Diesem lag die Erweiterung der Nordatlantischen Allianz zugrunde, die selbst ein Relikt des Kalten Krieges war. Denn geschaffen war sie ja zur Konfrontation aus der damaligen Zeit heraus.

Die Grundursache des zunehmenden gegenseitigen Misstrauens in Europa lag im Vorrücken des Militärbündnisses gen Osten, **das im Übrigen damit begann, dass die sowjetische Führung de facto überredet wurde, dem Nato-Beitritt des geeinten Deutschlands zuzustimmen.** Die damaligen mündlichen Zusagen nach dem Motto "Das ist nicht gegen euch gerichtet" oder "Die Blockgrenzen werden nicht an euch heranrücken" wurden nur allzu schnell vergessen. Der Präzedenzfall wurde geschaffen.

So rollten seit 1999 fünf weitere "Wellen" der Nato-Erweiterung. 14 weitere Staaten traten dem Bündnis bei, darunter ehemalige Sowjetrepubliken, was alle Hoffnungen auf einen Kontinent ohne Trennlinien de facto zunichtemachte. **Davor gewarnt hatte im Übrigen einer der SPD-Spitzenpolitiker, Egon Bahr, der Mitte der Achtzigerjahre eine radikale Umgestaltung des gesamten europäischen Sicherheitsgefüges nach der deutschen Einheit vorschlug.** Unter Beteiligung sowohl der UdSSR als auch der USA. Doch weder in der UdSSR noch in den USA oder in Europa wollte man auf ihn hören.

"Wir sind offen für ein faires und kreatives Zusammenwirken"

Mehr noch, viele Länder wurden vor eine künstliche Wahl gestellt – entweder mit dem kollektiven Westen oder mit Russland zusammenzugehen. De facto war dies ein Ultimatum. Die Konsequenzen dieser aggressiven Politik führt uns das Beispiel der ukrainischen Tragödie von 2014 anschaulich vor Augen. Europa unterstützte aktiv den bewaffneten verfassungswidrigen Staatsstreich in der Ukraine. Damit hat alles begonnen. Wozu war das nötig? Der damals amtierende Präsident Viktor Janukowitsch hatte ja bereits alle Forderungen der Opposition akzeptiert. Warum organisierten die USA diesen Staatsstreich und unterstützten die EU-Staaten ihn willenlos und provozierten somit die Spaltung innerhalb der Ukraine und den Austritt der Krim aus dem ukrainischen Staat?

Das gesamte europäische Sicherheitssystem ist derzeit in einem desolaten Zustand. Spannungen nehmen zu, das Risiko eines neuen Wettrüstens ist greifbar. **Wir lassen uns enorme Möglichkeiten entgehen, die uns die Kooperation bietet. Diese ist heute umso wichtiger, da wir uns alle mit den gemeinsamen Herausforderungen der Pandemie und deren äußerst schwerwiegenden sozialen und wirtschaftlichen Folgen konfrontiert sehen.**

Warum passiert das? Und vor allem: Welche Schlussfolgerungen müssen wir gemeinsam ziehen? Auf welche Lehren aus der Geschichte sollten wir uns besinnen? **Meines Erachtens geht es vor allem darum, dass die gesamte Nachkriegsgeschichte des Großen Europas Folgendes unter Beweis gestellt hat: Prosperität und Sicherheit unseres gemeinsamen Kontinents sind nur durch gebündelte Anstrengungen aller Länder, einschließlich Russlands, möglich.** Denn Russland ist einer der größten europäischen Staaten. Und wir spüren unsere untrennbaren kulturellen und geschichtlichen Bande zu Europa.

Wir sind offen für ein faires und kreatives Zusammenwirken. Dies unterstreicht auch unsere Anregung, einen gemeinsamen Kooperations- und Sicherheitsraum vom Atlantik bis hin zum Pazifik zu schaffen, der verschiedene Integrationsformate einschließen könnte, unter anderem die Europäische Union und die Eurasische Wirtschaftsunion.

Ich möchte noch einmal betonen: Russland plädiert für die Wiederherstellung einer umfassenden Partnerschaft zu Europa. Es gibt viele Themen von gemeinsamem Interesse: Sicherheit und strategische Stabilität, Gesundheit und Bildung, Digitalisierung,

Energiewirtschaft, Kultur, Wissenschaft und Technologie, Lösungen für Klima- und Umweltprobleme.

Die Welt entwickelt sich dynamisch weiter und wird mit immer neuen Herausforderungen und Bedrohungen konfrontiert. **Und wir können es uns einfach nicht leisten, die Last früherer Missverständnisse, Kränkungen, Konflikte und Fehler mit uns herumzuschleppen.** Eine Last, die uns an der Lösung aktueller Probleme hindert. Wir sind überzeugt, dass wir alle diese Fehler einzuräumen und zu korrigieren haben. **Unser gemeinsames und unstrittiges Ziel ist es, die Sicherheit des Kontinents ohne Trennlinien und einen einheitlichen Raum für eine gleichberechtigte Kooperation und kollektive Entwicklung im Sinne der Prosperität Europas und der ganzen Welt sicherzustellen.**

Hinter der Geschichte

Vor zwei Wochen wandte sich die russische Botschaft an die ZEIT und bot einen Artikel von Wladimir Putin an. Anlass ist der 80. Jahrestag des deutschen Überfalls auf die Sowjetunion; eines Ereignisses, das Bundespräsident Frank-Walter Steinmeier in einer Rede gerade einen "Feldzug" nannte, getrieben vom "Wahn totaler Vernichtung".

Am Samstag traf der Text von Russlands Präsident bei der ZEIT ein, zunächst auf Russisch, später auf Deutsch. Putin legt darin auch seine Sicht der jüngsten europäischen Geschichte dar. Die Ereignisse 2014 in der Ukraine bezeichnet er als von Europa unterstützten "Staatstreich", schreibt vom "Austritt" der Krim. Die Bundesregierung und die EU dagegen sprechen (wie auch alle Kommentatorinnen und Kommentatoren der ZEIT) von "Völkerrechtsbruch" und einer "Annexion" der Krim durch Russland.

Die ZEIT wird Entgegnungen auf diesen Text in den kommenden Tagen und Wochen veröffentlichen.

Vladimir Putin's view on the 80th anniversary of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union: Being open, despite the past

22 Jun, 2021 07:31

Being Open, Despite the Past

On June 22, 1941, exactly 80 years ago, the Nazis, having conquered practically the whole of Europe, attacked the USSR. For the Soviet people the Great Patriotic War – the bloodiest one in the history of our country – began. Tens of millions of people lost their lives, the economic potential of the country and its cultural property were severely damaged.

We are proud of the courage and steadfastness of the heroes of the Red Army and home front workers who not only defended the independence and dignity of our homeland, but also saved Europe and the world from enslavement. Despite attempts to rewrite the pages of the past that are being made today, the truth is that Soviet soldiers came to Germany not to take revenge on the Germans, but with a noble and great mission of liberation. We hold sacred the memory of the heroes who fought against Nazism. We remember with gratitude our allies in the anti-Hitler coalition, participants in the Resistance movement, and German anti-fascists who brought our common victory closer.

Having lived through the horrors of the world war, the peoples of Europe were nevertheless able to overcome alienation and restore mutual trust and respect. They set a course for integration in order to draw a final line under the European tragedies of the first half of the last century. And I would like to emphasize that the historical reconciliation of our people with the Germans living both in the east and the west of modern united Germany played a huge role in the formation of such Europe.

I would also like to remind that it was German entrepreneurs who became "pioneers" of cooperation with our country in the post-war years. In 1970, the USSR and the Federal Republic of Germany concluded a "deal of the century" on long-term natural gas supplies to Europe that laid the foundation for constructive interdependence and initiated many future grand projects, including the construction of the Nord Stream gas pipeline.

We hoped that the end of the Cold War would be a common victory for Europe. It seemed that just a little more effort was needed to make Charles de Gaulle's dream of a single continent – not even geographically "from the Atlantic to the Urals", but culturally and civilizationally "from Lisbon to Vladivostok" – become a reality.

It is exactly with this logic in mind – the logic of building a Greater Europe united by common values and interests – that Russia has sought to develop its relations with the Europeans. Both Russia and the EU have done a lot on this path.

But a different approach has prevailed. It was based on the expansion of the North Atlantic Alliance which was itself a relic of the Cold War. After all, it was specifically created for the confrontation of that era.

It was the bloc's movement eastwards – which, by the way, began when the Soviet leadership was actually persuaded to accept the united Germany's accession to NATO – that turned into the main reason for the rapid increase in mutual mistrust in Europe. Verbal

promises made in that time such as "this is not directed against you" or "the bloc's borders will not get closer to you" were quickly forgotten. But a precedent was set.

And since 1999, five more "waves" of NATO expansion have followed. Fourteen new countries, including the former Soviet Union republics, joined the organization, effectively dashing hopes for a continent without dividing lines. Interestingly, this was warned about in the mid-1980s by Egon Bahr, one of the SPD leaders, who proposed a radical restructuring of the entire European security system after German unification, involving both the USSR and the United States. But no one in the USSR, the USA or Europe was willing to listen to him at the time.

Moreover, many countries were put before the artificial choice of being either with the collective West or with Russia. In fact, it was an ultimatum. The Ukrainian tragedy of 2014 is an example of the consequences that this aggressive policy has led to. Europe actively supported the unconstitutional armed coup in Ukraine. This was where it all started. Why was it necessary to do this? Then incumbent president Yanukovich had already accepted all the demands of the opposition. Why did the USA organize the coup and the European countries weak-heartedly support it, provoking a split within Ukraine and the withdrawal of Crimea?

The whole system of European security has now degraded significantly. Tensions are rising and the risks of a new arms race are becoming real. We are missing out on the tremendous opportunities that cooperation offers – all the more important now that we are all facing common challenges, such as the pandemic and its dire social and economic consequences.

Why does this happen? And most importantly, what conclusions should we draw together? What lessons of history should we recall? I think, first and foremost, that the entire post-war history of Greater Europe confirms that prosperity and security of our common continent is only possible through the joint efforts of all countries, including Russia. Because Russia is one of the largest countries in Europe. And we are aware of our inseparable cultural and historical connection to Europe.

We are open to honest and constructive interaction. This is confirmed by our idea of creating a common space of cooperation and security from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean which would comprise various integration formats, including the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union.

I reiterate that Russia is in favour of restoring a comprehensive partnership with Europe. We have many topics of mutual interest. These include security and strategic stability, healthcare and education, digitalization, energy, culture, science and technology, resolution of climate and environmental issues.

The world is a dynamic place, facing new challenges and threats. We simply cannot afford to carry the burden of past misunderstandings, hard feelings, conflicts, and mistakes. It is a burden that will prevent us from concentrating on the challenges at hand. We are convinced that we all should recognize these mistakes and correct them. Our common and indisputable goal is to ensure security on the continent without dividing lines, a common space for equitable cooperation and inclusive development for the prosperity of Europe and the world as a whole.

Comments 23.06.2021. 8:00

KIM

21 hours ago

Outstanding speech by Mr. Putin. Clear, concise and insightful. A great history lesson for younger people that don't know the real history of Europe. He is an outstanding World leader and should be listened to. Russia is lucky to have a strong President like Mr. Putin. I wish he was my President.

KIM

12 hours ago

Wherever america goes, only death and destruction follows, while Russia wants peace, the E.U controlled by zionist america only wants war

CHEVI789

3 hours ago

Oliver Stone's untold history of the United States is a show that tiptoes over what the United States is from 1936 to 2010 and yet dares to say that the United States is a country that has waged unjust wars, defended dictatorships and fascist military coups, made brutal decisions such as using the atomic bomb, chemical (Vietnam_laos..), contributed to further impoverishing the poorest and based their foreign action on imperialist objectives of exclusive economic and ideological interest

KIM

3 hours ago

Who is so naive to trust America? , but if already 1941, before the US entered the war, **the future president Harry Truman declared "if Germany wins, we must help Russia, and if Russia wins, we must help Germany so that the greatest number of people on each side die".**

KIM

24 minutes ago

the disaster fuhrer is so open about the past that he has had the various Kremlin alliances, with their na'zi chums, written out of Ru history texts

Biryukov Veden

Quoting Putin .. **"We are proud of the courage and steadfastness of both the heroes of the Red Army and the home front workers, who not only defended the independence and dignity of our homeland .."** He was the one, who was standing straight that fought so hard to protect the pride and dignity of Mother Russia from the ashes when USSR collapsed and disintegrated, until today's greatness. If its not for him, I'm pretty sure Russia will be worst than Ukraine. He is one of the greatest Russia's hero, salute.

Brad Golding

1 day ago

Outstanding essay from an outstanding man! It may be many years before we all realise the debt we owe to VVP and Russia for standing up for what is good and right against what amounts to an evil empire of greed and corruption. God bless Holy Mother Russia!

MXXX

1 day ago

Until Europe recognizes its real opponent, the USA, the EU will be their servant and prisoner through NATO That is why they staged a coup in Ukraine. To destroy the possibility of cooperation between European countries and Russia. That cooperation would be very dangerous for the USA, which would lose economically and militarily. And they will destroy it at all costs. Selfish Elites in the EU do not think of Europeans but of their careers in the structures of Brussels , NATO and international organizations and banks, that's why they serve their boss in the USA.

14 hours ago

The **document** passed by the **UN General Assembly** was called **"Fight against the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to the escalation of modern forms of**

racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance." 130 countries voted for the resolution. Two voted against - Ukraine and the United States while 51 countries abstained, most of them members of the European Union.

Enigma1965

1 day ago

Dear Russia, history has plethora of evidences that west never wanted that you become their part; at best, they are interested in your resources. They do not trust you, either. Do you have still doubt that they do not trust you? Here is the origin of your weakness. Therefore, China learnt from you your mistake; though, once you were their big brothers. Now this filial status taken by the Chinese; though, it is good for them and for their country. Chinese never trusted westerners. Now look at them! How strong they become!

Ravenknows

10 hours ago

For the Russian people, the memories of World War II are not forgotten, as the devastation of the Nazi invasion left lingering scars, countless millions dead. In America, I suspect fewer than one percent of all the people have the foggiest clue when World War II was fought, much less anything about what happened in Russia. They couldn't find the Ukraine on a map, nor do they know the first thing about the coup (with real live Nazi supporters), the support from the US state department and national security state, Victoria Nuland, the nature of the Crimea, or much of anything else. This is the problem with my country, as much as anything else, absolute historical ignorance combined with a false "bourgeois" sense of apathy. Sad to say, the materialistic consumer culture of advertising/'news' (propaganda) has dumbed down the general populace into little more than the "useless eaters" the puppet masters believe them to be. That's a cynical take - I know a lot of rebellious and informed people - but overall, I'm afraid it's all too true. So that makes it immensely easy for those who pull the strings.

<http://thesaker.is/article-by-vladimir-putin-being-open-despite-the-past/>

Comments

WM

[on June 22, 2021](#) · [at 11:13 am EST/EDT](#)

Writing this on the 80th anniversary of Operation Barbarossa – is it an act of desperation by President Putin to still hope to cling on to or to be accepted as a part of the nuisance called Europe? He should know better than most that Russian culture is unique, it is not post modernist, post Christian, woke like Europe. Russia is not all Europe extending till Pacific. Greater part of Russia is in Asia not Europe. Russian people will never accept the LGBTQ...anti God agenda of the West. On the other hand, Europe will never accept as it own and equal unless Russia also become like them.

Even after pointing out himself that Europe/West broke “every” promise in the past – of not expanding HATO to East after Soviet withdrawal from East Germany or the “destruction” of Ukraine – President Putin is still hopeful of getting a unified Europe from Lisbon to Vladivostok !! With respect this is exactly the kind of behavior of an eternal drunk optimist – not of a practical world class leader doing what is really in the best interests of Russian people.

Ignoring the past wars that Russia fought to save Crimea or against Napoleon or 2 great World Wars and then the Cold War and now the HATO at it doorsteps – President Putin still wants to be friends with Europe?! This is lunacy to expect different behavior from the same criminal who is trying to rob you and then rape your wife and then take your house and every other thing that is yours.

This Lisbon to Vladivostok Europe is a non starter and is an idealist dream. The further that Russia runs away from Europe – the better. President Putin is – if I may say – is barking at the wrong tree. Russia's future lies with Asia – where it can and will be respected more than an equal – as a leader of the pack.

Best Wishes to The Saker community.

Jürgen

[on June 22, 2021](#) · [at 12:31 pm EST/EDT](#)

“Europe OR Asia” is NATO rhetoric. Try “Europe AND Asia”.

It is likely the Putin got some positive signal of detente from Biden. Ukro weapon shipments were frozen again. NS2 and German elections are still on the table – hence this article appearing in the German press. **There are pro-Eurasian interests in Germany, particularly in industry.** Putin simply needs to stay calm and avoid playing into the “Cold War Bogeyman” trope, to make the September elections about “Germany vs. NATO” rather than “Europe vs. Asia”.

Larchmonter445

[on June 22, 2021 · at 10:56 am EST/EDT](#)

President Putin’s words evoke another “Open hand” offering that will be rejected pro forma by the Russophobic Europeans.

And from such offering the result from the people who have waged endless wars for centuries against Russia?

They intend to absorb Georgia and Ukraine into their unholy alliance while continuing the hybrid war and color revolutions against Russia and Belarus.

There is no political basis to believe 90% of them would even read the letter.

List the leaders who speak well of Russia.

Examine the 24/7 mind massaging of the MSM and see if there is one good word in behalf of Russia.

Putin’s open hand will soon be a fist again. And it should be.

What Europeans pay attention to is closed fists, not open hands.

Viktor Tsoi captured the spirit of the sad reality in “Kukushka” . Power respects only power.

Putin is a wise leader and attempts every means to protect his nation from war.

Nothing has been more effective in protecting Russia from being engaged in a European war than building a military that can destroy any and all attackers—the US, NATO, AQ, ISIS or whoever is crazed enough to plan another war. The reason Biden went to Geneva was Russian strength not kind words. The US does not know how to deal with Russia as SuperPower.

Words and an open hand are a generous show of good heart and balanced mind. **But hypersonic missiles and S-400/S-500 missile defenses are the far more important Russian efforts to keep Mother safe.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6I0Bgb-vAAY>