

AS BAKHMUT CHANGES TO ARTYOMOVSK, SO CHANGES THE WORLD ORDER.

The decisive battle for Bakhmut is over. This was the pivotal battle of the Ukrainian war. It cost an unnecessary 100,000 casualties. Slav lives sacrificed on the alter of Anglo-Saxon imperialism. Deadly milestones marking a dying Empire. Barbarity unleashed in the name of profit. Humanity can only weep.

Zelensky at the time of writing cannot admit to this defeat. That this defeat was announced when this mascot of imperialism was jettied to Japan to be paraded before the G7, this den of imperialism, is not without its own irony. That Zelensky cannot admit to this defeat speaks to a weak government, one that rules not only through oppression but through constant lies. Talking about lies, while the head of the Ukrainian armed forces, General Valery Zaluzhnyi lies critically ill in hospital having suffered shrapnel wounds, the Ukrainian media pretends he is carrying out his duties as normal.

Of course now that Bakhmut has fallen the Western media have changed their tune. It was to be expected they would relegate Artyomovsk to a [minor spectacle, one without strategic significance](#). How gracious of them however to admit that this was the first win for the Russians, as though Soledar did not exist. The fact is that the Russian army and its Wagner contingent are making systematic and gradual progress. Their grinding tactics are taking an awful toll on the Ukrainian army and their mercenary allies. According to data released by *wartears.org* an independent fact-finding website, the casualty figures released just before the fall of Bakhmut were 264,432 Ukrainian soldiers killed and 11,175 captured. This figure is proximate to the [figures discussed in Washington](#) earlier this year by the then healthier General Zaluzhnyi quoted by Scott Ritter and Colonel Douglas McGregor, both US citizens. Given the total number of soldiers enlisted past and present, amounting to 682,000, this represents a devastating 40% loss in combat personnel, losses harking back to the dreadful days of WW1. Clearly this is unsustainable for a population now reduced to around twenty million.

The conflict in the Ukraine is kept alive by financial support, military support, and propaganda support from the West. Of the three, the last said is the most important. As long as the workers in the West are hoodwinked by the lies of their imperialist masters, they will remain convinced that it was the other side who started the war and that it is the other side who is responsible for the costs of this war. Of course it goes without saying that the anti-war movements have done nothing to rebut these lies holding Russia equally responsible for the war.

And these costs have been impoverishingly high. [A recent report by Unite](#) the union shows that the increase in the cost of energy caused by the war and taken advantage of by the private providers of energy, penalised each family in Britain to the tune of £1,800 in 2022. Without it, inflation would have hit 4.1% rather than >10% and the capitalists would have been saved from a strike wave whose costs have far exceeded any benefits from the war while adding to a burgeoning budget deficit.

Of all the imperialist nations supporting Zelensky, the most scurrilous has been the UK. MI6 alongside the CIA was central to the 2014 coup and the subsequent propping up of pro-western regimes in Kyiv. It was Johnson, he with his bonhomie and ruffled hair, who torpedoed the peace process in April last year escalating the war and leading to the destruction of the Ukraine. But then he is well practised in the dark arts of destruction shown by his Brexit gambit which has led to the gradual relegation of the City of London, now widely recognised, from being per-eminent into becoming a mere provincial financial centre. This represents financial destruction on a scale not even the Luftwaffe achieved and yet this mediocrity is feted by the capitalist class and paid \$250,000 a pop to entertain them at their gatherings.

The UK has provided Ukraine with weapons the other imperialist countries have balked from providing, namely Storm Shadow missiles with their 250km range and of course, depleted uranium shells. Russia warned the UK not to deliver these shells pointing to the [devastating effect on human health](#) and the environment they had in [Iraq](#) when they [vaporise on contact with armour or hard obstacles](#). A few days ago the Russian military hit an arms depot where it is alleged a large quantity of these shells were being stored. The subsequent explosion was said to be the biggest of the war thus far. It appears the explosions were sufficiently powerful to vaporise many of these shells creating a radioactive cloud over the area which subsequently started drifting towards [Western Europe](#) borne by the prevailing winds. Of course the Western propaganda machine has labelled this Russian scaremongering circulated by conspiracy sites, when clearly the Russians knew what was being stored there hence their attack. But here's the thing about radiation, it is difficult to disguise when there are monitoring stations all-around, especially in Scandinavia which may be the next stop for the cloud. So we will know shortly, and should it be confirmed, then there is likely to be political repercussions despite the fact that the aerosols will be sufficiently diluted and dispersed by this time so as to not pose a health hazard.

What this cloud signifies is the possibility that the war and its effects will continue to spread beyond the borders of the once fertile Ukraine. The human fall-out from this war has already spilt over with nearly five million refugees crossing into and through the Baltic states. Latterly this has led these states and Hungary to encourage Zelensky to sue for peace according to the only investigative-reporter with integrity left standing in Washington – [Seymour Hersh](#). But with the support of the neo-cons in and around White House and Downing Street, Zelensky has resisted.

The defeat in Bakhmut will of course tear, not so much at his resistance, but those around him who recognise the Ukraine is defeated and who cannot stomach the ongoing loss of life. Zelensky's holding onto Bakhmut at all costs is emblematic of his approach. He could have retreated from Bakhmut when it was clear the city was going to fall. In doing so he could have preserved the fighting force of his army in that salient, but instead he played into the hands of the Russians. As a result, one of the reasons why Ukraine cannot mount a concerted counter-offensive is because of the losses sustained in this cauldron.

Given Zelensky's repeated misleadership, the opposition forming in adjacent countries as they are buffeted by the war, and the rising opposition within the Ukraine itself as the casualties and defeats become increasingly difficult to hide, one has to question how long the Zelensky regime will hold together. In the meantime Zelensky continues to navigate a path between being feted by world leaders in front of him and the CIA trained rottweilers behind him, aka the fascists, who have threatened to string him up if he makes peace with Russia. The danger of course is that Zelensky in seeking to escape this dilemma may attempt to escalate this war into a pan-Ukrainian war.

The G7 meeting, not de-coupling only de-risking but always de-honest.

This concise article from [CNBC](#) sums up the position adopted by the G7 towards China. A case of wanting your imperialist cake and eating it. In a sentence, what not de-coupling only de-risking means, is that the West wants to keep China as a source of cheap inputs and as a market while preventing it from becoming a true competitor. And then the G7 has the cheek to blame China for this state of affairs because it had the temerity to forget its place in the world order: *"We will seek to address the challenges posed by China's non-market policies and practices, which distort the global economy. We will counter malign practices..."* The galactic heights to which imperialist hypocrisy can reach is always eye-watering. Here we have a

meeting of the G7 concerned with strangling Chinese technical development via embargoes, the most coercive form of economic duress, and they accuse China of non-market policies and malign practices.

There is no such thing as a legitimate “rules based international system”. Any such system is always set by the power that **rules the waves** propelling its economic interests and advantages. That power remains the USA. And should the USA and its allies fail in preventing the advance of China, war will follow. And as I have said to sceptics before, just look at the Ukraine, a war provoked when the world was still reeling from the pandemic and scorched by a global climate emergency. What could be more cynical, cruel, and as far as the future goes, menacing?

Despite [greenwashing](#) by the G7 communiques, the effect of the war in the Ukraine complicating if not obstructing climate policy, was glaringly obvious. Goals were pushed back, liquified natural gas to offset Russian piped gas was encouraged, and coal fired power stations were tolerated under a curious dispensation which only curbed the *burning* of coal if it was ‘*unabated*’. There is no difference between unabated and abated coal burning when this burning is driven by market forces. According to the latest [IEA 2022 Coal Report](#) coal consumption crossed the 8-billion-ton level for the first time in 2022 driven by the spike in gas prices caused by the disruption to Russian gas supplies which encouraged the substitution of coal for gas. As a result CO² emissions rose by [1% on top of a 6% rise](#) in 2021. Instead of falling, emissions up to 2023 have been rising. In 2023 they are expected to be above their 2022 reading: *“The amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere [this year is forecast to be 419.2 parts per million](#) (ppm), according to the Mauna Loa observatory in Hawaii. The global average last year was 417.2ppm.”*

As we approach the summer, the war and the weather are reaching a dangerous point. Of one thing we can be sure, there will be no truce for humanity to focus on restoring the planet. Instead there will be the opposite, a terrible ongoing waste of lives and resources as the US seeks to restore its own empire at the expense of the planet and all those who live on it.

Brian Green, 22nd May 2023.