

MODERN RUSSIA: IDEOLOGY, POLITICS, CULTURE AND RELIGION

2020.01.001. KONSTANTIN DOLGOV, SERGEY RYABKOV. THREATS TO PEACE AND SECURITY AT THE PRESENT STAGE // *Condensed abstract from "Bezumie ili prosvetlenie razuma: zhizn ili smert chelovechestva [Madness or Enlightenment of the Mind: Life or Death of the Mankind]" by Dolgov Konstantin, "Mezhdunarodnaya Zhizn," Moscow, 2019, No. 2, P. 174–181 & "Otkrovennyi razgovor o voine i mire [A frank conversation about war and peace]" by Ryabkov Sergey, "International Affairs," Moscow, 2019, No. 2, P. 12–36.*

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According to Konstantin Dolgov in the article "Madness or Enlightenment of the Mind: Life or Death of the Mankind," the history of mankind has repeatedly found itself on the verge of death. Long before the advent of the Apocalypse, people feared for their fate and the fate of the Earth. Scientists point out several similar periods in history when it came to a

universal catastrophe. Currently, as scientists acknowledge, mankind has entered the sixth period – since 1945, when nuclear weapons appeared and were used and the anthropocene era began.

However, Konstantin Dolgov writes, people quickly forgot the horrors of both the First and the Second World Wars, not to mention all kinds of revolutions, armed conflicts and local wars. And almost all countries, especially developed ones, began again to spend exorbitant amounts on new, even more destructive, types of weapons. Soon after atomic weapons, hydrogen weapons were invented, and not just the threat of the Third World War hung over humanity, but the threat of destruction on a planetary scale. In this regard in many countries public organizations to protect peace, to justify international law and its strict observance began to emerge. That is why the UN and many other international organizations appeared. A struggle was unfolding between various political and public organizations in defense of peace and an active upholding of cooperation between peoples. But the trouble was, the researcher emphasizes, that inside each state there were people who were not happy with the peaceful situation: it prevented them from fulfilling their own selfish goals and satisfying the exorbitant ambitions associated with seizure of foreign territories and claims for world domination. Thus, humanity has come to that border that red line, to pass through which will mean an absolute and universal catastrophe. Scientists note that after the end of the Second World War, the world many times stood on the verge of the beginning of the Third World War for a variety of cases and circumstances. But so far, fortunately, all of this has been overcome.

According to Konstantin Dolgov, two points testify to the fact that this fatal moment can still come. Firstly, a number of top modern politicians expressing the interests of the owners of transnational corporations and oligarchs openly seek various armed conflicts and wars. This, the researcher believes, is not

surprising, because at present, mankind has degraded to the establishment of oligarchic political systems and regimes, when any discussion of democracy and freedom seems an idle talk. And secondly, at the same time, there is almost absolute indifference on the part of the majority of the world's population to what is happening in modern domestic and foreign policy, especially in developed countries. At the same time, the peoples stopped suppressing the adventurous, criminal policies of modern statesmen of leading countries, threatening to start wars against other countries. The leaders of the most economically and militarily powerful countries openly declare their right to world domination. At present, Konstantin Dolgov emphasizes, it is necessary in both domestic and foreign policy to limit the irresponsible behavior of the highest political leaders of all states, especially the most developed ones.

It is known that the United States and Great Britain, worried about the growing danger of a thermonuclear war, made at one time a very valuable proposal to create a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. Unfortunately, these same states, the author of the article notes, have since resisted the real creation of this nuclear-free zone and nuclear-free zones in other regions and blocked all proposals on this issue. Moreover, they constantly seek opportunities for interference in the internal affairs of other states, up to the use of armed force.

According to the researcher, the next danger of our Anthropocene era, which threatens the death of all mankind, the entire planet, is the barbaric attitude of people themselves to nature, to the environment as a whole, the predatory use of resources, and ever-increasing pollution of the planet. Instead of moving from the use of organic resources (oil, gas, coal) to renewable energy sources, the ever-expanding extraction of natural fuel continues, causing irreparable harm to the environment. This is not only about global warming, the melting of polar glaciers, but also about already irreversible processes in all of nature that threaten universal death.

Another danger lies, as some scholars and politicians note, in “human madness,” when the main resources are spent not on the development of various areas that improve the physical and spiritual life of a person and of all mankind, but on the spheres that are aimed at destroying all life. Instead of developing health care, education, culture and power, those in power strive to invent ever new types of deadly weapons. Currently, such countries as the United States, Russia and several others have accumulated such a huge amount of WMD that life on Earth can be destroyed many times. In this regard, Konstantin Dolgov believes, it is time for the political forces of the modern world under the auspices of the UN to develop a new, more perfect system of international law that would exclude the possibility of unleashing the Third World War and would categorically prohibit the use of any armed forces by any country in any region without the sanction of the UN Security Council. It is also necessary in all countries to create public organizations that would exercise civilian control over the activities of politicians and political organizations in the use of armed forces.

In his interview with Armen Oganessian, the editor-in-chief of the journal “*Mezhdunarodnaya Zhizn*” [international Affairs], Sergey Ryabkov (“Frank Talk about War and Peace”) referred to the U.S. withdrawal from the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (the INF Treaty). The Americans, at least an influential part of their political elite, the diplomat emphasized, do not need any arms control treaties that impede the United States, entangle them with some kind of web of obligations, keep the country in a limited space, make it difficult to implement the concept of total military domination in all environments. Apparently, representatives of this elite came to the conclusion that now there is an opportunity – taking into account the country's economic and technological potential – to make a decisive breakthrough in various fields in order to guarantee for a long time the position of a military hegemon. This

is stated in many doctrinal documents of the United States, for example, in the U.S. ABM Policy Review.

For Russia, the diplomat believes, this means only one thing: it is necessary to persistently explain to everyone in the world the harmfulness of this course. The international community needs to be mobilized to counter these approaches. Russia needs to create a constructive alternative, search for additional ideas that could be used to ensure greater stability of the multilateral and bilateral arms control system and the non-proliferation of WMD. The American policy of denying the principles and norms of international law, rejecting existing agreements in the field of arms control and non-proliferation is a very alarming bell. Russia should oppose the general American destructive approach with a reasonable, balanced alternative and vigorous work to counter dangerous plans, Sergey Ryabkov emphasizes.

According to the diplomat, for the Russian Federation and the United States it is necessary to jointly develop and conduct certain de-escalation measures on the line of contact between Russia and NATO in Europe. In particular, the so-called structured dialogue that is taking place in the OSCE should be aimed at this subject. Sergey Ryabkov also believes that in the current conditions it is necessary to expand the work with the public, with the media, hold more conferences, attract the attention of those who are not indifferent to the security situation. It is not apparent that the security and stability system that has developed over decades will survive. It has already been shaken and will soon be at risk if the U.S. "playing with fire" continues. If, for example, the practice of inflicting unlawful attacks on sovereign states does not stop. In 2018, the United States and its allies twice used force in Syria in violation of a number of fundamental norms and principles of international law. If American doctrinal documents continue to be penetrated with the concepts that were used in the 1950s and 1960s, such as the idea of creating a battlefield nuclear weapon (production of low-

powered miniature nuclear warheads supposedly to prevent the escalation of nuclear war has already been launched. A return to ideology and practice of acute confrontation, fraught with real conflict will be inevitable. The United States ABM Policy Review contains the concept of preemptive strikes on nuclear deterrents in the interests of missile defense. Sergey Ryabkov qualifies it as an extremely destabilizing and harmful idea, an attempt to find a verbal frame for the transition to a direct and aggressive form of escalating a military threat.

Russia, the diplomat concludes, offers everyone a constructive alternative to that trend of scrapping the existing arms control system of existing international institutions, which in 2018 – early 2019 can be dangerously seen in the politics of Washington and the states that are the closest allies of the United States.

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KAMIL AZIMOV. REPATRIATION OF EX-JIHADISTS: POSSIBLE RISKS // *The article was written for the bulletin "Russia and the Moslem World."*

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