

# **WHO IS BEHIND MOSCOW ATTACK ?**

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Russia was the victim of a criminal act perpetrated on March 22, 2024, which targeted civilians and resulted in over a hundred casualties in Crocus, a suburb of Moscow. This operation, carried out by individuals in camouflage, unmistakably suggests the involvement of foreign intelligence services.

It is imperative to analyze the objectives of this attack and the message(s) intended by the perpetrators, directed towards both the Russian government and public opinion.

In order to ascertain who stands to gain from this crime, one must examine its circumstances within the broader international context and the increasingly influential role that Russia holds on the global stage.

## **THE CONTEXT SURROUNDING THIS OPERATION**

This operation took place five days after President Vladimir Putin's re-election for a third term as head of state, mirroring Chancellor Angela Merkel's three terms in office in Germany.

Vladimir Putin garnered 87% of the votes in this election, a figure akin to that achieved by former French President Jacques Chirac, who secured over 81% of the votes upon his re-election to the highest office in 2002 in France.

The popularity of President Putin stems from his governance of the country, which, despite facing significant Western sanctions, operates more effectively than Western countries, particularly its Western European neighbors, who have been grappling with an inflationary crisis since the onset of the conflict in Ukraine.

Furthermore, during times of war and foreign attacks, Russians exhibit patriotism and unite behind a leader whose authority is crucial for organizing resistance and safeguarding the nation. These sentiments supersede partisan interests. President Putin's popularity was further evidenced by the overwhelming support from Russians abroad, who hurried to polling stations at Russian embassies.

In Russia, the elections proceeded smoothly despite minor skirmishes instigated by a few opponents, without disrupting public order. Attempts by the West to foment internal destabilization, akin to what was observed in Iran or Arab countries during the "Arab Spring," failed to gain traction. Similarly, the death of Alexei Navalny did not incite the anticipated popular uprising.

Preliminary information from the investigation into Navalny's death suggests foul play. Russian judicial authorities withheld his body from his family pending an autopsy to ascertain the cause of death. A post-autopsy investigation is ongoing to determine whether he was poisoned, akin to Yasser Arafat's case. Additionally, the investigation aims to uncover the

method of administration, whether by a prison guard, infiltrated by secret services, or through indirect means like contaminating food items.

Thus, Vladimir Putin's re-election for a six-year term, within the outlined circumstances, has bestowed upon him significant popular legitimacy. Notably, unlike President Joe Biden, whose election faced challenges, and French President Emmanuel Macron, whose popularity waned after the 2022 elections, Putin's legitimacy surpasses that of Rishi Sunak, whose ascendancy to executive power in Britain did not stem from a popular vote.

This legitimization of executive power through Putin's re-election has bolstered his domestic authority and Russia's international standing. This poses a threat to Western plans orchestrated by the Anglo-Saxon world, which seek to sow chaos to maintain American hegemony and hinder the evolution towards a multipolar world.

Critics of Russia fear Moscow's pivotal role in restoring international equilibrium while upholding the principles of public international law, preserving national, cultural, and civilizational identities, defending state sovereignty, and maintaining institutional integrity to prevent destabilizing conflicts and uphold moral and social values. Moreover, Putin's resounding victory affords him the latitude to collaborate assertively with partners in Iran, China, India, Pakistan, South America, Asia, the Near and Middle East, Africa, and a significant portion of Europe.

Against this backdrop, the spectacular operation on March 22, 2024, aimed to sway public opinion internally and undermine the resolve of the Russian government. This attack coincided with Russia's resolve to decisively end the conflict in Ukraine and its clear stance on the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

### **AN ATTEMPT AT INTIMIDATION BY RUSSIA IN UKRAINE**

The deepening of the conflict in Ukraine poses a significant threat not only to Russia and Ukraine but also to all European nations. It represents an orchestrated maneuver by American and Anglo-Saxon interests aimed at undermining both Eastern and Western Europe. In essence, it is a conflict instigated by the United States against both Russia and Europe, unfolding on Ukrainian soil. This conflict seeks not only to disrupt regional stability but also to have far-reaching repercussions on the global economy and trade. Its adverse economic and financial effects are palpable both within Europe and in other regions grappling with inflation and food shortages since the outbreak of armed conflict in February 2022.

The roots of this conflict lie in American efforts to create a perceived threat to Russia by funding corrupt Ukrainian politicians to commit atrocities against the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine. Additionally, there's an aim to steer Ukraine towards alignment with the United States through its integration into NATO. These maneuvers have been increasingly prevalent since 2010, facilitated by organizations such as George Soros' foundations, which have been instrumental in financing pro-American Ukrainian propaganda, often labeled as "pro-Western." Today, the connections between Soros' network and the American CIA are widely acknowledged. The latter utilizes "soft power," particularly through these foundations, to advance its objectives in Eastern Europe and beyond. Examples include the "Arab Spring" and organizations like Femen and other NGOs, which seek to undermine social and moral values within Western societies, particularly the institution of the family. In 2018, Wikileaks

disclosed communications between Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and George Soros, highlighting Soros' role as a conduit to Washington.

Since 2013, attacks against the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine have surged, escalating to massacres and sparking a popular uprising in Donbass in 2014. This led to the declaration of independence by Donetsk, Luhansk, and Crimea. Crimea, following a popular referendum, chose to rejoin Russia on March 16, 2014.

Despite the signing of the Minsk agreement between Russia and Ukraine in September 2014, the Ukrainian government, influenced by Western interests, failed to uphold the ceasefire, and atrocities against Russian-speaking Ukrainians persisted. Subsequently, Minsk II was signed on February 12, 2015, yet the belligerent actions continued.

In an interview with "Die Zeit," former German Chancellor Angela Merkel revealed that the aim of Minsk II was to enable Ukraine to bolster its military capabilities. NATO aimed to buy time to further arm Ukraine and ensure adequate training for its troops. Merkel's assertions were corroborated by former French President François Hollande.

The bellicose intentions of NATO became increasingly apparent, particularly with Russia's resurgence as a major global power, exemplified by its intervention in Syria since September 2015. This intervention, at the request of the Syrian government, aimed to combat destabilization in the wake of the "Arab Spring" and safeguard Syrian independence and sovereignty while eradicating the "Islamic State" group in Iraq and Syria.

### **THE ISLAMIC STATE : THE ARMED WING OF THE AMERICANS AND ISRAELIS**

The Islamic State emerged in Iraq following the country's invasion by the United States, with the aim of destabilizing the Middle East and igniting conflicts among its diverse ethnic, communal, and religious groups, notably between Sunnis and Shiites. Upon establishing themselves in the region, they stoked inter-communal and inter-ethnic tensions by installing only Shiite leaders in power and oppressing the Sunni community to foster animosity between these factions. They further fractured the country by granting autonomy to the Kurds and arbitrarily detaining Sunni soldiers and officers of the Iraqi army at Guantánamo, leading to the eventual closure of this American detention facility.

In response to these provocations, which were instigated by the Americans on both sides—such as exacerbating Sunni-Shiite rivalries and fostering resentment toward a perceived imperialist and occupying West lacking respect for moral and religious values—an Islamist movement emerged, influenced by the ideology of Al Qaeda.

Despite having comprehensive control over the region where this group originated and trained, American forces took no action to prevent its growth, despite their access to sophisticated technology enabling detailed surveillance, including the broadcasting of satellite images and videos capturing incongruous scenes. The involvement of Americans in creating and facilitating the emergence of this group was revealed by former President Donald Trump during his initial presidential campaign on August 10, 2016, when he claimed that the "Islamic State" was a product of his predecessor Barack Obama's administration. This exploitation of political Islam to further American destabilization objectives was corroborated by Hillary Clinton in her book "Hard Choices."

Furthermore, it is important to note the connections between the "Islamic State" and Israel, particularly with Mossad. For instance, Abu Muslim Al Turkmani, the deputy of Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi, the self-proclaimed Caliph of the "Islamic State," posted a message on the organization's official Twitter account in 2016, stating that "Allah did not command us to fight against Israel or the Jews" as per the Holy Quran.

Similarly, during a conference in Tel Aviv in January 2016, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon confidently declared, "If I had to choose between Iran and Daesh, I would choose Daesh." Yaalon also hinted at links between his government and Daesh in April 2017, causing embarrassment in political circles in Israel when he claimed that Israel had received "official apologies from Daesh for mistakenly firing some rockets at Israel."

In the same year, the Wall Street Journal revealed Israeli military assistance to the paramilitary group of Daesh, including the formation of a special military unit to aid the organization with "weapons and ammunition" and "payment for its members," under the guise of promoting "good neighborliness." Similarly, the spokesman for the armed group known as "Golan Fighters" expressed gratitude to Israel for its support, revealing financial compensation received from Israel for their services.

Additionally, Israel maintained close ties with Al Nusra, the Al Qaeda group in Syria, as revealed in a quarterly report to the Security Council on December 11, 2014, by former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon. Another UN report documented numerous meetings between Israeli military representatives and Daesh leaders near the Syrian border, notably in Quneitra region and the central heights of the Golan, between November 18, 2016, and March 1, 2017.

Furthermore, Israel refrained from attacking Daesh in Syria, instead targeting the Syrian army under the pretext of countering Iranian military presence. In 2017, but especially in 2018, as Islamic State paramilitary forces were losing ground, particularly in Aleppo, the Israeli army intervened by heavily bombing Aleppo and its surrounding areas.

Despite the presence of Iranian elements aimed at assisting the Syrian regular army and Russian forces in combating Daesh and Al Nusra, Israel continues until now its attacks on Syrian army positions.

Moreover, amidst the conflict in Gaza and the West Bank, Israel seized the chaotic situation in the region to escalate attacks on the Syrian army. An airstrike in Aleppo on March 29, 2024, resulting in the deaths of 44 Syrian soldiers, was interpreted primarily as a message to Russia, signaling a strain in Russo-Israeli relations since the conflict in Ukraine began.

Indeed, Israel depended on Russia to facilitate the complete replacement of Iranian forces that had intervened in Syria at the request of the Syrian government to aid in maintaining its institutions, predating Russia's intervention in 2015. However, since the onset of the conflict in Ukraine, the closer ties between Russia and Iran, coupled with Iran's supply of "Shahed" drones as a strategic ally of Moscow, have strained Russo-Israeli relations. These tensions have escalated notably since late February 2024, as will be elaborated in subsequent developments.

## **THE RISE OF A NEO-NAZI FAR-RIGHT MOVEMENT IN THE WEST**

In parallel with the utilization of religious factors for political ends, as seen particularly in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, the United States and its allies have pursued another strategy for over a decade, leading to the rise of violent neo-Nazi groups with an intensified nationalist ideology, notably in Europe, as a means to enact Bernard Lewis and Samuel Huntington's theory of the "Clash of Civilizations." This theory was initially propagated within American think tank circles before being translated into practical action.

This strategy operates in tandem with the concept of chaos, aiming to foment identity and nationalist tensions across the historic European continent. This region has experienced a significant influx of migrants stemming from the destabilization of numerous southern countries, compounded by global economic disparities. Added to this is a globalist agenda and pressure, particularly on Western European nations, to open borders and accommodate populations fleeing military conflicts, famine, or dire economic conditions in their homelands.

Consequently, evident social and cultural tensions have arisen, exacerbated by the challenge of integrating or assimilating these migrant populations into their respective societies, particularly given the prevalence of Islamic radicalization among marginalized and poorly educated groups. Propaganda from Islamic movements, often backed by external funding, has further fractured Western European society, fueling terrorist attacks that are widely covered by Western media without delving into the true instigators. Alongside traditional ethnic divisions, this has contributed to the resurgence of heightened nationalisms, populist rhetoric, and the ascent of demagogic leaders exploiting these circumstances for their own gain.

In 2018, Ukraine witnessed the emergence of an unconventional presidential candidate—a comedian supported by substantial resources—who leveraged demagoguery to secure power. Revelations from investigative journalists, including those involved in the "Pandora Papers" scandal, raised questions about the candidate's involvement in secret business dealings and offshore companies, casting doubt on the integrity of his ascent to power.

Propelled by Western backing and aligned with the geopolitical interests of capitals such as London and Washington, the new Ukrainian leader, Volodymyr Zelensky, continued to provoke neighboring Russia, even contemplating NATO integration—a move that exacerbated tensions in the region.

Despite attempts by some of Zelensky's supporters to defend him by highlighting his Jewish faith, his actions align with a broader pattern of exploitation and manipulation. The convergence of neo-Nazi sentiments with nationalist fervor, evident in Zelensky's alignment with groups like the Azov Battalion, underscores the complex interplay of identity politics and power dynamics in the region.

Similarly, the rise of figures like Eric Zemmour in France reflects a broader trend of leveraging mass migration and cultural anxieties to stoke nationalist sentiment, destabilize Western Europe, and advance geopolitical agendas aligned with the "Clash of Civilizations" narrative. These figures, often subsidized through legal channels and benefiting from increased media visibility, represent a challenge to the democratic fabric of European societies.

In summary, the emergence of figures like Volodymyr Zelensky and Eric Zemmour underscores the insidious influence of external actors in shaping the political landscape of Europe, eroding democratic norms, and consolidating power in the hands of those aligned with foreign interests.

### **A RIGHT TO JUSTIFIED PROACTIVE SELF-DEFENSE**

The escalation of reprehensible neo-Nazi aggression against Russian-speaking Ukrainians, disregarding the Minsk II agreements, alongside NATO provocations aimed at establishing a presence at Ukraine's border, compelled Russia to take defensive action against this threat and safeguard over 30 million Russian speakers at risk of genocide. This threat was more tangible than the hypothetical possession of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq, which prompted the United States' invasion in 2003, resulting in chaos in Iraq and the broader Middle East. Washington justified this intervention under the guise of "preventive self-defense" or aiding the Iraqi people in "establishing democracy and overthrowing the Saddam Hussein regime."

Russia's concerns about a heavily militarized country posing a security threat at its borders proved to be well-founded. The ongoing Russian military operation of "denazification" in Ukraine since February 24, 2022, has revealed the sophistication of Ukrainian ultra-right army and militia groups, backed by Western powers, particularly the United Kingdom and the United States, both militarily and through intelligence services.

Ironically, the Ukrainian regime, aligned with the United States and its intelligence services, received military assistance from "Islamist" groups funded by the latter, which had contributed to the destabilization of Chechnya and Syria. As detailed previously, American services had previously experimented with building a political ideology based on distorted religious precepts of Islam, first employing it in Afghanistan and then in Eastern European countries, notably Yugoslavia, and Central Asia. These "Mujahideen" were enlisted to combat Russians in Ukraine, portrayed as the enemy hindering their objectives in Syria and Central Asia, without considering that they shared the same struggle as Ukrainian ultra-rightists ostensibly opposing foreign influence on their territory. The investigation into the March 22, 2024 operation revealed the connections between the Islamic State and Ukrainian ultra-right groups.

In February 2022, Russia found itself compelled to undertake a military operation against its Ukrainian neighbor without engaging in outright war. Ukraine and Russia share a common history and culture, and along with Belarus, they are heirs to the Russian nation formed over a millennium ago by the union of Eastern Slavs under Orthodox Christianity, emerging from Kiev, still considered "the mother of Russian cities" and the cradle of the Russian nation since the establishment of Kievan Rus' in 882. Thus, Russia reluctantly intervened militarily in Ukraine in February 2022.

In contrast to the American invasion of Iraq, during which civilians and millennia-old historical artifacts were left unprotected, with the Baghdad museum looted of its treasures, the Russian army conducted a calculated operation. It spared Kiev, preserving the remnants of Russian civilization, primarily targeting military and paramilitary units that instill terror and threaten the security of Russian speakers. Strikes were also directed at weapons depots posing a threat to Russian national security.

Regrettably, Western powers responded to Russia's action by overlooking numerous Israeli strikes on Syrian army depots and civilian areas, despite Syria not initiating military actions against Israel. Israel faced no sanctions despite disregarding over 1,500 United Nations Security Council resolutions and committing ongoing atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, as acknowledged by the International Court of Justice. In contrast, the United States and its European Union allies imposed over 14,000 sanctions on Russia for its intervention in Ukraine.

The legitimacy of the American intervention in Iraq in 2003, purportedly based on preventive war against alleged weapons of mass destruction, contrasts sharply with the questioning of Russia's intervention in Ukraine. Despite Russia's intervention being prompted by ongoing massacres of Russian-speaking Ukrainians since 2013 and the real military threat it poses, it has not been acknowledged as such up to the time of writing.

### **THE PROVOCATIONS INITIATED BY THE FRENCH PRESIDENT**

The escalation against Russia has reached its zenith since February 2024 following a statement from French President Emmanuel Macron, threatening to deploy French military troops to engage in combat in Ukraine. However, this declaration by the French Head of State was not taken seriously in Moscow due to the inconsistencies in his positions, which he promptly retracted.

On October 24, 2023, Macron proposed an "international coalition" to combat Hamas during a visit to Tel Aviv. Yet, just two days later, on October 26, 2023, while visiting Cairo to meet with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, he rescinded his proposal.

President Macron's statement about sending troops to Ukraine was swiftly corrected by the Elysée before being further elucidated by his Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stéphane Séjourné, who clarified that the Head of State was referring to providing military aid to Ukrainians, rather than necessarily dispatching troops to fight on the ground.

However, this declaration lost relevance as it was contradicted by President Macron himself, who proposed assistance to Russia to combat "Islamic terrorism" while also portraying Russia, just days before the March 22, 2024 attack, as a threat to France and the European Union, urging efforts to prevent it from prevailing in the war in Ukraine. Furthermore, on March 30, 2024, during an official visit to Brazil, the French President did not rule out dialogue with Vladimir Putin. Nonetheless, this declaration regarding a potential deployment of military troops to Ukraine primarily elicited reactions from France's NATO partners, particularly the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany.

These partners had indeed discussed this potential action in confidential talks. However, they were taken aback to see the French President reveal and subsequently retract it.

Emmanuel Macron, whose popularity has significantly waned within his own country and who has lost the international influence he wielded at the beginning of his first term, sought media attention to regain prominence both domestically and internationally. He aimed, akin to the situation he found himself in 2017, to capitalize on the U.S. electoral campaign and post-election period to position himself as a "leader" of the Western world and defender of NATO, especially since Donald Trump, likely the Republican candidate, expresses skepticism

towards this organization, while Richi Sunak and Olaf Scholz lack international media visibility.

This strategy amused the Russians, who are convinced of the absence of belligerent sentiments between France and Russia, despite the propaganda against them for purportedly working against French interests in Africa. The Wagner Group, which had operated on the African continent, is a private organization composed of mercenaries and had likely been infiltrated by American agents to facilitate their military interventions in locations where French soldiers were present, to distance France from Africa, a primary objective of the United States to preserve Anglo-Saxon interests in Africa.

Since the coup in Niger and the demise of Evgeny Prigozhin, Wagner's presence in Africa has dwindled. Russia does not maintain regular military forces in Africa, where its presence is restricted to official diplomatic representations, despite the sympathy Africans exhibit for Russia.

Regrettably, France perceives an adversary to the east while its true adversary lies to the west.

In a televised interview on March 15, 2024, French President Emmanuel Macron hinted at cyberattacks, without being certain of their perpetrators, to convey that Europe and France must not permit Russia to prevail in Ukraine, which would jeopardize "the security of our borders."

However, Russia's objective in Ukraine is solely to safeguard its security and eliminate any threats to it and to Russian populations, particularly those in Ukraine who are deeply connected to their ancestral culture. Russia does not aspire to occupy or destabilize European Union countries, let alone France. Consequently, how can one endorse the principle of preventive security defense by the European Union against Russia to rationalize the deployment of military troops in Ukraine, without acknowledging the principle of security invoked by Russia against a country that shares its border and that risks hosting NATO troops, thereby imperiling its security and stability as well as that of Russian-speaking populations who have been enduring hardship since 2013?

Finally, it is legitimate to question whether France's NATO partners were contemplating another operation against Russia, one they might not have disclosed to President Macron to prevent leaks, such as an attack. This could be aimed at influencing Russian public opinion and provoking Russia to open another front with a hypothetical new enemy in Central Asia, thus weakening its striking power on the Ukrainian front.

## **THE END OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE**

Vladimir Putin's re-election as head of state, with a very comfortable majority of votes, provided him with the opportunity to decisively address NATO provocations and resolve the dire situation in Ukraine in the interest of both countries and their neighbors. This came against the backdrop of Western interference, primarily guided by the United States, aimed at weakening the entire European continent through a conflict unfolding outside American territory. Following this election, the Russian military's objective was to conduct a strategic operation in Odessa, where the Russian-speaking population comprises over 30% of the inhabitants.



Another significant development coinciding with Vladimir Putin's re-election was Moscow's stance on the Gaza conflict, triggered by the shooting on March 22, 2014. Initially adopting an officially balanced attitude to accommodate potential sensitivities among Russian Jewish communities, Russian-Israelis, or holders of dual Russian and Israeli nationality, Moscow gradually shifted its position regarding the conflict in Palestine. The majority of Russian Jews and dual Israeli-Russian nationals, primarily of Ashkenazi culture, increasingly criticized the Benjamin Netanyahu regime and its policies, which they viewed as contributing to the genocide of the Palestinian civilian population.

This stance afforded Russia's diplomacy greater flexibility to align with principles of justice, fairness, and respect for international public law. It enabled Russia to emerge as a leader of the free world, countering the totalitarianism exerted by the United States since the fall of the Soviet Union. The United States, once considered the leader of the free world, has assumed a role akin to "the world's policeman," wielding hegemonic power over the unipolar world, including international organizations like the UN.

However, the UN, purportedly tasked with upholding international public law, has fallen completely under Washington's domination since the tenure of former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. His re-election was thwarted by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright following his condemnation of the Israeli massacre in Cana, Lebanon, in 1996.

This hegemonic control by Washington has led to unjust sanctions imposed on adversaries without legitimate reasons, military interventions lacking legal basis, such as in Iraq, and undue pressure on partners, including EU member states. Washington exploits its position at the helm of NATO to guide the EU, infringing on public liberties through technological surveillance by entities like GAFAM and controlling financial transactions through Swift. This dominance has left individuals feeling as though they live under a dictatorship without an overt dictator.

The tragic conflict in Ukraine served as a catalyst to break this unjust status quo, paving the way for a new multipolar world order to emerge.

## **RUSSIA TAKES THE HELM OF THE FREE WORLD**

The Ukrainian conflict has progressively facilitated closer ties between major world powers and Russia. Notably, Iran and China have been followed by India, Pakistan, various Asian countries including those in the Middle East, South American nations, African countries, most Eastern European nations, and to a lesser extent, some Western European countries. This coalition comprises the majority of the world's nations, opposing the Western dominance led by Washington and the Anglo-Saxon bloc, chiefly composed of the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, Japan, and the European Union. Despite this, the minority axis continues to assert its representation of the international community.

The emerging "free world" to which Russia is aligned is gaining momentum. It is gradually consolidating into an economic and financial powerhouse through organizations like BRICS. There are discussions underway to establish a parallel financial transaction system, alongside Swift, aimed at facilitating international trade. This initiative is expected to diminish the dominance of the US dollar and counter extraterritorial sanctions imposed by Washington.

This ongoing transformation of the international community has increasingly empowered international institutions to assert their independence. This is evident in recent actions taken by the United Nations Secretariat and the International Court of Justice, signaling a hopeful shift towards the application of international public law. The tragic conflict in Gaza serves as a poignant example: it has showcased the bold stances taken by the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, and the impartial decisions made by the International Court of Justice, such as the case brought forward by South Africa regarding the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, which was qualified as genocide.

## **TENSIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND ISRAEL**

Russian diplomacy has exhibited notable patience towards Israel and the Zionist movement for over two years. It has weathered Israeli provocations, including strikes in Syria that contravene agreements with the Russian military stationed there to support the Syrian state and safeguard its institutions following the suppression of Islamist groups aided by US-Israeli services (such as Al-Nusra Front, the Al-Qaeda branch in Syria, and the Islamic State group). Despite Israel's backing of the Volodymyr Zelensky regime in Ukraine, Russia initially refrained from action, merely threatening to close the Jewish Agency in Russia in July 2022.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has tactfully employed diplomatic language to preserve relations with Israel while seeking a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Tensions escalated after the Hamas operation on October 7, 2023, providing Israel with justification for a large-scale military operation, often described as ethnic cleansing, alongside the ongoing Palestinian deportation strategy initiated by the Zionist movement in the 19th century and continued by Israel since its establishment in 1948.

The Israeli army's atrocities against Palestinians have prompted the Palestinian Orthodox community to appeal to the Moscow Patriarchate for intervention, articulated by Archbishop Theodosius Hanna, Greek Orthodox Bishop of Jerusalem, and Palestinian Authority Ambassador to Russia, Fayed Moustafa. Russia has once again assumed the role of defender of Christians in the East, reminiscent of Catholic France in the past.

As a champion of Christians in the East, including Palestinian Christians, and a leader of the "new free world," Russia could no longer stand idly by, particularly after its mediation efforts failed to yield peace amidst ongoing Israeli provocations.

In a manner reminiscent of Jean-Marie Le Pen's characterization of Gaza as a "concentration camp" in January 2009, President Putin condemned the Gaza siege as "unacceptable," drawing parallels to the "siege of Leningrad" on October 13, 2023.

The Russian Foreign Minister's invitation to various Palestinian factions, including representatives of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, for a meeting in Moscow on February 29, 2024, signified a significant shift in Russia's approach to the situation in Gaza and the West Bank. This initiative fostered dialogue among different Palestinian factions, resulting in a joint declaration aimed at achieving comprehensive national unity under the Palestine Liberation Organization framework. Shortly before the meeting, the Palestinian Authority government in the West Bank, led by Fatah, resigned.

Following the meeting, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov underscored the peril faced by Palestinians, asserting that the Israeli military operation in the West Bank was as

hazardous as the one in Gaza. He attributed the unprecedented violence in Gaza to prolonged mediation stagnation, largely due to US attempts to monopolize mediation efforts.

After President Putin's reelection, Russia's stance in favor of peace and condemnation of Israeli atrocities against Palestinians was reiterated by Russia's Ambassador to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia, on March 22, 2024, mere hours before the shooting incident in Moscow. This statement highlights Russia's crucial role in the Middle East, with backing from Arab countries, particularly those in the Gulf.

Two factors linked to President Putin's reelection have perturbed Russia's adversaries: his unequivocal position on the Palestine conflict and his resolve to end the military operation in Ukraine, supported by Israeli military assistance. The prospect of a Russian triumph in Ukraine alarms the United States and its allies, as it signifies a victory for the free world against the totalitarianism and hegemony of the United States and the Anglo-Saxon world.

Against this backdrop, the shooting incident in Moscow on March 22, 2024, occurring shortly after the pro-Palestinian speech by the Russian Ambassador to the United Nations, resulted in over a hundred fatalities.

### **THE ISLAMIST TRAIL**

This meticulously planned and executed operation occurred at a precise juncture, considering the circumstances outlined in previous developments: President Putin's reelection with 87% of the vote, which bestowed upon him significant legitimacy and empowered him to undertake the aforementioned measures and positions.

Indeed, the consistent confessions of some of the attackers arrested following the March 22, 2022 operation demonstrate that this endeavor had been in the works for months. The operatives, recruited and trained since late January, were simply awaiting authorization to proceed with the attack.

The timing and execution of the act are of utmost importance in carrying out attacks of such substantial media impact. These variables are meticulously calculated by the instigators of such actions to convey messages to public authorities and mold public opinion through media channels.

Interestingly, even before the Islamic State claimed responsibility for this incident, Western observers and media were speculating about a potential Chechen involvement, evoking a conflict between Russia and Chechen separatists over 20 years ago. However, Chechnya, which promptly denounced this act through its President Ramzan Kadyrov, stands as one of Russia's staunchest supporters in the military conflict in Ukraine. What interest would this country or its separatists have in orchestrating and executing such an act under the aforementioned political circumstances?

An Islamist angle (or "Jihadist," echoing the recurrent motif of Western propaganda used for decades) was anticipated, although regrettably, the perpetrators failed to accompany their violent act with the customary invocation of God: "Allahu Akbar."

It wasn't until the Islamic State claimed responsibility for this operation that the West breathed a collective sigh of relief. Mainstream Western media then embarked on a campaign

spotlighting this group's claim, relying on the initial communiqué from this enigmatic organization, which referenced an operation targeting "Christians."

Western mainstream media and their analysts, instead of attributing this act to the Islamic State, associated it with retaliation for Russian military intervention in Syria since 2015. This intervention had resulted in the dismantling of Islamist groups, including Al-Nusra and the Islamic State in Iraq, Syria, and the Levant.

Furthermore, Western propaganda went even further, building upon this simple claim by the Islamist group to evoke memories of the wars in Afghanistan and Chechnya, and even mentioning Russia's ties with Iran or Wagner's presence in Africa. No questioning or analysis was put forth regarding other potential leads, notably an operation orchestrated by intelligence services or other actors who stand to benefit from this crime.

The initial vague claim made by a statement from the Islamic State was not taken seriously, neither by the government nor by the FSB, as well as by Russian observers, analysts, media, and public opinion.

A more specific second claim followed the first. It came from an organization called the "Islamic State in Khorasan" (IS-K), whose existence was little known in the West until the day this claim was made.

This new claim attributed to this entity is not insignificant. Khorasan is a vast region spanning several Muslim-majority countries: Iran, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. It reveals an intent to destabilize this region through Islamist groups, encouraged and financed by sponsors, similar to Al-Qaeda and ISIS. The experimentation with these groups had succeeded in achieving the intended goal.

The Islamist resurgence in Central Asia, particularly in the Khorasan region, could facilitate its destabilization and pose a threat to Russia's security. It is worth noting in this regard that the Taliban and Afghan Jihadists ("Mujahideen") were funded and aided by the American CIA, which had used Osama Bin Laden, whose code name within the organization was "Tim Osman," to organize and train the "Maktab Al-Khadamat" group, which later transformed into "Al-Qaeda."

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Osama Bin Laden had contributed to the destabilization of Muslim-majority countries in Central Asia, including the Khorasan region. He introduced Salafism, a movement derived from Wahhabism, in the 1990s. Indeed, Muslims in these countries, who were not particularly religious or practicing during communism, historically adhered to Sufi rites and belonged to the Shafi'i school. Nevertheless, some political groups in these countries based their nationalist claims on this new political ideology, founded on certain principles of Islam, in their nationalist demands. The idea of an Islamic state had, indeed, germinated in Dagestan in the early 2000s, well before the establishment of the "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant." In 2007, an Islamic emirate was proclaimed in Dagestan under the name "Emirate of the Caucasus," which gave rise to the tiny group that claimed responsibility for the Crocus City Hall bombing in Moscow.

Furthermore, reference should be made to previous developments regarding the links between the successor of Al-Qaeda and the American CIA as well as the Mossad.

## **AN OPERATION ORCHESTRATED BY WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ?**

It is highly probable that the American services utilized their armed branch, the "Islamic State" group, by financing the organization of the "Islamic State in Khorasan," with the aim of destabilizing Russia through the resurgence of Islamist activity in Central Asia. Consequently, Moscow would be compelled to respond to this attack akin to the American reaction following the World Trade Center bombing, resulting in the opening of a new front and weakening the situation in Ukraine. Moreover, this could potentially lead to internal destabilization in Russia, with a potential surge in terrorist activities, reminiscent of incidents that have occurred in Europe, particularly in France, over the past decade. The proliferation of such acts has effectively influenced public opinion in Western European societies, perceiving Muslims as the sole threatening enemy to their stability, as Islam is conflated with political Islam, the exploits of which are manipulated by intelligence services to achieve their objectives.

Russian officials are considering this possibility and are endeavoring to identify the true perpetrators of the March 22, 2024 attack. President Putin addressed this in his speech to the nation the day after the tragedy, announcing the arrest of four assailants who crossed the Ukrainian border, guided by their sponsors.

While refraining from directly accusing Ukrainian authorities, President Putin could not overlook evidence suggesting facilitation of the operation, with perpetrators escaping to Ukraine. On March 26, 2024, Alexander Bortnikov, head of the Russian intelligence service (FSB), disclosed that Ukrainian and Western services had facilitated the attack, remaining cautious about revealing the true instigator.

It is probable that Ukrainian political authorities were neither involved nor informed about this operation. However, there is a possibility of cooperation between Ukrainian services and those who orchestrated it.

Interestingly, a few days before the attack, American and British consular services cautioned their nationals to exercise caution in Russia and avoid public places. Additionally, Americans purportedly warned Russian services of an imminent terrorist attack being prepared by extremists.

The efficacy of American and British services raises suspicion in a country with security and intelligence apparatuses comparable to the CIA and MI6, especially considering the presence of multilingual Russian agents in Russia and neighboring countries.

Hence, it is plausible that this operation was commissioned by the American and/or British services for the stated objectives outlined in previous developments. Collusion between the latter and Ukrainian services has been uncovered twice during investigations into the attacks on Daria Gugina, daughter of philosopher Alexander Dugin, in August 2022, and the targeting of the Crimean Bridge in July 2023.

## **AN INVOLVEMENT OF THE MOSSAD?**

Additional contextual and factual evidence may lead us to another equally plausible scenario: the involvement of the Israeli Mossad. The Mossad collaborates extensively with Ukrainian services as well as with American and British counterparts. It is thus probable that these two

individuals were informed by the Mossad about a planned terrorist operation. This would account for the advisory from the consular service of the US Embassy in Moscow to American citizens, urging them to avoid public gatherings.

Moreover, it is entirely plausible that American services engaged the Mossad in orchestrating this operation, capitalizing on the strained relations between Israel and Moscow, as detailed in preceding developments. Additionally, the timing of the attack, occurring shortly after the impassioned speech by the Russian ambassador at the United Nations regarding Palestine, lends credence to this theory.

Furthermore, one of the perpetrators, Shamsedin Fariduni, spontaneously confessed during interrogation by Russian forces about his recruitment via social media (Telegram) and how he, along with other co-conspirators, were compensated for the criminal act. This recruitment tactic aligns with Mossad practices: utilizing social media to target individuals based on their profiles, vulnerabilities, ideological leanings, financial circumstances, etc.

Fariduni, 26 years old, was approached in February 2024 by a member of an Islamic preaching account on Telegram, offering him a lucrative sum of money relative to his financial situation. He was contracted as a "hitman" by this anonymous individual and his associate, who concealed their identities. He was promised 500,000 rubles (equivalent to 5,000 dollars) for the "contract", with half paid upfront and the remainder upon completion of the operation. Fariduni admitted to agreeing to the act solely for financial gain, devoid of any religious or ideological motives.

Similarly, another perpetrator, 30-year-old Rajab Alizadeh, confessed that his sponsors escorted him across the Russo-Ukrainian border in Bryansk, facilitating reconnaissance and return following the mission.

Furthermore, the third assailant, also Tajik, disclosed arriving in Russia prior to the operation, residing with fellow Tajik nationals in Moscow and working as a driver. He was paid half of the promised sum by an individual named "Abdullah", who instructed him to carry out the attack, providing detailed instructions on circumventing security measures. The apartment where he stayed was rented online, and the owners claimed ignorance of the tenants' true identities.

Additionally, 19-year-old Mohammadsobir Fayzov revealed that his sponsor provided him with a plane ticket, with someone meeting him at Moscow airport to hand over his electronic visa, before going through border police control.

Another troubling factor that raises questions about the Mossad's involvement is that the investigation uncovered that two of the 11 attackers apprehended thus far undertook a brief, discreet trip to Turkey. This trip occurred under circumstances strikingly similar to those surrounding the issuance of an e-visa to Mohammadsobir Fayzov at Moscow airport, with individuals waiting for him upon his plane's arrival. Upon learning of this revelation, Turkish authorities initiated an investigation into the matter. Subsequently, on April 5, 2024, Turkey detained additional Mossad agents. Prior to this, Turkish authorities had already arrested seven individuals suspected of being affiliated with this Israeli intelligence service.

The ongoing investigation and interrogation of all individuals under arrest will offer deeper insights into the true perpetrators of this act, allowing Russian authorities to advance their inquiries and identify the actual culprits.

During his address on March 26, 2024, concerning this attack and the initial findings of the detailed investigation, President Putin stated:

"The United States is exerting efforts, through various means, to persuade the world that, according to information from their intelligence services, Kiev was not involved in the terrorist attack in Moscow and that this operation was carried out by Muslim extremists, supporters of the Islamic State, which is banned in Russia.

We know who perpetrated this tragedy against Russia and its people. However, we are questioning who commissioned this act."

### **SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE ATTACKS IN IRAN AND RUSSIA**

The modus operandi of the March 22, 2024 attack is identical to that which occurred on January 3 of the same year in Kerman, Iran, resulting in a similar death toll and number of injuries.

This act was immediately claimed by the same group that claimed the Moscow attack, the "Islamic State in Khorasan," in this southern region of Iran where Persian Shiites coexist with Sunnis, some of whom are Arabic speakers.

As with Russia, Iran intervened in Syria at the request of the Syrian government to aid in its struggle against destabilization caused by foreign-backed movements, particularly the Al-Nusra Front (Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria) and the Islamic State group. The claim of responsibility by the "Islamic State" for the January 3, 2024 attack in Iran was likely intended to sow discord among the Iranian public and stoke inter-ethnic tensions between the predominantly Sunni Arabs and the predominantly Shiite Persians in southern Iran. However, this strategy was bound to fail, especially as the investigation revealed that the operation was orchestrated by the CIA and the Mossad. In response, Iran launched missile strikes on January 15, 2024, targeting the positions of operatives from these two agencies in Syria and Iraq, particularly in Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan, where the regional headquarters of the Israeli Mossad is located, as well as the strongholds of the Islamic State group, which American and Israeli services use to carry out terrorist activities. On January 16, 2024, Iranian armed forces conducted strikes against positions of the Jaich Al Adl group, an Islamist separatist group sponsored, like Al-Qaeda, by American services in Pakistan. The failure of Iran's internal destabilization strategy following the January 3, 2024 attack prompted Israelis to resort to direct terrorist strikes, including assassinations of Iranian figures, such as those targeting the consular building of the Iranian embassy in Damascus on April 1, 2024.

In any case, the involvement of the "Islamic State" or "Islamic State in Khorasan" group remains unlikely as the mastermind of this act, even though it officially claimed responsibility, as it did on January 3, 2024, for the Kerman attack in Iran. This group, headquartered in Afghanistan, lacks the strategic foresight and timing to meticulously execute such an operation, circumventing the strict security system of Crocus City Hall. Additionally, according to the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, the financial resources deployed for this operation exceed those of the "Islamic State in Khorasan." Moreover, the

payment methods and purchase of plane tickets for all the assailants arrested so far are complex. These sophisticated methods, involving payment sources in Ukraine, surpass the management capabilities of such financial operations by the "Islamic State in Khorasan," especially using Bitcoin payments.

Furthermore, according to the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, 11 assailants have been arrested to date, but the search continues for others involved in the attack. However, in its statement claiming responsibility for this act on one of its Telegram accounts, the "Islamic State in Khorasan" strangely relied on initial media reports about the arrest of 4 assailants responsible for the attack. ISIS-K claimed that its fighters "attacked a large gathering (...) near the Russian capital Moscow" and that this commando "consists of four ISIS fighters armed with machine guns, a pistol, knives, and incendiary bombs." If this group indeed meticulously organized this operation, which it proudly claims, how could it be mistaken about the number of fighters in the commando?

What interest does the "Islamic State" have in seeking revenge for Russia's intervention in Syria almost ten years after that intervention? Or for that matter, in Iran's intervention in the same country, by committing an attack identical to the Crocus attack in Kerman on January 3, 2024, while tens of thousands of Palestinians, a large portion of whom are Sunni Muslims, are facing a genocidal fate in Gaza since October 2023, without receiving any assistance from their fellow Muslim coreligionists?

### **THE DISHEARTENING BEHAVIOR OF THE WESTERN WORLD**

The Western responses to the tragedy that befell Russia and its people, echoing President Putin's sentiments, are disheartening to us. They mirror the mindset of the former "free world," which has gradually evolved into a regime of singular thinking, with media and political forces controlling public opinion.

The proliferation of mainstream media, in particular, overwhelms public discourse with a flood of information where truths and falsehoods become intertwined. This clouds reality and guides the masses towards a uniform reaction and perspective devoid of genuine contemplation and discernment. Who would have imagined that in this erstwhile "free world," individuals would face censorship and condemnation for their ideas and viewpoints? Who would have thought that foreign media and outlets challenging the official narrative would be banned in countries that once fought against totalitarianism, supposedly championing freedom of thought and expression?

The dissemination of falsehoods through media saturation led a portion of Western public opinion to support the American intervention in Iraq in 2003, citing the pretext of Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction. The images of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell brandishing a vial purportedly containing anthrax at the United Nations Security Council on February 5, 2003, asserting Iraq's capability to possess such weapons, broadcast globally, exemplify this manipulation. By relying on this false evidence, the Americans justified their preemptive intervention under the guise of self-defense. However, using preemptive self-defense to counter distant and ambiguous threats contradicts international public law.

A few years later, on April 7, 2018, allegations of a chemical attack attributed to the Syrian army in Douma against civilians nearly led the United States and France to intervene similarly to their actions in Iraq. The aim was to destabilize the Middle East, sow chaos, and empower



paramilitary groups supported by intelligence services, notably the "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant." Similar to the pressures faced by the International Atomic Energy Agency, where political forces attempted to influence reports justifying intervention in Iraq, as disclosed by the inspection expert Hans Blix, who resigned due to such interference, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons followed a similar pattern under comparable circumstances.

The hegemony of singular thinking in the West stifles any attempt at reflection or inquiry by independent minds, dismissing their efforts as "conspiracy theories" and divergent from the official narrative.

This trend was evident following the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. Questioning the potential involvement of American or Israeli services in the operation was not only derided and impossible to discuss in mainstream media but also resulted in legal or disciplinary actions, with some individuals facing consequences. In France, a professor was dismissed for raising such inquiries : Ayemric Chauprade, former member of the European Parliament. However, in the same country, on a prominent television channel, LCI, Natalia Nurine, a journalist and Russia specialist, entertained the possibility of Russian service involvement (the FSB) in the attack, suggesting it as a pretext for a larger-scale military operation in Ukraine. This conspiratorial notion was also raised by other Western analysts and journalists.

We have thoroughly evaluated the Western media's lack of objectivity and dissemination of false propaganda regarding the tragic events unfolding in Palestine, particularly in Gaza. The operation carried out on October 7, 2023, by one of the branches of the Palestinian resistance, received extensive coverage in the media of all Western countries. However, these same media outlets have been concealing Israeli atrocities and the gradual extermination of the Palestinian population for several years, notably since 2001. Since 2009, Israeli military forces have engaged in arbitrary arrests, executions, bombings, attacks, and provocations against religious figures, particularly targeting Christians who fervently defend their country's cause. These provocations include spitting on clergymen and nuns, hurling insults, vandalizing religious symbols such as crosses, desecrating cemeteries, committing acts of violence during religious ceremonies, and even urinating in holy water basins. Journalists, including Shérine Abou Akla, who was covering Easter processions in Jerusalem, have been assassinated, while young children have been horrifically mutilated by being burned alive in front of their parents. These recurrent horrors, akin to the hundreds or even thousands experienced by Palestinians, especially since 2009, have been systematically ignored by Western mainstream media. Instead, these outlets perpetuate false narratives regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, fueling mutual animosity between the two populations. They echo contradictory slogans from the Zionist movement, such as "Palestine, a land without people for a people without land" or "Palestinians sold their lands to the World Zionist Organization," despite the undeniable presence of the Palestinian population in the region.

Western media have persistently concealed these realities, along with Israel's disregard for numerous United Nations resolutions condemning its mistreatment of the Palestinian civilian population, both in Gaza and the West Bank, including Resolution A/77/247 passed on December 30, 2022, which succinctly summarizes this situation.

This silence and immunity enjoyed by Israel have driven one faction of the Palestinian military resistance, frustrated by this state of affairs, to carry out the operation on October 7,

2023, albeit with some excesses for which a portion of civilians paid the price due to the policies of their leaders. The operation's name, "Al Aqsa frustration," elucidates its context, rather than the often-used terms in the media such as "the storm" or "the tempest" of Al Aqsa. The Arabic term "Tawafan" encompasses both "frustration" and "deluge," evoking the accumulation of clouds leading to heavy rain, symbolizing the buildup of grievances culminating in action.

Additionally, it is noteworthy that the operation conducted on October 7, 2023, was executed without the knowledge of the political leadership of Hamas, and even some members of the organization's military command, which has been infiltrated by the Mossad. These infiltrations have enabled Israelis, over the past two decades, to manipulate uncontrollable military personnel into launching rockets without aiming at legitimate Israeli territories, thus providing a pretext for large-scale Israeli military strikes against Palestinians in Gaza.

The context and sequence of events surrounding the October 7, 2023, incident remain ambiguous as of the composition of this text. Was there a lapse in Israeli security services, or was it an operation designed to incite a *casus belli* to deal with both Benjamin Netanyahu, by assessing the extent of his regime's response to a widely publicized operation domestically and internationally, and the Palestinians, by instigating their extermination and the deportation of survivors? Did the Palestinian operation target Israeli civilians, especially those attending the festival, or as suggested by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz on November 17, 2023, were Israeli military and police forces, including a helicopter, responsible for a significant number of casualties at the festival? Were the allegations of decapitated children, referenced by President Biden before the White House issued a denial, and claims of horrific scenes, including rape of women, all valid in the absence of evidence? On January 31, 2024, the same Haaretz newspaper exposed exaggerations, allegedly perpetrated by an Israeli organization named "Zaka," by tampering with crime scenes following the October 7, 2023, incident.

Despite these uncertainties and lingering doubts regarding the October 7, 2023, operation, Western public opinion, influenced by traditional media, condemned the operation prematurely. It turns a blind eye to the genocidal actions of Israeli military forces against tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians, disregarding decisions by international institutions such as the International Court of Justice and the Security Council. Paradoxically, hundreds of thousands of individuals of Jewish faith are rising up, particularly in the United States, where they have defied restrictions and occupied the U.S. Congress, to denounce this crime against humanity with the slogan "not in our name." Indeed, the regime of Benjamin Netanyahu asserts that Israel is the state of the Jews and commits these acts in the interest of both the state and Jewish communities worldwide. However, this regime faces significant internal opposition in Israel. It is currently grappling with protests against the atrocities committed by Israeli military forces and Netanyahu's indifference not only to Palestinian civilians but also to the fate of prisoners taken by Hamas to voice their demands and demand the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prisons.

While Russia's intervention in Ukraine prompted the United States and its European allies to impose over 19,000 sanctions against it, no sanctions have been imposed on Israel, despite suspicions of committing crimes against humanity raised by the International Court of Justice, in accordance with Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Unfortunately, Russia unsettles the Western world as it seeks and supports the pursuit of truth, both domestically and internationally. It has been the sole provider of satellite images related to the explosion at the Port of Beirut. These images corroborate what the people of Beirut heard and some witnessed, involving two missiles targeting the port. The incumbent Lebanese President, Michel Aoun, referred to it as an "attack," as did President Donald Trump, before conforming to the narrative required of him regarding this incident.

## **RUSSIA WILL EMERGE VICTORIOUS**

Russian politicians and the public have demonstrated realism, depth, and objectivity in their response to the events of March 22, 2024. This stands in stark contrast to Westerners who, influenced by the media, tend to react with excitement and primitive responses to acts of terrorism. Unfortunately, Westerners have developed a passive reliance on their media, often succumbing to official propaganda and the discourse of the former free world, now tainted by a totalitarianism of narrow-minded thinking.

Unlike Westerners, who have grown accustomed to trusting free and objective media, Russians have harbored suspicions of media influence since the Soviet era. They retain this skepticism and actively seek the truth, analyzing situations objectively and intelligently to uncover hidden aspects. This approach helps them resist misinformation, allowing them to reflect on matters thoroughly, especially when they may impact the nation's broader interests. Consequently, they have avoided falling into the trap of Western propaganda, primarily propagated by the United States, which seeks to control public opinion and manipulate political power.

An illustrative example is the repetitive terrorist attacks in France since 2012, which aimed to cultivate a pervasive sense of danger or a fictitious enemy. This diversion tactic deflects attention from real threats and true enemies of the nation.

Daniel J. Boorstin said, "The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, but the illusion of knowledge."

Faced with a series of tragedies striking innocents, the French eventually succumbed to widespread disinformation, laboring under the illusion of understanding the truth about the attacks their country has endured in recent years. These attacks were perpetrated by individuals of Muslim faith or culture, with the majority of cases featuring names resonating with Arabic origin.

This phenomenon coincided with the emergence of widespread religious radicalization among a segment of the population with immigrant backgrounds, originating from North African countries that were formerly under French protectorate or colonial rule. This global radicalization has been fueled by extensive efforts to manipulate religion for political ends, supported by significant financial backing. Institutions promoting and disseminating a simplistic and distorted interpretation of Sunni Islam, drawing on theories and religious currents from the 13th and 14th centuries, initially thrived in certain Muslim nations before spreading to others. The absence of a hierarchical clergy in Sunni Islam, unlike in Shia Islam, facilitated this theological and philosophical shift. These propaganda institutions received funding through sophisticated channels, often involving companies registered primarily in Delaware, United States. Concurrently, alongside preaching movements such as Tabligh, the

Muslim Brotherhood, Tawhid, Milli Görüs, and others, imams and scholars purporting to espouse pure Islam gained significant media exposure to propagate a particular "way of life" and set of practices among the lower socioeconomic classes.

Some segments of Muslim communities in France, whose influx has been strongly encouraged by the country's open-door migration policy despite its challenges in accommodating and assimilating a large immigrant population, have experienced radicalization. Among them are those residing in suburban areas under modest circumstances, with little effort made towards their cultural integration into French society due to the reasons mentioned earlier. Moreover, French identity has gradually eroded over the past two centuries, particularly since the late 1960s, due to deliberate policies advocated by influential pressure groups. The absence of a strong national and cultural identity has led immigrants and individuals from immigrant backgrounds, originating from countries with different cultural backgrounds than France, to undergo an identity crisis and seek alternative identities, often disconnected from their countries of origin. The propaganda disseminated by Islamic radicalization movements, as discussed in previous sections, has provided them with a universal and illusory identity reminiscent of communism, which relied on socioeconomic factors to establish a universal political ideology.

Consequently, French society has witnessed a growing divide between a significant portion of its indigenous population, gradually losing its centuries-old Catholic national identity while adhering to the illusion of a uniquely French secularism, and a new demographic attracted to a utopian identity rooted in Islam.

France, unlike Great Britain and other countries that have effectively preserved their national identity alongside that of their former empires, has not earnestly endeavored to establish a model ensuring the harmonious coexistence of its culture with those of populations from countries formerly under French protectorate or colonial rule. The emergence of a segment of the population exhibiting cultural disparities with the majority, despite originating from the aforementioned countries, has prompted scrutiny, particularly considering the substantial number of immigrants whose prominence has surged due to the aforementioned phenomenon of radicalization. Additionally, the lingering wounds of the Algerian War have not fully healed, exacerbating the situation further, given the significant Algerian community in France, whose migration was facilitated by the Evian Accords.

This social fragility, largely exacerbated by a cohort of politicians either funded or manipulated by France's adversaries, has been exploited for over a decade to destabilize the country both domestically and internationally, diminishing its influence on the global stage, particularly in Africa and the Middle East.

Amidst this backdrop, a series of deadly attacks and terrorist incidents perpetrated by individuals of Muslim faith or culture have plagued the country since 2012. The recurring nature of these assaults, coupled with extensive media coverage exemplified by the Crocus attack, has effectively shaped French public opinion and deepened the rift outlined in earlier developments. Regrettably, a significant portion of France's younger generation, influenced by social and traditional media, has not been adequately educated in political matters. The conflation of Islam, Muslims, and political Islam, as asserted by the perpetrators of these attacks, has gained traction and contributed to a growing divide between France and Muslim nations, including those in the Arab world. Consequently, the objectives of these attacks—

internal destabilization of France and the erosion of its international influence, particularly among its former Francophone allies—have been achieved.

The attack on March 22, 2024, targeting Russia, had a similar objective: to destabilize the country internally due to its Muslim population, create a new front pitting Russia against Central Asian countries to weaken its military operation in Ukraine, undermine ties with Muslim countries, including Arab nations, and hinder its involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict after the diplomatic efforts initiated since February 2024. Consequently, there is concern that Russia may experience a series of terrorist acts attributed to Islamist organizations or individuals of the Muslim faith to mimic the scenario seen in France, aiming to influence public opinion. Hence, Russian authorities aim to uncover the true masterminds behind the attack and impose severe penalties on its perpetrators as a deterrent.

Regrettably, France has not adopted a similar approach towards the surviving perpetrators or pursued the true instigators of various operations seriously. Notably, certain operations, especially those in March 2012 and 2015, including the Bataclan attack, remain shrouded in secrecy, with law enforcement interventions questioned, even by members of elite units like the National Gendarmerie Intervention Group (GIGN). Most perpetrators of attacks were killed during arrest, complicating investigations. Consequently, the French public remains unaware of the true instigators of these operations, with only the identities of the perpetrators known.

Such occurrences contrast starkly with Russia's approach. President Putin has pledged to identify not only the direct perpetrators but also every link in the chain of beneficiaries. He has vowed that all perpetrators and masterminds of the crime will face punishment, regardless of their identity. Most political leaders also doubt the claims implicating the Islamic State, considering it a facade and the armed wing of Western powers. Instead, they advocate for a thorough investigation to uncover the true perpetrators.

President Putin has condemned the operation, likening it to Nazi atrocities, and cautioned against using tragic events to incite national hatred, xenophobia, or Islamophobia. He urged Russians not to fall into the trap set by their true enemies, who seek to destabilize Russia internally and weaken it externally.

Russia remains committed to uncovering the truth behind the attack, as with previous terrorist incidents. Efforts are underway to hold responsible not just the perpetrators but also those who support them, including foreign powers. Despite the tragedy, there is hope that Russia will continue its international efforts to restore justice, rights, and peace.