

The West vs the Russian Bear¹

“Sometimes I think, maybe they will leave [the bear--Russia] in peace.... They will not. They will always try to put him on a chain...and tear out his fangs”—President Putin (12 Jan/2015, p. 47). Putin’s statement seems right on.

It is often said that a major cause for WW II were the disastrous conditions the victorious allies imposed on Germany after WW I.

At the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the USSR along with the Warsaw Pact, the West should have demonstrated a spirit of generosity by also disbanding NATO. Instead, it expanded and strengthened NATO by absorbing members of the Warsaw Pact so that both NATO and the EU now threaten Russia right at her European borders. Has the West not learned anything from her German mistakes? Have we planted the seeds for the Cold War’s successor—this time more likely to be a hot one, possibly WW III? Shame on our clumsy and war-mongering Western politicians, including Prime Minister Harper for his harsh threats addressed to Russia.

As to the Ukraine, I regard the turmoil there as part of the re-adjustment Russia is going through after the collapse of her empire. We all know that the seeds of that turmoil were planted by a drunk dictator. Did the West react when that mindless transfer took place? Allow the re-adjustments to be completed and that drunk act corrected by undoing it. We are forcing the bear to rise on its hind legs and pounce on its immediate NATO/EU neighbours. Instead of writing scathing articles about Putin and his country, we need to show a little more respect and understanding. The West is expert in making enemies. Let’s learn to make friends.

¹ Letter to Editor, Maclean’s, 13 Jan/2015, p. 47.