

## GLOBAL POLITICS

# Biden's no help as Putin squeezes Europe

Even while Russia appears to be losing more territory in Ukraine, it is Europe that ultimately loses, especially this winter.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is brutal and nasty, but he is not a fool. Ukraine has proven a formidable foe thanks to the Ukrainian people's tenacity and the financial and military assistance provided by the United States, made possible by American taxpayers.

Despite significant losses in his kinetic conflict with Ukraine, Putin continues to outwit the West. Nearly 40% of the natural gas used to heat homes and power companies across the European Union last year came from Russia. Reliance on Russian energy isn't unusual for the EU, even though the United States contributes 70% of NATO's budget to safeguard Europe from Russia.

However, the EU's inability to provide the energy its



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citizens badly need this winter, along with the Biden administration's inept new U.S. energy strategy, has made matters worse for Europeans. Production has plunged in the U.S., driving up costs. The fact

that India and China are two of the world's major energy consumers means that high prices are good for Putin's bottom line. This winter, Europeans will shiver and suffer because of the policies of their leaders and President Biden. It would not be surprising if this leads to rioting in European streets.

Georg Hegel famously said, "The only thing that we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history." When Japan invaded and seized northern Indochina in July 1941, the U.S. retaliated by freezing all of Japan's assets, making it impossible for Japan to buy U.S. oil, which supplied 80% of Japan's oil needs. Japan's course of ac-



**COLD COMFORT:** Russian President Vladimir Putin will likely delight in seeing Europe freeze this winter..

tion lead to the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Putin is deliberately placing the Europeans in a similar position — acquiesce to Russia, or freeze. Unlike the old Soviet leaders whom Putin blames, together with the West, for the fall of the Soviet Union,

Putin is a different kind of Russian leader altogether. Putin believes that his fate is to fight the West in a global conflict. His government is collapsing, his health is reportedly deteriorating, and he is a global pariah. Putin is as dangerous as a trapped animal,

hence the nuclear threats.

Presidents Putin and Xi Jinping of China are two despotic birds of a feather. By weakening the U.S. dollar, they are dealing a severe blow to the U.S. Once the world's fourth-largest holder of U.S. dollar reserves, Russia has been cut

off entirely by U.S. sanctions. Despite being cut off, Russia has found new trading partners in India and China, and they aren't using the dollar. With China controlling 17.9% of global GDP as of 2016, these expanding markets will help China get closer to its goal of becoming the new global reserve currency. The conflict in Ukraine and the ensuing conflict in Europe provide China with the ideal pretext to invade Taiwan.

President Biden's energy strategy, the abandonment of the Trump administration's peace through strength, and the diplomatic foot-dragging to broker a resolution on Russia-Ukraine is why we're here.

Elections have consequences.

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