

The Beginning -- Yugoslavia

by Vladimir Golstein via jane - Consortium News *Saturday, Aug 4 2018, 7:32am*

international / prose / post

America's present imperial (neocon) course began with the illegal intervention in Yugoslavia, which nation remained independent while other European nations succumbed to American domination. Notwithstanding that Yugoslavia was formed after WWII by Marshal Tito the head of partisan forces fighting against fascism with allied forces, though Croatia, Bosnia and Albania fought with the Nazis, much to their eternal shame, but Tito was a nation builder and America is now a nation destroyer, as history verifies.



Socialist Yugoslav leader, Josip Broz Tito, with JFK

It was the neocon "crazies," as George H Bush named them, that designed and initiated this adventure, gambling heavily that Russia and China would not involve themselves. And so NATO attacked Yugoslavia which was abandoned by mother Russia and ally China in its most critical hour of need. NATO took control and dismembered Yugoslavia into many powerless, tiny statelettes, which ended Tito's nation building unification that he maintained until his death.

The following story does highlight the many injustices done to the Serbs, scapegoated by the Americans/NATO as the evil force (required bogeyman) that other Yugoslavian provinces needed to be protected from. It was a bold, daring, and criminal move, as the trumped up excuse, Right to Protect, (R2P) -- also utilised to justify the ruination of Libya -- the UN rejected (it should be noted) the NATO attack against Yugoslavia. Nevertheless, America/NATO bulldozed through all opposition flouting international law in the process and prevailed against a tiny nation unable to resist the combined forces of NATO and the evil deed was done, proving to the neocons that Russia and China would not interfere with American designs to dominate the world, such was the obvious illegality of the action that the real message could not be missed.

Reams could be written on this first case of many more illegal American interventions, particularly the local allies chosen by America to assist, former brutal fascists and Kosovar criminal terrorists wanted by Interpol. But it's all academic today, so I leave you with a rather tame take on events

below, especially Russia's cowardly retreat; they could have done a lot more to protect southern Slavs, but as Putin exemplifies, cowardice and self-interest have replaced traditional loyalties today. Recently demonstrated by America's abandonment of its extremist proxy fighters in Syria, which should alert all nations and groups to the historical and present day FACT that all superpowers cannot be trusted for a minute. Hence Tito's inspired non-aligned movement of cooperating nations.

Article from Consortium News follows:

Hidden in Plain View in Belgrade

Right across the street from my hotel, tucked behind tall office buildings, is the rather large Church of St. Mark. Hidden in St. Mark's shadows is a tiny Russian Orthodox church. The Church of the Holy Trinity, known simply as the Russian Church, is famous for holding the remains of Baron Pyotr Nikolayevich Wrangel, the Russian Civil War leader of the Whites. It is hard to find, but luckily, a friend took me there.

As we were looking around the church, not particularly interested in Wrangel, a couple of Russians asked me to take their picture in front of his tomb. Trying to find a proper angle for the picture, I noticed a small plaque on a wall nearby. It listed the names of Russians who died fighting for Yugoslav Serbs during the [conflict](#) with separatist Albanians in Kosovo and the subsequent NATO [bombing](#) of Yugoslavia in 1999.

As we left the church, we took a small path toward the top of the park. There we observed another brutal sign of that war: a destroyed building next to the TV center. It too had a plaque. It screamed, "Zashto" (For What? Why?). Below it were the names of all the TV people NATO killed during that attack. In all, as many as 2,500 civilians may have been killed by NATO, according to the then Yugoslav government, though the real number may [never](#) be known.

On the one hand, the question Zashto is both idle and provocative. It implies a laceration of wounds, a refusal to forget and to start anew. On the other, there is an obvious need to find an answer to this question simply to prevent future destruction and senseless murders.

We won't find answers to this question in the official narratives, which tell us that the noble Clinton administration decided to stop flagrant violations of human rights in the extremely complex situation in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo by [bombing](#) the scapegoated Serbs into respecting minorities both on its own and on neighboring territories. (In fact the large exodus of Kosovo Albanians to Albania proper only began after NATO bombs started to fall.)

Testing the Limits

Behind these official stories, a much sadder picture emerges. Why did these people die? Why did this NATO operation go ahead without UN Security Council [authorization](#) nor proof of self-defense, requirements of the UN Charter? Was it to satisfy the lust for power of U.S. and NATO leaders, of liberal interventionists like Madeleine Albright, Bill Clinton, and Susan Rice? To assuage the Clinton administration's [guilt](#) over its failure to respond to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda? Was it to set up America's largest military base in Europe since the Vietnam War, Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo? For American access to Kosovo's vast mineral wealth and other business opportunities, including for Ms.

[Albright](#)? Or was it to finally kill off a rather successful Yugoslav experiment in the “third way” between the West and the Soviet Union?

It seems these people had to die for all those reasons and to put into practice the doctrines of responsibility to protect (R2P) and [full spectrum dominance](#), doctrines cooked up by liberal interventionists and neocons in Washington. Those who died were essentially guinea pigs of a New World Order experiment to see how far the world could be pushed to implement R2P, a policy that could be used to mask imperial ambitions.

And it worked. Yugoslavia was unable to stand up to the power of NATO operating outside the mandate of its obsolete charter: namely to defend Western Europe against an alleged Soviet threat. Indeed one could argue that with the Cold War over, another motive for the attack on Yugoslavia was to provide NATO with a justification to exist. (It would later go even further afield outside its legal theater of operation, into Afghanistan and then Libya.)

Russia could do little [rubbish, NATO would not have dared confront Russia's nuclear arsenal] to help the Serbs. Then the Chinese Embassy was hit as well, as a test it seems, though The New York Times [said](#) it was a mistake. The [traditionally gutless] Chinese did nothing.

Thus was R2P implemented—with no protection for Yugoslav Serbs. They had to die in the experiment to explore the limits of U.S. power and the limits of its resistance.

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