

## Ukraine on the knife's edge of world war

*Dr Natalia Vitrenko is an economist who leads the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine and is a former MP. She gave the speech translated here, to a 19 Feb. 2022 online conference of the international Schiller Institute, titled "100 Seconds to Midnight on the Doomsday Clock: We Need a New Security Architecture!"*

Dear conference participants,

It is very important that our conference is taking place in a period of heightened confrontation between two blocs of leading countries in the world. They are the NATO countries, led by the USA; and the other bloc, which is taking shape before our very eyes, is Russia and China. Their joint declaration of 4 February of this year [AAS, 9 Feb. 2022] proclaimed their intention to be together on all issues. This is extremely important, because mankind is on the brink of World War III. And the knife's edge of that confrontation is my country, Ukraine.

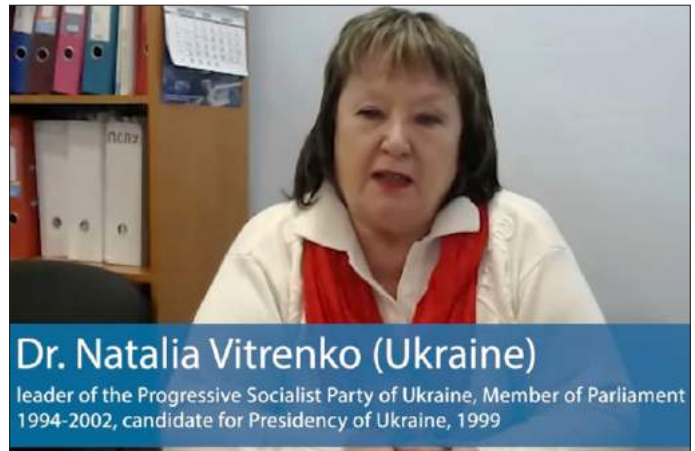
Essentially, this is what we warned about. Let me remind you about my intervention at the European Parliament on 26 February 2014. That was during the tour of Germany, France and Italy by representatives of our party, which I believe was very important for the international community. Our friends from the Schiller Institute helped us organise that trip. At that time, I said at my press conference that the *coup d'état* in Ukraine [several days earlier] had brought to power Nazis and Russophobes, and that this would give rise to extremely grave problems not only for Ukraine and not only for the Eurasian continent, but also for the entire world.

And indeed, from 2014 on, the USA started strongly sponsoring Ukraine and preparing a confrontation with Russia. What other interpretation can there be, of the fact that since then US\$2.7 billion of lethal weaponry has been allocated? What other interpretation can there be, of orienting the government of Ukraine not towards a peaceful solution of the crisis and towards finding ways, through diplomacy, to resolve this bloody conflict in south-eastern Ukraine, in the Donbass, but, rather, constantly instigating them towards war with Russia?

We have witnessed a special kind of psychosis, militaristic psychosis, over the past two or three months, since last [Northern Hemisphere] autumn. As I understand it, the USA gave the go-ahead to all their satellites, and therefore not only they themselves started pouring an absolute avalanche of weapons into Ukraine, but also the Baltic countries, and Poland, and Canada, and the UK—all of them, suddenly disturbed about what was happening in Ukraine, and supposedly for the purpose of defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity [of Ukraine] against Russia, started to ship to Ukraine more and more weapons.

I emphasise that these are not *gifts* to our country! This involves loans. The latest loan came from the USA, with credit guarantees of 1 billion dollars. Great Britain allocated \$2.5 billion dollars [equivalent], or \$2.3 billion, to be precise. More than half a billion from Canada; 1.2 billion euros from France. Where are these to be repaid from? How can they be repaid? All this is a yoke, it's shackles on our people.

But that's not even the main thing. The most important is that, while the Ukrainian economy is destroyed, our people serve simply as cannon fodder. The Western mass media



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constantly hammers away: When the war with Russia begins, the Ukrainian side will suffer losses of 50 thousand, or 85 thousand.

What is that? That is heavy pressure on our country, on our people! It is such an extremely hard psychological attack on the state of mind of our public, that it's unbearable. It's simply unbearable. So what is happening in our country with the population, is a very difficult process: people are packing emergency "go-bags", trying to locate bomb shelters, organising local-area defence militias.

And it is, without question, a blow to the economy. When President Zelensky saw all this, a month ago, even he was dumbstruck, because Ukraine has lost \$14 billion just since the beginning of this year: \$12.5 billion from capital flight, and \$1.5 billion spent by the Ukrainian Central Bank to support the currency. Let me stress, Ukraine's gold and currency reserves were less than 30 billion. And here you have 14 billion in losses.

There's been a collapse of our eurobonds, of Ukrainian state debt. There's a collapse of the national currency, as I already mentioned, and a blockade on international capital; international capital markets are closed to Ukraine. An outflow of investment. This has all happened, literally, in the past few weeks. The National Bank of Ukraine has already adjusted downward its GDP forecast from 3.8 percent to 3.4 percent.

What will happen next? People in our country lack resources even for the basic necessities. Today it was announced that the price of bread will soon be raised by 25 or 30 per cent. And that's when we already, because of brutal pension and wage policies, have the most impoverished population in Europe. The shortest life span.

This is what comes from the efforts to set our countries against each other. Russia has repeatedly stated that they have no intention of invading Ukraine. They are doing their military exercises on their own territory. But the Western media, the USA and the UK don't listen to that. Even when Russia reduces the number of its troops near the border, pulling them back to their bases as the exercises finish up, it continues. They say: No, we don't see any de-escalation process; no, we don't trust what Russia says.

### The instigators, and the solution

What is the purpose? That war take place, without fail.

Who is igniting the bonfire of war, inside Ukraine and from the outside?

Inside Ukraine, it is the Nazis, first and foremost. Organisations have burgeoned: parties, movements, organisations, thirsting for blood. They have an ideology called Ukrainian integral nationalism. This ideology was created by Dmytro Dontsov and Mykola Stsiborsky [in the early 20th century], and then implemented by Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych. This is an ideology of enmity between our peoples. It is an ideology of war, misanthropic war. This ideology of a nazified Ukraine has infected a section of the population of our country. Worst of all, this ideology has become the official ideology of the Ukrainian government, just as we warned.

As a result, people with Russian culture and members of ethnic minorities have become second-class people. Look at me: I'm ethnically Ukrainian, but my native language is Russian. I don't conceive of myself, outside of Russian civilisation.

But all broadcasting of Russian TV channels, and all broadcasting of programs in the Russian language, has been banned in Ukraine. The courts, government agencies, schools and universities work only in Ukrainian. And we have the constant fanning of the psychosis: that the "Muscovites" [pejorative term for Russians] must be destroyed. This is said openly, on television.

Outside Ukraine, we see that the USA, headed by Biden, who is supposedly concerned for Ukraine's sovereignty, listens only to the Nazi ideologues' version. Why does Biden, who talks about sovereignty, not understand that Ukraine's sovereignty is incorporated in the Declaration of State Sovereignty [of July 1990], and that our sovereignty was upheld in two referendums in 1991—one in March and one in December.

Since that's the case, Western "democracy" should have supported democracy in Ukraine. But that means people's power and the will of the people. Read the Declaration of State Sovereignty. Look at what our population voted for. Remember that it was that kind of Ukraine, which the international community supported. That was the kind of sovereignty that was recognised as the sovereignty of Ukraine. It included non-bloc status (neutrality) for Ukraine. It included a union state with Russia and Belarus<sup>1</sup>.

If we had had a union state, there would have been no

1. A supranational organisation that is closer than an alliance and involves joint policies in several areas, but falls short of full confederation. A "union state" of Belarus and Russia has existed since 1999.

problem with Crimea. Crimea would have remained the favourite child of both Ukraine and Russia, rather than being an object of contention.

Therefore today it's important to realise what must be done, in order to change the situation radically and not allow a war. I'll divide this into two parts: what Ukraine must do, and what the international community must do.

The top priority for Ukraine is to carry out denazification. What's needed is to help the Ukrainian government, by united efforts of the entire world community, to ban all parties, movements and organisations with a Nazi orientation. There are sufficient international norms and principles for doing this. I'll just name the conventions, which enable the international community to help Ukraine in this respect.

They are the *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*. It's all spelled out there: a ban on war propaganda; a ban on the functioning of organisations that take a position of racial discrimination—on the basis of race, ethnicity, or any other criteria. That's what needs to be done in Ukraine. It is of outstanding importance for Ukraine. And it has to be understood that without the following, Ukraine will not survive: after denazification, the restoration of our non-bloc status, and allowing us to implement what was the expressed will of our people—a union state with Russia and Belarus.

As for the international side, what needs to be done? Of course, we passionately hope and pray that Russia and China together will be able to convince the USA, and Germany, to sit down at the negotiating table and work out a new world architecture—to find those principles, validate them and put them at the basis of some documents, which would provide the possibility for peaceful coexistence of different countries, with respect for their national interests and distinctive characters.

And, of course, we need to change the economic model, the world economic model. We remember how Lyndon LaRouche explained to us, that without a radical change in the economic model, there will be no sustained development, and it will be impossible to defend the national interests of different countries. This is what all progressive humanity has to strive for. And that is the position of our Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine.

Thank you very much for listening.

## 2013-14: Vitrenko warned of fascist coup

*From 23 February through 5 March 2014, just after the culmination of the Western-backed Euromaidan coup in Kiev, former MPs and Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine leaders Dr Natalia Vitrenko and Vladimir Marchenko, together with Col. Valeri Sergachov (ret.), leader of the Kiev Rus Party and a former member of the Odessa Regional Council, toured western Europe to deliver eyewitness accounts of what had happened and warnings about what was to come. They met with politicians and addressed think tanks, local governments, and political activists in France, Germany and Italy. (See, for example, "Natalia Vitrenko webcast from Paris: Ukrainian Patriots Expose EU Support for Neo-Nazi Coup", EIR, 7 March 2014.)*

*Besides giving her own press conference at the European Parliament in Strasbourg as the guest of an Italian MEP, Vitrenko spoke up at a 26 Feb. press conference of Europarliament President Martin Schulz and the visiting President Miloš Zeman of the Czech Republic. Identifying herself as the leader of a leftist opposition party in Ukraine, she described the*

*"neo-Nazi" leading element in the Kiev coup and its ransacking of opposition party offices and threats to the lives of those who opposed the takeover. She demanded, "Do you think the neo-Nazis of the Svoboda Party and Right Sector convey 'European values'? Do you not think it necessary to disarm the paramilitary groups and outlaw Nazi parties?" President Zeman replied, "I cannot exclude that some are not only right-wing, but pro-Nazis; for instance, the supporters of [Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists leader] Stepan Bandera" (1909-59).*

*Ten months earlier and seven months before the Maidan demonstrations began, Vitrenko took part in a Schiller Institute conference in Frankfurt, Germany. At a 15 April 2013 seminar of conference speakers, she outlined the dangerous scenario she saw unfolding in Ukraine. That presentation is excerpted here.*

The processes under way in Ukraine are not unique; in Latvia, Hungary, Romania, and I'm sure in Greece and Spain,

the same thing is going on. The economy has been destroyed, artificially. The oligarchical paradigm has been established, with the drastic impoverishment of the population. And then everything possible is done, to bring neo-Nazis into the political arena.

This is very clear in the example of Ukraine. We had President Kravchuk, and then President Kuchma. They listened to the International Monetary Fund, they conducted reforms, but they continued to waver between Russia and the West. The West then brought Victor Yushchenko into play.... [He] became President not by being elected, but under pressure: Javier Solana came, others came in, and pressured the Court to make the decision in favour of Yushchenko [in 2004]. In the streets, at that time, we had the colour revolution, paid for by George Soros, et al. Yushchenko becomes President. What is the first thing he does? He essentially rehabilitates all the collaborators [with the Nazis during World War II]. Monuments begin to be built in Ukraine to Bandera, Shukhevych—to these agents of the *Abwehr* [Nazi German intelligence service].

In western Ukraine the Nazi movement takes to the streets. We sound the alarm. We understand that this is even against UN resolutions. But Yushchenko, Yulia Tymoshenko, and Arseny Yatsenyuk—pro-NATO forces—are in power, and they pursue this policy. In the West, people can see that the South and the East of Ukraine are against such a scenario....

President Victor Yanukovych (elected 2010) allows the Nazis onto national TV. Within six months, the Nazi party Svoboda wins election to the regional parliaments in western Ukraine. At that point our movement comes under heavy pressure. We are kept off the air. But the Nazi parties become more powerful.

In the 2009 Parliamentary elections, Svoboda entered the Parliament and obtained Parliamentary immunity, substantial state financing, and guaranteed airtime. They proceed to hold their covens without any obstacles. They march through the streets with torches and under slogans like “Ukraine over All!” “Ukraine for Ukrainians!” “Glory to Ukraine, Death to the Enemies!” “Stab the Muscovites, Slash the Russians, Hang the Communists!” This a gross violation of the Ukrainian



The “Right Sector” paramilitary group was key to the violent “Euromaidan” coup of 2013-14. Their armband displays the Nazis’ Wolfsangel, which is simultaneously the acronym “NI” for Dmytro Dontsov’s “National Idea”  
Photo: Screenshot

Constitution, because it is incitement to ethnic strife. Nobody does anything about it. Money pours in from the West....

Nazi propaganda is spread openly. Books by Dmytro Dontsov, the “Ukrainian Nietzsche”, are openly sold in the Parliament building. Yushchenko, before leaving office, issued a decree that only the nationalists could be considered fighters for Ukraine’s independence. By the logic of this decree, the [Soviet] Red Army were occupiers.... I filed suit against this decree. Yanukovych could have repealed it, but he did not.... My father fought throughout the war, so how could he be an occupier? There have already been films shown on Ukrainian TV about how Ukrainians greeted Hitler with joy. Then there are talk shows around these films, in which young people shout out, “Glory to Ukraine!”

The Nazis cultivate soccer fans. There have been cases at soccer games, when at the 88th minute of the game a firecracker is set off. This is a code for “HH” or “Heil Hitler!”...

I understand very well that at any moment, passions could explode in Ukraine and the streets will belong to the Nazis.... What will happen is the formation of a Nazi state. And I think that a Nazi state in Ukraine is a danger for the whole world.

## The racist ideology of the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists

*This background on the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), led by Stepan Bandera until his assassination by a Russian intelligence operative in 1959, and its racist ideology it adopted is excerpted from a [dossier published in Executive Intelligence Review](#), 16 May 2014. The dossier documents how the strike forces of the 2014 coup in Kiev arose from the OUN and deployed relentlessly and violently to bring it about.*

The Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists was founded in 1929. It was sponsored during the 1930s by both British MI6 and German military intelligence, the *Abwehr*. British intelligence and political circles also had designs during that decade for Ukrainian participation in projects such as Intermarium (a projected confederation of nations located between the Baltic, Black, Aegean, and Adriatic Seas) and the Promethean League of ethnic minorities from regions within the USSR. Several of these organisations were jointly sponsored by British and German operatives, as long as leading British circles remained openly supportive of the Nazis; thus the post-war relationship of MI6 with the Ukrainian nationalist underground involved not only picking up Nazi assets, but also retaking custody of projects in whose creation MI6 had been instrumental

in the first place.<sup>1</sup>

The beliefs and platform of the OUN were promoted abroad for 50 years after the war, by successor organisations like the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). The UCCA celebrates OUN leader Stepan Bandera as “one of Ukraine’s most devoted heroes and patriots.”<sup>2</sup> Kateryna Chumachenko, the American-born wife of former Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko, worked in the Washington offices of the UCCA and the National Captive Nations Committee in the 1980s. During Yushchenko’s time in office (2005-10), big strides were taken toward the rehabilitation of Bandera and the OUN. Ukraine’s former KGB archives, now under the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU), were put under the charge of historian Volodymyr Vyatrovych, whose task was to develop “national heroes” as images for the new Ukraine. Vyatrovych painted all the main OUN figures in glowing tones.

In another instance of the OUN legacy, US National

1. Stephen Dorril, *MI6* (New York: The Free Press, 2000).

2. “On the 50th Anniversary of Stepan Bandera’s Murder,” [www.ucca.org](http://www.ucca.org), Oct. 5, 2009.

Endowment for Democracy (NED)<sup>3</sup> Vice President Nadia Diuk [died 2019] often sounds like a 1950s Cold War polemicist with a later-vintage Project Democracy veneer, not only thanks to her Oxford University education, but also because in the 1980s she cut her political teeth working for an extension of the CIA-funded Prolog Research Corporation, headed by former OUN assassin Gen. Mykola Lebed.

Through this kind of political and institutional continuity, an unquestioning acceptance of OUN assumptions (not necessarily so identified) as normal, healthy Ukrainian nationalism, has become the norm among the Maidan movement and its foreign backers.

The most frequent crowd-participation chant at the Euromaidan was a call-and-response routine of the type made famous by 20th-century Italian fascist Gabriele D'Annunzio. A speaker shouts "*Slava Ukrainy!*" ("Glory to Ukraine!"), the crowd responds "*Heroyam slava!*" (To the heroes, glory!). These are old OUN slogans, now *de rigueur* in Ukraine.

The collaboration of Bandera, the OUN, and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) with the Nazis, both in the 1930s and during the Nazi invasion of Ukraine, as well as OUN and UPA atrocities against the Jewish, Polish, and pro-Soviet Russian and Ukrainian populations during and after World War II, have been the subject of voluminous documentation, as well as whitewashing. Here, we emphasise the fascist qualities of the OUN's own ideology.

### Ethnic groups as separate 'species'

OUN publications and rhetoric, from 1929 to its present-day heirs, bear the imprint of such fascists as Dmytro Dontsov (1883-1973). Dontsov expounded an ethnically defined nationalism and radical social Darwinism.

Dontsov viewed a "nation" as a biological species, writing in his 1926 book *Nationalism* that only one such ethnic "nation" could ever inhabit the same land:

"He who views peoples as definite species, which, as in the organic world, are doomed to eternal competition between them—that person sees clearly that even two of them cannot be accommodated on one patch of ground under the Sun.... The weaker must yield to the stronger.... Nature does not know humanism or justice.

"The striving for life and power is transformed into the striving for war.... The striving toward war between nations is eternal. War is eternal.... International life is built upon struggle, upon constant motion, which brings the world to war and war to the world.... War exists between species, and therefore between people, peoples, nations, and so forth. Be aggressors and occupiers, before you can become rulers and possessors.... No common human truth exists."

According to Dontsov, the leading force in society should be an "aristocracy" or "order"—an initiative-taking minority. The nation should have a *vozhd*, a concept close to the German *Fuehrer*. Dontsov emerged as a major figure in the 1920s, in the wake of three failed attempts to form an independent Ukrainian state during World War I and the 1918-1922 Civil War in the former Russian Empire. His career is summarised by British academic researcher Andrew Wilson:

3. [Part 7](#) of the AAS Special Report *Xinjiang: China's western frontier in the heart of Eurasia* recounts both the Cold War-era intelligence agency manipulation of ethnic diasporas and the NED's history and functions in fostering regime change.

"Dontsov, like Mussolini, had originally been a socialist but joined the Union for the Liberation of Ukraine in 1914 and moved quickly to the right. Dontsov also took much of his political philosophy from Italian fascism, but developed his own uniquely Ukrainian brand of extremist nationalism, which he dubbed 'forceful', 'action' or (after [Charles] Maurras) 'integral' nationalism (*chynnyi natsionalizm*)....

"Dontsov's vision of the Ukrainian nation ... was essentially ethnicist. A pure and inspiring 'national idea' could only exist as the representation of the spirit of a homogeneous ethnic nation, free from all internal 'impurity' and disunity (Dontsov here borrowed from the populist myth of a homogeneous Ukrainian peasantry). Ukraine therefore had to be purged of all Jewish, Polish and above all Russian influence. Moreover, the homogeneous ethnic nation would in Dontsov's vision be run as a corporate state, with the nationalist political party providing its 'ruling caste'. This would be the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists."<sup>4</sup>

It is easy to see the typical oligarchical view of human beings as "beasts", the view the Nazis also shared, woven into Dontsov's vision of permanent struggle, inevitable war, and the purging of alien ethnic groups.

Dontsov's belief-structure had not been the sole or even the main tendency in the Ukrainian independence movement earlier. During and after the 1848 revolutions in continental Europe, the Ukrainian Brotherhood of Sts Cyril and Methodius, led by historian Mykola Kostomarov (1817-85) and influenced by Ukraine's national poet, Taras Shevchenko (1814-61), did *not* espouse such an exclusionary line. Kostomarov's work *The Two Peoples of Rus* (1861), still influential in the 20th century, was attacked by Dontsov and the OUN as representing so-called Little Russianism—the idea that Ukrainians and Russians are culturally distinct, but nonetheless branches of one people. Academician Vladimir Vernadsky, born in Russia of a Ukrainian family, wrote to his daughter in 1923:

"I do not divide Russians and Ukrainians, and I believe that if Russia doesn't perish, ... this question can be handled correctly.... The culture of Russia and Ukraine manifests a single, greater whole.... I would like to write to you about the Ukrainian question, ... which is in the hands of people who are narrow-minded, fanatical opponents of Russian culture. Some of them are crazy, some merely backward.... Ukraine exists, and will continue to exist. The important thing is that Dontsov and Co. not be in charge."

Thus, the great scientist and patriot of Ukraine Vernadsky believed that the country's relationship with Russia could be discussed rationally, as long as the crazed Dontsov were out of the picture. Yet Dontsov became the mentor of the OUN. His notions of ethnic purity and the necessary dominance of what today is termed the "titular nation" (ethnic group) within any national state were incorporated into OUN manifestos and—under the decades-long patronage of British MI6 and the Anglophile Dulles wing of US intelligence—became the stock in trade of Ukrainian nationalists. Andrew Wilson, writing in 1997, observed that the "clash between militant [Dontsov] and democratic nationalism ... has continued to be a feature of Ukrainian politics to this day."

4. Andrew Wilson, *Ukrainian Nationalism in the 1990s: A Minority Faith* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).