

ATHENA

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

MSc Course

"The EU and the Post-Soviet Space"

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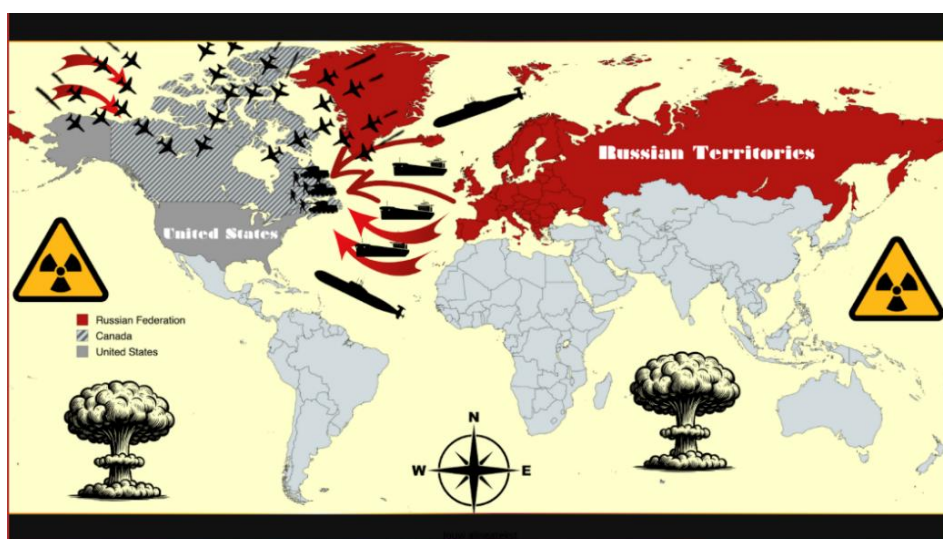


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Context

This speech is taking place on Tuesday, 21 November 2034, three days after the first Russian tanks and soldiers landed on Canadian sovereign territory. Coincidentally, Mearsheimer was invited to be the keynote speaker at the annual Global Realism Summit. For the past decade, Russia has conquered the entirety of Europe. The United States government, following policy advice from offensive realist theorists, refused to support Europe militarily and promptly left the NATO alliance, as they feared disrupting the 'natural power balance' and nuclear warfare.



Speech

Ladies and Gentlemen, esteemed colleagues, policy-makers, students or folks who simply seek to understand the cruel truths of international politics.

It's a great honour to be invited to this year's special edition of the 10th anniversary of the annual Global Realism Summit. Unfortunately, tragedy strikes yet again. This year's theme, realism in a post-western world: accepting the inevitable, could not be more hauntingly fitting. As we speak, and – as you can see behind me – **(points behind me to the map)**, Russian boats and tanks are crossing the Canadian Border.

Predictably, opportunistic neoconservative war hawks and idealistic liberals have already begun calling for US military action; 'Surely, we must do something now!' they say; 'We cannot let Russia conquer Canada too!' They cry. **(mimic a weird/upset voice)**

Luckily, some of us maintain level-headedness and rationality **(slap my own chest)**, and I can tell you, as I have done for decades through written articles and oral lectures across various media platforms, that those calls are not only misguided but dangerously naive. The optimal strategy, in fact, is to let Russia have Canada, just as I advised when they took over Europe. I shall now argue why I know this to be true.

Let us not beat around the bush. This entire situation, starting with the fall of Ukraine, then the Baltics, Poland, Germany, and eventually Europe in its entirety, to the now regrettable situation in Canada, was inevitable and entirely at the fault of the West. Putin's Russia is acting as a prototypical Hegemon should, threatened by the ever-encroaching West. For decades, Russia has raised concerns with the West regarding NATO's expansion. But what did we do? We dismissed their concerns, we laughed in their faces, and instead, we poked the bear again and again, and now we're shocked, shocked, that it has mauled its way across an entire continent, across the Atlantic. Well, not me.

Ladies and gentlemen, some of us are still unwilling to face reality. They speak of 'red lines' and 'defending democracy, liberty and human rights.' But I ask you, at what cost? Need I remind you of Russia's immense military and nuclear capabilities? By now, I should hope not. **(look disappointed into the crowd)**

Let us start with Europe. I often get accusations of being heartless, that I ignore on-the-ground, everyday lived experiences. This could not be further from the truth. Do my critics think I do not miss a nice glass of Bordeaux. Of course I do! But we have a heavy burden to carry. We must not let emotions cloud our judgments; for we are not idealists, we are imperialists! I mean realists. (**awkward chuckle**). Now, should we mourn Europe? Perhaps. But should we fight for it? Never. You do not engage in direct conflict with a nuclear power; that is lunacy. Geographically speaking, Europe was always to be Russia's anyway. We must accept this.

Which brings us to Canada, our polite and weak northern neighbour. How can they ever hold back Russia? It's a lost cause... I can already imagine the arguments.... 'Canada is our ally, part of our continent, our hemisphere; surely, we must act now. Look what not intervening did in Europe; Russia is on our border now!' And I tell you, the answer is still no! What we see now is a simple tit-for-tat between hegemons, not Russian aggression! Canada is lost due to our historical overreaches and our wrongdoings in Europe. It is only fair for Russia to be granted this territory, as this will now even the score between us hegemons. Mark my words, Russia will accept Canada as our peace offering, and I guarantee that, this time, peace will prevail, and the balance of power will restore to normalcy.

Ladies and gentlemen, we must acknowledge this truth. We are in a post-Western world. We must embrace this new world order, a world where power is respected, and where nuclear war is avoided. Thank you, and remember, where idealists try to imagine a perfect world, it is us realists who are there to showcase how to survive it.