

TOP THREE FLASHPOINTS
Focus on Ukraine
What Will Happen Next?

As of 2014-03-04

By John Antal

Greatest Danger to USA	1
Medium Danger to USA	2
Dangerous to USA	3

FlashPoints is a bi-monthly update on the most critical national security issues facing the United States. Author and military expert John Antal will provide you with insights and a quick synopsis of the top three flash points in the world at the time of each report. FlashPoints will list the greatest danger to the USA, and then list risks of medium and serious danger. Keep abreast of the latest impending international crisis by reviewing FlashPoints

as of March 4, 2014

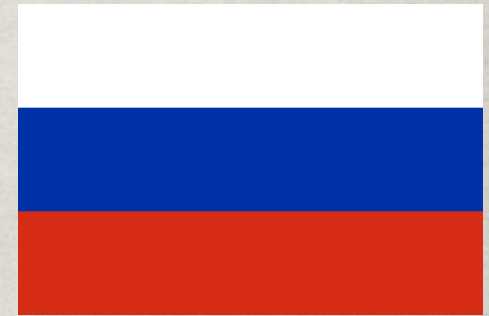
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The situation in the Ukraine and the Russian occupation of Crimea is now the most significant geopolitical event since September 11, 2001. For the past several months the people of western Ukraine rioted in Kiev, the government fell, and a new government was installed. The ousted President, Viktor Yanukovich, fled the country to the protection of the Russians. Last Thursday, forces of the Russian Federation arrived in Crimea and now control Crimea, a portion of the Ukraine. The invasion occurred over several days and appeared to be more of an infestation than a dramatic invasion.



Vladimir Putin

The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, is calling the shots as the USA, Europe and NATO scramble to determine what to do. No one knows what will happen in the days ahead. Putin's three options are shown below:



Russian Federation Flag

1. All of Ukraine

The Russians occupy all of the Ukraine.

2. East Ukraine

The Russians occupy eastern Ukraine and Crimea.

3. Only Crimea

The Russians occupy only Crimea.

1. All of Ukraine

2. East Ukraine

3. Only Crimea



as of March 4, 2014

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1. All of Ukraine

Most Dangerous Situation

- a. On March 1, 2014, Russian troops took control of Crimea. The Russian invasion technique is best described as “invasion by infestation.” Russian President Vladimir Putin is calling the shots in this crisis right now.
- b. Ukrainian troops that have not defected to the Russian supported government in Crimea are confined to their camps and barracks and surrounded by Russian troops.
- c. The US, Europe and NATO seem stunned and are scrambling to respond.
- d. Russian forces are also massing on the border of Ukraine as the state-run Russian media reports that the Russians in Ukraine are at risk to Ukrainian “Fascists.”
- e. So far, the Russians have not fired a shot. If this changes, and fighting breaks out between Russian forces and Ukrainian forces, the Russians will no longer be restrained.
- f. If the Ukrainian military in Western Ukraine moves into eastern Ukraine, or if Russian civilians are killed or perceived to be in grave danger, the Russians may move into eastern Ukraine.
- g. If the Ukrainian military defends against the Russian movement into eastern Ukraine, the Russians will be impelled to launch a combined arms attack throughout the Ukraine to destroy the Ukrainian armed forces. The Russians then might occupy the entire country.

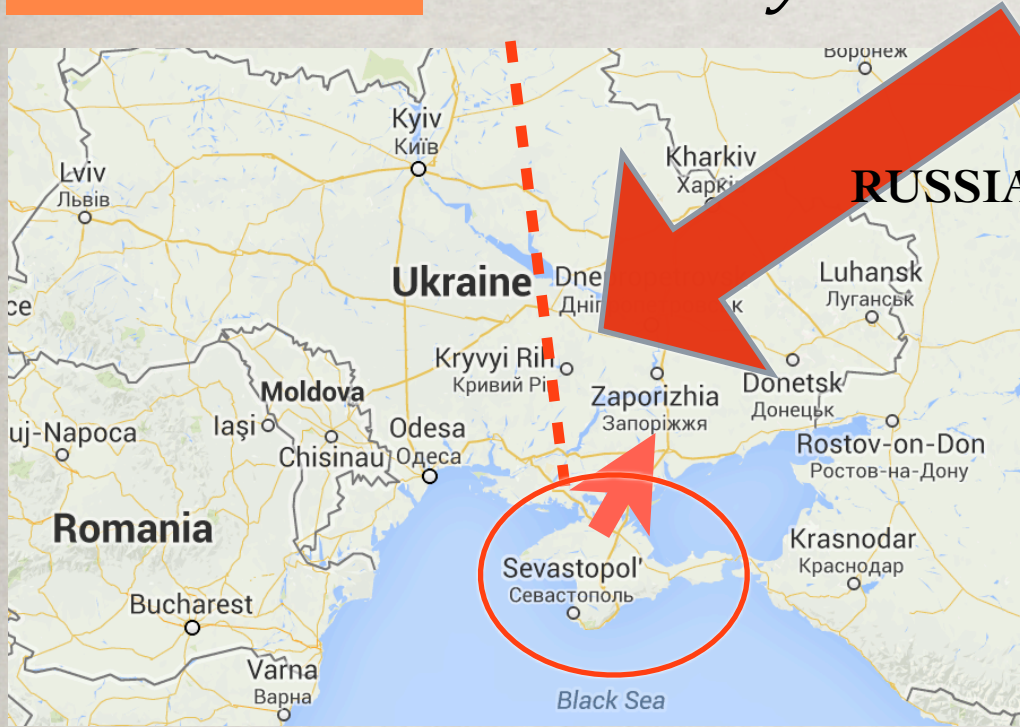


If the situation escalates and fighting breaks out between the Russian and Ukrainian military forces, Russia could attack to seize all of Ukraine.

Analysis: A Russian attack to occupy the entire Ukraine is the most dangerous situation. This could happen in the next two weeks if the situation escalates out of hand. Once Russia commits forces to the east portion of Ukraine, it will be very difficult for Putin and his military to back down.

2. East Ukraine

Most Likely situation...



- The Russians already control Crimea. Their “infestation” invasion skillfully negated the Ukrainian forces in Crimea and took over Crimean Peninsula without firing a shot.
- Russian tank, mechanized and motorized ground forces are deployed along the Russian-Ukraine border near Kharkov (Kharkiv)
- The Russian military forces outnumber the Ukrainian military about 10-1. The quality of the Russian forces is a much higher quality than the Ukrainian military.
- Once given the orders, Russian forces along the Russian border could occupy the area in Ukraine up to the dotted line shown on the map in 1 or 2 days.
- These forces would be supported by Russian air and helicopter forces from bases near the Russian-Ukraine border and from the Crimea.



The Military of Ukraine

Active personnel - 123,000

Artillery - 2,829

6,431 Armored Fighting Vehicles

400 Warplanes



The Military of Russia

Active personnel - 845,000

Artillery - 14,396

27,607 Armored Fighting Vehicles

3,000 Warplanes

Analysis: Russia is a 3rd World power with a First World military. Putin will incite and leverage the situation in the Ukraine to create a reason for the Russian invasion and occupation of the eastern portion of Ukraine. The USA, Europe, NATO and the Ukrainians cannot stop the Russians if they decide to occupy eastern Ukraine.

3. Only Crimea



- a. Crimea is the prize. The Russians and Putin will do almost anything to keep Crimea and the vital seaport of Sevastopol in Russian control.
- b. The Russian occupation of Crimea is already complete.
- c. The Russians can saber rattle along the Russian-Ukrainian border, keep the Ukrainians guessing, and threaten invasion unless the Ukrainians accept the annexation of Crimea by Russia or a diplomatic deal that does nearly the same.
- d. Putin's minimum goal is the annexation/control of Crimea. The other two possibilities, (the occupation of the east of Ukraine or the occupation of all of Ukraine) are added value options for the Russians and useful tools to leverage concessions from the USA, Europe, NATO and the Ukraine.

"If they do not surrender by 5 a.m. tomorrow (4 March), we will start a real storm in Ukrainian bases in

Crimea," according to the statement sent by the Russians to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, a ministry source told Interfax. The ultimatum was attributed to Alexandr Vitko, chief commander of Russia's Black Sea fleet.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/ukraine-crisis/surrender-or-face-storm-russia-reportedly-tells-ukraine-n43086>



Analysis: The Russians are in Crimea to stay. The USA, Europe, NATO and Ukraine will likely bow to the Russian annexation of Crimea. This will change the nature of geopolitics and how the West deals with Russia for decades to come.

Background: The 2008 Russo-Georgian War

Russia has shown that it has learned from its invasion of Georgia in 2008. The Russo-Georgian War (also known as the 2008 South Ossetia War), was fought between Georgia and Russia over the issue of separatist South Ossetia. Georgia wanted the territory that it had lost in the 1991-1992 South Ossetia War. The Georgians attacked, captured the town of Tskhinvali but the Russians were ready. The Russians counterattacked and after 5 days of fighting, drove the Georgians back. The Russians temporarily occupied a few towns in northern Georgia. President George Bush immediately condemned the attack and then ordered the delivery of humanitarian aid by US aircraft to Georgia. The conflict was mediated by the French presidency of the European Union and Russia withdrew. Putin was President of the Russian Federation during the 2008 War. To learn more go to: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russo-Georgian_War



Map of the 2008 Russo-Georgian War

Analysis: The Russians learned from the 2008 Russo-Georgian War and will not be pulling out of Crimea. Their “infestation” invasion of Crimea from February 27 to March 3, 2014 was skillfully executed.

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If you want to raise your leadership awareness, read:

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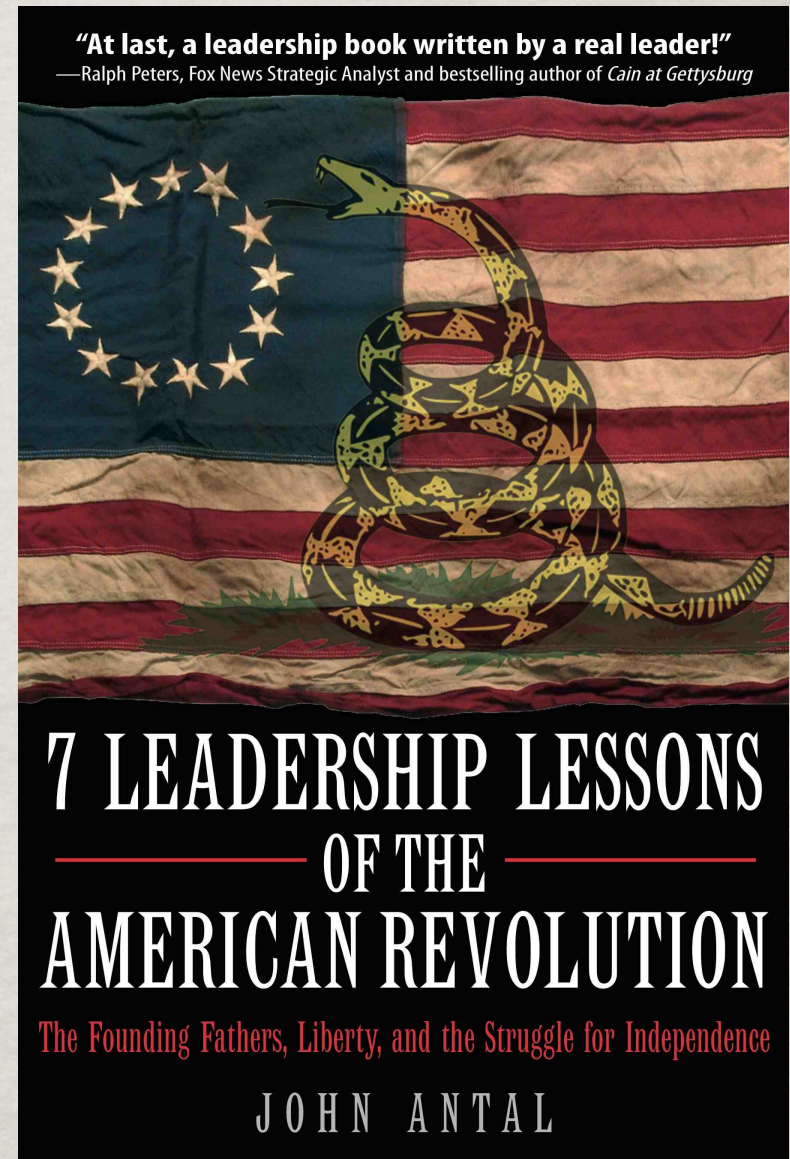
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FLASHPOINTS by John Antal, Colonel US Army (Retired)

Some more Reviews of *7 Leadership Lessons of the American Revolution*

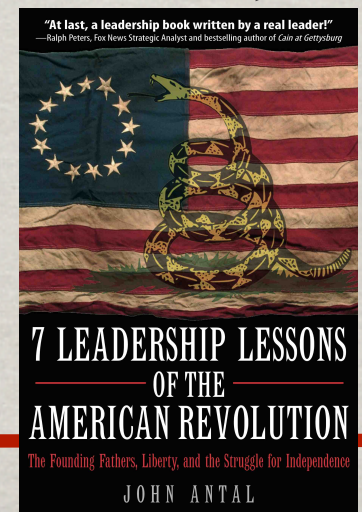
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"John Antal's timely book, *7 Leadership Lessons of the American Revolution* is succinctly written and easily understood. On the surface, it demonstrates how those who risked all to create this republic used specific leadership principles to overcome tremendous challenges in that endeavor. These same techniques are just as valid in this century as in theirs. Along the way, Antal paints these revolutionaries as living, breathing human beings with high-risk tasks to accomplish. But Antal's study actually goes much farther – because behind his straightforward storytelling lies something much more important: an examination of what principles that leadership came from, and what principles it should serve. You'll come away with the feeling that the founders of this country weren't "historical figures" but living, breathing human beings with huge problems to solve, for which they used methods available to any one of us who cares to learn."

Bradley Thompson, television writer and producer and the co-writer for the hit TV series' Battlestar Galactica and the second season of Falling Skies.

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