

The Stealth Takeover of Ukraine Continues Putin's Next Steps....

As of 2014-05-15

By John Antal



The flag of the breakaway Donetsk People's Republic.
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FlashPoints is a 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

FLASHPOINTS by John Antal, Colonel US Army (Retired)



The South and East of Ukraine are in turmoil as Russia supports separatist movements among the pro-Russian population.

Russia declared that Ukraine must pay its \$2 billion energy debt to Russia. The US State Department later said it condemned "Russia's efforts to use energy as a tool of coercion against Ukraine." For Ukraine, it will be a cold winter without Russian gas.

as of May 15, 2014

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Why Should You Care About Ukraine?

1. War in Europe has never been a good thing. In fact, wars with major regional powers has led to two world wars.
2. The US role in Europe and in NATO is in jeopardy if we fail to lead and find a way to diffuse the crisis.
3. Russia still has 1,900 (+) nuclear warheads targeted at the US.

For a detailed timeline of events concerning the Ukraine crisis, go to:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_2014_pro-Russian_unrest_in_Ukraine#13_May

Here is a quick review of events in Ukraine in May 2014:

1. Separatists have conducted protests and occupied government buildings in south eastern Ukraine, including the major cities of Donetsk, Mariupol and Odessa.
2. Ukrainian forces have attempted to move against the separatists across south eastern Ukraine. Hundreds of people have died in the fighting since September 2013.
3. On May 2, 2014, in the major city of Odessa, 40 pro-Russian protestors were killed when the government building they were occupying was set ablaze by Molotov cocktails thrown by pro-Ukraine protestors and shots from masked men. Many believed this would be a *casus belli* for Russia to invade Ukraine.
4. Russian President Vladimir Putin has asked that the Ukrainian government enter negotiations with the separatists and asked the separatists to postpone a referendum election on independence from the central government in Kyiv.
5. In spite of Putin's request – and at no surprise to the West who knows that Putin is merely saying one thing while doing another – referendums were conducted in several of these cities on Sunday, May 11. Pro-Russian leaders in Donetsk and Lugansk declared their independence from Kyiv. Kyiv rejected their declaration.
6. The provisional government of Donetsk (Donetsk People's Republic) and Lugansk declared on May 13, 2014, that they wanted to join with Russia.
7. Russia declared on May 13 that Ukraine must pay its \$2 billion debt and will not receive any more oil, gasoline or natural gas from Russia unless they pay in advance.

“Russia will take every necessary step of course and do everything within its power to settle the situation. I can understand the people in southeast Ukraine, who say that if others can do what they like in Kiev, carry out a coup d’etat, take up arms and seize government buildings, police stations and military garrisons, then why shouldn’t they be allowed to defend their interests and lawful rights?”



Vladimir Putin
Владимир Путин

Vladimir Putin in an interview in Moscow on May 7, 2014.
On May 9, 2014 Vladimir Putin attended the military parade in Crimea and in Moscow marking the 69th anniversary of victory in WWII to great fanfare and adulation in an impressive and intensely organized ceremony.

See this link for Putin’s speech in Red Square in Moscow on May 9, 2014:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5OlpwRauXU>

Transcript at: <http://eng.kremlin.ru/transcripts/7155>

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- **The War is Intensifying to Irregular Warfare in the Separatists Regions** – The Ukrainian Defense Ministry reported that seven paratroopers from Ukraine's 95th Airmobile Brigade were killed and eight wounded in a military convoy attack near Kramatorsk on Tuesday May 12, 2014. Their convoy was ambushed by more than 30 men armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades.



Oleksandr Turchynov
Acting President of Ukraine

- **The stealth takeover of Ukraine by Russia** continues with the goal of Russian annexation or, as a minimum, the neutralization of Ukraine
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit China** on May 20, 2014, at the and meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping

Putin's Next Move

- On May 7, 2014, Putin announced: “You asked what we can do now. As I said, what is needed is direct, full-fledged and equal dialogue between the Kiev authorities and the representatives of people in southeast Ukraine.”
- If Kyiv negotiates with the breakaway regions, it will be forced to negotiate away its sovereignty. This is Putin's goal.
- The referendums held on May 11, 2014, in cities across southeastern Ukraine were conducted to give the Russians political cover to destabilize Ukraine.
- Putin next will use his GRU operatives and local pro-Russian allies in Ukraine to generate chaos in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions so he will be hailed as a savior, as a precursor to annexing both regions.
- He will not move Russian troops across the border in an open invasion. Instead, armed masked men will appear in these regions to assist local authorities.

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Cain at Gettysburg

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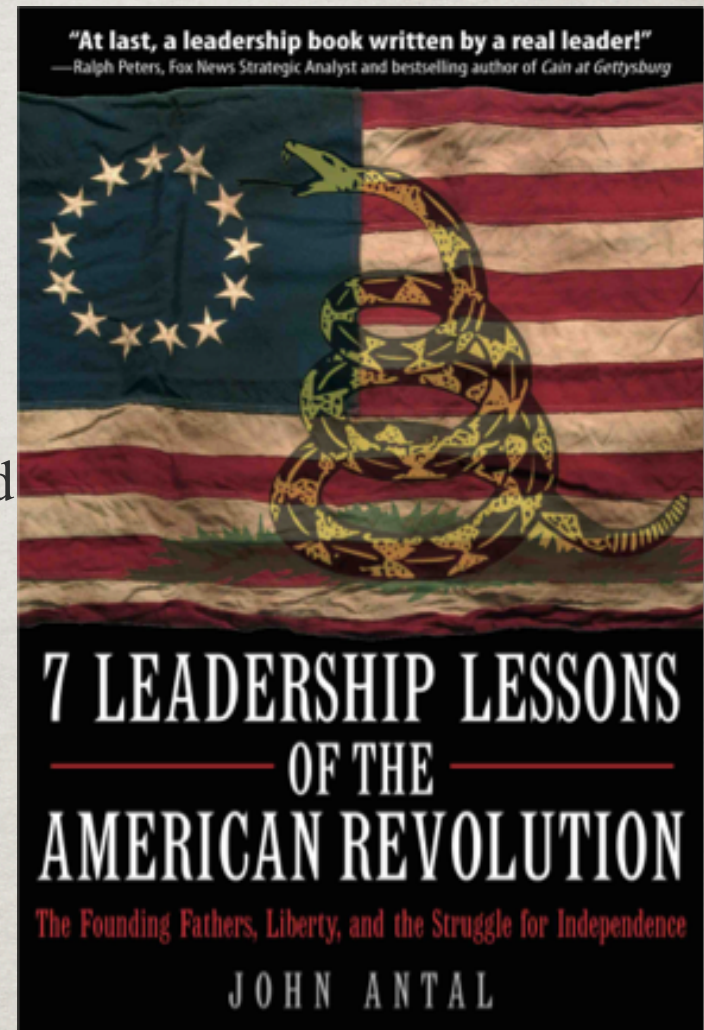
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Some more Reviews of 7 Leadership Lessons of the American Revolution

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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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