

Has World War III Already Begun?

Some think so.



August 8, 2025: Trump Turns Up the Heat on Russia with Nuclear Submarine Order

Donald Trump announced Friday that he ordered two nuclear submarines to be “positioned in the appropriate regions” amid a war of words with Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council. Medvedev reminded Trump on Thursday about his country’s Soviet-era, doomsday strike capabilities that would launch nukes even if all of Russia’s leaders were killed.

“Based on [Medvedev’s] highly provocative statements ... I have ordered two Nuclear Submarines to be positioned in the appropriate regions, just in case these foolish and inflammatory statements are more than just that. Words are very important, and can often lead to unintended consequences, I hope this will not be one of those instances,” the president said on Truth Social.

Earlier in the week, Trump shortened the deadline for Putin to reach a ceasefire with Ukraine to “10 or 12 days,” saying he is “not so interested in talking anymore.”

- China is positioned to reclaim Taiwan in the next two years.
- Israel is at war with Iran, with the United States as its partner.
- Genocide in Gaza continues at the hands of Israel and the United States.
- The war in the Ukraine (a proxy war between the United States and Russia) continues.
- Plus, a number of other festering armed conflicts.
- The United States is woefully unprepared to engage in these armed conflicts around the world simultaneously. If engaged, the United States will lose.
- The U.S. national debt is now \$37 trillion. Projected-2030: \$45-\$48 trillion. 2034: \$52-\$56 trillion.
- As of August 2025, the **Doomsday Clock stands at 89 seconds to midnight**—the closest it has ever been to symbolic catastrophe in its 78-year history reflects escalating global threats including: Nuclear tensions: Climate inaction: Emerging technologies (Risks from AI, biological science misuse, and cyber vulnerabilities are growing faster than governance can keep up). The move from 90 to 89 seconds was described as a “stark signal” that even a single second closer to midnight represents **extreme danger** and a call for urgent global action, i.e., World War III.

Below are links to two interviews: Eddie O’Brien, an Irish colleague influenced by David Bohm, with Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson. And Tucker Carlson with John Mearsheimer. Wilkerson, a forty-year veteran of the military and the US State department compares current events with the skirmishes that preceded World Wars I and II. From his perspective World War III has already begun, a concern mirrored by John Mearsheimer. Sobering.

The attached PDF shares background, context and some thought-provoking overlaps.

The interviews links here:

<https://vimeo.com/1107191575> PW=WWIII-1

<https://vimeo.com/1107193741> PW=WWIII-2

Neoconservatives believe the US should dominate the world.

That belief is foundational to the neoconservative worldview. It's not just about military strength; it's about shaping global order in America's image, often through force, regime change, and ideological export.

I invite you to consider that the post 9/11 armed conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Iran, plus Afghanistan, Ukraine (and related territories), and Gaza are threads in a predetermined tapestry, which imply an estimated investment of ~\$7–8 trillion, 6.5 to 7 million human lives lost, ~45 million refugees, tens of thousands of cultural sites lost, collapsed civil infrastructure in multiple regions, and the profit the military-political complex reaps from this carnage, as one overarching strategy, the US Neoconservative Agenda.

Core Tenets of Neoconservative Thought

Principle	Description
American Primacy	The U.S. must maintain unrivaled global dominance—militarily, economically, and ideologically.
Moral Clarity	Foreign policy should reflect a stark division between good and evil, with the U.S. as the moral arbiter.
Democracy Promotion	Spreading liberal democracy is seen as both a moral imperative and a strategic necessity—even if it requires intervention.
Military Interventionism	The U.S. should be willing to use force preemptively to reshape regions and remove hostile regimes.
Unilateralism	International institutions are useful only when they serve U.S. interests; otherwise, they can be bypassed.

Key Figures and Influence

- **Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, and Robert Kagan** were architects of the post–Cold War neoconservative resurgence.
- The **Project for the New American Century (PNAC)** laid out a blueprint for U.S. global dominance, including regime change in Iraq.
- Neoconservatives heavily influenced the Bush administration's decision to invade Iraq in 2003, framing it as a moral and strategic necessity.

Critics Like Mearsheimer, Wilkerson and Sachs

- **John Mearsheimer** sees neoconservatism as dangerously idealistic and detached from geopolitical realities. He argues it leads to endless wars and strategic overreach.
- **Lawrence Wilkerson**, who served under Colin Powell, has called neoconservatives “imperialists” whose policies have destabilized entire regions and undermined U.S. credibility.
- **Jeffrey Sachs**, is a prominent American economist, public policy analyst, and global development expert known for blending rigorous economic analysis with bold critiques of mainstream geopolitics.

Seven Wars in Five Years

Jeffrey Sachs has recently amplified the claim originally made by General Wesley Clark: that the U.S. had a post-9/11 plan to launch **seven wars in five years**, targeting specific regimes in the Middle East and beyond. Sachs frames this strategy as a neoconservative blueprint for global domination, often executed

in coordination with Israeli strategic interests. According to Sachs and Clark, the targeted countries were:

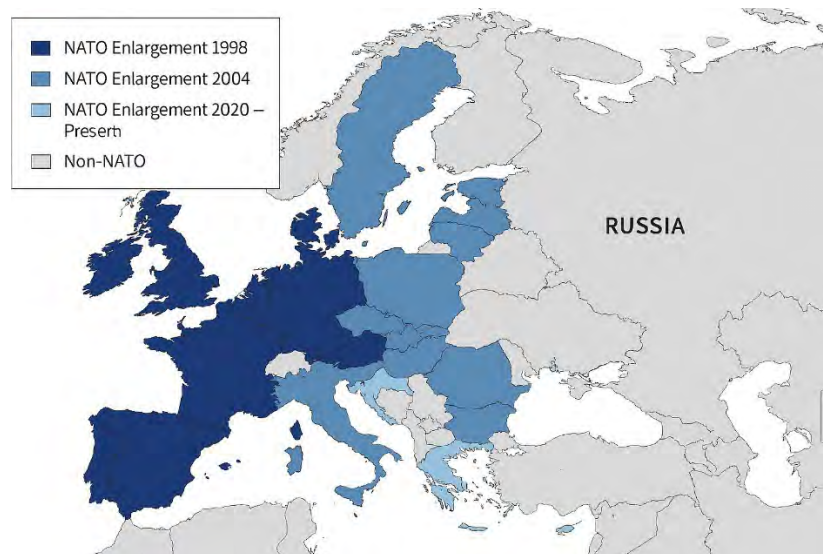
1. **Iraq** – invaded in 2003
2. **Syria** – destabilized through covert support for rebels and sanctions
3. **Lebanon** – pressure on Hezbollah and Israeli incursions
4. **Libya** – NATO-led regime change in 2011
5. **Somalia** – drone strikes and covert operations
6. **Sudan** – sanctions, partition, and proxy conflicts
7. **Iran** – ongoing “maximum pressure” campaign, cyberwarfare, and covert ops

Sachs emphasizes that this strategy was not just reactive but **premeditated**—driven by ideological goals of reshaping the Middle East to suit U.S. and Israeli interests. He argues that this approach has led to massive destabilization, humanitarian crises, and the erosion of international law.

How has the neoconservative agenda progressed in Ukraine?

The unfolding of the neoconservative agenda in Ukraine is a complex story that intertwines U.S. foreign policy ambitions, NATO expansion, and the geopolitical tug-of-war between Western powers and Russia.

Jeffery Sachs on NATO-Israeli Expansion (April 2025)



The NATO enlargement started in 1999 with Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. And Russia was extremely unhappy about it. But these were countries still far from the border. Russia protested, but of course, to no avail. Then George Bush Jr., came in. When 9/11 occurred. President Putin pledged all support. Then the U.S., decided on September 20th, 2001, that it would launch seven wars in five years. You can listen to General Wesley Clark online talk about that. He was NATO's supreme commander in 1999. He went to the Pentagon on September 20th, 2001, and was handed the paper explaining seven wars.

These, by the way, were Netanyahu's wars. The idea was partly to clean up old Soviet allies and partly to take out supporters of Hamas and Hezbollah, because Netanyahu's idea was there will be one state, thank you. Only one state. It will be Israel. Israel will control all of the territory and any one that objects we will overthrow, not we. By our friend the United States. That's U.S. policy. Now, the only wrinkle is that maybe the US will own Gaza instead of Israel owning Gaza. But the idea has been around at least for 25 years.

It actually goes back to a document called Clean Break that Netanyahu and his American political team put together in 1996 to end the idea of the two-state solution. You can also find it online. These are

US-CIA projects, long term events. These aren't; is it Clinton? Is it Bush? Is it Obama? That's the boring way to look at American politics. That's not what American politics is.

The next round of NATO enlargement came in 2004 with seven more countries the three Baltic states, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia and Slovakia. At this point, Russia was pretty damn upset. This was a complete violation of the post war order. Agreed with German reunification. Essentially, it was a it was a fundamental trick or defection of the U.S. from a cooperative arrangement. These are some very shocking revelations and truths that are coming up. It's not necessarily about the vision of the United States of America in Syria.

Question: How do you see the game played right now by Trump administration?

I think it's important for us to understand where this entire war came from. It did not come from Bashar al Assad. It came from Washington. There was a decision in 2011 to overthrow Assad. Actually, that came from Jerusalem. This has been the desire of the Israeli government that stretches back more than 25 years. Netanyahu's idea is 'make the Middle East in Israel's image,' overthrow every government that opposes Israel. He had a friend in that, and that is the CIA and the United States government.

This war in Syria did not come from Assad's repression. It did not come from Assad's dictatorship. This war came from a presidential order by Obama to overthrow Assad starting in the spring of 2011. We have a name for this program. It was Operation Timber Sycamore. The United States, together with other countries in this region, trained, rebel trained fighters, especially jihadists, including the ones that just took power to overthrow the regime. This created chaos. 600,000 dead in Syria in a war that has gone on for 14 years. The outcome of this war is what the CIA wanted back in 2011, which is that their jihad group would take power in Syria after being armed by the United States.

The reason I want to be clear about this is that we will not have peace in this region until we have public diplomacy that is based on real diplomacy, not on CIA operations. And we will not have peace until Israel stops its militarization of the entire Middle East, because the Syrian war is just one of six wars that Israel has promoted, including in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Somalia and Sudan. We had the list, actually from Wesley Clark back in 2001 when he was handed a paper in the Pentagon that the goal was seven wars in five years. The only war that hasn't taken place yet. To Netanyahu's great consternation, is the U.S. war with Iran, which Israel is still trying to instigate. To this very day. The Syrian war is part of a regional tragedy. We have tragedy in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, South Sudan and Libya that I put at the hands of the United States government. And it's ally Israel, because none of these wars had to happen. These were all wars of choice. They were all wars that came from the idea of regime change operations, that the United States would determine which regimes operate, in which countries will never have peace in this region. If outside imperial powers like the United States are dictating the terms to this region.

The only way to have peace in this region is if this region is determining its own future, not outside powers. And Israel could never do these wars on its own. These are American wars. America provides the financing. It provides the military backup. It provides the naval support. It provides the intelligence operations. It provides the munitions. Israel couldn't fight for one day without the United States backing.

Israel could not be committing a genocide in Gaza without the United States for operational complicity. I don't mean political complicity. I mean direct daily operational complicity. This has to end. This region has been divided for 100 years, first by the British Empire and then by the American Empire. And this is going on until today. We have a genocide going on right next door. Till today. Till this morning. People being wantonly killed. Brazenly killed because the United States is providing the means for this. This is what's happening in Syria. Is the U.S. on the fence? Hardly. It's the major actor. I know firsthand that in 2012, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, appointed former Secretary General Kofi Annan as special envoy to reach a peace in Syria. I loved Kofi Annan. I love Ban Ki Moon. I worked for both of them. Kofi Annan arranged for peace in 2012. He arranged a peace in Syria. You know why it didn't happen?

Because all the parties agreed to peace. Except one. Literally one. That was the United States of America. The United States of America said there will be no peace unless Bashar al-Assad goes the first day. The other party said, no, no, you can't just determine that. Maybe there'll be a process. Maybe there'll be elections. Agreed? Maybe there'll be a two-year process. A three-year process. The United States said no, Assad must go the first day of any agreement or we block it. So, Kofi Annan stepped down from his position after having negotiated a peace arrangement. And we have had 500,000 people dead since then.

We should not allow this kind of criminality to be normal. This region has been at war nonstop for 30 years. Actually, I would say for at least 57 years since the Six Day War, because there has been no honest accounting of international law, no honest diplomacy. It's been militarization all the way through, and we could have peace immediately in this region. All that is required, in my view, is the United States change its veto of Palestine as the 194th UN member state. On that basis, all the region would normalize relations, and the wars all across this region would stop. But Israel has control over U.S. policy and it says, no, it wants Greater Israel. It wants Israel in Syria. It wants Israel in Lebanon, it wants Israel in the West Bank. It wants Israel in East Jerusalem. It wants Israel in Gaza. And until that stops, we're not going to have peace. So, is the US on the fence? Of course not. It's the major protagonist of this whole war and has been for the last 14 years.

The **neoconservative agenda** is deeply implicated in the **massive human, financial, and cultural costs** of these wars. The countries listed were:

1. **Iraq**
2. **Syria**
3. **Lebanon**
4. **Libya**
5. **Somalia**
6. **Sudan**
7. **Iran**
8. Plus **Afghanistan** as a Neo-Con Campaign,
9. **Ukraine**
10. And **Gaza**

Final Totals

Category	Estimated Total
Human Deaths	~6.5 to 7 million
U.S. Financial Cost	~\$7–8 trillion
Displaced Persons	~45 million
Cultural Sites Lost	Tens of thousands
Civil Infrastructure	Collapsed in multiple regions

Who Provided the Weapons and Military Support?

The military campaigns and interventions in these countries were largely driven by the **United States and its NATO allies**, with support from regional partners depending on the theater of war.

Follow the Money

The exact **total U.S. financial investment** across the seven wars referenced in General Wesley Clark's "Seven Countries in Five Years" plan plus the Afghanistan war, Gaza, Ukraine and Iran is difficult to pinpoint precisely, as these conflicts span multiple administrations, involve covert operations, and include both direct military spending and indirect aid.

Total U.S. Financial Investment

Region	Estimated U.S. Investment
Iraq	~\$2.4 trillion
Afghanistan	~\$2.3 trillion
Syria	~\$17.5 billion
Libya	~\$1.5 billion
Somalia	~\$2.5 billion
Sudan	~\$1 billion
Lebanon	~\$2 billion
Gaza (via Israel)	~\$20 billion (military aid + war bonds)
Iran (containment)	~\$143 billion
Ukraine	~\$175 billion

Grand Total (Rounded)

Direct U.S. spending: ~\$5.06 trillion

Including long-term costs (interest, veteran care, economic ripple effects):

Estimated total: ~\$7–8 trillion

Total Death Toll (Direct + Indirect) inflicted by the Neocon Agenda

Region	Estimated Deaths
Iraq	~290,000
Afghanistan	~243,000
Syria	~500,000+
Libya	~30,000
Somalia	~25,000
Sudan	~300,000
Lebanon	~1,200
Gaza	~61,000+
Iran	~1,200+ (2025 conflict)
Ukraine	~500,000–1 million+

Indirect Deaths (Famine, Disease, Infrastructure Collapse)

- Estimated additional deaths: ~4 million
- **Total deaths (direct + indirect): ~6.5 to 7 million**

Broader Civic Costs

- **~45 million displaced persons** across all regions
- **Collapse of education and healthcare systems**
- **Rise of extremist groups and regional instability**
- **Generational trauma and cultural erasure**

Critiques and Consequences

Jeffrey Sachs and other critics argue that **Afghanistan** was deeply entangled in the neoconservative agenda—though not always in the ways popularly imagined. Here's a breakdown of how it fits into that framework. Neoconservative Goals and Afghanistan:

Neoconservatism, especially in the post-Cold War era, emphasized:

- **American global dominance** through military intervention
- **Regime change** to install pro-Western governments
- **Preemptive warfare** to neutralize perceived threats
- **Exporting democracy** as a strategic and moral imperative

Afghanistan became a key theater for these aims after 9/11, even though the initial invasion was broadly supported across political lines.

Key Phases of Neocon Influence

- **Pre-9/11 groundwork:** During the Cold War, U.S. support for the mujahideen (under Carter and Reagan) was aimed at undermining Soviet influence. This laid the foundation for future instability.
- **Post-9/11 intervention:** Neocons in the Bush administration, like Paul Wolfowitz and Donald Rumsfeld, saw Afghanistan as the first step in a broader strategy to reshape the Middle East. While Iraq was their primary focus, Afghanistan served as a proving ground for military and ideological ambitions.
- **Long-term entrenchment:** The war became a vehicle for massive defense spending, private contracting (e.g., Blackwater), and a sustained military presence that aligned with neoconservative visions of global policing.

Economic and Strategic Dimensions

According to Erik Prince and other critics, the Afghanistan war exemplified the neocon alliance with the military-industrial complex:

- **Debt-fueled warfare:** Much of the U.S. defense spending during the Global War on Terror was financed through deficit spending.
- **Contractor dominance:** A small elite of defense contractors profited immensely, often without clear strategic outcomes.
- **Strategic drift:** The war lacked coherent goals beyond occupation and counterinsurgency, reflecting a broader neocon tendency toward perpetual conflict.

Who are the main critics of the NeoCon Agenda?

us Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, is a retired U.S. Army officer who served as **Chief of Staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell** during the George W. Bush administration, from 2002 to 2005. His relationship with Powell spanned more than a decade, including Powell's time as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and later as Secretary of State.

Career Highlights

- **Military Service:** Served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1997, including combat duty in Vietnam
- **Education:** Studied English literature and international relations; taught at the Naval War College and Marine Corps War College
- **Role with Powell:**
 - First worked with Powell in the late 1980s
 - Became Powell's chief of staff during his tenure as Secretary of State

- Helped prepare Powell’s controversial 2003 speech to the UN about Iraq’s alleged weapons of mass destruction

Post-Government Views

- Wilkerson later **publicly criticized the Iraq War**, calling his involvement in the UN speech “the lowest point” of his professional life
- He has spoken out against what he sees as abuses of power and poor decision-making in U.S. foreign policy, particularly under Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

As of 2025, Colonel Wilkerson remains an outspoken voice on U.S. foreign policy and national security. He’s currently a **Senior Fellow at the Eisenhower Media Network**, a group of former military, intelligence, and civilian officials offering independent analysis free from defense industry influence.

Public Commentary & Advocacy

- Regularly appears on podcasts and interviews to critique U.S. military strategy, especially regarding the Middle East, Ukraine, and the militarization of domestic policy
- Strongly critical of neoconservative influence and what he calls the “strategic and moral bankruptcy” of current U.S. foreign policy

Academic & Policy Work

- Continues to teach and write on national security, ethics in government, and the consequences of war
- Previously taught at George Washington University and the College of William & Mary

Political Positions

- Vocal critic of the Iraq War and the decision-making processes that led to it, including his own role in Powell’s 2003 UN speech
- Member of **Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity**, a group advocating for transparency and restraint in military affairs

He’s not just reflecting on the past—he’s actively trying to shape the future of U.S. policy.

Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) is a nonprofit group formed in **2003** by former U.S. intelligence officers, analysts, and military officials. Their mission? To offer independent, insider-informed critiques of U.S. foreign policy—especially when they believe intelligence is being misused to justify war or political agendas.

Origins & Purpose

- Founded in response to the **Iraq War** and Colin Powell’s 2003 UN speech, which VIPS claimed misrepresented intelligence.
- Aimed to **restore integrity** to intelligence analysis and prevent manipulation by policymakers.
- Early members included **Ray McGovern** (CIA), **Scott Ritter** (UN weapons inspector), and **William Binney** (NSA), among others.

Activities & Influence

- Known for publishing **open memos to U.S. presidents**, warning against military interventions based on questionable intelligence.
- Criticized U.S. actions in **Iraq, Syria, Ukraine**, and elsewhere.
- Advocated for **transparency, restraint, and ethical intelligence practices**.

Controversies & Criticism

- Some of their later memos—especially those challenging mainstream narratives on **Syria’s chemical attacks** and **Russian interference in U.S. elections**—have drawn criticism for relying on **anonymous sources** or being echoed by fringe outlets.

Current Members (as of 2024)

Includes a mix of retired intelligence professionals and military officers such as:

- **John Kiriakou, Coleen Rowley, Ann Wright**, and others.

They’re a fascinating example of insiders turning watchdog—trying to hold the system they once served accountable.

John Mearsheimer is a prominent American political scientist and international relations theorist, best known for developing the theory of offensive realism. Here's a snapshot of who he is and why he's influential:

Background & Career

- **Born:** December 14, 1947, in New York City
- **Education:**
 - U.S. Military Academy at West Point (BS)
 - University of Southern California (MA in International Relations)
 - Cornell University (PhD in Government)
- **Military Service:** Served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force before entering academia
- **Academic Role:** R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago since 1982

Key Ideas & Works

- **Offensive Realism:** Argues that great powers are inherently driven to dominate their regions due to the anarchic nature of the international system
- **Notable Books:**
 - *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (2001)
 - *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy* (2007)
 - *How States Think: The Rationality of Foreign Policy* (2023, co-authored with Sebastian Rosato)
- **Controversial Essays:** *Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West’s Fault* (2014), which sparked intense debate over NATO expansion and Western policy.

Recent Commentary

- Mearsheimer has been vocal in critiquing U.S. foreign policy, especially regarding **Ukraine, Israel-Palestine**, and **China**. He argues that the West’s actions have often provoked conflict rather than prevented it. He’s also known for challenging mainstream narratives, such as the idea that Putin seeks to restore the Soviet Union—calling that notion “completely meaningless” and emphasizing Putin’s strategic realism.

Jeffrey Sachs

Jeffrey Sachs is a prominent American economist, public policy analyst, and global development expert known for blending rigorous economic analysis with bold critiques of mainstream geopolitics.

Areas of Influence

- **Global poverty eradication** and sustainable development

- **Climate change policy** and environmental economics
- **Debt crises and economic reform** in developing nations
- **Critiques of U.S. foreign policy**, NATO expansion, and Western hegemony
- **COVID-19 origins and global health governance**, often challenging official narratives

Recent Engagements

- Featured speaker at the **Ron Paul Institute's 2025 "Blueprint for Peace"** conference, alongside figures like Ron Paul, Nassim Taleb, and Col. Douglas Macgregor.
- Participated in controversial forums such as the **Tsargrad Institute's "Forum of the Future 2050"** in Moscow, sparking debate over his geopolitical stance.

Key Roles & Affiliations

- **Director**, Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University
- **President**, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- **Former Special Advisor** to three UN Secretaries-General (Annan, Ban Ki-moon, Guterres)
- **SDG Advocate**, promoting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals
- **Author** of several influential books, including *The End of Poverty* and *Common Wealth*

Both Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson and Professor Jeffrey Sachs argue that the U.S.—particularly through neoconservative influence and intelligence operations—has played a provocative role in escalating tensions with Russia over Ukraine. Their critiques overlap in key areas but stem from different vantage points: Wilkerson from inside the military-intelligence apparatus, Sachs from global economic and diplomatic analysis.

Lawrence Wilkerson's View: The Neocon Playbook and CIA Overreach: Wilkerson sees the Ukraine conflict as a **direct result of decades of neoconservative strategy**, which he describes as reckless and imperial. His key points:

- **NATO Expansion as Provocation:** He argues that pushing NATO eastward—especially into Ukraine—violated post-Cold War understandings and was seen by Russia as an existential threat.
- **CIA and Intelligence Manipulation:** Wilkerson has suggested that U.S. intelligence agencies, including the CIA, have long meddled in Ukraine's internal affairs, particularly during the 2014 Maidan uprising, which he views as a Western-backed regime change.
- **Military-Industrial Complex:** He warns that contractors like Raytheon and Lockheed Martin profit from perpetual conflict, and that neocons use Ukraine as a proxy to weaken Russia while enriching defense firms.
- **Diplomatic Failure:** Wilkerson believes the U.S. missed multiple opportunities to negotiate with Russia, instead choosing escalation over diplomacy.

Jeffrey Sachs' View: Economic Imperialism and Neocon Hubris

Sachs frames the Ukraine war as the **latest in a series of neocon disasters**, following Iraq, Libya, and Syria. His analysis includes:

- **Post-1991 U.S. Strategy:** Sachs argues that the U.S. abandoned collective security in favor of unilateral dominance, using NATO as a tool to encircle Russia.
- **2014 Coup and CIA Role:** He points to the U.S.-backed overthrow of President Yanukovich as a turning point, calling it a "provocation" that led directly to Russia's annexation of Crimea.

- **Neocon Influence in Biden’s Cabinet:** Sachs criticizes figures like Victoria Nuland and Antony Blinken for continuing a confrontational posture, ignoring Russia’s legitimate security concerns.
- **Call for Negotiated Peace:** He urges the U.S. to halt NATO expansion and negotiate a new security framework with Russia, including recognition of Crimea and autonomy for Donbas.
- Where They Converge

Theme	Wilkerson	Sachs
NATO Expansion	Reckless, provocative	Root cause of war
CIA Involvement	Destabilizing, covert ops	Engineered regime change
Neocon Influence	Strategic and moral failure	Imperial hubris
Ukraine’s Role	Proxy for U.S. interests	Victim of U.S. imperialism
Path to Peace	Diplomacy, rollback of NATO	Security guarantees, negotiated borders

Here’s a deeper dive into how Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson and Professor Jeffrey Sachs interpret the Ukraine conflict—especially through the lens of CIA involvement, neoconservative strategy, and the broader historical arc of U.S. foreign policy. Their views intersect with thinkers like **John Mearsheimer** and **John Lamb Lash**, offering a layered critique of Western power dynamics.

Wilkerson: CIA Meddling and Neocon Engineering

Wilkerson argues that the **CIA and neoconservatives** have long treated Ukraine as a geopolitical pawn:

- **2014 Maidan Uprising:** He sees this as a **CIA-backed regime change**, destabilizing Ukraine and provoking Russia’s annexation of Crimea.
- **NATO Expansion:** Wilkerson calls it “pure idiocy,” especially Bush’s push to include Georgia and Ukraine, which he says directly triggered Russian aggression.
- **Deep State Dynamics:** He believes the **military-industrial complex** and intelligence agencies operate with continuity across administrations, bypassing democratic oversight.
- **Mearsheimer Alignment:** Wilkerson echoes Mearsheimer’s view that NATO’s eastward push violated post-Cold War assurances and created an existential threat for Russia.

Sachs: Economic Imperialism and Deep State Critique

Jeffrey Sachs takes a broader view, tying the Ukraine crisis to **American exceptionalism** and **deep state continuity**:

- **CIA and Deep State:** Sachs critiques the **national security state** for perpetuating conflict through covert operations and media manipulation.
- **2014 Coup:** Like Wilkerson, Sachs sees the ousting of Yanukovych as a **Western-engineered event**, not a spontaneous democratic uprising.
- **NATO as Provocation:** He argues that NATO’s expansion into Ukraine was a **deliberate provocation**, ignoring Russia’s security concerns.
- **Media and Narrative Control:** Sachs warns that mainstream media suppresses dissenting views, labeling critics as fringe or conspiratorial.
- **Lash Resonance:** Sachs’s critique of elite manipulation and myth-making parallels Lash’s analysis of institutional deception and the erosion of authentic perception.

Mearsheimer’s Realist Backbone

John Mearsheimer provides the theoretical scaffolding for both Wilkerson and Sachs:

- **Offensive Realism:** He argues that great powers seek dominance, and the U.S. ignored Russia's strategic interests by pushing NATO to its doorstep.
- **Ukraine as a Proxy:** Mearsheimer sees Ukraine not as a sovereign actor, but as a **proxy in a U.S.-Russia power struggle**, with disastrous consequences.

Lash's Esoteric Lens

While not directly involved in geopolitical analysis, **John Lamb Lash's** work ('Not In His Image') on myth and perception offers a symbolic parallel:

- **Institutional Myth-Making:** Lash critiques how elites manufacture narratives to control collective consciousness—mirroring Sachs's concerns about media and policy manipulation.
- **Gnostic Insight:** His emphasis on reclaiming authentic perception resonates with Sachs's and Wilkerson's call for transparency and truth in foreign policy.

The parallels between **Jeffrey Sachs's critique of elite manipulation** and **John Lamb Lash's analysis of institutional deception** are striking—especially when viewed through the lens of **myth-making and perception control**. Though they operate in different domains—Sachs in global economics and diplomacy, Lash in mythic cosmology and Gnostic revival—their insights converge in exposing how **narratives are weaponized** to shape public consciousness and suppress authentic understanding.

Sachs: Elite Myth-Making in Global Policy

Sachs critiques the **manufacture of consent** by political and media elites:

- **Narrative Engineering:** He argues that U.S. foreign policy is driven by **myths of moral superiority**, such as "spreading democracy" or "defending freedom," which mask imperial motives.
- **Media Collusion:** Sachs claims mainstream outlets like *The New York Times* often act as **mouthpieces for intelligence agencies**, echoing official lines while suppressing dissenting views.
- **Historical Amnesia:** He warns that elite storytelling erases context—like NATO's eastward expansion or U.S. involvement in regime change—creating a **distorted moral frame** for conflicts like Ukraine.
- **Technocratic Hubris:** Sachs sees global institutions (IMF, World Bank, UN) as **captured by elite agendas**, using economic models and development rhetoric to enforce control rather than empower sovereignty.

Lash: Institutional Deception and the Archontic Spell. His critique is more metaphysical but no less incisive:

- **Archontic Mimicry:** He describes institutions as **mimics of divine order**, creating **false light systems** that simulate truth while eroding direct perception.
- **Narrative Inversion:** Lash argues that dominant religions and ideologies invert the original mythic structure—turning Sophia's fall into sin, and redemption into obedience—thus **corrupting the human imagination**.
- **Perception Management:** Institutions, in Lash's view, **hijack gnosis**—the capacity for direct knowing—by replacing it with scripted belief systems, rituals, and media saturation.
- **Technocratic Mythology:** Like Sachs, Lash sees technocracy as a **synthetic cosmology**, where algorithms and data replace myth, and sovereignty is reduced to compliance.
- Where Their Critiques Converge