

Putin

Vladimir Putin's stated goals are the restoration of the Soviet Union and the destruction of the world's democracies. Democracy is certainly messy and often incompetent, but in today's world, the alternative to democracy is a very dishonest, incompetent, and parasitic world of mafias and autocracies.

He got away with Chechnya.

He got away with Syria.

He got away with Georgia.

He got away with Crimea.

He's counting on Europe's addiction to Russian oil and gas, and the threat of nuclear war to get away with pulverizing Ukraine.

He's directly responsible for many millions of refugees burdening the free world.

He gained complete access to the United States government's computer system for 8 months and got away with it scott free.

He's still getting away with the massive propaganda machine that is tearing the world's democracies apart.

Osama bin Laden and 9/11 aren't even chump change compared to Putin's attack on the United States and the rest of the world's democracies.

He's not gonna stop until we stop him. His current motivation is a cold rage as his attempt to restore a 19th century nationalist world view is failing and he's facing his own mortality. Just as he's done repeatedly in the past, if he can't have Ukraine, he'll destroy it. Negotiating with insanity is stupidity. He's certainly insane, but he's smart and cunning and has been preparing for years to withstand sanctions. Massive sanctions won't stop Putin's insanity and could result in Russia becoming a failed police state with a large, incompetent, but very destructive military that's gradually running out of bombs but has lots of nukes, no free press, a flood of lies, and a cornered madman at the helm. Russia is basically a gas station owned and operated by the mafia. Putin allows the various oligarchs [mafia bosses] to do mostly as they please, as long as they stay out of politics. The overwhelming systemic corruption has so gutted the military budget that their army is big and brutal, but grossly incompetent. Putin relies on control of the media and a vicious and brutal police force to remain in power. It's not about whether Putin is the richest man in the world. Putin owns Russia.

The most fundamental tool of autocrats is control of the press. Putin is totally dependent on his propaganda and his police force. Even if it costs billions, we need to hire every hacker in the world to take down Putin's propaganda machine. The current amorphous whackamole attempts to reach the Russian people with a perspective beyond Russia's state media need to be organized and funded. Taking out Putin's state television station is one of the most important actions we can take in our war with Russia's severely corrupt police state.

For those who are worried about higher gas prices and inflation; suck it up and quit your selfish whining. Have the guts to curb your consumption addiction. Turn down the thermostat, put the car keys back in your pocket, and stop buying so many frivolous toys. Vladimir Putin has been at war with the US for many years, and the longer it goes on, the more it will cost.

Follow the money. Inflation a cynical scam motivated by pure greed. It's not going to the workers and equipment that pump and refine the oil or grow our food or work in our factories. Some of it is going to the mega yacht industry and similar gluttony and bling. Some of it is spent on developing higher production [pollution] capacity. Some of it is just stashed away and left to rot. All inflation is about capitalism's failure to control greed. The oligarchs who control most of our industries are sucking the life out of our economy.

OPEC is substantially supporting Putin's war by raising the price of oil; allowing Russia to sell oil at a discount that countries like India can't afford not to take advantage of. If we drop the price of oil, the

world's oil oligarchs won't make as much profit, but oil workers will still have a job. OPEC is founded and sustained by a very destructive greed. It's not just OPEC. Around the world, all the oil companies are raking in huge profits.