



Written by [Christian Gomez](#) on April 22, 2022

Published in the May 16, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 09

Calculating Communists

In Moscow, on December 25, 1991, as millions celebrated Christmas in the West, Mikhail Gorbachev resigned from the presidency and the “Red Banner” flag of the Soviet Union was taken down from the Kremlin for the last time. The following day, the briefly re-named Soviet of Republics (formerly known as the Soviet of Nationalities) — the highest legislative body in the USSR — officially dissolved the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. To most historians and former Sovietologists, those monumental events — which took place in less than 48 hours — marked the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of communism in Russia. However, despite repeated and exaggerated claims of its collapse in the early 1990s, the Communist Party is in fact alive and well in Russia today, and has been for quite some time. Russia’s Communist Party remains an influential force within the Kremlin and over Russia’s “special military operation” in Ukraine.



AP Images

The Communist Who Never Left

On February 14, 1993, roughly a year and a half after Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued various decrees officially banning the Communist Party of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (CP RSFSR) — Soviet Russia’s republic-level branch of the ruling Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) — Leninist adherents formed the new Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF). The CPRF immediately declared itself the official successor of the banned CP RSFSR. Gennady Zyuganov — a former Soviet-era protagonist, CPSU ideologue, and outspoken critic of Gorbachev’s *perestroika* and *glasnost* reforms — was named general secretary of the CPRF. And almost 30 years later, Zyuganov remains general secretary of the party. Zyuganov is also an elected member of the State Duma (the lower chamber of Russia’s Federal Assembly), where he leads the “opposition” Communist Party faction.

Zyuganov faced off against incumbent President Yeltsin in the 1996 election, and ran as President Vladimir Putin’s main opponent in the presidential elections of 2000, 2008, and 2012. Whereas other leaders opposed to Putin have been imprisoned or killed, Zyuganov has not. Instead, he’s been more of a friend and mentor to Putin than one would expect from an opponent. Clearly, Zyuganov is Putin’s designated and approved challenger for Russia’s staged wrestling-match-style elections. He provides faux legitimacy, boosting the image of Russia as a multi-party state. At the same time, he reinforces the



Written by [Christian Gomez](#) on April 22, 2022

Published in the May 16, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 09

image that Putin is the ruling opposition to communism and that he's broken with his KGB past.

In addition to holding one-on-one meetings with him, Putin has frequently showered Zyuganov with gifts and awards. For example, on June 26, 2019 — Zyuganov's 75th birthday — Putin presented him with a framed picture of the Palace of Congress and a copy of the book *Materials of the 23rd Congress of the Communist Party of the USSR*. However, it was five years earlier that Putin gave him the most prestigious accolade. On June 26, 2014 — Zyuganov's 70th birthday — Putin announced that he was awarding him the Order of Alexander Nevsky for his “achieved labor success, significant contribution to the socio-economic development of the Russian Federation, [and] *the implementation of the foreign policy course of the Russian Federation.*” (Emphasis added.) This raises the question, what exactly is Zyuganov's foreign policy, and how does Ukraine fit into it?

Back to the USSR

On March 26-27, 1993, 370 delegates from 11 former Soviet republics gathered in Moscow for the 29th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Billed as an event to create an “international socio-political organization,” this little-known 29th Congress of the CPSU was where delegates adopted a resolution transforming the CPSU into the new Union of Communist Parties-Communist Party of the Soviet Union (UCP-CPSU), which lives on to this day. Also led by Gennady Zyuganov, the UCP-CPSU is the self-declared official successor to the CPSU. The UCP-CPSU serves as the umbrella party and governing structure over all the official Communist parties active within the former Soviet Union. All that remains for Zyuganov and the Communist parties is to bring back the Soviet Union.

The UCP-CPSU remains dedicated to the restoration of the USSR and the return to official Communist Party control over Russia and the other nations of the former Soviet Union. The official *Declaration of the Communist Parties within the UCP-CPSU* states:

Integration needs to ensure the creation of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, the Eurasian Economic Community and the Collective Security Treaty Organization....

The cause of building the Union State must be taken up by the working people, the fraternal communist parties, and all the patriots of the Soviet Motherland. Following the precepts of Vladimir Lenin, we reaffirm our faithfulness to the principles laid down in the Declaration on the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, adopted on December 30, 1922, by the First All-Union Congress of Soviets.

We are already acting for the step-by-step revival of a renewed Union of the Peoples.

The Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia began with a series of treaties in 1995 to economically integrate the former Soviet countries, following their breakup in 1991. The various treaties culminated with the official establishment of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia in 2010. The Eurasian Economic Community, mentioned in the above declaration, has since been renamed the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and is regarded by many in Russia, including Zyuganov and Putin, as an attempt to not only further economically integrate the former Soviet republics, but restore the territorial integrity of the former USSR. And, as the *Declaration of the Communist Parties within the UCP-CPSU* states, the goal of establishing this Union State “must be taken up by the working



Written by [Christian Gomez](#) on April 22, 2022

Published in the May 16, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 09

people, the *fraternal communist parties*, and all the patriots of the Soviet Motherland.” (Emphasis added.) The UCP-CPSU’s primary objective is for communists to lead and control the Eurasian Economic Union, thereby restoring the Soviet Union.

While speaking about the necessity of the Eurasian Economic Union at the State National Press Center of Belarus in Minsk on July 19, 2016, Zyuganov said, “The destruction of the USSR led to the collapse of a balanced global system of world security, so the integration of the post-Soviet space is a vital necessity.” The Russian communist leader further added, “Therefore, in connection with the creation of a fraternal state, the Eurasian Union, we have extremely important prospects. Our task and that of future generations is to realize them.”

Unless Belarus and Russia recreated this “Eurasian common space,” Zyuganov told those in attendance, “you and I in this world will serve other people’s interests,” referring to the United States and Europe. Zyuganov is a close ally of Belarussian dictator Alexander Lukashenko, who is also supported by the Communist Party of Belarus in the country’s national assembly.

Enter Ukraine

Not surprisingly, Zyuganov and the CPRF are supportive of Putin’s invasion of Ukraine. In fact, restoring the territorial integrity of the Soviet Union via the modern EAEU is in large part a key motivation behind’s Putin’s so-called special military operation to “demilitarise and denazify Ukraine,” as he put it in his nationwide televised remarks on February 24, 2022. The importance of Ukraine to Moscow was best summarized by Gorbachev, who, in August 1991, told a Ukrainian journalist, “There can be no Union without Ukraine.” Although Gorbachev was referring to the Soviet Union, the same principle applies to the Eurasian Economic Union.

It was on February 21, 2022 when Putin first informed both French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz of his decision to recognize the breakaway provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk in the Donbas region of Ukraine as sovereign, independent nations. At the time, Putin said, “I consider it necessary to take a long-overdue decision: To immediately recognize the independence and sovereignty of Donetsk People’s Republic and Luhansk People’s Republic.”

Putin’s announcement came virtually one month after lawmakers from the CPRF, led by Zyuganov in the State Duma, submitted draft resolution No. 58243-8 presenting President Putin “with a request for considering the recognition of the Donetsk People’s Republic and the Lugansk People’s Republic as independent and sovereign states.”

While global condemnation of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has been swift, with many in the West comparing Putin to Adolf Hitler and describing the Russian government as “fascist,” ironically, two days before the invasion, Gennady Zyuganov, as did Putin, accused NATO and the West of turning Ukraine into a “fascist” state.

In his remarks before the Duma, Zyuganov declared, “Putting a stop to the West’s actions aimed at turning Ukraine into a Fascist state is emerging as the key task of the world community.” He added, “The CPRF is convinced that the West’s military blackmail must get a robust answer in the shape of Russia’s firm stand in defense of the civilian population of Donbass and punishment of aggressors.”

The day after Russian forces crossed into Ukraine, Zyuganov further declared before the Duma:



Written by [Christian Gomez](#) on April 22, 2022

Published in the May 16, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 09

Only demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine can ensure lasting security for the peoples of Russia, Ukraine and the whole of Europe. We consider it important to make wide use of the methods of people diplomacy and humanitarian cooperation in protecting peace and preventing the resurgence of Fascism.

Socialists Left and Right

Ironically, socialist billionaire George Soros has hugely influenced the so-called fascist and neo-Nazi Kiev government, funding numerous NGOs in Ukraine through his International Renaissance Foundation and Open Society Foundations. He has been particularly tight with Ukrainian oligarch and former Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko, who awarded Soros with Ukraine's Order of Liberty, one of Ukraine's highest honors, in 2015.

Although current Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky came to power posturing as a champion against corrupt billionaire oligarchs, *he was brought to power* by Ukraine's richest corrupt billionaire oligarchs, most notably Ihor Kolomoyskyi and Victor Pinchuk. Kolomoyskyi, who has his fingers in banking, media, metals, and petroleum, owns a controlling interest in the 1+1 Media Group that propelled Zelensky to the presidency with his *Servant of the People* film and television series. Pinchuk — the son-in-law of Ukraine's former communist dictator (and Putin comrade) Leonid Kuchma — is not only super rich, but also well connected to the globalist elites of Davos and Wall Street. Pinchuk, a regular at the World Economic Forum, hosts his own annual Yalta European Strategy (YES) confab that attracts the same WEF luminaries. His Victor Pinchuk Foundation's "partners" include the Clinton Global Initiative, Brookings Institution, Aspen Institute, Peterson Institute, and Soros' Open Society Foundations. (For more about Zelensky's and Pinchuk's ties to the Deep State, see the article on page 10.)

A former comedian and actor, Zelensky is a committed globalist and has been determined since the beginning of his presidency to advance Ukraine's accession to NATO and the European Union, including accelerating Ukraine's economic integration with the EU. It has always been the Kremlin's official position that Ukrainian membership in the EU, and NATO especially, is both nonnegotiable and unacceptable, and any move by Kiev in that direction would be paramount to an escalation of conflict. The Zelensky government was well aware of this reality prior to Russia's invasion, but remained undeterred in its quest to fully integrate with the EU and NATO.

While a free, sovereign Ukraine that is independent of both the EU and the EAEU would be the ideal outcome, such an option does not appear to be tenable in the foreseeable future. This war is a war over Ukraine's place in the new world order, whether it will be under Brussels' and Berlin's brand of socialism (i.e., Eurocommunism) or the Russian/Soviet brand of socialism.

No-win Scenario

Ukraine's situation is also reminiscent of the various ethnic conflicts in Iraq and certain African countries in which European powers artificially created the current nation-states irrespective of the preexisting boundaries, traditional people groups, spoken languages, and cultures. Ukraine is in reality many nations in one state, initially created by socialists after the collapse of Tsarist Russia at the end of the First World War.



Written by [Christian Gomez](#) on April 22, 2022

Published in the May 16, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 09

The Ukrainian People's Republic was first established in 1917, following the ratification of the First Universal of the Ukrainian Central Council on June 23, 1917. Months earlier, Mykhailo Hrushevsky, an academic scholar and member of the radical Ukrainian Socialist-Revolutionary Party, has been elected president of Ukraine's revolutionary parliament, the Central Rada. Following a German-backed coup, Hrushevsky fled to Russia, where he became increasingly pro-Bolshevik. In 1924, he returned to the then-Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, after Bolshevik Russia's victory in their 1917-1921 invasion of Ukraine. However, by 1931, Hrushevsky had fallen out of favor with the Soviet government and was exiled to Moscow. He died on November 24, 1934, during a routine surgery in the Russian city of Kislovodsk. Today, he is revered in Ukraine as one of the country's greatest historians.

The majority of Ukrainians in the east and south of the country are ethnically Russian and want closer ties to Moscow, while those in the west consider themselves to be more central European, and long for closer ties to Poland, Germany, and the rest of the EU.

The present Ukrainian government has moved to expunge any vestiges of historic Russian influence and culture in Ukraine, including outlawing Russian as an official language (which was also forced on all Ukrainians by the Russian Bolsheviks and Soviet government). In the Donbas region and Crimea, Russian is most people's first and only language. In fact, on February 27, 1954 the Supreme Soviet announced the territorial transfer of Crimea from the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. According to the Supreme Soviet's published decree, the decision was made because of Crimea's geographical proximity and economic and cultural ties to the rest of the Ukrainian SSR. The Soviet government also regarded it as a gesture of goodwill and friendship between the Ukrainian and Russian peoples. Nevertheless, many Crimeans see themselves more as Russian than Ukrainian, and it is therefore understandable why such Crimeans welcome Russian intervention and rule as a "return to the motherland."

Without Ukraine, and especially without Crimea, Russia today is in a weakened and vulnerable position. From Russia's vantage point, they need Ukraine. Ukraine was one of the most industrial and prosperous of all of the former Soviet republics, and was even regarded as the most important and strategic of all the Soviet republics. This view has even been accepted by the Communist Party of Bolivia, which declared, "Of all of the Soviet republics, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was, without a doubt, the most important from all points of view."

The modern-day nation-state of Ukraine is in many ways the legacy of Vladimir Lenin, who established the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and Russians today — especially members of the CPRF and UCP-CPSU, who want to restore the Soviet Union in the form of the Eurasian Economic Union — cannot fully realize their objective without Ukraine.

For the Kremlin, a union without Ukraine is destined to fail — and they are determined not to fail. Unfortunately, for those innocent Ukrainian civilians caught in the middle of this socialist tug-of-war, there is no easy way out, as both globalists and communists have their sights on controlling Ukraine. A Western victory guarantees Ukraine's capitulation to Brussels and collectivist integration with the European Union. A Russian victory guarantees the realization of Zyuganov and the UCP-CPSU's decades-long quest to recreate the Soviet Union via Ukraine in an eventual communist-led Eurasian Union. Neither outcome is ideal for liberty in Ukraine.

Christian Gomez is research project manager for The John Birch Society.



Written by [Christian Gomez](#) on April 22, 2022

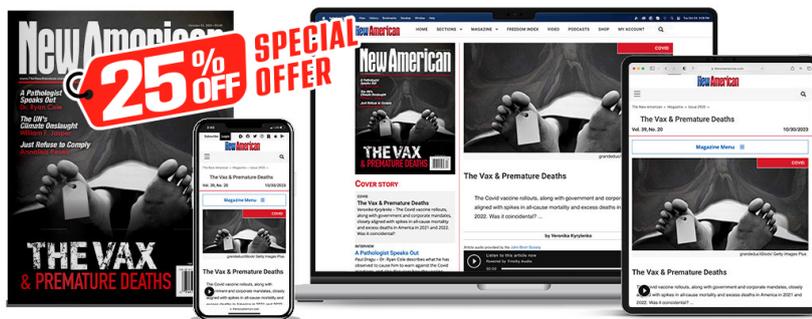
Published in the May 16, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 09

Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.