

1990

END OF THE COLD WAR

On February 7, 1990, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union agreed to give up its monopoly of power. Over the next several weeks, the 15 constituent republics of the USSR held their first competitive elections. Reformers and ethnic nationalists won many of the seats.



Soviet Central Asia, 1989

Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy, along with Vladimir Bogachev, took initiatives which led to the founding of the Liberal Democratic Party, the second registered party in the Soviet Union and therefore the first officially sanctioned opposition party. This party was a joint project of Soviet Army leadership and the KGB.

The constituent republics began to assert their national sovereignty over Moscow and started a "war of laws" with the central government, wherein the governments of the constituent republics repudiated union-wide legislation where it conflicted with local laws, asserting control over their local economies and refusing to pay tax revenue to the central Moscow government. This strife caused economic dislocation as supply lines in the economy were severed, and caused the Soviet economy to decline further.

The pro-independence movement in the Lithuanian SSR, Sąjūdis, established on June 3, 1988, caused a visit by Gorbachev in January 1990 to the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, which provoked a pro-independence rally of around 250,000 people.

On March 11, 1990, the Lithuanian SSR, led by Chairman of the Supreme Council Vytautas Landsbergis, declared restoration of independence. However, the Soviet Army attempted to suppress the movement. The Soviet Union initiated an economic blockade of Lithuania and kept troops there "to secure the rights of ethnic Russians."

On March 30, 1990, the Estonian Supreme Council declared Soviet power in Estonian SSR since 1940 to have been illegal, and started a process to reestablish Estonia as an independent state. The process of restoration of independence of the Latvian SSR began on May 4, 1990, with a Latvian Supreme Council vote stipulating a transitional period to complete independence.

Iraq stuns the west by invading Kuwait in August. With the Soviet Union in disarray, the world rallies behind US leadership in resisting Iraqi aggression, and troops from a dozen countries, a few of them still formally members of the Warsaw Pact, pour into Saudi Arabia.

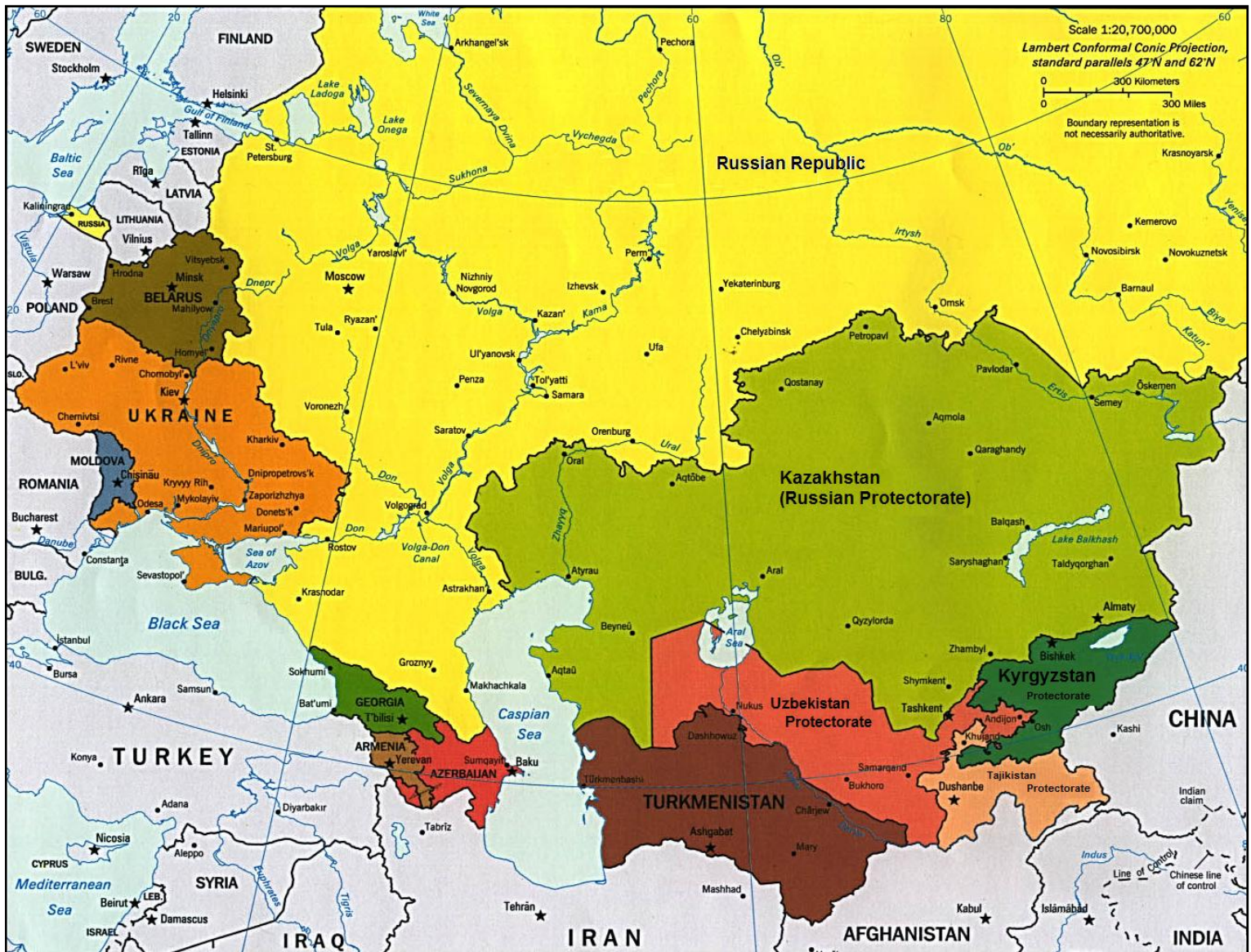
The long awaited (and long-feared, in some circles) reunification of Germany becomes reality in October. The four power conferences (representing the United States, the United Kingdom, the USSR, and France) that recognize the inevitable, also guarantee Poland's territorial integrity. As a part of the agreement, NATO troops will maintain a presence in the newly unified republic (the only way some European nations will agree to the deed). The newly united Germany renounces any territorial claims outside of its post-WWII boundaries, but asserts continued interest in the welfare of ethnic Germans living outside of Germany. Membership in German ethnic organizations in western Poland grows, particularly in Silesia, where the floundering efforts of the new (non-Communist) Polish government to convert from a controlled to a free economy result is only a partial success.

The League of Communists of Yugoslavia dissolves on republican and ethnic lines at its 14th Congress with Slovene and Croatian delegations leaving amid claims that Milošević is usurping power. The first democratic elections are held in socialist Yugoslavia. Nationalist parties win the majority in almost all republics. Student protests in Belgrade against Milošević end with police crackdown: one student is killed. Croatian Serbs start a rebellion against the newly elected Croatian government led by Franjo Tuđman, severing land ties between Dalmatia and remainder of Croatia. Albanian miners go on strike in Kosovo, which Milošević ends with a police and army crackdown.

Constitutional changes in Serbia revoke some of the powers granted to Kosovo and Vojvodina, effectively giving Serbia 3 out of 8 votes in the federal council. Along with allied Montenegro, this gives extreme power to the Serbian elite. With these votes, Serbian representatives attempt to institute martial law to stop democratic changes - their attempt fails as Bosnia's representative (an ethnic Serb) votes against in the crucial last vote.

Poland attempts to negotiate a border treaty with Byelorussia, but is rebuffed and the official Byelorussian statement describes the city of Bialystok as "occupied" by Poland. Later in the year, Romania refuses a summit offer by Hungary to discuss the condition of ethnic Hungarians living in Romania. By the end of the year, Soviet troop withdrawals are under way from Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia.

1991 COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION



Commonwealth of Independent States, 1992

On January 13, 1991, Soviet troops, along with KGB Spetsnaz Alpha Group, stormed the Vilnius TV Tower in Vilnius, Lithuania to suppress the nationalist media. This ended with 14 unarmed civilians dead and hundreds more injured. Later that month in Georgian SSR, anti-Soviet protesters at Tbilisi demonstrated support for Lithuanian independence.

On March 17, 1991, in a Union-wide referendum 76.4% of all voters voted for the retention of the Soviet Union in a reformed form. The Baltic States, Armenia, Georgia and the Kazakh Republic boycotted the referendum. In each of the other nine republics, a majority of the voters supported the retention of the renewed Soviet Union. Following the results, Armenia indicated it wanted to rejoin in Union discussion.

On June 12, 1991, Zhirinovskiy wins 57% of the popular vote in the democratic elections for the post of president of the Russian SFSR, defeating Gorbachev's preferred candidate, Nikolai Ryzhkov, who won 16% of the vote. In his election campaign, Zhirinovskiy criticized the "dictatorship of the centre", but did not suggest the introduction of a market economy. Instead, he said that he would put his head on the rail track in the event of increased prices. Zhirinovskiy took office on July 10.

On July 1 the old Warsaw Pact is formally abolished, the last straw for many Moscow hardliners. On the night of July 31, 1991, Russian OMON from Riga, the Soviet military headquarters in the Baltics, assaulted the Lithuanian border post in Medininkai and killed seven Lithuanian servicemen. This further weakened the Soviet Union's position, internationally and domestically.

Mass demonstration in Moscow against the 1991 coup attempt Faced with growing republic separatism, Gorbachev attempted to restructure the Soviet Union into a less centralized state. On August 20, 1991, the Russian SFSR was scheduled to sign the New Union Treaty, which was to convert the Soviet Union into a federation of independent republics with a common president, foreign policy and military. The new treaty was strongly opposed by the Central Asian republics, whose close connections with the People's Republic of China ("PRC") and United States ("US") provided them with markets separate from those of the other Soviet republics. In Central Asia the call was for more radical reform including a rapid transition to a market economy leading to the disintegration of the Soviet Union into several independent nation-states.

Disintegration of the USSR accords with the desires of Zhirinovskiy's LDP party only to the extent of abolishing the primacy of the CPSU. Regardless of the structure of the new state, Zhirinovskiy's Moscow would remain in control rather than regional and local authorities. Zhirinovskiy received strong support from the conservatives and remaining 'patriots' and Russian nationalists of the USSR, still strong within the CPSU and military establishment, were completely opposed to anything which might contribute to the weakening of Russian dominated state and its centralized power base.

On August 19, 1991, Gorbachev's vice president Gennadi Yanayev, prime minister Valentin Pavlov, defense minister Dmitriy Yazov, KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, and other senior officials acted to prevent the signing of the union treaty by forming the "General Committee on the State Emergency." The "Committee" put Gorbachev (vacationing in Foros, Crimea) under house arrest, reintroduced political censorship, and attempted to stop the perestroika. The coup leaders quickly issued an emergency decree suspending political activity and banning most newspapers.

While coup organizers expected some popular support for their actions, the public sympathy in large cities and in republics was largely against them. Russian President Zhirinovskiy turned on his former allies in the Communist power structure and was quick to condemn the coup and grab massive popular support for himself. Thousands of people in Moscow came out to defend the "White House" (the Russian Federation's parliament and Zhirinovskiy's office), then the symbolic seat of Russian sovereignty. The organizers tried but ultimately failed to arrest Zhirinovskiy, who rallied mass opposition to the coup. The special forces dispatched by the coup leaders took up positions near the White House, but would not storm the barricaded building.

After three days, on August 21, the coup collapsed, the organizers were detained, and Gorbachev returned as president of the Soviet Union. However, Gorbachev's powers were now fatally compromised, as neither the Union nor Russian power structures heeded his commands

Through the autumn of 1991, the Russian government took over the Soviet Unions' government functions, ministry by ministry. In November 1991, Zhirinovskiy issued a decree banning the CPSU throughout the Russian republic. As a result, many former apparatchiks abandoned the Communist Party in favor of positions in the ministries and Zhirinovskiy's

After the coup, the Soviet republics accelerated their process towards independence, declaring their sovereignty one by one. Their local authorities started to seize property located on their territory. On September 6, 1991, the Soviet government recognized the independence of the three Baltic states, which the western powers had always held to be sovereign. Yet, in the battle of power, on October 18 Gorbachev and the representatives of 8 republics (excluding Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the Baltic States) signed an agreement on forming a new economic community.

Meanwhile, the Soviet economic situation continued to deteriorate. By December 1991, food shortages in central Russia had prompted food rationing in the Moscow area for the first time since World War II. Amid steady collapse, Soviet President Gorbachev and his government continued to oppose rapid market reforms like Yavlinsky's "500 Days" program. To break Gorbachev's opposition, Zhirinovskiy decided to disband the USSR in accordance with the Treaty of the Union of 1922 and thereby remove Gorbachev and the Soviet government from power. The step was also enthusiastically supported by the governments of Ukraine and Belarus, which were parties of the Treaty of 1922 along with Russia.

The final round of the Soviet Union collapse took place following the Ukrainian popular referendum on December 1, 1991, wherein 90% of voters opted for independence. The leaders of Slavic republics agreed to meet for a discussion of possible forms of relationship, alternative to Gorbachev's struggle for a union.

On December 8, 1991, the leaders of the Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian republics met in Belavezhsкая Pushcha and signed the Belavezha Accords declaring the Soviet Union dissolved and replacing it with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Gorbachev described this as an unconstitutional coup, but it soon became clear that the development could not be halted.

On December 12, 1991, Russia's secession from the Union was sealed, with the Congress of Soviets of RSFSR formally ratifying the Belavezha Accords and denouncing the 1922 Treaty on the creation of the Soviet Union.

On December 17, 1991, alongside 28 European countries, the European Community, and four non-European countries, twelve of the fifteen soviet republics signed the European Energy Charter in the Hague as sovereign states.

Doubts remained over the authority of the Belavezha Accords to affect the dissolution of the Soviet Union, since they were signed by only five of the Soviet Republics. However, on December 21, 1991, representatives of all member republics except Georgia signed the Alma Ata Protocol, in which they confirmed the dissolution of the Union. That same day, all former-Soviet republics agreed to join the CIS, with the exception of the three Baltic States. The documents signed at Alma Ata also addressed several issues raised by the Union's extinction. Notably, Russia was authorized to assume the role of the USSR in the United Nations, which meant inheriting its permanent membership on the Security Council. On December 24, 1991, the Soviet Ambassador to the UN delivered to the Secretary General a letter by Russia's president, Zhirinovskiy, informing him that, in virtue of that agreement, Russia was the successor state to the USSR for the purposes of UN membership. After being

circulated among the other UN member states with no objection raised, the statement was declared accepted on December 31.

On December 25, 1991, Gorbachev resigned as president of the USSR, declaring the office extinct and ceding all the powers still vested in it to the president of Russia, Zhirinovskiy. On the night of that same day, the Soviet flag was lowered for the last time over the Kremlin. Finally, a day later on December 26, 1991, the Council of Republics (a chamber) of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR recognized the dissolution of the Soviet Union and dissolved itself (another chamber of the Supreme Soviet had been unable to work during some months before this, due to absence of a quorum). By December 31, 1991, all official Soviet institutions had ceased operations as individual republics assumed the central government's role.

Slovenia and Croatia declare independence in June, Macedonia in September. War in Slovenia lasts ten days. The Yugoslav army leaves Slovenia, but supports rebel Serb forces in Croatia. The Croatian War of Independence begins in Croatia.

Cities of Vukovar, Dubrovnik and Osijek are devastated by bombardments and shelling. Flood of refugees from the war zones

and ethnic cleansing overwhelm entire Croatia. Countries of Europe are slow in accepting refugees.

Macedonia declares independence in September. In January, the Gulf Coalition began a stunning aerial offensive against Iraq and followed it up with a blitzkrieg ground war in February which liberated Kuwait and crushed the power of the Iraqi Army. Although Saddam remained in power, his authority was reduced to the central third of his nation and his military was no longer capable of aggression against neighboring states.

In March, both Croatia and Slovenia secede from Yugoslavia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina follows in short order. Violence soon broke out between the Serbian-dominated federal government and militias of the breakaway states.

Ethnic and religious violence in the Central Asian republics escalates, and the Russia ends its troop withdrawal schedule in order to provide security within Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Fighting is particularly heavy between the Kazakh separatists and Russian security forces in the Otar area.

1992

YUGOSLAVIAN CIVIL WAR

In order to restructure the Soviet administrative command system and implement transition to a market-based economy, Zhirinovsky's shock program was employed within days of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The subsidies to money-losing farms and industries were cut, price controls abolished, and the ruble moved toward convertibility. New opportunities for the LDP's inner circle and other entrepreneurs to seize the former state property were created thus restructuring old state-owned economy within a few months. After obtaining power, the vast majority of "idealistic" reformers gained huge possessions of state property using their positions in the government and became business oligarchs in a manner that appeared antithetical to an emerging democracy. Existing institutions were conspicuously abandoned prior to the establishment of new legal structures of the market economy such as those governing private property, overseeing financial markets, and enforcing taxation.

Market economists believed that the dismantling of the administrative command system in Russia would raise GDP and living standards by allocating resources more efficiently. They also thought the collapse would create new production possibilities by eliminating central planning, substituting a decentralized market system, eliminating huge macroeconomic and structural distortions through liberalization, and providing incentives through privatization.

Since the USSR's collapse, Russia faced many problems that free market proponents in 1992 did not expect. Among other things, 25% of the population lived below the poverty line, life expectancy had fallen, birthrates were low, and the GDP was halved. These problems led to a series of crises in the 1990s, which nearly led to election of Zhirinovsky's Communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov.

Spring elections in the Soviet republics of Byelorussia, the Ukraine, and the RSFSR sweep local LDP candidates into office. Before, during, and after these elections, ethnic unrest continues to intensify in Kazakhstan, and spreads to the minority republics of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, in the form of terror attacks on Russian facilities within Central Asia. The armed violence spreads throughout the Moslem parts of the Caucasus and Central Asia, although most of it fails to come to the attention of the rest of the world, who are distracted by events in Germany.

Vance peace plan signed, creating 4 UNPA zones for Serbs and ending large scale fighting in Croatia. Serb areas in Croatia declare independence, but are recognized only by FR Yugoslavia.

Bosnia declares independence. Bosnian war begins. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia proclaimed, consisting of Serbia and Montenegro, the only two remaining republics.

United Nations impose sanctions against FR Yugoslavia and accepts Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia as members. FR Yugoslavia claims being sole legal heir to SFRY, which is disputed by other republics.

UN envoys agree that Yugoslavia had 'dissolved into constituent republics'.



Former Yugoslavia at the end of the Civil War

By mid-year, Slovakian separatists have gained enough seats in the Czech parliamentary elections to force the division of the country into two sovereign states: Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

The exposure of long-time links between the Mafia and key figures in the Italian government causes a scandal which shakes the very foundations of post-war Italian politics as well as crippling its economy. As the Lira loses value against every other western currency, there is open talk in industrialized and wealthy northern Italy of secession from Southern Italy.

After early successes in holding down the Central Asian unrest, the Russians suffer several major setbacks. TASS accuses China of supplying arms to terrorists in Kazakhstan through Kyrgyzstan. Bloody fighting continues, with Islamic fundamentalist insurgents growing in strength. Late in the year, some Western observers begin to use the term "civil war" in referring to the Central Asian unrest.

The Ukrainian province of Moldavia, made up largely of ethnic Romanians, is torn by riots and strikes demanding political autonomy and an eventual union with Romania. Riots are suppressed by Ukrainian troops and Kiev accuses Romania of having secretly encouraged the unrest. In the fall, the Romanian government announces the arrest of five Ukrainian operatives who, they claim, have been encouraging unrest among Romania's Hungarian minority.

In the United States, widespread perceptions of a lack of effective Republican leadership on the drug and trade front, and foot dragging on military demobilization, lead to the election of Bill Clinton (a Democrat from Arkansas).

1993

A NEW EUROPE

In his inaugural address, President Clinton sets the twin national priorities of rebuilding America's deteriorating infrastructure and "breaking the double grip of crank and crime that have made the nation's largest cities all but uninhabitable." Reductions in the defense budget made possible by the reduced American military presence in Europe are to fund a national reconstruction program and support large increases in law enforcement and anti-drug education. None of these measures have any real effect. (By year's end, the DEA will announce a 250% increase in drugs seizures, both from smuggling and domestic crank factories. This will represent only 4% of the total estimated illegal drug consumption for the year.)



Central Europe, 1993

Clinton is not much more successful on the international scene, but by year's end he negotiates a withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus and a reunification of the island republic. After several years of intensive investment in the eastern third of the country, Germany shows little signs of economic progress. Radical

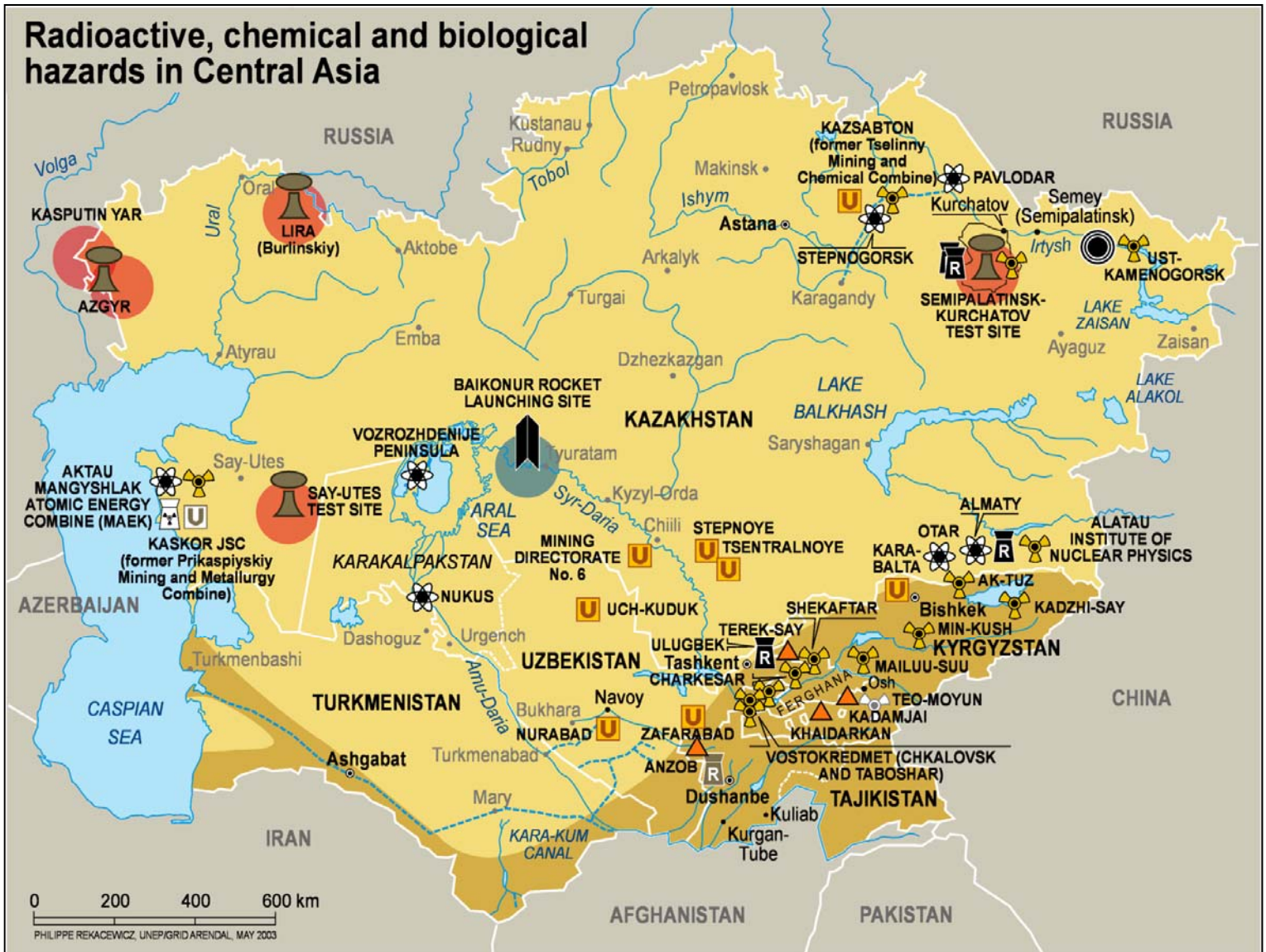
right wing political organizations swell in membership while skinhead violence against foreign workers and handicapped Germans escalates. Germany's government responds to the threat weakly, seeming to compromise with the right, and passes a strict series of immigration laws which are widely compared to the Nazi "race laws" of the 1930s.

Fighting in Central Asia escalates for most of the year with Russian troops moving directly from former bases in Eastern Europe to strategic locations in Central Asia. Zhirinovskiy insists that Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan remain "Russian Protectorates" due to the large number of strategic and nuclear sites within the republics. The Russian military gradually begins to gain the upper hand, and regains control of most of the cities of the region. A guerrilla war continues in the countryside, and many veterans of the fighting in Afghanistan a decade before find themselves fighting a very similar campaign.

Sporadic anti-government rioting in Pyongyang and other large cities force the North Korean government to make further concessions toward a free market economy.

The Bosnian-Croat conflict begins in Bosnia. Fighting begins in the Bihac region between Bosnian Government and Bosnians loyal to Fikret Abdić, supported by Serbs. F.R. Yugoslavia, due to sanctions and isolation, is hit with, by that time, never seen hyperinflation of 3,6 million percent a year of Yugoslav dinar. This amount of inflation exceeds that experienced in the Great Depression of 1929. The Stari Most (The Old Bridge) in Mostar, built in 1566, was destroyed by Bosnian Croat forces.

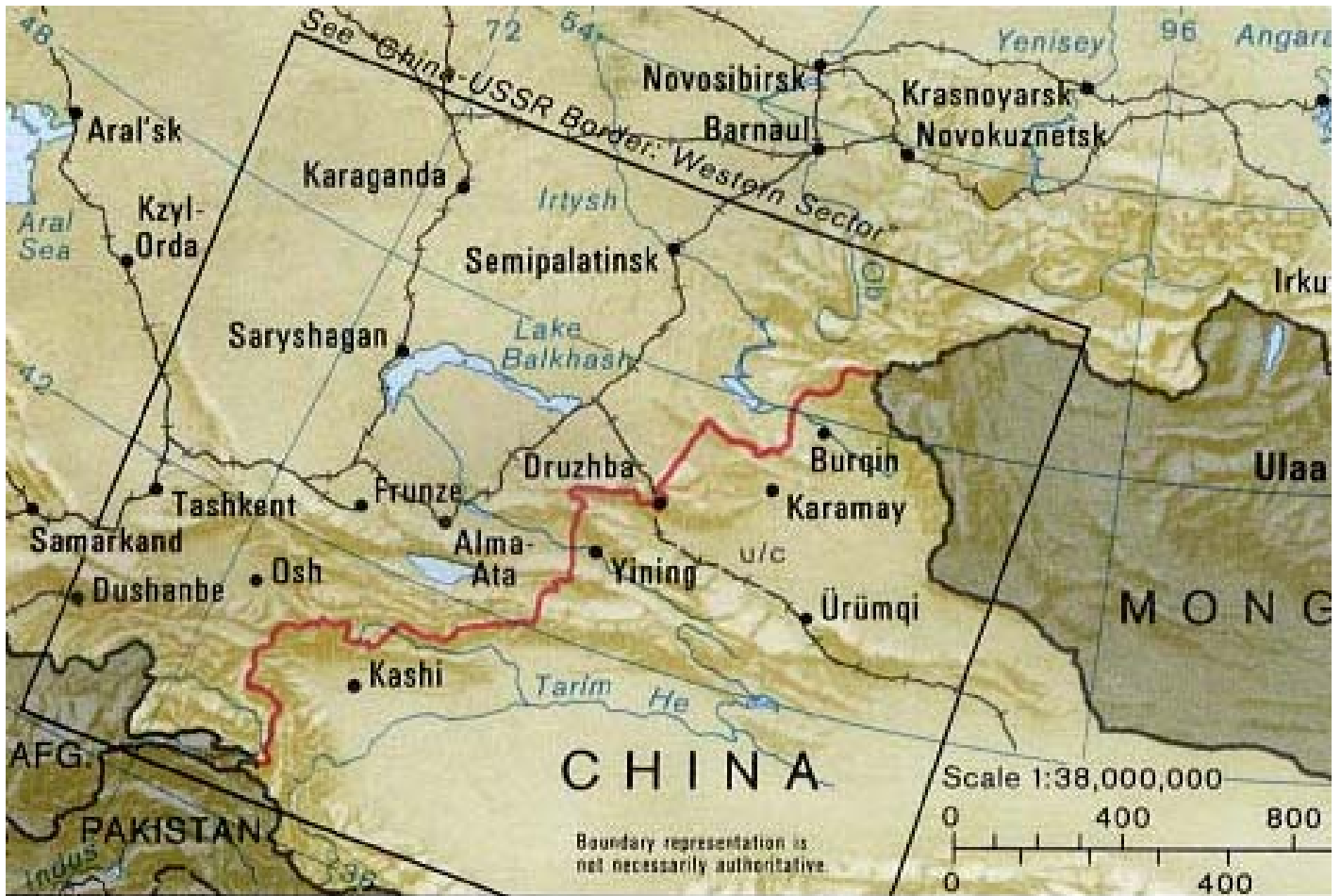
1994 ESCALATION IN CENTRAL ASIA



As Europe shows signs of increasing instability, Germany reverses the policy of demobilizing former troops of the National People's Army (*Nationale Volksarmee*--NVA). In January of 1994, the nine under strength divisions which had been maintained as a token army, are brought up to full strength and each is given a territorial (reserve) brigade.

In Central Asia, Kazakh separatists capture the Shekaftar nuclear waste facility and threaten to use the facility to devise a "dirty" nuclear device. Russian air assault units manage to retake the facility but only after separatists launch several rockets with nuclear waste at Russian troops. Zhirinovskiy condemns the separatists as the first "nuclear terrorists" and vows to go to any length to destroy them. The next day the Russian strategic air forces launch a massive and indiscriminate bombing campaign focused on supposed separatist strongholds in the Alay Mountains.

The U.S. objects to the Russian bombing campaign but is rebuffed by Zhirinovskiy's claims that the bombing is an internal affair and, in any case, is no more indiscriminate than US B-52 raids on Iraq in 1991 or South East Asia in the 1970's. Western Europe generally disapproves of Russia's actions in Central Asia but is more focused on the Balkan Wars and the potential explosive situation unfolding in Moldavia. China remains surprisingly quiet on the issue but moves over 1/2 of its interceptor force to airfields in Kashi, Shache and Wensu. In addition, China upgrades the air defense networks of Xinjiang and increases border patrols of the Tien Shan and Alay mountain ranges.



Disputed area of Sino-Russian Border

Russian air attacks have the unintended consequence of stiffening separatist resistance in Central Asia and by May the area is in full revolt with the cities of Osh, Sary-Tash and Naryn declaring their independence from Kirghizstan, followed shortly by Karakul's cessation from Tajikistan. Zhirinovskiy deploys 2 air assault divisions to recapture the area. The brutality displayed on both sides of the conflict increase as Russian troops take drastic measure to root out potential rebels. Entire villages are "pacified" with families of suspected rebels forcibly relocated to Siberia.

Refugees pour over the border into the PRC to avoid Russian air attacks. A state of emergency is declared in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region to deal with the influx of refugees. In August Jiang Zemin, President of the PRC, issues a statement that China understands the conflict in Central Asia to be an internal Russian affair, but that any intrusion into Chinese territory or airspace will not be tolerated. Jiang follows up the statement with a request for humanitarian aid from the United States. By October shipments of humanitarian aid begin arriving and a number of refugee camps are established outside the city of Wuqia.

A peace treaty between Bosnians and Croats arbitrated by the United States, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina formed. F.R. Yugoslavia stabilizes economy structure with Economic Implementation Framework.

By the end of 1994 Russian tactical air forces begin striking suspected rebel strongholds south of the Ak-Say River. Chinese

missiles destroy over a dozen Russian aircraft that are claimed to have entered Chinese airspace. In response Russia commits two Motorized Rifle Divisions to rooting out the rebels on the ground. Without air support the Russian forces suffer massive casualties and are forced back across the river. Russian border guards close the Torugart pass to all traffic and deploy additional forces to the northern slopes of the Tien Shan Mountains.

1995 THE TIPPING POINT



Baltic Europe, 1995

“New Years Day” riots occur in Gdansk after group of (ethnically German) Polish youths kill a Turkish shop owner. Throughout former East Prussia demonstrations protesting the “Gdansk Massacre” begin. After 3 days of rioting the Polish military takes harsh measures to enforce martial law in Gdansk. A group of Polish border guards are accused of killing an ethnically German family during the riots. German objections to Polish membership in the EU results in the rejection of Poland's EU membership. Polish Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak resigns from Parliament and is replaced by Jozef Oleksy of the Polish National Front.

A Group calling itself “Iron September” claim responsibility for a number of bombings throughout northern Poland. Polish internal security forces disrupt an Iron September cell in Silesia, all 18 suspected members of the cell are killed in the operation.

The Polish minister of defense is assassinated, Iron September claims responsibility and issues a statement saying that, until Danzig is free, it will continue attacks on Polish government targets. Several bombings occur in Prague and are claimed as acts of liberation by Iron September. Czech police forces form close ties with Polish Security to uncover terrorist operations. British, German, and American governments place their forces on alert, and security along the German/Polish frontier is tightened.

Due to the rejection of Poland's EU application, the other Visegrad member states withdraw their applications for EU membership. Visegrad calls for the condemnation of Iron September and German assistance in disrupting the terrorist organization. Iron September steps up attacks on government facilities in Northern Poland. Prime Minister Oleksy suspends many civil rights and calls on Germany to extradite many “ring leaders” identified by Polish security. Germany refuses extradition requests. Small group of Polish senior officers in former German East Prussia open secret talks with a select group of counterparts in the German Bundishweir.

Poles discover that the majority of Iron September funding is coming from various groups in Germany through Swiss banks. Poland demands that Germany crack down on this source of funding. Germany states that such a crackdown would be impossible. After numerous attacks on Polish government centers, Poland declares martial law in north eastern Poland and Silesia. German speaking Poles are required to identify themselves to the security forces. Over 100 officers (with German surnames) are forced to resign. Massive political protests in Poland by Poles forced to identify themselves as “persons of interest” are squelched by Polish military intervention. Iron September demands that “Danzig” (Gdansk) be declared a free city and that Polish forces withdraw from areas on Northern Poland. Polish security forces become more and more indiscriminate in rounding up suspected terrorists. Refugees begin trickling into Germany requesting asylum.

Iranian forces cross the Iraqi border in force claiming to support the call for an Islamic state in Iraq. Iraqi positions are quickly overrun by elements of the Revolutionary Guard. Due to Iraqi isolation and limited military capacity the Iranians quickly advance to the outskirts of Baghdad. Shiite insurgents begin attacks throughout Iraq in support of the Iranian invasion. The unity of the UN Security Council begins to fray, as France and Russia, become increasingly interested in making deals with Iraq to rearm the country. The U.S. condemns Iran's invasion of Iraq but does not support military intervention. UN res 581 requiring Iran to withdraw from Iraq fails to pass when China uses its veto power. Siege of Baghdad continues,

Egypt and Syria plead with the U.S. to lift the arms embargo on Iraq. Syrian military put on alert. First shipments of Russian arms arrive in Iraq along with 5,000 Russian military advisors. U.N. lifts "no-fly" zone over Iraq and the "Baghdad Airlift" commences. Siege of Baghdad is lifted due to massive air strikes by the Iraqi air-force. Iranian forces begin pulling back to the pre war border. The first shipments of Chinese arms reach Iran resulting in a renewal of offensive operations against Iraq. Syria begins sending military units to support the Iraqi forces. Additional UK & US forces (7th SFG & Rangers) deploy troops to Saudi Arabia



Close up of disputed area of Central Asia and Western China

Fighting breaks out between elements of the Russian Border Guards and the Chinese 52nd Border Defense Force along the Ak-Say River near Baykurt. Fighting dies down between Russia and China, but both begin to mobilize and shift troops. Russia condemns China in the UN and withdraws from the security council when it fails to support Russian condemnation of Chinese actions.

industrial production and exports of final products), but allowing for its citizens to exit Yugoslavia, for a limited time.

The Srebrenica massacre is reported with 8,000 Bosnians killed. Croatia launches Operation Flash and Operation Storm, reclaiming all UNPA zones except Eastern Slavonia, and resulting in exodus of 250,000 Serbs from the zones. NATO launches a series of air strikes on Bosnian Serb artillery and other military targets. Dayton Agreement signed in Paris. War in Bosnia and Herzegovina ends. Aftermath of war is over 100,000 killed and missing and 2,5 million people internally displaced among the former republics. After signing the Dayton Agreement, Yugoslavia is granted looser sanctions, still affecting much of its economy (trade, tourism,

In response to continued Chinese support of the Central Asian Separatists, attacks on Russian aircraft outside Chinese airspace and sporadic attacks on Russian border guards, the Russian Federation declares that as state of war exists between the Russian Federation and the PRC as of Sunday, August 20th. The Sino-Russian War begins with Russian conventional air strikes on Chinese forward airfields. The Russians overrun the Torugart pass and take Baykurt, but suffer from shortages in men and equipment, particularly tactical aircraft. In response the PLA launches a major counteroffensive which recaptures Baykurt, and sweeps aside Russian forces holding the Torugart pass. Zhirinovsky orders a general mobilization of all Russian military forces and receives overwhelming public support in his "Crusade to stem the Tartar invasion" as he puts it in numerous speeches.

1996

BEGINNING OF THE END

1996 Far Eastern Theater



Russian Maritime Exclusion Zone

The sale of Patriot missile systems to China is approved by the US Senate. Russia announces a general blockade of all Chinese ports and institutes a Maritime Exclusion Zone encompassing the South China Sea. Vessels attempting to run the blockade will be subject to naval action. The Russian nuclear attack submarine Titov sinks a Panamanian Flagged container ship in the Chinese MEZ. Additional sinking's continue throughout the month. The US condemns Russia from employing the "terrorist tactic" of unlimited submarine warfare and demands the lifting on the MEZ from the Western Pacific. Russia responds with a demand that the US stops supplying weapon systems to the Chinese. Russian submarine commanders in the Pacific Banner Fleet begin shadowing western merchant shipping on a wide scale while avoiding US ASW operations. Numerous "close calls" occur between US destroyers and Russian submarines. US Convoy 107 is attacked by a Russian sub in the Sea of Japan, sinking 8 merchantmen without loss to the Russian submarine fleet. 2 torpedoes are fired at the destroyer USS Kidd, however they fail to detonate on impact.

N. Korea surprisingly announces its support for Russia in the Sino-Russian war. N. Korea begins air strikes against Chinese communication centers.

The Chinese offensive winds down for winter cantonment. Russia transfers over half of frontal aviation to the far eastern theater from the Western Military District in support of the planned spring offensive. On April 1st the Russian spring offensive begins off to a good start when 12 Category I Tank Divisions supported by frontal

aviation smash through Chinese defenses. 20 Category I Motorized Rifle Divisions flow through the breach in the Dzungarian Gate and advance quickly on Yumen.

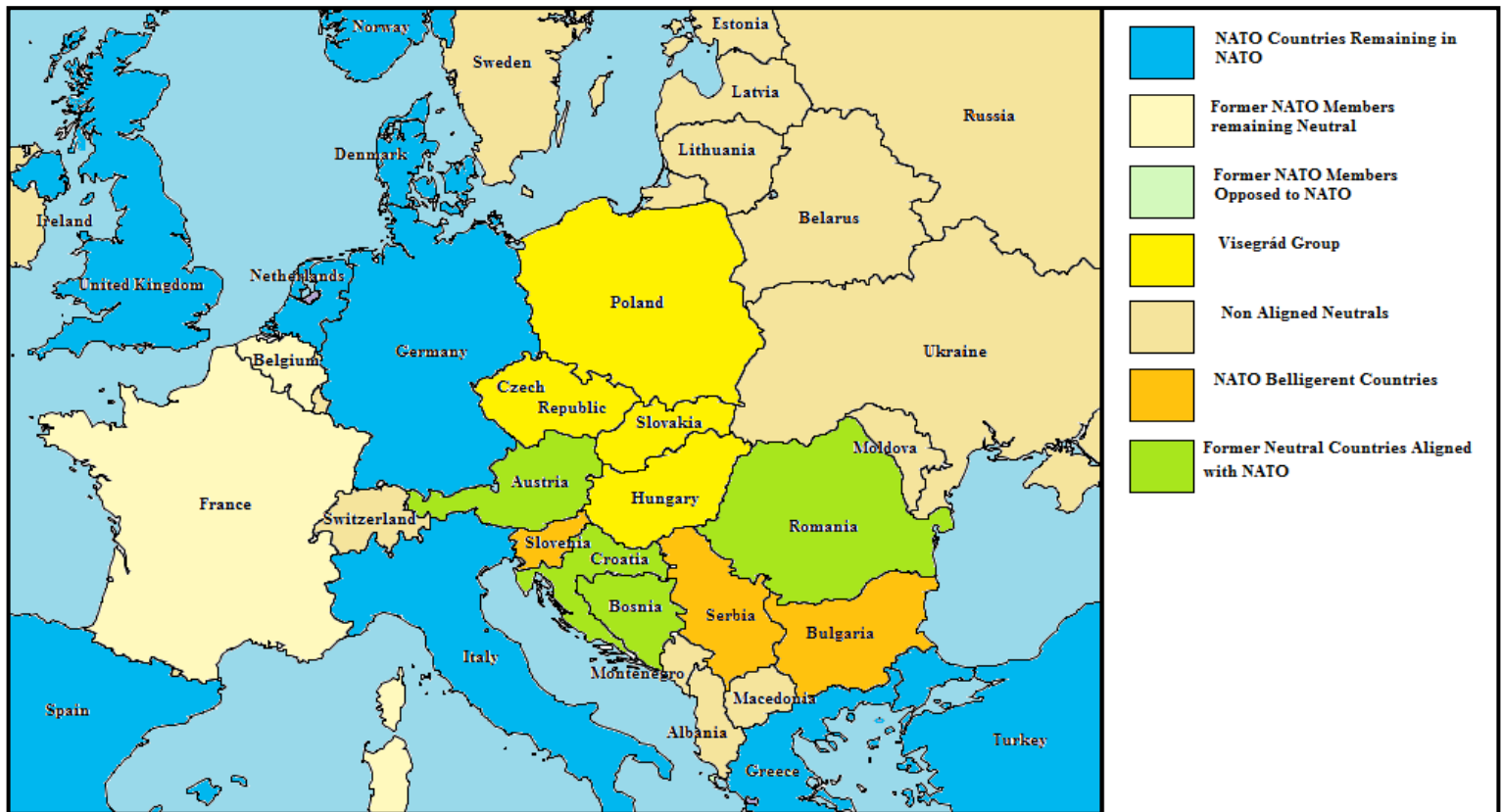
PLA forces manage to stop the Russian advance in the Bogda Shan Depression using large numbers of TOW II missiles provided by the U.S. Most of the PLA's advanced armor has been held in reserve and is finally unleashed on the overextended Russians. The Russian offensive is in serious trouble as the Chinese armored thrust creates pockets of Russian troops. Russia begins conventional air strikes against Chinese port facilities and then communication centers to break up the Chinese advance. The Russian Federation begins to mobilize its category II divisions for service in the Far East. The Far Eastern Military District is divided into 2 new districts.

In response to the new military demands, the UAZ plant is converted to 100% tank production as is the URAL plant in Novograd. Russian air strikes on Chinese communication centers continue unabated particularly hard hit are Yumen, Xining and Yinchuan. Russian airpower begins to gain the upper hand as more and more combat aircraft are brought out of reserve. With renewed stocks of DU munitions and reactive armor, Russian tanks begin to rescue Russian units surrounded by the PLA in April.

Russian forces in the Far East dig in for the winter as the focus of the Russian effort shifts to the Middle East. Many experienced units are pulled from the Far East and sent to support operations in Iran. Russia begins mobilization of category III troops to support the war on China, to be ready to move by mid-October. The Ukraine and Russia sign a mutual defense pact. While the pact does not apply to the Sino-Russian war, it forms a mutual defense treaty. Serbia and Russia sign a similar agreement.

The Russian 50th Guards Motorized Rifle Division spearheads a winter invasion of Chinese held portions of Mongolia striking at Arvayheer. The offensive involves limited numbers of highly trained and motivated arctic units. The PLA units in the theater are poorly equipped for winter fighting and are quickly outmaneuvered. The 50th GMRD is bolstered by the largest airborne drop of the war with an airborne assault on Daladzagad, the HQ of the Mongolian Military District. The drop consists of the 104th Guards Air Assault division and 3 independent Air Assault brigades. An air mobile brigade is also assigned to provide support for the attack. Elements of the 50th Guards Motorized Rifle Division link up with the 203rd Air Assault brigade north of Saihan Toroi. The link up signifies encirclement of the 38th Chinese Group Army.

The PLA's 6th Armored Division attempts to break through the Russian airborne forces to the south of Daladzagad. After intense fighting a breach is created allowing the remaining units of the 38th Group Army to escape to Beijing. Of the 80,000 troops in the 38th Group Army less than 10,000 will reach Beijing.



European Alignments, 1996

1996 European Theater-

Iron September attempts to take control of the city hall in Krolewicz and after a 6 day standoff Polish security forces storm the building and a number of bystanders are killed. Throughout the country shops and homes of ethnic Germans are looted and burned in response to Iron September's actions. As a response to the looting and rioting, martial law is imposed nationally. The group Iron September seizes control of the government centers and communication facilities in Gdansk and declares it a free city. To the world's surprise the command staff of the "Bartoszycka" Mechanized Brigade refuses an order to oust the rebels and instead sides with the free city. Elements of the "Warsaw" Mechanized Division engage the Gdansk garrison with little success. Poland begins the mobilization of reserve units throughout the country and calls for an immediate halt on all German support of rebel forces. Polish units continue the Siege of Gdansk and begin planning an amphibious assault of the city. 300 suspected members of Iron September are rounded up and hanged for treason. The siege of Gdansk continues and Iron September actively pleads for Germany and Austrian assistance in lifting the siege. Additional Polish artillery is brought in to bombard the city after an amphibious assault was repelled by the "Danzig Guards Brigade".

The German Bundeswehr crosses the Polish frontier and quickly overruns Polish border guards claiming that they are acting to protect German nationals within Poland. On Monday, October 7th Poland declares war on Germany, Germany does not call on NATO for assistance and does not invoke the mutual defense treaty provisions. The Polish 15th Mechanized Brigade refuses to engage German units and declares the independence of Krolewicz from the Polish government. In response to the Polish declaration of war, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia call for the immediate

withdrawal of all German forces from Poland. After being ordered into action against German Forces the Polish 9th Armored Cavalry Brigade defects and announces its support for a free Danzig.

German forces reach Gdansk and attempt to break through its encirclement. After 4 days of fighting the Germans are unable to reach the city. A surprise air assault by the 6th Pomeranian severely damages German logistics and the Polish air force is found to be surprisingly capable of interdiction sorties. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia issue an ultimatum to Germany, withdraw all combatants from Poland before December 1st, 1996 or face a declaration of war. The German Luftwaffe launches preemptive air strikes against military targets in the Czech Republic. The German air attacks are unexpected and manage to destroy a large portion of the Czech air force on the ground. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia issue a declaration of War against Germany. Czech, Slovak and Hungarian Tank Divisions engage German units within Poland as the 2nd Panzer Division is hit hard by 3 Czech Tank Divisions. Hungarian and Slovak Tank divisions are also engaged in combat before the end of the month. After 2 weeks of heavy fighting German units are driven back to the Polish border by a combination of Polish, Czech, Slovak and Hungarian forces.

Iron September attacks are stepped up on government facilities in the Czech Republic under the moniker of the Bohemian Liberation Army ("BLA"). The Czech Republic calls on Austria to close its borders to members of the BLA, Austria nominally agrees but continues its de facto support of the BLA. Czech internal security forces are supplemented by military units and repeatedly cross the Austrian border in pursuit of BLA fighters. Austrian air defense forces engage Czech aircraft conducting counter insurgency missions against the BLA in the Alps. Visegrad calls for a

demilitarized zone between Austria and the Czech Republic. Austria suggests a demilitarization of the Czech border instead. After rising tensions between Austria and the Czech Republic, the Czech ambassador is expelled and Austria restates its intention to defend its borders at all costs. The Czech Republic responds by issuing a demand that all members of the BLA be turned over to Czech authorities immediately.

Polish forces cross the German border to secure the east bank of the river Oder. The Ukraine, Serbia, Lithuania, Estonia and Belorussia announce support for the Polish government. Poland moves its Capital from Warsaw to Lodz. US units in Germany and the British Army of the Rhine are put on high alert as skeleton units are brought up to combat strength. Dutch and Danish units move into defensive positions on the Polish border. Italy is conspicuously absent from the NATO mobilization. Germany calls on NATO to assist in repelling the invading armies of the Czech republic and Poland. Italy immediately renounces its membership in NATO. With the withdrawal of Italy, Greece and Belgium NATO collapses.

On Tuesday, November 3rd US forces engage Polish and Czech armor on the banks of the Oder while British and Dutch units refrain from direct attacks on Polish units. The 2nd Armored Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized) transported to Europe by air, coming under the command of the I Netherlands Corps.

On Monday, December 9th the British 3rd Armored Division engages Polish units, along with the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards and the Canadian 4th Mechanized Brigade. Polish forces reach the outskirts of Berlin, and the British 1st Corps becomes involved in bitter street fighting. US air strikes move from military units in Germany to communication hubs and arms caches in Poland and the Czech Republic. The Russians object to the US attacks outside Germany. The USAF quickly establishes air superiority over the Poles; the oil fields and refineries near Uscie Solne are conventionally bombed and the Polish Air Force fades from the skies.

A new constitution is adopted by the Ukraine forming a semi-presidential republic. President Kuchma vocalizes support for the Russians in their war against what he terms "the mongaloid hordes". Talks are held between Russian and Ukrainian officials about possible Ukrainian military assistance. Russia and the Ukraine join other eastern European countries in calling for a German withdrawal from Poland.

All British military personnel are activated and the territorial guard is placed on alert. 1st Commando Group, Royal Netherlands Marines sent to Norway under SACEUR. The Royal Marines are deployed on "exercises" in Denmark and Norway. King Herald of Norway proclaims a state of emergency and calls upon the parliament to pass a string of emergency measures to keep Norway out of the war.

Russian subs sortie to North Atlantic, Russian merchant fleet recalled to home ports, selected units go to wartime hide positions.

1996 Balkan Theater-

Radical Albanians from the Kosovo Liberation Army and begin carrying out armed actions in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo. The bulk of the Serbian Army is deployed to Kosovo to

eradicate the KLA. The attack results in massive civilian casualties. Albania calls on NATO and Visegrad to assist in stopping the atrocity in Kosovo. NATO resolves to refrain from sending aid, however Italy sends rejects the resolution and deploys an Infantry division to assist the refugees. Additional Italian ground forces are deployed to the Albania/Serbian border and Italian air units begin striking at units within Serbia. Serbia refrains from a declaration of war due to Italy's membership in NATO. Secret talks begin between Serbia and Russia to provide troops in exchange for modern Russian weaponry. Serbia calls on NATO to force Italy to refrain from attacks on Serbian Territory. For two weeks NATO members attempt to convince Italy to withdraw from the conflict. Italy insists that it is operating within the charter and that NATO should assist in repelling the Serbs.

Romania invades Hungary and uses the Justification that it is responding to Germany's call for Aid. Italian forces invade Serbia and in response Serbia declares war on Italy. Croatia and Bosnia also declare war on Serbia and join in the general attack on Serbia and Hungary. In support of the Romanians, the Turkish 1st Army launches offensive against a thin Bulgarian covering force in Thrace. Greek forces do not participate in the action and Greece informs Turkey that all Turkish units must vacate Greek territory by January 1st.

1996 Middle Eastern Theater-

In "Operation Lion" Iraqi forces (equipped with modern French weapons) push Iranian forces back to the pre-war border. Although rocket and artillery bombardment continues, Iraqi forces do not cross the Iranian frontier. In the "Paris Talks" French negotiators attempt to resolve the Iraq issue with the U.S. and Russia. The U.S. declines to participate in the talks when it is learned that Iraqi officials will be present. The U.K. represents the "coalition forces" at the talks, but nothing is resolved.

Additional USAF units deploy to Saudi Arabia to enforce the no-fly zone again beginning in April. The U.S. requests that all Russian observers be withdrawn from Iraq immediately, Russia responds that it is within its rights to support Iraq and demands that the U.S. cease all arms shipments to China. U.S. aircraft engage Iraqi aircraft over the Iran/Iraq border. Recent imports of Russian and French air defense systems and U.S. over confidence lead to over 25% losses on the U.S. side. Iraq responds with surprise air strikes on USAF bases in Saudi Arabia catching much of the 151st TFW on the ground. In support of US air-power, Israel launches a number of air strikes against Iraqi AD facilities. While the strikes do little to assist the USAF, Syria begins bombardment of Israeli settlements in the Golan heights and interdiction of Israeli air operations. The Saudi family requests that U.S. and U.K. forces withdraw from Saudi territory.

The Russian and French embassies in Tehran are attacked by students, several diplomats are killed along with several legionaries. France and Russia both break off diplomatic relations with Iran in response to the attacks. The National Emergency Council in Iran, in fear of several rebel factions and a possible Russian invasion, moves the capital from Tehran to Esfahan. The "Sao Palo" convention takes place which bring together U.S., Russian, French, Chinese and British diplomats to discuss the Iran/Iraq and Sino-Russian wars. After 2 weeks the U.S. delegation departs claiming that no compromise can be reached. The U.S. renews its demand that Iraq be disarmed. The U.S. issues an ultimatum to Iraq to cease all

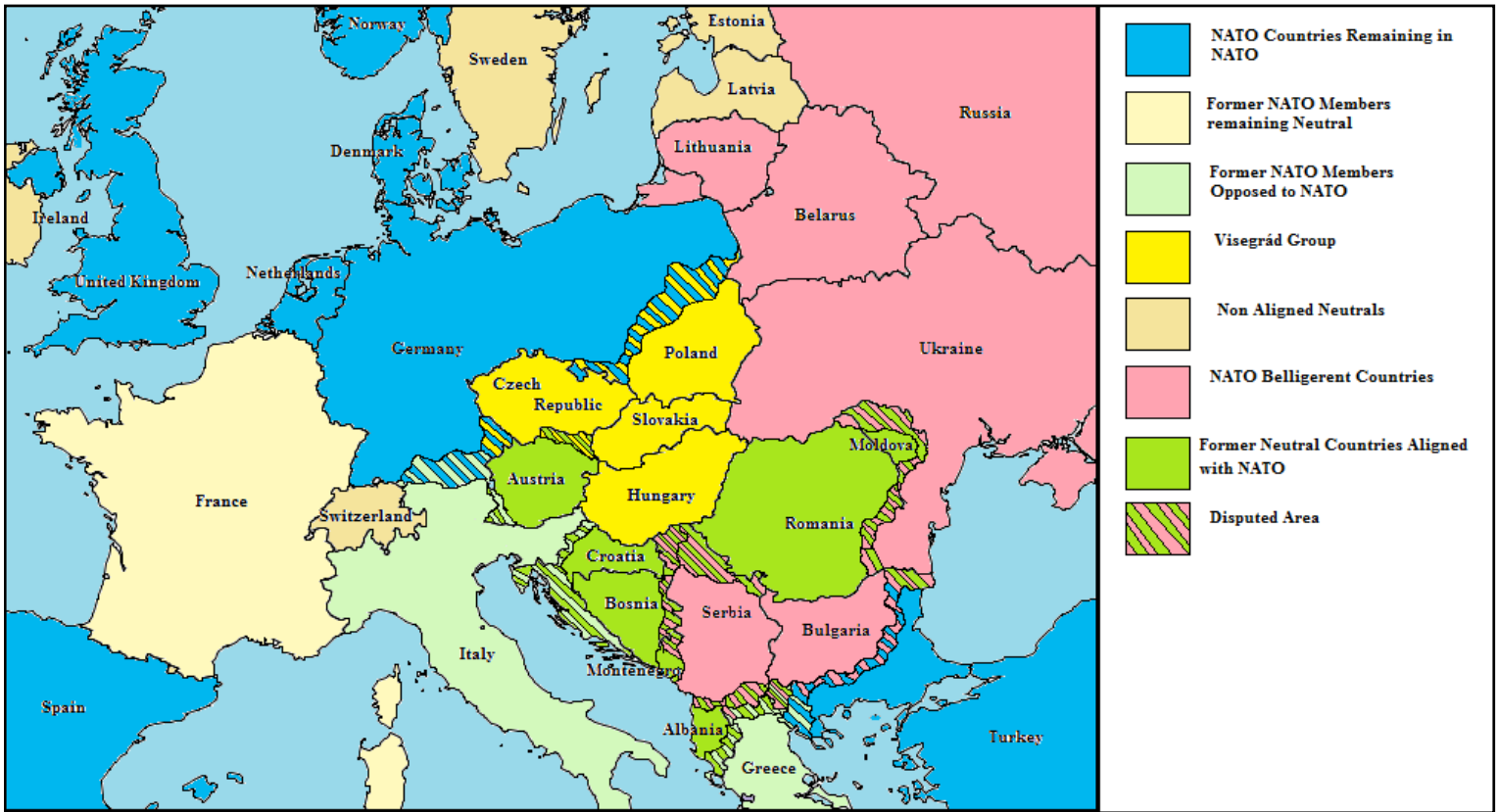
combat operations and increases the interdiction of Iraqi combat aircraft. Iraq claims that it would cease operations if its security would be guaranteed by the US and that the US would take action to prevent Iran's continued aggression. US 1st Marine division is deployed to Bandar Abbas in Iran to provide support for operations against Iraq. Marines are under strict orders to avoid contact with Russian forces in the north.

Iran manages to receive a number of TOW II missiles originally supplied to China for use against Russian forces. The U.S. and U.K. begin to covertly supply Iran with spare parts for its extensive collection of Shaw era western weaponry. Iran launches a renewed air offensive against the weakened Iraqis using western aircraft brought back into operation. The renewed attack catches the Iraqis off guard and Iran begins a slow advance across the Iraqi frontier. Supplies of munitions and parts flow freely from the U.S. into Iranian ports and the 2nd Marine Division is transferred to CENTCOM to form the core of the US XIV Corps. Iranian pilots begin advanced training on modern US aircraft in the UAE and Pakistan.

A new commander is appointed to the Russian Transcaucas Military District and a number of Category I units are transferred from Western Russia to the Caucasus. An Iranian attempt to recapture Tehran ends in failure when Spetsnaz units infiltrate Iranian military units. Iran declares war on Russia and calls on the U.S. for military aid. The Russians claim that they are only providing technical support to local insurgents.

The undersea warfare elements of the Russian North Banner Fleet deploy for the Persian Gulf. Russian Submarines become active in the Indian ocean shadowing cargo vessels and US surface combatants. US Convoy 102 is attacked by a Russian sub in the Persian Gulf, sinking 3 ships and crippling another; the nuclear guided missile cruiser USS Virginia sinks the sub.(USS Virginia completes 9 more convoys, damaged twice.) Russian forces move into northern Iran and strike at Terahan.

1997 GLOBAL NUCLEAR WAR



European Alignments, as of 1997

1997 General

On November 27th (Thanksgiving Day) President Clinton and Vice President Gore are killed by an accident during takeoff of the NEACP aircraft. On November 28th, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich is located on holiday in Georgia, moved to the nearest Presidential Emergency Facility and sworn in as the new President and immodestly declares a state of war and martial law.

1997 Far Eastern Theater-

India declares support for Russia in its ongoing campaign against China and begins moving units to the Tibetan border region. Pakistan voices its support for China in its war with Russia and also begins supplying Chinese arms to Iranian rebels. Sporadic fighting between Russian and Chinese forces over the Mongolian border continues as both sides dig in for the winter. The Russians transfer 4 Motorized Rifle divisions from the Far Eastern TVD to the Western TVD. China begins moving forces from the Mongolian Border Region in secret to the Xinxiang region in hopes of launching a spring offensive into Central Asia.

Before the spring thaw the PLA launches a massive invasion of Central Asia and crosses into Kazakhstan meeting little resistance. The PLA provides a thin force to hold the Mongolian line while the bulk of the PLA drives on Novosibirsk. Chinese forces reach the Russian border after 11 days of travel through Kazakhstan meeting only token resistance. Kazakhstan declares war on China but has

little in the way of armed forces remaining to stand up to China. Unable to match the Chinese with conventional forces, Kazakhstan begins strikes on PLA armored columns with tactical nuclear weapons. China is caught completely off guard by the response and assumes a nuclear attack by the Russians.

China begins deploying tactical nuclear weapons to the Mongolian and Central Asian Fronts. PLA units continue to advance towards Novosibirsk. Russia begins to redeploy forces from the Mongolian front to Central Asia. Russian forces withdraw from the front with the Chinese Army quickly following them. In an unprecedented use of nuclear force, Russian bombers destroy the Chinese 38th Army Group with over 100 tactical nuclear weapons.

With the Russian declaration of war against the US, UK, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany on April 8th, The British 6th Mechanized Division is transferred by air to Shenyang to the join the Chinese 31st Army. Once assembled the Chinese 31st army attacks North Korea while the US 8th Army launches an offensive towards the Yalu River. The 2nd Para Division of the 31st Chinese army launches a daring assault to capture Cho's an but is quickly surrounded by PRK forces. Following an amphibious assault at Sinuiju, the US 2nd Infantry Division relieves the surrounded airhead of the 2nd Chinese Parachute Division. The PRK army launches an offensive against the ROK assaulting US positions with tactical nuclear weapons. The 4th Marine Division suffers heavy casualties from tactical nuclear strikes and retreated from the front lines in Korea and the 25th Infantry Division (Light) suffers 6

attacks by tactical nukes and receives heavy casualties. The 3rd Marine Division manages a successful sealift back to Japan but the 25th Infantry Division is overrun and disintegrates as it retires to Seoul.

1997 European Theater-

On Wednesday, January 1st Parliament in the U.K. forms a "War Government" by merging elements of the Conservative and Labor parties. U.S. Congress appropriates over \$200 Billion in additional defense funds to cover the "European Crisis". At the same time the Dutch I Leger Korps moves into Germany to engage Eastern Bloc forces surrounding Berlin. In an attempt to dislodge Polish forces from Berlin, the U.S. 4th Marine Division is deployed for an amphibious assault against northeastern Poland. The assault is successful and the siege of Berlin is lifted as the last Polish Mechanized units are recalled to defend Poland itself.

After disengaging from Polish forces surrounding Berlin, British forces reach Frankfurt-an-Oder on the Polish border. They enter the city, but are unable to seize the bridges over the Oder before they are demolished by Polish engineers. Elements of the 1st US Cavalry

After the accidental attack on Russian border guards, Russia demands and apology from the US and a complete withdrawal of NATO forces from Poland and the Czech Republic. The US expresses regret over the incident but refuses to withdraw. Less than a week later US Rangers engage in a firefight with Russian border guards, mistaken as Poles, after accidentally crossing the Bug river. The entire Russian patrol is killed in the engagement without losses to the Americans. Russian Border Guards undertake a raid on the US listing post on the West bank of the Bug River. The Russians claim the attack was accidental but indicative of the types of accidents that may continue to occur. All US diplomats are expelled from Russia as Russia breaks off diplomatic relations with the US. The Russians retain a consular office in London to keep communications with NATO open. The Russian Republic presents an ultimatum that unless all NATO Forces are withdrawn west of the Vistula by April 15th a state of war will exist between Russia and the remaining members of NATO.

The NATO advance halts in order to consolidate forces and resupply logistics networks. NATO expects Poland to sue for peace and does not desire a fight for Warsaw or Lodz. NATO launches Operation Advent Crown and the German 3rd Army crosses the frontier into Poland near Gorlitz and advances up the Oder River while the German 2nd Army drives up the Baltic coast. The final stage of the operation is a drive by the German 1st Army, with British 1st Corps, through central Poland. In response to Operation "Advent Crown" Russia issues a declaration of war against the US, UK, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany. Following the declaration of War Russian frontal aviation initiates a massive bombing campaign against NATO units in Poland. Particularly hard hit is the German 2nd Army as the Russians achieve local air superiority. Russian Spetznaz, paratroops and Naval Infantry converge on Hamburg.

Warsaw is surrounded by NATO forces, including British 1st Corps; the city begins to prepare for siege. NATO advance elements close on the Russian-Polish border, continuing the siege of Warsaw. On Wednesday, July 9th the 1st German Army enters Russian territory. In response, the Russian Army begins to use tactical nukes, their first

and British 8th Armored Divisions cross into Poland in the wake of a massive bombing campaign; as a result Polish forces begin a general withdrawal to the Vistula river. Czech units are also withdrawn in an orderly fashion while Hungarian and Bulgarian forces are hastily pulled back to engage the Turks and Romanians. Eastern Bloc forces disengage from NATO units throughout the central front in an attempt to consolidate their remaining forces. Poland and the Czech Republic begin mobilizing their home guard units and begin air operations from unprepared airstrips and highways.

Austrian and German units reach Prague in the south while US, British and Dutch forces close in on Warsaw in the North. Both Poland and the Czech Republic call on the Ukraine and Belorussia for aid. German and Austrian officials begin talks on the formation of a single post-war German state consisting of Germany, Austria and portions of Poland and the Czech Republic. The talks come as a shock to the British and Dutch. France lodges an official protest. Polish and Czech forces dig in for a final stand against NATO. Both countries begin mobilizing "Rifle Divisions" which are poorly armed, foot mobile units and barely more than partisans in Cold War era uniforms.

targets being Bialystok, Poland and Harbin, China; NATO follows suit. Russians counteroffensive begins with the Battle of Brest where the 1st German Army is hit by the 3rd Guards and 8th Guards TDs. Russian 1st Tank Division redeployed from China to Poland.

US and British units begin a rapid flanking movement through northern Finland, but are severely hampered by Finnish troops. The Norwegian 13th Independent Mountain Brigade is heavily damaged in the failed NATO offensive. 1st Royal Marine Brigade and 4th Marine Amphibious Brigade withdrawn from Norway into Germany. Emboldened by the failure of the NATO push in the north, the Russians attempt to move through Finland but find the country as inhospitable to their troops as they were to NATO. The front stabilizes. Some British units are withdrawn from Norway for reassignment to Iran. Norwegian front stabilizes, and the Canadian 1st Infantry Brigade is withdrawn to Canada.

The 6th Infantry Division moved from Norway to Poland and comes under command of I Corps. German troops begin to withdraw from Silesia. The first of Eastern Bloc troops from the Chinese front enter Europe. British forces halt the Italian drive through Germany. Siege of Warsaw is lifted by the Eastern Bloc. NATO tactical missiles strike Byelorussia and the Ukraine, hitting Kiev, Lvov and Odessa, severely weakening the Russians' attempts to build up the western front. NATO forces withdraw from Poland, enacting a scorched earth policy. 6 tactical nuclear airbursts strikes are made over Warsaw to slow the Eastern Bloc forces and cripple the road and communication networks, Trident II missiles fired from a British sub. 2 other missiles hit military targets to the South East. Czech and Italian forces drive into Bavaria. NATO forces retreat from Warsaw; suffer heavy casualties from tactical nuclear strikes. An American cruise missile with a 150 kt warhead hits Czestochowa, Poland, turning it into smoking rubble. The 4th Marine Amphibious Brigade is moved south to the Baltic Sea and disbanded, reverting to 2nd Marine Division control along with the 6th Marine Regiment.

NATO begins a massive mine laying campaign in the Greenland-Iceland-UK gap. Unbenounced to NATO, the majority of Russian submarines have already been deployed outside the GIUK gap. The supertanker "Universe Carolina", en route to Boston, is sunk by a

Russian Alpha class attack submarine, it Last known Russian submarine in the Atlantic is sunk; US Subron 9 is switched to advanced scouting for the 2nd Fleet. USS New Jersey, in gun battle off of Grenada, sinks Russian battle cruiser that had operated in south Atlantic. Threat of commerce raiders reduced significantly.

1997 Balkan Theater-

The Turkish 1st Army advances rapidly through Bulgaria and links up with Romanian units by the end of January. Italian Forces reach Novi Pazar in Serbia after securing the province of Kosovo. After desperate fighting the Serbian forces manage to beat back the Croatian and Bosnian armies. Partisan activity in Italian held Serbia increases dramatically.

After a series of Greek riots on Cyprus claim a number of Turkish lives, the Turkish 2nd amphibious brigade lands on Cyprus. Additional forces are brought in by air and by the end of the month Turkish forces occupy most of the island. Bulgaria and Hungary initiate diplomatic talks with Turkey to end the conflict in the Balkans. Turkey is receptive to their offers as the Greeks become more and more insistent on a Turkish withdrawal from Thrace and Cyprus. Greek mechanized and Mountain units attack Turkish forces occupying Thrace. Neither nation withdraws from NATO but both call on NATO to assist in the defense of its borders. When NATO refuses to come to the aid of the Greeks, Greece pulls out of the organization all together. Continued partisan activity in occupied Serbia slowly wears down Italian forces and by the end of February the guerilla war is heating up. Serbian partisans also conduct punitive raids into Croatia and Bosnia.

Greece begins a naval blockade of Turkey in the declaring it a Military Exclusion Zone and stating that all ships entering Turkish ports will be subject to attack. Greek naval units depart to attack Istanbul. Numerous US and British ships are sunk within the Mediterranean MEZ. Although the Greeks institute the MEZ, Russian submariners use the cover of the Greeks to inflict losses on NATO merchant shipping acting in a sea-lift capacity to supply forces in the Persian Gulf. NATO convoy of fast transports and cargo ships, accompanied by a strong covering force, attempts to run the Greek blockade to the Turkish port of Izmir. Light fleet elements of the Greek navy savage the convoy in the night and escape relatively unharmed. NATO carriers launch air strikes against Greek naval bases.

Russians halt the Turkish drive through Bulgaria while Italian airmobile and alpine units cross passes into Tyrolia. Italian mechanized forces enter southern Germany, the advanced elements combating German forces in Munich. Czech and Italian forces begin a renewed offensive in southern Germany.

In an attempt to capture the Russian 42nd Guards Tank Division spearheads the Ploesti campaign in Romania, destroying the Romanian forces routed by nukes. Russian and Bulgarian forces begin a major offensive against the Turks, using tactical nukes to break the stalemate. Greek and Albanian forces invade Serbia, and the Serbian Army begins to break up.

1997 Strategic Nuclear Strikes-

Wednesday, July 09, 1997

- Yining, PRC
- Urumqui, PRC
- Shihezi, PRC
- Yumen, PRC
- Harbin, PRC
- Bialystok, Poland

Thursday, September 18, 1997

- Kiev, Ukraine
- Donetsk, Ukraine
- Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine
- Odessa, Ukraine
- Lvov, Belarus
- Minsk, Belarus

Monday, September 22nd, 1997

- Amsterdam, Holland
- Vienna, Austria
- Minsk, Belarus
- Brussels, Belgium
- Antwerp, Belgium
- Warsaw, Poland
- Wrocław, Poland
- Poznań, Poland
- Gdańsk, Poland
- Szczecin, Poland

- Bydgoszcz, Poland
- Berlin, Germany
- Hamburg, Germany
- München, Germany
- Köln, Germany
- Frankfurt, Germany
- Stuttgart, Germany

Sunday, October 12, 1997

- Nuremberg, Germany
- Bremen, Germany
- Saarbrücken, Germany
- Athens, Greece
- Thessaloniki, Greece
- Budapest, Hungary
- Milan, Italy
- Naples, Italy
- Turin, Italy
- Riga, Latvia
- Rotterdam, Holland
- The Hague, Holland
- Katowice, Poland
- Sofia, Bulgaria
- Prague, Czech Republic
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Helsinki, Finland
- Czestochowa, Poland

Thursday, November 27th, 1997

(Thanksgiving Day)

- Jacksonville, USA
- Tampa, USA
- Pensacola, USA
- Cape Kennedy, USA
- Miami, USA
- Washington D.C., USA
- NORAD HQ, USA
- Offut AFB, USA
- Fort Meade, USA
- Corpus Christy, USA
- London, UK
- Dover, UK
- Southampton, UK
- Aldershot, UK
- Grangemouth, UK
- Milford Haven, UK
- Gibraltar, UK
- Oslo, Norway
- Haakonsvern, Norway
- Ramsund, Norway
- Olavsvern, Norway
- Horten, Norway