Negative Brief: Freeze Ukraine Aid

By “Coach Vance” Trefethen

AFF Plan freezes US aid to Ukraine at current level, with the hope that it will expire in a few years and go away on its own. AFF argues that US aid to Ukraine is diverting US military resources away from more urgent needs that threaten US national defense, like Taiwan.

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Negative: Freeze Ukraine Aid

TOPICALITY

1. Freeze isn't reform

Freezing Status Quo levels of aid is the exact opposite of significant reform

It's a very strange Affirmative position to claim that their plan is to freeze the Status Quo exactly as it is and enforce a rule that it cannot change. The resolution says they have to significantly reform something. Keeping the Status Quo is Negative territory. When the Affirmative comes out endorsing the Status Quo and insisting it must not be changed, you have two Negative teams in this debate round.

Impact: Negative ballot

If there are effectively two Negative teams in the round, then no matter who wins, you should write "Negative" on the ballot.

2. Aid to Taiwan is extra-topical

Taiwan isn't in Europe, so Affirmative cannot divert any military resources there

Affirmative cannot put into their plan that resources from Ukraine are sent to Taiwan instead. They can change policy toward Ukraine, and we wish they would actually propose a plan to do that so we could debate it. But they can't send even $1 of anything to Taiwan because Taiwan isn't a country in Europe

Impact: No solvency for Taiwan

Affirmative cannot claim any advantages from anything in Taiwan because they can't do anything for Taiwan. Their plan has to stop at the boundaries of Europe and so does their solvency.

GOAL RESPONSE - "Responsible policy"

Dropping commitment to Taiwan would be the responsible policy

Dr. Ted Galen Carpenter 2019 (contributing editor to both the National Interest and American Conservative, serves on the editorial boards of Mediterranean Quarterly and the Journal of Strategic Studies. Ph.D. in U.S. diplomatic history from University of Texas.) 8 June 2019 “Forget the U.S.-China Trade War: Is a Conflict Over Taiwan the Real Threat?” <https://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/forget-us-china-trade-war-conflict-over-taiwan-real-threat>

Washington has a vague but very real commitment under the Taiwan Relations Act to protect the island’s security. Both Congress and the Trump administration seem to be drifting toward boosting the traditional level of U.S. support in response to Beijing’s escalating pressure on Taiwan. The danger is growing that the TRA’s paper security commitment may be put to a real‐​world test. U.S. leaders and the American people need to ask themselves whether they are really willing to risk war with a nuclear‐​armed power to protect Taiwan. The prudent answer clearly should be “no.”

INHERENCY

1. Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act (TERA) - signed into law in Dec 2022 - solves for Taiwan in Status Quo

Lessons of Ukraine war are being used to strengthen US assistance to Taiwan's defense under TERA

Lt. Commander Omer Duru 2023. (US Navy Judge Advocate General Corps, currently pursuing Master of Laws degree at Harvard Law School) 15 Mar 2023 "Logistical Lessons From Ukraine—and What It Means for Taiwan" (accessed 21 Apr 2023) https://www.lawfareblog.com/logistical-lessons-ukraine%E2%80%94and-what-it-means-taiwan

In a showing of bipartisan support, U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) and Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-S.C.) [led the effort](https://www.foreign.senate.gov/press/dem/release/chairman-menendez-announces-historic-inclusion-of-taiwan-legislation-in-annual-defense-bill) to dramatically enhance the U.S.-Taiwan defense partnership with passage of the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act (TERA). Incorporated into the [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023](https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr7776/BILLS-117hr7776enr.pdf), TERA was signed into law on Dec. 23, 2022.   
**END QUOTE. THEY GO ON LATER IN THE ARTICLE TO WRITE QUOTE:**  
The provision of military assistance to Ukraine highlights the importance of pre-positioned munitions stockpiles that can be accessed quickly. The U.S. and its allies were able to provide an unprecedented amount of military assistance to Ukraine in response to Russia’s aggression because of these stockpiles and a logistics network capable of quickly delivering materiel to the Ukrainian armed forces. TERA authorizations, and the Defense Department’s efforts to establish a regional logistics network in support of Taiwan’s defense, are directly informed by these lessons.  Providing support to the island of Taiwan will require much more forward planning prior to the outbreak of conflict, as the delivery through contested waters or airspace will present new operational challenges. To deter Chinese aggression and prepare for potential conflict, the Defense Department is already shaping the battlespace to prepare the logistical network needed to support Taiwan’s defense. The State Department, armed with congressional authorization in TERA, has what will likely be the first tranche of increased appropriated funds to provide military assistance and support to further develop the Taiwanese porcupine—potentially to a level sufficient to deter Chinese aggression.

TERA is creating new stockpiles of material for Taiwan

Lt. Commander Omer Duru 2023. (US Navy Judge Advocate General Corps, currently pursuing Master of Laws degree at Harvard Law School) 15 Mar 2023 "Logistical Lessons From Ukraine—and What It Means for Taiwan" (accessed 21 Apr 2023) https://www.lawfareblog.com/logistical-lessons-ukraine%E2%80%94and-what-it-means-taiwan

Sections 5502 and 5503 of TERA create new regional contingency stockpile authorities for the purpose of supporting Taiwan’s defenses. Per Section 5502(d), up to $100 million per fiscal year from 2023 to 2032 is authorized for the purpose of maintaining a regional contingency stockpile. Additionally, Section 5503(c)’s treatment of Taiwan as a [major non-NATO ally](https://www.state.gov/major-non-nato-ally-status/) will further expedite its access to defense articles currently available in Defense Department stockpiles. As demonstrated by the conflict in Ukraine, having access to large ammunition stockpiles is crucial for successful territorial defense and the ability to launch counterattacks. The creation of a new regional contingency stockpile, authorized under TERA, will provide Taiwan with access to a pre-positioned resource that is essential for the rapid and sustained execution of the porcupine strategy in the event of cross-strait aggression.

2. Philippines Agreement

US agreement with Philippines is increasing protection of Taiwan in Status Quo

Lt. Commander Omer Duru 2023. (US Navy Judge Advocate General Corps, currently pursuing Master of Laws degree at Harvard Law School) 15 Mar 2023 "Logistical Lessons From Ukraine—and What It Means for Taiwan" (accessed 21 Apr 2023) https://www.lawfareblog.com/logistical-lessons-ukraine%E2%80%94and-what-it-means-taiwan

The Defense Department has taken steps recently to improve the U.S.’s logistical ability to provide military assistance to Taiwan and confront China’s increasingly bellicose rhetoric. On Feb. 2, the U.S. and the Philippines [struck an agreement](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/01/world/asia/philippines-united-states-military-bases.html) to allow the U.S. to station military equipment and use basing facilities in four new locations in the Philippines. This agreement marks an important expansion of the previously agreed-upon security cooperation framework—the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement of 2014, which now gives the U.S. access to a total of nine bases in the Philippines.

3. A/T "Shortages of US weapons exported to Ukraine"

Contract was awarded to buy replacement Stingers in May 2022

Jen Judson & Joe Gould 2022 (journalists) 27 May 2022 DEFENSE NEWS "US Army signs deal to backfill Stingers sent to Ukraine" (accessed 14 Nov 2022) https://www.defensenews.com/land/2022/05/27/us-army-signs-deal-to-backfill-stingers-sent-to-ukraine/

The U.S. Army has awarded a $624.6 million contract to Raytheon Technologies to [build Stinger anti-aircraft missiles](https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2022/05/11/stinger-shortcut-us-army-seeks-special-funding-for-missile-supply-chain/) to restock its own supply after sending roughly 1,400 Stingers to Ukraine to bolster the nation’s defense against the Russian invasion.

Javelin replacement contract was awarded Sept 13, 2022

US Dept of Defense 2022. 15 Sept 2022 " Javelin Replacement Contract Awarded" (accessed 15 Nov 2022) https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3159196/javelin-replacement-contract-awarded/

The Army awarded a production contract for $311 million on Sep. 13 to the Javelin Joint Venture (JJV) between Raytheon Missiles and Defense and Lockheed Martin for delivery of more than 1,800 Javelins that will serve as replenishment for those rounds from DoD stocks sent to Ukraine in support of their military and security forces.  "This award is a great example of our continued commitment to strengthening our domestic industrial base while supporting our allies and partners,” Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment William A. LaPlante said. “As we use various authorities to replenish our own stocks, industry can expect a strong, persistent demand signal.” This procurement is part of the Ukraine Supplemental appropriation.

Javelin & Stinger replacements will be completed quickly: 18 months

Jen Judson & Joe Gould 2022 (journalists) 27 May 2022 DEFENSE NEWS "US Army signs deal to backfill Stingers sent to Ukraine" (accessed 14 Nov 2022) https://www.defensenews.com/land/2022/05/27/us-army-signs-deal-to-backfill-stingers-sent-to-ukraine/

New contracts to replace Javelin and Stingers sent from U.S. stockpiles were expected to be finalized earlier in the month — a very rapid pace for the Army, its acquisition chief, Douglas Bush, told lawmakers in recent congressional testimony. However, the timeline to replace the service’s Javelins could take 18 months, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said in separate testimony.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. Ukraine aid doesn't harm US national security

Pentagon says exports to Ukraine aren't harming US military readiness

Jen Judson & Joe Gould 2022 (journalists) 27 May 2022 DEFENSE NEWS "US Army signs deal to backfill Stingers sent to Ukraine" (accessed 14 Nov 2022) https://www.defensenews.com/land/2022/05/27/us-army-signs-deal-to-backfill-stingers-sent-to-ukraine/

Earlier this month, Pentagon spokeswoman Jessica Maxwell reiterated that the department has been able to send Ukraine its weapons “without affecting military readiness, and we still have the necessary inventory for our needs.” “We are continuing to work with industry to replenish U.S. inventories and backfill stocks of allies and partners, and we’ve requested additional resources from Congress through the supplemental bill to continue this work,” she said in a statement.

2. No imminent Chinese threat to Taiwan

China is uncertain about whether they can attack Taiwan successfully, so they will avoid intervention

*Retired U.S. Navy Admiral James Stavridis 2022 (vice chairman for global affairs and a managing director at private equity firm The Carlyle Group. He previously served as supreme allied commander of NATO and dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts Univ.) 1 Nov 2022 "*Ukraine war will make China think twice about invading Taiwan" (accessed 21 Apr 2023) https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/Ukraine-war-will-make-China-think-twice-about-invading-Taiwan

Over the longer term, China may become more confident in its military as its forces accrue more and better hardware, perhaps conduct more out-of-area military operations and build a sustainable network of overseas bases like the U.S. enjoys today. Beijing will harden its critical supply chains. And it is closely following events in Taiwan, seeking to find clues as to the willingness of the Taiwanese to fight. All remain uncertainties today. So, for now, until leaders gain more knowledge in all three areas, the view from Beijing, given the level of uncertainty of the outcome, will be one of avoiding military intervention against Taiwan.

3. No, Russia is not "losing the war"

Ukraine war is a stalemate - no one is winning and there's no end in sight

Eugene Rumer 2023 (former national intelligence officer for Russia and Eurasia at the U.S. National Intelligence Council, is a senior fellow and the director of Carnegie Endowment for Peace’s Russia and Eurasia Program)17 Feb 2023 " Putin’s War Against Ukraine: The End of The Beginning" (accessed 21 Apr 2023) https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/02/17/putin-s-war-against-ukraine-end-of-beginning-pub-89071

The war continues with no end in sight. Neither side is ready to negotiate. Both are preparing to launch major offensives in the near future. Neither side has achieved a major breakthrough in recent months that would change the course of the war. Whereas Russia’s failure to win in a blitzkrieg prompted [many](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/03/west-strategy-against-russia-ukraine-war/629387/) [predictions](https://samf.substack.com/p/assessing-war-commentary) of Ukraine’s imminent victory, [lately](https://www.cnbc.com/2023/01/22/top-us-spy-agency-says-more-security-assistance-from-allies-is-crucial-for-ukraine-to-prevail.html) the [commentary](https://www.ft.com/content/f320559c-2e59-426d-86af-31c24d790e0e) has been about a [stalemate](https://www.ft.com/content/f320559c-2e59-426d-86af-31c24d790e0e).

Affirmative Plan Advocate: Vladimir Putin. He hopes the West will lose patience and curtail support so he can later take over Ukraine. Vote Affirmative if you agree with him!

Eugene Rumer 2023 (former national intelligence officer for Russia and Eurasia at the U.S. National Intelligence Council, is a senior fellow and the director of Carnegie Endowment for Peace’s Russia and Eurasia Program)17 Feb 2023 " Putin’s War Against Ukraine: The End of The Beginning" (accessed 21 Apr 2023) https://carnegieendowment.org/2023/02/17/putin-s-war-against-ukraine-end-of-beginning-pub-89071

From Putin’s perspective this is likely to be a viable strategy for the next phase of the war. He faces little pressure at home from a docile public mostly [approving](https://www.levada.ru/) of his handling of the situation in general, [supportive](https://www.levada.ru/2023/02/02/konflikt-s-ukrainoj-otsenki-yanvarya-2023-goda/) of the war, and accepting of the [narrative](https://twitter.com/francis_scarr/status/1626207811641266178) the Kremlin has used to justify it. The Russian leader is probably betting that Ukraine will eventually be unable to endure a true war of attrition and that the West will lose patience with it and curtail its support for Ukraine. A change in strategy, however, does not mean a change in Russian war aims. Ukraine, not Donbas, is the prize.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Death & Destruction in Ukraine

Link & Brink: Now is critical time to increase delivery of weapons to Ukraine so they can win the war

Prof. Kristina Hook 2022 (*Assistant Professor of Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University’s School of Conflict Management, Peacebuilding, and Development and a former US Fulbright scholar to Ukraine*) " Ukraine is winning but needs weapons to end Russia’s genocidal occupation" (accessed 14 Nov 2022) https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraine-is-winning-but-needs-weapons-to-end-russias-genocidal-occupation/

Ukraine’s stunning counteroffensive success in the Kharkiv region has provided conclusive proof that the Ukrainian Armed Forces are more than capable of defeating Russia on the battlefield. Now is the time to end the war by providing Ukraine with everything necessary to consolidate these gains and secure a decisive victory. Victory requires a coordinated, multifaceted, and long-term approach with economic, diplomatic, humanitarian, and logistical support all needed in order to bolster the Ukrainian transition to NATO-standard weaponry. Above all, this means a full commitment by Ukraine’s [partners](https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3151901/contact-group-aids-ukraines-current-battle-looks-to-long-term-assistance/) to increase arms supplies to the country.

Impact: Genocide. Ukraine must win this war to prevent Russian genocide against their country

Prof. Kristina Hook 2022 (*Assistant Professor of Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University’s School of Conflict Management, Peacebuilding, and Development and a former US Fulbright scholar to Ukraine*) " Ukraine is winning but needs weapons to end Russia’s genocidal occupation" (accessed 14 Nov 2022) https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraine-is-winning-but-needs-weapons-to-end-russias-genocidal-occupation/

Many Ukrainians are also guided by their historical experience of previous genocidal campaigns waged by the Kremlin. Throughout the past eight years of Ukraine’s armed conflict with Russia, Ukrainians have repeatedly referenced the 1932-33 Holodomor famine to [underscore](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/vladimir-putins-war-to-crush-ukraine-is-part-of-a-long-kremlin-tradition/) that “Russia [past and present](https://thesocietypages.org/holocaust-genocide/the-holodomor-and-the-russian-ukrainian-conflict-history-repeating/) is threatened by an independent, prosperous, and democratic Ukraine.” While Ukrainians view their current fight against Russian imperialism as part of a [centuries-long](https://twitter.com/avalaina/status/1532738139520917509) struggle, one critical distinction separates today’s brutal war from earlier atrocities. Whereas the international community largely ignored the 1930s Soviet genocide, Ukraine now enjoys overwhelming backing from the democratic world. This could well prove decisive. History [indicates](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/ukraine/why-russias-war-ukraine-genocide) that genocidal campaigns typically end either in the total victory of the perpetrators or the victims, with external support often playing a decisive role. Efforts to find “middle ground” or promote negotiated settlements in such situations do not last or protect victims.

Voting Impact: Any other choice besides arming Ukraine is morally repugnant

Prof. Kristina Hook 2022 (*Assistant Professor of Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University’s School of Conflict Management, Peacebuilding, and Development and a former US Fulbright scholar to Ukraine*) " Ukraine is winning but needs weapons to end Russia’s genocidal occupation" (accessed 14 Nov 2022) https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraine-is-winning-but-needs-weapons-to-end-russias-genocidal-occupation/

The achievements of Ukraine’s counteroffensive should be sufficient to silence the skeptics who continue to question the value of arming the country. Likewise, the accompanying scenes of liberation should be enough to convince advocates of appeasement that condemning Ukrainians to Russian occupation is morally repugnant. Now is the moment for the international community to consolidate its support for Ukraine and deal a decisive military blow to Russia’s genocidal invasion.

2. US national security & hegemony

Link: Increased weapons exports are key to defeating Russia in the Ukraine war

Cross-apply the link & brink cards in DA-1

Link: The Ukraine war is about control of the existing world order

Oleksii Reznikov 2022 (Ukraine Minister of Defense) 23 Aug 2022 "A strong Ukraine is the best solution to Europe’s Russia problem" (accessed 15 Nov 2022) https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/a-strong-ukraine-is-the-best-solution-to-europes-russia-problem/

The current war is not just about Ukraine. It is a struggle to determine who gets to set the rules the whole world will live by. The confrontation actually began eight years ago with the Russian occupation of Crimea. This year’s full-scale invasion marked a major escalation in Russia’s ongoing campaign to wipe Ukraine off the political map of Europe and undermine the foundations of the existing world order.

Impact: Decline into anarchy with loss of life, money and freedom, if China or Russia gains global hegemony in place of the U.S.

Dr. Robert Kagan 2017. (PhD in American history; Stephen & Barbara Friedman Senior Fellow - [Foreign Policy](https://www.brookings.edu/program/foreign-policy/), [Project on International Order and Strategy](https://www.brookings.edu/project/project-on-international-order-and-strategy/) at Brookings Institution) 6 Feb 2017 ‘Backing into World War III” (accessed 15 Nov 2022) <https://www.brookings.edu/research/backing-into-world-war-iii/>

Think of two significant trend lines in the world today. One is the increasing ambition and activism of the two great revisionist powers, Russia and China. The other is the declining confidence, capacity, and will of the democratic world, and especially of the United States, to maintain the dominant position it has held in the international system since 1945. As those two lines move closer, as the declining will and capacity of the United States and its allies to maintain the present world order meet the increasing desire and capacity of the revisionist powers to change it, we will reach the moment at which the existing order collapses and the world descends into a phase of brutal anarchy, as it has three times in the past two centuries. The cost of that descent, in lives and treasure, in lost freedoms and lost hope, will be staggering.

3. Taiwan policy mistake

Link: AFF wants to increase US support for Taiwan

Somehow. They don't ever come out and tell us specifically what happens, but somehow the US increases its ability or commitment to Taiwan post-plan. But that's bad because…

Link: US weapons discourage progress on peaceful reunification of Taiwan & China

Bobby Naderi 2019 (He is a journalist, current affairs commentator, documentary filmmaker and member of the Writers Guild of Great Britain.) 8 June 2019 “The U.S. should stop showing its flag in Taiwan Strait” <https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d514e3459544d35457a6333566d54/index.html>

Sending more arms will foment insecurity and distrust. It won't encourage the political class in Taipei to sit down for talks with Beijing to find a solution to the long-drawn-out dispute over the legal and political statuses of the island.

Impact: The risks of supporting Taiwan are massive: Global economic collapse and nuclear war with China

Prof. Hugh White 2015 (Professor of Strategic Studies in the School of International, Political & Strategic Studies at the Australian National Univ. Served as an intelligence analyst with the Office of National Assessments; from 1995 to 2000 he was Deputy Secretary for Strategy and Intelligence.) 5 May 2015 “Will America defend Taiwan?” <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/will-america-defend-taiwan>

US leaders must therefore ask what happens if Beijing does not back down as a crisis escalates. At what point would they back down instead? What would be the damage to US global leadership if Washington brought on a confrontation with China and then blinked first? What could happen if Washington didn't blink first? Is Taiwan's status quo worth a global economic collapse? It is worth a real risk of nuclear war with China?

Commitment to Taiwan risks dragging the US into a broader war with China

Enea Gjoza 2019 (fellow at Defense Priorities and a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.) 11 June 2019 “The US Wants to Sell Taiwan the Wrong Weapons” <https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2019/06/us-wants-sell-taiwan-wrong-weapons/157630/?oref=d1-related-article>

The United States is in negotiations to sell Taiwan $2 billion in weapons, a move sure to upset Beijing. Ensuring that Taiwan can credibly deter an invasion on its own is a worthy goal. Given the existing, if ambiguous, U.S. security commitment to the ROC, a conflict in the Taiwan Strait risks drawing the United States into a broader war with China. However, this weapons package fails to materially improve Taiwan’s defenses and continues to saddle the United States with most of the (putative) defensive burden. A better approach is to push Taiwan to acquire more countermeasures to China’s naval and air forces, thereby increasing the cost of a Chinese invasion.

4. Weaker NATO allies

Our allies that we're supposedly leaving "vulnerable" will get even weaker when they learn we'll drop whatever we're doing to give them more aid, instead of learning to defend themselves

Link: Increased US defense motivates Europeans to slack off

Doug Bandow 2022 (JD from Stanford; senior fellow at the Cato Institute; worked as special assistant to President Ronald Reagan ) 27 July 2022 "So If Europe Wants to Escalate against Russia Who Foots the Bill?" https://www.cato.org/commentary/so-europe-wants-escalate-against-russia-who-foots-bill (accessed 27 Aug 2022)

London earlier pledged that the UK would raise military outlays to 2.5 percent of GDP. Yet, [reported BBC](https://www.bbc.com/news/61984356), this year “the government is going to break the promise on defense spending that it made in its manifesto in 2019.” Even as [Prime Minister Boris Johnson](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nato-summit-2022-madrid-boris-johnson-defence-spending-5hpvk6g5m) pledged to do more, he “refused to increase defense spending this year, as ministers and the head of the army plead for more money to deal with the Russian threat.” This rejection came despite warnings by defense secretary Ben Wallace “that the armed forces were surviving on a ‘diet of smoke and mirrors.’” Elsewhere, Europe’s enthusiasm for building up its forces is also ebbing. After all, President Joe Biden has been rushing US forces, men and materiel, to Europe’s defense, proving that Washington will do what it always has done. Why should America’s defense clients put themselves out?

Link: Only way Europe will increase its defense capabilities is if the US stops defending them

Doug Bandow 2022 (JD from Stanford; senior fellow at the Cato Institute; worked as special assistant to President Ronald Reagan) 13 July 2022 "Europe Is Rich. So Why Does It Need America’s Help against Russia?" <https://www.cato.org/commentary/europe-rich-so-why-does-it-need-americas-help-against-russia> (accessed 27 Aug 2022)

A succession of presidents, secretaries of defense, and secretaries of state have asked, pleaded, insisted, whined, begged, and abased themselves in pressing the Europeans to do at least as much for themselves as the U.S. did. But continental governments took America’s measure, recognized that its foreign policy elite was determined to run the world irrespective of the cost to the American people, and would continue protecting Europe even if the Europeans disarmed completely. If so, Biden and company would express their disappointment … and then send more troops to cover the European shortfall! So the U.S. continues to provide defense welfare to its populous, prosperous “allies.” Instead of adding forces to Europe, Washington should be bringing American personnel home. Europe needs to decide if it believes Russia poses an existential threat and if so, take effective action accordingly. The only way that will happen is if Uncle Sam does less. Starting now.

Impact: Weaker European security. They're less secure when they rely on the US and we can't defend them in a crisis

Hans Binnendikj, Daniel Hamilton and Alexander Vershbow 2022. (Binnendiki - Distinguished Fellow at The Atlantic Council. Hamilton - Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution. Vershbow - Distinguished Fellow - The Atlantic Council. Former NATO Deputy Secretary General; former Assistant Secretary of Defense and former US Ambassador to NATO, Russia and S.Korea) Strategic responsibility: Rebalancing European and trans-Atlantic defense 24 June 2022 https://www.brookings.edu/articles/strategic-responsibility-rebalancing-european-and-trans-atlantic-defense/

China’s aggressive territorial claims in the South and East China Seas, and its threats to the integrity of Taiwan, present a real risk of conflict in the Indo-Pacific, including direct confrontation between China and the United States. In such a situation, critical sea lanes of communication, maritime shipping, and European commercial interactions with China, and with Asia more broadly, would be disrupted. The interests of various European allies in the Indo-Pacific would be at risk. Opportunities would also be created for Russia. U.S. forces might not be available to adequately reinforce European allies against a simultaneous Russian military challenge. The Europeans would need to quickly fill those gaps. They need to plan now how they would do so.

SOURCE INDICTMENTS

Col. John Mills: He spreads false claims about election fraud in Georgia that election officials of his own party say are untrue

Travis Waldron 2021. (journalist) HUFFINGTON POST 1 Nov 2021 "Glenn Youngkin’s Right-Wing Allies Are Ready To Claim Virginia’s Election Was Stolen" https://www.huffpost.com/entry/glenn-youngkin-donald-trump-amanda-chase-election-fraud\_n\_617ecfa1e4b03072d7059adf

Retired Col. John Mills, a former Trump administration official, suggested during one appearance that Democrats and election officials are working in concert to commit absentee ballot fraud in the county. “Fairfax is the Fulton County, Georgia, of Virginia,” Mills said on the Oct. 27 show, referring to the largest county in Georgia that was key to President Joe Biden’s 2020 victory in the state. Republicans have baselessly asserted that widespread mail-in ballot fraud occurred there in 2020, and have used those claims to justify a partisan [attempt to take over](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/georgia-voting-rights-democracy-jim-crow_n_6143cc4be4b08f5f38aeb8fb) the Fulton County election board. No such fraud actually took place in Fulton County or anywhere else in Georgia, a fact election reviews, hand recounts and the state’s Republican governor and secretary state have repeatedly confirmed. The basis for Fredericks’ and Mills’ claims, meanwhile, is a lawsuit that claims Fairfax County elections officials improperly accepted absentee ballots during the early voting period. A judge [dismissed the suit](https://wtop.com/fairfax-county/2021/10/judge-dismisses-lawsuit-claiming-fairfax-county-broke-absentee-ballot-rules/) on Friday.

Bad evidence: AFF's "Revolver News" quote is a tweet from someone named "Kim Dotcom", not a real news source, and they're just repeating an internet rumor they heard

It 's unqualified, not credible, and has no evidentiary value in a policy debate round. This is a quote from someone ashamed to even use their real name when they published it. This evidence should be discarded from the round and the harm of black market diversion should be dropped as well, since there's no credible evidence supporting it.

**[Below is a screen shot of the web page cited by the AFF]**

