

An Analysis of the Underlying Factors Behind the Security Mobilization and Escalating European War Rhetoric Against Russia

(Translated)

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Strategically, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has evolved into a major war between major powers—with Russia as a direct actor, the US and Europe operating from behind the scenes, and Ukraine serving as the theater of operations—making its strategic impact on the international landscape both critical and profound.

The US objective is to mire Russia in a quagmire to prevent a Sino-Russian alliance while simultaneously crippling Russia's military might. Furthermore, the US aims to make this conflict Europe's primary preoccupation, thereby isolating the continent from the international arena. Washington has sought to contain the conflict within specific limits—managing the level of its escalation—to avoid crossing the threshold into a full-scale war that would directly embroil NATO and the US.

Britain, meanwhile, views this war as a prime opportunity to reshuffle the international deck, realign forces, and reshape the global landscape to serve its own colonial ambitions. Its “poisoned generosity” in supporting Ukraine is designed to push the conflict to the brink of a major international war, driven by the hope of altering the global order and the balance of power to regain its lost colonial influence.

As for Europe—characterized by its current state of mobilization and escalating war rhetoric—it appears to be preparing for an imminent war and a sweeping offensive against Russia. This stance necessitates a careful analysis of the European scenario and the strategic and military posture of its member states, particularly key players such as Germany, France, and Italy. Despite the escalating war rhetoric and growing warnings regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict—specifically its transformation from a war within Ukraine into a European security crisis and its characterization as the gravest threat to European security in decades, alongside the recent rise in Russian airspace violations, acts of sabotage, cyberattacks, and hybrid activities targeting NATO and Europe—this European war rhetoric, however intense and strident, obscures the true motives, causes, and objectives behind it.

While Russia's war on Ukraine certainly poses a security threat to Europe, Russia is deeply mired in that conflict; Foreign Minister Lavrov has consistently and explicitly stated that Russia does not seek a war with Europe. Addressing the UN General Assembly on September 27, 2025, he declared that Russia “had no intention, and has no intention, of attacking NATO or the European Union,” noting that Putin had repeatedly refuted such accusations. On February 9, 2026, Lavrov stated, “We will not attack any part of Europe; we have no reason to do so.” Later, on September 16, 2026, in Yekaterinburg, he reiterated that Russia “does not intend to attack Western nations, nor does it have any interest in doing so”—a stance that Moscow has repeatedly affirmed. Furthermore, the increase in Russian hybrid activities—particularly within the European space adjacent to Russia—falls under the category of defense and reactions to Europe's growing support for Ukraine, rather than constituting an offensive against European states. Furthermore, European reports and intelligence assessments themselves refute the notion that this European military mobilization is a prelude to an imminent war between Europe and Russia. Official and institutional European reports identify the end of the current decade—specifically the 2029–2030 period—as a critical juncture regarding Russia's potential capability to threaten a NATO member state. It is important to note that these reports do not indicate that Russia will launch a military attack on Europe in 2030; rather, they generally discuss Russian military capabilities reaching a critical threshold or the acquisition of the option to wage war. In essence, they are analyses of the future state of Russian military power, not reports anticipating an imminent outbreak of war.

This raises the most important question: what lies behind the current security mobilization and escalating war rhetoric in Europe?

The explanation lies in a factor originating outside Europe—one of critical importance and significant risk to European strategic security: the United States. Specifically, there was the “Trump shock”—the withdrawal of the US security umbrella, the reneging on NATO

commitments, and the offloading of financial and military burdens onto Europe—a reality Europe experienced firsthand during the war in Ukraine.

This shock regarding reliance on the US was compounded by Europe's heavy dependence on American weaponry; military reliance reached a level where 64% of European arms imports—particularly in aviation—came from the United States.

Beneath the escalating war rhetoric lies the shock of the eroding US security umbrella and the dilemma of relying on American arms—supplies rendered uncertain by the volatility of US administrations, deep American political divisions, and the resulting impact on Europe, all of which exposed Europe's own strategic and military vulnerabilities.

The underlying aim and true objective of this European war rhetoric is to rebuild Europe's autonomous military, industrial, and technological capabilities. This entails massive, costly expenditures that place a heavy burden on society—all occurring amidst a stifling economic crisis, the decline of Europe's colonialist sphere and shrinking revenues, and rising public discontent.

Europe has come to view Russia's war on Ukraine as a historic opportunity to rebuild its military industry, advance its manufacturing and technology sectors, and pass the associated costs on to society—all justified by the existential security threat Russia poses to Europe.

Consequently, European defense spending has surged rapidly; core defense spending by European NATO members and Canada increased by approximately 20% in 2025 alone. While the threat posed by Russia is real, Europe's rearmament is also driven by strategic, military, industrial, political, and economic motives that exist independently of the magnitude of the direct Russian threat.

Then there is the China factor—specifically, the way Chinese industry and technology have flooded Europe, effectively turning it into a Chinese market. China's economic encroachment, fueled by its industrial overcapacity and output, has exacerbated Europe's trade deficit to €360 billion annually—representing 22.3% of total European imports. This has intensified Europe's industrial and technological dilemma, as China has made significant inroads into sectors such as electric vehicles, batteries, electronics, software, general technology, and green energy. In the second quarter of 2026 alone, EU imports from China reached €153.6 billion, accounting for 21.9% of imports from outside the bloc. Europe's crisis regarding China has been further aggravated by the erosion of its industrial base and damage to vital industrial sectors, driven by shrinking exports to China and rising imports from it. A prime example is the severe crisis facing Germany's crucial automotive industry: in July 2026 alone, German automotive production fell by 9.2%, with the sector losing over 109,000 jobs by the end of 2025. This situation has prompted the European Commission to speak out forcefully about the need to address these imbalances and ensure reciprocity in EU-China relations.

The primary cause of these imbalances lies in the decline and regression of European industries, alongside lagging innovation and development in technologies such as electric motors, chips, and software. The European Union and its core states view the rebuilding of their economies and the development of their industrial and technological infrastructure as a matter of paramount strategic necessity—essential to countering the Chinese offensive and mitigating military and technological dependence on the United States. The defense industry serves as the primary engine for this effort, acting as the fundamental laboratory and workshop for advancing European industry and technology.

Indeed, the “China factor”—and the challenges it poses—is a key driver behind this mobilization and the escalating rhetoric calling for the reconstruction and development of Europe's military, industrial, and technological capabilities.

Yet, rhetoric remains just that—rhetoric. The real challenge lies in practical action and the constraints imposed by the reality of a fragmented and disunited Europe: its divergent and conflicting strategic and colonial ambitions, its scattered efforts, its astronomical debt, and—above all—its cultural and civilizational bankruptcy. This is a knot that proves difficult, if not impossible, for Europe—and the West at large—to untie. These are the death throes of the West; no amulets or charms can avert the inevitable.