

2022-04-15

Friday Hard News Call

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, **organized** citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” **Margaret Mead**

<https://leandroherrero.com/the-missing-word-in-the-famous-margaret-mead-quote/>

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

- I ACCESS to THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet**
- II ACCESS to OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY WWW.rainbowroundtable.net**
- III OPENING MEDITATION; MAYAN CALENDAR; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST**
- IV HARD NEWS**

I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet

A BBS RADIO Go To www.bbsradio.com; click on “64K Listen”

* **Thursday: A Night at the Round Table Hosts: Panel Members**
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

* **Friday: Friday Night Hard News Hosts: Tara & Rama**
6 pm Pacific / 9 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: Access Code: 353 863#

* **Saturday: History of our Galactic World & NESARA Hosts: Tara & Rama**
1:30 pm Pacific / 4:30 pm Eastern

One Hour conference Call: 1-720 716 7301 – Access Code: 353 863#

Call to interact / ask questions:

Canada & US: STATION 2 1- 888-429-5471
Direct 1- 323-744-4841

B CALL-TO-LISTEN ONLY 1-804-220-6484

C Skype: BBSradio2

D Archives for the 3 Programs listed above:

- Go to *BBSRadio.com*; in first column, LHS, **FIND TALK SHOW**
- Enter *Friday Hard News*, press the GO button. You’ll be taken directly to **Hard News on Friday**; click on “**Archives**” which takes you to the listing of all program archives, the latest one being at the top.
- You can listen directly or download the program to your own computer.
- To listen directly, click on the arrow on the black bar.
- To download, go to **Episode MP3 link**. Then **right click** on the name **'hardnewsonfriday including the date'** and the drop down menu appears. Click on **'save link as'**

E Archives, written and audio, also exist on the rainbowroundtable website:
www.rainbowroundtable.net - look under the “Archives” tab for **written notes which include links to the entire podcast**, and **links to the audio recordings** of the conference calls

II TO ACCESS OTHER CALLS SUPPORTED BY RainbowRoundtable.net

A Sunday, Mondays: 9 – 10:30 EST Cheryl Croci's Activation Calls

By telephone only: 1-425-436-6260; PIN 9467 441#
B Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th of each month: *Ashtar on the Road; Ashtar Legacy Calls*
9:00 – 10:30 pm EST Host: Fran

<http://www.ashtarontheroad.com/ashtarteleconferences.html>

To access **by Phone:** • 1 – 559 – 726 – 1300; PIN 972400#
• Call is free [except for long distance charges]

via HD Conferencing:

• 712-770-4160; **PIN** # 980339 [always the same]

<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

via Skype Click on the **VOIP** button and enter what they ask for:

<https://www.freeconferencecallhd.com/hd-conferencing/>

C Wednesdays: 7:00 – 9:00 EST *The Friends of The Aboriginal Moabite Nation Call*
By telephone only: 1-712-432-0900 PIN 666238#
Replay# [good for 1 wk] 1-712-432-0990 PIN 66238#

D Every 2nd Wednesday *The Abundance Call - [Caroline Oceana Ryan](#)*
5:45 PM Pacific / 8:45 PM Eastern

60-minute conference call with the Collective,
a group of Angelic and Galactic beings, channeled by
[Caroline Oceana Ryan](#)

To be notified: email AscensionTimes@gmail.com with the message "YES to Abundance!"

III OPENING MEDITATION; HOUSEKEEPING; ACCESS TO PODCAST; MAYAN CALENDAR

A. Opening Meditation: Cheryl Croci [in Rainbird's absence]

B. Mayan Calendar / Record of Days: Rainbird

- **Go to** <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> – to locate specific days & lots more information: on the home page, you can find out what your Mayan signature is; while there, look and see where the wave began: that is the birth wave
- **to learn about the Mayan Calendar, Go to** <https://www.spacestationplaza.com> which will link you further to www.lawoftime.org website for further information.

15th Fri – 6 MANIK - Blue Rhythmic Hand – good way to do Good Friday, Passover
Healing Aspect. Healing Self and others; embrace our Divinity and the gift of being able to heal. Let go of procrastination

16th Sat – 7 LAMAT - Yellow Resonant Stargate – Visionary Aspect – Full Moon in Scorpio - Healing work with opening the stargate – let go of self-doubt.

17th Sun - 8 MULUC – Red Galactic Moon – Artist Aspect. EASTER SUNDAY. Accepting Spirit's direction. Remembering our past and why we came; Universal Mind is our mind. Let go of insensitivity, attachment.

18th Mon - 9 OC – White Solar Dog – Artist Aspect.

19th Tues – 10 CHUEN - Blue Planetary Monkey – magical aspect. Enjoy ourselves

20th Wed – 11 EB - Yellow Spectral Human – activating cosmic consciousness. Gift is human servant warrior -

21st Thur – 12 BEN – Red Crystal Skywalker – Warrior Aspect – gift of strength, ability to bend dimensions

22nd Fri – 13 IX – White Cosmic Wizard – Visionary Aspect – Earth Day – work with Jaquar medicine, let go

NO PORTAL DAYS !!!

This aligns with the astrology and wherever we are, we can be more as we align with the energies! It's powerful and we're coming into more powerful energies on the 21st

www.Spacestationplaza.co Click on the tzolkein – it's on page 2 of the link.

For even more information, SEE ALSO **the Law of Time.org**

This is not a 3rd dimensional calendar -

C. Housekeeping: RainBird

- Asking to **have more people contribute**, as some of the regular, long-term donors are stressed and stretched: **any and all small amounts are helpful and very welcome.**

BBS: 804-220-6484 PEOPLE CAN NOW PHONE IN TO LISTEN TO THE CALLS!!

- Listener-supported radio programs; program archives can be accessed
- The radio program costs \$300 per week. **\$421.10 by MONDAY.**
THANKS FOR ALL THE SUPPORT! ! ! Help us catch up . . .

- Go to BBSradio.com/Station2; find the listing for **Friday Hard News Call & Paypal** button
- BBS appreciates getting checks via the mail: no Paypal fees!
- The mailing address for those who do not like paying electronically:

- **B B S RADIO** [Please put "**Attention Don**" on the envelope]
58 N Marshside Pl [Note inside that it's for T & R calls
Spring, TX 77389 & the Thursday call, as well]

- **BBS archives can be accessed by everyone;** there are archives on www.rainbowroundtable.net. All are **free to access.**

T & R: Their full-time, life-time commitment is to be tuned in to what is really going on behind the artificial world we see around us. They don't ask for anything but they do require food, a home, gas for the car, and access to BBS Radio in order to compile and distribute this information to the world.

- Donations via Paypal button on the **homepage** www.rainbowroundtable.net
FOOD MONEY: VIA PAYPAL OR See the PAGE ON www.rainbowroundtable.net
Rama has a pride of 9 Paschats + 2 inside kitties + 2 HUMANS = 13 in total

BASICS: Food (Paschats; T & R); **car gas** - **\$ 300 FOR THIS WEEK**

BILLS: **\$ 215**

Extra: ---

RENT: **\$ 000**

BBS Radio: **\$ 300 by Monday**

- **Please notify T & R when sending something:** koran999@comcast.net

EVERY \$5 HELPS - ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

PLEASE MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO DONATE THIS MONTH

- **Rama's mailing address** for cheques, money orders: Ram D Berkowitz
PO Box 280
Santa Cruz, NM 87567

- **Remember you can book a session with Mother, as well!**

**** [www.rainbowroundtable.net /page/donate](http://www.rainbowroundtable.net/page/donate) ****

- Your donation supports an account set up for Tara & Rama with **Beneficial Farms Community Supported Agriculture in Santa Fe, NM**
- They continue to appreciate each & every donation received for food.
- Please continue to go to www.rainbowroundtable.net and link to their Paypal account: click on the word CHANGE; choose **family and friends option so Paypal takes off no fees.**

FREEMART: Rama and Tara are being helped by this account: they get their supplements there.

The returns also help www.rainbowroundtable.net

<https://www.shopfreemart.com/tarram> a/c # 7000

- all the products have much to offer, so take a look!
- Freemart is a private shoppers club; it's **FREE TO JOIN.**

Also, check out the heading called **READ MORE** for the good information it has

- <https://www.nugencoin.com/tarram>

D. Access to this week's Podcast

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/hard-news-friday-april-15-2022>

NOTE AGAIN: dial 1-804-220-6484 to listen to BBS Radio TV Station 2.

RAMA, TARA – HARD NEWS

R, T: Greetings to all! Thanks to Rainbird

Rainbird: talks about bunnies at the retreat she attended: bunnies represent going forward – there were lots to them and they only go forward; this is the message from **The Animals Speak**

T: the energies are constantly rising - we know everything is rigged! ! !

R: everything is part of an alternate reality: are we living in a simulated reality even though everything seems real?

There are other things going on – today, 3-4 huge solar flares – and cosmic rays coming in – these ones are messengers, as Patti Cota Robles

Rama Speaks: 2022-04-15 Friday Rosa From Palestine

I received a call from **Rosa From Palestine** at 12:05 pm this afternoon. She said to me, "Lord Rama, many worshippers who came to pray, some for Good Friday, others for Ramadan, were met with live bullets and smoke bombs from the IDF forces. More than 150* * * people were injured at Al Asqua Mosque, the Dome of the Rock. Just another day in The Empire. Where are Luke Skywalker and Hans Solo when we need them?"

"The solar flares are really going off today. Big stuff – X Class solar flares! Stay in High Vibes. Call in the Office of the Christ on this Good Friday. All we are saying is 'Give peace a chance'. Sat Nam! Namaste! Rise up and Blaze the Violet Fire!"

*** Mark Ruffalo said the number was closer to 500 – Rama heard him speak of this.

T reads: another significant alignment – Mercury Venus Conjunction – Venus is the higher form of Mercury

T: The crucifixion is about the clearing of all energies that are not of the Office of the Christ

Audio: **Anrita Melchezidek: Activation of the Easter Resurrection Codes**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv_L3ZeWBzAl0Mf1LctCHjw 16.54 minutes

R: what he thinks of when talking with the White Knights: just tremendous shifts in energy, lifting us higher and higher –

CONFERENCE CALL

<https://fccdl.in/fCPKwRojgl>

Mel: heat wave in California and rain before that! Thinks they are fooling with the weather – drought has been with them for quite a while

T: 5 tornadoes happening at the same time in New Mexico – 125 homes burnt to the ground

Mel: a meteorologist on Coast to Coast about geo-engineering

P: about the jet stream: aware in 1948 that the fumes from airplanes would affect the jet stream!

T: can no longer count on the jet stream to maintain weather patterns as it used to in TX in Jan/Feb really, really cold and

MG: *Dr Greer - Above Top Secret:* talked of pretty much 100 years of not progressing – using fossil fuels and gasoline – time for new

Phil: Dr Greer brought land about 50 miles from Churchill, Va
the **colour of bubble** changing from static rose to flowing, fluid, dynamic rainbow colour – was static on pink for 30 years! ! !

the **bubble** from the center of the project where he is – the arrow formation in the ground sets a magnetic course NE and goes direct to Gettysburg – all sorts of nuances in this story & and Churchill is the centre of this

trinityproject.org – to find the dregs of what used to be on his original website, which he can no longer sustain – needs help building a new one

A few years ago – he did a paint job for S. Greer and ran out of paint: they weren't happy with P! he showed Greer's wife the document and she had a strong opinion on it

Rainbird: if you put money in, it will double itself in 222 days! [NUGEN coin]

T: KOS said that Freemart is fully inside NESARA law -

the anger Phil feels is is not about Nesara: it's part of the past! ! !

MG: Understands P's frustration, has also been burnt: has been in this NuGen event since May - and **John Austen is who he says he is**

Phil: outlines his bills – working on manifesting processes

T: this is in the new timeline! As you choose to put \$50 in into the coin, you don't have to ask people to do anything !!!

Phil: will try to get the \$50 together for next week . . .

Mel: on Facebook – saw someone mention NESARA – she's in Derbyshire, England – **first time Mel has ever seen reference to N FB!**

Phil: has had rage about young men going into the military – all has to do with organized religion

- William Buhler – a Knights Templar guy – now deceased – spoke of the relationship between the symbolism of Trinity Point & the masonic layouts in DC . . . - he's done something with drawings etc that people don't understand . . .
- a famous geomancer – James Tyberron – said Trinity Point is to the east coast what Sedona is to the West Coast
- a guy came to him a few years ago – some Hopis came to him – they recognized the importance and power of Trinity Point
- a woman who said she was back: he brought her to Trinity Point which is a powerful point
- talked to an Indian drummer – whose spiritual guides told the drummer about Trinity Point

When he ran out of money, a mega church in TX took the title of the website – QUITE IRONIC!

How to donate: has a Paypal a/c - has to sort it out a bit

Have you ever tried a Go-Fund-Me? Needs to get a computer of some sort – wants a new decent one – has a very small one now, but not really adequate also a

Pad: wants to hear what he's about . .

T: steps in with a summary:

- Philip has a magnificent project and also so many things costing \$ at the moment – there are long stories about this property: the gov't messing with snow clearing, left a 12' pile of snow across the road – as opposed to alongside the road – and he ran straight into it – cracked his rad! Now he needs a new motor for the car
- needs \$ to get his feet back on the ground and then get his healing project going

Phil: tells the story of his car

- Project birthed in 1989; in '86 he discovered the site
 - a major magnetic point for the whole globe – a triangle on the ground;
 - exudes energy 160 miles in all directions
- Churchville is the center
 - major significant people have come to see the place at times, and given him important about the place

MEL: found it on Weeble plus James Tyberron's article

T: about NUGEN going public – end of June, early July, possibly sooner

<https://www.nugencoin.com/tarram>

- we will all need to set up trust indentures
- NUGEN coin IS NOT PART OF EXISTING BITCOIN ARRANGEMENTS! ! !

RB: about the nugen coin – she will help fill in the blanks if we want to set up a matrix

lightenergync@gmail.com PUT IN SUBJECT LINE: **MATRIX**

RB and Trinity Point:

- In response to a question, she thinks she would be under the 160 mile bubble of Trinity Point project
- she'd like to grab some gridworkers she knows and go do some work there

B B S RADIO

AUDIO: **THE BIGGER PICTURE** **by Patricia Cota-Robles** www.eraofpeace.org

VLOG 266 INITIATING THE GREATEST BENEFIT FROM THE RESURRECTION FLAME



AUDIO: Kryon – Kryon April 2022 - Close Star- April 14, 2022

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wC7Vk_Feu4

MOTHER / ALCYONE **[M/A]**

Greetings Children of Ra! Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One. In the Office of the Christ and only in the Office of the Christ, we invoke the loving energies of St Germain and the Violet Flame!

Greetings, Children of Ra!

A wild time we are having ! ! !

We are all going through our journeys! Let's say, we are the drop in the ocean of consciousness. The Universe has said it is time for peace; stop all the war talk!

T: Zelensky and Putin had a go at it with Erdogan in Istanbul – nothing! This is all a plot, a rigged game!

M/A: It IS rigged. Yes it is about the light pouring in from the sun, as we heard Patti [Cota Robles], Kryon talk about it. We are going through this transfiguration that is huge! And we make it!

- There are so many not-so-nice thought forms out there that have to do with this old timeline that is finished. And at the same time, we are the ones: that's why we're here, experiencing this – never again!
- Happy Easter! Resurrection! These stories about this Resurrection Ray pouring in – that's the real mission at the moment. All of Life is being raised up and it is a good time to be here.
- The issues at hand are from all - change this right now, as so many of the messengers have said: no nukes! Yet they want to play with these thought forms out there.

T: Putin put out the word about not sending military stuff to Ukraine, and Zelensky is saying send more!

M/A: And Putin is saying there will be consequences – and they’re playing with word magic to twist the hearts and the minds – it is quite ugly, She must say, and it’s all about this idea called the Black Stuff: oil, the Mother’s blood.

- They [galactics] are at this moment in our midst; all of this is part of how it ends. This old timeline is complete.

T: They sure know how to do a ‘bang-up job’ of ending it!

M/A: Yes; it has taken how long to get to this point? - where most of humanity is not to the fairies or the elves or the other beings that make up these realms. If that were the case, as it is happening more and more, the quantum shift has already taken place and the Light pouring in – it’s part of what She keeps talking about: we are in this simulated reality; things are not what they seem to be.

- It’s how we must change what’s in here - the real war is inside here.[the High Heart] So much of what humanity has lost is this wisdom that we are all the rainbow rays, and there is no reason to find fault with brother or sister because we are different. This is the issue at hand.
- All the old religions, let’s say, are complete. It is about this Light, the one Sun in all us: Sol! We are a reflection of that which is in the sky. As we bring that into ourselves, it changes this reality right now.
- Yes ???

T: a lot of people are up to their crown chakras in what is going on – like – holy catfish! What now?

M/A: What can she say? It’s about the shifting energies that are happening!

- As the sun sends out more solar flares, it changes our physical matter, space/time, and lifts us even higher. It is quite hot in the kitchen and [is] only going to get hotter because we’re the main show here.
- As we lift ourselves up, we have the power to change this - right now, with our thoughts; that’s the long and the short of it.
- From the realm of cause into the realm of effects: this is the realm of effects; things that we think affect this reality, which is why we gotta watch our thoughts. It’s quite simple once we get it!
- We will be on our way. The wisdom that is pouring forth from the sun. Listen with the High Heart to the wisdom pouring in on this full moon/Good Friday.
 - We have it all within the realm of our consciousness - how to change this.
 - Miles to go . . .

T: as Penny was saying earlier on the Conference Call: we’re hoping you’re saying that this part of it is almost over;

M: It is, yes!

T: The part we are coming into is what John Austen has prepared here, with long thought-out plans of how we can all participate in transforming this planet - together – creating a new heaven, new earth – together - and have fun doing it!

M/A: Indeed! As we can see the Light of the Most Radiant One in each one of us: that is what His Holiness is asking us to do – see the kindness and compassion in each soul. At this critical juncture, send love to all the situations: violence is not the answer.

- The answer is raising one’s frequencies up to match the rays of Light pouring in - like this Resurrection Flame that is taking place at this time with this high holiday, this return of the Office of The Christ.

Greetings . . .

T: looking forward whatever can be done in terms of intervention to ensure this old template and those who don’t want to open their hearts – and usher them out of the way in some way! Please!

M/A: And so it is

T: So mote it be! And this gives all of us the fortitude, wisdom and future knowledge now – as Kryon would say - to create this new template to create heaven on earth. Thank you, Mother.

Both: Greetings in the Light of the Most Radiant One Kadoish, Kadoish, Kadoish Sabbeoth . . .

Rama Returns: Has been listening to LM Athena in The Dove's Briefing Room, letting us know everyone is here, all the Company of Heaven: trillions and trillions of ships here; we'll do this with Love, not War!

T: will listen to Amy Goodman and transmute what we hear

AUDIO: DEMOCRACY NOW – CONTINUE TO BLAZE THE VIOLET FIRE!

2022-04-15 Headlines <https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/15/headlines>

2022-04-15 Russia Warns U.S. About Arms Sales to Ukraine as Weapon Makers Reap "Bonanza" from War

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/15/pentagon_russia_ukraine_800_million_arms

2022-04-15 Vijay Prashad on the War in Ukraine & the West's "Open, Rank Hypocrisy" in Condemning War Crimes

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/15/vijay_prashad_russia_ukraine_global_south

2022-04-15 "Trigger Points": Author Mark Follman on How the U.S. Can Prevent More Mass Shootings

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/15/mass_shootings_gun_violence_mental_health

2022-04-04 Economic Update: Amazon Workers Organize a Union

VIDEO LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBJPaAslOkg&t=1s>

PODCAST LINK: https://traffic.libsyn.com/economicupdate/Econ_Update_2022.03.31.S12E13.mp3

This week on Economic Update, Prof. Wolff talks about oil and gas inflation, its impacts, and politicians' phony solutions, the stagnant US gender pay gap and its significance, and why Americans are experiencing economic crisis, while Biden pretends the US economy has "recovered" and is in great shape. In the second half of the show, Wolff interviews Amazon union leader Chris Smalls about union organizing efforts across Amazon and beyond in a revived labor militancy.

****Since the recording of this episode last week, the Amazon Labor Union secured a major victory and has established the first Amazon union in the country under the leadership of @Chris.Smalls_. This is a historic event and we want to express our congratulations to Chris and the Amazon Union workers on this historic feat.*

About our guest: **Chris Smalls** is a former Amazon warehouse management assistant who was fired in March of 2020 after he organized an employee walkout to protest Amazon's poor response to COVID-19, and its failure to protect warehouse workers from infection. Chris is one of the founders of The Congress of Essential Workers, a collaborative network of workers and allies fighting for the elimination of billionaires, for wealth redistribution, and to protect the working class from exploitative CEOs. Chris is President of the Amazon Labor Union based in Staten Island NY. He's sometimes better known by his Twitter handle, "Shut down Amazon"

Twitter [@Shut_downAmazon](https://twitter.com/Shut_downAmazon)
[@amazonlabor](https://twitter.com/amazonlabor)

Instagram - Facebook – TikTok
[@amazonlaborunion](https://www.instagram.com/amazonlaborunion) [@Chris.Smalls](https://www.facebook.com/Chris.Smalls)

AUDIO: THE LATE SHOW WITH STEPHEN COLBERT
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o824NBxC1ZA>

Closing: Rainbird

Rama's Final Choice: Alan Watts + a song to Spring! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymC0r6aF7CE>

INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

2022-04-15 Headlines <https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/15/headlines>

Russia Warns U.S. to Stop Arming Ukraine as Russian Flagship Sinks in Black Sea

Apr 15, 2022



Russia's military says the flagship of its Black Sea fleet — the guided missile cruiser Moskva — sank as it was being towed to port Thursday, forcing some 500 sailors to abandon ship. The loss of the Moskva was reported hours after Ukraine's military claimed it had successfully attacked the warship with cruise missiles. Russia contends the ship was damaged after a fire caused ammunition onboard to explode.

This comes as The Washington Post is reporting the Russian government has formally warned the Biden administration to stop arming Ukraine, claiming it was "adding fuel" to the conflict. Russia also warned the governments of Finland and Sweden against joining NATO, saying it's prepared to station more nuclear weapons in the Baltic Sea region in response to further NATO expansion. The threat came as CIA Director William Burns warned the U.S. should not discount the threat of Russia potentially using tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine out of desperation.

150+ Injured as Israeli Soldiers Clear Worshipers from Al-Aqsa Mosque

Apr 15, 2022



In occupied East Jerusalem, more than 150 people were injured after Israeli soldiers attacked Palestinian worshipers inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque shortly after morning prayers on Friday. Witnesses said troops fired tear gas, rubber-coated bullets and concussion grenades into the holy site's prayer halls and courtyards.

Rami Al-Khatib: "They brutally emptied the compound. They were attacking the employees, normal people, elders and young people. There were many people injured. They fired rubber bullets inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. They were beating everyone, even the paramedics."

One local hospital received 40 injured Palestinians, including two in critical condition. Israeli troops rounded up and arrested at least 300 people.

The raid follows a series of attacks by Palestinians and Arab citizens of Israel that have killed people inside Israel since March 22. Meanwhile, Israeli raids on West Bank towns and villages have killed 29 Palestinians since March. Among the dead are a 34-year-old Palestinian lawyer who was shot in the chest Wednesday and a 14-year-old boy killed by Israeli troops who accused him of throwing a Molotov cocktail.

U.S. Senate Delegation Arrives in Taiwan for Unannounced Visit, Angering China

Apr 15, 2022



Six United States senators have arrived in Taiwan for a surprise visit, prompting an angry response from China. The delegation says it's planning two days of talks on "U.S.-Taiwan relations" and regional security. New Jersey Democrat Bob Menendez, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, spoke after he was welcomed by Taiwan's president.

Sen. Bob Menendez: "With Taiwan producing 90% of the world's high-end semiconductor products, it is a country of global significance, of global consequence, of global impact, and therefore it should be understood that the security of Taiwan has a global impact for those who would wish it ill."

In response, China's military sent naval ships, bombers and fighter planes to the East China Sea for war games. In a statement, the People's Liberation Army warned, "U.S. bad actions and tricks are completely futile and very dangerous. Those who play with fire will burn themselves."

"Shockingly Ill-Conceived": U.K. Plans to Resettle Asylum Seekers in Rwanda

Apr 15, 2022



The British government has announced it could soon resettle some asylum seekers to Rwanda as an attempt to deter more people from attempting to reach Britain for refuge. Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke Thursday.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson: “This innovative approach, driven by our shared humanitarian impulse and made possible by Brexit freedoms, will provide safe and legal routes for asylum while disrupting the business model of the gangs.”

Human rights groups condemned the plan as “shockingly ill-conceived.” Amnesty International UK said in a statement, “Sending people to another country — let alone one with such a dismal human rights record — for asylum 'processing' is the very height of irresponsibility and shows how far removed from humanity and reality the Government now is on asylum issues.”

Family Demands Criminal Charges for Grand Rapids Officer Who Killed Patrick Lyoya

Apr 15, 2022



In Michigan, the family of Patrick Lyoya is demanding that the white Grand Rapids police officer who killed the 26-year-old Congolese refugee be fired and charged with a crime. City officials have yet to name the officer, who is seen in video pulling his service pistol from a holster and firing a fatal shot into Lyoya’s head after a struggle. Patrick’s father, Peter Lyoya, said through an interpreter that he and his family had escaped war and persecution in the Democratic Republic of Congo only to see Patrick killed “like an animal” by a Michigan police officer.

Peter Lyoya: “My heart is really deeply broken. I didn’t know, I didn’t believe that in this country that there is a genocide in this country. I didn’t know. I didn’t know that here in America there can be an execution style to kill someone.”

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis Signs Bill Banning Most Abortions After 15 Weeks

Apr 15, 2022



Image Credit: WFTS-TV

Florida’s Republican Governor Ron DeSantis has signed a bill banning most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. It’s modeled after a Mississippi abortion law that the Supreme Court is currently weighing and which could essentially undo Roe v. Wade. In a statement, NARAL Pro-Choice America called Florida’s abortion ban a “shameless step towards what could be a terrifying new future for reproductive freedom in the country.”

Ohio Man “Following Presidential Orders” Found Guilty over January 6 Insurrection

Apr 15, 2022



A jury in Washington, D.C., has found an Ohio man guilty of felony obstruction of Congress after he joined the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Thirty-eight-year-old Dustin Thompson did not contest charges that he stole a bottle of whiskey and a coat rack from the Senate parliamentarian’s office and ran from a police officer seeking to question him. Thompson’s defense hinged on his claim that he was “following presidential orders” when he was swept up in the Capitol riot. He’s the third January 6 insurrectionist to be found guilty by a jury.

His conviction came as former senior Trump adviser Stephen Miller was questioned for eight hours Thursday by the House committee investigating the January 6 attack. Miller reportedly refused to answer questions about his conversations with Trump, claiming “executive privilege.”

RNC Withdraws from Commission on Presidential Debates

Apr 15, 2022



The Republican National Committee has voted to withdraw from the Commission on Presidential Debates. Thursday’s unanimous vote by the RNC came after numerous complaints by ex-President Trump over debate formats and the commission’s choice of moderators. The commission was formed by the Democratic and Republican parties in 1987 and quickly took control of the debates from the nonpartisan League of Women Voters. The commission has allowed just one third-party candidate — Ross Perot — to participate in presidential debates.

Calls Grow to Halt Execution of Texan Who Says She Was Wrongfully Convicted of Murdering Her Child

Apr 15, 2022



A bipartisan group of over 100 Texas lawmakers has joined calls to stop the execution of Melissa Lucio, who is scheduled to die in less than two weeks. Lucio says she was wrongfully convicted of killing her 2-year-old daughter Mariah after a tragic accident in 2007. Attorneys say Lucio faced a lifetime of abuse, was pressured to make a false confession and didn't get a fair trial. This week, lawmakers asked the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to grant Lucio clemency after a hearing in which they called on the district attorney to cancel her April 27 execution date. Cameron County District Attorney Luis Saenz testified that if Lucio does not get a stay, "Then I will do what I have to do and stop it." Former trial juror Johnny Galvan also testified via his daughter that he opposed Lucio's execution.

Johnny Galvan Jr.: "The idea that my decision to take another person's life was not based on complete and accurate information in a fair trial is horrifying."

Lucio would be the first Latina woman executed by Texas. Next week, the state plans to execute 77-year-old Carl Wayne Buntion, the oldest person on Texas's death row.

El Milagro Tortilla Workers in Chicago Make Gains After Months of Organizing

Apr 15, 2022



Image Credit: Arise Chicago

In labor news, workers at two El Milagro tortilla plants in Chicago have won wage increases and other victories after months of fighting for better working conditions. The tortilla manufacturer said it would end a seven-day workweek, but workers are reporting El Milagro has yet to fulfill the demand to be closed on Sundays. El Milagro will now also provide anti-sexual harassment training for managers, air conditioning in the lunch rooms, and has promised to improve its sick days policies. But workers have vowed to keep organizing until El Milagro prioritizes workers' safety and respect, and agrees to their other demands.

Protesters Rally Outside Starbucks CEO's Penthouse, Demanding End to Union Busting

Apr 15, 2022



Here in New York City, a coalition of union leaders and workers led a protest Thursday outside the \$40 million penthouse of Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz, denouncing the corporation's ongoing retaliation and firing of workers fighting to unionize. Among the speakers at the rally were Charles Jenkins, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and Larry Holmes of the Workers Assembly Against Racism.

Charles Jenkins: "We demand the right for not some workers to be unionized like me, but we demand all workers — all workers — have a right to unionize."

Larry Holmes: "All of your union busting, the Starbucks workers are just getting angrier, just organizing more stores. And if you keep your union busting up, all you're going to do is wake up a sleeping giant: the working class in this country."

Despite an aggressive union-busting campaign from Starbucks, thousands of workers at some 220 shops have filed for union elections, including a Starbucks at Mall of America. A total of 22 Starbucks stores have successfully unionized across the country.

2022-04-15 Russia Warns U.S. About Arms Sales to Ukraine as Weapon Makers Reap "Bonanza" from War

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/15/pentagon_russia_ukraine_800_million_arms

Guests

- [William Hartung](#)
senior research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft and former director of the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy.

Links

- ["Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex"](#)
- [William Hartung on Twitter](#)



This week the Pentagon met with leading U.S. weapons manufacturers as Russia warned the Biden administration to stop arming Ukraine, claiming it was “adding fuel” to the conflict. This comes as a Russian warship sank in the Black Sea hours after Ukraine claimed to have attacked it with cruise missiles, and as Sweden and Finland say they may join NATO, which would require more weapons spending. We speak with William Hartung, national security and foreign policy expert at the Quincy Institute, author of “Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex.”

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: Russia’s invasion in Ukraine is now in its 50th day. On Thursday, the most powerful Russian warship in its Black Sea fleet sank as it was being towed to port, hours after Ukraine claimed to have attacked the warship with cruise missiles. Russia denies this and said the ship was damaged after a fire caused ammunition onboard to explode.

This comes as *The Washington Post* is [reporting](#) the Russian government has formally warned the Biden administration to stop arming Ukraine, claiming it’s “adding fuel” to the conflict. In a diplomatic note dated Tuesday, Russia also accused NATO of pushing Ukraine to, quote, “abandon” talks with Russia, quote, “in order to continue the bloodshed,” unquote. The note was sent on the same day news broke of the Biden administration’s plans to send a new \$800 million arms transfer to Ukraine that includes armored Humvees, coastal defense drones, howitzers and weapons training. This is Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby.

JOHN KIRBY: The United States has now committed more than \$3.2 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since the beginning of the Biden administration, including approximately \$2.6 billion since the beginning — just since the beginning of their unprovoked invasion on February 24th.

AMY GOODMAN: On Wednesday, Pentagon officials held an extraordinary meeting with eight top weapons contractors, but the Pentagon attempted to downplay the significance of the meeting.

JOHN KIRBY: It was part of a normal, scheduled, routine conversation that we have with defense industry leaders, but obviously focused much more specifically on what’s going on in Ukraine. So, Boeing was represented. L3Harris was represented. Raytheon, Bay-E — BAE, sorry, BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, Huntington Ingalls, General Dynamics and Northrop Grumman were all represented today.

AMY GOODMAN: Ukrainian officials have also been meeting directly with U.S. weapons manufacturers, this according to *The Washington Post*, which [reports](#) the Ukrainian ambassador to the U.S. met last week with General Atomics, a leading drone manufacturer.

We’re joined now by William Hartung, national security and foreign policy expert at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. His latest book, *Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex*.

Bill, if you can start off by responding to this meeting that Kirby calls just run-of-the-mill, but the level of involvement of the weapons manufacturers right now in the war in Ukraine?

WILLIAM HARTUNG: Well, yeah, I mean, it’s routine in the sense that it’s the military-industrial complex in action, but it’s extraordinary in the sense that it was very specifically to coordinate how to arm Ukraine and how these companies would profit from it. So, the Pentagon has been giving missiles, anti-tank, anti-air missiles, and other equipment through its existing stocks that it already has, and then it’s going to pay these companies to replenish those stocks. And so, the discussion was: How quickly can you crank out these weapons? Do you need new production lines? Do you need more money to make it happen more quickly? So, it was really, in part, about how — how best these companies could profit from the war.

And they've been posturing as if they're some sort of bastions of promoting democracy because they're arming Ukraine, but, of course, they're also sending weapons to Yemen that are being used to bomb school buses and civilians, killing thousands of people. So, really, they'll sell to anybody with the money, but they're using the Ukraine crisis to sort of try to remold their image.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And, Bill, could you talk about the relative size we're talking about here — this is now about more than \$3 billion from the Biden administration to Ukraine — in terms of the context of what this means to these companies, this increased amount of money not only now, but, clearly, there will be security needs for years, and maybe decades, into the future?

WILLIAM HARTUNG: Well, this is a bonanza for the companies. You know, they're going to profit from this in so many ways, it makes my head spin. But you've got the \$3 billion in direct arms, which is a substantial amount for these companies. Then you've got countries like Germany increasing their Pentagon — military budgets to buy things like Lockheed Martin F-35s for billions of dollars, or Poland buying General Dynamics tanks. And then you've got several flows of money. There's a Pentagon program to arm Ukraine. There's a State Department aid program to help arm Ukraine. And then, of course, there's the Pentagon budget. And these companies and the Pentagon are arguing that Ukraine is a reason to push it to record levels: over \$800 billion in the Biden proposal, which is \$100 billion more than at the peak of the Cold War.

So, between the arms to Ukraine, arming the European buildup, the Pentagon being jacked up far beyond what is needed even to address the Ukraine crisis, these companies, which already get — you know, the top five get \$150 billion a year from the Pentagon. That's just going to go up and up. So this is kind of unfortunate for the world, but it's good financial news for these companies.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And you've talked about, for instance, Lockheed Martin in fiscal year 2020 alone received \$75 billion. That's more than the entire budget of the State Department. So, so much for the emphasis of the Biden administration on diplomacy, isn't it?

WILLIAM HARTUNG: Well, exactly. I mean, it's just so stunning that one company could get more Pentagon contracts than the entire State Department, especially for an administration that said their policy was going to be diplomacy first. So it's just a sense of how our budget is still very much skewed towards a militarized foreign policy at a time when I think diplomacy is more urgent than ever.

AMY GOODMAN: Raytheon CEO Greg Hayes defended how the Ukraine war has boosted their profits during an interview last month with the *Harvard Business Review*. This is what he said.

GREGORY HAYES: I make no apology for that, I think, again, recognizing, you know, we are there to defend democracy. And the fact is, eventually we will see some benefit in the business over time. Everything that's being shipped into Ukraine today, of course, is coming out of stockpiles, either at DOD or from our NATO allies. And that's all great news. Eventually we'll have to replenish it, and we will see a benefit to the business over the next coming years.

AMY GOODMAN: So, that's Raytheon CEO Greg Hayes. If you can talk about the significance of that comment and also NATO expansion, once again, with Finland and Sweden now talking about joining, what that means, and what weapons manufacturers have to do with NATO and the deals that are made, what is required of countries when they join NATO?

WILLIAM HARTUNG: Well, yes. I mean, I think, yeah, the Raytheon CEO, that is a stunning statement. It's sort of the height of hypocrisy to say their role is to defend democracy. I mean, if arms sales are to defend democracy, U.S. contractors should stop arming Saudi Arabia, the UAE, there's a recent deal to Nigeria, a fighters sale to Egypt, firearms to the Philippines — all these countries that are major human rights abusers using U.S. weapons either to suppress their own citizens or in reckless, devastating wars, like in Yemen. If that's really what the industry is about, they should refrain from those sales. So it has nothing to do with defending democracy, everything to do with padding their bottom lines.

As for NATO extension, you know, NATO has a goal of 2% of gross domestic product to be spent on their militaries. About a third of NATO countries meet that. But Germany is going to push up to that level, spend another probably at least \$50 billion a year. And they've already said they want to buy Lockheed Martin F-35s. Finland, even before joining NATO, made a \$9 billion deal to buy F-35s from Lockheed Martin. Sweden has its own weapons industry, may buy a little less from the U.S. But the whole push for more spending by NATO will be a huge boon to U.S. weapons contractors. And, of course, we can't forget that back when NATO was expanding, companies like Lockheed Martin lobbied heavily to see that happen, because they knew that the new joining countries would have to get rid of Soviet-era weapons and buy U.S. and European systems so they could operate alongside NATO allies. So, there's been a long history of U.S. companies cashing in on the whole NATO arrangement.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And, Bill, I wanted to ask you — there were two major powers in the world that were effectively disarmed after World War II: Germany and Japan. And they've pretty much remained disarmed for all these decades. What is this conflict doing? You've written about the situation in Japan, that's not — between Japan and Russia, that hasn't gotten much attention. Could you talk about that, as well?

WILLIAM HARTUNG: Well, I think between the focus on China, which the Pentagon still calls their, quote, "pacing threat," and the attempt to exploit the Ukraine crisis to further push up the Pentagon budget, but also to get allies like Germany and Japan to spend more, you know, you have the situation where the countries that were disarmed in World War II, that were the aggressor nations, have now transformed into U.S. allies and now are remilitarizing. And so, there's a danger that even if the U.S. were to take a more sensible policy in terms of balancing diplomacy, not having a sort of military-first approach to Russia and China, that other countries might take up that course or that approach. And so there is a danger in kind of this generalized militarization of not only the U.S. but also its allies.

AMY GOODMAN: And finally, Bill Hartung, just very quickly, the revolving door with the Biden administration, which we've seen with Republican and Democratic administrations, as high up as Lloyd Austin, right? He was formerly on the board of Raytheon. These weapons manufacturers have total access to these government officials.

WILLIAM HARTUNG: Yes. Well, this is sort of business as usual, but it hasn't changed under Biden. The GAO said 1,700 people have gone from the Pentagon to the contractors to lobby for them. And then you have people like Secretary Austin coming from the companies to the Pentagon. So, you've got this very tight relationship, where often the contractors and the government officials that are supposed to be regulating them are actually almost partners with them in promoting higher spending and more contracts for those countries.

AMY GOODMAN: William Hartung, we want to thank you for being with us, national security and foreign policy expert at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. His latest book, *Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex*.

When we come back, Vijay Prashad joins us about how the war is reverberating across the globe. Stay with us.

2022-04-15 Vijay Prashad on the War in Ukraine & the West's "Open, Rank Hypocrisy" in Condemning War Crimes

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/15/vijay_prashad_russia_ukraine_global_south

Guests

- [Vijay Prashad](#)
author and director of the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.

Links

- ["The Poorer Nations: A Possible History of the Global South"](#)
- ["Washington Bullets: A History of the CIA, Coups, and Assassinations"](#)
- [Vijay Prashad on Twitter](#)

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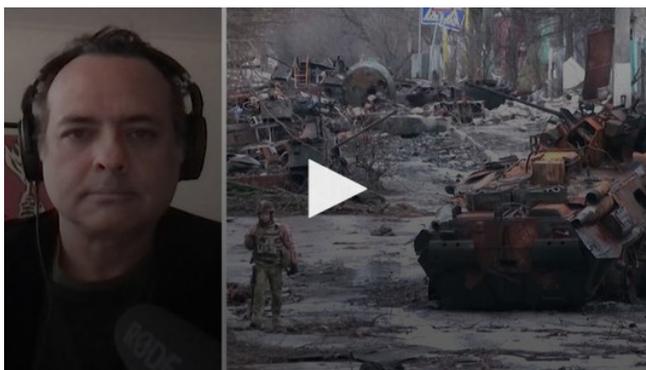
As the Russian invasion in Ukraine enters its 50th day, we look at the war's impact around the world with Vijay Prashad, author and director of the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research. "When food prices go up, the political crisis is almost immediate," says Prashad, who calls the U.S. pressure on Global South countries to cut off essential imports from Russia after a 30-year globalization campaign a double standard. He says if the U.S. encourages greater global division in order to isolate Russia and China, they will implicitly plunge developing countries "into even greater catastrophe." He also says the West — led by the Biden administration — is pursuing a "casual weaponization of human rights and the word genocide."

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, [democracynow.org](#), *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman, with Juan González.

The head of the IMF, the International Monetary Fund, warned Thursday that Russia's invasion of Ukraine will lead to more hunger and social unrest across the globe. The IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva spoke in Washington.



KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA: In the past seven weeks, the world has experienced a second major crisis: a war on top of a pandemic. This risks eroding much of the progress we have made over the past two years climbing back from COVID. Add to this the growing threat of fragmentation into geopolitical and economic blocs. In a world where war in Europe creates hunger in Africa, where a pandemic can circle the globe in days and reverberate for years, where emissions anywhere means rising sea levels everywhere, the threat to our collective prosperity from a breakdown in global cooperation cannot be overstated. ... The root cause of what we face today is the war. And it is the war that must end.

AMY GOODMAN: IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva speaking Thursday.

To talk more about how the war in Ukraine is reverberating around the world, we're joined by Vijay Prashad, director of the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research and chief correspondent of *Globetrotters*. He's the author of many books, including *The Poorer Nations: A Possible History of the Global South* and *Washington Bullets: A History of the CIA, Coups, and Assassinations*. Vijay Prashad is joining us from Santiago, Chile.

Welcome to *Democracy Now!* Vijay, if you can talk about how Russia's war on Ukraine is reverberating across the globe?

VIJAY PRASHAD: First, Amy, Happy New Year! It's Happy New Year in my birth area of Bengal today. It's an interesting period to commemorate the end of a year, which one part would bring us, as the head of the IMF said, out of the pandemic, and instead, of course, it's brought us into war and sanctions.

I want to remind people that a decade ago, when there was a drought in Ukraine and in Russia, where about 25% of the world's wheat is exported into, when there was that drought in 2010, there was a major uprising, not only in the Arab world, which we call the Arab Spring, but across the African continent, now long forgotten, I think. It's important to remember that when there is a crisis in food and when food prices go up, the political crisis is almost immediate. There's already been an economic crisis in Sri Lanka that's metastasized into a political crisis. We've seen the government fall in Pakistan. Around the world we see food price inflation creates serious problems for governments. Before this war and the sanctions against Russia, 2.7 billion people struggled with hunger. It's likely that we'll go above 3 billion before the month is over. We're also going to see, I think, catastrophic problems with disruptions in fuel distribution.

But I want to say one thing about this, Amy, that, you know, it's not a — it looks — when you watch the news, perhaps, in the West, it looks like a world of certainty. Everybody seems clear about what's happening. In the rest of the world, I think people are really trying to breathe in the contradictions. They understand that this is a ghastly war, but there have been ghastly wars before this. I think there's some perplexity about why this war is treated as so different than other wars. I think, in the contradictions, countries are not willing to break ties with Russia or to cut the import of grain and fuel from places like Russia. They have their own populations to take care of, and they have to consider their needs and their desires.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And, Vijay, I wanted to ask you — it's not only the governments of many of these countries that are not buying into the call for sanctions on Russia, but some of the public opinion polling has shown that in many countries — in Indonesia, in Brazil, in South Africa, in many countries in the Global South — the public has a different opinion about this war, as well.

VIJAY PRASHAD: Well, there's no question that this is a terrible war. I mean, like all wars, this is brutal, this is nasty, and so on. But let's take an example. There was an appalling bombing of the maternity hospital in Mariupol. You know, immediately thereafter, the U.S. government talked about war crimes. The International Criminal Court was suborned to say that this is going to have a file open, you know, for war crimes personally against Mr. Putin and so on. But have we forgotten the Amiriyah shelter, 1,500 civilians killed in 1991 when the United States bombed a shelter, knowing full well there were civilians there? No question of any interrogation of war crimes. The language of war crimes was not used in Libya after NATO quite ruthlessly bombed that country. Peter Olson of NATO, the lead attorney, said openly, "Look, NATO can't commit war crimes. War crimes are committed by other people, not by NATO." I mean, just this recent month, there were Israeli airstrikes which struck the Rimal medical center, two doctors killed. Do we know their names? Ayman Abu al-Auf and Moeen al-Aloul. I mean, they were killed in the middle of all this, but there was no question of calling the Israeli strikes war crimes.

So, this kind of open, rank hypocrisy, I think, is what is striking lots of people around the world. I have to say, Juan, that, you know, I made a speech in Glasgow where I questioned the colonial mentality of the West regarding climate policy. That speech has been viewed by hundreds of millions of people on WhatsApp groups all around the world, including by right-wing WhatsApp groups in India. People are frustrated with the kind of colonial way in which the Western powers and the Western media reports things. The very fact that you know the flag coloring of Ukraine but have no idea what the flag of Yemen looks like, what the flag of Palestine looks like, what the flag of the Congo looks like, and, needless to say, what the flag of Iraq looks like, I mean, that has frustrated a lot of people and is driving public opinion.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And what's your reaction to President Biden's recent meeting with President Modi on Monday?

VIJAY PRASHAD: It's very interesting. You know, it's not just Biden. The U.S. State Department sent a high official. The British Foreign Ministry sent their leading cabinet minister, the foreign secretary, Liz Truss. They all went to India to say, "Look, how is it possible that India, governed by a right-wing country, led by Narendra Modi, a subordinate ally of the United States, a member of the Quad — how is it that India is not willing to come out there and attack the Russian war in Ukraine? How is it that India is not willing to condemn Vladimir Putin and so on?" This is a full-court press.

And inside India, there's been a great deal of frustration. There's questions raised about the so-called finger wagging at India for India's policy. I think that what people need to understand, this is not just India. I mean, India has been, I suppose, the most forthright in refusing to come out there and condemn this war. It's not just India. Look at Germany. Germany continues to buy energy from Russia. The German chancellor directly told Mr. Biden that, "Look, if Germany breaks ties with Russia, bans natural gas imports, Germany will plunge into a terrible recession." The Japanese prime minister has also told the United States and told the Russians directly, "Look, we're quite happy to sign on to the G7 statement condemning Russia and its war, but we're not going to cut ties. We're not going to stop importing liquefied natural gas from Sakhalin-2. We're not going to stop importing crude oil." And furthermore, Japan is one of the major investors in Sakhalin-2 and Sakhalin-1. These are very large and important energy projects of the Russian people, the Russian government but also private sector. And it's the Japanese state that has invested in them. It's not willing to cut all that.

So, the United States, I think, is coming to realize — or I hope it comes to realize — that many countries, not only so-called adversarial countries but also countries that are closely allied, like Germany, Japan, India and so on, are just not willing to break ties.

And just let me say one thing about that. You know, for 30-plus years, the U.S. government pushed a globalization agenda, which integrated countries with each other. Russia was at the core of that integration, not only for the export of fuel but also for the export of the wealth stolen from the state of the USSR after it collapsed. All that money taken by billionaires was invested in international financial markets. And having integrated the world, now suddenly, as the head of the IMF pointed out, suddenly two major shocks take place: the pandemic and then the war and the sanctions. And these two shocks have not been shocks merely to people's household [inaudible] and so on, but they've been shocks to the level of integration of the world economy. And it's very hard for countries to disentangle on a dime just because the U.S. White House says, "Break ties." It's not easy to break ties. It's not a question of political connections. This is a question of deep, structural economic relations which cannot be broken. If they break, it would plunge these countries into even greater catastrophe.

AMY GOODMAN: During a news conference Monday, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar pointed out Europe buys far more Russian oil and gas than India. This is what he said.

SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR: If you are looking at energy purchases from Russia, I would suggest that your attention should be focused on Europe, which probably — we do buy some energy, which is necessary for our energy security. But I suspect, looking at the figures, probably our total purchases for the month would be less than what Europe does in an afternoon. So, you might want to think about it.

AMY GOODMAN: So, Vijay Prashad, you can comment on that, but also, as you talk about the rank hypocrisy, I mean, you have not only the United States but Europe talking about Putin's war crimes. Where would he be tried? A logical forum would be the International Criminal Court. Neither the United States nor Russia — nor Ukraine, for that matter — has fully signed on to the international court. As the, it is pointed out over and over again, anti-personnel landmines, just brutal, focused on killing people, that Russia is using in Ukraine, the U.S. hasn't signed on to the anti-landmine treaty, that, for example, Princess Di had so campaigned for. So you have all these international treaties that the United States has not respected, and yet at this point is really invoking the foundation of them to hold Putin accountable. So, talking about — as you talk about the rank hypocrisy, do you also criticize, though, Putin for invading Ukraine?

VIJAY PRASHAD: Of course. Of course I criticize Putin for invading Ukraine, Amy. That goes without saying, because he has violated the U.N. Charter. It is a brutal war, as I said when I first started speaking. But I think that's hardly the question, whether I condemn Mr. Putin or not. The issue is that we're living in a world where, for a lot of people, it looks like it's an upside-down world.

It's not just the question of the treaties you mentioned. The United States government has not signed the international laws of the seas, and yet it prosecutes so-called freedom of navigation missions against not

only China in the South China Sea, using this U.N. Charter, which it's not a signatory of, but it has been provoking clashes with Russia in the Black Sea, in the Baltic Sea and in the Arctic Sea, again, using these so-called freedom of navigation missions.

Let's take the question of the International Criminal Court. When special prosecutor Fatou Bensouda opened a file to investigate war crimes in Afghanistan — and, by the way, she was really clear: She said war crimes conducted by everybody — by the Taliban, by the Afghan National Army, by the United States, by other NATO countries, and so on. When she did that, the United States government threatened her, told her that neither she nor her family would ever get a visa to come to the United States, and so on. The U.S. put enormous pressure on the International Criminal Court to shut down that investigation. That's incredible. This is an investigation of war crimes which are detailed in the U.S. government's own documents, which have been released by the WikiLeaks foundation, whose founder, Julian Assange, is sitting in Belmarsh prison, is being treated as a criminal, whereas the war criminals in Afghanistan are going free and threatening, with Mafia-like tactics, the special prosecutor at the ICC.

Meanwhile, again, in an afternoon — to quote the Indian high official, in an afternoon, the United States is able to get these bodies, established by international law, which the United States is not a signatory to — the U.S., in an afternoon, is able to get them to open a file and start talking about war crimes. Over a million people killed in Iraq, and no investigation of war crimes. None. Over a million people. Half a million children killed in Iraq during the 1990s sanctions regime, not even the word "genocide." The West is walking all over the word "genocide," is reducing the power of an important category of an important convention, the 1951 Convention Against Genocide. This extraordinary, casual weaponization of human rights and the word "genocide" by the West is going to be something that we are going to face in the times ahead, when other countries are going to say, "Well, we can do anything if we are backed by Washington, D.C." This is extraordinarily perilous.

And I hope people open their eyes to the very cynical way in which Washington, D.C., is approaching this terrible war taking place in Ukraine, a war that has to end with a ceasefire and negotiations. And you're not going to easily get a ceasefire and negotiations if you're going to loosely, as Mr. Biden did in Poland at Warsaw castle, loosely call for regime change in Russia. That is not going to help you bring people to the table, whether it's in Belarus or it's in Antalya, Turkey. It's not going to bring Ukraine and Russia to the table. It's not going to stop Russia's war. If the Russians think that the United States has a total agenda to annihilate the Russian government, I'm afraid they are not going to get a ceasefire. You're going to just get more atrocities in Ukraine. And that's something that the people of the world should not stand for.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And, Vijay, I wanted to ask you — while this is continuing to play out, this war in Europe, the role of China — and, of course, as you mentioned earlier, the United States has identified China as its long-term strategic foe. Could you talk about what this means about the relationship of these empires and what is — and China's role in the world?

VIJAY PRASHAD: Well, let's be frank, Juan. In 2018, the Trump administration announced that the war on terror was over and that the full force of the United States government was now going to be to prevent Russia and China — they actually mentioned both countries, Russia and China, what then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis called near-peer competitors — these near-peer competitors had to be prevented from rising. That was the U.S. doctrine, has not pulled back by the Biden administration.

That very year, the United States government unilaterally walked out of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, the INF Treaty. Mr. Putin and the Chinese government have said that they fear the placement of mid-level — these intermediate nuclear missiles near the Russian and Chinese border. This meant that they feared that there would be these missiles placed in Ukraine or in Taiwan and so on. You've got to see it a little bit from their point of view. So, they see this as extremely threatening to their existence. And they will do anything to prevent the placement of these kind of weapons near their territories. I think this is how the Chinese are seeing it.

As far as I have been able to see, the Chinese have neither condemned the war nor applauded it. They would like this war to end. As I said earlier, China's economy is fundamentally integrated into the world economy. The last thing they want to see — and I actually agree on this point — the last thing we would like to see is a divided world, an Iron Curtain fall around Eurasia. Nobody should be actually pleased about that prospect. We want to see a more integrated world, a world of, let's say — you know, where there's a future before us, where we can tackle questions of climate change, we can tackle questions of social toxicity, we can tackle questions of militarism. These things cannot be dealt with if we have an Iron Curtain fall from the South China Sea to the Baltic Sea. That would be a nightmare for the planet, particularly now, when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has sounded the red alert regarding the climate catastrophe.

AMY GOODMAN: Very quickly, Vijay, on Thursday, the CIA Director William Burns spoke at Georgia Tech, publicly discussed fears Russia could turn to using nuclear weapons out of desperation.

WILLIAM BURNS: Given the potential desperation of President Putin and the Russian leadership, given the setbacks that they've faced so far militarily, none of us can take lightly the threat posed by a potential resort to tactical nuclear weapons or low-yield nuclear weapons. We don't — while we've seen some rhetorical posturing on the part of the Kremlin about moving to higher nuclear alert levels, so far we haven't seen a lot of practical evidence of the kind of deployments or, you know, military dispositions that would reinforce that concern.

AMY GOODMAN: Now, William Burns is an interesting figure, the CIA director, because he's the one who has warned for years, among many others, including progressive peace activists, against NATO moving eastward, saying it will provoke Russia. If you can end by talking about this becoming this kind of conflagration, a nuclear conflagration, and what you see is the outline of a ceasefire could be?

VIJAY PRASHAD: Well, Amy, the first thing I'd say is the question of NATO moving eastward is not the primary issue, because, after all, in 2004, Sergey Lavrov, who continues to be the foreign minister, and Mr. Putin, who was even then the president, welcomed the Baltic states and other countries joining NATO. They joined NATO in 2004. The question is not NATO by itself. The question is a sense of security.

I mean, what Mr. Burns could have said is that the United States pledges to return to arms control talks. I mean, having gutted the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 2002 unilaterally — that was the Bush administration — and then, in 2018, the Trump administration unilaterally walking out of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, why doesn't the United States come to the table, as the Russians have been asking since 2018, and open a new arms control conversation? That seems to be a mature issue.

Look, frankly, this ceasefire that takes place in Ukraine could take place in Ukraine in an afternoon, I think. The issue isn't Ukraine alone. It's the question of the U.S., the question of China, Russia. All of them need to be — they need to come to a table. They need to discuss a new arms control regime. We don't have one. The world right now has nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alerts without a proper arms control regime. That, to me, Amy, is terrifying. That needs to be on the table. To talk about a ceasefire in Ukraine, of course, that's got to be there, just as we talk about justice for the Palestinians and so on. But we've also got to recognize we are living right now without an arms control regime, without deterrence. And that really is terrifying.

AMY GOODMAN: Vijay Prashad, we want to thank you for being with us. We'll link to your [articles](#), director of the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.

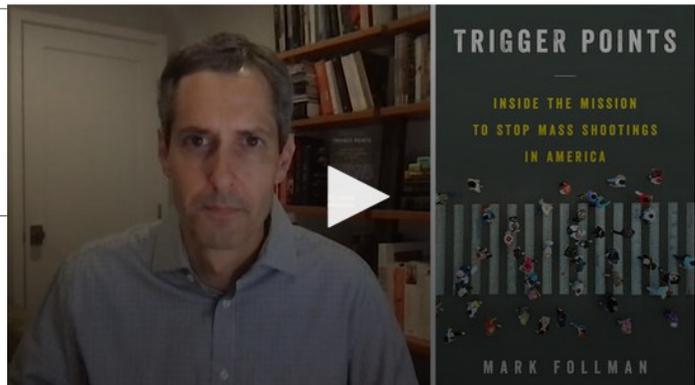
Coming up, *Mother Jones* editor Mark Follman. He's author of the new book, *Trigger Points: Inside the Mission to Stop Mass Shootings in America*. Back in 30 seconds.

2022-04-15 "Trigger Points": Author Mark Follman on How the U.S. Can Prevent More Mass Shootings

https://www.democracynow.org/2022/4/15/mass_shootings_gun_violence_mental_health

Guests

- [Mark Follman](#)
national affairs editor at *Mother Jones*.



Links

- ["Horror on the NYC Subway — and How to Prevent the Next Attack"](#)
- ["Trigger Points: Inside the Mission to Stop Mass Shootings in America"](#)
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As the United States reels from an epidemic of mass shootings in schools, trains and other public places, we speak with Mark Follman, national affairs editor at Mother Jones, where he covers gun violence. Follman says mass shootings are typically planned over a period of time and follow a "robust trail of behavioral warning signs" that offer opportunities in community-based violence prevention to stop the crime before it happens. His new piece, "Horror on the NYC Subway — and How to Prevent the Next Attack," draws on insights from his new book, "Trigger Points: Inside the Mission to Stop Mass Shootings in America."

Transcript

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: This is *Democracy Now!*, democracynow.org, *The War and Peace Report*. I'm Amy Goodman, with Juan González.

Here in New York, a federal judge has ordered the suspected subway gunman held without bail, as the city and much of the United States reels from an epidemic of mass shootings in trains, schools and other public places.

We spend the rest of the hour with Mark Follman, national affairs editor at *Mother Jones*, where he covers gun violence and runs a [mass shootings database](#). He has a new [piece](#) headlined "Horror on the NYC Subway — and How to Prevent the Next Attack," that draws on insights from his new book, just out, *Trigger Points: Inside the Mission to Stop Mass Shootings in America*.

Mark, welcome back to *Democracy Now!* Let's just talk about that article that you just wrote, looking at this shooting and the alleged shooter in New York, how to prevent these mass shootings.

MARK FOLLMAN: Well, one of the things that was immediately clear in the case of the subway attack was that this was an attack that was planned over a period of time. We could see that with immediate evidence that was found by investigators that the perpetrator had gone in, accessorized in a certain kind of gear and outfit, that he had used smoke grenades and then opened fire.

And this is really important, because we have several big myths about mass shooters that we constantly repeat when these attacks happen, and they're unhelpful to really understanding the problem. I write about this at length in my new book, *Trigger Points*, that mass shooters don't just suddenly snap. These are not impulsive crimes. These are crimes that are planned over a period of time, that develop. And there's often, in almost every case, a robust trail of behavioral warning signs. And so, with that, there is also opportunity to potentially step in and intervene and prevent these attacks from happening.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And how, in this particular case, for example, from what you know — what might have been done to be able to apprehend this shooter before he actually took action?

MARK FOLLMAN: Yeah, this case would be, I think, a particularly challenging one. We're still learning the details of it, so I want to be a little bit careful about analyzing it from that perspective. But, over time, I suspect we will find out more and more about the warning signs that were present with this individual, who apparently was living in pretty significant isolation.

But certainly his ability to access a firearm is a major question here, because we already know that he had a long criminal history and was still able to purchase a gun legally. This is a chronic problem in our country with the regulation of firearms, or lack thereof.

Beyond that, there was quite a bit of content that this perpetrator had posted on social media, videos he recorded ranting about various grievances and political ideology and hatred and anger, and in which, you know, there were quite a few signals that he was interested in and perhaps planning violence. And this is present in a lot of mass shooting cases.

So, the question then is: How do you detect that? Well, there are often people around perpetrators who see things like this, who get a sense of these threatening communications and feel unsettled by it. We've seen comments in the press, since the attack, of people who were neighbors, who found him to be kind of a disturbing and upsetting guy. Again, I think this is a tough case, because this person was apparently living in a pretty isolated set of circumstances before the attack. But many of these cases occur with perpetrators who are in workplaces or in schools. And in those cases, it's even more stark, the evidence, when you go back and look at the cases, that there were people around the perpetrator who had a sense of something being wrong.

And when people speak up in that situation and reach out for help, if there is a protocol in place, with a method called threat assessment, that is the focus of my book, *Trigger Points*, a team can do a lot to step in and evaluate if a person is becoming dangerous, if a person is planning violence, and then try to intervene, in some constructive ways, ideally, to help that person onto a different path.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And I wanted to ask you the deeper question. I mean, we've confronted so many of these incidents of mass shootings over the decades now. What is it in American society that doesn't — where the officials in government don't act in a more forceful way to prevent these mass shootings? I mean, is it just the gun lobby, or is there something deeper in our society that basically accepts a culture of violence or feels powerless to be able to do anything about it?

MARK FOLLMAN: Yeah, that's a great question, and I think it's a big question, and it's challenging to answer. Certainly, the political deadlock that we have in the country is an enormous problem. And we've watched it go on and on for years. There's a remarkable disconnect, in my view, between what the majority of the American public wants about — in terms of gun regulations and gun violence, that we know from consistent polling over three decades now showing that the majority of the country, including conservatives and gun owners, wants more effective gun regulations, better background checks and other policies. So, the political disconnect is one part of the answer, and, I think, the power of the gun lobby, as you note.

Beyond that, I think there are some interesting broader cultural questions that we face. Why is it that this kind of violence is, in some ways, so accepted in our country? There's a kind of a broad sense of resignation, I think, that there isn't a whole lot we can do about it. I think that there is, you know, the sense that we're a

violent society inherently, that sort of these ways of thinking about the problem and talking about it, I think, validates it in certain ways, that in some ways is unhelpful and perpetuates the problem.

And this is part of what led me to write this book, because when I learned about this prevention method — behavioral threat assessment — I saw quite a lot of promise in it, in terms of its focus on getting out front of the problem, not just thinking about, you know, arguing about gun policy, which is very important and is a battle that will continue, but, you know, in my view, can't be the only way that we approach this problem. This is a big, sprawling problem. It's complex, and it requires a broader set of solutions. And so, by focusing more on community-based violence prevention work that is ideally constructed, I think, gets in the way of problem, is potentially very helpful to our prospects of doing better on this.

AMY GOODMAN: Mark, we're going to do Part 2 of this conversation and post it at democracynow.org. But, very quickly, if we can use, what, the Oxford High School massacre as an example, when Ethan Crumbley opened fire, killing four students and injuring many others, now his parents also being held accountable — could we end with that and how you think that's a perfect example of a mass shooting that could have been prevented?

MARK FOLLMAN: Yeah, the Oxford High School mass shooting is a particularly stark case in terms of what I'm talking about. The circumstances of it, you know, even for me, as someone who's studied these cases for a decade now, quite astonishing in some ways in terms of the trail of warning signs and the number of people around the perpetrator who had a sense that he might commit this act of violence, including the parents. I mean, the alleged role of the parents is really quite shocking in some ways in their apparent negligence of the deteriorating situation with their son and his trajectory toward violence, appeared to even enable him by purchasing a firearm and ignoring warnings from the school. There are big questions about what the school did, as well, in terms of the warning signs being seen there. There were teachers who had become very alarmed about that student and had referred him to counselors. The counselors were so concerned that they demanded that the parents remove the student from the school the morning before he attacked.

And so, this was a case where if there were a threat assessment program in place and trained experts who had the ability to see better what was going on here in terms of warning signs, there would have been very different action taken, in my view. There's no way that that student would have been returned to the classroom. So, even when you go beyond the disturbing questions of his access as a 15-year-old to a handgun, there's also the question of: Why was the situation so ignored in some ways?

AMY GOODMAN: And we're going to talk more about that in the second part of our conversation. Mark Follman, author of the new book *Trigger Points: Inside the Mission to Stop Mass Shootings in America*, national affairs editor at *Mother Jones*, where he covers gun violence and runs their [mass shootings database](#), which we're going to talk about.

Democracy Now! has an immediate job opening for a [news writer/producer](#). Visit democracynow.org/jobs to find out more and apply immediately. That does it for our show. I'm Amy Goodman, with Juan González. Stay safe.