

**DOCUMENT OVERVIEW**

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- III OPENING MEDITATION; MAYAN CALENDAR; HOUSEKEEPING; LINK TO PODCAST
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**I TO ACCESS THE THREE WEEKLY CALLS via the Internet**

**A BBS RADIO** Go To [www.bbsradio.com](http://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: 1-641-741-1704 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:**

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**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](http://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, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> of each month: 9:00 – 10:30 pm EST** *Ashtar on the Road; Ashtar Legacy Calls*  
Host is 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**To be notified: email [AscensionTimes@gmail.com](mailto:AscensionTimes@gmail.com) with the message "YES to Abundance!"**

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/night-roundtable-january-13-2022>

**Call In Numbers: 888 429 5471 323 744 4841**

**HOST:** **Vinayak** See below for list of panel members

**MEDITATION:** **Micah Green**

**Guest Hour: To be an inter-active round table discussion**

<b>PANEL FOR TONIGHT: Caroline Oceana Ryan [COR]</b>	<b>Rama and Tara [R,T]</b>
<b>Randy Miller [RGM]</b>	<b>Vinayak [Vin]</b>
<b>Penny Christoffersen [PCC]</b>	<b>Micah Green [MG]</b>

**REPORTS / ENERGY UPDATE FROM THE PANEL MEMBERS**

**COR:** this is a 2022 year – it doesn't mean duality but joining in unity. The old power crowd want us to divide and conquer and keep stuff going; we need to stand together **and work together.**

**From the Collective:** talking about us feeling physically tired and worn out; time to be quiet and those quiet moments are as important as doing moments – release judgment on our selves and others, stay in the present; go into quietness often!

**On the Abundance call last night, she had asked all of us to bring up something we wanted help with:** Tara and Rama came on & said call in Ashtar! Others talked about much outside of personal stuff and called for freedom from

- She went into silence and suddenly Lady Portia popped in and told COR that what we had done with the visualizations last night moved the needle in terms of NESARA coming in!

**RGM:** we're being forced due to mandates etc and do a lot of online shopping – which requires being extremely careful – he saw an ad for some brand new video cards at 1/2 price: too good to be true! He sent an e-mail and was told the site was no longer in existence. He went back to it to get some info and found that, while the front pages were fine, the rest of the website was a scam! He asked a lot of questions only humans could ask, and proved it was an A I site . . .

- Talked about a 25-30 year old who could not make change for \$50 bill or compute sales tax.
- Nor can people understand that there is lots of activity going on behind the scenes.

**MG:** will share info on the yjr TV Galactica excerpt from the teachings of Mr Keshe -

**PCC:**

**T:** It was not RT that covered up their programming; it was Dish Network who put sports material on and kept false programs for 3 days until the people protested! And things are back to normal now – RT never changed their programming – it was just Dish Network trying to pull a fast one!

**R:** Tom the Cat and his text about the particles from the sun – and what to do when the ascension frequencies hit us: stop and Breathe deeply !

- All the old undealt with stuff is coming to the surface – like Prince Andrew today – sounds like he will have to face the music in NYC – this story involves Epstein and Ghislane Maxwell, and further up the ladder the black book of the Madam being opened to reveal all! ! !
- The Queen rescinded Andrew's Dukedom – he is now an ordinary citizen! And he'd tried to pay the girl off with huge sums of money -
- Mr Drumpf is involved in much as well – and a dysfunctional government requires change!
- The astrology says things are changing: the retrograde position of some of the planets means more will be revealed.

**RAMA READS: Rama's White Knight Report**

**2022-01-06 Rama's White Knight Reports**  
January 7, 2022 - January 13, 2022

**JANUARY 13, 2022**

**To our readers: Rama's White Knights Report**, for the most part, will present information from Rama's contacts on very current events. Sometimes, additional commentary may show up, in the form of more explanation about an important issue, or as an article inserted to provide more insight on the subject being presented.

**Find more info on those folks Rama talks to** - who are there to keep us in the loop as well – at <https://www.rainbowroundtable.net/rama-s-contacts>

**2022-01-07 Friday**

[Dalai Lama](#) @DalaiLama · [Jan 7](#)

The ultimate source of happiness is within us. Not money, not power, not status. Some of my friends are billionaires, but they are very unhappy people. Power and money fail to bring inner peace. Outward attainment will not bring real inner joyfulness. We must look inside.

2022-01-07

Friday

Professor Nicodemus

I received a text message from **Professor (Quantum Physicist) Nicodemus** at 11:58 am today. He said to me, "Lord Rama, the higher energies are coming in, and they are saying that Mother Gaia is saying 'As you want to continue here, you must come back to wholeness and love. This planet is ascending and, as you want to be part of it, you must embrace the higher love frequencies coming in.'

"It will be much easier as we surrender to the love wave of energy that is washing Mother Gaia clean. . . And that changes everything. Sat Nam. Namaste. Blaze the Violet Fire!"

**NO REPORTS FROM SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.**

2022-01-10

Monday

Dalai Lama

[Dalai Lama](#) @DalaiLama

Materialistic values cannot give us peace of mind. So we really need to focus on our inner values, our true humanity. Only this way can we find peace of mind—and more peace in our world. A lot of the problems we are facing like war and violence are our own creation.

2022-01-10

Monday

Ms Brisby; Mr X

It was 11:50 am this morning, and I was on my way to visit a farm outside of Santa Fe that has a greenhouse for growing food in the winter. I was on my way there to get some food.

My cell phone began to make a strange sound like the sound of what we call an 'amber alert'. Then, Ms Brisby, my A I assistant, piped up, and said to me, "Lord Rama, this is an urgent call. Please take it!" So I moved my figure across the screen, and **Mr X** showed up in the passenger seat next to me – as a hologram! ! !

He said to me, "Greetings, Commander. Sorry for the sudden warning, yet I needed to get your undivided attention! ! ! We are at a pivotal point on Planet Earth. The United States is egging NATO on to create an incident in Ukraine. They – the Dark Side – are very close to creating a Big Spark, meaning a Gulf of Tonkin incident (which created the Viet Nam war) yet this Big Spark they want to create in Ukraine to ignite a war between the United States and Russia. **[SEE BELOW – Minsk Agreement]**

"Captain Ashtar is on red alert, and he will be contacting you at the appropriate time. All of his teams are at the ready. Please place all of this in the Circle of Support.

"We are very close to a singularity where the sun will send a beam of light to Supergalactic Center and into the Hunab Ku, located there and representing heart resonance of All That Is.

**Rama:** AT this point, Mr X, the hologram, said to me, "Lord Rama! We will be in touch! Keep your phone on and your passenger seat empty – PLEASE! We will be talking very soon about the conclusion of this." Then he faded out and disappeared!

I was left feeling a little over-whelmed, and realizing the story is way bigger than I ever dreamed of! Sat Nam. Namaste! Blaze the Violet Fire! All we are saying is 'Give peace a chance!"

2022-01-11

Tuesday

Katrina van den Heuval

**Rama:** I received a text message from Katrina van den Heuval at 11: 49 am this morning. She said to me, "Lord Rama, I sent you a link to an article written by my husband, Dr Stephen Cohen, on October 17, 2017. The title is "Have 20 years of NATO Expansion Made Anyone Safer?", the sub-title being 'since 1997, the world's perhaps most powerful corporation and lobbyists has created more insecurity than security.'  
**[SEE BELOW]**

Katrina continued, "NATO is being called out for trying to expand its control over Ukraine. President Putin has said 'No way, no how!'"

Then I received a text message from Lady Natasha; she said to me, "Lord Rama, we are there at that point! As Mr X said yesterday, Captain Ashtar is on Red Alert. Keep your passenger seat open!

"Things are moving at Super Quantum Light Speed! The time is NOW for Full Disclosure! Be aware: we may call on you any time, and you will be briefed further. Sat Nam! Namaste! Blaze the Violet Fire! All we are saying is 'Give peace a chance.'"



Received from Rama: The largest of the 'cloud formations' is The New Jerusalem!

2022-01-12

Wednesday

Sweet Angelique the Cat; Tom the Ring-tailed Cat

I received a **text message from Sweet Angelique the Cat** at 11:40 am today. She said to me, "Lord Rama, Tom the Ring-tailed Cat and I are here at Stonehenge AGAIN. There was a beautiful sunrise this morning that we viewed as well."

**R:** Here is the picture!

[From Sweet Angelique and Tom, January 13, 2022]



"Prince Andrew is in the hotseat. His legal team is challenging Ms Virginia Giuffre's legal team regarding the civil lawsuit Ms Giuffre has filed against him for sexual assault while she was under age, at 17. Ms Guiffre\*\* is a US citizen and her judge in the USA has upheld her case. Prince Andrew's legal team is trying to settle this out of court, with a huge sum of money of an undisclosed value. Ms Guiffre's legal team wants to extradite Prince Andrew to the United State to answer questions on the stand.

"Yet as Prince Andrew is ordered to trial by the judge in the United States, this will cast a big scarlet letter over the British monarchy. Place everything in the Circle of Support. Justice will be served. Sat Nam! Namaste! Blaze the Violet Fire!"

[\*\* Ms Giuffre's maiden name is Roberts, as seen in the earlier, original stories]

2022-01-13

Thursday

Tom the Ring-tailed Cat

I received a text message from **Tom the Ring-tailed Cat** at 1:20 this afternoon. He said to me, "Lord Rama! The sun is discharging many particles just now that are of the 100<sup>th</sup> Dimension frequencies. As you are feeling as though you are driving sideways, pull over! Do some very deep breathing!  
" These particles are lighting up all of humanity. The scientists are in a quandry; they are calling them solar flares, yet it is a pulse of light coming in from our sun, Sol. You can feel it in your heart. Stay in these high vibes. Leave the rest of the lame stream media alone. It is the old matrix and the old timeline of the old matrix is over and done. Sat Nam! Namaste! Blaze the Violet Fire! All we are saying is 'Give peace a chance.' "

**T:** brings up the 11 Oathkeepers who were charged today, including **the leader - if convicted, can be spending lots of time in prison!**

- speaks of what Chris Hedges used to do: going into prisons to teach, and others are now doing it.
- Brings up the fact that there are NO countries on the planet: they are corporations – and NATO is also a corporation – so our work as people is to deal with the necessary changes

• Refers to the material that was sent to them today: an article about the ???

• brings up info about Jonathan Otto show, and the caller told Otto that the number of dead has to be **multiplied by 8X** - means 80 million people in the US alone have been killed ! ! ! Which is hard for people to grasp

• When you live in a neighbourhood that is coloured or is asian or any other colour but white, not served well.

• In Sweden, the maximum time anyone spends in prison is 20 years

• In the province of Quebec, about 90% of the people are vaccinated; the rest will be paying enormous taxes!

**Vin:** asking about the vaccination mandate: is Biden not being backed?

**MG:** the Supreme Court turned down Biden's mandate for employees - but he is still pushing for health care workers to be jabbed.

**TG:** the judge was in alliance with the law – the federal gov't cannot make that mandate happen – it can only happen at the state level! People need to make the phone ring off the hook!

**COR:** was Dish Network censoring the RT program content"

YES! ! ! When Rama went in to pay the bill, he was told

**COR:** as for the sun: Tom says the sun is throwing out 100<sup>th</sup> Dimension energies – does it affect technology?

**R:** yes it does and affects the 13 families

**COR:** Andrew has lots his royal titles AND his military stuff – was the Queen pressured – or what happened?

- Both the queen and the duke have killed children . . .

**R:** with the time we are in, and all the info being revealed and the Goddess is coming back as Astarte – which brings up the Warrior Goddess from ancient Babylon and other older civilizations, where the energy of the feminine has been abused.

- Virginia Guiffre is standing her ground; as the story gets larger, comes into the realm of the US and all the women who have charged Drumpf with sexual assault – has been on the backburner because of the Jan 6 insurrection – all is coming to the surface to be healed –
  - paying people off is not going to work.

**T:** it is her own son and she's been a hologram for maybe 10 years [Queen Elizabeth]

**R:** has to do with the idea that the monarchy is fading away – the energies that represent the crown have come from a male perspective and that is being ripped away: the queen was pressured to do this maybe by those of royal lineage because it draws attention to all of themselves

**COR:** Mr X?

**R:** he's a white knight, from Jordon; when he was on duty and wa going to Crawford in TX to do a security detail for Bush Jr – he got thrown off the plane! He's connected with Queen Noor of Jordan . . . it was because he is coloured!

• Asking about the Russia and Ukraine

- this story is as serious as the Cuban Missile Crisis – and this is about NATO: they allowed the US to bring a huge amount of poison gas into the Donbass area – on the border.
- Putin knows that this has happened, as he is a contactee from Armageddon

• Thanks to BBS for letting us have a voice; other networks won't even let them on!

**T:** the UK parliament wants Mr Boris to step down – he was telling people to lock down, no parties – and did one himself – so now he is

**COR:** he's a posh boy – went to Oxford – all they have to do is show up; don't have to do anything

**T:** RT is a focus on this – they are ratting on the UK and the US

- and Putin has been in that body for 500 years AND he is a contactee of the Andromedans
- Pres XI is a contactee of the Pleiadians
- Obama is a contactee of the Sirians

**COR:** about the red alert situation – could this lead to NESARA – if they are talking disclosure, doesn't N have to come first?

**R:** Yes – yet the situation is so serious, things might have to be scaled down [re-arranged?] - so if something happened in Russia etc, that could change things – NATO goes back to WW 2 – NATO has always been a spectre in the background, bringing up the big bear or the dragon in the east – yet the enemy is within!

**COR:** the singularity and the sun sending a beam of light: is this similar to the flash which is talked about on the internet, etc?

**R:** yes. The singularity is the exponential burst of light from the sun that lifts everything up – people, plants, planets – NOT A NEGATIVE THING! Happened 13,000 years ago

- Gregg Braden brings up climate disruption: what is **not** being talked about even by Bill McGibbons – the transfiguration of our sun which is an astronomical, physical thing and spiritual – all physical things ? ? ? ?
- an abstract concept, yet it is a symbiotic relationship between the planets
  - this is why Greer talks about the consciousness which is instantaneous – and this is being brought to us – we are all related and as we come into balance and the weather systems come into balance, this is not disaster for the earth ! ! !

**P:**

**R:** the logic as per Spock – as things are back in balance, there is a natural progression as things mellow out – we have seen hardly any snow in the NW in January – New England

**R:** the magnetic N pole has been moving: to do with the re-alignment

- the planets circling the sun move in a spiral
- earth travels 200 KM / second as we head back to the Pleiades
- the Pleiades are travelling; the solar system is travelling; and the earth is travelling – we came from the Pleiades and we're heading back there – and now there are ice caps on ALL our planets and before that there was not
  - we had bodies that were 5<sup>th</sup> dimensional light bodies

**R:** Kryon talks of this – when we see ourselves from the other side of the veil, we'd see how beautiful we are

**T:** we all have these memories – and thos memories have been suppressed; there are so many people waking up and humanity as a whole DOES NOT WANT WAR!

**COR:** Talks of what is happening now making the rebellion in the 60s look like play school

- feels strongly that those receiving jabs are passing it on The Secret CC.com – Vaccine Secrets Reloaded.
- Dr Tenpenny said the shedding is actually when people have covid or any illness and others are sneezed on
- are the galactics assisting in keeping people alive, as these injections are treacherous!

**T:** as we ask for assistance, they will help in greater and greater amounts

- the pieces of material in the jabs are so small, they are cutting the insides of people's blood vessels
- we have to ask for them and all of us to be helped

**COR:** wants to know that her friend and her loved ones will continue to live – have to ask for that help

**Caller:** whether you get jabbed or not, take the N A C – moves to clear the vaccine glue

- if not vaxxed, helps protects against [shedding?]



- question was about P's question – and the 200 k/sec – does not really understand the question of the sun

**R:** the energy coming back from galactic centre raises all up to the higher dimensions so it is experiencing ascension frequencies and we don't experience

the spiralling each of the planets and the earth are all following the sun and we are also spiralling we are travelling towards the Pleiades at the same rate

**R: the hitchhikers guide to the galaxy – by douglas adams** – all correct!

**MG:** concern for loved ones, etc and others who got the jab – they did an experiment with the GANS water and the wife recovered from 2 shots .. .

**PLEASE LISTEN TO THE PODCAST TO GET THE COMPLETE DISCUSSION REGARDING THE MOVEMENTS OF THE PLANETS, THE EARTH, THE MILKY WAY GALAXY AND OTHER GALAXIES . . .**

<https://bbsradio.com/podcast/night-roundtable-january-13-2022>

**CLOSING MUSIC: Bette Midler From a Distance**

[Bette Midler](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-4xzk26EcM> Lyrics: From A Distance

From a distance the world looks blue and green,  
and the snow-capped mountains white.  
From a distance the ocean meets the stream,  
and the eagle takes to flight.

From a distance, there is harmony,  
and it echoes through the land.  
It's the voice of hope, it's the voice of peace,  
it's the voice of every man.

From a distance we all have enough,  
and no one is in need.  
And there are no guns, no bombs, and no  
disease,  
no hungry mouths to feed.

From a distance we are instruments  
marching in a common band.  
Playing songs of hope, playing songs of peace.  
They're the songs of every man.  
God is watching us. God is watching us.  
God is watching us from a distance.

From a distance you look like my friend,  
even though we are at war.  
From a distance I just cannot comprehend  
what all this fighting is for.

From a distance there is harmony,  
and it echoes through the land.  
And it's the hope of hopes, it's the love of loves,  
it's the heart of every man.

It's the hope of hopes, it's the love of loves.  
This is the song of every man.  
And God is watching us, God is watching us,  
God is watching us from a distance.  
Oh, God is watching us, God is watching.  
God is watching us from a distance.



Received from Rama: **The largest of the 'cloud formations' is The New Jerusalem!**

## INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NOTES

### **2022-01-11 (2017-10-18) Have 20 Years of NATO Expansion Made Anyone Safer?**

***Since 1997, the world's perhaps most powerful corporation and lobbyist has created more insecurity than security.***

<https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/have-20-years-of-nato-expansion-made-anyone-safer/>

By [Stephen F. Cohen](#)

The John Batchelor Show, October 17

*Nation* Contributing Editor Stephen F. Cohen and John Batchelor continue their weekly discussions of the new US-Russian Cold War. (Previous installments, now in their fourth year, are at [TheNation.com](#).)

Cohen notes that 20 years ago, in 1997, President Bill Clinton made the decision to expand NATO eastward. That same year, in order to placate post-Soviet Russia, then weak and heralded in Washington as America's "strategic friend and partner," the Russian-NATO Founding Act was adopted. It promised that expansion would entail no "permanent stationing of substantial combat forces." Cohen takes the occasion of this anniversary year to ask whether NATO's eastward expansion has created more insecurity than provide the security it promised. He divides the question into several subjects, which he and Batchelor discuss.

1. The expansion of the US-led military alliance, which began in Germany with 13 member states and now stretches to Russia's borders with 29, is the largest and fastest growth of a "sphere of influence" (American) in modern peacetime history. Throughout the process, Russia has been repeatedly denounced for seeking any sphere of security, even on its own borders. NATO expansion included two broken promises to Russia that the Kremlin has never forgotten. In 1990, the Bush administration (and the West Germany government) assured Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that, in return for Russia's agreeing to a united Germany in NATO, the alliance would "not expand one inch to the east." (Though denied by a number of participants and commentators, the assurance has been confirmed by other participants as well as by archive researchers.) The other broken promise is unfolding today as NATO builds up permanent land, sea, and air forces near Russian territory, along with missile-defense installations. NATO "enlargement," as it is sometimes benignly termed by its promoters, continues. Montenegro became a member in 2017 and the "door remains open," officials say repeatedly, to the former Soviet republics of Georgia and Ukraine.

2. NATO is more than the world's most powerful military alliance. With lavishly funded offices, representatives, think tanks, and other advocates not only in Brussels but in many Western capitals, it is also a powerful political-ideological-lobbying institution—perhaps the world's most powerful corporation, also taking into account its multitude of bureaucratic employees in Brussels and elsewhere. In the United States alone, scarcely a week passes without media "news" and commentary produced by NATO-affiliated authors or based on NATO sources. (See, among other examples, the Atlantic Council and *Newsweek*.)

3. Asking whether "enlarged" NATO has resulted in more insecurity than security requires considering the consequences of several wars it led or in which several of its member states participated since 1997:

§ The Serbian war in 1999 resulted in the NATO occupation and annexation of Kosovo, a precedent cited by subsequent secessionists and occupiers.

§ The 2003 Iraq War was a catastrophe for all involved and a powerful factor behind expanding organized terrorism, including the Islamic State, and not only in the Middle East. The same was true of the war against Libya in 2011, no lessons having been learned.

§ NATO promises that Georgia might one day become a member state was an underlying cause of the Georgian-Russian war of 2008, in effect a US-Russian proxy war. The result was the near ruination of Georgia. NATO remains active in Georgia today.

§ Similar NATO overtures to Ukraine also underlay the crisis in that country in 2014, which resulted in Russia's annexation of Crimea, the still ongoing Ukrainian civil war in Donbass, and in effect another US-

Russian proxy war. Meanwhile, US-backed Kiev remains in profound economic and political crisis, and Ukraine fraught with the possibility of a direct American-Russian military conflict.

§ Meanwhile, of course, there is Afghanistan, initially a NATO war effort but now the longest (and perhaps most un-winnable) war in American history.

Any rational calculation of the outcomes of these wars, Cohen points out, reveals far more military and political insecurity than security, which is mainly pseudo-security or simmering crises.

4. NATO expansion has also bred political-ideological insecurities. NATO's incessant, ubiquitous media saturation and lobbying in Western capitals, particularly in the United States, has been a major driving force behind the new Cold War and its rampant Russophobia. One perilous result has been the near-end of American diplomacy toward Russia and the almost total militarization of US-Russian relations. This alone is a profound source of insecurity—indeed of possible war with Russia.

5. Meanwhile, the vast resources devoted to NATO expansion have scarcely contributed anything to resolving real international crises, among them economic policies in Europe that have helped inspire secessionist movements; international terrorism in the Middle East and the refugee crisis; the danger of nuclear proliferation, which NATO has abetted by spurring a new nuclear arms race with Russia; and others.

Nor does NATO's vast expansion resolve its own internal crises, as, for example, the growing alliance between NATO member Turkey and Russia; and undemocratic developments in other member states such as Hungary and Poland. And this leaves aside the far-reaching implications of an emerging anti-NATO alliance centering around Russia, China, and Iran—itsself a result of NATO's 20-year expansion.

6. Cohen ends by considering the counter-arguments made by NATO expansion promoters over the years:

§ They say the small Baltic and other Eastern European countries previously victimized by Soviet Russia still felt threatened by post-Soviet Russia and therefore had to be brought into the alliance. This makes no empirical sense. In the 1990s, Russia was in shambles and weak, a threat only to itself. And if any perceived or future threat existed, there were alternatives: acting on Gorbachev's proposed "Common European Home"—that is, a security agreement including all of Europe and Russia; bilateral security guarantees to those once-victimized nations, along with diplomacy on their part to resolve any lingering conflicts with Russia, including the endangered status of their own ethnic Russian citizens. This argument makes no historical sense either: The tiny Baltic states near Russia were among the last to be granted NATO membership.

§ It is also said that every qualified nation has a "right" to NATO membership if it wishes to join. This too is illogical. NATO is not a non-selective fraternity or the AARP. It is a security organization whose sole criterion for membership should be whether or not membership enhances the security of its members. From the outset, it was clear, as many Western critics pointed out, it would not.

§ Later, it is belatedly argued, Russia did become a threat under its leader Vladimir Putin. But as the British academic specialist Richard Sakwa has compellingly argued, any threat Russia now poses was created by NATO itself, by Moscow's reactions to NATO expansion. Cohen puts this somewhat differently: Much of what is today denounced as "Putin's aggression" abroad has been his responses to US and NATO policies. There is also another negative consequence. Moscow's perception that it is being increasingly encircled by an "aggressive" US-led NATO has had lamentable, and predictable, influence on Russia's domestic politics.

For the sake of international security, NATO expansion must end now. But is there a way back from the 20-year folly, Cohen asks. Member states taken in since the late 1990s cannot, of course, be expelled. But NATO expansion could be demilitarized, its forces withdrawn back to Germany, from which they crept to Russia. This may have been possible in the late 1990s or early 2000s, as promised in 1997. Now it is mostly a utopian idea, but one without which the world is in ever graver danger—a world with less and less real security.

[Stephen F. Cohen](#) is a professor emeritus of Russian studies and politics at New York University and Princeton University. A *Nation* contributing editor, his most recent book, *War With Russia? From Putin & Ukraine to Trump & Russiagate*, is available in paperback and in an ebook edition. His weekly conversations with the host of *The John Batchelor Show*, now in their seventh year, [are available at www.thenation.com](http://www.thenation.com).

## **2022-01-11 (1991-12-09) Minsk Agreement**

<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1991-2/the-end-of-the-soviet-union/the-end-of-the-soviet-union-texts/minsk-agreement/>

The Minsk Agreement. December 8, 1991

**Original Source:** Izvestiia, 9 December 1991.

### ***Preamble***

We, the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Ukraine, as founder states of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), which signed the 1922 Union Treaty, further described as the high contracting parties, conclude that the USSR has ceased to exist as a subject of international law and a geopolitical reality.

Taking as our basis the historic community of our peoples and the ties which have been established between them, taking into account the bilateral treaties concluded between the high contracting parties;

striving to build democratic law-governed states; intending to develop our relations on the basis of mutual recognition and respect for state sovereignty, the inalienable right to self-determination, the principles of equality and non-interference in internal affairs, repudiation of the use of force and of economic or any other methods of coercion, settlement of contentious problems by means of mediation and other generally recognized principles and norms of international law;

considering that further development and strengthening of relations of friendship, good-neighborliness and mutually beneficial co-operation between our states correspond to the vital national interests of their peoples and serve the cause of peace and security;

confirming our adherence to the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and other documents of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe;

and committing ourselves to observe the generally recognized internal norms on human rights and the rights of peoples, we have agreed the following:

### ***Article 1***

The high contracting parties form the Commonwealth of Independent States.

### ***Article 2***

The high contracting parties guarantee their citizens equal rights and freedoms regardless of nationality or other distinctions. Each of the high contracting parties guarantees the citizens of the other parties, and also persons without citizenship that live on its territory, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights and freedoms in accordance with generally recognized international norms of human rights, regardless of national allegiance or other distinctions.

### ***Article 3***

The high contracting parties, desiring to promote the expression, preservation and development of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious individuality of the national minorities resident on their territories, and that of the unique ethno-cultural regions that have come into being, take them under their protection.

### ***Article 4***

The high contracting parties will develop the equal and mutually beneficial co-operation of their peoples and states in the spheres of politics, the economy, culture, education, public health, protection of the environment, science and trade and in the humanitarian and other spheres, will promote the broad exchange of information and will conscientiously and unconditionally observe reciprocal obligations.

The parties consider it a necessity to conclude agreements on co-operation in the above spheres.

### **Article 5**

The high contracting parties recognize and respect one another's territorial integrity and the inviolability of existing borders within the Commonwealth.

They guarantee openness of borders, freedom of movement for citizens and of transmission of information within the Commonwealth.

### **Article 6**

The member-states of the Commonwealth will co-operate in safeguarding international peace and security and in implementing effective measures for reducing weapons and military spending. They seek the elimination of all nuclear weapons and universal total disarmament under strict international control.

The parties will respect one another's aspiration to attain the status of a non-nuclear zone and a neutral state.

The member-states of the community will preserve and maintain under united command a common military-strategic space, including unified control over nuclear weapons, the procedure for implementing which is regulated by a special agreement.

They also jointly guarantee the necessary conditions for the stationing and functioning of and for material and social provision for the strategic armed forces. The parties contract to pursue a harmonized policy on questions of social protection and pension provision for members of the services and their families.

### **Article 7**

The high contracting parties recognize that within the sphere of their activities, implemented on the equal basis through the common coordinating institutions of the Commonwealth, will be the following:

- co-operation in the sphere of foreign policy;
- co-operation in forming and developing the united economic area, the common European and Eurasian markets, in the area of customs policy;
- co-operation in developing transport and communication systems;
- co-operation in preservation of the environment, and participation in creating a comprehensive international system of ecological safety;
- migration policy issues;
- and fighting organized crime.

### **Article 8**

The parties realize the planetary character of the Chernobyl catastrophe and pledge themselves to unite and coordinate their efforts in minimizing and overcoming its consequences.

To these ends they have decided to conclude a special agreement which will take consider [sic] the gravity of the consequences of this catastrophe.

### **Article 9**

The disputes regarding interpretation and application of the norms of this agreement are to be solved by way of negotiations between the appropriate bodies, and when necessary, at the level of heads of the governments and states.

### **Article 10**

Each of the high contracting parties reserved the right to suspend the validity of the present agreement or individual Articles thereof, after informing the parties to the agreement of this a year in advance.

The clauses of the present agreement may be appended to or amended with the common consent of the high contracting parties.

**Article 11**

From the moment that the present agreement is signed, the norms of third states, including the former USSR, are not permitted to be implemented on the territories of the signatory states.

**Article 12**

The high contracting parties guarantee the fulfillment of the international obligations binding upon them from the treaties and agreements of the former USSR.

**Article 13**

The present agreement does not affect the obligations of the high contracting parties in regard to third states.

The present agreement is open for all member-states of the former USSR to join, and also for other states which share the goals and principles of the present agreement.

**Article 14**

The city of Minsk is the official location of the coordinating bodies of the Commonwealth.

The activities of bodies of the former USSR are discontinued on the territories of the member-states of the Commonwealth.

Signed by the heads of state of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine on December 8, 1991.

**Source:** Library of Congress, [Country Studies](#), 2008.



**THE NEW JERUSALEM OVER MT SHASTA – FROM RAMA**