

August 23, 1939: Thoughts about the future

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WW2 began on September 1, 1939. That was only eight days after the infamous pact signed by the foreign ministers of Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union on August 31 known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact. Germany attacked Poland and Great Britain and France, in order to defend Poland, declared war on Germany. The Soviet Union fought with Nazi Germany against Poland and her western allies when she attacked Poland on September 17.

Poland was beaten, but she never surrendered, never signed any capitulation treaty with either Germany or the Soviet Union. She fought only a few days less than did France against Germany. Furthermore, Poland inflicted heavy losses on the Germany armed forces destroying one quarter of the German air force fighter planes and a whole armored division. She would have fought longer if the Soviet Union had not attacked Poland from the back.

If it took two generations for the Soviet Union's Communist Party's elite to acknowledge that the existence of the devil's pact between Hitler and Stalin was a historical fact, how much time will it take before Russia, the legatee of the Soviet Union, will acknowledge that WW2 began on September 1, 1939, and not June 22, 1941, when Hitler attacked the Soviet Union?

Today the Baltic states and Russia talk of two world wars which arose from the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact: for the former it is WW2 and for the latter it is The Great Fatherland War. In Russian mythology the period of time between the start of both wars is portrayed as necessary in order to prepare for war against Germany. In other words, the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of August 23 is justified. Can a rational mind accept this postulate as a logical argument? From this it follows that the war that began on September 1 was "good" because it allowed Moscow to better prepare itself for the June 22 war! But it was the one and the same war! Stalin secured his ally Hitler a continuous flow of raw materials by rail so that Hitler could better carry on the fight

against France and Great Britain. This material aid, of course, also strengthened Germany against the Soviet Union itself.

This year shortly before the victory parade on May 9 in Moscow when a detachment of NATO troops also marched in Red Square, Russia's TV First Channel broadcast an interview with Marshal Zhukov, the commander of the Soviet forces against Germany during the Great Fatherland war. In it he frankly admits that the rainy weather in October played a major role in stopping the German advance just twenty kilometers from Moscow. The German tanks were bogged down by mud.

The interview was taped in 1966 and then destroyed. However, as is usual on such occasions when attempts are made to silence history, there is always someone who takes the trouble to save a copy.

In Russia TV broadcasts are controlled by the state. Why did President Medvedev deem it necessary to resurrect the interview shortly before May 9? Modern Russia cannot stand on legs of lies just as the so called "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" could not. Apparently a careful destalinization process is taking place in Russia because of this. However, if you utter "A", then you have to admit that the next letter of the alphabet is "B". Without the whole alphabet a modern state can not be built. That "B" is the plain fact that WW2 began on September 1, and the guilty party here was also the Soviet Union.

The next letter "C" denotes the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact's "side effects, mainly, the occupation and then incorporation of the Baltic states into the Soviet Union. Russia needs to acknowledge that the Latvian and Russian peace treaty of August 11, 1920 was, is, and will be in force "for all times" as stipulated in that treaty, and that this treaty cannot just disappear into nowhere after the Soviet Union swallowed the Baltic states in 1940.

The "D" letter is very difficult. Medvedev himself has publicly stated that Russia has a "privileged" position in her neighborhood states. This statement arises from the secret protocols attached to the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact and Medvedev simply repeats Sergej Karaganov's blueprint for the "partial restoration of the Russian empire" in her "near abroad", which he presented in 1993. The stated aim of the opposition party *Harmony Center* vying for power in the Latvian elections on October 2 is to replace America with Russia as Latvia's strategic partner. This is in line with the fulfillment of

Moscow's "privileged" interests. Here we are not talking about points of academic discourse in history, but rather full blooded politics. About new spheres of influence built on the foundations of old spheres of influence that were laid on August 23, 1939.

Who in Russia will be the first to admit this? Who will follow Mr Mavriks Vufsons, the eminent Latvian communist who shook the Soviet Union to its very foundations when he in 1988, while the Baltic states were still under Soviet occupation, publicly broke the taboo on the existence of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact's secret protocols which consigned the Baltic states to Moscow's sphere of influence? When somebody from the political class in Russia has the courage to say "B", then all the rest of the letters in the alphabet will fall in their natural order as logic demands and we may then see the rise of a modern Russia casting itself free from outdated imperial ambitions.