

US paranoid about Russia-China summit

by M. K. Bhadrakumar,* India



M. K. Bhadrakumar
(Picture ma)

The arrest warrant¹ issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Vladimir Putin can only be seen as a publicity stunt by the Anglo-Saxon clique, with the US leading from the rear.

Ironically, though, the ICC acted on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the

Anglo-Saxon invasion of Iraq in 2003, which led to horrific war crimes but the “judges” at Hague slept over it. Both Washington and London admit today that the 2003 invasion was illegal – based on trumped up allegations against Saddam Hussein.

There’s no chance, of course, that the ICC warrant will ever be taken seriously. ICC has no jurisdiction in Russia, which, like the US, is not a signatory to the “Rome Statute”. But the intention here is something else.

The mud-throwing at *Putin* is yet another display of President *Biden*’s visceral hatred towards the Russian leader that goes back to a joust in Moscow well over a decade ago when Putin told him off brusquely, and is timed to distract attention from the state visit by Chinese President *Xi Jinping* to Moscow on Monday, an event that not only has spectacular optics but is sure to intensify the “no limit” partnership between the two superpowers.

The Anglo-Saxon clique is watching with dismay the talks in Moscow tomorrow [20 March]. To be sure, Moscow and Beijing have decided to stand together to bury the US hegemony.

Today, China exceeds the combined manufacturing capacity of the US and its European allies, and, equally, Russia has emerged as the world’s



Russia’s President Vladimir Putin (r) and China’s President Xi Jinping met in Moscow on 20 March 2023. (Picture Keystone/Sergei Karpukhin, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

largest nuclear weapon state superior to the US both in the quantity and quality of weaponry.

It has dawned on the American mind that Russia cannot be defeated in Ukraine. There is a chicken-and-egg situation facing NATO, according to a *report in Politico*.² Massive investments are needed to catch up with Russia’s defense industry but Europe’s ailing economies have other critical priorities of survival and battling mounting social unrest.

The notions of defeating Russia in a proxy war in conditions of “sanctions from hell” have turned out to be delusional. It is the US banks that are collapsing, it is European economies that are threatened by stagnation.

The US’ exasperation is evident in the top secret mission by *MQ-9 Reaper* drone near the Crimean peninsula on March 14. US *Global Hawk* drones have been spotted regularly over the Black Sea in recent years, but this case is different.

The *Reaper*’s transponder was switched off as it approached Russia’s temporary regime for the airspace established for the purposes of the special military operation near the Crimean Peninsula (which Moscow had duly notified to all users of international airspace in accordance with international norms).

In the event, Russia’s Su-27 fighter jets outmanoeuvred the *Reaper*, which lost control and drowned in the Black Sea. Moscow conferred

* M. K. Bhadrakumar has worked for about three decades as a career diplomat in the service of the Indian Foreign Ministry. He has served as ambassador to the former Soviet Union, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Germany and Turkey. His texts mainly deal with Indian foreign policy and events in the Middle East, Eurasia, Central Asia, South Asia and Pacific Asia. His blog is called “Indian Punchline”.

state awards to the two pilots who drove Reaper to the seabed.

Russian ambassador in Washington *since warned*³ that while Moscow is not seeking any escalation, any deliberate attack on a Russian aircraft in neutral airspace will be construed as “an open declaration of war against the largest nuclear power”.

If the US had planned the drone incident to test Russia’s reaction, well, the latter has given an unambiguous response. And all this took place in the immediate run-up to President Xi’s visit.

Biden since hit back by welcoming the ICC warrant on Putin saying, “it’s justified ... (and) makes a very strong point.” But Biden’s ageing memory is failing him again. For, the stated American position on ICC is that Washington not only doesn’t recognise the jurisdiction of the ICC but if any US national is arrested or brought before the ICC, Washington reserves the right to use military force to rescue the detainee!

Furthermore, Washington has threatened reprisal against any country that cooperates with an ICC warrant against a US citizen. The *George W Bush* administration stated this categorically as US policy on ICC against the backdrop of the Anglo-American clique’s horrific war crimes in Iraq, and the US never resiled from it.

By the way, there has been no referral by the UN Security Council or General Assembly to the ICC. So, who organised this arrest warrant? Britain – who else? The Brits bullied the ICC judges who are highly vulnerable to blackmail, as they draw fat salaries and would sup with the devil if it helped secure extended terms for them at the Hague. This becomes yet another case study of the piecemeal destruction of the UN system by the Anglo-Saxon clique in the recent years.

Suffice to say, the drone incident and the ICC warrant vitiate the climate for any dialogue between Moscow and Kiev. Evidently, the Anglo-Saxon clique is worried like hell that China might spring another surprise as it did by mediating the recent Saudi-Iranian deal.

In a meaningful remark, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson *Wang Wenbin* said on Friday that Xi’s visit is partially to promote “peace.” Beijing has already released a “*peace plan*” for Ukraine,⁴ a 12-point agenda for “a political resolution of the Ukraine crisis,” which is on Zelensky’s desk in Kiev although the West studiously chose to ignore it. [See *article in “Swiss Standpoint”*]⁵

In a phone call on Thursday [16 March], Chinese foreign minister *Qin Gang* told his Ukrainian counterpart *Dmytro Kuleba* that Beijing hopes “all parties will remain calm, rational and restrained, and resume peace talks as soon as possible”.

The *Chinese readout said*⁶ Kuleba discussed “the prospect of peace talks [...] and noted that China’s position paper on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis shows its sincerity in promoting a ceasefire and an end to the conflict. He expressed the hope to maintain communication with China.”

Unsurprisingly, Biden is paranoid about China’s push to mediate between Moscow and Kiev. The point is, he and Zelensky are *locked in a deathly embrace*⁷ – the corruption scam involving the activities of *Hunter Biden* in Kiev is hanging over the father’s political career like the Damocles’ sword, while on the other hand, Zelensky is also fighting for political survival and is increasingly daring to act on his own accord.

Disregarding western doubts about the wisdom of holding the shattered frontline city of Bakhmut in Donbass, Zelensky is digging in and keeping up an attritional defense that may drag on. (*Politico*)⁸

Evidently, Biden is acting like a cat on the hot tin roof. He can neither let go Zelensky nor can he afford to be locked into a forever war in Ukraine while Taiwan Straits is beckoning him to a greater destiny.

Beijing’s stance has visibly hardened lately and the scorn that the US poured on China’s national pride by shooting down its weather balloon has only exacerbated the distrust. Similarly, the nadir has been reached for Russia with the Reaper drone provocation and the Anglo-Saxon clique’s ICC scam.

Xi has chosen Russia for his first visit abroad in his third term also, the war in Ukraine notwithstanding. While announcing Xi’s visit to Russia, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said, “As the world enters a new period of turbulence and change, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and an important power, the significance and influence of China-Russia relations go far beyond the bilateral scope.”

Again, Biden would have thought he was putting Putin on the mat with the Reaper stunt and the ICC scam. But Putin is nonchalant, choosing today to make his *first-ever visit to Donbass*.⁹

Putin toured Mariupol, the port city that was bitterly contested by the NATO operatives in league with the Ukrainian Neo-Nazi brigade, drove a vehicle along the city streets, making stops at several locations and surveying reconstruction works. It is a defiant signal to Biden that NATO has lost the war.

Source: <https://www.indianpunchline.com/us-paranoid-about-russia-china-summit/>; 19 March 2023

¹ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/situation-ukraine-icc-judges-issue-arrest-warrants-against-vladimir-vladimirovich-putin-and>

² <https://www.politico.eu/article/nato-is-racing-to-arm-its-russian-borders-can-it-find-the-weapons-eastern-edge->

[military-leaders-james-j-townsend-jr-us-one-billion-citizens-army-europe/](https://www.tass.com/politics/1589407)

³ <https://tass.com/politics/1589407>

⁴ https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202302/t20230224_11030713.html

⁵ <https://www.schweizer-standpunkt.ch/news-detail-ansicht-en-international/beijing-takes-the-initiative-in-the-ukraine-conflict.html>

⁶ https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202303/t20230317_11043633.html

⁷ <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/03/12/biden-united-states-ukraine-relationship-cracks-00086654>

⁸ <https://www.politico.eu/article/zelenskyy-digs-in-against-calls-to-quit-bakhmut-us-western-allies-eu-russia-front-lines-valeriy-zaluzhnyy-kyiv-soledar-kupol/>

⁹ <https://tass.com/politics/1590801>