



Crimea skirmish – Is Russia provoking Ukraine or vice versa?



Due to an incident at sea off the Crimean peninsula, the Ukrainian president Poroshenko declared martial law on Monday, November 26th, 2018. Pavel Klimkin, Ukrainian foreign minister, said: “Now war with Russia is on our territory and beyond”. Swiss Television SRF even reported: “Many Ukrainians see their country directly at war with Russia.” This is the reporting of western media. What is the true context and who are the true agitators?

Due to an incident at sea off the Crimean peninsula, the Ukrainian president Poroshenko declared martial law on Monday, November 26th, 2018. This is what western media reported. The Ukrainian parliament approved this decision with a great majority. The Russian navy was said to have denied passage to three Ukrainian ships and seized them afterwards. Three members of the Ukrainian forces were said to have been injured. According to media reports it is said that the imposition of martial law would not mean Ukraine intending to carry out offensive operations. This is what the Ukrainian president emphasized prior to the declaration. It would only be about “protecting our territory and the security of our citizens”. In addition to this, Poroshenko alerted the reservists of the military forces. Pavel Klimkin, Ukrainian foreign minister, said: “Now war with Russia is on our territory and beyond”. The Swiss SRF even reported: “Many Ukrainians see their country directly at war with Russia.” This is the reporting of western media.

It all sounds very serious, threatening, like a truly legitimate reaction of the Ukrainian president Poroshenko to a provocation by the Russian Federation, yet it also sounds like saber-rattling. This arouses suspicion, after all the reporting of western media on other crises which have been proven to be one-sided. Therefore, the Russian side has to be heard as well how they report about these highly charged happenings in order to obtain a balanced view.

The Russian Portal Politikus.ru for example writes on Monday, 26th November: “All three Ukrainian vessels who illegally violated the Russian state’s border in the Black Sea were stopped. [...] The Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (FSB) writes: The vessels of the Ukrainian navy have not violated the Russian border for the first time. The demands of the Russian Navy to immediately stop were not paid attention to by the Ukrainian navy. Instead, intentionally dangerous maneuvering took place. In order to stop the ships, weapons were used. Three members of the Ukrainian crew had to be medically treated.

An offense was reported against the Ukrainian Navy.”

The Russian Internet portal RT Deutsch (German) reports:

“On Sunday at around 7 a.m. Moscow time, two artillery boats and a tugboat of the Ukrainian navy crossed the Russian border in the Black Sea heading on to Kerch Strait. Ships usually pass the narrow Kerch Strait only with a special permit and time-schedule; these ships however did not have such a permit. This is what the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation FSB said, responsible for the maintenance of border security. Russian officials

repeatedly advised the Ukrainian ships to leave the territorial sea and economic zone of Russia. The Ukrainian side however, ignored these demands.

‘The vessels were undertaking dangerous maneuvers and were not obeying lawful instructions from the Russian authorities’, the FSB said.

At about 11.30 am Moscow time two more Ukrainian vessels departed the Azov Sea port of Berdyansk and approached the Kerch Strait from the other side, but then turned back.”

The Russian newspaper Ukraine.ru as well writes on November 26th:

“The size of the Ukrainian vessels was of no importance in this case. For them it is important trying to enter the territorial seas of the Russian Federation. All activities of Ukraine seem to be coordinated and realized under supervision of the highest authorities of the state – President Piotr Poroshenko and the secretary of national security and defense, Oleksandr Turchynov. The provocation is aimed at creating a military conflict in the Black Sea, the Ukrainian state authorities intending to involve the NATO, the European Union and the USA. This way the regime of Piotr Poroshenko is trying to preserve itself, dismissing the presidential elections and starting off a large war operation in the Black and Asov Seas being fully convinced that NATO and the USA will support their adventurous plans.”

This is what Russian media report, creating a completely different picture. A serious, non-polarizing reporting will research on the cause of an issue – what was at the origin of the Russian navy’s intervention.

It will not simply omit such weighty aspects like the clear indication of repeated provocation, no permit for passing, the ignoring of instructions and warnings.

It also has to be taken into account that the next presidential elections are being held in Ukraine on March 31st 2019, and Poroshenko currently ranks low in the polls, barely passing the 10% mark.

Considering the NATO East-enlargement consistently being pursued under US leadership, as well as the US-initiated regime change in Ukraine in favor of a US-servile government, it is foreseeable that US-military strategists favor military attacks on the Russian Federation to happen. Great Britain already announced on November 21st to send one of its warships into the Black Sea. Therefore, the current Crimea incidents appear as if they did not occur all surprisingly. From this point of view all future incidents will have to be examined precisely as well: What is the true context and who are the true agitators?

from hm.

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