

Newsletter 35: Holland Releases Dubious Report on Eve of Russia World Cup

Dear Readers,

For this issue of my newsletter I want to share something I wrote in July, 2014, shortly after a Malaysian airliner en route from Amsterdam to Malaysia was shot down over Ukraine. The piece is especially timely in light of the May 27 release of an investigative report in Holland alleging to have “definite” proof that the MH-17 airliner was shot down by a Russian BUK missile. That May, 2018 report presents no definitive new forensic evidence. Rather it relies on assertions and speculations by sources, including the UK-based Bellingcat, an intelligence operation receiving funds from among others, the NATO-linked Atlantic Council, where he is listed as “Nonresident Senior Fellow.”

In 2014 Bellingcat first engaged in assertions of Russian shooting of the MH-17 that were fraudulent and today would accurately be called fake news. Bellingcat’s Eliot Higgins posted a photo on July 14, 2014 under the headline, "Found: The Buk Missile Launcher That Downed Flight MH17." Higgins wrote that the photo had been taken in the town of Snizhne. It was actually proven to have been taken in the town of Torez and under weather conditions significantly different to those on the day of the MH-17 crash. Higgins claimed it was unimportant when the photograph was taken or where...

Further, in the initial attempt to blame Moscow, on July 19 2014, Kiev’s Security Service (SBU) published photos online that it claimed showed ‘Russia’ secretly withdrawing a BUK-M surface-to-air missile system from the Ukraine civil war zone. At the time SBU Chief Vitaly Naida declared to press “The SBU ... is getting clear evidence of Russian citizens’ involvement in the terrorist attack (on the Malaysian Airlines Boeing)”. However, bloggers immediately spotted the photos were of a Kiev air-defense system no. 312, previously pictured in March that year. With this background in mind, the latest attempt to reuse the badly discredited Bellingcat blog as investigative source for the latest attempt to again cast blame on Moscow, is highly revealing. With this in mind, I thought it worthwhile to reprint for you my initial investigation of the MH-17 affair written in July, 2014.

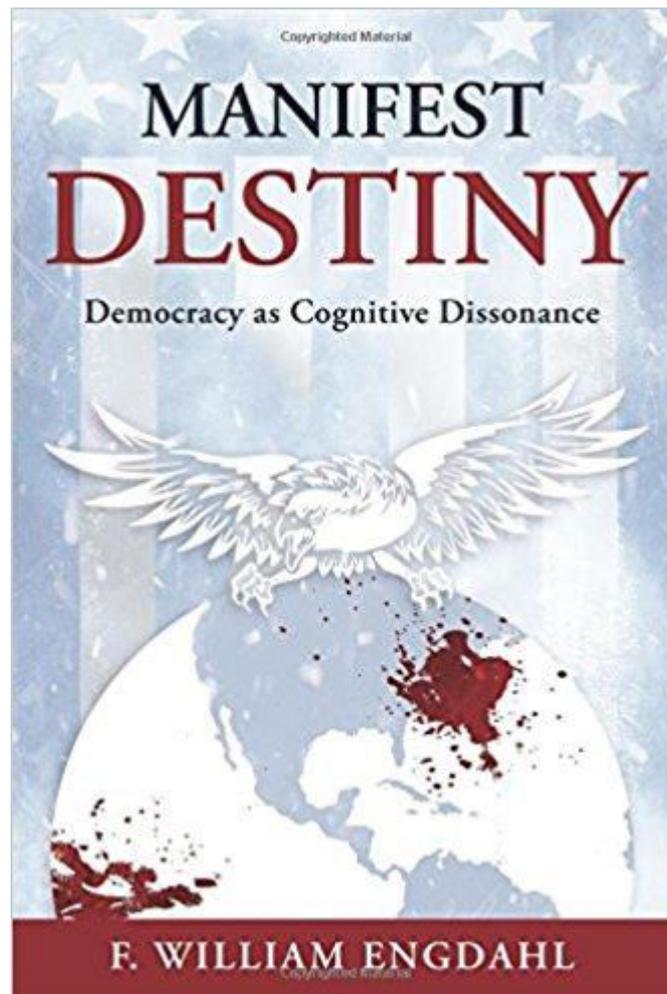
Censorship? *One important note to all of you readers to underscore how the internet is being increasingly censored and critical websites or authors such as yours truly are coming under increasing attack. In March this year, 2018 I self-published via a subsidiary of Amazon, my newest book, **Manifest Destiny: Democracy as Cognitive Dissonance**. For the first two months, sales were building strongly. Then in early May just two hours after a major interview on the book on a very popular critical media in the US, I received an email, unsigned, from the Amazon publishing company announcing that my book had been delisted. Reason given was a vague claim the book contained information available for free on the internet and that their customers do not like to pay when they can get it free. They gave no prior notice or chance for me to defend against their charges. I replied, “Please explain what you refer to.” Reply was the same vague nonsense, again unsigned. I wrote again asking how we could clear this as soon as possible. Finally, after the book had been delisted for a week, they wrote “congratulations,” that I could reproof and upload it again. Since then sales have dropped dramatically despite favorable reviews. It is impossible to prove that Amazon’s*

company censored my book just when a burst of sales would be expected, but the case shows how vulnerable free speech has become and how real internet censorship is becoming.

I mention this incident to underscore how important it is to support independent critical voices especially now, and to ask you to consider buying the book if you have not done so, or making a support donation on my website, www.williamengdahl.com. I want to continue providing my work free of charge and not behind a paywall. To do that I need your support.

*Thank you,
William Engdahl*

Click the cover to buy the book on amazon:



Ukraine MH-17 is CIA False Flag and It Ain't Flying

By F. William Engdahl

26 July, 2014

The world has seen all this theatre before. We saw it with the false flag Gulf of Tonkin incident during the Vietnam War. We saw it with the CIA-Saudi faked Sarin gas episode in 2013 that brought the world to the brink of a world war. We saw it in the fake Niger uranium yellowcake episode that was used to bully a US Congress into war against Saddam Hussein's Iraq in 2003—the so-called Weapons of Mass Destruction that never were found. Now the world is seeing it again in the frantic efforts of the US State Department and elements of the CIA to try to blame Putin's Russia for allegedly giving the East Ukraine separatist rebels highly sophisticated Russian anti-aircraft weapons allegedly used to shoot down the Malaysian Airlines.

Putin, so charges Secretary of State John Kerry on five (!) US talk shows on July 20, is de facto guilty for not controlling the east Ukraine rebels. The proof of it all? "Social media," according to the State Department official press spokesperson.

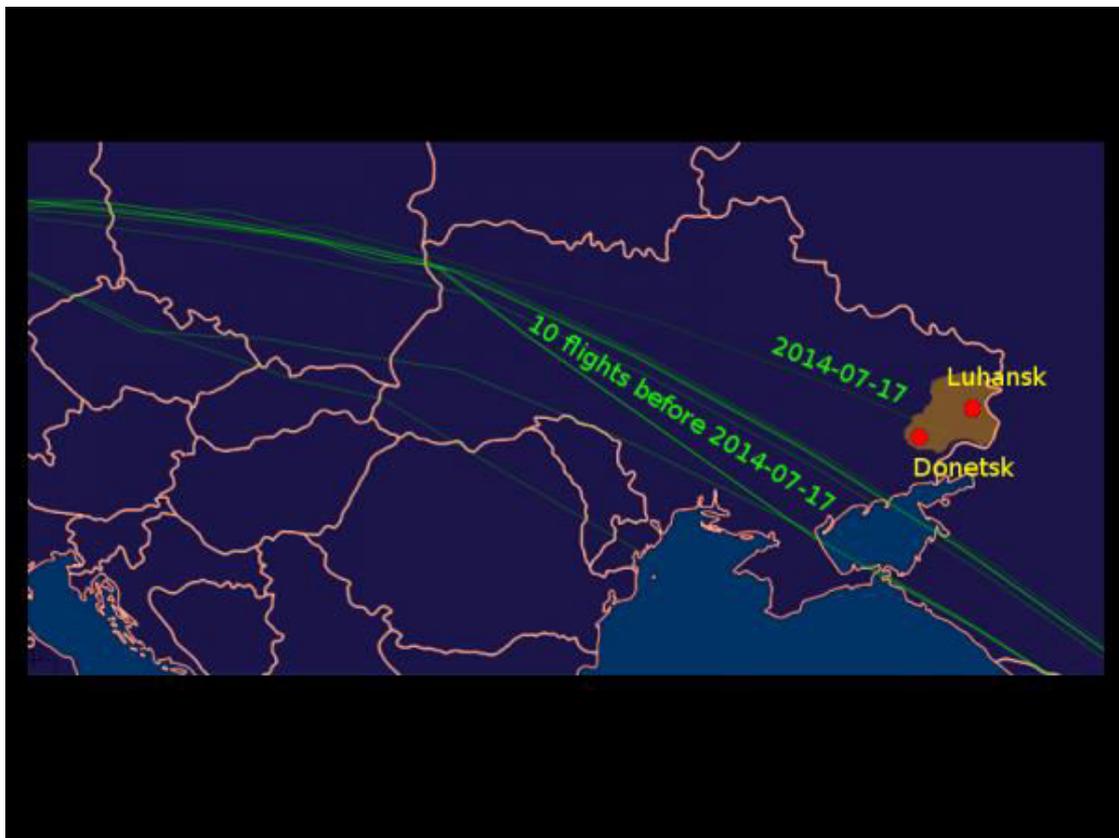
The good news for those sober souls who are not eager to see a World War III pitting China-Russia and the BRICS against a US-led NATO and turning Western Europe into a devastated *Trümmerfeld* for the third time in a century, is that this attempt to blame Putin's Russia is backfiring even as this is being written.

Unanswered questions

One of the most shocking features of western mainstream media coverage of the MH17 event is the utter lack of serious, cautious investigative journalism of the variety which used to exist only a few years ago. Rather than err on the side of caution before rushing to judgment in a situation that could easily trigger a new Cold War or worse, CNN, the New York Times, Washington Post, and most EU media including German simply quote Kiev government officials, even neo-nazi ones, as if they were credible. Real inquiry must look at the unanswered questions.

First we should begin with several very vital unanswered questions before making judgment what happened to MH17 Boeing 777 aircraft on July 17.

Number one is why Kiev Air Traffic Control, a part of the Ukraine Ministry of Aviation, ordered the MH17 to deviate from its scheduled route that avoided the war zone in eastern Ukraine? According to the initial reports of FlightAware.com which tracks all civilian aircraft online, on Thursday, July 17 Malaysian Airways Boeing 777 Flight MH17 from Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport to Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, deviated significantly in altitude and trajectory route from all other commercial flights which since outbreak of the civil war in eastern Ukraine in April have flown south of the conflict region. The key questions before giving blame to anyone, which have been completely ignored by the Ukrainian government in Kiev, by the Obama Administration in Washington, by most Western media are why did the pilot divert from his usual flight plan? Why did he fly above restricted airspace? And just what, if any instructions, did Kiev air control give the pilot in the minutes before the tragic explosion? ¹



Source: screenshot images from FlightAware.com compiled by from Vagelis Karmiros who collated all the recent MH-17 flight paths as tracked by FlightAware and shows that while all ten most recent paths pass safely well south of the Donetsk region, and cross the zone above the Sea of Azov, it was only July 17 MH17 tragic flight that passed straight overhead Donetsk.

Curiously, after the FlightAware data was initially published, the site changed its version of the trajectory of MH17. Were they pressured to do so? If so, by

whom? By NATO? By Washington? It's implausible to imagine it could have been pressure from an isolated Russia.

Kiev's fake 'Smoking Gun' Video

Most of Obama Administration arguments about who is responsible for MH17 rely on citing Kiev government officials as if they were credible. Yet they have lied repeatedly since their US-backed coup d'état on February 22, 2014 brought them illegally into power at the barrel of a gun. Just hours after the news of the downing of the plane, Ukrainian Secret Intelligence released what it claimed was "proof" that MH17 was shot down by Russian-trained separatists under direct orders from Russia. The 2:23 minute YouTube purported to prove that "militants of "Bes" group using a Russian anti-aircraft missile shot down a Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777 passenger jet heading from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur.

Ukrainian intelligence presented what it alleged were recorded conversations, first of all between a pro-Russian separatist and his coordinator Vasyl Geranin, said to be a colonel of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces. They talk about the "downing of a jet." There is no distinction whether this is a civilian or a military jet, and may well refer to a shot down Ukrainian Su-25 which was shot down some hours earlier in the civil war fight. In the You Tube there is no way to prove the audio was not simply two actors in a studio reading a script given them by Kiev or CIA. The hand-credibility of Kiev officials who have lied about almost everything since day one. The entire Kiev "smoking gun" You Tube vanished from the media when diligent IT researchers discovered the time/date stamp to the YouTube showing that the video was put online on 2014-07-16 at 19:10 pm Kiev time, a full day BEFORE the downing of MH17. Ooops! Back to the Langley drawing board, boys.

So much for the credibility of the Kiev government, which has lied about pretty much everything since day one in office.

US NATO Maneuvers simultaneous

Now we come to a highly interesting coincidence. Just as was the case during the World Trade Center attacks of September, 2001 and the so-called Boston Bombers attack and numerous other terror incidences, there were relevant NATO-Ukraine maneuvers taking place just on the days before and right after the MH17 event.

According to Washington NSA "whistleblower" Wayne Madsen, NATO and the Ukraine military were making ten days of joint military "exercises," code-

named Sea Breeze,” that included the use of electronic warfare and electronic intelligence aircraft such as the Boeing EA-18G Growler and the Boeing E3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS). SEA BREEZE, according to Madsen, included the AEGIS-class guided missile cruiser USS Vela Gulf. From the Black Sea, “the Vela Gulf was able to track Malaysian Airlines MH 17 over the Black Sea as well as any missiles fired at the plane.” As well, US AWACS electronic intelligence (ELINT) aircraft were also flying over the Black Sea region at the time of the MH-17 fly-over of Ukraine. Growler aircraft have the capability to jam radar systems in all surface-to-air threats.²

The NATO exercise coincided with the July 17 MH17 downing only 40 miles from Russia’s border. “NATO ships and aircraft had the Donetsk and Luhansk regions under total radar and electronic surveillance.”³

(One very curious footnote is the recurring central role of Vice President Joe Biden in the Ukraine events. Biden has been personally involved since the beginning of the protests. And unusually, it was not NATO but the website operated by Vice President Joe Biden's office that first announced US SEA BREEZE and RAPID TRIDENT II military maneuvers on May 21, 2014. As well, in a brazen conflict-of-interest, Biden's son, Hunter Biden, is a newly-named director of the Ukrainian natural gas and oil company Burisma Holdings, Ltd., owned by IhorKolomoisky, the Ukrainian-Israeli mafia oligarch, whose is known as the «Chameleon»).

⁴

The burning question is why has the US Government not released the exact tracking images for the flight MH-17 on July 17 to show precisely when it flew and from precisely where it was hit? Could it be they are afraid to reveal what they have for fear it would boomerang on Washington’s warhawks?

Not only do the US agencies have satellite data on the MH17 flight, they also have precise images of the likely rocket missile battery that fired the missile that destroyed MH17. And the images clearly show soldiers wearing...Ukrainian uniforms.

According to award-winning former Newsweek journalist Robert Parry, one reliable whistleblower source told Parry that, “US intelligence agencies do have detailed satellite images of the likely missile battery that launched the fateful missile, but the battery appears to have been under the control of Ukrainian government troops dressed in what look like Ukrainian uniforms.”⁵

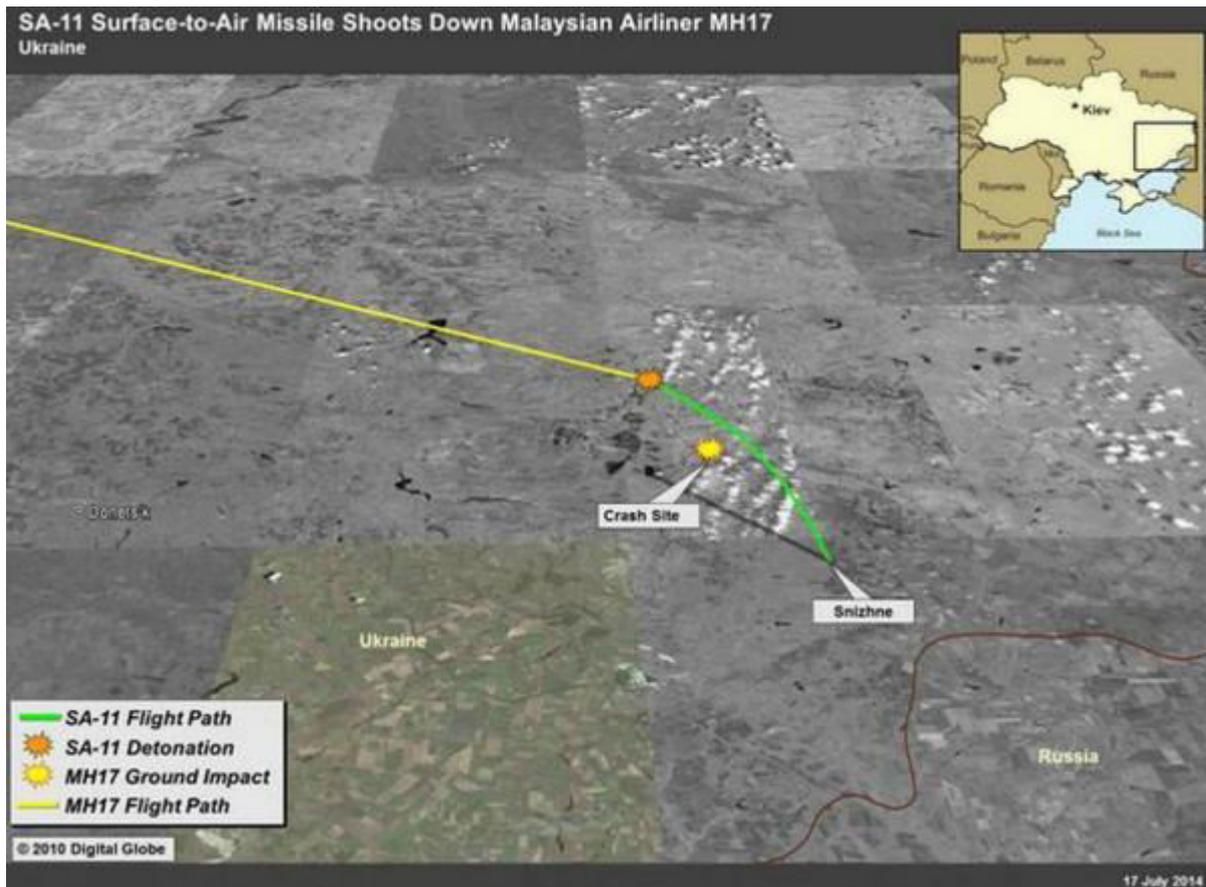
Could this be the reason why even until today, the Obama Administration has not released detailed evidence to prove their assertions that Ukrainian “rebels backed by Moscow” fired the deadly rocket? It would show in fact the opposite, that it was Kiev-tied forces.

US State Department changes story

The official propaganda war against Russia on the MH17 downing is being run, just as was the Maidan Square coup, by a cabal of neoconservatives in the US State Department around neoconservative Assistant Secretary Victoria “F**k the EU” Nuland, a former aide to Vice President Dick Cheney and former US Ambassador to NATO, whose neo-conservative husband Robert Kagan was one of the founders of the Bush-era war document, *Project for a New American Century*, that set out the plan for US war on Iraq in September 2000, a full year before September 11, 2001. ⁶

Nuland’s Deputy Press Spokesperson, a former CIA press spokesperson, Marie Harf, in a July 21 Washington press briefing, faced unusually persistent and critical questions from several journalists. They asked why, if Secretary John Kerry and the US Government possessed “irrefutable” evidence of Russian and rebel involvement in MH17, did they refuse to make it public as they did in earlier instances such as the 1962 Cuba Missile Crisis. Defensive and irritated by the questions, Harf retorted, referring to July 20 statements by Kerry, she declared, “our assessment that this was an SA-11 fired from Russian-backed, separatist-controlled territory.” But, incredibly, what was the proof the journalists were demanding? Harf replied, “that we know – we saw in social media afterwards, we saw videos, we saw photos of the pro-Russian separatists bragging about shooting down an aircraft...” ⁷ Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen for gasping. “We saw it in social media afterwards...we saw photos of pro-Russian separatists bragging...” Has the CIA developed talking photographs too?

Apparently feeling mounting pressure to produce some shred of evidence, a day later on July 22, CNN, a loyal mouthpiece for the US State Department, announced that the US Government had published satellite evidence. Finally! What was it? This drawing below, which any photo-paint novice could have made, showing nothing real or provable at all in any independent UN or other independent evidential inquiry:



CNN photo claiming to be US Government satellite image of how and where “pro-Russia rebels” in Ukraine hit MH17

As pressure built by the hour for the US Administration to release its reconnaissance photos as well, it began to look more and more that the “evidence” held by CIA satellite images indeed showed not pro-Russia rebels manning the BUK anti-aircraft in East Ukraine, but rather Ukrainian uniformed soldiers as Perry’s intelligence source maintained. Not good for the warhawk faction in Washington.

With Russian government and military intelligence releasing more of its own evidence, the Obama Administration has gone into a frantic “damage control” mode. At 5:57 pm Washington time on July 22, they decided to organize an anonymous press briefing by “unnamed senior officials.” “Unnamed senior officials” usually refers to very high level cabinet or assistant secretary level officials.

Several “unnamed senior US officials” held a press briefing in Washington. The US intelligence officials stated that while the Russians have been arming separatists in eastern Ukraine, “the US had no direct evidence that the missile used to shoot down the passenger jet came from Russia.”⁸ This was new from Washington.

The US intelligence officials went on to say they didn't know who fired the missile or whether any Russian operatives were present at the missile launch. They were "not certain" that the missile crew was trained in Russia...In terms of who fired the missile, they stated, "We don't know a name, we don't know a rank and we're not even 100 percent sure of a nationality..."⁹

Looking like goofy characters in a bad remake of a Hollywood Laurel & Hardy film, the "senior" US intelligence officials, when asked for details on their evidence, repeated the State Department mantra of Marie Harf. The intelligence "seniors" had the *chutzpah* to state that they were, "relying in part on social media postings and videos made public in recent days by the Ukrainian government," even though they openly admitted that they have not been able to authenticate all of it. For example, they cited a video of a missile launcher said to have been crossing the Russian border after the launch, appearing to be missing a missile. But later, under questioning, the officials acknowledged they had not yet verified that the video was exactly what it purported to be.¹⁰

That last bit of the press briefing is astonishing because it meant that some briefing officer, perhaps CIA or State Department, briefed the President of the United States (who presumably has little time to do his own investigations...) who then went on nationwide TV on July 21 to charge that the Malaysia Airlines plane, "was shot down over territory controlled by Russian-backed separatists in Ukraine." He also said Russia has both trained the separatists and "armed them with military equipment and weapons, including anti-aircraft weapons." That speech brought the entire world one giant step closer to an open Cold War with Russia that easily could become a hot war. A day later, somebody very senior inside the US Administration apparently decided to deescalate the confrontation massively.

Kolomoisky's Private Army: Who did down MH17?

That begs the question of who did then down the MH17. Here the waters get very rough and very ugly. The specific area where the fatal missile was fired at MH17 is in fact not under control of the "pro-Russia rebels," but under control of a neo-nazi private mercenary army, organized and armed by Ukrainian billionaire Ukrainian oligarch, Ihor Kolomoisky.

Kolomoisky stinks of being an asset of at least US and Israeli intelligence services. He holds both Ukraine and Israeli passports and operates his business empire from Switzerland, not Kiev. In the past months, Kolomoisky has raised his own mercenary army, complete with the BUK missiles allegedly used in the shutdown of MH-17. Kolomoisky, the Governor of Dnipropetrovsk oblast in

eastern Ukraine, has threatened terrorist attacks against Russian-speaking officials in eastern Ukraine, including assassinations.

Kolomoisky, estimated to be the second-richest person in Ukraine, also has strong connections inside Kiev's Borispol International Airport, where it has been reported that Ukrainian Interior Ministry troops stormed the air traffic control tower shortly before MH-17 was shot down.¹¹

Was that storming of the Kiev Air Traffic Control Tower just before the MH17 strike done by Interior Ministry troops commanded and ordered by new Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov—a man earlier wanted by Interpol for fraud and a staunch ally of former Prime Minister and Russia-hater, Yulia Tymoshenko and of Ihor Kolomoisky? Avakov first designated the east Ukraine rebels as “terrorists,” a label that ostensibly allows committing of any atrocity against innocent civilians very much as Israel in Gaza today.¹²

In a personal interview, Veterans Today Tbilisi Georgia bureau chief Jeffrey Silverman pointed to the possible complicity of the company Inmarsat in the MH17 case. Inmarsat, which lists the Pentagon and US Government as major clients, today has most international air traffic control communications systems under their purview. In the earlier disappearance of Malaysian MH-370, according to Silverman, the flight was “lost” due to Inmarsat turning off their signals and refusing until today to release their data.¹³

In an interview just after the downing of MH-17, a Spanish national identified only as “Carlos” told ETN, an online news service, that his private evaluation, and basing it on military sources in Kiev, was that the Ukrainian military was behind this shoot down. He said that Kiev radar records were immediately confiscated after it became clear a passenger jet was shot down and all foreign employees in the Traffic Control in Kiev were released immediately. Carlos also reported that the very same MH-17 plane was escorted by two Ukrainian fighter jets until 3 minutes before it disappeared from radar.¹⁴

We may never hear more details from Carlos as just after his report was posted in the internet, he disappeared, his social media accounts wiped and no one seems to know his whereabouts.

There are speculations rampant inside Ukraine that there is a deep split between the bitter and electorally defeated Tymoshenko and Chocolate King billionaire President Petyr Poroshenko, whose business empire depends to a large extent on economic ties with Russia.

Kolomoisky, nominally Jewish and ostensibly sympathetic to Israel or at least holding that passport, supports tactics of neo-nazis more reminiscent of

Himmler's SS or the Nazi Gestapo. Kolomoisky's forces are armed with advanced weaponry, obtained both from Ukrainian weapons inventories and from purchases on the black market. They reportedly possess the BUK surface-to-air missile system said to have shot down the MH-17.

Kolomoisky's forces comprise Ukrainian regular military personnel; neo-Nazi units from west Ukraine; foreign mercenaries, including Georgians, Romanians, and white supremacists from Sweden and Germany; ex-Israel Defense Force Blue Helmet commandos. They are organized into four battalions: the Azov Battalion; the Aidar Battalion, the Donbass Battalion; and the 2,000-strong Dniepr-1 (or Dnipro-1) Battalion, which was responsible for the deadly May 1 fire-bombing of the trade union building in Odessa and the burning alive of people trapped inside the Mariupol Police Station on May 9. Dnipro-1 also maintains a 20,000-member reserve force.

At the heart of Kolomoisky's Army is a Nazi «Brownshirt»-style force of ardent Kolomoisky loyalists who have used guns, iron bars, and batons to seize control of factories and offices in Ukraine that Kolomoisky has expropriated from so-called «separatist» sympathizers.¹⁵

Georgian mercenaries in Kolomoisky's Army have reportedly been trained in the use of BUK missile systems that an earlier Ukraine government of Viktor Yushchenko sold to then-Georgia President, US-backed Mikheil Saakashvili. Kolomoisky has now used ex-President Saakashvili's «consulting services» in Dnipropetrovsk in the military and political campaign against the breakaway people's republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, according to Madsen.¹⁶

If the gang behind Kolomoisky was in fact behind the MH-17 disaster, it would explain why the neoconservatives and Israel lobby in Washington and around the world, especially in the media has so vehemently pointed the finger away from Kolomoisky and to Russia's Putin. Kolomoisky apparently has indirect access to the highest levels of power within the Department of Defense, NATO, and the US Intelligence Community.

A serious truth-seeking investigation ought to start with Kolomoisky and his international network. But at this point it is clear the attempt to pin MH-17 on Putin's Russia, a classic CIA "false flag" operation, an attempt to try to blame the enemy for what you have actually done, has badly backfired. This is however far from the last of it, it's very clear to this writer.

¹ Marc Koutzarov, *Why did it deviate the route which both KLM and MA were flying all week?* Successive screen shots with time and dates from FlightAware.com, posted Friday, July 18, 2014, 9:06 am, accessed in

<http://discussions.flightaware.com/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=18919>.; also Tyler Durden, *Was Flight MH17 Diverted Over Restricted Airspace?*, ZeroHedge.com, 07/17/2014 23:55 -0400, accessed in <http://www.zerohedge.com/sites/default/files/images/user5/imageroot/2014/07/restricted%20air%20space.png>.

² Wayne Madsen, *MH17 Beware of the "Chameleon"*, Wayne Madsen Report, 21.07.2014, accessed in <http://www.waynemadsenreport.com/categories/20140512>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Robert Parry, *What Did US Spy Satellites See in Ukraine?*, July 20, 2014, accessed in <http://consortiumnews.com/2014/07/20/what-did-us-spy-satellites-see-in-ukraine/>.

⁶ Wikipedia, *Victoria Nuland*, accessed in http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_Nuland.

⁷ US State Department, Marie Harf, Deputy Spokesperson, *Daily Press Briefing*, July 21, 2014, accessed in <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2014/07/229550.htm#UKRAINE>.

⁸ AP, *US: No link to Russian government in Flight MH17 downing*, July 22 2014, 5:57 pm, http://www.aol.com/article/2014/07/22/us-no-link-to-russian-government-in-flight-mh17-downing/20935367/?icid=maing-grid7|main5|dl1|sec1_Ink2%26pLid%3D505510

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Wayne Madsen, op. cit.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Wikipedia, *Arsen Avakov*, accessed in http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsen_Avakov_%28politician%29

¹³ Personal email exchange with the author and Jeffrey Silverman, July 18, 2014. For information on Inmarsat, see the official company website at <http://www.inmarsat.com/about-us/>

¹⁴ ETN, *Ukraine air traffic controller suggests Kiev military shot down passenger plane*, July 17, 2014, accessed in <http://www.eturbonews.com/48079/ukraine-air-traffic-controller-suggests-kiev-military-shot-down->

¹⁵ Wayne Madsen, op. cit.

¹⁶ Ibid.