

2:02 PM

Friday, February 6, 2015

TR-DE talk.

Did Stalin or successors ever plan to take over West Europe?

Only in blitzkrieg planning of late Sixties, in response to flexible response (!!! NATO's fear of McNamara!): when it seemed possible that there would be no nuclear response, or it would be delayed, or subject to political decision. They built up to exploit this opportunity; which they foresaw only in response to a war started by Europe. BUT that might have been provoked by an uprising in East Europe, joined by national forces, followed by Western intervention.

TR.SU had a domino theory, that if any particular member of Warsaw pact withdrew from the Pact, it could have a cascading domino effect (especially if it included East Germany. In effect, this did happen. Romania did withdraw. (Earlier, Tito). Albania had independent policy.

But in uprisings, the issue of leaving the Pact did arise: Hungary; Czechoslovakia? Poland, 1956, 1980? Brezhnev: If any tries to leave, that will be put down by SU forces.

SU Fear of WWII, and spirit of German revenge (revanchist: revenge defeat/humiliation and restore lost territories. (French, after Franco-Prussian War; Germany after WWI; Stalin fear of German revanchism after WWII. (exaggerated fear of actual German attitudes.)

Russia had reason to fear independent right-wing regimes in East Europe, a channel for German attack again (note Napoleon, as well as WWI and WWII), and for Western incursions against USSR (see Wisner insurgent forces in East Europe, Albania, which Russians knew about through Philby and others.)

And that's true today! To some degree, more unstable today: shifting borders, shifting NATO. (Scholars today in international relations are ignoring how close US and SU came to war in last century; and now).

The analogy of Putin in eastern Ukraine to Hitler and the Sudetenland (Hillary) have been basis. Reclaiming lost territory. Putin is supporting proxy war (unlike Hitler). Putin is not Hitler.

US inclined to support and supply arms to Ukraine: possible US/R conflict over Ukraine, in context of expansion of NATO. (Does US show any openness to a non-aligned Ukraine, not part of NATO? Not apparently.