Russia unleashes a new list of demands in UAE negotiations

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Uncertainty continue to rise as Moscow wishes to unilaterally restore its grip on East Europe

In the recent news reported by German newspaper Bild russia has presented a US negotiator team in Abu Dhabi with a new list of demands as a part of a peace settlement in Ukraine. To the surprise of the many, the list has included an extensive set of demands going beyond Ukraine or post-war settlement.

One of the major cornerstones of the document was the demand to reverse NATO's post-1991 expansion to the East, including Finland's withdrawal from NATO, the removal of the already existing foreign bases and troops from the Baltic states, the official ban on the nuclear sharing of the UK and France's nuclear weapons with the other NATO member states as well as Ukrainian unilateral withdrawal and handover of the remaining Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

A comedy of choice or blissful ignorance?

As the russian state continues to wage its war of aggression, the Western diplomats and analysts remain in a state of confusion. Does the list itself represent another attempt of the russian state to derail the negotiations by giving a set of impossible demands that go beyond Ukraine? Or represent a chilling proof of the scale of the derangement of the russian leadership who may believe that it has enough power to reshape a post-1991 world order by a backside deal with the United States. At the same time as the negotiations continue to hit the dead end and the political position of the President of the United States becomes more restrained due to recent victories by the Democrats, Europe continues to suffer the cost of the Kissinger era Realpolitik and its great power struggle. The one in which russia would like to see NATO and Eastern Europe voluntarily Finlandized.

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