



AUKUS - The Nuclear Submarine Security Pact between the US, UK & Australia

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acTV: On September 15, 2021, a trilateral security pact was signed between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States called AUKUS.

Could you first introduce this security pact to our viewers, provide some details and context, and then elaborate on its impact on world security and stability?

Peter Kuznick: Yeah, the pact is almost as bad as his name, AUKUS, I mean they couldn't have come up with a worse sounding name for this ridiculous pact. The Biden administration might have made a pretty good speech yesterday at the United Nations. Unfortunately, what he's calling for and his vision is the opposite of the way he's been acting as president. He's done a lot of good things in the United States, so he's proposed a lot of good things when it comes to US domestic policy, but his foreign policy is a disaster. Fareed Zakaria, who I don't often agree with, he kind of represents the liberal wing of the Council on Foreign Relations, he had an op ed last week and this statement on his show, in which he said that Biden's foreign policy has been a continuation and a legitimization of Trump's foreign policy is that it's shocking to look at Biden has doubled down on almost everything that Trump had done and that Biden is condemned. And now you look at this, maybe it's not that surprising because you look at who Biden's advisers are, Blinken, Sullivan, Kurt Campbell, Victoria Nuland, when it comes to Ukraine, Abrams, these are the people who gave us the Asia pivot, these are the people who want to get out of Afghanistan, as Biden has done, not so that we can have peace, but so that we can focus more on the real enemy- and that's China. So these were the ones who drafted Hillary Clinton's 2011 article in Foreign Policy magazine titled America's Pacific Century, where she talks about getting out of the wars in the Middle East

and focusing on China. And so in that context, Biden from the very beginning has been creating a very hostile approach toward China and saying that this is our real adversary. Sometimes he says just a competitor, but if you look at the fact that we're throwing so much money into this, the defense budget- Biden asked for 715 billion dollars, congress gave him 25 billion on top of that, 740 billion. You look at the statements about the likelihood or possibility of war against China, the Americans are preparing for this. And the worst hot spot, of course, the most dangerous one is not Ukraine, Ukraine is probably number two, the most dangerous hot spot right now is Taiwan. So the US and its allies have been mobilizing as China. In fact, when Biden went to Europe in June, the idea was, we were going to mend fences with our European allies so that we could get them all on board to focus on China. The real challenge, the real enemy, the real adversary. Biden is really screwed up in a lot of ways trying to do that. So they decided now that we need to tighten relations with Australia. France had this submarine deal, 66 billion dollars to sell a dozen non non-nuclear conventional diesel powered submarines to Australia. Initially, the French wanted to sell the Australian's nuclear powered submarines. The French and the Chinese nuclear powers- there are six countries that have nuclear powered submarines, the original five members of the NPT, original five nuclear powers and India all have nuclear powered submarines- the model used by France and China uses low enriched uranium, about six percent enriched uranium, the model used by the United States and Britain, because the Americans gave the Brits that technology back in the 50s, uses 94.5 or 93.5 percent enriched uranium. So this is going to operate on several different levels, the significance of what occurred. First of all, the Australians pull out of the deal with France. The French could have upgraded that to a nuclear subs if the Australians wanted, but the Australians were the ones who said they didn't want it initially, because it was more expensive and harder to maintain. The Australians don't have nuclear capabilities, so they opted for the diesel ones, but then they just pulled out of the deal. That has devastating consequences for the French. The French whole Indo-Pacific strategy was based upon this deal with Australia and working together very closely. So it undermines France's Indo-Pacific strategy, number one. Number two, it costs them a huge sum of money that they were going to make on this deal. And three, they feel that they were stabbed in the back. The Europeans were already unhappy with the way Biden pulled out of Afghanistan, now they've got something on top of that and something very, very serious. The French foreign minister said that this was a stab in the back by the United States, that this was a betrayal. He talks about American duplicity and lies. They say this is a humiliation and embarrassment- and it was. And so there they are looking very, very weak, embarrassed, cut out, uninformed. In fact, there were all these meetings going on and the French didn't even know that this was happening, that this was all secret up to the last minute before the French even find out that this is happening. So this is going to have repercussions on several levels. Immediately there was supposed to be that same night a celebration in the French embassy in Washington D.C., of the 240th anniversary of France defeating Britain on behalf of the United States in the Battle of Chesapeake Bay. France was America's original ally, and there was going to be a big celebration. They canceled that. Then they recalled their ambassador from Canberra, from Australia, as well as from Washington. This is a big diplomatic blow out. And then you look

at it from the standpoint of Macron, Macron is in a very, very tight election race against this extreme right wingers, Le Pen, in France, in seven months is going to be a presidential election. This weakens him, embarrasses him. What is the United States thinking, they want another right wing zealot to take power in France? You know, I'm not a fan of Macron, certainly, but compared to Le Pen, Macron is head and shoulders better for the United States interest. But Biden's vision on this was so limited. And then the other significance of this, so the idea that from the US standpoint is, we can work with Britain, the British say they're back again, Global Britain, what does Global Britain mean, to Johnson? They announced they were increasing their nuclear arsenal from 180 nuclear weapons to 260 nuclear weapons, a 40 percent increase in Britain's nuclear weapons is the immediate plan, these Trident submarines, Trident missiles. Yet they also want to get involved more around Taiwan. The biggest danger globally now is something is going to blow up around Taiwan. The Chinese have been increasing their patrols and fortifications in the Strait of Taiwan. The Americans have been doing a lot of provocative actions there. The Taiwanese are sounding more and more like they want independence. China is willing to tolerate the Taiwanese independence as long as nobody talks about abrogating the "One-China" policy. But the Biden administration in their contacts, higher level contacts, inviting people to the inauguration from Taiwan, this is what has riled up the Chinese so seriously and that's why so many people are talking about the possibility of nuclear war in that region. The Pentagon has run 18 war games over a fight in the Strait of Taiwan. The Chinese have won all 18 in Pentagon war games. Taiwan is 100 miles from China, Taiwan is 5000 miles from Honolulu. You know, what is the United States going to do? We don't have the capability. The Chinese been building up their nuclear as well as their nonconventional capabilities in that area. And so this is... a tinderbox that is ready to explode. The idea behind this sub-deal with Australia, even though it's going to take a long time to bring those online, is that eventually Australia can get involved with the United States in defending Taiwan when the fighting starts. You've also got Japan making statements about Taiwan that the self-defense forces could get involved there also. So what we're seeing is this polarization, choosing sides. And what Admiral Richard, Charles Richard, the head of the US Strategic Command, has said recently, is that within the next five years there's likely, there is a good chance of nuclear war in that region. We had just two days ago the Air Force warning about the same thing. We've got other statements from strategic command, statements, tweets, warning about the likelihood of war in that region. It's very, very dangerous. The other thing that stinks about this deal is that this is opening the door for nuclear proliferation. Nobody's done anything like this. There's a loophole in the nonproliferation treaty saying that submarines and other things are legitimate as long as they're not for the purposes of nuclear weapons. And the difference between nuclear submarines that can carry nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons- a nuclear power submarine is much more effective against China, in terms of stealth, in terms of endurance, in terms of range, it's much more effective for fighting, for aggressive, offensive fighting against China. And that's what the Australians are thinking in terms of now. And it's partly China's stupid fault. The Chinese are so heavy-handed and inflexible and they're doing this in the South China Sea instead of including Vietnam and the others and legitimizing their claims, there is

enough wealth to be shared by everybody. China's hard line policy there, you know, there was a nine dash line and saying that this is all theirs, has created such hostility that the Vietnamese recently signed a new enhanced security agreement with Japan. You know, because they're so upset about what China is doing there. The same thing with China's treatment of Australia. You know, Australia cut Huawei out of their 5G networks. Australia said they wanted an investigation of the origins of the coronavirus in the Chinese labs, so the Chinese have come down hard, boycotting various essential things in terms of trade with Australia. But Australia says they need this to keep their trade lanes open. The trade lanes, by far, Australia's biggest trading partner is China. They need nuclear power submarines to keep their trade lanes with China open, against China? It makes no sense. We're dealing with morons here. But the other thing is that so now we've established this precedent that we can sell highly enriched uranium powered submarines to countries like Australia, then why can't China sell them to Iran or Pakistan? Why can't, you know, Russia sell them, you know, whoever, to North Korea? You know, we're opening the door to the likelihood of nuclear proliferation here and that highly enriched uranium that has to be monitored, that Australia didn't have the capability of developing or dealing with themselves at this point can very, very easily lead to some of that being used for weapons, for nuclear weapons. And so in a world that's already so dangerous, the United States, in order to gain some geopolitical advantage against China, has just made it that much more dangerous. So all those good words that Biden spoke at the United Nations yesterday are simply bullshit. It's just hypocrisy. The US is saying one thing and going the other direction, and that's exactly what the Chinese called Blinken and Sullivan out on in their meeting in Anchorage in March. Blinken goes first and it gives a couple minute harangue against China for Xinjiang and the treatment of the Uyghurs, which is true, Hong Kong and various other things. And then the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman gets up for 16 minutes, says, who the fuck are you to try to talk to us like that? You know, you talk about rules based international order? You are the main ones who have been destroying that. Look at the countries you're invading. Look at the countries you're bombing. Look at your 800 bases around the world. Look at what the United States has been doing for the last 30 years. And, you know, and that you can't talk to us like that. And that's the reality. So, you know, the world is very, very dangerous right now. And we've got to make sure that we are going in an opposite direction. This building up of armed alliances and military spending and military solutions to nonmilitary problems is the exact wrong way to approach this.

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