

Africa rebukes Blinken and Biden's meddling

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Aaron Mate (AM): It also distracts the public from the proxy war in Ukraine, where just today the US announced its biggest shipment of weapons yet, \$3 billion. That's more weapons than the US has announced in any single shipment before. And that's what we're not supposed to be talking about. And that is what is really, I think, our biggest danger right now. It's exacerbating the threat of a nuclear disaster as we're seeing at the nuclear plant in Ukraine, which both sides accuse the other of shelling. I think it's pretty clear based on the fact that Russia is occupying that plant, the idea that Russia would shell a nuclear plant that it's occupying seems pretty crazy to me. But, who knows. Look, regardless, it underscores the need for diplomacy and to end the war. And there's none of that right now. And in fact, it might be too late on the Russian side. Russia might be done trying to talk to the US. They had their stated terms for ending the war laid out very clearly before the war and when the war began and even more than a month into the war. And, you know, this is an overlooked episode. We've talked about it, but it should be stressed. Zelensky put out what looked like a serious plan, a ten point plan, and there was going to be a Russian Ukrainian meeting in Turkey in early April. But what happened according to Ukrainian media? Boris Johnson came to Ukraine, obviously acting on behalf of the US because Boris Johnson wouldn't have done this without US orders and told Zelensky not to negotiate with Putin and said, if you do negotiate with Putin and you sign any kind of security guarantee, we're not going to join it. So we will not guarantee your security in any kind of resolution with Russia. That is an order for more war. And that's why months later, we're still in it and the US is announcing billions of dollars in new weapons. And as we talked about on the Democratic side, zero restraining force. Ro Khanna made one little peep once in The Washington Post where he said, he acknowledged that this war is causing global havoc on the economy. It's wreaking havoc on the domestic economy and the global economy, I'm paraphrasing, but that was his message.

So, Ro Khanna recognized, this war is causing global havoc. And he asked, where's the plan for diplomacy? There is no plan.

Max Blumenthal (MB): Where was Ro Khanna's Plan in the beginning? I mean, I went up and interviewed him and I got it right up in his face and said, What do you think? And he sounded like a Reagan-era neocon. He was like, They are fighting for the free world and we need to give them all the weapons and, you know, just all the way... It was like he was ready to march all the way to Moscow or something. And now he's calling for diplomacy. Honestly the time for diplomacy is 2015.

AM: And the thing is, that was also a very brief call for diplomacy because that was whatever, I think two months ago now and that was one little blip from Ro. But he hasn't chimed in since on diplomacy. So he asked like, What's the plan? But then he didn't follow up. And of course, there is no plan. And obviously he, Ro just doesn't care, really. And no Democrats do. They seem unconcerned with how disastrous this is and they seem onboard with just shipping off more weapons. And I wanted to show one quote today from The Wall Street Journal. It really captures the dominant mentality right now in Washington. There's a Journal article from today talking about how well the war is going for Ukraine. And it says this: "Widespread evidence of alleged Russian atrocities against Ukrainians and Mr. Putin's weaponization of energy, food and even nuclear safety have made his regime a pariah throughout the developed world - although not in the Global South, where skepticism toward the west runs deep." So the developed world, quote unquote, happens to exclude the majority of the world's population in Asia, Africa and Latin America. And they're not developed because they don't obey the Masters in the West and they're skeptical of the West when it comes to this proxy war in Ukraine.

MB: You can hear those voices in the old colonial propaganda films like: The white man's brain is far more developed than those in the global southern nations, who follow the Russian Slavic races in all of their devious disinformation acts. The white man, however, understands that he must make a pariah of the Slav who weaponizes energy, food and even nuclear safety, as Rudyard Kipling argued.

So, is this an op ed or was this a report?

AM: That's a news story. It's not even the right wing. That's a news story. Talking about the developed world and the non developed world, which is basically the majority of it. And you're going to call, you know, like it's so colonial and racist really. But that's, you know, that's what this war is about. It's about reinforcing Western supremacy.

MB: Well you saw Blinken go to Africa and get humiliated by- I should put this footage up- by the South African foreign minister.

AM: Yeah, I find that that's a great example; this was after the US in the form of UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield threatened Africa, said, Okay, you're allowed to buy certain Russian products. You can buy food. And fertilizer. I think that was her allowed Russian products. But anything else, if you buy anything else from Russia, you're going to face a consequence. You're going to pay a price. Just outright mob threats against the continent of Africa if they dare follow their own policy towards Russia and buy the basic goods that they need to exist. And the US government felt entitled to threaten Africa if they dare disobey. And so after that, Blinken goes to South Africa and he gets called on that.

Minister Pandor: ...and seek to teach a country that. We know how democracy functions and we've come to tell you, do it. It will work for you. I think it leads to defeat. So we need to think in different ways. I also think that one of the lessons we also need to learn and perhaps draw lessons from, one of the experiences we should draw lessons from, is the reality that there has been a lot of external interference in Africa. And a lot of that external interference has fueled conflict in many African countries, has fueled instability, has supported opposition groups against liberation fighters and so on, you know the history, perhaps better than myself. This is a reality. So in my view, while there may be concern about the Wagner group or Dyck, which is another security group which was in Mozambique, there's also a concern about countries that have mineral interests in African countries and are there as a destabilizing force. So I think we need to look at the full plethora of problems that give rise to insecurity, bad governance and the absence of democracy on the African continent. It's not a one country problem. It's a world phenomenon, which results from Africa's rich mineral wealth that has made it a significant target of external players that don't always have the interests of Africa at heart.

MB: So this was a very wise response by the South African Foreign Minister Pandor to comments by Anthony Blinken, basically saying Russia's Wagner Group is in Africa, you've got to step up against Putin. And you know, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the UN ambassador, threatening basically secondary sanctions on African nations if they conduct development deals with Russia. I assume there will be threats about China as well. You know, the head of SOUTHCOM has made similar threats in recent days. The US is just sounding like a truly neo colonialist nation on the world stage. Because of that, it's losing; it's losing the African continent to China. And Russia is sort of involved, maybe more peripherally involved in security stuff and some infrastructure. But what is she referring to? I mean, she is referring to the history of the US supporting not just apartheid South Africa, the Inkatha Freedom Brigade, which was the Afrikaners kind of proxy, which it used to attack the ANC [African National Congress]. It was basically like the way the Palestinian Authority has been used to crush Palestinian resistance. This was a Black organization backed by the Afrikaner government, I think, with CIA assistance. We also saw the US support with weapons, the colonial Namibian government against the resistance movement there. You saw the US support against SWAPO [South West Africa People's Organisation], the South African government against SWAPO. You saw the US come in to Angola to support the right wing

forces against the MPLA [Movimiento Popular de Liberación de Angola] liberation movement, which was supported by Fidel Castro's Cuban military. You saw the US and Israel help provide apartheid South Africa with nuclear technology. And before that you saw the US and its CIA operative Frank Carlucci, participate alongside the Belgian former Colonial Masters Intelligence Service in devising Operation Timberlake to kill Patrice Lumumba, who may have been the greatest African leader who was seeking to unite the continent into a giant union and prevent the theft of its resources and do something similar to what Hugo Chávez did in South America with the ALBA [La Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América] system. So Lumumba was assassinated and replaced with Mobutu Sese Seko, the one of the worst dictators in the African continent, setting the stage for the killing of, in the resource wars in Congo, that have left more people dead than at any point since the genocide of World War Two. That's what she's referring to, and this is what the US is sort of stepping into with all of its arrogance. This is the Biden administration that presents itself as progressive on racial issues to America, treating Africa as a neocolonial tool.

AM: Absolutely, I feel I've never seen such a polite way of telling someone to fuck off. I mean, it was really, really perfected I guess. And to be a diplomat, that's the kind of, especially a diplomat in the Global South, where you have to deal with the US and risk its wrath constantly, you have to find more careful ways of telling them to go away. And it's an amazing moment. And it speaks to, I mean, obviously, there are people in power right now who are very desperate. And their answer so far is to double down with more threats, more weapons to Ukraine. We'll see how that goes. I mean, ultimately, it's the people who will suffer. And you and Mark Sleboda's talk about this was Europe will be feeling this in ways it hasn't felt in generations with rationing of energy being most likely if this continues going into next year.

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