

Written by John Hallam Saturday, 27 November 2021 13:40 - Last Updated Saturday, 04 December 2021 12:17

https://www.apln.network/analysis/statements/a-nuclear-war-cannot-be-won-and-must-never-be-fought

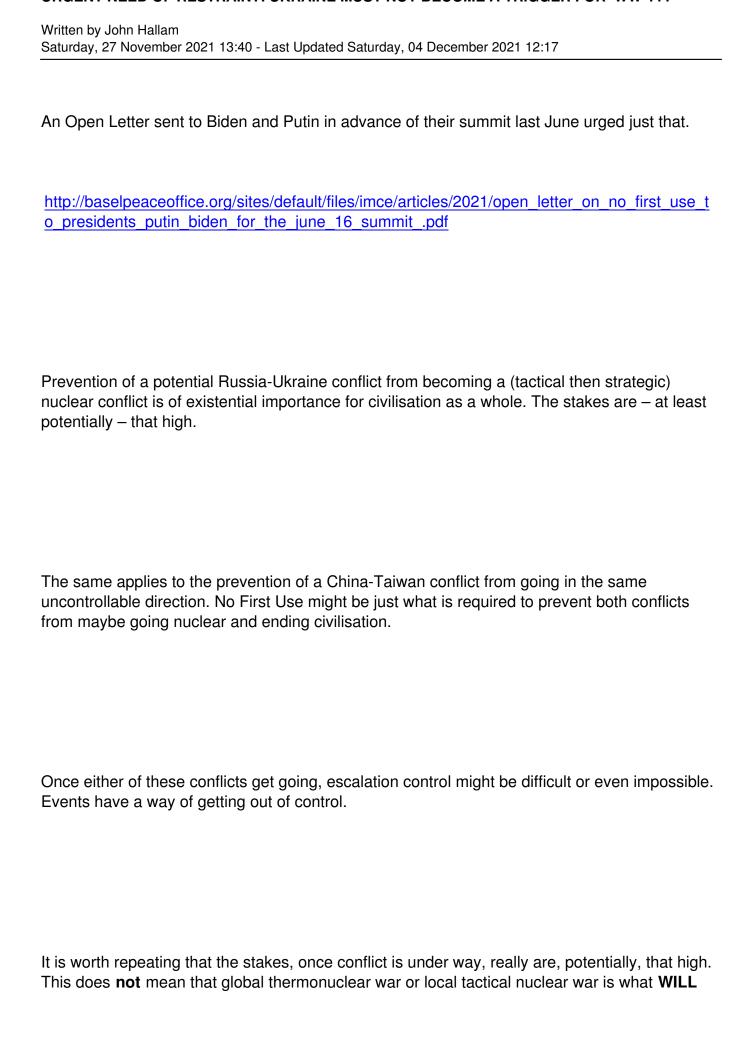
ANY Russia-Ukraine conflict would be likely to involve NATO if not directly, then indirectly, and would be likely to escalate from conventional ground war fought with tanks and troops, potentially at least, to tactical nuclear war. This is not saying that this is what will definitely happen: merely that the risk of such an escalation is unacceptably high. Such an escalation must not be allowed to happen.

We do not know for sure what Putin intends to do with the large number of troops and tanks massed uncomfortably close to the borders of Ukraine. Russia should be more transparent about its intentions, or western intelligence may draw their own pessimistic conclusions.

https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/19/us/politics/russia-ukraine-biden-administration.html

Maybe over the next days and weeks absolutely nothing will happen. The tension will gradually wind down. We will wipe tears of perspiration from ourselves and ask how the situation might be defused on a more long term basis, without the very steps we take to make ourselves 'safer' actually having the opposite effect, making conflict more, not less, likely.

Written by John Hallam Saturday, 27 November 2021 13:40 - Last Updated Saturday, 04 December 2021 12:17 Or maybe there really will be an attack on Ukraine, perhaps in the coming week, in which case things are likely to become very messy. Even if NATO does not formally intervene, it is clear that various NATO countries are going to offer assistance to Ukraine. There are suggestions that Russia believes military action against Ukraine will be a walkover. In fact this seems most unlikely, and there will be fighting of a kind last seen in the region in the 1940s. It will be WW-II with the option to escalate to WW-III. The question is, just how credible will it be for escalation to nuclear weapons use, starting with Kaliningrad's Iskanders, not to take place? Even if Russian intervention were to be a walkover, the long term consequences for Russian-NATO relationships are nothing less than catastrophic. We urge everyone to 'take a deep breath' and step back from the brink. One way to ensure that a war in eastern Europe will NOT escalate into WW-III with large scale use first of tactical and then of strategic nuclear weapons would of course, be for the US, NATO, and Russia to sign an agreement for **No First Use** of nuclear weapons.



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happen, but it does mean that the risk of such an escalation is very high.
Is it worth risking the world for a conviction that 'Ukraine is part of Russia'?
Is it worth risking all out of a conviction that somehow 'Crimea or Donetsk is part of Ukraine' ?
Borders and even national identities are contested. Perhaps those who live there should be the ones who decide what they wish to be.
No-one is talking to anyone, and both sides imagine that the only language understood by the other is force.
The following suggestions might be helpful, but are by no means meant to constitute a blueprint to be rigidly followed:

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 Cessation of hostilities in Donbas by both sides. The implementation of the Minsk accords but not on the threat of violence by either side. Return of Russian military troops and equipment to their normal bases. Restoration of the Normandy talks.
Progress can only take place once each concedes that force too, leads only to the abyss, and that listening to one another and really taking seriously each others concerns is central to getting on, and this is a two way process.
John Hallam
People for Nuclear Disarmament
Human Survival Project
Co-Convenor, Abolition 2000 Nuclear Risk Reduction Working Group,
johnhallam2001@yahoo.com.au
jhjohnhallam@gmail.com
johnh@pnnd.org

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61-411-854-612