



Jack F. Matlock

Voice of reason from a former US diplomat to Soviet Union

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So far as Ukraine is concerned, US intrusion into its domestic politics was deep — to the point of seeming to select a prime minister. It also, in effect, supported an illegal coup d'etat that changed the Ukrainian government in 2014, a procedure not normally considered consistent with the rule of law or democratic governance.

Jack F. Matlock

Former US ambassador to USSR

Wan Lixin

In this age of information overload, as average citizens are busy devouring, or churning out, bits and pieces of information, it is rewarding to be reminded how disinformation and manipulation have taken over the digital ecosystem.

The current crisis in Ukraine would be a compelling case, suggesting how easily public discourse in the West is being manipulated to prioritize particular messages.

Sobering voices do exist, as articulated by the following figures, though such voices are not generally getting the kind of attention they deserve.

This selective perception of public opinion can be politically motivated.

It is also dictated by data giants' craving for clicks, as

hate, extremism, and blood sell, which can be closely surveilled, priced, and marketed to advertisers.

In his “Today’s Crisis Over Ukraine,” published on “ACURA” on February 14, Jack F. Matlock, 92, explains why this is an avoidable crisis that was predictable, willfully precipitated, and could easily be resolved by the application of common sense.

His appeal for common sense went unheeded.

Matlock served as the US ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1987 to 1991.

He said that “it seems most likely that President Putin’s goals are what he says they are — and as he has been saying since his speech in Munich in 2007. To simplify and paraphrase, I would sum them up as: ‘Treat us with at least a modicum of respect. We do

not threaten you or your allies, why do you refuse us the security you insist for yourself?’”

Putin demands that the process of adding new members to NATO cease and that, in particular, Russia has assurance that Ukraine and Georgia will never be members.

Given Putin’s demand, obviously there would have been no basis for the present crisis if there had been no expansion of NATO in the wake of the Cold War, or if the expansion had occurred in harmony with building a security structure in Europe that included Russia.

The former diplomat explained, based on personal experience, why Russian demand makes sense in light of US history.

“Anybody remember the Monroe Doctrine, a declaration of a sphere of influence that comprised an entire