

Does Theatre of the Absurd Continue?

Every time over the past few months, listening to some of the Russian officials' speeches, it recurred to me the words of Ukrainian poetess Lina Kostenko from her poem «Berestechko». Originally, these words sound like this: *Це ж треба мати сатанинський намір, // Чаїть в собі невиліковний сказ, // Щоб тяжко так знущатися над нами, // Та ще й у всьому звинувачувати нас!* Unfortunately I haven't found a rhymed translation in English. But word-for-word translation is: *What a devilish mind, holds cureless rabies if you torment us and at the same hour charge us with everything.*

For Russians the annexation of Crimea is not an annexation, and it's the Ukraine's fault that she lost this territory. Meaning that Ukrainians should have thought better before arranging Maidan. The war in Donbas? Well, they think it's simple – Ukrainians fight against Ukrainians, and the Russians' arming the terrorists has nothing to do with it. An intervention in the affairs of a sovereign Ukraine? Have a heart! It is the West that always tells someone, including Ukraine, what to do. And Russia – no, she has no part in it.

But, perhaps, the apotheosis of absurdity should be named the statement of the chairman of the State Duma Sergei Naryshkin, who, without batting an eye, categorically said that the international community has to recognize and condemn the allegedly illegal annexation of Crimea ... to Ukraine in 1991. That is a continuous theater of the absurd. Eugène Ionesco with his «Rhinoceros» is not a patch on it.

Therefore, in this situation, I honestly do not envy those people, including representatives of PACE, who have to make negotiations with the Russian leaders. I suspect that it's worth a lot of nerve cells. Though, of course, I cannot do other but support a peaceful way to solve the conflict, and constantly wonder: what comes next? Where these talks lead? I sincerely fear that after unending negotiations with the Russians, who, as we see, make another absurd play, they (Russians) will charge again Ukraine, Americans, the EU or aliens from Mars, but they'll never admit their own mistakes. Are we ready for that?

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