

## Christopher Lewin

Keead blein lurg toshiaght yn chied chaggey mooar, ta'n Oarpey keayrt elley ayns anvea as sheshaghtyn-caggee çhymshaghey er cagliagh yn Ukraine. S'coan my vees ard-chaggey mooar ayn kyndagh rish ny ta jeant ec y Roosh fo leeideilys Vladimir Putin er y gherrit shoh, agh ta'n chooish soilshaghey dy baghtal dy vel noidjys eddyr pooaraghyn mooarey as baggyrt goaill çheer er niart foast madyral ayns seihll yn chied lhing jeig as feed. Screeu Francis Fukuyama lioar ec jerrey yn Chaggey Feayr as eh gra dy row 'jerrey yn çhennaghys' er jeet agh t'eh jeeaghyn nagh row yn irrin echey eddyr.

Ta Putin er niartaghey yn greme echey er pooar 'sy Roosh ny veggan as ny veggan as t'eh jeeaghyn dy vel eh goaill olk rish yn choayl pooar as moyrn as yn nearey ren yn çheer echey y hurranse tra huitt yn USSR veih-my-cheilley; baillish croo yn Unnaney Soviet ass-y-noa, er-nonney goll ny sodjey back dys eash ny tsaryn. T'eh er vakin çheeraghyn yn Sheear brishey yn leigh eddyr-ashoonagh dy daaney ayns ny jeih bleaney t'er n'gholl shaghey as ad goll laue rish caggey ayns Afghanistan, Iraq, as Libya (as prowal dy yannoo yn un red ayns Syria) fegooish kied Coonceil Shickyrys yn UN; myr shen gyn dooyt va ny Rooshee garaghtee lesh faghid er craueeaght-oalsey yn Screeudeyr State Americanaanagh Juan Kerry tra dooyrt eh, 'Cha jig lhiat brishey stiagh er çheer elley er oyr breagagh ry-hoi cur dty vondeishyn hene er nyn doshiaght.'

Cha vel y chooid smoo dy streeughyn eddyr-ashoonagh doo as bane as cha jean mie da America as ny caarjyn eck lhiggey orroo dy vel. Ta Putin kiart (ayns ayn ansherbee) dy vel yn Çheu Yesh Foddey goaill niart ayns Ukraine as dy row ayn oc ayns yn irree-magh ren lhieggal yn reiltys va teiyt liorish y phobble, as lhisagh shen boirey shin ooilley; as t'eh feer licklee dy vel y chooid smoo dy leih ayns Crimea laccal ve ayns y Roosh (ga nagh beagh yn earroo cha ard as va'n referendum y vee shoh chaie, va shaghnit liorish Ukrainanee as Tataree, jannoo magh). Ta shennaghys gynshaghey dooin nagh vel eh cooie dy 'veeinaghey' pooaraghyn ta brishey slattyssyn yn çheshaght eddyr-ashoonagh; agh chamoo t'eh gys monney ymmyd dy hroiddey rish leeideilagh yn Roosh myr dy beagh eh ny phaitçhey mitçhooragh gyn shirrey dy hoiggal yn agh smooinghtyn echey.

A hundred years on from the start of the First World War, Europe is once again in turmoil as armies gather on the borders of Ukraine. It is unlikely that Russia's actions under the leadership of Vladimir Putin will lead to a major war, but the matter illustrates clearly that rivalry between great powers and threats of invasion are not yet a thing of the past in the twenty-first century. At the end of the Cold War Francis Fukuyama wrote that the 'end of history' was at hand but clearly he was wrong.

Putin has strengthened his grip on power in Russia gradually and it seems that he resents the loss of power and prestige and the shame suffered by his country when the USSR collapsed; he wishes to resurrect the Soviet Union, or else to go further back to the era of the tsars. He has seen the nations of the West violating international law with impunity in the past ten years with wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya (and an attempt to do the same in Syria), without the consent of the UN Security Council; so no doubt the Russians were laughing with scorn at the hypocrisy of US Secretary of State John Kerry when he said, 'You just don't invade another country on phony pretext in order to assert your interests.'

Most international disputes are not black and white and America and her allies should not pretend otherwise. Putin is right (at least in part) that the Far Right is on

the rise in Ukraine and that they had a part in the uprising which deposed the democratically elected government, something which should worry us all; and it is very likely that the majority of the population in Crimea support being part of Russia (though the percentage would not as high as last month's referendum, which was boycotted by ethnic Ukrainians and Tatars, would suggest). History teaches us that it is not right to 'appease' powers with break the rules of the international community; but neither is it much good chiding the Russian leader as if he were an errant child, without seeking to understand his way of thinking.