

*"Expanding NATO would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-Cold War era."*

George Kennan, outspoken proponent of the containment policy applied to the USSR during the Cold War [1998]

"Ukrainian entry into NATO is the brightest of all red lines for the Russian elite (not just Putin). In more than two and a half years of conversations with key Russian players, from knuckle-draggers in the dark recesses of the Kremlin to Putin's sharpest liberal critics, I have yet to find anyone who views Ukraine in NATO as anything other than a direct challenge to Russian interests."

William Burns, US Ambassador to Moscow [2008] and Joe Biden's Head of the CIA

"The decision to leave open the membership of Ukraine in NATO [...] was a grave mistake. It was very wrong. It was not a wise American policy to attempt to include Ukraine into NATO".

Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State of the United States [2008]

Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault  
John J. Mearsheimer 2014