

# Crunts

*as submitted by The Most Honourable, Markus, Markgraf von Krunt*<sup>1</sup>

*(June 2024)*

On May 31, 2024, at the Shangri-La Dialogue Security Forum in Singapore, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III declared, à-propos the causes for the current Eastern European military conflagration:

***"I respectfully disagree ... that the expansion of NATO caused the Ukraine crisis."***

Could Lord Austin be taking his audience for ganted (*sic*)?

Assuming the undersigned understands the Pentagon chief correctly, **had**, in the decades prior to the Russian invasion, **the United States and her NATO associates refrained from:**

1. Turning down Russia's application to NATO;
2. Preparing for and announcing the incorporation of Ukraine into NATO despite previous solemn commitments to the contrary;
3. Supporting and financing the 2014 coup d'état in Київ (or Киев, formerly known as Kiev);
4. Supplying training and matériel to the Ukrainian military for a couple of decades;
5. Planning the deployment of long range nuclear armament 275 miles from the Kremlin, a journey of about 7 or 8 minutes as the missile flies;
6. Siding with Київ (or Киев, formerly known as Kiev) in its civil war against its Russian-speaking Eastern Provinces, where Київ is spelt Киев;
7. Circumventing their solemn commitment to enforce the two Minsk Agreements;

**still, in February 2022, Russia would have invaded, regardless.**

The reader is kindly invited to submit some simple clarifications, in order to help alleviate doubts and possible misconstruals.

*Markus, Markgraf von Krunt  
Burg zum Herdos, 1 Juni 2024*

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<sup>1</sup> *Philosopher, famous primarily among the members of his family, of which he has none, his French Huguenot ancestor emigrated to East Prussia in the 17<sup>th</sup> century; originally Marquis du Cron de la Cronnerie.*