



Russia's Anti-Trojan Horse Strategy

OE Watch Commentary: The Kremlin's strategy of restoring Russia's superpower status is predicated largely on reforming and modernizing the country's armed forces and related security services. According to their calculus, robust military forces will ultimately translate into greater global influence, which in turn will result in a more prosperous and stronger Russia. From the Kremlin's perspective, the West (particularly the US) remains the chief obstacle in realizing this strategy. In the brief accompanying excerpt from Russia's main military newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, Russia's top general, at a meeting at the Academy of Military Sciences, "gave a report about the main directions of development of military strategy and about tasks of military science." Some of his comments merit closer attention.

After making an obligatory nod to the importance of military science, Gerasimov asserts that "the United States and its allies determined the aggressive vector of their foreign policy." He suggests that the US strategy is built around a combination of "military actions of an offensive nature such as global strike," combined with the "technologies of color revolutions and soft power." The US strategy which "has been dubbed the 'Trojan horse,'" according to Gerasimov "is the elimination of statehood of undesirable countries, the undermining of sovereignty, and a change of legally elected state authorities." This presumably includes Russia.



General V. Gerasimov

Source: Wikimedia Commons. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Valery_Gerasimov_\(2015-05-12\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Valery_Gerasimov_(2015-05-12).jpg), CCA-SA 3.0

Gerasimov claims that "the Russian Federation is ready to counter any of these strategies," suggesting that the essence of the Russian response "is the 'strategy of active defense,' which... envisages a set of measures for preemptive neutralization of threats to national security," and which will allow the Russian military to "be a step ahead." The backbone of Russia's defense strategy, according to Gerasimov, is the "substantiation and upgrading of nuclear and nonnuclear deterrence measures," which include "state-of-the-art models of arms, including fundamentally new kinds of weapons." He then goes on to list some of these modern weapons: "Avangard, Sarmat, and the newest Peresvet and Kinzhal weapons have shown their high effectiveness, and the Poseydon and Burevestnik complexes are going through successful tests. Scheduled work is proceeding on creation of the Tsirkon hypersonic sea-launched missile." However, unlike the USSR, which invested heavily into defense (and which hastened its demise), Gerasimov points out that "the creation of new weapon models will not draw Russia into a new arms race." **End OE Watch Commentary (Finch)**

"Any potential aggressor has to understand that any form of pressure on Russia and its allies is pointless."

Source: General Valeriy Gerasimov, "Векторы развития военной стратегии (Vectors of Development of Military Strategy)," *Krasnaya Zvezda Online*, 4 March 2019. <http://redstar.ru/vektory-razvitiya-voennoj-strategii/?attempt=1>

General of the Army Valeriy Gerasimov, chief of RF [Russian Federation] Armed Forces General Staff, spoke at a general assembly of the Academy of Military Sciences....

This year we are examining questions of the development of military strategy under today's conditions.... Meanwhile, Russia's geopolitical rivals do not conceal that they plan to achieve political goals not just in the course of local conflicts. They are preparing to wage wars against a "high-tech enemy" using precision-guided munitions (PGM) from the air, sea, and space, with active conduct of information warfare.... Therefore, a search for rational strategies of waging war against a varying enemy acquires priority importance for developing the theory and practice of military strategy.

...The United States and its allies determined the aggressive vector of their foreign policy. They are studying military actions of an offensive nature such as "global strike" and "multi-sphere battle," and they use technologies of "color revolutions" and "soft power." Their goal is the elimination of statehood of undesirable countries, the undermining of sovereignty, and a change of legally elected state authorities. That was the case in Iraq, in Libya, and in Ukraine. Similar actions are seen in Venezuela at the present time.

...The Pentagon began developing a fundamentally new strategy of military operations that already has been dubbed the "Trojan horse." Its essence is active use of the "protest potential of a fifth column" in the interests of destabilizing a situation with simultaneous delivery of PGM strikes against the most important targets.

Source: General Valeriy Gerasimov, "Векторы развития военной стратегии (Vectors of Development of Military Strategy)," *Krasnaya Zvezda Online*, 4 March 2019. <http://redstar.ru/vektory-razvitiya-voennoj-strategii/?attempt=1>

...I would like to note that the Russian Federation is ready to counter any of these strategies. In recent years military scientists together with the General Staff have developed conceptual approaches for neutralizing the aggressive actions of probable enemies. The basis of "our response" is the "strategy of active defense," which, with consideration of the defensive nature of Russian Military Doctrine, envisages a set of measures for preemptive neutralization of threats to national security.

...It is the substantiation of measures being developed that must comprise the scientific activity of military scientists. This is one of the priority directions for ensuring national security. We must preempt the enemy in the development of military strategy and be "a step ahead."

...Because of this, the substantiation and upgrading of nuclear and nonnuclear deterrence measures are an urgent task for development of military strategy. Any potential aggressor has to understand that any form of pressure on Russia and its allies is pointless. Our response will not be long in coming. State-of-the-art models of arms, including fundamentally new kinds of weapons, are being made operational and are being deployed for this.

Series production of new models of armaments and outfitting of the Armed Forces with them have begun. Avangard, Sarmat, and the newest Peresvet and Kinzhal weapons have shown their high effectiveness, and the Poseydon and Burevestnik complexes are going through successful tests. Scheduled work is proceeding on creation of the Tsirkon hypersonic sea-launched missile.

...The creation of new weapon models will not draw Russia into a new arms race.