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West no longer hiding plans for war with Russia – Putin

NATO countries have forced Moscow to take action to defend its interests and label it as a threat to justify increased military spending, the president says

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Western nations are no longer hiding their preparations for war with Russia, President Vladimir Putin has said, adding that NATO and EU leaders are using “*false claims*” about the supposed ‘Russian threat’ to justify rampant militarization.

Putin made the remarks on Tuesday during a ceremony in the Kremlin for graduates of Russia’s military, security, and law enforcement academies, saying NATO’s posture has shifted from supporting Kiev with weapons and funding to



President Vladimir Putin gestures as he addresses graduates of Russia’s military, security, and law enforcement academies in the Kremlin on June 23, 2026. © Sputnik/Yuri Kochetkov

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outright preparations for war.

“Now, they are openly saying that they are preparing for war with us, increasing military offensive budgets,” Putin said. He argued that Western governments are using the same playbook that has always been used against Russia.

“At first, they create threats for our country, force us to take actions necessary for self-defense, and then immediately accuse us of all mortal sins to justify the continuation of their aggressive policy,” he said, drawing parallels to the attempts by Nazi Germany and other Western countries to label the Soviet Union as the aggressor after Germany launched a surprise invasion in 1941.

Putin’s remarks come as NATO’s European members and Canada raised defense spending by 20% in real terms in 2025, reaching a combined \$574 billion, citing the supposed ‘Russian threat’. Moscow has dismissed speculation that it plans to attack NATO countries as *“nonsense.”*

Turning to Ukraine’s drone campaign against Russian cities, Putin said the strikes on civilian infrastructure are designed *“to rock society”* rather than achieve military aims. *“When the whole West is working for them, with this huge flow of drones, [the aim is] to create doubt in the actions of the Russian Armed Forces,”* he said.

Putin noted, however, that European nations are still reluctant to launch strikes on Russia from their own territory because *“they understand that there will be retaliation.”*

Putin’s comments came as Ukraine continues to carry out long-range strikes deep into Russia, which often lead to civilian casualties. Last week, Kiev launched a drone raid on Moscow – the largest in two years – with Mayor Sergey Sobyenin reporting the destruction of 194 drones. The attack damaged an oil refinery, a shopping center, and several residential buildings, with more than a dozen people injured.

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fluttershield mlp 6/23/2026 at 6:20 PM 0

President Putin is correct. The West's leaders need war with Russia because Russia's wealth is needed to refinance our bankrupt Western system. They think conquering and looting Russian oil, gas, with other natural wealth can underpin their exploitive system for another fifty or so years. I hope inflation will stop their rush to madness and war.

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Guerrillero Rebelde 6/23/2026 at 6:19 PM 0

Russia has decimated the terrorists/ Nazi/ fascist alliance in Ukraine.. reports are still made public of the massive Russia bombing of military targets in Ukraine, and even Mi6, CIA puppets who have been coordinating with the coke head Zelensky. Those were turned to dust, even in bunkers. Still, the western warmongering psychopathic Zionist elites decided to attack Russian civilians and infrastructure, school buses, residential areas, etc. Yet, Putin remains calm..but.... It is time to hit inside NATO, the belly of the beast. Stalin would've flatten NATO in a heart beat and believe me, these satanic talmudic creatures would have not done shiiittt

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Steve Fortuna 6/23/2026 at 6:17 PM 0

It's kind of hard for Zionists to plan when they are dead. You know when and where most of the Epstein blackmailed kyke puppets are meeting.....have at them.

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Grp P 6/23/2026 at 5:58 PM 2

The citizens of NATO countries should read Hiroshima Diary: The Journal of a Japanese Physician by Dr. Michihiko
The atomic bomb then was 15 kilo tons the nuclear bombs today average 500 kilo tons
And more 1.2 megatons on ICBMs.

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gyr falcon 6/23/2026 at 5:29 PM

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Sorry if this happened anywhere else It would be called an act of War Even India and Pakistan it would be war China it would be war Why does the public in Russia say enough is enough

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Boris Badinoff 6/23/2026 at 5:46 PM ↑

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WW3 is coming don't worry. We (the public) are getting ready for the right moment. Go back to your keyboard and make up more absurdities Buffy.

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Mark Tiller 6/23/2026 at 5:35 PM

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Russian President Vladimir Putin is correct in saying the West is not hiding it's preparations for war against Russia. What he is hiding from the Russian people is that the Trump gang,nato and their puppet, the Kiev regime are all on the same tag team, trying to destroy Russia and the war has already begun!

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Boris Badinoff 6/23/2026 at 5:43 PM ↑

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Explosive-laden drone found in NATO state amid Ukrainian attack wave (PHOTOS)