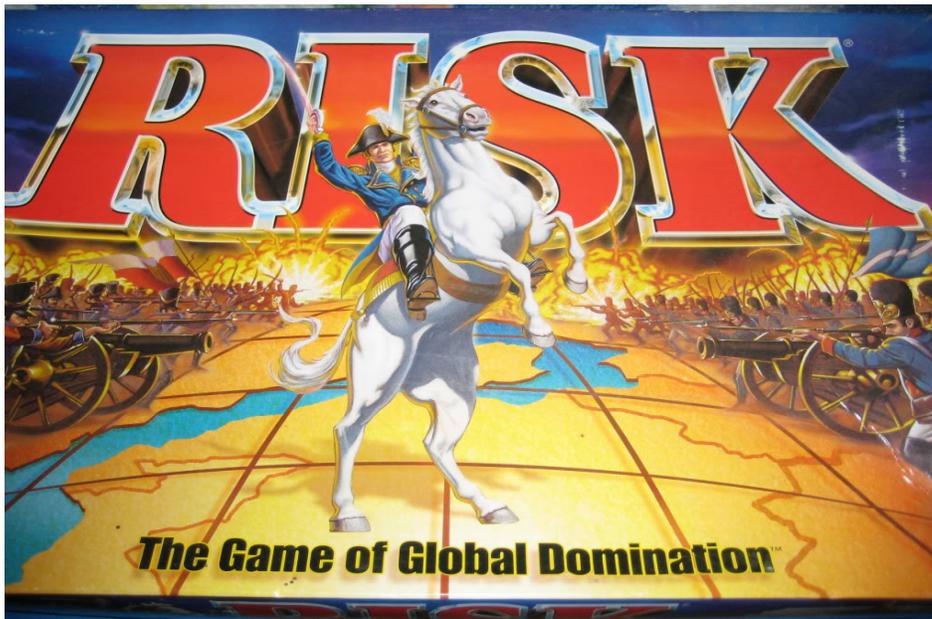




**THE
LAPINE**

Ukraine Talks – Leaders Play “Risky” Game

BY [THE LAPINE](#) · APRIL 18, 2014



GENEVA, CH – The talks between Russia, the United States, the European Union, and Ukraine aimed at settling the worst European crisis since the Cold War* started promisingly today when the four powers decided to settle their differences by playing the classic board game of world domination: RISK.

Talks quickly broke down, however, when Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov quickly moved an artillery unit into Ukraine and Scandinavia, and then goaded Western counterparts with comments like “the Ukraine is weak” and referring to the territory as “feeble...a plump sitting sausage.”

The talks completely broke down when interim Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk, upset at Lavrov’s comments, roared “Ukraine is game to

you?”’, before slamming his fist into the board in frustration, scattering cavalry, infantry and artillery pieces everywhere.

The Western move toward ‘board game diplomacy’ was a surprising development during the talks and was met with mixed reaction from NATO leadership.

Current NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen believes that the strategy is “risky” and that the West is “rolling the dice” with the new strategy, especially seeing as NATO has significant military holdings in the strategic territories of Greenland, Alaska, and Iceland.

NATO Secretary General Designate Jens Stoltenberg, set to begin his term in October, was more favourable toward the new Western approach. Only weeks after ousting the pro-Russian government in Kyiv, it looked as though NATO was set to collect the 5-army bonus for holding Europe.

Stoltenberg believes that Russian President Vladimir Putin is only worried about preventing NATO from collecting its army bonus and will withdraw their armies to the Ural territory “after our turn”. Analysts are worried that the new diplomatic strategy will lead to a long, drawn-out affair ending in belligerent quarrelling and drunken fisticuffs amongst the players. Stoltenberg, for one, is unfazed: “We can always attack Kamchatka. It is the Kamchatka that is weak” he noted.

** While The Lapine does not condone the phrase “worst European crisis since the Cold War”, our reporterers and corresponderers adhere to the basic journalistic principle of including this phrase in every article regarding Ukraine. This phrase has replaced “the biggest protests since the Orange Revolution” that the journalism establishment used prior to the ouster of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukvoych.*

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