

# Spring is in the air in US-Russia ties as Trump's revolution gains momentum

by M. K. Bhadrakumar,\* India



M. K. Bhadrakumar  
(Picture ma)

*What emerges from the dramatic happenings of the past week is that the 3-year chronicle of US-Russia rivalry and the NATO's proxy war in Ukraine was a crisis engineered with great deliberation by the Anglo-American nexus per a pernicious agenda conceived by the neocon liberals wedded to globalism enconced in the Washington and London establishment to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia.*

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In less than a month since President *Donald Trump* returned to Oval Office, in a series of bold moves, he began dismantling the Iron Wall that descended on Central Europe. Its impact is already visible, as communication channels with Moscow have been flung open, as evident in the new US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's call to his Russian counterpart *Sergey Lavrov* on *Saturday* and their agreement to meet at delegation level in Saudi Arabia next week.<sup>1</sup>

The Trump administration will allow the resumption of normal diplomatic work as well as discuss the early return of diplomatic properties unilaterally seized by the *Obama – Biden* administrations in wanton acts of motiveless malignity and hubris, in violation of *Vienna accords*. Trust Russia to reciprocate!

The downstream salience of the readouts in *Moscow*<sup>2</sup> and *Washington*<sup>3</sup> on the Rubio-Lavrov phone conversation is the mutual agreement between the two leaderships – Trump and Russian president *Vladimir Putin* – for US-Russian interactive exchanges at various levels is being



Barely a month after Donald Trump took office, the US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, and his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, held direct negotiations in Riyadh on 18 February 2025.

(Picture Artyom Popov/TASS/dpa/picture alliance)

followed through with a view to improve bilateral relations as well as “on key international issues, including the situation in Ukraine, developments in Palestine and the broader Middle East, as well as other regional matters”.

Furthermore, a team designated by the White House comprising apart from Rubio, the US National Security Advisor *Mike Waltz* and the president's Middle East envoy (who also works on Ukraine-Russia issues) *Steve Witkoff* will meet a Russian team led by Lavrov as early as this week ahead. The inclusion of Witkoff, a “result-oriented”, pushy negotiator and old friend of Trump is particularly interesting. Witkoff flew into Moscow for an unpublicized solo visit last week, which appears to have been productive.

Clearly, Trump has drawn lessons from this first term and is determined not to get emasculated again in the Washington “swamp”. This is where Witkoff comes in.

Trump's approach and political style is utterly fascinating. Trump began shifting gear no sooner than he managed to put together a team of like-minded people who are “loyalists” to head the Justice Department, Pentagon, the Treasury, etc. – and, importantly, to forcefully regenerate the authority of the attorney general and the national intelligence agency to serve his agenda.

Thus, in the final analysis, it is immaterial that his administration is packed with pro-Israel figures or has a sprinkling of hardliners on China.

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For, it is Trump who will call the shots. Surprises could be in store in policy twists and turns.

This should already give sleepless nights to Israeli Prime Minister *Benjamin Netanyahu* whom Trump has sensitised apropos his intention to improve relations with Iran. To my mind, Trump may not even follow through his dramatic announcement of “taking over” Gaza, et al.

The pattern appearing with regard to relations with Russia is that Trump levels with Putin first and passes down decisions to the state department and other agencies to follow through. Equally, the mechanism of summitry is being revived as the locomotive of big power relations. There is already talk of Trump holding summit meetings with Putin in Saudi Arabia and with *Xi Jinping*. Trump will likely look for a deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping at some point.

Such an approach necessitates cutting down the role and influence of the Deep State which had throttled Trump’s presidency through the 2016–2020 period. The challenge facing Trump is formidable, given the nexus between the Democratic Party and the Deep State, and the mischief potential of mainstream media which is largely under their control and hostile towards Trump.

In a glaring instance this week, *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) deliberately misrepresented certain remarks by Vice-President *J. D. Vance* to vitiate the air in the nascent US-Russia tango. According to the story, Vance allegedly stated that the US might use economic and military leverage against Russia, and the option of sending the US military to Ukraine “remains under consideration” in case Moscow refuses to resolve the conflict in good faith. Moscow immediately sought clarification, and a rebuttal had to be issued by Vance himself to set the record straight.

Vance wrote on X: “The fact that the WSJ twisted my words in the way they did for this story is absurd, but not surprising considering they have spent years pushing for more American sons and daughters in uniform to be unnecessarily deployed overseas.”

Trump has repeatedly expressed distrust of US intelligence agencies. According to CNN, all employees (approx. 22,000 people) at the CIA have received letters whereby they are given two options: to continue his/her service without guarantees of job retention in the future or to leave under the so-called deferred dismissal

program at own request, while retaining salary and additional preferences until end-September.

Interestingly, a code was sewn inside these letters that tracks the re-sending of the letter by the recipient, as a guarantee against leaks which was the practice used when dismissing employees of the former Twitter after its acquisition by billionaire Elon Musk, who is now considered one of Trump’s closest advisers and heads the quasi-Department of Government Efficiency overseeing the reduction of federal government!

Again, the disbandment of USAID, which traditionally worked as the “B Team” of the CIA to promote colour revolutions and regime changes, etc. can also be seen in the light. According to *Vladimir Vasiliev*, chief researcher at the *Institute of USA and Canada of the Russian Academy of Sciences*, who closely studies this topic, Trump has declared war on CIA, which he blames for his electoral defeat in 2020.

Vasiliev estimates that so far, the fight against the deep state in foreign and domestic intelligence is proceeding steadily, but will now “accelerate” with the confirmation of former Congresswoman *Tulsi Gabbard* for the post of head of national intelligence, and Kash Patel for the post of FBI director.

On the other hand, the Delhi grapevine, which is dominated by fellow travellers of the defunct Biden regime is that Deep State will ultimately have the last laugh and Trump may not even be allowed to complete his 4-year term. But to my mind, that is wishful thinking.

Trump’s grit should not be underestimated. Nor the seamless resources and tools at his command to queer the pitch of the disarray within the Democratic Party, which traditionally provided the requisite political cover for the Deep State.

There is, conceivably, a method in Trump’s provocative moves, with some able help from Elon Musk and *Steve Bannon*, to stir up the pot in European politics, including Germany and Britain, who constitute the high ground of Euro-Atlanticism in the continent, which serves to prevent a coalescing of liberal-globalist cliques within the transatlantic system.

Patel has hinted that sufficient incriminating evidence of misuse of power is available to damn the Old Guard all the way up to Biden himself. Trump cannot be unaware of the high importance of pre-empting a Democratic backlash. The federal judges in Democrat-ruled states are openly challenging Trump’s methods. Suffice to

say, Trump's credibility to entrap the Old Guard in a cobweb of protracted litigation will be a game changer.

The latest poll shows that Trump enjoys a soaring 77% support for cleaning up the swamp. The optic of this crusade is going to be hugely consequential to Trump's ability to push both his domestic and foreign policy programme.

Source: <https://www.indianpunchline.com/spring-is-in-the-air-in-us-russia-ties-as-trumps-revolution-gains-momentum/>, 16 February 2025

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/15/us/politics/trump-russia-ukraine-war-saudi-arabia.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/1997596/](https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/1997596/)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.state.gov/secretary-rubios-call-with-russian-foreign-minister-lavrov>