

# **Realpolitik, 2023 Style**

**by Phillip W. Weiss**

**Russia and China are trying to form an alliance to challenge the hegemony of the United States. That's a tall order. The United States has alliances with almost every country in the world. For most nations, to join the Russia-China bandwagon would mean having to repudiate their treaty obligations with the United States.**

**Please understand that the principle of mutual respect does not apply only to US policymakers. Other nations need to follow that principle too as it relates to how they deal with the United States. The United States has repeatedly shown what it can do when motivated to act. It is the wise nation that chooses not to start a fight with the United States. The United States has the firepower to blow away entire nations, and the will to use that firepower.**

**However, the United States should be careful to avoid increasing tensions with other large nations, when alternatives to war are available. It is not in the best interest of the US to have a war with Russia or China. Such a war would be a disaster for all parties concerned. US relations with those two countries must be guided by the principle of mutual respect.**

**The reports that Russia and China are forging an anti-US alliance is disturbing and gives cause for serious concern. It is as if the United Nations does not exist. What China and Russia are doing is resurrecting the Cold War, but this**

time involving three major players, all large, powerful, and armed with hundreds and thousands of nuclear armed missiles. For some, a war with China is inevitable. It is just a matter of time. This kind of fatalistic thinking is dangerous because it sets the stage for a self-fulfilling prophesy, and the last thing the American people need is a war with China or Russia. Time will tell.

PWW 3/21/2023