

## Nord Stream "Mystery" SOLVED?

*This transcript may not be 100% accurate due to audio quality or other factors.*

**Glenn Greenwald (GG):** All right. We just want to give you an update on a story that we have covered for a long time, but that has been mostly forgotten and we haven't covered it for a while either. As you recall, in late 2022, a pipeline that was built by Russia and Germany to connect Russia and Germany with the idea of allowing Russia to sell cheap natural gas to Western Europe through Germany, a massive pipeline that took a lot of money and a long time to build, exploded. It was just blown up and rendered unusable. It was just sitting at the bottom of the sea. And aside from being an act of extreme industrial terrorism, you just blew up a gas infrastructure and oil infrastructure, then also, it was a major environmental disaster. Remember how we're supposed to care about the environment? This is one of the worst environmental disasters in years with all kinds of natural gas leaking from that platform that was transmitting huge amounts back and forth. And amazingly, at the time when this question arose: Oh, who might have done this? Who might have blown up this Nord Stream 2 pipeline? Let's remember that the US even before the war in Ukraine wanted that pipeline gone. In fact, it was Trump, despite always being accused of being a Russian agent who led the way and trying to batter the Germans and Western Europeans from not buying natural gas from Russia by saying we pay you for your defence: Why should you buy gas from Russia instead of from us? And their answer was, Well, it's much cheaper to buy it from Russia. Russia is much closer. Their natural gas is produced more cheaply. But Trump said, we don't care. We're paying for your defence. You should buy it from us, even if it's more expensive. So the US hated this pipeline for a while. When Biden got to office on this wave of anti-Russian hatred and then the war in Ukraine started, they basically explicitly Biden and Victoria Nuland came out and said, if the Russians invade Ukraine, you can say goodbye to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. So the US threatened repeatedly in public to blow it up. And then nine months later, when it was blown up, the Western media was like, my God, who might have done this?! Gigantic mystery. Could be anybody. In fact, as we're about to show you, they tried to imply strongly, that the leading suspect was Putin. But for some reason, Putin decided to blow up his own pipeline, the one the Russians built, the one on which the Russians were relying for their future economic prosperity for decades to come. That all might have been Putin who blew it up. Seymour Hersh, who is one of the most decorated journalist on the planet, if not the most decorated – he won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting about massacres in Vietnam and then Abu Ghraib. I think he's won five Polk Awards for

investigative reporting, more than any other person. Reported at the time based on his decades long Rolodex of deeply implanted sources in the intelligence agency, that it was the United States that was responsible. Here's his article, back in February of 2023. He said: *How America Took Out The Nord Stream Pipeline*. "The New York Times called it a, quote, 'mystery', but the United States executed a covert CIA operation that was kept secret – until now." And he kind of detailed what he had learned. And of course, all the people in the know, still in the corporate media who haven't been expelled, like Seymour Hersh, who don't have a tiny, infinitesimal fraction of the journalistic achievements he has and wouldn't compile a fraction of it, even if they lived to be 1000 years old, or mocked him, have said that was some weird conspiracy theory. Today there was a report from a publication called Politiken, which is an outlet in Scandinavia, which is where a lot of these investigations were taking place. And in fact, it took place right off a Danish island; that was where the pipeline was blown up. And so it was the Danish conducting the investigation. And up until now, the Danish have refused to release the findings of that investigation. I wonder why?! Probably not, because they found that Putin did it. It must be because it contains conclusions that would be damaging to the West. But here today from that publication, it's actually from last week, it is September 26th, 2024. It was published in the original Danish and it's now been translated. The title: *A small Danish island, got caught in a major political sabotage case*. Quote, "In September 2022, the explosions of the Nord Stream gas pipelines attracted enormous international attention. At first, everyone believed Russia was behind the sabotage". Let me say, not everyone, a lot of us knew that was completely idiotic and scoffed at it and laughed at it as one of the dumbest pieces of propaganda imaginable. But a lot of people did believe that Russia was somehow behind the sabotage. The article goes on, "But now, Germany is searching for a Ukrainian diving group on a pleasure yacht, while Denmark and Sweden have closed their investigations. Quote, It's a huge case and the biggest act of terror in this area since World War II', said Soren Thiim Andersen, administrator of Christianso. 'In the beginning, we didn't know what the police were looking for, and there were no ship names to relate to. But it does affect us, of course, if there has been a boat with explosives right over there without us noticing anything', explains Anne on Marie Koefoed. On the phone, her husband, the harbourmaster John Ankor Nielsen, said he provided the police with information from the payment machine where ships dock. But the machine contained no names, and he only spoke with the police a few times. A journalist also showed the harbourmaster a picture that didn't ring any bells. For the first few days, the harbourmaster claimed he, quote, 'wasn't allowed to say a word'. But today, John Ankor Nielsen can reveal that four or five days before the Nord Stream explosion, he was with the rescue service from Christianso because there were some ships there with their radios turned off. It turned out that they were US Navy ships. When the rescue service approached them, he was asked by the naval command to turn back. Therefore, the harbour master leans toward the theory, as suggested by, among others, the American star journalist Seymour Hersh, although without evidence: that the US was behind the sabotage".

Now, at first they tried to blame the Russians. But then they tried to pretend that it was crazy. So let me just say, the country that has the greatest interest in this besides Russia, is Germany. It was a shared pipeline between the two countries. The Germans built a lot of it. They

invested a lot of it. They were depending upon it to provide them with natural gas, cheap natural gas. Whoever blew up a pipeline committed an act of industrial sabotage and terrorism against Germany, not just Russia. And yet the Germans being kind of like the British, always just very compliant, complicit, being told what to do, have expressed no real interest in finding out who did it, probably because they already know who did it. Here is The Wall Street Journal in August, just a couple of months ago. Quote: *A Drunken Evening, a Rented Yacht: The Real Story of the Nord Stream Pipeline Sabotage*. Quote, "Private businessmen funded the shoestring operation, which was overseen by a top general. President Zelensky approved the plan, then tried unsuccessfully to call it off." So they started to blame a rogue unit of Ukrainians who didn't even have the approval of President Zelensky. Quote, "The Ukrainian operation cost around \$300,000, according to people who participated in it. It involved a small rental yacht with a six member crew, including trained civilian divers. One was a woman, whose presence helped create the illusion that they were a group of friends on a pleasure cruise. Quote, 'I always laugh when I read media speculation about some huge operation involving secret services, submarines, drones and satellites', one officer who was involved in the plot said. Quote, 'The whole thing was born out of a night of heavy boozing and the iron determination of a handful of people who had the guts to risk their lives for their country.' By November 2022, German investigators believed Ukrainians were behind the explosion. Ukrainian officials who participated in or are familiar with the plot, believe it would be impossible to put any of the commanding officers on trial because no evidence exists beyond conversations among top officials who were, at least initially, all in agreement about wanting to blow up the pipeline. Quote, 'None of them will testify lest they incriminate themselves,' one former officer said."

So apparently, according to that theory that they tried to push, it was a tiny little band of drunken Ukrainians who on their own just decided to take a little boat, dive under the water and engage in this extremely complex task of blowing up a very sophisticated underwater pipeline built by two industrialised countries, Russia and Germany, and simply nobody can prosecute them because no one has any evidence. And according to an article, the Germans believe that it was the Ukrainians who did it. And yet, rather than punish Ukraine, the normal thing for a country to do, if another country blew up one of their most important pieces of industrial infrastructure, the Germans continue to arm and send vast amounts of weapons to Ukraine. The country they supposedly blame for having blown up their pipeline. Just to give you a little reminder of the just preposterous propaganda to which we were subjected when this happened early on. Here is from the BBC in May of 2023 titled: *Nord Stream: Report puts Russian navy ships near the pipeline blast site*. There were Russian navy ships, we were told, not American ones, that we just learned, but Russian navy ships near the pipeline blast site. Quote, "Underwater explosions last September knocked out the two Nord Stream pipelines – built to carry gas from Russia to Europe – out of action. The cause of the blast is unclear. Formal investigations are still taking place in countries close to the blast site. So far, they have said only that they believe the explosions were the result of sabotage rather than any kind of accident. But one possible lead pointing toward Russian involvement" – toward Russian involvement in blowing up the Russian pipeline – "has emerged from details of suspicion of Russian ship movements in the run up to the Nord Stream blasts, reported by

four Nordic public broadcasters and an accompanying English language podcast Cold Front. Very soon after the incident, The Washington Post was doing their best propagandistic act to suggest the same thing .from September 27th, 2022, quote: *European leaders blame Russian "sabotage" after the Nord Stream explosions*. Quote, "European leaders said Tuesday they believe dual explosions that damaged pipelines built to carry Russian natural gas to Europe were deliberate, and some officials blamed the Kremlin, suggesting the blasts were intended as a threat to the continent". Just think about that logic. The Kremlin wanted to threaten Europe, and say, if you continue to support Ukraine, we want to show you what we can do to you. As a result, they didn't go and blow up anything that was European. They didn't go and blow up something on European land. They went and blew up their own pipeline, to say: Look, we have the capability to blow up our pipeline at any time. Our own pipeline that we spent tens of billions of dollars on, and our best engineers, and all this effort to build on which our future economic prosperity depends, just as a threat to you, to show you that we can blow up our own pipeline, think what we can do to you. That was the theory the Washington Post and European countries tried to push to make it seem like it was Putin who blew up his own pipeline. Quote, "The damage did not have an immediate impact on Russia's energy supplies. Russia cut off flows earlier this month, and European countries had scrambled to build up stockpiles and secure alternative energy sources before that."

Now, in case you think that the United States is to law abiding and to benevolent to do something like blow up someone else's pipeline as an act of industrial sabotage, that it would be a big conspiracy theory to suspect that the Americans would be behind such a thing, I give you Victoria Nuland, who at the time was with the US State Department, running Ukraine for the Biden administration, much like she did for the Obama administration, after which she had been running Irak and NATO policy for Dick Cheney and George Bush. And this was shortly before the Russians invaded Ukraine when the US government was warning that they were about to. And Victoria Nuland spoke at the US Department of State and tried to warn the Russians of certain things that will happen. And here's one of the things she predicted.

**Victoria Nuland (VN):** With regard to Nord Stream 2, we continue to have very strong and clear conversations with our German allies. And I want to be clear with you today. If Russia invades Ukraine, one way or another, Nord Stream 2 will not move forward.

**GG:** Now, just to be clear, as the US media suggested, that didn't mean she had anything to do with it. What she was doing was, she's like psychic. And she was envisioning that if Russia invades Ukraine, one way or the other, there will be no more Nord Stream 2, meaning that the Russians – she can anticipate – will probably blow up their own pipeline. Perish the thought that she was threatening to blow up the Nord Stream 2 pipeline if the Russians invaded. Here was her boss, ostensibly, Joe Biden, just a couple of weeks later on February 7th, also being psychic about what would happen to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline if Russia invaded.

**Joe Biden (JB):** There will be no longer Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it.

**Journalist:** But how will you do that, exactly? Since the project and control of the project is

within Germany's control?

**JB:** We will. I promise you, we will be able to do it.

**GG:** Can you believe how propagandistic our media outlets are, both in the US in the West? US officials, including the president, and the actual ruler of Ukraine, Victoria Nuland, stood up and said: If Russia invades Ukraine, we're going to blow up the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. We're going to destroy it. We're going to end it, where it's not going to happen anymore. And then when it actually got blown up, just like they promised, the US media said, God, we cannot figure out for the life of us who might have done this. And they actually tried to start suggesting that Russia blew up their own pipeline. And once that didn't work, they settled on an even more preposterous story that some like rough group of drunken low level Ukrainians, took a little tiny fishing boat to the Sea of Denmark and just like dived while they were drunk underground without the approval of Zelensky or anyone else high up in the government, and just kind of blew it up for fun. A little boat party; took out a boat party, had some beers, and then, oh hey, you know, we're near the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, why don't we see if we can blow it up? And that was the version, until Seymour Hersh's article, which instantly got dismissed and mocked and then the report this week, was the one that the West more or less sold. And case closed. Nobody talked about who blew up the Nord Stream pipeline ever again. Here was Secretary of State Antony Blinken shortly after the pipeline was actually blown up when he was asked about it at a State Department briefing.

**Antony Blinken:** Ultimately, this is also a tremendous opportunity. It's a tremendous opportunity to once and for all remove the dependence on Russian energy and thus to take away from Vladimir Putin the weaponization of energy, as a means of advancing his imperial designs. That's very significant and that offers tremendous strategic opportunity for the years to come. But meanwhile, we're determined to do everything we possibly can to make sure that the consequences of all of this are not borne by citizens in our countries or, for that matter, around the world.

**GG:** So while the Western media was convincing people that Russia blew up its own pipeline, Antony Blinken was saying: Hey, you know what? It turns out this is really good for us. We've been trying to force the Europeans not to buy from Russia any longer. And what do you know? Russia went and blew up its own pipeline and all the benefits were down to us. And it only harms Russia. While we are so happy that Russia blew up its own pipeline and destroyed its strategic interest and benefited our own. And none of this, for one moment, made the Western media think, are we going a little too far here in trying to convince people that Putin blew up his own pipeline? A couple of months after that, Victoria Nuland went to the Senate. As you might recall, this was when she was asked by Marco Rubio in a leading way whether Ukraine had any biological labs in Ukraine that they were afraid might fall into Russian hands because there were people suggesting this, and he was hoping Victoria Nuland would say, no, of course there are no biological labs in Ukraine. They don't pursue biological weapons. And instead, Victoria Nuland said, yes, there are biological research facilities in Ukraine and we're very concerned about those falling into Russian hands. And then when people like myself and a few other people noticed that and we said, wait a minute, what do

you mean? What does she mean by that? What biological research labs does Ukraine have in their country that are so dangerous they would be afraid of having it fall into Russian hands? Every one of us who raised that question got called a Kremlin conspiracy theorist. In fact, you can go to my Wikipedia page right now, and there's a section called Conspiracy Theories. And the one example of my spreading conspiracy theories was when I asked what Victoria Nuland meant in this hearing when she said, something I had heard for the first time, that Ukraine has extremely dangerous bio weapon facilities, bio research facilities in Ukraine, that the US was working with them to secure. I wasn't the one who brought that up. It was Victoria Nuland. But anyway, I just remember that hearing for this. But there was another part of this hearing where she was talking to Ted Cruz. And even though it was Russia that blew up its own pipeline, both Victoria Nuland and Ted Cruz could barely contain their glee over their great luck that Vladimir Putin blew up his own industrial infrastructure.

**VC:** Senator Cruz, like you ,I am, and I think the administration is very gratified to know that Nord Stream 2 is now, as you like to say, a hunk of metal at the bottom of the sea.

**GG:** I mean, we talk a lot about media propaganda on this show. I mean, one of the reasons for this show and one of the reasons why I got journalism in the first place, was because there was so much propaganda, just lies, constantly circulating, just false information, but my idea always was, well, I wanted to create a platform where I could push back against that. Where I could show how that was false, present facts that undercut that. And even though I've been doing that for 20 years now, although sometimes it really does surprise me how far they're willing to go. At the same time that they warned beforehand that they were going to blow up the Nord Stream pipeline if Russia invaded, at the same time that they had been urging since the Trump administration that the Nord Stream pipeline was terrible for US interests because it allowed Western Europe to buy cheap natural gas from Russia instead of having to buy more expensive natural gas from us, at the same time that they talked about all the benefits that the US got from having that pipeline blown up, at the same time that Victoria Nuland giddily celebrated with Ted Cruz, how lucky and happy they were that it was a, quote, "hunk of metal at the bottom of the sea", the media was actually trying to claim in multiple articles that it was probably the Russians who did it. And then when Seymour Hersh reported, based on ample sourcing, that has won multiple journalism awards for him over the decades of his career, that in fact, the US was involved in those operations, the entire media scoffed at it, barely paid it any attention, said he was a crazy old man, and decided to go instead with this theory that I guess they thought was more viable than Putin did it, which was about these rogue five Ukrainians having a party on a little boat, who on a [inaudible] decided to dive, just had a bunch of explosives with them and see if they could just do it. Ukraine's not to blame because Ukraine did not authorise it. Zelensky heard about it, but he rejected it. He wasn't to blame. Nobody was to blame at all except these five guys who just acted on their own. And then you had that report that came out of Denmark today saying: No, actually, what I saw, I was not allowed to talk about it until now, was these weird US navy ships right in the area who, when we approached them, told us to leave them alone and go back. And I have to say, even though US propaganda, US media propaganda is a major source of this show and of my work, it sometimes does surprise me when you put these things together just how far

they're willing to go. And in fact, that has been pretty much the entire way. Not just that this incident that the entire US involvement in the war in Ukraine, how the war in Ukraine happened, what it's for, how it's going, all of it is characterised by the same low level, absurd propaganda that if you challenge any part of you will actually get put on an official list of being a Kremlin propagandists, as it has happened to not just me, but to everybody who has done so. And sometimes it's worth taking a step back and realising just how extreme and far they're often willing to go. Because even if you're cynical and sceptical of the media, they will always go lower than you think. They will always surprise you in the way that they do that.

Thanks for watching this clip from System Update, our live show that airs every Monday through Friday at 7 p.m. Eastern exclusively on Rumble. You can catch the full nightly shows live or view the backlog of episodes for free on our Rumble page. You can also find full episodes the morning after they air across all major podcasting platforms, including Spotify and Apple. All the information you need is linked below. We hope to see you there.

**END**

---

**Thank you for reading this transcript. Please don't forget to donate to support our independent and non-profit journalism:**

<b>BANKKONTO:</b> Kontoinhaber: acTVism München e.V. Bank: GLS Bank IBAN: DE89430609678224073600 BIC: GENODEM1GLS	<b>PAYPAL:</b> E-Mail: <a href="mailto:PayPal@acTVism.org">PayPal@acTVism.org</a>	<b>PATREON:</b> <a href="https://www.patreon.com/acTVism">https://www.patreon.com/acTVism</a>	<b>BETTERPLACE:</b> Link: <a href="#">Click here</a>
---	--	--	---

The acTVism Munich e.V. association is a non-profit organization with legal capacity. The association pursues exclusively and directly non-profit and charitable purposes. Donations from Germany are tax-deductible. If you require a donation receipt, please send us an e-mail to: [info@acTVism.org](mailto:info@acTVism.org)