

Russia – new round of confrontation with the West

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The poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny by a Novichok nerve agent has been a prominent topic in the foreign news and among politicians for several weeks. It seems that the West suddenly wised up and saw that Russian President Vladimir Putin is a bloody dictator who can calmly treat his opponents only when they are dead.

At the same time, forgetting that it was the West to allow him be like this, which for a long time tried to use the “policy of appeasement towards the Russian leader in order to preserve the opportunity for meaningful dialogue. Meanwhile, “Putin’s mercenaries” were killing Politkovskaya, Berezovsky, Litvinenko and Nemtsov. The same Navalny was repeatedly hounded. The lack of a proper response to these and other political assassinations, as well as the seizure of foreign territories allowed Putin to believe in his impunity and the inability of the collective West to resist his authoritarianism.

He began to openly demonstrate contempt for European leaders who tried to see him as a “civilized politician” and negotiate with him. It’s no secret that Putin likes to make politicians fear him. He considers himself not only powerful, but “the most dangerous leader in the world”. He has repeatedly stated that this is an advantage for a politician and for Russian politics, but not vice versa.

Therefore, it is not surprise that, he unwittingly has crossed the “red line” in relations with the West and exhausted its patience with the poisoning of Navalny by Novichok. This is evidenced by the recent publication in the French newspaper Le Monde, headed “Between Macron and Putin – Dialogue of the

Deaf. An indicator of the futility of the dialogue between Paris and Moscow is the Russian president's denial of reality in the Navalny case". And an unprecedentedly harsh reaction from most European leaders, who were outraged by Putin's insolence. The West, after the Kremlin's use of Novichok in Great Britain, has collected enough evidence that only the Russian special services have such chemical agents at their disposal.

Thus, Putin by using chemical weapon against Navalny, has launched a new round of confrontation with the West, namely, provoked a change in Europe's strategy not only towards himself, but also towards Russia in general.

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