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My Review and Short Summary of Hersh's New Article On Nord Stream Pipeline

Seymour Hersh, one of the greatest heroes of American journalism — who exposed such large crimes as the My Lai massacre in Vietnam and Abu Ghraib jail torture — has just published this gigantic article: [How America Dismantled The Nord Stream Pipeline](#)

FULL ARTICLE FROM SEYMOUR-How America Took Out The Nord Stream Pipeline

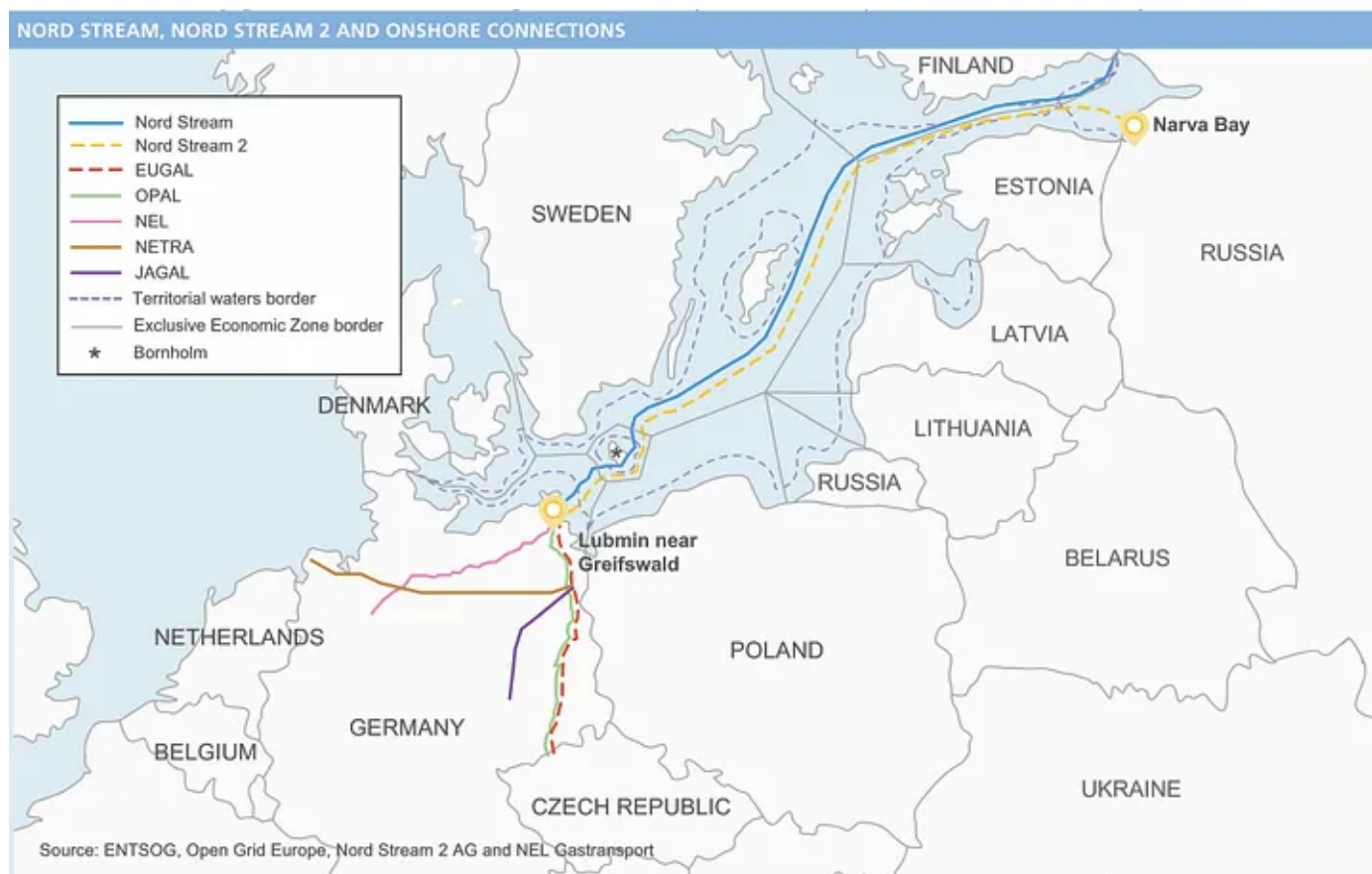
The U.S. Navy's Diving and Salvage Center can be found in a location as obscure as its name-down what was once a...

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Seymour Hersh's article "How America Dismantled the Nord Stream Pipeline" provides a detailed account of the alleged US involvement in sabotaging the Nord Stream pipelines, which were supplying Russia's natural gas to Germany and Western Europe. According to Hersh, the US Navy's Diving and Salvage Center in Panama City, Florida, trained deep-water divers to bury remotely detonated explosives that damaged three of the four Nord Stream pipelines under the cover of a NATO exercise.

The article argues that the Biden Administration considered Nord Stream 1 a challenge to Western dominance, and was anxious about Putin's potential use of natural gas for political and territorial gain. As a result, the Administration relied on the Navy divers to carry out the operation. The article also mentions the political and economic significance of Nord Stream 2 for Germany and the rest of Western Europe, and the tension it caused between Russia and NATO.



Hersh also provides a historical context for the Nord Stream pipelines and the reasons for US political anxieties about them. He explains how Gazprom, a publicly traded Russian firm, founded Nord Stream AG in conjunction with four European energy corporations and how the profits from Gazprom were split with the Russian government.

The article claims that the method used to destroy the Nord Stream pipelines was a covert operation carried out by a deep-cover team of CIA and NSA operatives in Washington. The team used sophisticated listening devices and deep-sea divers to locate and intercept Russian traffic and eventually blow up the pipelines. The proposal to blow up the pipelines was reportedly lowered from a covert operation to a highly classified intelligence operation with US military backing.

Overall, Hersh's article provides an intriguing and detailed account of the alleged US involvement in sabotaging the Nord Stream pipelines.

It is important to note that the information provided in the article is based on unnamed sources and has not been independently verified. The claims made in the article are controversial, and they have been rejected by the White House and the official narratives of the CIA. With that said, the history of the White House and CIA is filled with instances where they have not been fully trustworthy. From the lies about the existence of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) in Iraq, to the torture and abuse at Abu Ghraib jail, to the recent Afghan Papers revealing that the US government was aware of the failing war effort, it is clear that these organizations have not always acted in an honest and transparent manner. **PERFORM YOUR OWN RESEARCH.**

These events raise serious questions about the credibility of the government and its agencies, and highlight the need for ongoing oversight and accountability. While it is important to recognize the important role that the White House and CIA play in protecting national security, it is equally crucial that their actions are closely scrutinized to ensure that they are acting in the best interest of the American people and in accordance with the values of democracy and human rights.



(Shorter Summary of the [Seymour Article](#))

The Diving and Salvage Center of the United States Navy is situated 70 miles south of the Alabama border in rural Panama City, Florida. It has been preparing highly skilled deep-water divers for decades, making it the ideal location to hire the best and most reserved graduates of the diving school who successfully accomplished what they were licensed to do last summer, which was to dive 260 feet beneath the surface of the Baltic Sea. The Nord Stream pipelines, which had been supplying Germany and much of Western Europe with inexpensive Russian natural gas for more than ten years, were destroyed by the Navy divers,

who were working under the cover of a publicly publicized NATO exercise in the middle of the summer called BALTOPS 22. President Joseph Biden believed that Vladimir Putin could weaponize natural gas through the pipelines to further his nascent territorial and political ambitions. Adrienne Watson, a spokeswoman for the White House, and Tammy Thorp, a spokeswoman for the Central Intelligence Agency, both refuted the assertion.

After nine months of intensely confidential discussion among Washington's national security community about how to best accomplish that aim, Biden decided to damage the pipelines. The Biden administration was depending on the tough diving school grads from Panama City, who were all from the Navy and not part of the US Special Operations Command. The direct route, which avoided the need to cross via Ukraine, had benefited Germany's economy, and any action that could be linked to the administration would go against US commitments to limit direct war with Russia. Transparency was crucial. Washington and its NATO allies that oppose Russia viewed Nord Stream 1 as a danger to western hegemony.

Its parent business, Nord Stream AG, was established in 2005 in collaboration with Gazprom, a publicly traded Russian company that generates large profits for shareholders. Four European energy companies shared the remaining 49% of the corporation, with Gazprom holding 51% of it. The Russian government received a part of Gazprom's profits, which in certain years were believed to make up as much as 45 percent of the country's total yearly spending. Politicians in America had legitimate concerns that Putin would have a big new source of money and that Germany and the rest of Western Europe would grow dependent on Russian natural gas since it was so cheap. Many Germans viewed Nord Stream 1 as an important component of the realization of former Chancellor Willy Brandt's renowned Ostpolitik theory, which posited that by using cheap Russian gas to power a thriving Western European market and trading economy, postwar Germany would be able to rebuild itself and other European nations decimated in World War II.

Germany and Western Europe would have twice as much access to inexpensive gas thanks to Nord Stream 2, whose construction was completed in 2021. Because of the Biden Administration's assertive foreign policy, tensions between Russia and NATO were continually rising.

On the night of Biden's inauguration in January 2021, opposition to Nord Stream 2 erupted when Senate Republicans, led by Ted Cruz of Texas, brought up the political threat of cheap

Russian natural gas at Blinken's confirmation hearing as Secretary of State. The second pipeline was put online despite intense political and financial pressure on the Angela Merkel-led German government. Biden had not specifically outlined his beliefs when Blinken suggested he would stand up to the Germans. As the second pipeline's construction drew near its conclusion, Biden flinched and lifted sanctions against Nord Stream AG, with a State Department official admitting that it had been difficult to halt the pipeline through sanctions and diplomacy. Immediate repercussions included Senate Republicans proposing an immediate blockade of Biden's candidates for positions in foreign policy and delaying the approval of the yearly military bill.

Later, Politico referred to Biden's change of heart about the second Russian pipeline as "the one choice, maybe more than the disorganized military withdrawal from Afghanistan, that has threatened Biden's program." Midway through November, when Germany's energy regulators postponed approval of the second Nord Stream pipeline, the administration was having trouble responding to the situation. This generated concerns in Germany and around Europe that the suspension of the pipeline and the growing likelihood of war between Russia and Ukraine would bring on a bitterly cold winter, which would be quite unwelcome. Olaf Scholz, the recently appointed chancellor of Germany, had publicly backed Emmanuel Macron's proposal for a more independent European foreign policy. By the end of December, over 100,000 Russian forces were ready to launch an attack from Crimea and Belarus. Russian troops had been rapidly accumulating on Ukraine's frontiers. Only one proposal would be developed despite Jake Sullivan having been given permission by Biden to convene an interagency panel.

Two months before the first Russian tanks entered Ukraine in December 2021, Jake Sullivan called a meeting of a newly established task force and requested suggestions on how to counter Putin's imminent assault. The discussion took place in a private room on the top level of the Old Executive Office Building, which is a building next to the White House and houses the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB). The initial query was whether the group's recommendation to the President would be changeable or irreversible. The information on how the two Nord Stream pipelines were destroyed is the most crucial information in this essay. Two significant Russian Navy units were communicating via an underwater cable buried in the Sea of Okhotsk, according to information obtained by the American intelligence community in 1971 from sources that are still unknown. William Burns oversaw the CIA; he was a pleasant former ambassador to Russia and the Obama

Administration's deputy secretary of state. Burns gave the go-ahead for a working group within the Agency to develop a plan for a clandestine operation that would involve deep-sea divers setting off an explosion along the pipeline. Under cover, a hand-selected team of CIA and NSA operatives met somewhere in the Washington, D.C., region and devised a strategy to find the Russian cable using Navy divers, modified submarines, and a deep-submarine rescue vehicle.

By embedding a sophisticated listening device on the cable, the divers were able to successfully intercept Russian traffic and record it on a recording system. The CIA and State Department questioned the CIA's excitement for a secret deep-sea attack since there were no oil rigs in the Baltic Sea to serve as a cover for a diving operation and because the Russian navy routinely patrolled the area. Early in 2022, though, the CIA working group informed Sullivan's interagency panel that they had a method for detonating the pipelines. On February 7, less than three weeks before what seemed like an inevitable Russian invasion of Ukraine, Biden met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who was now solidly on the American side, in his White House office. There won't be a Nord Stream 2 if Russia invades Ukraine, Biden resolutely declared. At a State Department briefing that received little media attention, Undersecretary Nuland had essentially made the same point.

From a covert operation needing notification of Congress to a highly classified intelligence operation supported by the U.S. military, the plan to blow up Nord Stream 1 and 2 was lowered. The Norwegian navy quickly identified the ideal location, which was in the shallow water a few miles off the Danish island of Bornholm. The proximity of Norway to Russia and the Pentagon's investment in enhancing and expanding American Navy and Air Force facilities there made it the ideal location for the mission's base of operations. One of these was a cutting-edge synthetic aperture radar that was able to penetrate deep into Russia and went online just as the American intelligence community lost access to a number of long-range listening posts within China.

Infuriating liberals and some moderates in its parliament in November, Norway's government passed the Supplementary Defense Cooperation Agreement, despite the two countries having signed the NATO Treaty in 1949. (SDCA). Under the SDCA, the U.S. judicial system would have jurisdiction over American soldiers accused of crimes committed outside of the base as well as over any Norwegian civilians suspected of interfering with base operations in specified "designated regions" of the North. The supreme commander of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, has partnered with American intelligence agencies ever since the

Vietnam War and was a staunch opponent of Vladimir Putin and all things Russian. Since the Norwegians detested the Russians and had experience with deep-sea oil and gas exploration, planners in Washington realized they had to go there. Norway might sell more of its own natural gas to Europe if Nord Stream was destroyed.



The team took a plane to Norway to consult with the Norwegian Navy and Secret Service on the optimum location to lay explosives in the Baltic Sea. With two sets of pipelines each, Nord Stream 1 and 2 were hardly more than a mile apart as they traveled to the port of Greifswald in the extreme northeast of Germany. The Baltic Sea's shallow seas, a few miles off the Danish island of Bornholm, were quickly identified by the Norwegian navy as the ideal location. The obscure deep-diving unit of the Navy at Panama City was brought into play when the Americans went all-in. For the mission, the best deep divers were sought for, and they were instructed to be ready to report to the CIA in Washington.

The Swedish or Danish warships might notice any strange undersea activity in the waters off Bornholm and report it, so the Norwegians and Americans had a location and the operators, but there was another worry. The NATO exercise known as Baltic Operations 22, or BALTOPS 22, in the Baltic Sea was a huge success thanks in large part to the Norwegians. The intelligence community was aware of Denmark's unique ties to the United Kingdom because it had been one of the initial NATO signatories. The management of its undersea

sound and magnetic sensor systems was a key component of Sweden's application for NATO membership. The Americans persuaded Sixth Fleet planners to include a research and development exercise in the schedule that featured NATO divers planting mines and rival teams utilizing cutting-edge underwater equipment to locate and detonate them.

The Russian navy was known to have surveillance equipment that could detect and detonate underwater mines, thus the American explosive devices needed to be disguised in a way that would make them look to the Russian system as part of the natural background. Requests for comment on this topic were not answered by the Norwegian embassy. The BALTOPS22 exercise's specifics — which were both an effective exercise and a clever cover — are the most crucial information in this article. The experiment required the Panama City guys to place C4 explosives on pipelines and set a timer for 48 hours before detonating them. The White House changed its mind, though, and instructed the CIA to devise a plan that would allow Biden to order a successful execution at any time.

This sparked further questions about the necessity and legality of the operation and reminded people of the CIA's predicament during the Vietnam War, when President Johnson ordered the Agency to go beyond its mission by eavesdropping on antiwar leaders to see if they were being controlled by communist Russia. As a result, Frank Church of Idaho, the senator from Idaho, convened a dramatic series of hearings in the Senate in the middle of the 1970s. These hearings made it abundantly clear that Richard Helms, the agency's director at the time, had accepted that he was obligated to carry out the President's wishes, even if doing so meant breaking the law.

The CIA operates under separate rules and guidelines than any other branch of the government, according to CIA Director Richard Helms, in unreleased, private testimony. On Biden's instruction, the Americans working in Norway functioned within the same framework and started tackling the brand-new challenge of remotely detonating the C4 explosives. Given that there was no way of knowing when the President might press the button, this task was far more difficult than people in Washington realized. On short notice, a sonar buoy dropped by a plane would activate the C4 fastened to the pipes, but the process required the most cutting-edge signal processing equipment. To prevent this, the sonar buoy would broadcast a series of distinctive low frequency tonal noises that would be identified by the timing device and, after a predetermined number of hours, set off the explosives. Professor emeritus of science, technology, and national security policy at MIT, Dr. Theodore Postol, explained that the problem the group in Norway was facing as a result of

Biden's delay was one of chance: "The longer the explosives are in the water the greater risk there would be of a random signal that would launch the bombs."

Three of the four Nord Stream 2 and Nord Stream 1 pipes were rendered inoperable on September 26, 2022 as a result of the underwater sonar buoy being dropped by a Norwegian Navy P8 surveillance plane. Russia was suggested as a potential perpetrator in the American media's initial coverage of the incident, which was presented as an unsolved mystery. The New York Times, on the other hand, referred to the news as "complicating ideas about who was behind" the attack when it was revealed that Russian authorities had been covertly obtaining estimates for the cost to repair the pipes. A potential window of opportunity has presented itself, according to Secretary of State Blinken, to terminate the reliance on Russian energy and deny Vladimir Putin the ability to use energy as a weapon to further his imperial ambitions. Victoria Nuland professed her joy at the destruction of the newest pipeline, but a source offered a more realistic assessment of Biden's choice to disrupt more than 1500 miles of Gazprom pipeline as winter neared.



According to the insider, the Russians might have desired the ability to carry out similar actions to those taken by the United States. The only mistake in Biden's undercover operation was the choice to carry it out.