

Sobotka the erudite analyst



A professor at the University of Chicago who is virtually unknown to Czechs is having a major impact on Czech policy toward Russia. The professor, John J. Mearsheimer, writes in the latest issue of Foreign Affairs (see here for [English](#) or [Russian](#); sorry, no Czech) that the West provoked Vladimir Putin by enlarging the EU and Nato. Mearsheimer said hardly anything new, but the timing was exquisite. Pres. [Vladimír Dlouhý](#) of the Czech Chamber of Commerce picked up on it, which led to citations by [Jan Macháček](#) of Respekt, and also by [ČTK](#). PM Bohuslav Sobotka then repeated parts of the analysis nearly verbatim in [Právo](#). For those unfamiliar with Mearsheimer's article, Sobotka might have looked like an erudite foreign-policy analyst.

The reality, though, is that Sobotka repeats what others tell him without understanding the substance or ramifications of his words. Is it truly proper, for example, for the PM of a Nato/EU country to state that any Nato military support for Ukraine would lead to World War III? Is it even analytically correct?

Read this later today in [Czech](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

P3 Quiz Night: Round 4
Wed., September 10th
@ The Mark Hotel

VIP Hockey Night
Friday, September 12th
@ The Tipsport Arena

"Speed-Pitch" and
Roundtable Discussion
Wed., September 18th
@ Wilson & Partners

Seminar: Marketing &
Entrepreneurship in the CR
Tues. October 7th
@ Prague College

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