



**We were
allies then,
it is the time to
join hands now to
meet the enormous
challenges facing
both our nations
and the world.**



U.S. Navy Adm. Mike Mullen and Russian Gen. Nikolay Makarov participated in a wreath-laying ceremony of the link up of U.S. and Soviet forces during World War II at Elbe River in Germany.



Elbe River Linkage Memorial at the Arlington Cemetery.





April 25, 1945: Russians and Americans link at Elbe

Russian and American troops have joined hands at the River Elbe in Germany, bringing the end of the war a step closer.

Statements have been released simultaneously in London, Moscow and Washington this evening reaffirming the determination of the three Allied powers to complete the destruction of the Third Reich.

The first contact was made between patrols on 25 April when a first lieutenant and three men of an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon of the US division met forward elements of the Russian Guards division.

First Lieutenant Albert Kotzebue of the 3rd Battalion, 273rd Infantry, 69th Infantry Division took his men in a boat across the Elbe to be greeted by Lt Col Alexander Gardiev, Commander of the 175th Rifle Regiment of the 58th Guards Division, 34th Corps.

They made arrangements for the formal handshake in front of photographers at Torgau the following day.

By joining forces at Elbe, the American and Soviet troops have successfully cut the Germany army in two.

The American and Russian military leaders have paid tribute to their troops. In Moscow 324 guns fired a 24 salvo in honour of "victory of the freedom-loving peoples over Germany".

General Omar Bradley, commander of the US 12th Army Group, praised the Soviet troops for their determination in forcing the Germans to abandon Russia and push them back to the Elbe River.



Russia's Central Role in Winning World War II – and America's Great Contribution to It

As all serious Western historians recognize, it was the Soviet Union and its peoples, most of all the Russian people, who made the greatest sacrifices and made the most important contributions to the winning of World War II... "It was the Red Army that tore the guts out of the Wehrmacht," legendary British War Premier Winston Churchill publicly proclaimed...Nine out of every 10 German soldiers in World War II were killed by the Red Army. . The colossal total of nearly 27 million Soviet military and civilian dead was more than twice the death toll of all Americans, Britons, Commonwealth, French and even Germans killed in the war combined...The worst Nazi extermination camps, the industrialized killing machines of death at Auschwitz, Majdanek, Sobibor and Treblinka – were all liberated and shut down by the advance of the Red Army. There can be no question that the soldiers of the Red Army deserve primary credit for ending the Holocaust...The 70th anniversary of our great joint victory in WWII should have been a season of joint celebration, thanksgiving, the rebuilding of bridges and the recommitment of the great nations of East and West to a renewed era of mutual peace and mutual respect. It was of course nothing of the sort... the biggest news from the reunion of statesmen wishing to bask in the reflected glories of the past was the deliberate rudeness of U.S. President Barack Obama of the United States and of Prime Minister David Cameron of Britain to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Not a single major U.S. or British leader is scheduled to attend any of the Russian anniversary ceremonies.... This is a ridiculous and contemptible state of affairs and it was produced by sloppy ignorance and incompetence. It also represents a historic opportunity mindlessly thrown away and missed...The study of history, the recovery of national as well as individual memory, is so crucial to renew the friendship and mutual respect of our two great nations. This is where we must start: In remembering the true depth, scale and sacrifice of our mutual collaboration in World War II that saved the human race.

Excerpts from the lecture by the former Chief Foreign Correspondent of the Washington Times, presently a senior fellow of the American University in Moscow, at the Kennan Institute, a division of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

This day. 70 years ago.





Russia celebrates the 70th Anniversary of the Elbe River linkage on April 24, 2015 by planting a “U.S. - Russia Friendship Tree” next to the statue of President Abraham Lincoln and Tsar Alexander II in the Old Arbat area.



What kind of peace do I mean and what kind of a peace do we seek? Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war.

- John F. Kennedy



We need Europe whole and free and the new security arch from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

- George H. W. Bush



Dear General Scales, I want to invite you to visit Russia to celebrate with us the 70th anniversary of our great victory and with our people.

From the letter of Col. Ivan Govorov to Gen. Robert Scales who in his recent interview on FoxNews said that “the only way the United

States can have any effect in this region [Ukraine] and turn the tide is start killing Russians”.



“The trend line of our relations is working against the benefit of the US and against the benefit of the people of Russia. And we’ve got to turn this around for both of our countries, and both of our peoples will be so much safer if we were working together rather than looking at ourselves as enemies,”

- Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA)



Soldiers of 18th Infantry Regiment in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.



U.S. and Russian Navy Bands perform at the Lincoln Memorial to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Elbe River Linkage.