### AT: Russian Econ Collapse

#### Russian economic collapse inevitable

Aron, AEI, ’11 (Leon, Winter, “The Status Quo Fatigue” AEI Russian Outlook)

In the words of Lev Gudkov, a top Russian pollster and political sociologist, despite the “pumping of money” into the economy and “social sphere” (that is, the welfare system), stagnation continues because the regime is “incapable of solving any of the key problems connected to the urgently needed institutional reforms.”13 According to a transformation index, which measures reforms in 125 developing countries, since 2003 Russia sank from 41st to 65th overall, and from 31st to 107th in “effectiveness of governance.”14 Nonexistent before 2008, the budget deficit has reached nearly 4 percent of GDP and, although still relatively low, is being viewed with growing apprehension. According to leading Russian economist Vladimir Mau, the deficit would have reached a dangerous 13.5 percent without the profits from oil sales abroad (“oil transfers”).15 There is little confidence in the government’s promises to eliminate the deficit by 2015.16 The habit of profligate spending and the enormous “corruption tax”17 (not to mention the 2014 Winter Olympics and the 2018 World Cup) will likely prevent the closing of the gap. As a top political analyst said to me, “They have completely unlearned to live within their means. The regime’s spending habits are so ingrained that they won’t end the deficit even with oil over $100 a barrel.”

### AT: Econ Impact

#### No immediate economic impact if we go over the cliff --- will still be time to resolve it and economic harms will force GOP to cave

Krugman, 11/10 (Paul, 11/10/2012, International Herald Tribune, “Hang tough, Mr. President,” Factiva)

Mr. Obama essentially surrendered in the face of similar tactics at the end of 2010, extending low taxes on the rich for two more years. He made significant concessions again in 2011, when Republicans threatened to create financial chaos by refusing to raise the debt ceiling. And the current potential crisis is the legacy of those past concessions.

Well, this has to stop — unless we want hostage-taking, the threat of making the nation ungovernable, to become a standard part of our political process.

So what should he do? Just say no, and go over the cliff if necessary.

It’s worth pointing out that the fiscal cliff isn’t really a cliff. It’s not like the debt-ceiling confrontation, where terrible things might well have happened right away if the deadline had been missed. This time, nothing very bad will happen to the economy if agreement isn’t reached until a few weeks or even a few months into 2013. So there’s time to bargain.

More important, however, is the point that a stalemate would hurt Republican backers, corporate donors in particular, every bit as much as it hurt the rest of the country. As the risk of severe economic damage grew, Republicans would face intense pressure to cut a deal after all.

Meanwhile, the president is in a far stronger position than in previous confrontations. I don’t place much stock in talk of ‘‘mandates,’’ but Mr. Obama did win re-election with a populist campaign, so he can plausibly claim that Republicans are defying the will of the American people. And he just won his big election and is, therefore, far better placed than before to weather any political blowback from economic troubles — especially when it would be so obvious that these troubles were being deliberately inflicted by the G.O.P. in a last-ditch attempt to defend the privileges of the 1 percent.

Most of all, standing up to hostage-taking is the right thing to do for the health of America’s political system.

So stand your ground, Mr. President, and don’t give in to threats. No deal is better than a bad deal.

#### Their impact is hype --- won’t be lasting damage to the economy or national security

Barno, et. al, 11/7 --- work at the Center for a New American Security Lieutenant General (Ret.) David W. Barno is a senior advisor and senior fellow, Dr. Nora Bensahel is the deputy director of studies and a senior fellow, and Joel Smith and Jacob Stokes are research assistants, “Brace Yourself; The U.S. may well go off the fiscal cliff. Is that so bad?”<http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/11/07/brace_yourself>)

Of course, this would be high-stakes game of chicken for both the White House and Congress. It would seriously disrupt planning throughout the Department of Defense and defense industry, shake market confidence in the United States, and slow U.S. economic growth. But recent reports have indicated that the effects of defense sequestration, tax hikes and spending cuts would be slower and less damaging in the short term than the rhetoric would suggest -- leaving room to go off the cliff and cut a deal early in the 113th Congress without causing lasting damage to the economy, national security, or domestic programs. Lawmakers from both parties might therefore see going off the cliff as a practical way of reaching a broader consensus in 2013 about balancing the nation's revenues and expenditures.

### 1AR Wind PTC

#### Wind PTC is the top of the docket

DiMungo 11/8/12 (Laura, “Does The Wind Energy PTC Stand A Chance In Lame-Duck Congress?” <http://www.nawindpower.com/naw/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.10660>)

With President Barack Obama gaining a second term, the wind energy industry maintains key support from the Executive Branch. But as anyone familiar with energy politics knows, backing from the president alone will not guarantee full support for wind power at the federal level. Of course, the No. 1 priority for the wind energy industry is an extension of the production tax credit (PTC), which is set to expire at the end of this year. Failure to renew the incentive has led to widespread layoffs throughout the supply chain and has brought new wind project development to a virtual standstill, and further inaction will only magnify the repercussions. A one-year PTC extension is currently included in a larger tax-extenders bill that was approved by the Senate Finance Committee in August. But does it have any chance of passing the full Senate and House of Representatives and, ultimately, becoming law? According to American Wind Energy Association CEO Denise Bode, the answer is yes. On a press call Wednesday, Bode said she is confident that Congress will take up the bill in the lame-duck session. “We look forward to immediate action when Congress returns,” she said. Bode acknowledged that although wind power alone may not be Congress’ top priority, it is a crucial part of the larger economy, and its success is a critical step toward addressing the fiscal cliff. According to Bode, a PTC extension has a solid chance of passing in the lame-duck session because the measure is included as a part of the larger bill that contains many other important economic provisions. “We’re part of a broader business package, with the R&amp;D tax credit and a number of other items that are crucial to the economy moving forward and getting better,” she said. “So I think we’re part of the bigger discussion. We’re not a one-off issue, so I think this just provides us greater support.” Waiting until next year to address these measures would not be wise, Bode said. “I think we’ve heard pretty clearly from the Obama administration…that we need to address these business extenders - and extenders in general - as well as the issues that would fall into the category of a fiscal cliff,” she said. “So I think that the idea that they would wait and allow the economy to be so drastically impacted until next year or down the line - it just seems to me that it’s not a reasonable assessment of the situation. “I think what we’ve heard is that they would seek to address [the PTC] as soon as possible,” she added. Among those pushing for action on the tax-extenders bill is Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who said in the summer he wanted it done before the election. Likewise, Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, has clearly made the legislation a top priority. In a statement on the Senate Finance Committee’s website, Baucus called for the Senate to immediately address fiscal issues, which will likely include the tax-extenders bill. “A first step would be for Congress to work together towards a solution to our pressing year-end fiscal issues,” Baucus said. “We need to put progress ahead of politics and work towards a compromise that provides some certainty to American families and businesses. We need to craft a proposal that supports jobs, expands opportunity and puts America’s economy back on track.”