

Ukraine's Goal of Restoring Its 2014 Borders Is Realistic—and Why Trump's Position Endangers America

U.S. President Donald Trump's accusation that Ukraine started the war with Russia—his exact words being, "**You should have never started it. You could have made a deal**"—is both historically illiterate **and** dangerously misleading. By maintaining that Ukraine—the clear victim of Russian aggression—should bear responsibility for the war, Trump tries to **distort reality and also legitimize Russian expansionism**. His stance ignores the long history of Kremlin violations of international agreements and dismisses the **Budapest Memorandum**, which binds the U.S. to support Ukraine's sovereignty. His accusation that President Zelenskyy is a dictator with low approval ratings fails to point out that **Putin is the real dictator**. Let us remember that Putin was ostensibly 're-elected' by a fake election recently, much like Hitler's election to the Reichstag in 1932 was a rigged election. What is more, Trump fails to disclose that Zelenskyy's poll approval number of 57 percent is better than Trump's current approval number of 44 percent. Worse still, Trump's demands that Ukraine surrender territory and refusing to support Ukraine in the UN, signal a broader **abdication of American leadership**, send a chilling message to other nations that military aggression goes unpunished.

Trump's position, including his claims he could have stopped the war, when in fact, he didn't stop it back in 2014 when the war in Ukraine was raging and he was President—combined with his threats to abandon NATO and his belligerent dismissal of America's allies including, notably Canada and Denmark—only emboldens Vladimir Putin and other authoritarian regimes. If America continues its retreat from the world stage, the long-term consequences will be catastrophic, including the erosion of NATO's unity, the collapse of the rules-based international order, and even America's vulnerability in times of crisis.

1. Russia Has Violated Every Agreement It Signed—Why Sign Another?

It's time for enforcement, not for another agreement. One of the most glaring flaws in Trump's call for a peace deal is the assumption that Russia will honor any new agreement. This ignores the fact that Russia has **repeatedly** broken legally binding treaties, including:

- **The United Nations Charter** – Russia's invasion of Ukraine blatantly violated the UN's foundational principles against territorial aggression.
- **The Helsinki Accords (1975)** – Russia committed to respect European borders and sovereignty, yet invaded Ukraine in 2014 and again in 2022.
- **The Budapest Memorandum (1994)** – Russia pledged to respect Ukraine's independence in exchange for Ukraine surrendering its nuclear weapons.

If Russia has already disregarded these treaties, why should anyone believe it will honor a new agreement dictated by Trump? The answer is simple: it won't. The only viable course of action is not to negotiate another worthless treaty, but to **enforce** the

agreements already in place. That means supporting Ukraine's fight for full territorial integrity—not surrendering to Putin's demands.

2. America's Broken Promise Under the Budapest Memorandum

Trump's stance outright ignores the **direct obligation** that the United States undertook when Ukraine gave up its nuclear arsenal in 1994. Under the **Budapest Memorandum**, the U.S., U.K., and Russia guaranteed Ukraine's sovereignty in exchange for Kyiv relinquishing the third-largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world. The commitments made were to:

- Respect Ukraine's **independence, sovereignty, and existing borders**.
- Refrain from the **threat or use of force** against Ukraine.
- Refrain from using **economic pressure** to influence Ukraine's policies.
- Seek **UN Security Council assistance** if Ukraine is threatened or attacked with nuclear weapons.
- **Not use nuclear weapons** against Ukraine.

The lesson for the world is clear: If America refuses to uphold its **past** commitments, why should any country trust a **new** agreement. Worse yet, if the U.S. will not stand by Ukraine, what signal does that send to allies like Taiwan or South Korea? Trump's willingness to allow Russia to retain **stolen** Ukrainian territory tells every dictator on the planet that treaties and alliances mean nothing to America. The same can certainly be said for Russia.

3. The U.S. Has Been a Freeloader in Ukraine's War

One of Trump's frequent talking points is that America is spending too much to support Ukraine. What he **doesn't** mention is that the **U.S. has not lost a single soldier** in Ukraine. While Ukrainians have fought and died defending their country, America has merely provided financial and military aid—an estimated 90% of which is spent **in the U.S.** on arms production.

The United States has committed approximately **\$175 billion** in aid to Ukraine, with nearly **70%**—about \$122.5 billion—**spent domestically** on American defence contractors upgrading the U.S. military, according to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). A significant portion of this U.S. military aid comprised equipment drawn from existing U.S. defence stockpiles, including decommissioned or older equipment. Meanwhile, **Europe has provided approximately \$140 billion**, as the European External Action Service (EEAS) reported. Despite this, **President Trump has demanded** that Ukraine surrender half of its critical mineral resources—graphite, uranium, titanium, and lithium—as “compensation” for **a grossly exaggerated \$500**

billion claim of U.S. support, an outrageous demand delivered by Vice President J.D. Vance to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at a meeting on February 14, 2025, at the Munich Security Conference. In short, while Ukrainians are dying on the front lines in defence of shared values such as freedom, respect for borders and the international rules-based order, the U.S. has been trying to extort scandalous concessions out of Ukraine, effectively resorting to nuclear blackmail.

4. NATO's Credibility Is at Stake—And America's Security Along With It

Trump has repeatedly **threatened** NATO allies, suggesting that if they don't meet arbitrary spending quotas, the U.S. might not defend them against Russian aggression. This reckless attitude has already made Putin more confident that he can push further without serious consequences.

If the U.S. abandons NATO commitments, there are two grave consequences:

1. **Russia Will Test NATO's Resolve** – If Putin senses that the U.S. won't honor **Article 5**, he could attack a vulnerable NATO member like the Baltics, daring the alliance to respond. A fractured NATO would be a strategic disaster.
2. **America May Be Alone in Its Next Crisis** – After 9/11, the U.S. depended on allies in Afghanistan and Iraq. If another 9/11-like attack occurs, will America's allies rush to its defence? Or will they remember that Trump threatened to abandon them and decide that the U.S. isn't worth the risk?

America cannot afford to betray its allies today and expect their loyalty tomorrow.

5. The Danger of Trump's Arrogance and Republican Silence

Trump's reckless disregard for history and international law is alarming enough. But even more dangerous is the **silence of the Republican Party**, which has largely failed to challenge his authoritarian tendencies. Trump has demonstrated **open contempt** for constitutional checks and balances, signing executive orders and proclamations that ignore Congress and the courts.

His party's refusal to rein him in only accelerates America's decline into dictatorship. If the U.S. allows Trump to set foreign policy by dictatorial fiat, ignoring legal constraints and alliances, then America itself risks becoming an unreliable, unstable global actor. That, more than any external threat, is what could truly doom the country in the long run.

6. The Stakes Cannot be Higher Internationally Today

Timothy Snyder has eloquently laid out the stakes of the Russia-Ukraine war. **If Ukraine were to lose**, we could expect the genocidal slaughter of those who opposed Russian rule, murders, rapes, arrests, detentions, torture, destruction of entire cities, the kidnapping of children and the flight of millions of new Ukrainian refugees into Western Europe. We can expect the **commencement of a larger European war** as Europe struggles to prepare for it amid the wave of new immigrants. We can expect China's invasion of Taiwan. We can expect more nuclear belligerence from North Korea. We can expect the breakdown of the post-World War II international rules-based order. And we can expect widespread atomic proliferation. These are consequences we can ill afford and compel us to do something now. It is clear that behind the scenes, an implied new world order is shaping. This **new order** is based on the **imperial intentions of Russia, America and China**. Each country appears ready to respect its other's imperial designs. This needs to be challenged.

7. What is to be Done Now - Key Points for Urgent Action

Seizing Frozen Russian Assets for Ukraine:

- Agreement must be reached among European nations holding **\$300 billion in frozen Russian funds** to transfer them to Ukraine.
- These funds **should directly support Ukraine's war effort** against Russian aggression.

Establishing a New Military Alliance:

- A new coalition is necessary, consisting of **European NATO nations (excluding those aligned with Putin), Canada, Australia, and New Zealand**.
- This alliance must work toward forming a **predominantly European joint army** to counter Russian threats.
- The force must be prepared **not only to defend Ukraine's borders but also to confront Russia directly**.

Breaking the Illusion of a Limited War:

- It is a **strategic mistake** to limit the war to Ukraine's geographic boundaries.
- If Russia disregards international borders to invade Ukraine, it cannot expect its own borders to be respected.
- The world must demand **Russia's immediate and unconditional withdrawal** from Ukraine.
- If Russia refuses, retaliation must be an option—not out of a desire for war, but to uphold global security and international law.

Honoring the Lessons of History:

- Failing to act against Russia **dishonors the sacrifices** of those who fought in two world wars to preserve international peace.
- The **principle of respecting sovereign borders**—defended at great cost in the past—is at stake once again.

Addressing Nuclear Threats with Clarity:

- **Russia—not the Western response—is the real threat to nuclear stability.**
- This must be **clearly conveyed to Putin and the Russian populace.**
- The risk of escalation must be accepted **for the sake of long-term global peace.**

Preparing for a New Era of Global Threats:

- Due to shifting U.S. policies, this new alliance must **prepare for threats beyond Ukraine**, including **potential aggression against Denmark and Canada.**
- These nations must be defended for the same reasons Ukraine must be supported—because **unchecked aggression anywhere endangers everyone.**

The Need for Unity and Immediate Action:

- Europe and Canada must **not fall into illusions** about today's geopolitical reality.
- **Russia's aggression is relentless, and American support is no longer guaranteed**—it comes with conditions, demands, and ultimatums.
- If allies do not stand together now, they will face these threats **alone and increasingly vulnerable.**
- As **Benjamin Franklin warned during the American Revolution**, "*We must all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.*"
- **The time to act is now.** Europe, Canada, and like-minded nations must strengthen their alliances and take control of their own defense **before the choice is made for them.**

8. Conclusion: It's Not Too Late, But America Must Now Lead or Lose Everything

The idea that Ukraine cannot reclaim its pre-2014 borders is not based on reality but on **political cowardice**. Let us remember that defeat is a choice. Trump's proposal to force Ukraine into a "peace" agreement is both naive and dangerous, ignoring:

- Russia's long history of breaking treaties,
- Russia's Holodomor imposed famine on Ukraine and its denials,
- The U.S.'s broken promise under the Budapest Memorandum,
- The fact that America has not sacrificed troops in Ukraine,
- The credibility of NATO,
- The fact that America is abandoning its allies.

As already outlined, if the U.S. fails Ukraine now, the consequences will be global: a disintegrating NATO, a green light for China's invasion of Taiwan, and a precedent for dictators worldwide and a widening war in Europe. Worst of all, if America ever finds itself in need—whether after another 9/11 or a major global crisis—it may find that the world no longer believes in the strength of its promises.

History teaches us that appeasement leads to greater wars. The time to enforce existing agreements, not create new meaningless ones, is now. And the time for Republicans to **stand up to Trump** before his arrogance leads America into international isolation is long overdue.

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