

Trump and Ukraine – A New Era in US Foreign Policy

by Phillip W. Weiss

Donald Trump has finally ended Ukraine's gravy train with the United States. Trump has shaken up the world order. Trump has pivoted away from Europe and Ukraine to Russia. Trump's goals are to end the war in Ukraine and re-establish good relations with Russia. Trump is putting the United States' interests first. It is in the United States' interest to have a good working relationship with Russia. It is NOT in the United States' interest to continue dishing out billions of dollars to a country that is not of strategic importance to the US.

Now all of Europe is alarmed. They are alarmed because for years and decades they have used the threat of Russia as a pretext to have the US guarantee Europe's security while providing nothing to the United States in return. While the Soviet Union existed, the United States needed NATO to defend against Soviet expansion into Europe. Even then, NATO was weak. It failed to deter the Soviet suppression of Poland, the Soviet invasion of Hungary, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and the erection of the Berlin Wall. Even then, our so-called allies in Europe were selfishly taking advantage of the situation to have the United States bear the financial burden of defending Europe than actually paying for their own defense. Hence, US involvement in NATO transformed the United States into a cash cow for Europe.

NATO was a conttivance of the United States, The United States created NATO to project the image of a continent united against the Soviet threat, and in a way it was united in how they expected the United States to bear the expenses which the US took on in its struggle to win the Cold War. So, in a way, it was worth the money. The US won the Cold War. The United States achieved that victory not because of our NATO allies but because of the efforts and money expended by the United States which led the way, at the United States' expense.

During the Cold War, there was constant concerns over US defense costs. No such concerns were raised in Europe which became habituated to the United States paying the bill, and it was a big bill, a very big bill. The US stationed tens of thousands of troops in Europe and deployed nuclear missiles pointed straight at the Soviet Union. These deployments cost the US many billions of dollars for which Europe provided not a penny of support. But, as mentioned before, it as the Cold War, so the US bore the expense and expressed no complaints, to which the European countries took full advantage.

Finally, forty-four years after the end of World War Two, the Germans finally tore down the Berlin Wall, thanks to the United States, and two years later the Soviet Union collapsed and disappeared. The US won the Cold War. Yet, NATO remained. It took on a life of its own. In fact, NATO sought to expand into those countries that were previously part of the Soviet Bloc. THERE WAS NO MORE SOVIET UNION. Nevertheless, the US continued to underwrite NATO while the European nations continued to contributed next to nothing to their own defense.

By this time, to justify NATO expansion, Europe reimagined Russia as the iteration of the Soviet Union. It was argued that Russian President Vladimir Putin wanted reestablish the Soviet empire and that Russia had aggressive intentions. So, the United States continued to pay for NATO and maintain troops in Europe, all costing the US many billions of dollars. Please understand, THERE WAS NO ENEMY to fight. So, NATO manufactured an enemy, namely the much weaker and smaller Russia. This was a perception that was based a self-serving delusion that justified the continued existence of a defense alliance that needed an adversary to justify its continued existence.

Now, in 1993, the western allies gave Ukraine, which had broke away from the Soviet Union, certain security guarantees in return for giving up the nuclear arsenal they inherited from the now extinct Soviet Union. Then, talk began on the possiibility of NATO expanding into Ukraine. This alarmed Russia which did not want NATO forces deployed in Ukraine, which shared a long border with Russia. Russia let it be known that expansion of NATO into Ukraine was unacceptable and would not be tolerated. Stupidly, the West, including the United States dismissed Russia's concerns. Indeed, the West doubled-down on its plans for NATO to expand into Ukraine.

By 2014, although NATO never extended to Ukraine an invitation to join NATO, Ukraine publicly made known its interest to join NATO. That year, Russia, concerned that Ukraine could join NATO, invaded Ukraine and soon occupied much of the eastern part of Ukraine. In response, NATO did nothing. The United States began imposing sanctions on Russia and relations between the US and Russia rapidly deteriorated.

Meanwhile the questionh of Ukraine's membership in NATO remained unresolved. Russia demanded ironclad guarantees that Ukraine would not join NATO, while Ukraine equivocated. Then in December 2021, US President Joe Biden publicly stated that the decision whether to join NATO was Ukraine's to decide. Two months later Russia launched a full scale invasion Ukraine, thus starting the biggest and most destructive war in Europe since World War Two. The United States declared its commitment to support Ukraine against what the US termed unwarranted Russian aggression, and since then has provided Ukraine about TWO HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS IN MILITARY AID AND OTHER ASSISTANCE in a war that the US soon determined that Ukraine COULD NOT WIN.

Thus, the United States found itself fighting a proxy war against Russia, at a huge financial cost to the United States, with no chance that the war could be won. Nevertheless, the US refused to negotiate with Russia, and allowed the war to continue at US expense. All of that came to an end on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, when US President Doanld Trump called Russian President Vladimir Putin to start peace talks.

Trump's call marked a dramatic shift in US policy away from Europe and NATO to Russia. Trump has determined that it is no longer in US interest to pay for the defense of Europe or to expand NATO into Ukraine. Trump's decision marked the death knell of NATO which was bleeding the United States financially, with Trump having to publicly admonish the European members to pay for their

own defense. The gravy train was finally closed and neither Europe nor the Ukraine like it. Yet, the fact is that Ukraine is of no critical importance to the United States while having a strong and cooperative relationship with Russia is of immense strategic importance to the United States.

Ukraine President Zylensky, who has been ruling Ukraine by executive fiat since his term expired in August 2024, is scrambling to find another nation who will provide Ukraine security guarantees. However, Zylensky's position is untenable. There is no country who can provide Ukraine its security guarantees. Trump has already labeled Zylensky a dictator and Putin probably won't even talk with Zylensky. Ukraine has no leverage and therefore will come to the negotiation table with nothing to offer or trade. Zylensky will have to beg on behalf of his country which has been ravaged by war. He can continue to fight but it will be without US support which would guarantee Ukraine's total destruction. For the United States, Ukraine simply is not worth propping up. The US is through throwing away money in a losing cause.

By opening bilateral talks with Russia, Trump sent a message to every country in the world to NOT take the United States for granted and to treat the US fairly. For instance, the US has defense commitments AT US EXPENSE with nations that impose tariffs on US exports. Under Trump, the United States will treat other nations the way they treat the US. The US has no allies, no real friends. Instead, the US exists in a world with shifting alliances that are formed not out of friendship but expediency. All agreements and treaties are subject to review and

revision as conditions warrant. The worst offenders are the Europeans who have taken advantage of the United States for decades. That era is over. Europe is on its own. Let Europe pay for Ukraine's defense and security or, if they cannot do that, come to terms with Russia and LEAVE THE UNITED STATES ALONE.

Sources:

[Trump slams 'modestly successful comedian' Volodymyr Zelensky in scathing Truth Social rant](#)

[Echoing Kremlin, Trump calls Zelensky a dictator, angering Ukrainians | Stars and Stripes](#)

PWW 2/19/2025