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US MUST AGREE TO SELL PATRIOT SYSTEMS TO SAVE UKRAINIAN LIVES

Russian rocket attack on Kyiv April 24, 2025

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EXCLUSIVE FOR HROMADA

Vitaliy Portnykov | NOTES FOR APRIL

NEGOTIATIONS AND TERROR



Vitaliy Portnykov – leading Ukrainian political commentator, writer, and journalist.

The brief meeting of the presidents of the United States and Ukraine in Rome at the funeral of Pope Francis was a symbolic culmination of many weeks of negotiations to end the Russian-Ukrainian war. Before this meeting, President Trump's special representative, Steve Witkoff, had met repeatedly with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Each time we heard about progress in the negotiations between the United States and Russia, but this progress remained imperceptible. Except that the shelling of peaceful Ukrainian cities intensified and the number of dead increased. Putin continued to use the negotiation process with President Trump's administration as an instrument of terror against Ukraine.

The Russian president's tactic is to stall negotiations with his American counterpart in the hope that after a certain period of time military aid to Ukraine will cease because the package that was directed to the Armed Forces of Ukraine by the previous administration will run out. There will be no new aid, and thus the conditions will be created for a more successful offensive of the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Meanwhile, civilians can be killed.

It seems that this situation is increasingly unsatisfying for the American president himself. If after the strike on Sumy he spoke of a mistake, then the strike on Kyiv caused him frank rejection. Trump began to suggest that Putin does not really want peace and

is trying to deceive him, which means that new sanctions will have to be applied. Of course, these threats are unlikely to scare the Russian president, who has been living under Western sanctions for more than three years, and if we recall the times of the annexation of Crimea – as many as 11 years. He has fully adapted to the new economic regime, being in partnership with the main competitor of the United States – the People's Republic of China.

However, we have already seen that the process of negotiations with Trump is necessary for Putin. Perhaps not so much from an economic point of view as from a political one. The Russian president wants to be one of the world's rulers. This status, from his point of view, can only be achieved through dialogue with the American president and the Chinese president Xi Jinping at the same time. Being on Red Square next to the Chinese president on May 9 and not being in dialogue with the president of the United States does not suit Putin. Putin obviously does not want the United States to withdraw from the negotiations. Perhaps this will be Donald Trump's main trump card in further communication with Vladimir Putin. If the Russian president really wants his American counterpart to stay in touch, he will have to make concessions, including regarding a ceasefire on the Russian-Ukrainian front. But it is still unknown what is a priority for Putin – negotiations with Trump or the continuation of the war.

Putin himself is carefully preparing for the possibility that the United States will realize his unwillingness to end the war with Ukraine. He demonstrates a desire to be useful to America not only when it comes to peace in

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Ukraine. He discusses joint economic projects with Trump's representatives, because he understands how important the issue of economic success is for the US president. In addition, Putin seeks to be the main mediator in the Iranian-American negotiations. It is no coincidence that Witkoff visits Russia before each round of negotiations with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. The issue of preventing the emergence of nuclear weapons in Iran has remained one of Donald Trump's top priorities since his first presidency. Putin knows this well. When it comes to storing nuclear fuel outside Iran, he becomes an indispensable interlocutor for both Washington and Tehran. And again the question arises: how much is the United States willing to risk these services for Putin if he refuses to end the Russian-Ukrainian war? Perhaps the coming weeks will provide an answer to this question. Perhaps we will understand that Iran, like Russia, is simply dragging out negotiations with the United States. Perhaps it will become clear that all these conditions that Moscow and Tehran are putting forward to stop the wars or abandon their nuclear programs are not conditions for a real agreement, but only a set of statements that allow negotiations to continue without resolving the real issues. This, by the way, is what the President of the United States himself is now openly talking about.

However, despite all these political calculations, it is worth remembering the lives of ordinary people who have become objects of Putin's terror. April was a difficult month, ending in mourning for the dead Kyivans, and this actually coincided with the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Chernobyl Disaster. These distant

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victims once again reminded us of Moscow's indifference to human life. When the Chernobyl nuclear power plant exploded near Kyiv, the leadership in Moscow initially thought only about preserving its own prestige and preventing the leakage of information about the real causes of the tragedy. The victims were ordinary people who could have been saved. I remember well how the people of Kyiv listened to reports from the Voice of America or Radio Liberty to learn how to escape the consequences of radiation, because their own television was silent. Even the republican leaders of Ukraine received reprimands from Moscow when they tried to save the health of

their compatriots.

Now, in a similar situation, the leadership from Moscow is terrorizing the civilian population of Ukraine in order to persuade us to surrender to Russia. And all that remains is to hope for Western help, for a recipe for how to withstand Russian aggression, which is no longer a "radiation disease" but a real terror – from the murder of women and children to the destruction of entire cities. So, that is why it is so important that the President of the United States and the leaders of European countries realize that the future of the West will be decided not only in negotiations with Putin, but in a clear demonstration that the West

will not agree to the destruction of international law by one country, to the occupation of foreign territories, terror and crimes. After all, the lack of such understanding will turn us into spheres of influence of Russia or China, or into a joint Russian-Chinese sphere of influence, because one cannot help but notice how the partnership between Moscow and Beijing is strengthening. We must remain ready to confront those who want to destroy the world order. Donald Trump, who continues to consider China the greatest threat to America, should understand this better than many other American politicians.

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EXCLUSIVE FOR HROMADA

Oles Doniy

WIN OR LOSE?



Oles Doniy – Ukrainian journalist, TV presenter, politician, public and cultural figure.

One thing you can't deny about Trump is his drive. He charges ahead like a bulldozer. Obstacles or no obstacles – he keeps pushing. Right path or wrong path – he still pushes forward. Whether that bulldozer follows the traffic rules or barrels down the wrong lane – it doesn't matter, it keeps going. Whether it helps someone or harms them – it doesn't stop. Does the driver himself gain anything from speeding into oncoming traffic? It seems he doesn't even think about that much. He just keeps going.

It is an objective fact that without this crazy Trumpian push, the issue of "freezing" or ending the Russian-Ukrainian war would not have been on the agenda of world geopolitics. Rather, in February-March 2022, in fact, secret negotiations between the Ukrainian and Russian sides took place several times on the Ukrainian-Belarusian border, and eventually, on March 29-30, in Istanbul, Turkey, such negotiations entered an open phase. At that time, there was no powerful force among the Western allies that was ready to act as a moderator and insist on an agreement between the warring states. Moreover, according to David Arakhamia, head of the Servant of the People faction in the Verkhovna Rada, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson discouraged the signing of any agreement with Russia and advised to continue fighting instead. However, the British prime minister himself later refuted the overly talkative Ukrainian politician and claimed that such statements were "nonsense and Russian propaganda." The echoes of the negotiation process can also

be seen in the very strange so-called "grain deal" concluded in July 2022 in Istanbul, which was more about some financial deals between the two governments of the warring states, and which may well have done more harm than good to Ukraine.

However, Trump, after his victory, raised the issue of ending, or at least "freezing" the war to a completely different level. The search for an algorithm, not for the continuation, but for the end of hostilities, involves top politicians and countries that are directly at war, countries that provide assistance, countries that are ready to provide their platforms for negotiations, as well as leading media, journalists, and analysts who either spread their guesses or broadcast, under the guise of "information leaks," the developments of special services and think tanks to warm up societies, test public opinion, put pressure on negotiators, and so on. No one has seen the real Trump Plan, but everyone is writing about it, quoting some details, referring to each other, and pretending to know everything.

The main theses that are being circulated by the mainstream media have not been confirmed not only by Trump himself, but also by any high-ranking official of the US administration. At the moment, the loose and unverified theses look like this:

1. Unconditional cessation of shelling and fighting.
2. Fixing the existing line of contact.
3. Negotiations directly between the two warring countries, i.e. Ukraine and Russia.
4. Withdrawal of Russian troops from the occupied parts of Kharkiv and Sumy regions.
5. Withdrawal of Russian troops from the Kinburn Spit (occupied part of Mykolaiv region).
6. Withdrawal of Russian troops from the occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (Zaporizhzhia region).
7. Transfer of the Zaporizhzhya NPP to the United States.
8. Supply of electricity from Zaporizhzhya NPP to both Ukraine and Russia.
9. Restoration of the Kakhovka NPP under full control of Ukraine.
10. Ensuring navigation on the Dnipro River throughout Ukraine under

full control of Ukraine.

11. Withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from the footholds in Kursk and Belgorod regions, if they are still there at the time of the negotiations.

12. Russia's refusal to further encroach on the unoccupied parts of Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

13. Ukraine's refusal to make further attempts to de-occupy its own territories under Russian control by military means.

14. Official recognition (de jure) by the United States of America of Russian jurisdiction over the Ukrainian Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

15. Unofficial recognition by the United States (de facto) of the Russian annexation of the Luhansk region and parts of the Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions of Ukraine, which are currently under Russian occupation.

16. The exchange of prisoners "all for all".

17. Ukraine's rejection of NATO membership, both by NATO and by Ukraine itself.

18. Ukraine's incorporation into the EU, close to full membership.

19. The United States lifts all economic sanctions imposed on Russia since 2014.

20. Restoration of full-scale economic cooperation between the United States and Russia.

21. Signing an agreement between Ukraine and the United States on rare earth metals and other natural resources, with the United States actually controlling Ukraine's economic policy.

22. Allocation of funds for the restoration of Ukraine, although it is unclear by whom.

We do not know which of these ideas were agreed upon during the lengthy negotiations between Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and Putin and his entourage. Some of them have been confirmed, while others have been denied. For example, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov said that Russia is ready for direct negotiations with Ukraine, but, for example, regarding the Zaporizhzhia NPP, he said that it is under Russian control, and that neither its status nor its subordination can be



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Nevertheless, if we analyze Russian-controlled information sources, they are quite positive about Trump's initiatives, and as for the US President himself, they are even openly complimentary. The press of Western allies has different interpretations. The general trend in the Western media is that Trump's conditions are too harsh, and that the fighting is hitting Ukraine even harder, which is being exhausted more than Russia. In the Ukrainian media space, there is a de facto consensus, and this consensus is built around the rejection of the very idea of ending the fighting and stopping attempts to recapture the Ukrainian occupied territories in the future. If we analyze the actions of the Ukrainian authorities themselves, they are aimed at sabotaging Trump's initiatives, or at least at delaying the "talks about talks" as much as possible. That is why from time to time there are disgruntled statements by either US Vice President Vance or Trump himself that if the two sides (Ukrainian and Russian) delay the agreement, the American side, like the biblical Pontius Pilate, will "wash its hands of the matter" and withdraw from the negotiation process. This is outright blackmail and pressure, but it is temporarily effective. Such statements are followed by further contacts. The announced and later disrupted meeting in London is replaced by a handshake between Trump and Zelenskyy in the Vatican, during a brief, but

one-on-one meeting. But later it turns out that even on rare earth metals, no real agreement has been signed, and Trump is forced to remind them of this directly and publicly. The sabotage by the Ukrainian side is understandable. Although the Trump administration has removed the most unacceptable issue for Zelenskyy and his political force, the election issue, from the terms of the agreement, it will still arise if the "truce" is long-lasting. And, in addition to the mercantile interests of the Ukrainian government, there are also state interests, and they also do not coincide in many respects with the proposals voiced in the media. As expected, Putin's initiative with the so-called "Easter truce" turned out to be a fiction and a cynical deception. All the missiles and bombs that the Russian army

did not drop on the heads of Ukrainians during those two days were accumulated and massively sent "to the address" – that is, to kill Ukrainians. I watched the explosions from the window of my Kyiv apartment in the middle of the night, and in the morning, I learned that the Russians had killed 12 more peaceful sleeping Kyiv residents and wounded more than 80. The satanic nature of the Russian government has not gone away and will not go away, which is why Ukrainians, in their masses, cannot accept the idea that any agreements should be made with the kingdom of Satan. Nevertheless, Trump's bulldozer continues to move. He is a bulldozer after all. And we will see soon whether this "bulldozer race" will be a win or a loss. The bulldozer continues to push.



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EXCLUSIVE FOR HROMADA

FR. ROMAN BEBESIUK | SPIRITUAL TREASURY

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: NOT A LAW OF FEAR, BUT THE WAY OF LOVE



Fr. lic. Roman Bebesiuk –
*priest of the Ukrainian Greek
Catholic Church at the
Church of the Immaculate
Conception in San Francisco
and the Church of St.
Volodymyr in Santa Clara*

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ!

Today I want to invite you on a deep journey. A journey to the very heart of God's will, to what the Lord revealed to us through Moses on Mount Sinai and later fulfilled in His Son Jesus Christ. We are talking about the Ten Commandments, words that we sometimes perceive as something harsh, restrictive, a law to be feared. But are they really like that?

The Catechism of our Church, "Christ is our Pascha," teaches us to look at the Commandments differently. They are not prohibitions, but gifts. They are not chains, but keys to freedom. They are God's invitation: "Follow Me. Live with Me. I will show you the way of life."

The psalmist says: "Thy word is a lamp to my feet" (Psalm 118:105). And aren't the Commandments the same word of God that illuminates our path? They are what reveals the truth about a person, about his or her heart. Eastern spirituality teaches that sin does not begin in actions, but in thoughts and intentions. And it is the Commandments that, like a mirror, show what is wrong with us.

St. Abba Dorotheus said: "If you want to see where your soul is sick,

put the Commandments before you and you will see." Not for condemnation, but for healing.

Here are the Commandments with a brief explanation:

The 1st Commandment of God:

"You shall have no other gods before me."

This Commandment is the guardian of true religion. It commands that only the one true God be worshipped, and forbids all idolatry, which is a contempt for God and a humiliation of human dignity.

The 2nd commandment of God:

"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain."

Keeping in mind God's greatness and holiness, this commandment prescribes great respect for His person, name, honor, and authority. It forbids all blasphemy of the Lord's name, whether in jest, anger, or cursing.

The 3rd commandment of God:

"Remember to keep the holy day holy."

Man, as God's creation, is obliged to honor the Lord in every way possible, and most importantly by celebrating Sundays and holidays, so that he may also have rest from his work.

The 4th commandment of God:

"Honor your father and mother, that you may live well and may you live long on earth."

The Lord God demands honor not only for Himself, but also for our parents, because they are our greatest benefactors after God. They gave us life. For honoring parents, God promises His blessing and long life.

The 5th commandment of God:

"You shall not kill!"

Human life is a valuable gift given to us by God. It belongs to Him, so no one has the right to take it away from themselves or others. Everyone is obliged to take care of their life and health and avoid anything that would harm our health or the health of our neighbors.

The 6th and 9th commandments of God: "Thou shalt not commit adultery" – "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife".

These two Commandments guard

the purity of body and soul and the sanctity of marriage. They warn against any voluntary preference for unclean thoughts, words, looks, and deeds with oneself or others. "Do you not know," says St. Paul, "that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in you?" (1 Cor. 6:19).

The 7th and 10th commandments of God: "You shall not steal!" – "You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's property."

These Commandments protect our material things: our earnings, home, property, and possessions.

The 8th Commandment of God:

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

The Lord God gave us the gift of speech so that we could communicate with our neighbors. Therefore, this commandment commands us to always tell the truth and warns us against any word or testimony that could harm our neighbor, his good name and glory.

From this cursory review, we can see how God's commandments precisely and clearly define our relationship to God, ourselves, and our neighbors. They touch upon all the important matters of our personal, family, and social life.

As you can see, the Commandments are valid not only in the Old Testament. They are still relevant today. They do not die because their Author is the Living God Himself.

Jesus Christ Himself did not reject the Commandments; He revived them.

On the Mount of Beatitudes, Christ did not abolish Sinai, but breathed new life into it. "You have heard that it was said, You shall not kill" by stating that anger towards one's brother or sister constitutes a level of guilt requiring judgment" (Matthew 5:21-22). He did not change the letter; He showed the depth of the spirit.

The commandments in Jesus are no longer rules, but a way of becoming like God Himself. As the Catechism teaches: "Keeping the Commandments is not a fear of punishment, but a response of love to love" (§751).



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How many souls today are wandering in the dark, not knowing where to go. People confuse good and evil, white and black, truth and deception. And it is here that the Commandments become a compass, God's guide in a world dominated by relativity.

Unfortunately, we live in a time when truth is devalued, when morality is called "outdated," when sin is presented as a virtue. Therefore, our task is not only to live by the Commandments, but to show the world that it is possible. And even more – that it is joyful!

How? Through daily prayer. Through participation in the Holy Liturgy. Through confession, which purifies. Through good deeds of love that reflect the light of God in the darkness of the world.

The commandments are an invitation to God's friendship.

The commandments are not something that distances us from God, but something that brings us closer. They are bridges, not walls. God does not give them to us to make us live in fear. He gives them to us because He wants to keep us, as a mother keeps her child. Because He cares about us. We

are His image, His children.

Dear brothers and sisters, I invite you today to look again at the Ten Commandments of God not as a demand, but as a gift. Not as a burden, but as a way to joy. For only those who live in God's law are truly free. For only in

God does the heart find peace.

May the Holy Spirit give us the strength to live not only by the letter, but by the Spirit. And then our hearts, our families, our parishes will be icons of the Kingdom of God – here and now. Amen.



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IN THE EPICENTER OF DEFINING BATTLES

Nadia Banchik –
a journalist and political columnist for American publications who has covered the crimes of Putin's Russia, from the destruction of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria to the modern attack on Ukraine. In 1998, in her native Lviv, together with her mother, Candidate of Philology Iryna Kvitko, she co-founded the first Jewish newspaper in the then USSR, "Shofar".

The further we move into the "Golden Age" proclaimed by US President Donald Trump, the darker and more confusing the path becomes.

Draconian tariffs that shook the US and global economies like an earthquake are being announced and then postponed... Raids on allegedly illegal migrants who, as has been repeatedly emphasized, have committed serious crimes – but more and more often these raids are on legal, law-abiding and useful immigrants. The closure of government agencies, mass layoffs of employees continue unabated (the Tax Service, in particular, was affected in the midst of the tax filing season)... Attacks on elite, globally significant universities, threats to take away their funding (which is beyond the powers of the presidential branch of government)...

Hundreds of lawsuits – and a terrible search for ways to circumvent court decisions, including those of the Supreme Court... According to some experts, the country is on the verge of a constitutional crisis.

The "golden era" looks like a children's room where small pranksters deliberately scattered toys, breaking some of them to see how they work from the inside. "Put everything back immediately!" – There was no one to shout at, no adults left in the room...

Ukraine, which is desperately fighting a much superior enemy, is a toy for the "mischievous" children, they can twist and throw it around like a ball...

However, this "children's room" is actually a global battlefield that will determine the fate of countries and

peoples in the near future.

"Declaration of independence"... from the laws of economics?

The announcement of the trade war against the whole world on April 2 was solemn: President Trump proclaimed not just an "economic emergency" but also a "Liberation Day" for the United States.

"This is our declaration of economic independence. For years, hardworking American citizens were forced to sit on the sidelines as other nations got rich and powerful, much of it at our expense. But now it's our turn to prosper," the president said (see the full speech: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZ2Q9hJyh_Q).

He was presented with a large board with a list of 110 countries for which the White House had solemnly announced the introduction of a 10% basic tariffs on all imports from these countries, regardless of their size and share in world trade (the list even included the Macdonald Islands near Antarctica, where there are no people at all and only penguins live, which caused a flurry of satirical comments on social media). The absence of Russia, Belarus, Iran, and Cuba from the list was striking.

In addition to this basic tariffs, additional tariffs were announced in a more differentiated form: in particular, 24% for China, 20% for the EU; the "worst exploiters" – Canada and Mexico, with whom the United States has had perhaps the most intense trade relations, border trade, and rapid bilateral tourism – also received 20%.

For some reason, however, stock exchanges and markets did not share the joy of liberation. The New York Stock Exchange showed the deepest drop since the covid pandemic. This looks like the initiation of a global economic crisis. Experts have started talking about the possibility of rising inflation and a general decline in the American economy, almost on the verge of the Great Recession of 2007-2008.

The markets were most disturbed by the generalized approach of Trump (and his advisors on this issue, primarily Peter Navarro) to such a complex and multifaceted matter as foreign trade. Indeed, the United States has accumulated a national debt of more than \$30 trillion, but not because of deliberate "exploitation" of other coun-

tries (with the possible exception of China, which does trade unfairly by manipulating the currency), but mainly because of the international distribution of markets and production of various goods and services, which has indeed been developing for decades and takes into account the national characteristics of the economies of different countries.

In particular, both the United States and the EU have been moving production facilities to China, Vietnam, and Cambodia (and the United States has been moving them to Canada and Mexico) for 30 years, specializing instead in the service and high-tech markets; and China and some other Asian countries have flooded Western markets with cheap consumer goods and critical microelectronics products. The economies of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the EU are so intertwined that supply chains that had been in place for decades were suddenly cut off by these "universal" tariffs.

Economists began to warn Americans about the rapid rise in prices of everyday goods, such as medicines and food, as well as durable goods, cars, etc. The tariffs make imports more expensive, and the return of manufacturing industries to the United States will lead to a sharp increase in the cost of "import-substituted" goods, as labor in the United States is much more expensive than in China and the countries of the "global south." Moreover, there is already a lack of production capacity in the United States, because since production was moved abroad, these facilities have not been developed, modernized, or upgraded and have been falling into decline. Bringing production back to the United States would essentially mean bringing the country back to the last century, from which it had almost left as a result of rapid scientific and technological development, moving into another era – the post-industrial era.

The search for ways to deter Trump from such sledgehammer blows to the American and global economic systems has begun. In particular, at least three bills have been introduced in Congress (for more details: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/republicans-weigh-using-powder-congress-rein-trump-tariffs-rc-na199555>), which limit the president's

authority to impose tariffs, NBC News notes. Two libertarian groups – the New Civil Liberties Alliance and the Liberty Justice Center (which represents 5 small business owners) – have filed a lawsuit against the introduction of tariffs, because even declaring a state of emergency in the economy does not give the president the authority to impose tariffs, which are, in fact, taxes on American consumers.

Moreover, disputes began within the presidential team on the basis of tariffs, in particular between Elon Musk (who lost a significant part of his capital to tariffs and public anger) and Navarro.

All this forced Trump to hastily announce on April 9 the postponement of the introduction of the most draconian tariffs on 90 days, including against the EU, Canada and Mexico, but not the basic 10% – they are introduced immediately.

The postponement did not apply to China – a real trade war has been launched with it. Both sides are increasing rates and duties. Currently, the US imposes 245% tariffs on Chinese goods (electronic goods are temporarily exempt from these duties), and China, accordingly, imposes duties on imports from the US.

After the postponement, the markets recovered somewhat. (Incidentally, such “swings” have helped some enterprising players instantly grab a considerable sum on the stock market, notes Robert Frank, CNBC – <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/the-wealthy-are-loading-up-on-cash-gold-and-family-trusts-during-market-turmoil/ar-AA1CH9ya?ocid=msedgntp&p-c=LCTS&cvid=dbe6d1699e94457e-a006f2bf69378db1&ei=38>. In particular, Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene is suspected of this, writes Brian Metzger, Business Insider) – <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/marjorie-taylor-greene-bought-thousands-of-dollars-in-stock-right-before-trump-s-tariff-pause-sent-markets-soaring/ar-AA1CTZR9?ocid=msedgdhp&p-c=LCTS&cvid=a9e2c5e408064012b6f56f023fc6139&ei=60>.

However, the stock exchanges did not achieve “domestic” indicators. After all, the postponement of tariffs is only a temporary step that will not replace the lack of strategy, clarity and consistency in declaring a trade war that was not urgently needed, as well as the introduction of a “state of emergency” in the economy. The most

important thing has been lost: the reputation of the US as a reliable trade and business partner, and therefore the world economic system has lost the support on which it has been based for decades. Even confidence in the dollar, which until recently was considered the reference currency precisely because of the reliability of the US, has been shaken. What this will all lead to, economists cannot even predict.

The resilience of the global economy is currently being tested by a “reset of the global trading system,” which threatens to cause turbulence in financial markets, said International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva – <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/us-tariffs-will-weaken-global-economy-and-trigger-inflation-but-not-a-global-recession-imf-says/ar-AA1D7ISK?ocid=msedgdhp&p-c=LCTS&cvid=0fee553b027414f91984eb804b3b303&ei=44>.

Are all immigrants criminals?

The Democrats opened the borders, let in millions of criminal aliens, whom “all countries of the world send to us from prisons and mental hospitals” – these “mantras” in various variations are repeated by Trump almost every day to this day, equating to criminals all people who in different years got to the US with some violations of the legal entry process. It is likely that he has not yet been explained that such violations occur not only with a criminal purpose, but primarily because people who seek asylum in the US from political persecution are often unable to overcome the complexities of the legal immigration process; often such people really flee from the threat of imprisonment, or even murder, but not at all because of criminal offenses. In other words, both with trade and with immigration – a simplified, generalized, “mass-corporate” approach to multifaceted and contradictory phenomena. The raids are even carried out in churches, hospitals, schools. The immigration police, which are given certain numbers, do not take into account the individual circumstances of those who fall into their hands.

The most resonant in this regard was the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia (among many sources, see, in particular, Daniela Silva, NBC News) – <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/kilmar-abrego-garcia-deported-el-salvador-trump-immigration-what-know-rcna201708> – a native of El Salvador, who came to the United States at the age of 16 in 2012, married a US

citizen, they raised three children – also US citizens. He was captured on March 13 during a mass deportation of more than 200 immigrants from El Salvador, who were collectively accused of belonging to the notorious MS-13 gang. They were literally flown overnight, without trial or investigation, to a maximum-security prison in El Salvador, from which it is impossible to escape, and torture is commonplace. As for Garcia, the US Department of Justice itself admitted that a mistake had been made: back in 2019 (during Trump’s first term), the court ruled that he was not subject to deportation because he would face death “from local gangs” if he returned.

Garcia’s case reached the US Supreme Court (where three of the 9 judges are Trump appointees from his first term!), which unanimously ruled: The White House must take steps to return him home. Currently, the administration is evading the Supreme Court’s decision in every way possible and calling Garcia a terrorist – without any evidence.

This case, along with several other immigration cases, has brought the country to the brink of a constitutional crisis, with the president overstepping his authority and attempting to undermine the authority of the judicial branch, which for now maintains political independence.

Moreover, Trump has repeatedly stated that he would like to send US citizens who have committed serious crimes to this Salvadoran prison. His own nominee, Attorney General Pam Bondi, has responded that this is not legal. “If we need to build more prisons in our country, we will,” she said – <https://www.alternet.org/pam-bondi-imprison-citizens/>.

The policy of mass deportations is increasingly being challenged. However, Trump, with a stubbornness that deserves better application, repeats his intention to deport “all criminal aliens.” In particular, he has deprived state funding by presidential order of lawyers who provided legal aid... to minor immigrants who arrived in the United States unaccompanied by adults (26,000 of them; one of many sources: Rebecca Santana, AP – <https://apnews.com/article/trump-legal-aid-unaccompanied-children-immigration-court-127a69ce69573d-2d16c72a74dacef3ab>).

So children who have obviously fled, perhaps from a threat to them, to a foreign country, are left alone with American courts?! (The simplest solution to this problem: to organize the adoption

of these children by American families. After all, those parents who knowingly let or sent their children on such a "journey" should be deprived of parental rights, even in absentia).

Is the US heading towards a hybrid system?

More and more experts see in the above and many other actions of Trump and his administration a purposeful attempt to destroy the institutional foundations of the American democratic system (the system of checks and balances, the independence of the branches of power, the autonomy of universities, etc.) and to make a rapid transition either to authoritarianism, or, rather, to a "hybrid" system.

Trump's tariffs policy is a sign of the decline of democracy in the US and the transition to "a strange hybrid system that combines features of both democracy and autocracy," notes Zach Beauchamp, Vox. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/the-real-reason-trump-is-destroying-the-economy/ar-AA1CfJaz?ocid=msedg-dhp&pc=LCTS&cvid=a5771a5e460140989bd927db337dfef3&ei=10>.

"On the one hand, the electorate that elected Trump supports his policies. Sometimes, demagogues win elections in democracies – a problem so old that it can be found discussed in Plato's Republic. On the other hand, democracies rely on legal rules that limit executive power, preventing any such demagogue from becoming a dictator. In the American system, this means a complex system of constitutional checks and balances, one of which is the Constitution, which grants taxing power only to Congress. However, instead of seeking legislative authorization to raise tariffs, Trump is using a broadly worded emergency law to bypass the legislative branch," Beauchamp explains, noting that tariffs are essentially a tax imposed on imported goods.

However, as the author shows, this is only a symptom. In fact, the American democratic system has long ceased to function properly.

He sees the decline of democracy in the United States primarily in the decline of Congress's ability to exercise its own powers, which are a means of restraining excessive encroachments by the executive branch.

"The main culprit is Congress, which – through a combination of political cowardice and a lack of cross-party cooperation – has become unable and unwilling to act as the supreme legislative body. Instead, it has begun to delegate significant amounts of its

own powers to the executive branch.

Sometimes it was done intentionally, empowering the president to shape policy through the executive branch, creating the "administrative state" that conservatives denounce. Sometimes it was unintentional, Congress giving the president vague emergency powers that were meant to operate in narrow circumstances but in practice allowed the president to act unilaterally in all sorts of normal political disputes. And sometimes Congress simply did nothing on crucial policy issues, forcing the president to try to resolve them with a questionably broad interpretation of his own powers."

The judicial branch is also to blame: "while the Supreme Court has occasionally intervened to address presidential abuses, it has done so haphazardly and biasedly. Moreover, it has long indulged the president on key issues such as immigration, trade, and war," Beauchamp notes.

He also notes that the system of restraint included internal levers: advisory councils on various issues in the White House; informal norms and moral qualities of previous presidents.

"It is now clear that all these internal mechanisms were voluntary. Trump has neutralized the internal levers of the executive branch and (obviously!) does not possess the qualities of his own judgment that we expect from people in the highest positions," the author reflects.

"Tariffs are one of the most striking examples of why this is important for everyone: without democracy, the quality of our politics deteriorates to dangerous levels," Zach Beauchamp concludes.

Another expert, Trevor Potter (founder and chairman of the Campaign Legal Center, former adviser to John McCain's presidential campaigns in 2000 and 2008), analyzes how Trump managed to push the boundaries of his powers through a barrage of presidential executive orders – <https://www.newsweek.com/no-mr-president-executive-orders-are-not-royal-decrees-opinion-2057160>.

"Executive orders do not create new laws – only Congress can do that," Potter emphasizes.

"Some of President Trump's executive orders are within the bounds of the law, including those that repeal President Biden's executive orders. However, many others are unconstitutional and illegal," the author notes. Among them is the executive order on elections.

"This executive order directs several

independent federal agencies to change federal election rules and requires Americans to go through unnecessary hurdles to register to vote. If these powers are enacted, they could disenfranchise millions of voters," the expert warns. Meanwhile, "the president has no authority to issue this order. The Constitution expressly grants the power to hold federal elections to the states. It gives Congress, not the president, the authority to enact laws that establish national voting standards and override state election laws when necessary," notes Trevor Potter.

Finally, I will quote the opinion of Yulia Nikolaeva (on Facebook), an immigration attorney.

"The most odious decisions are currently being introduced only with the use of emergency powers, which are provided for only in exceptional situations (...) A state of emergency is a legal concept, not a political, not an economic or philosophical one, so all the talk about the economic crisis, the dominance of vocism and the invasion of immigrants past the cash register is worthless – none of what was happening in the country at the time of the new administration falls under the legal definition of an "emergency". The use of emergency powers in these conditions is nothing more than a legally untenable curtain for the rapid implementation of dubious decisions (...). The introduction of a state of emergency dangerously expands the powers of the president, while simultaneously removing a strip of procedural obstacles, minimizing the role of other branches of government and eliminating the ability of society to influence what is happening."

So, the United States is now at a crossroads between preserving its democratic system and moving towards a hybrid system based on electoral law, but losing the levers to restrain the president from attempting to exceed the powers defined by the Constitution and laws. To do this, presidential candidates are over-exploiting the problems in the country, offering in bright speeches simplified, campaign, "mass" methods that inflame voters, but most often lead to loud, but superficial measures and decisions that not only do not contribute to solving problems, but also further complicate them, up to causing crises of national and even global scale "out of the blue".

The most important sign that the country is moving from democracy to a hybrid system is the inability to cooperate between different branches



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Bonsall, CA 92003****kinaldds@gmail.com****ПОВНИЙ СПЕКТР СТОМАТОЛОГІЧНОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ
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- ЕСТЕТИЧНА СТОМАТОЛОГІЯ
- ДИТЯЧА СТОМАТОЛОГІЯ



of government, political forces and parties, the loss of the ability to make centric compromises. In the USA, instead of traditional inter-party cooperation at all levels, there is now hostility between parties, the use of mutual accusations (sometimes justified, but more often exaggerated) as an argument for exceeding powers; neglect of the interests of the minority that was defeated in the elections (almost 50% of voters!).

Under such circumstances, this minority resorts to countermeasures, which are often also radical. There is a danger that in the wake of Trump's unsuccessful policy, the Democratic Party will resort to a sharp shift "to the left", which we will observe in the midterm elections next year.

Foreign policy: from alliances to agreements?

Trump's attempts to steer the United States down this path are complemented by his efforts to completely restructure the country's foreign policy. Instead of the traditional reliance on preserving the integrity of Euro-Atlantic civilization and its values, an unsystematic, chaotic policy is proposed, based on the carrot-and-stick extortion of certain individual bilateral agreements in which the interests of the United States would prevail, rather than mutual benefit.

This approach fundamentally does not distinguish between the aggressor and the victim, the "forces of good" and "evil," which is clearly evident in Trump's attitude to the Russian-Ukrainian war. Having assumed the role of a mediator, Trump actually indulges the aggressor and avoids di-

rect support for Ukraine in every possible way, even going so far as to accuse it of having started the war. This policy reaches absurdity, in particular in the votes: on the UN General Assembly resolution on the 3rd anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, when the USA voted... together with the Russian Federation against the resolution; the failure to adopt the G7 resolution condemning another Russian war crime – the attack on Sumy on Palm Sunday, etc.

Step by step, Trump is drifting from the self-proclaimed role of a mediator towards justifying the aggressor. He does not care on what terms and in whose favor an "agreement" will (or will not) be concluded between the Russian Federation and Ukraine through his "mediation".

Democracy or hybridity – a defining issue for the West

The above-mentioned features, inherent in the current US, are gradually conquering Europe as well. Currently, the EU countries and the UK are clearly defending democratic values, becoming in fact their last stronghold. However, with each parliamentary or presidential election in almost every European country, radical forces like the Trumpists are winning more and more supporters, relentlessly advancing towards the positions on which domestic and foreign policy is formed.

The ability of democratic forces in European countries to remain within the limits of centrist positions, to maintain the ability to compromise; the ability of voters to evaluate the political programs and slogans of candidates and to refrain from the temptation of

simplified solutions to urgent problems will determine whether the international order that has ensured peace and prosperity of Western civilization since the end of World War II will be preserved, at least in part.

In Europe, there is also the temptation of simple solutions. However, unlike the United States (which is "across the ocean"), Europe, especially in the east, has felt and understood the danger to itself from an aggressive Russia. After numerous attempts by France (including the early Macron), Germany (under Merkel and the early Scholz) and other countries to follow the path of economic and political agreements with the Putin regime, the leadership of European states, with the exception of Hungary and Slovakia, now sees the futility of this path.

Europe is now demonstrating the ability not only to independently unite efforts in protecting the remnants of an order based on the norms of the democratic world, but also to restrain the US intentions to leave Europe to its fate.

This is most clearly seen in the new policy of France, Britain, Italy and the EU leadership regarding the Russian-Ukrainian war. Since Trump took the White House, Europe has activated all its capabilities, trying, on the one hand, not to completely break with the US, and on the other, to significantly strengthen support for Ukraine compared to previous years.

However, Europe is also teetering on the brink of sliding into a Trumpist world. It is here that the battlefronts that will determine the future fate of Euro-Atlantic civilization lie. Ukraine is at the epicenter of these battles.

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THE FOUR POLICEMEN OF THE WORLD AND A POSTWAR PEACE PLAN FOR UKRAINE

Dr. Victoria A. Malko is a faculty member and founding coordinator of Holodomor studies in the department of history at California State University in Fresno, California. She is the author of “The Ukrainian Intelligentsia and Genocide: The Struggle for History, Language and Culture in the 1920s and 1930s” (Lexington Books, 2021) and “Holodomor, the Genocide of the Ukrainians: A history with Sources” (The press at California State University, 2023).

The week of February 4-11 marks the 80th anniversary of the Yalta Conference. It was a diplomatic meeting of the leaders of the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union to resolve issues related to the end of World War II and the postwar world order. As a historian, I have been fascinated by how little attention is given to Franklin D. Roosevelt as the architect of the post-World War II order. Diplomatic historians wrote a lot on his foreign policies for the years preceding Pearl Harbor and his war-time leadership. There are defenders of his legacy and revisionists alike. Roosevelt underwent a considerable change – from being an isolationist to an interventionist to a realist and, eventually, a pragmatist – within a brief span of time.

Historians still debate Roosevelt's responsibility for the Munich Conference, and degree to which he was paralyzed by the fear of entangling the United States in a major European war. “Should hostilities break out, the lives of millions of men, women and children in every country involved will most certainly be lost under circumstances of unspeakable horror,” he wrote. He gave Adolf Hitler a green light, saying that the United States would propose a major international conference but would not attend. In that way, Roosevelt must bear some of the responsibility for the Munich debacle because he indicated that the United States would not concern itself in any meaningful way in settling the greatest international crisis since the end of World War I.

Earlier in the 1920 election campaign, Roosevelt, who lobbied for Woodrow Wilson's idea of the League

of Nations, prophetically declared, “Every sane man knows that in case of another world war America would be drawn in anyway, whether ... in the League or not.” Roosevelt believed that the United States should be represented and as the major nation would dominate its proceedings. In fact, the league alienated far more voters than it attracted. Roosevelt dropped the issue. In 1932, when Roosevelt was running for the US presidency, the cause of collective security was not his priority. Arguing that the league was not in accord with “fundamental American ideals” in a speech to the New York State Grange, Roosevelt flatly announced, “I do not favor American participation.” When Roosevelt took office in March 1933, the league had already demonstrated its inability to enforce peace in times of crisis.

Haunted by Wilson's failure, Roosevelt searched for a new approach. The Atlantic Conference with Winston Churchill in August 1941 shaped his thinking for the postwar world. When Roosevelt saw the British prime minister's proposal for “an effective international organization” to keep the peace at the war's end, he demanded that this passage be deleted. He changed his view later upon consultation with his advisors, Sumner Welles and Harry Hopkins, agreeing to include a promise of a permanent system of general security in the Atlantic charter. But he refused to consider sharing the role of enforcing peace with the smaller nations, envisioning Britain and America policing the world, albeit during a transition period. He later broadened his initial idea to include Russia and China among the policing powers. Besides

conflating Russia with the Soviet Union, he never deviated from the belief that the “small nations” should be excluded from this vital function.

Roosevelt's idea of the Four Policemen stemmed from his experience with the League of Nations and the totalitarian aggression of the 1930s, which convinced him that the use of force was the only way world peace could be maintained. The so-called small nations lacked the resources; only the big nations could fulfill the role of policing the world. Thus, from the outset, his approach to future international organization differed radically and deliberately from Wilsonian collective security, which was based on the equality of all nations, great and small.

While American lawyers were de-liberating articles of the future United Nations Charter, Roosevelt spent three days with Vyacheslav Molotov, the Soviet foreign affairs minister and Joseph Stalin's personal envoy, in the spring of 1942. Over cocktails at the White House on May 29, 1942, he informed the Soviet envoy of his views on the postwar world. Roosevelt proposed that the United States, Russia, Britain and perhaps China (at the time nationalist, not communist) join together to enforce the peace. That would mean the enforced disarmament of enemy nations, such as Germany and Japan, and even friendly countries like France, Poland, and Turkey. These nations would be disarmed by the four major powers, but later they might be permitted to join the policing if “experience proved they could be trusted.” Roosevelt was vague on the details, but under his proposal, if any nation threatened the peace, the Four Po-

licemen would blockade the potential aggressor and, if necessary, launch an aerial strike. Roosevelt admitted that such a security system might not prove to be permanent, but he felt that under his plan, as Harry Hopkins caught his words, “we at least could be sure of peace for 25 years; at any rate until all of us now living are dead.”

Peace lasted for more than 25 years. Now as the generation of individuals who fought in World War II is dying out, we are witnessing the unraveling of Roosevelt’s system. In 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin destroyed the post-World War II collective security and violate international laws and principles of the U.N. Charter. His 2021 ultimatum to NATO and full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 openly challenged the preeminence of the United State as the global power. Apparently, Putin expects nothing less than a world order à la Russe, with Russia, the perpetrator of genocide against Ukrainians, being one of the world’s policemen. The Holodomor, Stalin’s genocide against Ukrainians, was conveniently covered up and never publicly acknowledged by the Roosevelt administration. A neo-Stalinist in the Kremlin bets on history repeating itself.

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MAY 15 UKRAINIAN VYSHYVANKA DAY

Vyshyvanka Day falls on the third Thursday of May – May 15, 2025. This is one of the few holidays of a non-state and non-religious nature. A simple flash mob of students has turned into a powerful patriotic movement among Ukrainians around the world.

This patriotic competition began in 2014, when the first all-Ukrainian photo contest "My Family in Vyshyvanka" was held. Photos were sent to the organizers of the holiday not only from cities and villages of Ukraine, but also from 8 countries of the world: Canada, the USA, Italy, Germany, France, Russia, Romania, Portugal, etc.

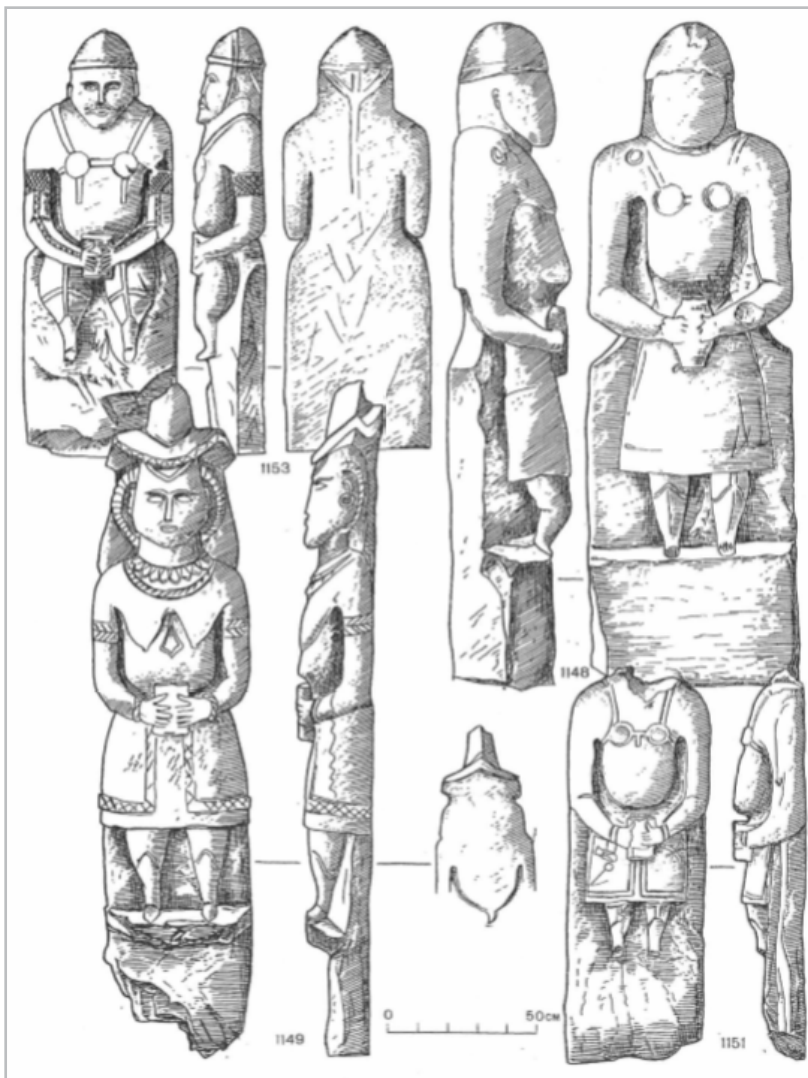
On Vyshyvanka Day in Ukraine, even monuments are dressed in embroidered clothes. For example, in 2016, the sculpture of Lybedi and the Founders of Kyiv on Independence Square tried on embroidered shirts. Thematic decor in the form of ribbons with red and black patterns, Hutsul motifs decorate cars, houses, pets, suitcases and bags.

International Vyshyvanka Day originated back in 2006. Then Chernivtsi students decided to come together to wear embroidered shirts. The initiative of student Lesya Voronyuk was first supported by a dozen friends and a couple of teachers. And the next year, universities and groups not only from Chernivtsi and the region, but also from all over Ukraine, joined the Ukrainian Vyshyvanka Day. The Ukrainian diaspora eagerly picked up the patriotic holiday. Now the All-Ukrainian Vyshyvanka Day has become an international holiday, celebrated by more than 50 countries around the world.

In difficult times, national symbols acquire special significance. Vyshyvanka during war is not just clothing, it is a manifestation of unity, resilience and love for the native land. In the rear or on the front lines, we can celebrate this holiday by wearing an embroidered shirt, taking a photo, or simply remembering what we are fighting for.

Ukrainians and vyshyvanka embroidery are inseparable concepts. The Scythians, Sarmatians, and Cimmerians decorated clothes made of linen and animal skins with embroidered geometric ornaments consisting of swastikas, meanders, and waves. We know this from the stories of the Greek historian Herodotus. Archaeologists also found figures of people in clothes with elements of embroidery on gold jewelry and statuettes.

The history of embroidery in Ukraine is connected with the Trypillian



Polovtsian stone statues. Central Museum of Taurida



Bracelet ornamented on mammoth tusk, 20-18 thousand years ago, Late Paleolithic, village of Mizyn, Chernihiv region.



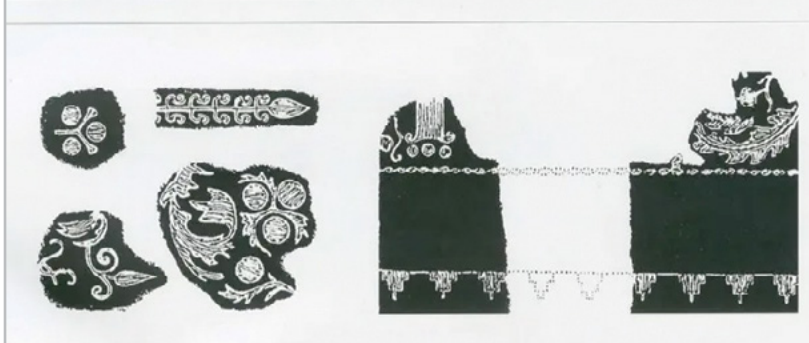
The Slavs could use plaques in the form of "dancing men" both for decorative purposes and for military and ceremonial purposes.



Embroidery is known from the late Neolithic era — the beginning of the Bronze Age, from the tribes of the Trypillian culture. Elements of ornaments used by the Trypillians, Sarmatians, and Scythians are found even in modern national embroidery.

culture, which is attributed to the late Neolithic era. We know well that the Trypillians were skilled potters who not only made dishes from clay, but also decorated it with characteristic spiral, wavy patterns. Historians are convinced that the motifs were also on the clothes of the Trypillians. But linen and hemp cloths, of course, have not survived to our time. Only fragments of Trypillia ceramics are witnesses to the history of Ukrainian embroidered clothing.

Excavations of the Sokolova grave in the Mykolaiv region delighted connoisseurs of Ukrainian culture. Among the burials of a Sarmatian priestess, scientists found fragments of silk fabric with gold embroidery. The find dates back to the 1st century BC. It is interesting that the clothes were decorated using the technique "in the cut". It became widespread as early as the 12th century, during the times of Kyivan Rus. Historians believe that the patterns were laid out with gold thread on silk, and only then sewn to the base with yellow threads. These were probably sacred symbols of fertility or wealth. The silk thread was spun with a narrow ribbon of pure gold, the turns of the spiral were tightly placed on



Sokolova Mohyla — a rich burial of a representative of the highest Sarmatian nobility of the 1st century near the village of Kovalivka, Mykolaiv district, Mykolaiv region.

The priestess' clothes were embroidered using the spun gold technique, which consisted in the fact that a silk thread was spun with a narrow ribbon of pure gold.

each other, forming a thread that seems to be solid gold. Embroidery from the Sokolov Mohyla burial is a valuable source for studying the most ancient gold embroidery, as it demonstrates the highly professional art of masters with a developed sense of ornament, who mastered perfect artistic and figurative means of expression.

In Ukrainian history, there are many examples when embroidered ornaments were found on stone women in the steppes. The history of the origin of Ukrainian embroidery will not be complete if we do not mention the metal statuette of a man from the Martynivka treasure, dated to the 6th century and found in the Cherkasy region near the village of Martynivka. The figure is "dressed" in a shirt with embroidery on the chest.

The history of Ukrainian embroidery has a lot of documented evidence that the nobility was dressed in embroidered clothes. In the Ipaty Chronicle from 1252 it is said that Prince Danylo of Galicia, during his meeting with the king, was dressed in a coat trimmed with flat gold lace.

The oldest Ukrainian motifs were geometric patterns, for example, spirals of the Trypillian culture. Wavy

lines, rhombuses, zigzags, meanders, circles and dots – these were the first fragments of Ukrainian ornaments. As for techniques, the oldest Ukrainian ones are considered to be such techniques as "puncture", "shape stitch", "herringbone stitch", "attachment stitch", "silk stitch", "rope stitch", "armor stitch". These techniques were used to decorate priests' vestments and church decor during the time of Kievan Rus. By the way, it was then that the first embroidery schools appeared, which were founded by Yaroslav the Wise's sister, Anna. History shows that in churches and monasteries, girls were taught to work with silk threads, embroider with gold and silver on brocade, velvet, and decorate products with precious stones.

Samples of embroidery of the Cossack starshyna (elderly) of the 17th – 18th centuries have been preserved. Cossack starshyna time is a unique phenomenon in the history of Ukrainian art.

A significant elected elders after the end of the War of Liberation of 1648-1654 began to accumulate enormous wealth in their hands. Trade and political ties of the Hetmanate with Western Europe and the countries of the

East contributed to the birth of a new culture, which began to penetrate the Cossack elders' mansions and stone houses.

The embroiderers were both representatives of the nobility and common women and girls who worked in the manor's "svitlytsya".

Significant centers of embroidery and embroidery were monastery workshops, in which not only liturgical items were made, but, probably, secular orders were also fulfilled.

The most ancient Ukrainian embroidery techniques in history are straight hlad' (smooth embroidery), which is very popular in all regions of Ukraine, and "retyaz", which was popular in western Ukraine. The latter technique is a variety of the classic "cross". Embroiderers practiced up to 150 types of techniques and options for decorating clothes. Among them were one-sided (when the pattern is on only one side – tambour stitch, flat surface, cross), two-sided (two-sided surface, low, etc.).

Since the 18th century, beads (garus), glass beads (elongated beads) have been gaining popularity among embroiderers. As the history of Ukrainian embroidery shows, small glass beads were popular for embroidery in Western Ukraine. Even now, in Bukovina, Transcarpathia, Lviv, and Frankivsk regions, embroidered shirts embroidered with beads, gerdans (bead necklaces) are favorites among locals.

The turning point in the history of Ukrainian embroidery was the 19th century, when ordering embroidered shirts from craftswomen became popular. Now it was not necessary to sew and decorate shirts and dresses yourself, but it was possible to order outfits for any occasion. Ivan Franko played a significant role in popularizing embroidery as an element of everyday clothing among the intelligentsia. He was the first to boldly and quite successfully combine a classic embroidered shirt with a business style (jacket). His example is now followed by politicians.

The history of Ukrainian embroidery has another bright page – the liberation struggle during the Ukrainian Revolution (1917-1921) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) period (1942-1949). Insurgent soldiers were required to have a black shirt with them as an option for burial clothes. Deported and dispossessed Ukrainians in the Gulag camps continued to embroider. The collections of national museums contain embroideries made from scraps of mattresses, embroidered with fish bones instead of needles.



Embroidery of a Cossack foreman. Border. Mid-18th century. Artistic smoothness, one-sided smoothness, stem stitch, chain stitch, embroidery in attachment.



Lesya Ukrainka and Ivan Franko are dressed in embroidered shirts.



Technology has replaced embroiderers. The first embroidery machine in history was presented in 1821 at a

technical exhibition in France. Since the 1940s, machine embroidery has made embroidered clothing an acces-

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sible pleasure for everyone.

The history of Ukrainian embroidery took another turn after gaining independence and since the Orange Revolution. Clothing with ornaments ceased to be perceived as an element of a folklore costume for stage performance, and became clothing that testifies to national identity, patriotism and origin.

Modern Ukrainian embroidery is flourishing. Embroidery on organza and euro-mesh is added to traditional techniques and materials, which sig-

nificantly expands the range of embroidered clothing.

Ukrainian embroidery has never been limited exclusively to shirts. Geometric, floral, zoomorphic, anthropomorphic patterns have decorated and continue to decorate:

- home textiles. The history of

Ukrainian embroidery shows that tablecloths, sheets, pillowcases, curtains, towels, napkins, carpets, tapestries were decorated with embroidery.

- sacred things: vestments for

priests, chalice stands, icons, tablecloths for candlesticks.

As the history of Ukrainian embroidery shows: art lives and will live for millennia. As long as Ukrainians wear clothes with embroidered elements, the connection between generations will be maintained.

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UKRAINIAN NEWS

Total enemy combat losses

Протягом 24.02.22 — 30.04.2025

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Генеральний штаб Збройних Сил України

According to the General Staff, the total combat losses of the enemy from February 24, 2022 to April 30, 2025 are approximately as follows:

Personnel – 915,230 people were eliminated,
Tanks – 10,729 units,
Armored personnel carriers – 22,353 units,
Artillery systems – 27,091 units,
MLRS – 1,374 units,
Air defense systems – 1,146 units,
Aircraft – 370 units,
Helicopters – 335 units,
Operational and tactical level UAVs – 34,289 units,
Cruise missiles – 3,196 units,
Ships and boats – 28 units,
Submarines – 1 unit,
Vehicles and tankers – 46,611 units,
Special equipment – 3,869 units.

Ukraine fails to
reach agreement
on restructuring of
\$2.6 billion debt

Ukraine has failed to reach an agreement with the holders of its \$2.6 billion debt.

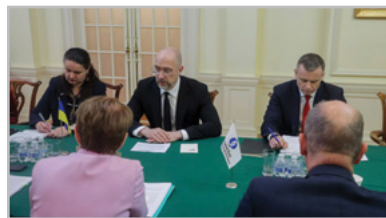
This was reported by the Financial Times with reference to the Ministry of

Finance of Ukraine.

The Ministry of Finance said it would consider all available options and continue negotiations after the failure of the first talks in Washington this week with holders of GDP warrants.

According to the newspaper, Ukraine needs to pay about \$600 million of this debt at the end of May, which raises the question of whether to declare a default in case of failure of the restructuring agreement.

"GDP warrants were designed for a world that no longer exists. Ukraine's modest economic growth in 2023 was not a sign of rapid prosperity, but a fragile recovery from a nearly 30 per cent decline caused by Russia's full-scale invasion," the ministry said.

Ukraine will receive
over €400 million
from partners for
the purchase of
natural gas

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, together with Norway, will provide Ukraine with EUR 410 million to prepare for the next heating season. This money will be used to purchase natural gas. This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.

He said that the agreement, which was signed with partners in Washington, provides for a loan of 270 million euros under state guarantees.

Another €140 million will come from the Norwegian government in the form of grant aid. According to Shmyhal, this will allow importing "significant volumes" of gas.

"Since the outbreak of full-scale war, the EBRD has attracted more than €6 billion in loans, grants and guarantees for Ukraine. In the public sector, we are jointly implementing 12 projects, including in the fields of energy, logistics, and critical infrastructure," Shmyhal said.

Belgium to provide

Ukraine with another €150 million to rebuild infrastructure and prepare for winter



Belgium will provide Ukraine with a new aid package of EUR 150 million. The money will be used to rebuild infrastructure and prepare for winter.

This was reported by the press service of the Ministry of Communities and Territories Development.

It is known that the program will last until the end of 2028 and will cover facilities in Chernihiv and Kyiv regions, as well as the city of Kyiv.

Key areas of the project:

- Renovation of energy infrastructure through the introduction of decentralized heat and electricity systems;
- development of healthcare and social protection through the reconstruction of medical facilities, implementation of rehabilitation programs, and expansion of inclusive services;
- supporting education and employment by modernizing the infrastructure of schools and vocational institutions;
- promoting European integration by supporting reforms and strengthening cooperation with Belgian partners.

"Priority measures include the transfer of 212 generators for educational institutions, mobile boilers for hospitals and utilities, and the repair of medical infrastructure," the ministry said.

Recently, it became known that Belgium will provide Ukraine with a new aid package worth a billion euros.

It was also reported that Belgium will allocate 1.7 billion euros of frozen assets of the Russian Federation to help Ukraine.

Ukraine has received a new tranche of EU assistance under the Ukraine Facility

program

On April 1, 2025, the European Commission transferred EUR 3.5 billion of the next tranche of assistance to Ukraine under the Ukraine Facility program. This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.

"The European Commission has transferred to Ukraine 3.5 billion euros of the next tranche under the Ukraine Facility," Shmyhal wrote.

According to him, these funds will help us to further maintain macroeconomic stability.

The total financial assistance under the Ukraine Facility has already reached EUR 19.6 billion.

In February last year, the Council of the European Union adopted the plan necessary to implement the EUR 50 billion Ukraine Facility program. The Ukraine Facility program itself will run until 2027.

Ukraine will receive over \$432 million from the World Bank

On April 2, it became known that the World Bank has allocated a financial assistance package to Ukraine in the amount of USD 432 million. The funds will be used to rebuild the transportation infrastructure. This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.

The project includes major repairs of roads and bridges in 19 regions, reform of national highways, installation of modular bridges, and technical assistance.

"The Building Resilient Infrastructure in Vulnerable Environments in Ukraine (DRIVE) project was approved by the World Bank's Board of Directors late last month. Part of the financing includes \$212 million from the IBRD with the support of the Government of Japan and \$10 million from the Trust Fund for Support, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reform of Ukraine," the Prime Minister summarized.

It was also reported that Ukraine and the European Investment Bank (EIB) had agreed to provide €100 million in funding to restore water and sewage systems.

On April 18, it was reported that the World Bank would provide Ukraine with another \$84 million in financial assistance. The funds will be used to implement a project to restore the country.

These funds are planned to be spent on compensation under the eRestoration program.

"In total, more than 96 thousand Ukrainian families have already received support from the state under this program," Shmyhal emphasized.

Also, on April 25, it became known that the World Bank will provide Ukraine with \$70 million in assistance to restore the Ukrainian energy system.

"The funds will be used to purchase energy storage systems by Ukrhydroenergo. This will allow us to create a reserve of electricity and strengthen our energy resilience," the statement said.

UN to reduce support for Ukrainian IDPs



The United Nations Refugee Agency is forced to reduce its support for Ukrainian IDPs due to the suspension of US aid and a general decrease in donor support.

"Some of the programs we used to implement with the generous support of US funding have been suspended," said Caroline Lindholm Billing, UNHCR Representative in Ukraine.

The programs include psychosocial support, "which is needed on a huge scale," as well as emergency shelter repair materials and cash assistance.

It is noted that the reduction of aid from the United States, which last year amounted to 40% of UNHCR funding, had the greatest impact, but other Western donors also "stepped back as they prioritize defense spending."

As a result, the agency said its appeal for \$3.32 billion to support 8.2 million people in Ukraine was only 25% funded.

700 chemical attacks against the Defense Forces in March



Russia, despite claims of complete destruction of chemical weapons, retains industrial capacities for their production and uses them against the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

This was announced by Colonel Valeriy Weber, Deputy Head of the Main Directorate of Mine Action, Civil Defense and Environmental Safety of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the press service of the ministry reports.

"According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, in March 2025 alone, the chemical warfare intelligence units of the Support Forces recorded 767 cases of the aggressor's use of ammunition containing hazardous compounds," the statement said.

Werber noted that since February 2023, the use of hazardous chemicals by the Russians has become systematic. They ignore the norms and obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

A total of 7,730 such crimes have been recorded since then.

In March, Ukraine provided evidence of Russia's use of chemical weapons to the International Court of Justice.

Ukraine returns 277 more Ukrainian defenders from Russian captivity before Easter



On April 19, 277 Ukrainian servicemen were returned. Among them are the defenders of Mariupol and other areas in Donetsk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Luhansk regions.

Ukraine has returned 246 Ukrainians home, and another 31 soldiers

have been returned through non-exchange measures.

As noted, among those who were rescued from Russian captivity are soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the National Guard of Ukraine, the State Special Transport Service and border guards. They defended Mariupol and other areas in Donetsk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Luhansk regions.

Zelenskyy noted that since the beginning of the full-scale war, 4,552 people – soldiers and civilians – have been returned home from Russian captivity.

At the same time, the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War clarified that most of those who were returned were young people born after 2000.

Among the liberated soldiers and non-commissioned officers are 268, and 9 officers have been returned.

Ukraine returns another group of children taken by the occupiers to Russia



On April 26, Ukraine returned 12 children who were held by the invaders in the temporarily occupied territories and in Russia.

This was reported by Daria Zarivna, Advisor to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, Director of Bring Kids Back UA.

"Among them is Bohdan from a large family. The occupation authorities threatened to take the children to an orphanage if they did not go to a Russian propaganda school. Bohdan has already been forcibly registered as a conscript, humiliated at school for speaking Ukrainian, and his older brother was taken away and tortured," said the representative of the Prosecutor General's Office.

In addition, she said, they managed to evacuate the family, which was living under constant pressure. Russians

tried to take a 10-year-old boy away from his grandmother when she tried to leave on her own. Then armed Russian soldiers separated them and took the boy to an unknown destination.

"Thanks to the help of our partners, we managed to organize their evacuation. Now Yehor is back with his grandmother, safe and sound," she added.

As a reminder, since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion, the occupation forces have taken at least 744,000 Ukrainian children to their territory.

An earlier investigation found that at least 314 Ukrainian children were placed under the Russian adoption program.

Austria adopts resolution in support of the return of Ukrainian children abducted by Russia



The Austrian Parliament has adopted a resolution calling on the country's Foreign Ministry to work for the return of children abducted to Russia and to bring to justice those responsible for these crimes.

In the text of the resolution, the Austrian government calls for continued advocacy at all levels for the protection and support of Ukrainian children in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In addition, it is stated that the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs should continue to advocate for the return of deported children, as well as actively support the prosecution of such crimes in accordance with international criminal law.

OUR PARISH WAS VISITED BY THE DEFENDERS OF UKRAINE | ST. VOLODYMYR UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



This year's Myrrh-Bearing Sunday was special for our parish.

On this day, two defenders of Ukraine – Ihor and Pavlo – visited our community. They arrived in the United States for treatment and prosthetics after injuries sustained in the fight for our freedom. They were accompanied by volunteers from the [Protez Foundation](https://ugccsc.org/2025/05/04/nashu-parafiyu-vidvidaly-za-hysnyky-ukrayiny/), a charitable organization that helps wounded Ukrainian soldiers go through the path of physical and emotional recovery.

Together with them, we prayed the Divine Liturgy. And it was a deep prayer for our Defenders, Peace and Victory.

We sincerely thank Ihor and Pavlo.

Thank you for persevering, for not breaking, for remaining people with open hearts. Thank you to the volunteers – people who put their souls into serving others every day. And we thank each of you who came, who prayed, who supported – with a prayer, a word, a donation, a smile, a hug.

On this day, we felt that the Church is not just walls. It is a community of love. It is a place where tears of gratitude and hope have power.

May the Lord generously bless all our Defenders. May He strengthen their bodies and spirits. May He embrace our people with Peace and Healing. And to everyone who does good

– He will repay a hundredfold.

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I bring a unique, compassionate approach to real estate. A proud mother of two—one a UC Berkeley graduate, the other a UCLA student—I understand the importance of creating homes where families thrive. I live with my parents, who moved to the Bay Area from Ukraine due to the war, and we share our home with three rescue cats.

Outside of real estate, I'm passionate about nutrition, maintaining a vegan and gluten-free lifestyle, and exploring water fasting. I've held a Series 7 license and have a keen interest in trading and financial planning. Supporting local businesses and traveling the world bring me joy and inspiration.

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EVENTS 2025

MAY

Hi/Su	Pi/Mo	Вт/Tu	Ср/We	Чт/Th	Пт/Fr	Сб/Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

15 MAY ДЕНЬ ВИШИВАНКИ / VYSHYVANKA DAY | SAN FRANCISCO

**Andriy Shegера and Ukrainian
Events SF and Bay Area**

Where: Harry Bridges Plaza, The
Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA
94111

When: Sunday, 12 PM – 1 PM

We know that many Ukrainians are
working in San Francisco. Let's unite
with all Ukrainians in the world and
show our national identity by wearing
vyshyvanka to work on May 15, 2025.

Join us at noon that day at the Ferry
Building / Clock Tower to celebrate
this special day together.

[https://www.facebook.com/
events/s/B8-vyshyvanka-
day/1187807279497785/](https://www.facebook.com/events/s/B8-vyshyvanka-day/1187807279497785/)

18 MAY "PAINTED FOX" THE FIRST CHILDREN'S SHOW IN SACRAMENTO IN UKRAINIAN

Hromada

Where: Valley Springs Presbyterian

Church, 2401 Olympus Dr, Roseville,
CA 95661

When: Sunday, 3 PM – 5:30 PM

The Ukrainian Amateur Theater
"Traveling Stars" invites children and
adults to a performance based on
the fairy tale by Ivan Yakovych Franko
"The Painted Fox." You can expect a
true celebration - puppets, masks,
talented actors, adventures, and
humor.

Production – Bohdan Pindus-
Pastukh

Adaptation based on Franko's text –
Olena Bilyak

Tickets: **\$15** for children, **\$30** for
adults.

The theater will donate the
proceeds from the performance to
help Ukraine.

[https://www.sharvarok.com/en/
listing/painted-fox-the-first-childrens-
show-in-sacramento-in-ukrainian/415](https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/painted-fox-the-first-childrens-show-in-sacramento-in-ukrainian/415)

31 MAY "FISH DO NOT CRY" THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE | SAN FRANCISCO

**Олена Біляк та творчий колектив
вистави "Риби не плачуть"**

Where: JCCSF, 3200 California St,
San Francisco, CA 94118

When: Saturday, 4 PM – 5:45 PM

The author, Yelena Petrovskaya
from Nuremberg, tells the audience
the tragic and powerful story of
Marta – an actress from the Mariupol
theater. The war has utterly destroyed
her life. Russian invaders killed her
family, destroyed her hometown,
and bombed the theater. We offer a
discount for "early birds."

Tickets: **\$40**

[https://www.sharvarok.com/en/
listing/fish-do-not-cry-theatrical-
performance/418](https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/fish-do-not-cry-theatrical-performance/418)

7 JUN UKRAINIAN SUMMER

PICNIC | CUPERTINO

UNWLA Branch 107

Where: Blackberry Farm, 21979
San Fernando Ave, Cupertino, CA
95014

When: Saturday, 11 AM – 5 PM

Stay tuned for more details

[https://www.facebook.com/
events/1211506813656761/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1211506813656761/)

15 JUN KOLA – ПЕРШИЙ СОЛЬНИЙ ТУР ПІВНІЧНОЮ АМЕРИКОЮ | SACRAMENTO

Bomond

Where: TBD

When: Sunday, 7 PM

Сильна та ніжна, чії пісні знають
та підспівують усі - Українська
співачка KOLA – Перший сольний
тур Північною Америкою!

Tickets: **\$55 – \$85**

[https://bomond.com/events/kola-
north-american-tour-2025/kola-
sacramento](https://bomond.com/events/kola-north-american-tour-2025/kola-sacramento)

29 JUN VOPLI VIDOPLASSOVA | MENLO PARK

Hearts for Ukraine

Where: The Guild Theater, 949 El
Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025,
USA

When: Sunday, 6 PM

They made history performing
at WOMAD, Sziget, Montreux Jazz
Festival, Woodstock Poland, and
Rock am Ring. Over the years, VV
has collaborated with world music
icons like Manu Chao, and Khaled,
continuously pushing boundaries.

Tickets: **\$75 – \$120**

[https://www.sharvarok.com/en/
listing/vopli-vidopliassova-band-is-
coming-to-the-bay-area/420](https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/vopli-vidopliassova-band-is-coming-to-the-bay-area/420)