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Merry Christmas!

Photo by Yuri Bilak of priest Serhiy Dmitriev with the fighters, where he is sitting at the table in the middle.

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SHARVAROK: A NEW SPACE FOR OPPORTUNITIES AND MUTUAL SUPPORT!

Lisa Hots

How the idea became reality

The new Sharvarok platform is becoming a real unifying tool among Ukrainians in the United States. The idea, which grew from a dream, became available for implementation in November 2024. Its founder is Yarema Kuzyshyn, co-founder and financial director of the NGO "Hromada" in San Francisco.

"The main principle of Sharvarok is community and mutual assistance," says Yarema Kuzyshyn. This platform is designed to help expats find housing, jobs, services, communities, and create new contacts in a convenient online environment.

What does the name Sharvarok mean?

The name "Sharvarok" derives from the Ukrainian word sharvarok (or shy-rvarok), referring to collective labor from Ukrainian history and culture. In the times of Rus-Ukraine, this meant collective work for the benefit of the community, when people joined their efforts to build bridges, roads, or other important infrastructure. This tradition of mutual assistance and joint work became the inspiration for the creation of the platform.

Sharvarok symbolizes a place where Ukrainians can help each other, share resources, and unite to achieve common goals. It is an fitting name, as it emphasizes the idea of unity, support, and development that underlies the project.

Differences and advantages of Sharvarok

Sharvarok features 8 main categories: housing, services, events, dating, job listings, organizations, community, purchase and sale. The biggest advantage of the site is its bilingualism and ease of use. Users can post ads in Ukrainian while the system automatically translates them into English. This is especially important for newcomers who do not yet have a high level of English.

One of the popular sections is "Events," where you can post information about the event, add it to your calendar,



lendar, add a link to purchase tickets, and share the event on social networks or via QR code. The "Dating" section attracts special attention, which allows you to find new friends or even love.

The "Jobs" category provides platform users with the opportunity to search for jobs for free, and there is a special discount system for employers. In addition, Sharvarok features resources for non-profit organizations, cultural centers, schools, and diplomatic missions, which makes adaptation easier for newly arrived Ukrainians.

Challenges and solutions

The process of creating Sharvarok was not easy. According to Yarema Kuzyshyn, the biggest challenge was to think through convenient and understandable functionality, to fill the most desired categories. "Understanding user requests and taking the best practices of similar platforms, we adapted them to the needs of our community," he explains.

Sharvarok simplifies the registration

process: users can log in via social networks or Google account. This minimizes time and ensures data protection. So, from the moment you enter the site to the moment you publish your ad, only a few minutes pass.

For the convenience of posting and cost-effectiveness, users are offered a discount system. For example, there is a 5% discount for paying for three months of advertising, 10% for six months, and 15% for a year.

The Sharvarok team

"I want to thank the entire team," says Kuzyshyn. "Without like-minded people, highly professional specialists, volunteers, and people of goodwill, this project would not have been possible," says Yarema Kuzyshyn.

At each stage of the project, a different number of people were involved. It all depended on what task we were working on.

What is most important is that everyone was imbued with the idea of the platform, its necessity and importance

for the Ukrainian community in the US. The most important thing is its mission: to promote the unification of communities, as well as to continue funding the initiatives of the non-profit organization "Hromada" from San Francisco, which it has been implementing for the past seven years in Ukraine.

"I send personal thanks to the entire team, namely:

Victoria Kalinichenko, Anastasia Volska, Yuri Bondarchuk, Danylo Vegera, Yevhen Sukharenko, Yevhen Maidansky, Serhiy Stefansky, Jules Christopher Regout, Olga Nakhodkina, Andriy Rizhko, Khrystyna Skyba, Ksenia Bondarchuk, Tetyana Hnatiuk, Ivan Haid, Maryna Anisovych, Vova zi Lvova, Dmytro Halan, Anastasia Nalyvayko, Anna Shpook, Tetyana Chupryna, Natalia Turenkova.

Future plans

Currently, Sharvarok is focused on Ukrainians in the US, but plans to expand to Canada and the European Union. The decision to enter new markets will be made depending on demand and the dynamics of the platform's development.

In addition, the possibility of creating a mobile application is also being considered. However, currently there is a mobile version of the site that works through a browser, but over time, if users need it, it is planned to launch a full-fledged application.

Social mission

Sharvarok is not only a commercial project, but also an important social tool. Part of the income from paid services will be directed to support the humanitarian initiatives of the NGO "Hromada" and its foundation "Anhelyk". Thus, every dollar paid on the platform will make a difference for the better!

So what is Sharvarok?

The founder of <https://www.sharvarok.com> describes the platform in three words:


"Buy, sell, connect."

It is these values that underlie the project to unite Ukrainians in the United States.

SHARVAROK

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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Vitaliy Portnykov | NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

TRUMP'S VICTORY AND
ESCALATION INCREASES

Please support Vitaliy Portnykov's new project on the YouTube channel, where you will find his streams in English. Spread it among your friends who do not speak Ukrainian, so that more people in the world get acquainted with the events taking place in Ukraine.

<https://www.youtube.com/@PortnikovPost>

Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election has undeniably become the defining event, not just of this month, but of the entire year. It will undoubtedly have profound consequences for the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war. However, November is also marked by a serious escalation on the frontlines, ranging from continued Russian offensives and near-daily drone strikes to the missile attack with the "Oreshnik," ceremoniously announced by Putin.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was among the first foreign leaders to congratulate the U.S. president-elect.

The very fact of this phone conversation, regardless of its content – whether ceremonial or addressing the new American president's approach to the Russo-Ukrainian war – is highly significant. At the very least, it demonstrates Trump's recognition of the importance of the Ukrainian issue for the United States.

It is worth recalling that during his campaign, Donald Trump pledged to end the Russo-Ukrainian war within hours through negotiations with the Ukrainian and Russian presidents, compelling them to engage in peace talks. Trump also asserted that, had he remained in the White House, Russia's war against Ukraine would never have occurred.

However, these were campaign promises, made during rallies. By January next year, Trump will have to answer for these statements, as well as numerous other pledges he made during his campaign. As is often the case in elections, most of the promises Trump made to his voters are either impractical or outright impos-

sible to fulfill, even with the best intentions. When these intentions are absent, replaced instead by the pursuit of power and influence, such promises hold even less weight.

The situation with the Russo-Ukrainian war is no exception – a campaign talking point that may appeal to presidential candidates but is impossible to deliver upon encountering the relentless reality.

Trump, along with his closest advisors, will soon find himself immersed in this reality. Though they may have spent their time devising hypothetical plans for resolving the war, it is clear that simply withdrawing US assistance to Ukraine will not suffice. Such a move would not end the war but would spell the collapse of Ukrainian statehood, allowing Russia to seize more Ukrainian territories, if not obliterate Ukraine entirely. Moreover, strengthening Russia's position would inevitably bolster its allies, such as Iran, leading to further destabilization in the Middle East – an outcome Trump would undoubtedly wish to avoid.

Reports suggest Trump's team is preparing proposals for resolving the Russo-Ukrainian conflict. Unsurprisingly, these proposals seem aimed not at ending the war outright but at freezing the conflict while maintaining Russian control over territories occupied since the 2014 invasion and subsequent aggression under Putin's orders for a full-scale attack.

Among the territories currently occupied by the Russian Federation and those under Ukrainian control, Trump's advisors propose establishing a demilitarized buffer zone devoid of both Ukrainian and Russian troops, supposedly monitored by an unspecified

peacekeeping force.

This proposition is hardly realistic, if only because the Russian Federation would never agree – even hypothetically – to the presence of NATO troops, let alone American soldiers, between the Russian and Ukrainian armies.

It is important to understand that such proposals, which Putin would likely view as a demonstration of American naivety, are bound to be voiced by the new US president and his team in abundance. The real question is what Trump will do if he realizes that the Kremlin does not take these suggestions seriously. For Ukraine and its society, these proposals are equally humiliating, amounting to a near surrender to the enemy. For Moscow, however, they represent a misunderstanding of Russia's position, as Putin sees no reason to accept conditions that preserve Ukrainian statehood when he believes his forces are poised to seize it entirely.

The potential for negotiations depends not only on the newly elected US president but also on the Russian president, who has recently intensified the Russo-Ukrainian war and shows no sign of desiring peace in the foreseeable future – especially not on terms that would allow Trump to portray himself as a peace broker balancing Russian, Ukrainian, and Western interests.

Achieving such a balance will also require a unified stance among the United States and its NATO allies. The recognition that Russia's victory in the war against Ukraine and Ukraine's erasure from the world's political map, as Putin continues to dream, would threaten European security and diminish the geopolitical influence of the United States. Such an outcome wo-



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uld not only impact America's role in Europe but also in the Asia-Pacific region, significantly enhancing China's opportunities – a threat Trump correctly continues to regard as America's

greatest challenge.

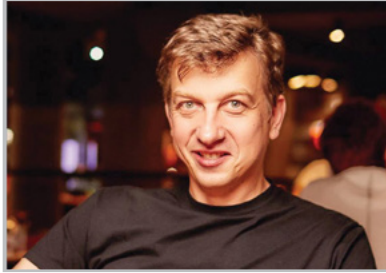
It is evident that no politicians in Washington, whether Democrat or Republican, favor such a scenario. This shared understanding makes the

resolution of the Russo-Ukrainian war a true test of geopolitical clarity and strategy.

SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Oles Doniy

VICTORY OF TRUMP AND THE FEARS OF UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES



On November 5, 2024, Election Day, a momentous event occurred, and not only for the United States. For the US, it marked an undeniable "electoral revolution," transcending the usual two-party competition. During his first term in the White House, Trump attempted to challenge the entrenched stereotypes of the American political establishment to some extent. His second term, however, signifies a radical dismantling of these outdated norms. This includes numerous criminal cases against the former President, the Capitol riot incident, complaints about alleged election fraud when Joseph Biden won, and, of course, Trump's unique personal demeanor and communication style. All this trail of innovations and controversies underscores the argument that the US now faces not merely a victory of a polarizing politician – a recurrent theme – but a fundamental shift in political approaches.

Naturally, this could be considered an internal affair of the United States, if not for the country's colossal influence in global politics, economics, culture, and more. For Ukraine, however, US presidential elections represent a matter of existential significance. This is an unfortunate reality brought about by the full-scale aggression of fascist Russia. Ukraine's resistance depends not only on the heroism of its people and the effectiveness of its Armed Forces but also, to a large extent, on military and financial aid from its allies. Ukraine is so heavily reliant on this assistance that imagining its complete cessation equates to envisioning the

realization of Putin's diabolical plans to capture Ukraine and physically annihilate its defenders of statehood.

Trump has repeatedly made critical remarks about financial support for Ukraine, often delivering unflattering comments toward President Zelensky. "I think Zelensky is one of the greatest salesmen I've ever seen. Every time he comes here, we give him \$100 billion," Trump once declared. Analysts in the US and elsewhere are attempting to forecast Trump's plans for Ukraine based on similar cherry-picked quotes. Questions linger about what the future President meant when he claimed he would end Russia's war against Ukraine within 24 hours of taking office. It seems likely that Trump lacks not only a specific plan but even a concrete vision for ending the war. His post-election phone calls with Western leaders have been cautious, primarily testing these politicians' steadfastness in supporting Ukraine. In reality, a battle over Trump's stance has already begun, and it appears to have commenced even before his inauguration.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, in an interview with Fox News, essentially cited the fourth point of Zelensky's "Victory Plan," where the Ukrainian President sought to spark interest among the American establishment – not for the sake of democracy and freedom, but with purely materialistic notes, promising future cooperation in extracting and processing Ukraine's mineral deposits. Graham found this idea appealing, estimating the rare earth materials hidden in Ukraine's depths to be worth \$2 to \$7 trillion, not forgetting Ukraine's agricultural potential, describing it as "the breadbasket for the developing world."

By the way, the Ukrainian authorities now prefer not to discuss the "Victory Plan" much. Political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko, known for his pro-government image, recently provided one of the most definitive positions on this previously heavily publicized plan. In a new media discussion project on

YouTube titled "About the Victory Plan", featuring leading experts as panelists, the first episode focused on Zelensky's "Victory Plan" and the likely reaction of newly elected US President Trump to Ukraine's initiatives. Fesenko attempted to downplay the project, emphasizing its loss of relevance: "This plan was relevant at the end of September and early October. It was an attempt to push the Biden administration into more decisive actions."

Thus, Ukrainian government strategies are often tailored to specific Western politicians rather than based on a thorough analysis of its own resources and needs. However, one thing the Ukrainian authorities undeniably excel at is public relations – generating media buzz around such plans. The latest "Plan" presented to Ukrainian society is now called the "Plan for Internal Resilience". It was announced by Zelensky in the session hall of the Verkhovna Rada on November 19. While only brief excerpts are available on the President's website, they align with the full speech delivered in Parliament, retaining the structure and titles of the points, which this time number ten.

All these points sound reasonable and, to some extent, respond to critics of the previous "Victory Plan," who rightly noted that Ukrainian victory cannot be reduced solely to appeals for aid from allies (weapons, NATO membership, etc.). The authorities quickly took note of these critiques and tried to incorporate some popular proposals into the new plan. "Unity," "The Front," "Weapons," "Money," "Energy," "Security," "Communities," "Human Capital," "Cultural Sovereignty," and "Policy of Heroes" – all these sections listed by the President are valid, and some even contain substantive content. For instance, who would argue with theses like: "Changing the approach to personnel management in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the National Guard, and extending the best management practices applied in some units to all other elements of Ukraine's

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Defense and Security Forces is a central task of our country's defense policy" from the "The Front" section? Yet, frontline officers might reasonably ask: if everything is so well-written, why wasn't this done earlier, and why isn't it being implemented now after the plan's publication?

It seems, however, that the entire plan was primarily written for one thesis in the first section, elegantly titled "Unity." In the President's speech, this section includes many appropriate statements, such as Ukraine not renouncing its territorial rights. It also mentions aspirations to join NATO and the EU. But then comes the most critical message for the authorities – the

one that concerns them the most: that there will be no elections in Ukraine. "This is detrimental to Ukraine. Ukraine first needs a just peace. And only then will Ukrainians hold fair elections."

However, do we see a "just peace" on the horizon? It is doubtful that any Ukrainian would call peace – if Crimea and eastern Ukraine remain occupied – "just." Even those who predict that the new US administration might attempt to push Ukraine toward some form of truce with Russia do not talk about a "just peace." At most, such a truce could freeze the front line, which has nothing to do with justice. According to the new "Plan," elections will take place only after a "just peace." Sup-

porters of restoring democratic practices and procedures in Ukraine were harshly criticized in the President's speech as "some people who are so hungry for power that they want internal strife more than they care about the state."

This thesis of de facto perpetual governance was met with great approval among members of the Verkhovna Rada. It also reveals the Ukrainian authorities' greatest fear following Trump's victory – not the fear of territorial losses or even reduced funding but the fear that the new US administration will pressure Ukraine to restore democratic practices and procedures. For them, that is truly terrifying.

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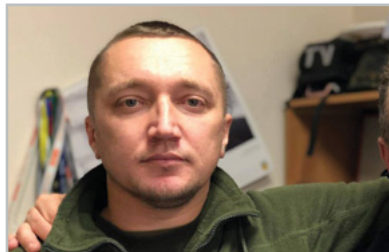


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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

MYKHAILO UKHMAN | NEWS FROM THE FRONTLINE

NASTYA



Mykhailo Ukhman – a film producer, war journalist, writer, makes documentaries and feature films about the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

For years, she has been on the frontlines, saving the lives of Ukrainian soldiers. Today's story is about Nastya Podobaylo, a frontline medic who chose to fight against Moscow's invaders instead of living a peaceful life for her own pleasure.

Nastya was born in Kharkiv. It was there that the Russo-Ukrainian war found her. Living in a city close to the enemy, the presence of the occupiers was felt much more acutely than in other settlements.

Initially, Nastya supported Ukrainian soldiers as a volunteer. Later, she became a fighter in the First Separate Assault Company of the Volunteer Ukrainian Corps "Right Sector," under



the command of Dmytro Kotsiubailo, known as "Da Vinci."

It was in this unit that Nastya grew into her role as a warrior-medic.

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion, Nastya was stationed in the settlement named Pisky, Donetsk Oblast. The enemy attacked the country from all directions, leaving no one certain of what tomorrow would bring. Nastya and her comrades worked tirelessly to save the lives of Ukrainian soldiers holding back the Russian assault.

Miraculously, they survived the bombardment of the town by Russian artillery and aviation. After Pisky, Nastya went on to defend other settlements.

Despite the horrors of war, Nastya found love on the frontlines. For several years now, she and her husband – also a medic – have fought together against Moscow's barbarism.

Dear readers, if you have suggestions for topics or people to write about, we welcome your comments at Uhmanmisha85@gmail.com.

Most importantly, fight against Moscow's occupiers by all means. It doesn't matter where you live: Los Angeles, New York, Toronto – the enemy is the same for Ukraine. Until we destroy and stop them, there will be no peace in the world.

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HOW TO STOP THE USE OF AMERICAN COMPONENTS IN RUSSIAN WEAPONS?



Oleh Kernytskyy
oleh@hromada.us

According to Ukrainian intelligence, at least 4,145 different American components have been found in 149 units of Russian weaponry. These components have been used in ballistic missiles like the "Kinzhal," the "Iskander" missile complex, cruise missiles X-101 and X-59, UAVs such as "Shahed," "Gerbera," "Parody," "Okhotnik," "Lancet," "Supercam," "Orlan-10," "Forpost-R," "Kartograph," "Korsar," "Lastochka-M," multiple rocket launch systems like "Tornado," the T-72 tank, Ka-52 helicopter, "Hyacinth-S" artillery gun, and many others. Without these components, Russia would be unable to produce weapons and kill people.

Most of these components reached Russia through third countries, shell companies, or even as hand luggage carried by airline passengers.

What can be done in this situation?

The best solution would be for the US government to designate the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism. This would subject the ex-

port of components to Russia to strict controls. Relevant proposals have been submitted and voted on in both the Senate and the Congress. However, the State Department has not yet made a decision.

What should the US authorities do?

- approve the list of goods subject to enhanced export control
- prohibit their re-export to Russia, Belarus, Iran, North Korea
- standardize enhanced inspection procedures during their deliveries to risky jurisdictions
- strengthen liability for violations and negligence, involve banks in inspections
- exchange information and coordinate efforts with other countries

What should manufacturers do?

- to form a list of products, the supply of which requires enhanced inspection
- to approve and regularly update inspection procedures taking into account recommendations, suspicious factors, sanctions circumvention schemes
- to disseminate new inspection conditions among counterparties, to add

a condition for their compliance to contracts

- to respond to the detection of products in the aggressor's weapons, to investigate, to study supply chains, to inform the parties involved and governments, to take measures to stop supplies

What should Ukrainians in the US do?

- call your representatives at your place of residence in Congress (<https://www.house.gov/representatives>) and the Senate (<https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>) and demand tighter controls on the export of components used in Russian weapons, as this poses a threat not only to Ukraine but also to the national security of the United States

- in the case of purchasing shares of American technology companies, ask the manufacturer at a shareholder meeting about measures to prevent and stop the supply of dual-use goods that may end up in Russia

This list is far from exhaustive, and Ukrainian intellectuals in the US might propose additional effective measures.

THE 47TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE BRINK OF AN ERA

Nadia Banchik

Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 presidential election marks the definitive end of an era that spanned from the conclusion of World War II until now. The United States will no longer be the same as it was in the 20th and early 21st centuries, and the world is poised for significant transformation.

A temporary setback or the defeat of an era?

The Democratic Party's policies on minority issues, their tilt toward social-democratic economic approaches – often criticized for stifling economic growth – and their perceived leniency on immigration, including illegal migration, are cited as major reasons for their loss, according to numerous sociological studies.

"Exit polls reveal the primary reason behind Trump's victory. Voters rejected the leftist platform championed by Vice President Kamala Harris and the Democrats, which focused heavily on progressive social issues while largely neglecting the economy.

In contrast, Trump's emphasis on 'kitchen table' concerns, such as the economy and immigration, proved far more effective than Harris and the Democrats' focus on abortion rights, especially among young, Latino, and Black voters – all groups Harris was expected to win over," note Douglas Schoen and Carla Cooperman in *The Hill*.

Unlike 2022, when Democrats secured a congressional victory by emphasizing abortion rights, this year's decisive issues were the economy and illegal immigration. The Democratic Party's campaign failed to sufficiently highlight these concerns. Even the youngest voting demographic (18 – 34 years old) shifted toward Trump by 6%, the authors of the aforementioned article point out.

"The scale of the Democrats' defeat, along with polling data, provides a clear roadmap for how the party might recover in 2026 and later in 2028. However, whether the party will choose to pivot toward a centrist, economically focused platform or double down

on leftist social issues remains to be seen," the article concludes.

This perspective, widely shared among Democrats, views the party's current loss as part of the usual ebb and flow of US political life – a temporary setback that could be corrected in future elections, possibly even the midterms. This outcome might occur if Donald Trump and the Republican Party's policies prove too radical, prompting a voter shift back to the left, as seen in the 2020 and 2022 elections.

However, this time the changes may take on a much larger scope and could even become somewhat irreversible. This is driven not only by Trump's more resolute and adept approaches in his second term but also by profound shifts within the Democratic Party.

The Democrats' defeat – manifested across all fronts, from the presidency to both houses of Congress and a significant number of governorships – primarily signals the exhaustion of their policies as presented to voters in this year's campaign. The attempt to rejuvenate the presidency by nominating Kamala Harris, a representative of the generation following that of Joe Biden, failed to save the party from its core shortcoming: losing its traditional base – the middle class, which has long been the cornerstone of American society. Several reasons contribute to this decline.

Firstly, because of the increasing elitism of the leadership, donors, and voters, who belong to a new generation of highly educated, successful senior executives and employees of large IT companies. In essence, a new class of ultra-wealthy and wealthy people has emerged, guided by "progressive" approaches and worldviews. There are reasons for this, as Internet technologies have opened unprecedented opportunities for free exchange of information with the whole world, and thus a sense of world unity, unity of humanity, and concern for the environment are natural for this class – but the downside of this process is a separation from the "ground," the down-to-earth middle class and work-

ers in the production sector. This disconnect is particularly harmful to the DP in the "swing" states, where the population is predominantly from those strata that have been left behind by extremely rapid scientific and technological progress and "progressivism."

Secondly, there was too much emphasis on minorities: racial, ethnic, sexual, immigrant, etc. This was justified at a certain stage: minorities that had been oppressed for centuries needed compensatory actions, especially against the background of the social and moral values that had developed under the influence of the victory over Nazism; However, the party has become so enthusiastic about these compensatory actions that it has begun to introduce all sorts of quotas and percentage norms for minorities, which often leads to "reverse discrimination" against the majority population (again, especially in "decisive" states) and to the underestimation of individual approaches based on personal and business qualities in hiring, training, etc.

Well, if the DP does not find a new, modern basis for connecting with the middle class and "ordinary" workers, especially in the states that determine the outcome of the presidential election, then the future of this party seems very uncertain.

Corporate managers or public servants?

Against the background of the above problems, the victory went to the opponents – and the voters were not deterred by the verdict already handed down by the jury to the presidential candidate, nor by the passionate warnings about the candidate's dictatorial tendencies and unpredictability, nor even by his own fiery speeches, which openly expressed his attempts to crack down on his political opponents and organize "mass deportations" of illegal immigrants – they did not even consider that such rhetoric in itself contradicts the values of American society, refers to dictators, and contains direct threats to the American system of checks and balances.

The meeting between President-elect Donald Trump and incumbent Joe Biden at the White House, which took place without the slightest disturbance or hesitation, does not promise a cloudless transition of power and further leadership of the most powerful state. On the contrary, it is a lull before an extremely turbulent year, at least the first two.

Buoyed by the victory, Trump immediately announced appointments to key leadership positions – 15 ministries and the administration's leadership.

The appointment of Marco Rubio, a Florida senator who served on the Foreign Affairs Committee and has been known for his tough stance on China, Iran and Russia, as Secretary of State has not been without controversy, even among political opponents. There is also no controversy over the appointment of Mike Walts, a Florida congressman who was the first Marine Corps veteran elected to Congress. "Walts has called for greater European support for Ukraine and for the United States to be more assertive in its support, consistent with the president-elect's key foreign policy goal. He has also been a vocal critic of the Biden administration's 2021 withdrawal from Afghanistan," Alex Ganjitano and Brett Samuels note in *The Hill*.

Elise Stefanik's nomination for UN ambassador did not cause much noise either. An ardent defender of Israel but skeptical of Ukraine, she was the head of the GOP caucus in the House of Representatives (elected from Upstate New York).

Other Trump appointees are seen as controversial, to say the least. This is primarily a team that will pursue a tough policy of border protection and fight against illegal immigrants. This is domestic policy adviser Stephen Miller, the architect of immigration policy in Trump's first term, who became famous for such methods as separating migrant families, including young children, if these immigrants crossed the border illegally. This is Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, a former governor of South Dakota. But the main role will be played by the "czar" of the border (that is, a manager with a special assignment in a certain area) Tom Homan. He headed the Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He will oversee all borders, including sea and air. Noem, together with Miller, "separated 4,000 children from their parents" during Trump's first term, the authors noted.

However, four of the appointees

caused the most objections. Matt Goetz, a congressman from Florida, was nominated for the position of Attorney General. He was notable for the fact that in the fall of 2023, during the adoption of the state budget, he unexpectedly revolted against then-Speaker Kevin McCarthy because of his cooperation with the Democrats, which forced the House of Representatives to hastily hold new elections for speaker, in which Mike Johnson was elected. However, the uproar against Goetz was not because of this, but because of his suspicions of trafficking in underage prostitutes. This issue was investigated by the Congressional Ethics Committee. In the end, Goetz withdrew his candidacy. Trump quickly found a replacement: former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi. She has been defending Trump since his first impeachment and has proven her loyalty to him. "Go after the bad prosecutors who are prosecuting Trump," she said.

Another questionable candidate is Tulsi Gabbard for the post of Director of National Intelligence.

"Gabbard is an Iraq War veteran. She was a member of the House of Representatives from Hawaii and vice chair of the Democratic National Committee. However, two years ago, she left the Democratic Party, including because of a disagreement over support for Ukraine in the war with Russia. She criticized the Biden administration for its military assistance to Kyiv. After leaving the DP, she worked for the conservative Fox News channel.

In one of her interviews, Tulsi Gabbard said that Ukraine is not worth defending because, in her opinion, it is not a democracy. She also spoke about biolabs allegedly funded by the United States in Ukraine. Such allegations were spread by Russian propaganda after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. There was no confirmation of this. Gabbard also opposed economic sanctions against Russia," Valentyn Baryshnikov said on *Radio Svoboda* (Russian edition).

Supporters of Trump and Trumpism (and, perhaps, Gabbard herself, in particular, her colleagues in the House of Representatives) emphasize that as a member of Congress she expressed her opinion and vehemently criticized the intelligence agencies for what Trump and Trumpists believe is politicization against the 45th president and the existence of the so-called "deep state." What is meant by this is not entirely clear. From the context, it can be understood that Trumpists use this term to mean a bias towards

the Democratic Party and, therefore, a bias towards conservatives. And since it was the Democrats who accused Trump and his first entourage in 2017-2018 of "improper" ties with Russia (in fact, the suspicions were quite well-founded), this "deep state" is therefore overly biased towards the "Russian threat." According to this logic, the greater attachment of Trumpist Republicans to the Putin regime can be partially explained (this position is perhaps accompanied by some secret sympathies of Trumpists to absolute power, which the Russian dictator has completely seized, and therefore can do whatever he pleases).

Other Republicans and Democrats emphasize that they will subject each nominee to a thorough vetting process, including the FBI's "files" of "untrustworthy" people. Gabbard could be rejected as a result of such a review.

Pete Hegseth, the nominee for the post of Defense Minister, also raised many objections. A veteran of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, he has no experience in leadership or understanding of the geopolitical situation, but he has loudly criticized the policy of "diversity" in the Pentagon and the Armed Forces.

He has opposed the "restrictions" of troops in combat by the Geneva Conventions, acquitted soldiers accused of war crimes, denied the role of women in combat operations (which is sharply contrary to reality), and accused NATO allies of not contributing enough to their own defense, according to Meg Kinnard in the *Associated Press*.

He is also facing charges of at least a sexually motivated assault on a woman (not named) in 2017 at a hotel in Monterey, California. This story has been reported by numerous media outlets, and there are contradictions in it. In particular, an article by Kelly Riesman in *The Independent* suggests that the police first learned about the incident from a nurse at the hospital where the woman went 5 days after it happened and did not recall the details of how it happened. No official charges have been filed against Hegseth, although there is a police report on the incident. Hegseth himself claims that the relationship was consensual; however, in 2023, he paid her a tidy sum for her silence.

For better or worse, all these controversies and scandals together could lead to the withdrawal of Hegseth's nomination, as happened with Gates – and Trump will probably find a similar replacement who will carry out his

plans to “cleanse the Pentagon” of “progressives” (i.e., minorities – and women?).

There are many complaints about Robert Kennedy Jr.’s candidacy for Health Secretary (he is, in particular, against mandatory vaccination of children).

It is not entirely clear what the newly created semi-shadowy “public administration efficiency” unit headed by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy will do. Musk contributed to Trump’s election in much the same way that Berezovsky contributed to Putin’s “election.” However, there is a lot of discussion in the media about whether the two lions, Trump and Musk, will get along in the same “lair” of the state apparatus. There are already disputes between Musk and Boris Epstein, one of Trump’s longest-serving aides.

Trump’s nominees clearly demonstrate not only that the main criterion for the president-elect’s selection of personnel is a commitment to him personally and to his vision of domestic and foreign policy, as evidenced by concrete deeds. They have also demonstrated (by deeds or repeated statements) their agreement in principle with the main points of Trump’s agenda.

The selected candidates see it as quite normal to pursue a brutal policy against immigrants, not bothering to think that mass deportations of “illegal aliens”, backed by rhetoric such as “all countries send us their criminals”, “poisoning the blood of our country,” etc., will certainly affect legal immigrants, because the number of deportees will be the determining factor in the reports of such officials, and no one will worry about such ‘related trifles’ as thousands of destroyed lives.

Trump’s appointees will also not worry about the thousands of civil servants who will be fired, either for ideological incompatibility or “inefficiency” in Trump’s (or Musk’s) mind. Trump “has vowed to loosen civil service rules that protect federal bureaucrats from being fired if they disagree with their bosses’ decisions,” notes Doyle McManus in the Los Angeles Times. Will highly professional investigators, intelligence officers, and military personnel be forced to leave for these reasons (or because of an unhealthy workplace atmosphere?).

Overall, Trump’s appointees “will

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help determine whether Trump can dismantle the system of checks and balances the founders wrote into the Constitution and transform the executive branch into an instrument of the will of a would-be autocrat,” McManus concludes.

Will he succeed and to what extent? This fundamental question can be answered (not by words, but by deeds) by Congress, including the president’s fellow party members, and to a large extent by the government institutions that Trump wants to rebuild in his own image, as well as by US civil society.

However, it is already clear that

Trump’s plans and those of his supporters at various levels are very far-sighted. To some extent, they will certainly succeed in rebuilding the United States in their own image and vision. This means: The United States and, to a large extent, the entire Euro-Atlantic world will never be the same again. However, only the concrete reality of the next four years – which will be the cumulative result of the interaction of numerous factors – will determine the extent to which this restructuring will take place and the direction in which it will move.

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Serhiy Nikolaichuk
Attorney at Law

Tel.: 415.980.0130
Fax: 888.979.8727
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UKRAINE'S LEADERSHIP CENTER FOR DEFENDERS AT KYIV-MOHYLA ACADEMY



Veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian War – students of the Leadership Center program of the Defenders of Ukraine with teachers and President of NaUKMA Serhiy Kvit

Maria Klymchak,
*Executive Director of the KMA
Foundation in the USA.*

For the 11th consecutive year, Ukraine remains at war. Responding to the challenges posed by this conflict, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy has been working with military personnel, their families, and children since 2015, offering specialized programs and providing psychosocial support. As an academic institution, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy actively participates in the process of social transformation and is deeply committed to strategies aimed at human capital development. It is crucial for us to communicate this to our friends in the United States, share our projects, and attract the interest of international donors. We recently sat down with Yana Chapaylo, Head of the Veterans Resource Center at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy's Leadership Center for Defenders of Ukraine, to discuss their

mission and progress.

1. Where are we heading? This question frequently arises in Ukraine's academic circles. While many students and faculty left the country during the war, Yana Chapaylo chose the opposite path. She shared her story with us:

I always and in everything emphasize my gratitude to my Alma Mater – Mohyla University. I am proud to be its graduate, I owe it to my friends, mentors, and colleagues. While working on the educational reform in 2016-2021, I often heard from colleagues from other higher education institutions that we, Mohyla students, want to create "Mohyla students" wherever we go. There is a grain of truth in this. After studying at an institution with such a long history, traditions, and a history that has always been based on integrity and active service to Ukraine, I wanted to do more to support Ukraine in its changes for the better. So, when in 2021 I was

lucky enough to receive a Fulbright scholarship to study in the USA and earn a master's degree in international education policy at the University of Maryland, I knew that this additional education and experience would be useful to me upon my return to Ukraine. Even though I love the United States very much, have many friends and colleagues there, share the values of this country, and love traveling and discovering magical places and inspiring people, my home is in Ukraine. So, I knew I would return.

With the outbreak of the Great War, having weighed all the pros and cons, I made a conscious choice to complete my studies in the United States. So I returned in the summer of 2023. Instead, I decided to connect everything I could learn and gain in the United States with the Ukrainian context as closely as possible. And while in the States, I tried to use every opportunity to talk about Ukraine, about our existential struggle

with the Russian invader. That is why I chose the topic of education as a tool for veterans' reintegration for my final research.

The United States has considerable experience in implementing projects and initiatives to support veterans. Ukraine has much to learn from its closest partner. I was very interested in studying the experiences of public initiatives, local attempts to set up processes so that defenders could find their place in society after returning from the war. Despite this, the Russian-Ukrainian war is a very special reality. These are young veterans, many of whom are civilians who took up arms under duress because the occupier was entering their home. I believe that education is an extremely important tool for changing society. It is not without reason that all tyrannies first of all close schools and universities, rewrite school curricula, and begin to retrain society. But education for me is about goodness, about the opportunity to discover something new for yourself, to create something new, to build a community of like-minded people. So, it is education that I rely on as something that will help veterans, both male and female, find their place in society after returning from the war, become economically independent, and join the reconstruction of Ukraine.

2. What was your first reaction to the offer to head the center for veterans and your first impressions as a leader at your alma mater?

Becoming the head of the Veteran Resource Center at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy "Center for Leadership of Defenders of Ukraine" is a great honor and a sign of trust for me. Of course, I am inspired by the fact that the Mohyla Academy is once again becoming the first in undertaking socially important initiatives. Of course, this is also a great responsibility. After all, everything we do, all programs, initiatives, are aimed primarily at strengthening the capabilities of veterans who, after military service, want to continue to take responsibility and be proactive in civilian life, working for the benefit of Ukraine.

I am extremely grateful, first of all, to the President of NaUKMA, Serhiy Kvit, to our entire Mohyla community and its friends, in Ukraine and abroad, and to the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Foundation in America for their constant support.

I am impressed by the support of the faculty and students of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in our endeavors. It is very inspiring that the entire academic community is ready to contribute



Yana Chapaylo

knowledge, ideas, and time to jointly implement initiatives for our defenders.

We know that the war is not over. We understand that all efforts must be focused on bringing victory closer. But after returning, our defenders deserve the best opportunities for further realization in civilian life. And these opportunities are already provided by Mohyla as a university known for its high quality of education, values, and patriotism. We support those who defended Ukraine. And we are looking for all opportunities to do it in the best possible way.

The mission of the "Center for Leadership of Defenders of Ukraine" NaUKMA is to create opportunities for the professional realization of veterans who want to continue to take responsibility for the future of Ukraine in civilian life, to influence the development of our state. We can realize this mission only through joint efforts and achievements. Therefore, I always emphasize gratitude for the support we receive.

3. The Center for Leadership of Defenders of Ukraine began its work in September of this year. How was the selection of participants carried out; how many future Leaders became students of the

programs? What prompted them to choose Mohylyanka?

Our defenders on the front today are precisely those to whom our society entrusts its safety and life. Already now we are observing a considerable number of those servicemen who prove their ability to unite others around them, are a valuable reference point for the military and civilian community, who find creative solutions in disproportionate confrontation with the enemy. These people are an extraordinary potential that has every prospect of becoming the basis for the further development of not only the army, but also our country in the future.

Kyiv-Mohyla Academy sees its mission in supporting such leaders, helping them acquire new knowledge and skills, strengthening their leadership skills, and involving them in a community that will shape and implement the future development agenda of our society. That is why our academic community, with the support of our alumni and partners, launched the educational program "Leadership and Resilience" in the fall.

The certificate program was created by the Leadership Center team (in particular, myself and Maria Savrun), with

the involvement of professional expertise from veterans and active military personnel, and NaUKMA lecturers. The co-authors of the program are Oksana Syroid (author and lecturer of courses on public policy and governance, law at the Kyiv School of Economics, until 2018 – NaUKMA, since April 2022 at the Armed Forces of Ukraine, where she is engaged in the implementation of the latest programs of military education and training, until 2018 she was in charge of the implementation of a new standard of legal education. In 2014-2019 she was Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of the 8th convocation, a graduate of NaUKMA) and Volodymyr Degtyarev (CEO, partner of Newsfront Communications, business coach, co-author of the leadership program for tactical level commanders in the TRO, participant in hostilities (Kharkiv region, 2022), later – communicator of the Command of the Forces of the TRO of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, since July 2024 – Head of the Public Relations Service of the 13th Operational Brigade of the Charter National University, lecturer at the Kyiv School of Economics, Military Academy in Warsaw).

Support in the implementation of the program is provided by the Doctoral School of NaUKMA named after the Yuhymenko family, the Center for Psychosocial Rehabilitation of NaUKMA, as well as almost all faculties and schools of Mohylyanka. The goal of the program is to support and expertly strengthen veterans who aspire to work in the field of public policy, community building, and other leadership initiatives to rebuild and strengthen Ukraine. We offer deepening theoretical knowledge about the nature of public administration, consideration of the Ukrainian historical and political contexts of the formation, development, and present of the Ukrainian state, its place and role in the international context, and the formation and understanding of the institution of reputation.

Thanks to the support of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Foundation in America, this program is free for veterans.

Currently, 11 participants are studying in the program. All of them are veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian war, some are veterans twice, having defended Ukraine in 2014, and then joined the defense in 2022.

Participants were nominated to participate in the program by partner veteran organizations that we and Ukrainian society trust. Among such partners are Veteran Hub, NGO

“Prostir” (Space of Opportunities), NGO “Vilny Vybir” (Free Choice), “Ihry Nesko-renyh” (Games of the Unconquered) and others. We had interviews with each and every participant of the program, where we learned about their goals and vision. I will say that they are all united by the desire to actively influence the development of Ukraine, create opportunities for the effective adaptation of veterans to civilian life, and develop state policies. One of the challenges voiced by a participant and explored in the program is, ‘A society unprepared for veterans’ return after the war. Many veterans need support but are not ready to seek help. It is important to prepare society for interaction with veterans to ease their adaptation and integration.’ Another said, ‘The lack of systematic state policy on veterans.’ We see common interests and goals and are therefore looking for common solutions.

Our students are incredible people. Some have experience of Russian captivity; others have saved lives as military medics. Some are now working in the Ministry of Defense, others in veterans’ public organizations, and still others are gaining knowledge to determine their next career steps. Their strength of spirit, courage, thirst for knowledge, and desire to work on themselves and become even better are impressive. With such students, we as a team and as a university need to constantly develop in order to keep up. And we do it honestly. Are we succeeding? We need to ask the students and partners. But the program has been going on for two months now, and the students are returning to the classroom every week. I want to believe that their presence at the training is confirmation of what we are succeeding at.

In addition to the Leadership and Resilience program, the Professional Navigation program was launched in mid-October. Individual career guidance and counseling is a cross-cutting initiative in the context of the personal development of an adult. Veterans who have returned home face various problems after demobilization. In an effort to crystallize the potential of veterans in career choice and personal development, the Leadership Center considers career guidance for veterans as a critically important activity in determining the direction of professional realization. Currently, 60 veterans are studying in the program. 30 of them are online (these are veterans from the communities of Lutsk, Chernihiv, and Opishna of Poltava region), 30 are in person (these are mainly veter-

ans from Kyiv and the region). We will share the successes of this program a little later. And now we wish our participants encouragement in their search for themselves and their related work – the one that the philosopher Hryhoriy Skovoroda, also a graduate of Mohylyanka, bequeathed to us to find.

We also see the need to expertly strengthen the state. We have now launched a program for representatives of the State Employment Service on career counseling and trauma-oriented ethical communication with veterans who apply for jobs. We have made an offer to Lutsk, Chernihiv, Opishna and Zaporizhzhia, and on November 1 we will conduct the first training on this topic for 20 representatives of these communities.

We see many more goals ahead for ourselves. So, we will work on achieving them. The Mohylyanka community, its friends, is a very strong environment of caring like-minded people. It is not in our values to stand aside. We take responsibility for qualitative changes. And especially in this difficult time for our state.

4. Among the activities of the Leadership Center, cooperation with communities is indicated, I would add one more – with the diaspora and international donors. Do you plan to introduce teaching hours on the history of the diaspora and its contribution to Ukrainian science and culture, to large-scale charitable projects aimed at Victory? In my opinion, this would contribute to intellectual partnership beyond the academic sphere.

Absolutely, yes. The Ukrainian diaspora is extraordinary. I was lucky to know many Ukrainians personally in spirit and origin. We also understand that without the persistent and vocal support of the diaspora, we will not be able to receive the military assistance so necessary for victory, nor the opportunity to restore our Ukraine. I am also sincerely grateful to our benefactors from the US, Canada, and other countries of the world for their financial donations that gave the Center for the Leadership of Defenders of Ukraine the opportunity to begin its work, and I hope for their continued support. In this dark time, we Ukrainians need to unite and learn more about each other. There are so many Ukrainians who have never been to Ukraine, but every day with their actions and words they help Ukrainians in Ukraine resist evil. I really want the veterans who study in our programs to know more about the history of the Ukrainian diaspora and



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its present. In turn, we and the team of the Center for Leadership of Defenders of Ukraine will do everything possible to implement these ideas and build a strong community.

Thank you very much for the con-

versation! We wish the Center for Leadership of Defenders of Ukraine the best of luck in all its endeavors. We have charity banquets in support of veterans ahead. The first of them is on January 14, 2025 at City Winery

– with the famous jazz diva Lynn Jordan, the group of jazz musicians The Shivers and Trio with Elvis Olensky. The Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Foundation in the USA invites our community. Together we will win!

UKRAINIAN NEWS

Total enemy combat losses



According to the General Staff, the total combat losses of the enemy from February 24, 2022 to September 30, 2024 are approximately as follows:

Personnel – 740,400 people were eliminated,
Tanks – 9,463 units,
Armored personnel carriers – 19,355 units,
Artillery systems – 20,909 units,
MLRS – 1,253 units,
Air defense systems – 1,019 units,
Aircraft – 369 units,
Helicopters – 329 units,
Operational and tactical level UAVs – 19,792 units,
Cruise missiles – 2,851 units,
Ships and boats – 28 units,
Submarines – 1 unit,
Vehicles and tankers – 30,431 units,
Special equipment – 3,617 units.

Assistance to Ukraine



USA

The United States announced the 70th package of military aid to Ukraine worth \$275 million, which includes ammunition for HIMARS, artillery, missiles, anti-tank systems, UAVs, and other

weapons.

It includes:

- HIMARS ammunition;
- 155-mm and 105-mm ammunition
- 60 mm and 81 mm mortar shells
- unmanned aerial vehicles
- TOW missiles;
- Javelin and AT-4 anti-tank systems;
- small arms and ammunition;
- explosive equipment and ammunition;
- chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear protective equipment;
- spare parts, auxiliary equipment, services, training, and transportation.

On November 20, Biden approved the transfer of anti-personnel mines to Ukraine.

According to the White House, the mines are “unstable” – they self-destruct after a certain time to minimize risks to civilians.

In November, the White House officially confirmed that Ukraine had been authorized to launch ATACMS missiles against Russia.

Ukraine also received another grant from the United States through the World Bank. The money will be used for priority programs, including teacher salaries.

“The funding raised is aimed at reimbursing priority social and humanitarian expenditures of the state budget, in particular, to ensure the payment of salaries to teachers,” the Ministry of Finance said.

The Ministry added that direct budget support from the United States has reached \$28.2 billion since February 2022. This is the largest financial assistance to Ukraine among all countries in the world.

The Ministry of Finance reminded that this year Ukraine expects \$7.8 billion in budget support from the United States, of which \$5.2 billion has already been received.

Germany

The German authorities have handed over a new package of military aid to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The package includes ammunition, vehicles and equipment.

The Ukrainian military, among other things, received 47 MRAP mine-resistant armored vehicles, 8 Caracal tactical landing vehicles, 2 BIBER pavers with spare parts, and 3 demining tanks.

In addition, Germany supplied:

- 1 TRML-4D radar station;
- 4 Panzerhaubitzen 2000 self-propelled howitzers and more than 40 thousand rounds of ammunition;
- 20 armored vehicles for the Border Guard Service;
- shells for MARDER infantry fighting

vehicles;

- 8 thousand 40 mm caliber shells;
- 100 thousand HLR 338 rifles and more than 300 thousand rounds of ammunition;
- ammunition for other types of small arms;
- 20 VECTOR drones with spare parts;
- 12 HORNET XR drones;
- 120 SONGBIRD reconnaissance drones and 100 RQ-35 HEIDRUN reconnaissance drones;
- 60 Golden Eagle UAVs.

In late September, it was reported that Berlin would provide an additional 170 million euros to restore Ukraine's energy facilities.

Germany has additionally allocated tens of millions of euros to Ukraine to restore the power system.

It is known that Ukraine will receive another 65 million euros for this purpose. The funds will be used to purchase spare parts and equipment for the energy infrastructure, as well as to restore facilities damaged by Russian drones and missiles.

In addition, part of the money will be used for green energy transition projects that lay the groundwork for further expansion of the decentralized component of the Ukrainian energy system.

It is also known that the German government will provide Ukraine with a winter aid package worth €200 million.

As part of the defense assistance, Germany will provide Ukraine with two more IRIS-T short- and medium-range air defense systems – SLM and SLS – by the end of the year.

As you know, the German company Helsing is preparing 4,000 Mini-Taurus artificial intelligence drones for delivery to Ukraine.

United Kingdom

The UK government will provide Ukraine with another 7.5 million pounds for the purchase of attack and reconnaissance drones.

The funds will be transferred to the accounts of the Drone Coalition. Thus, the total fund of the Coalition will amount to 67 million pounds.

On November 11, it was reported that Denmark would purchase missiles and drones for the Ukrainian Armed Forces using Russian assets.

It is also known that Ukraine will receive \$800 million from the United States for the production of domestic drones.

The United Kingdom recently handed over a new batch of long-range Storm Shadow cruise missiles to Ukraine before London's decision to lift restrictions on the use of these

weapons by the Armed Forces.

As you know, the governments of the United Kingdom and France still allowed Ukraine to use long-range Storm Shadow/SCALP missiles against targets in Russia.

Lithuania

Ukraine received a new batch of military aid from Lithuania, which included weapons and ammunition.

The Ukrainian military received

- generators,
- spare parts for M113 armored personnel carriers,
- weapons,
- and ammunition.

On November 23, in Vilnius, the defense ministers of Ukraine and Lithuania signed a memorandum on the establishment of a mechanism to support Ukraine's security and defense forces. Under the memorandum, the first tranche of EUR 10 million has already been agreed upon. Lithuania will use these funds to produce Ukrainian long-range weapons, including the Palanytsia project.

On November 4, Ukraine and Lithuania also signed a memorandum on joint production of drones.

France

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said that Ukraine could strike Russia with French long-range missiles in "self-defense." At the same time, there are no "red lines" in support of Ukraine.

Sweden

The Swedish government has delivered new aid packages to Ukraine totaling about 9 million euros.

The first package included two ships with various equipment to strengthen maritime security.

As part of the second package, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine received about 40,000 protective respirator masks.

Austria

The Austrian government has allocated three aid packages to Ukraine totaling EUR 10 million.

Austria will provide EUR 5 million to restore Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Another EUR 2 million will be allocated to the Grain from Ukraine program.

In addition, Ukraine will receive an additional EUR 3 million for humanitarian aid to displaced persons through the Red Cross and other international humanitarian organizations.

Denmark

The Ukrainian Armed Forces will receive long-range drones, ATGM systems, missiles, and artillery pieces produced in Ukraine by the end of the year. Ukraine and Denmark agreed on

this by signing an agreement to support the Ukrainian defense industry for 4.2 billion Danish kroner (\$629 million).

In particular, it is reported that DKK 1.3 billion is money from the Danish state budget, and DKK 2.9 billion is interest from frozen Russian assets managed by Denmark on behalf of the EU.

The Danish government intends to transfer two more batches of American F-16 fighters to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

It is known that the Ukrainian side has already received six fighters. In addition, pilot training continues.

"It was difficult, but we managed, and the process continues. Then there will be another batch and another batch. There will be a total of 19 aircraft," said Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen.

It was also reported that Ukraine is negotiating with its allies to receive two more types of Western fighters.

Norway

Norway will finance the production of Ukrainian weapons and equipment under the so-called Danish format.

"Norway will join the Danish format of support – direct financing of production in Ukraine. This will allow us to produce and supply the necessary weapons for our Defense Forces faster," said the head of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

Japan

On November 16, Japan allocated \$3 billion to Ukraine as part of a \$50 billion G7 initiative to repay the loan, which will be repaid from the proceeds of frozen Russian assets.

As it is known, Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal and the Japanese Foreign Minister signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation in the field of information security. According to Shmyhal, Japan is among the leaders in supporting Ukraine, and the total amount of aid has reached \$12.1 billion.

Czech Republic

On November 14, the Czech company STV GROUP handed over a check for 765 thousand euros to Ukraine for the purchase of RPG-7 anti-tank grenade launchers.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized that RPG-7 is a weapon that has proven to be highly effective in combat conditions.

Estonia

The Estonian government supported the proposal of Defense Minister Hanno Pevkur to send Ukraine a new military aid package. It will include both equipment and ammunition.

"This time, the aid package has been assembled from the reserves of our

defense forces, taking into account the needs of Ukraine, and yet in such a way that Estonia's defense capability is not affected," said Defense Minister Hanno Pevkur.

The package will include:

- naval uniforms
- surveillance devices,
- sights,
- ballistic defense equipment,
- various types of ammunition.

Pevkur emphasized that an annual program to support Estonian companies on a competitive basis will soon be launched, which will allow Ukraine to receive assistance in the production of local defense industry products.

Poland

Poland is preparing to hand over the 45th package of military aid to Ukraine.

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, Poland has provided Ukraine with military aid worth about \$3 billion.

Warsaw has previously provided Kyiv with nearly 400 tanks, including T-72, PT-91 Twardy, and Leopard. In total, Ukrainian defenders were provided with more than a thousand pieces of heavy equipment: Rosomak wheeled armored personnel carriers, Krab howitzers, as well as 10 MiG-29 fighters and 10 helicopters.

UN Food Program

The Executive Board of the UN World Food Program has approved a new assistance program for Ukraine with a total budget of USD 2.1 billion.

The program will run from 2025 to 2027. It provides for humanitarian assistance, support for the population and the continuation of the demining process.

In addition, the funds will be used to develop Ukraine's export potential in the supply of agricultural products to world markets.

European Commission

The European Commission supported the provision of EUR 4.1 billion to Ukraine under the Ukraine Facility assistance program.

Council of Europe Development Bank (EBRD)

The Council of Europe's Development Bank (EBRD) has approved a new assistance program for Ukraine, which provides for the allocation of EUR 200 million.

The funds will be disbursed in the form of a loan and will be used to finance budget expenditures for payments to internally displaced persons.

The payments include temporary accommodation, physical rehabilitation, free meals for IDP children, and assistance in finding employment in new regions.

Ukraine scaled up serial production of Neptune missiles



This year, Ukraine managed to improve and scale up the serial production of Neptune missiles.

Umerov reminded that in 2022, it was a Ukrainian Neptune missile that destroyed the flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, the cruiser Moskva, which became a historic moment.

According to him, the production of Ukrainian missiles is now increasing. The first 100 missiles were produced this year.

The Armed Forces of Ukraine received an armored evacuation vehicle WZT-3



The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine codified and approved for use in units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine the WZT-3 armored repair and evacuation vehicle.

The vehicle is reportedly designed to evacuate heavy armored vehicles from the battlefield and repair them in the field. The WZT-3 was made on the basis of a T-72 tank, with a powerful crane, winch, electric welding machine and other repair equipment installed instead of the tower.

In addition, the BREM can carry out fencing and earthworks to equip positions. The WZT-3 is armed with two 12.7 and 7.62 mm machine guns and tracking systems.

As a reminder, Ukraine will also start supplying Khorunzhy armored person-

nel carriers to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The body of this vehicle is made of high-quality Finnish steel. Recently, the Ministry of Defense reported that the Ukrainian Armed Forces' armored vehicle fleet will be replenished with a Zubr vehicle.

Ukraine has produced more than 2.5 million mortar shells and artillery ammunition since the beginning of this year



These figures were announced by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his speech to the Verkhovna Rada.

"Ukraine is doing its best to increase its own production of guns and artillery shells. This year, we have already produced more than 2.5 million mortar rounds and artillery shells of 60-155 mm caliber," Zelensky said.

He also said that 600 domestic enterprises are engaged in the production of goods and weapons for the Defense Forces. In addition, more than 40 foreign defense companies are already operating in our country.

Borrell reported on the transfer of one million shells promised by the European Union to Ukraine

"We have fulfilled our promise to provide Ukraine with one million rounds of ammunition, and by the end of the winter we will train another 75,000 Ukrainian soldiers," said EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell.

Borrell added that the EU has already provided Ukraine with weapons and equipment worth a total of 45 bil-



lion euros. However, according to the diplomat, this is still not enough to turn the tide on the battlefield.

"We give Ukraine just enough to keep itself alive, and sometimes even less, while Russia has turned its entire economy into a military one and is counting on unconditional support from North Korea and Iran. We need to increase our assistance and abandon our policy of imposing red lines on Ukraine's defenders," Borrell emphasized.

UK to produce howitzers for Ukraine



The British company BAE Systems will open a £25 million artillery plant in Sheffield to support the Ukrainian military.

It is noted that the plant will begin production of M777 howitzers next year, which will create 50 jobs. This effectively reverses the company's decision to curtail artillery production in the UK, as the war in Ukraine requires weapons.

Many of the howitzers that the United States, Canada, and Australia have provided to Ukraine are reportedly in need of modernization or repair. As a result, BAE received multimillion-dollar contracts for the production of spare parts and repairs.

At the same time, in January 2024, the Pentagon allocated \$50 million (£40 million) to the company to resume production of titanium chassis for this artillery.

Britain announces

a package of sanctions against Russia's shadow fleet

The UK authorities have introduced a new package of sanctions against Russia's shadow oil fleet. The restrictions include 30 vessels.

It is noted that this is "the UK's largest package of sanctions" against Russia's shadow fleet. The restrictions will also apply to the work of insurance companies that provide insurance for such ships.

"Half of the ships have transported over \$4.3 billion worth of oil and oil products such as gasoline in the last year alone, so this is the largest British package of its kind to date," the British government said in a statement.

Recently, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia's shadow fleet has brought the Kremlin more money than all external financial support for Ukraine from partners since the beginning of the great war.

China has supplied Russia with weapons for the war against Ukraine for the first time

For the first time, China has supplied the Russian Federation with weapons to be used in the war against Ukraine.

This was reported by the German newspaper FAZ, citing sources in the EU leadership.

According to journalists, the day before, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell informed representatives of the bloc's member states "about the relevant intelligence findings."

The details of the agreement between Beijing and Moscow have not yet been disclosed, but an unnamed diplomat said that the evidence was "compelling" and demonstrated "the provision of lethal support."

In September, the media reported that Russia had launched a secret program in China to develop and produce long-range attack drones for use in the war against Ukraine.

Ukraine rescued

two more groups of children from the occupied territories



Ukraine has returned two children from the temporarily occupied Mariupol and one boy from southern Ukraine.

These are a 6-year-old boy and his 2-year-old sister from Mariupol.

"When the father was returned from captivity, the family faced difficulties again: the Russians did not let the mother and son out of the TOT, taking them for interrogation. After numerous attempts, the family managed to reunite," added Yermak.

On November 16, it became known that another 15 Ukrainian children were rescued from the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

On October 29, six families with children were evacuated from the temporarily occupied territories. Two girls and four boys aged 8 to 16 returned to the government-controlled territory.

The Ministry of Education and Science reported how many teachers died in 1,000 days of full-scale war

During the thousand days of the full-scale war with Russia, 89 teachers and professors have been killed, and the number of unissued higher education diplomas has exceeded 500.

Since the beginning of the invasion, Russia has claimed the lives of 89 teachers and professors, and the number of unissued higher education diplomas has exceeded 500. 228,000 children have had their homes taken away from them, 16 universities have left their home, and approximately 1,000 schools have found themselves on the other side of the front line.

FROM UKRAINE TO AMERICA: ANNA AKSYONOVA TURNS LIFE INTO ART

Lisa Hots

Anna Aksyonova is a Ukrainian artist, teacher, and art historian who has transformed her life into an artistic project. Combining intuitive painting, unique techniques, and a profound cultural connection, she inspires with her example. Her creative journey illustrates strength, resilience, and the ability to adapt and find opportunities for growth, even in the toughest times.

In 2019, at the age of 45, Anna participated in the "Beauty of the Country" contest, her last chance to compete in this category. "I felt I had to take this step! Sharing the stage with young women is incredibly motivating," recalls Anna. She wanted to show her daughters that age is no barrier to achieving goals and to highlight the importance of knowing one's strengths and weaknesses.

Starting a new life

The outbreak of war forced Anna to leave Ukraine. Emigration was not in her plans, but February 24, 2022, became a turning point. Along with her daughter and dog, she evacuated to Poland and then to the United States. "Those were three horrific days," Anna recalls. However, even in exile, she remained true to her calling and started a new chapter as an artist in the US.

Spontaneous art: new techniques and recognition

Anna experiments with innovative painting techniques, working solely with her fingers. Her unique methods – *Energy Touch* and intuitive painting – enable her to create spontaneous stories on canvas without prior planning. She actively participates in art events and exhibitions, including Art Battles in San Francisco, where artists create paintings in just 20 minutes. Her works captivate audiences and are frequently auctioned.

In 2023, Anna represented Ukraine in a beauty pageant alongside her daughter, earning the title *Miss Elite Ukraine* in Atlanta and winning the online vote. "This contest was more than just an opportunity to showcase myself; it was a platform to address significant social issues like combating vio-



lence against women," Anna says. Her performance included a symbolic presentation and the creation of a portrait of a Ukrainian girl, now part of the contest organizers' collection in Atlanta.

In 2024, Anna and her daughter Vasylyna Shyhyda participated in the *Mother and Daughter of the World* contest, winning the title. For the national costume segment, Anna collaborated with designer Yulia Shestepiurova to create a dress adorned with paintings in her unique style, representing the flourishing soul of Ukraine. "It's truly prestigious," Anna notes.

Exhibitions and international acclaim

Anna's first US exhibition took place at the MACC Gallery in Rancho Cordova, California, as part of a project dedicated to migrants from around the world. She presented ten of her paintings and participated in a documentary about migrant artists, later broadcast on Sacramento television. A standout moment was her 20-minute creation of a Ukrainian girl's portrait, now housed in Atlanta.

Anna also exhibited in London, showcasing two paintings, including *Death Walking Joy*, which was named among the abstractions of the year.

She continues to surprise with projects, painting not only on canvases but also on clothing. A portion of proceeds from her t-shirt sales supports Ukraine, where her brother serves on the front lines.

Inspiration and future plans

Anna draws inspiration from artists like Aivazovsky, Vermeer, and Frida Kahlo. The latter, she says, inspires her with a connection to Mexico – a country she admires for its culture and applied arts.

Despite her achievements, Anna continues to learn and grow. She is currently developing an online course on royal and professional makeup, sharing her expertise. Additionally, she plans to create her own show, combining her talents in painting and performing arts.

From art to charity

Anna remains deeply connected to her Ukrainian roots. Through the sale of her paintings and clothing, she raises funds to support Ukraine. "I've always sought ways to combine art with benefiting others," Anna says. Her story is a testament to preserving faith in oneself and one's dreams, inspiring others even in the hardest times.

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https://www.instagram.com/maryna_pasrty_chef?igsh=YTQwZjQ0NmI0OA%3D%3D&utm_source=qr

E-Mail: `marinaanisovic411@gmail.com`

Phone: `+14154639851`



Before the Christmas holidays, we ask you not to forget about the little Ukrainians who live under daily shelling. This year, as usual, we are raising funds for the Anhelyk Foundation and invite you to join us.

The Anhelyk Foundation is under the umbrella of the NGO Hromada, so all donations are tax deductible. We have no additional costs, so all the funds raised go to the benefit of children in Ukraine.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/5a611725-ccbe-4008-b968-33eaa9d11434>

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Pictures for the home by Anna Aksyonova

Amazing paintings by professional artist Anna Aksyonova, created not with brushes, but solely with fingers. This technique "ENERGY OF TOUCH" will fill your home with a wonderful energy of coziness and harmony. Works such as "Ukrainian Girls" will warm the heart. Most of the artist's works have been exhibited multiple times in exhibitions in the USA, UKRAINE, and online in Britain!

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Ukrainian-American Kindergarten

I invite children aged 1 to 5 years to the newly opened kindergarten. The kindergarten operates from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. In the kindergarten, we learn letters through play, get acquainted with Ukrainian culture, read, learn to count and think logically, develop fine motor skills, play a lot outdoors, and eat homemade organic dishes. We have a lot of fun and interesting activities. Each child is surrounded by attention, love, and care.

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EVENTS 2024

DECEMBER

Нд/Su	Пн/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				

13 DEC СВЯТА РОДИНА ЯК ЗРАЗОК ДОМАШНЬОЇ ЦЕРКВИ | SAN FRANCISCO

Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church others

Where: Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, 215 Silliman St, San Francisco, CA, United States, CA 94134

When: Friday, 7 PM

Запрошую вас взяти участь у Різдвяних реколекціях на тему: «Свята родина як зразок домашньої церкви». Це особливий час для нашої душі, коли можемо заглибитись у роздуми про духовний шлях нашої родини, беручи приклад із життя Святої Родини – Ісуса, Марії та Йосифа.

Духовні науки будуть супроводжуватись Божественною Літургією, можливістю для Святої Сповіді та сесіями запитань і відповідей, щоб кожен міг отримати відповіді на важливі духовні питання. Реколекції – це не лише благословенний час для оновлення нашої віри, а й важливий обов'язок кожного парафіянина, щоб зміцнити духовну єдність нашої парафіяльної спільноти.

Реколектант - о. Сергій Ковальчук (канцлер єпархії Св. Миколая).

Дні проведення:

13 грудня о 7:00 год вечора

14 грудня о 5:00 год вечора

15 грудня о 12:00 год

<https://www.facebook.com/events/539997735329222/>

13 DEC MUSIC FOR A CAUSE – 10 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES IN UKRAINE | SAN FRANCISCO

Leleka Foundation / БФ Лелека-Україна, Svitlana Kostylova and 2 others

Where: Community Music Center, 544 Capp St, San Francisco, CA 94110

When: Friday, 7 PM

An evening of live jazz with the Tsvietinskyi-Chupakhin Quartet to mark 10 years of Leleka Foundation's work. By the Warm Up Ukraine team.

The event will feature a concert by two young luminaries of Ukrainian jazz performing a program of originals and interpretations of Ukrainian songs.

The trumpeter, composer, bandleader, and teacher Yakiv Tsvietinskyi, a current member of the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz Performance, will be playing in San Francisco for the first time. Yakiv's roots are in classical music, Ukrainian folk, and jazz. Highly respected in the Ukrainian jazz scene as a performer and teacher, Yakiv has reformed and led the jazz program at the Conservatory in his native Dnipro.

Tickets: **\$76.54**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/442338532248458/>

25 DEC CHRISTMAS

3 JAN «УКРАЇНА КОЛЯДУЄ» ІРИНА ФЕДИШИН | SACRAMENTO

Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox

Church

Where: Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 2531 Rio Linda Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815

When: Monday, 6 PM

Ірина Федішин вперше представить своє велике різдвяне шоу «Україна колядує» у США та Канаді. Tickets: **\$30 - \$85**

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17 JAN SOUL OF THE BANDURA: MUSIC AND STORIES FROM UKRAINE FEATURING JULIAN KYTASTY | SAN DIEGO

Center for World Music

Where: La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, CA 92037

When: Friday, 7:30 PM

The Center for World Music presents: Soul of the Bandura: Music and Stories from Ukraine featuring Julian Kytasty

Experience the evocative sounds of the bandura, Ukraine's national instrument, with Julian Kytasty. Through epic songs, free improvisations, and modern world music, Julian blends tradition with innovation, revealing the bandura's profound expressive depth and its role in preserving Ukrainian cultural identity.

Tickets: General Seating: **\$35**

VIP: **\$55**

Please purchase your tickets early. These performances sell out well in advance. Tickets are transferrable but non-refundable.

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