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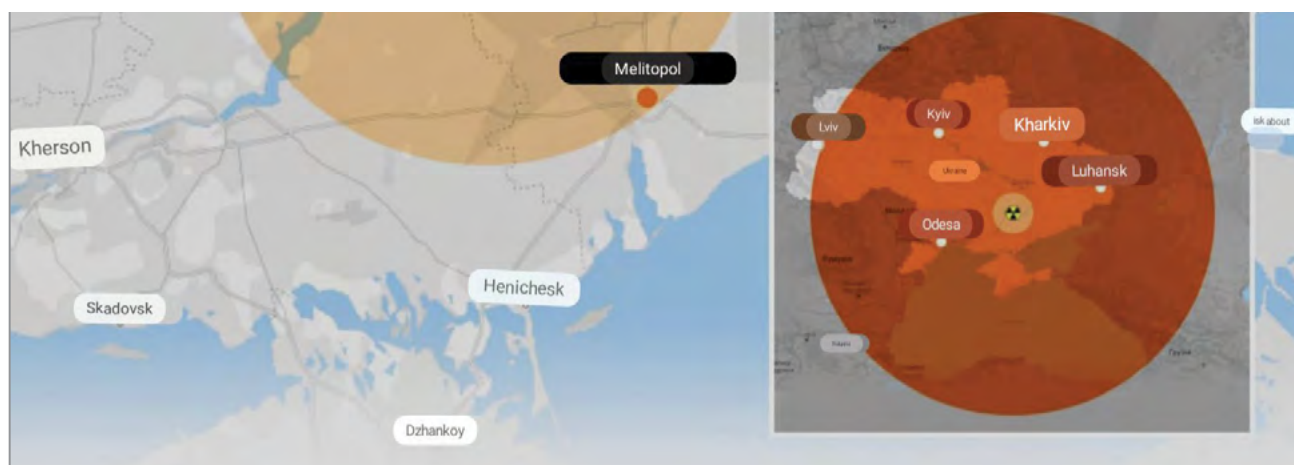
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STOP NUCLEAR TERRORISM BY RUSSIA



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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Vitaliy Portnykov | Notes for June

THE TIME OF THE DISASTER



President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy warns of the possibility of Russia committing a terrorist act at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant with a radiation release. In fact, this could be another “controlled disaster,” which – as the experience of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant shows – could well become uncontrollable and lead to consequences that even Putin does not expect.

U.S. President Joseph Biden warns that the nuclear threats of the Russian president should not be taken lightly. This statement shows that the White House is convinced: Putin is ready to do anything to avoid looking like a loser in the war he started in February 2022.

Russian troops have to repel the Ukrainian offensive and fear losing the territories they seized in 2014-2022. No one is talking about the occupation of new territories yet, even though the war was started not for the sake of a few regions, but to establish control over the whole of Ukraine – in fact, the Kremlin has never hidden this. But Putin has no intention of giving up his intention to destroy Ukraine, if not conquer it. “Alexander the Great” is turning into Herostratus before our eyes.

The explosion of the Kakhovka NPP and plans for an accident at the Zaporizhzhia NPP remind us of the events of last winter, when all of Russia’s efforts were aimed primarily at destroying Ukraine’s critical infrastructure. This did not solve much from a military point of view. Instead, it was an attack on the civilian population. Putin simply wanted to turn Ukraine into an icy desert, to make its cities uninhabitable. Yes, it turned out that this intention was not realized, but it was there.

After the Kakhovka hydroelectric

power plant was blown up, the large industrial cities of Dnipropetrovska oblast, which suffer from Russian shelling, such as Kryvyi Rih, Nikopol and Pokrov, remain at risk. Now not only is the survival of the city’s mainstays at stake, but also the water supply itself, as the Russians continue to strike at critical infrastructure. And, of course, if the Kremlin does decide to organize an accident at the ZNPP, they will try to organize it in such a way as to make several other large Ukrainian cities uninhabitable.

War through the organization of disasters is not a proof of strength, it is a proof of the Kremlin’s impotence. But this does not make it any easier for people who are forced to leave their homes because of Putin’s madness. Understanding that Putin’s misanthropic actions are proof of powerlessness, not strength, does not answer the question of how to deal with the environmental and humanitarian situation that has arisen after the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant explosion and what to do if an accident does occur at the ZNPP – not only in the case of a possible explosion of the plant on Putin’s orders, but also because of textbook Russian brainia.

However, no, I have one answer to these questions: it is important to prevent this from happening. The mere willingness to accept Putin’s calculation of a long war and “help Ukraine as long as necessary” without providing it with security guarantees is a direct road to a war of catastrophes and the transformation of part of Ukraine into a lifeless deserted territory. Putin may well be satisfied with a long war. Each new month of it, each new year of it, will allow him to torture Ukraine, destabilize the West, and strengthen the totalitarian regime in Russia itself. But why should the civilized world, which has already seen the seriousness of Putin’s plans and the Russian president’s willingness to cross any “red lines,” live under this scenario?

Especially since it is obvious that the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant is indeed a new stage in the war – the stage of revenge.

The Russian president and his cronies are realizing that at this stage they cannot win a military victory and

dismantle the Ukrainian state. In Russia, they are already talking about this openly. In particular, Konstantin Zatulin, a member of the State Duma, has said that Ukraine will exist even after the war. And Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has repeatedly argued that the supply of modern weapons to Ukraine is “dragging out the war.” What should we do then?

Destroy it! The breach of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam forces the Ukrainian leadership to think not only about a possible offensive, but also about the need to eliminate the consequences of a large-scale disaster. Even if the entire Kherson region is liberated by Ukrainian troops, its left bank will turn into an environmental disaster zone for a long time. Crimea also faces a difficult fate.

Even before Russia’s attack on Ukraine in February 2022, observers noted that the absence of water from the North Crimean Canal, which was shut down after the annexation of Crimea in 2014, was bringing the Crimean economy closer to degradation and putting water supplies in question. Although Russia and Crimea tried not to recognize this direct dependence on Dnipro water, the launch of the canal was the first thing the occupiers did after seizing Nova Kakhovka. But now, without the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant, there will be no canal, and perhaps never will be.

But why would Putin put an end to the water supply to Crimea?

Let’s just say that Putin was not very concerned about this water supply in 2014, he did not think about the economic consequences of the annexation of Crimea at all, the Russian president was primarily interested in the political effect and military outcome, i.e., turning Crimea into a springboard for further seizure of Ukrainian lands and a base for destabilizing the situation in the Black Sea.

The opening of the North Crimean Canal was rather a collateral result of the occupation: Russian troops were moving on to Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Odesa. They were simply stopped, and later expelled from Kherson. And now, it is much more important for Putin to prevent the Armed Forces from appearing on the administra-

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tive border of the Kherson region and Crimea than to think about some water. It is more important to demonstrate that Russia is ready to fight by generating disasters if it fails to win militarily. It is ready to take revenge.

That is why it is so important that Ukraine becomes part of the civilized world. A part, not just an ally. So far, a few weeks before the summit in Vilnius, NATO members have not only failed to agree on a clear timetable for Ukraine's accession to NATO, but also on the issue of accession at all. Many continue to believe that the closer Ukraine is to NATO, the less opportunity there is to negotiate with Russia. And this position, of course, should encourage Vladimir Putin and demonstrate his true influence on the minds of politicians in the "collective West." Because in reality, the opposite is true.

The closer Ukraine is to NATO and the more obvious its integration into the Alliance is, the more obvious it will be to Putin that war is futile.

If the Alliance were ready to accept Ukraine into its ranks not even tomorrow, but yesterday, it would be the

end of Ukrainian suffering. Because it is not only NATO that does not want a war with Russia. Russia does not want a war with NATO either. And Putin is ready for a war with Ukraine outside of NATO. And if the West really wants to end this war someday, the

leaders of the leading countries of the civilized world will still have to make a risky decision. It's just that the later they take it, the more people will die and the more Ukrainian territory will be destroyed. This is the price of delay.



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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Oles Donii

WHO IS BEHIND PRIGOZHIN'S "REVOLT"?



For Ukraine, any Russian aggressor is an enemy and a scoundrel, whether it is Putin who unleashed the war or his henchman Prigozhin, who for the time being faithfully fulfilled the whims of his fascist boss.

Nevertheless, the internal "rebellion" of an armed vassal against his Kremlin overlord has an impact on domestic politics in Russia, the Russian-Ukrainian war, and even global politics, and is therefore currently a global headline.

One can not only suspect, but also assert that today's Russia will eventually disintegrate. However, analysts predicting such a disintegration have drawn attention to ethnic contradictions in Russia and the theoretical potential for independence of national autonomies. The fact that the process of disintegration of Russia would begin with army units was a sensation for the vast majority.

In fact, the process of Russia's disintegration began simultaneously with the birth of the Wagner Group. The occupation of Ukrainian lands (Crimea and parts of Donbas) in 2014 by Putin and the fascist Russian society was perceived as "territorial expansion," but in fact provoked the disintegration of the last Eurasian empire. At the same time, in 2014, traces of a former lieutenant colonel of the Russian army, Dmitry Utkin, with the call sign "Wagner," were found in Crimea and Donbas.

1. 2014 – the process of forming the "Wagner Group" – the basis of the future private military campaign.

2. The war inspired the Russian fascist state military machine to search for formally non-state instruments to

carry out its criminal plans. Private military campaigns have become a mechanism for promoting Russian aggressive interests. In 2014-2022, the Wagner PMC fulfills Russian orders both in Syria and in African states, killing, suffering losses, being financed, equipped, and strengthened.

3. February 24, 2022 – another miscalculation of the Russian fascist regime. The beginning of a full-scale Russian aggression in Ukraine. The Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Army Valery Gerasimov calls Yevhen Prigozhin (with whom the Wagner PMC begins to be associated) to ask for help from the occupiers. The Wagner PMC actually receives an official "state order" to participate in the occupation of Ukraine.

4. 2022. It turns out that the available Wagner personnel, who have received military training in Syria and Africa, are not enough to participate in a full-scale war. The Wagner PMC has received permission from the Kremlin to hire criminals from prisons and camps. Prigozhin personally travels to places of detention and recruits criminals, promising them release from punishment for participating in the war. The Wagner PMC becomes a massive structure with an even greater bias towards criminality.

5. A massive PR campaign of the Wagner PMC is underway. Fascist Russia is a territory where there is no room for freedom of speech, so the Wagner PMC also received permission from the authorities to conduct such media promotion. Regarding media competence, it is worth noting that since 2012, Yevhen Prigozhin has been involved in the creation of so-called "bot farms" and "troll factories" that systematically defamed the opposition and promoted the narratives necessary for the authorities. The US Department of Justice has directly accused media outlets associated with Prigozhin of interfering in US domestic politics, including presidential elections since 2014. Now Prigozhin's media arsenal has been put to work to powerfully promote Wagner and himself.

6. After November 11, 2022, the day of the liberation of Kherson by

Ukrainian troops, Wagner received a separate section of the front. The many-month-long cleansing of Soleidar and Bakhmut became additional PR components of the promotion of the "orchestrators". The Wagner PMC gained the image of the "most successful" military unit against the backdrop of the passivity of the general military units.

7. The military leadership's popularity in Russia declines as a result of the defeats of the Ukrainian army. Defense Minister Shoigu is becoming an odious figure. And while officers in the Russian army cannot afford to criticize the military leadership, the head of the formally "private" campaign, Prigozhin, can. The Wagner PMC is better equipped than other units, the "private" occupiers in Bakhmut fire many times more shells at Ukrainian positions than the Ukrainians can afford to retaliate, and yet Prigozhin records popular videos with claims about supplies. The conflict between the Wagner PMC and the Russian Defense Ministry is formalized, in which Prigozhin creates an image of a "critic of corrupt and incapacitated power elites."

The ending (or "intermediate ending") of the Wagner PMC story is well known: on June 23, Prigozhin announces a "march of justice," armed rebels seize the regional center of Rostov, and march in four more columns toward Moscow and nuclear weapons storage facilities.

So who is behind Prigozhin's "rebellion"?

1. We are dealing with the "Wagner rebellion", this is Prigozhin's version of it. On July 1, the PMC was supposed to be subordinated to the Ministry of Defense by order of the Ministry of Defense, and the Wagner members had to sign contracts with the official army, which means a different chain of command, different funding, different internal relations, etc. Then, allegedly so free in their actions, the average commanders of the Wagner PMC gather for a meeting and consensually decide to go to "Moscow to the Tsar," beat their foreheads and ask to "leave everything as it is" and to remove "evil grandfather Shoigu" from office.

It's a nice version, the Ministry of Defense is really tired of the excessive autonomy of the "orchestra players," and on top of that, public criticism from Prigozhin, so there seems to be motives. What I don't understand is the willingness of these anonymous "middle commanders" (and we have heard almost nothing about anyone but Prigozhin and Utkin) to go to war across Russia with the entire army, the Russian Guard, and the FSB. Did they really believe in themselves that much? Or did they still have some kind of additional "roof"?

2. Prigozhin got delusions of grandeur and believed that he was the next leader of Russia.

This version is quite realistic. In politics (and in fact, Prigozhin had been acting as a public politician for six months), overestimating one's own abilities and capabilities is a common thing. The only question is why did he stop when the throne under his predecessor was shaking? What was he afraid of? A personal execution? It has become even more realistic now. Danger to the family? Why didn't he take care of it earlier? Was he bribed with big money? You can't take all the money, especially if you end up in the morgue.

3. The entire "riot" was the work of the special services, as the Wagner PMC had been in charge of before. If we analyze the activities of the Wagner PMC on the Ukrainian-Russian front, in Syria and Africa, and the activities and enrichment of Prigozhin

himself, it becomes absolutely clear that all this could have happened not just under the control of the special services. It could have been done with their maximum assistance. Accordingly, the "orchestrators" should have been under the close control of the special services, including from within the PMC itself. Either the intelligence services are so rotten that they are so easily led by the nose that they are unable to notice the thorough preparations for the coup, or the curators from the intelligence services were themselves involved in the preparation of the rebellion.

Today, this version looks the most realistic. With many unknowns. What was the goal? Change of power? Correction of the government? Correction of the course? Strengthening the power of unknown special services? Who then? In what way? And why did they stop halfway? Or was this the whole plan?

4. The most surprising version is that the riot was deliberately provoked not by unknown special services, but by the authorities themselves, including Putin. The motivation is to frighten the Western world with the uncertainty of a country with a huge nuclear potential, the coming to power of a leader who is even more sadistic and maniacal, against which Putin will look almost like a moderate figure. This version may be supported by the Western elites' genuine concern about the rebellion, their search for contacts and calls to Russia's top leaders.

An attempted failed revolt could push Western elites to seek a compromise at the expense of Ukraine with the maniac Putin (who now wears the mask of an "anti-radical" against the background of an even bigger maniac, Pogorizhin). But Putin has gained more disadvantages. The decades-long image of a "strong leader" crumbled in 2 days. He looked like a weakling and a coward. The state machine immediately collapsed, and only Kadyrov (also a private army, and it is not known what ambitions he has in the future) and the constantly despised Lukashenko came to Putin's aid with the army. The threat of an internal co-up has not diminished, but rather increased. So the gain, if any, is less than the losses.

So who was behind Prigozhin's "revolt"?

Sooner or later, the answer will be given, but it will not necessarily be immediate. For now, Ukraine has gained an additional moral advantage. Because everything that is worse for the enemy works for the Ukrainian victory. Yes, of course, I would like more, I would like these bastards (Putin and Prigozhin) to shoot thousands of Russian soldiers in their internal squabbles, because then less of this scum would come to our land. Well, not this time. But the collapse of Russia is inevitable, and now not only we know it, but thanks to the failed "revolt" the world will know it.



TERRORIST ACT AT ZAPORIZHZHYA NPP THE WORLD MUST ACT

Anton Shramenko

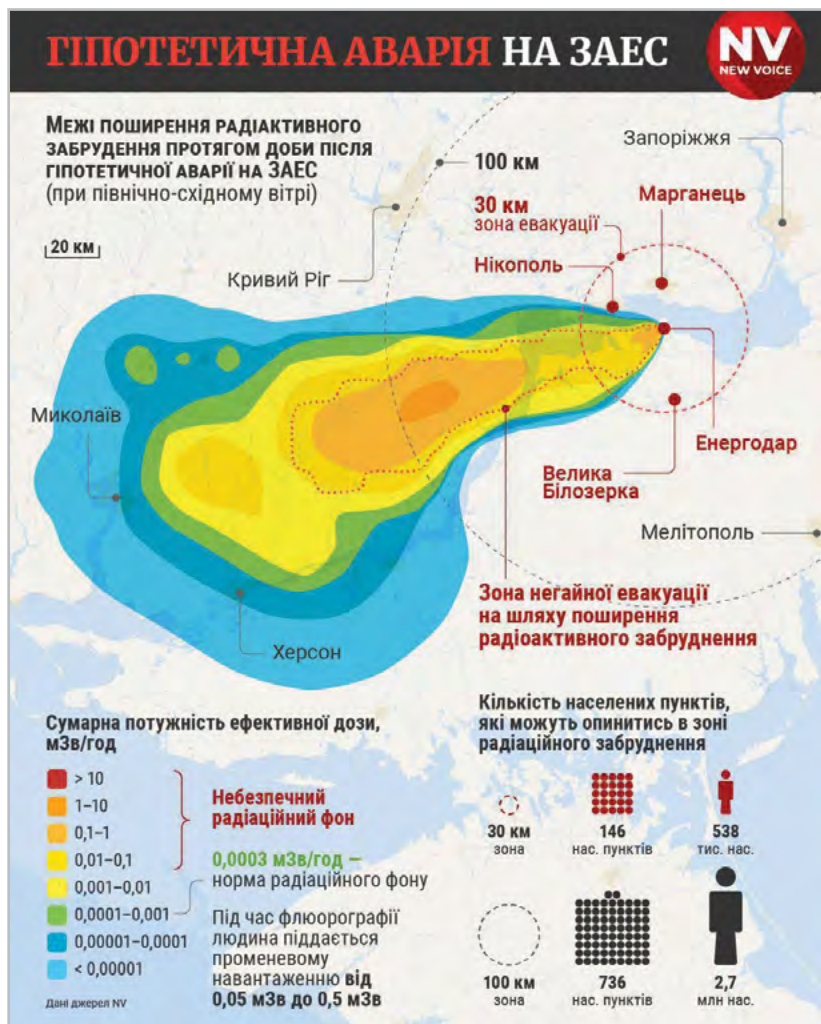
On June 22, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy says that Russia is considering a scenario of a terrorist attack on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. On June 25, the head of the GUR, Kirill Budanov, says that the plan to blow up the ZNPP has already been approved by the terrorist country, and the situation has never been so serious. It is not to say that a large-scale panic has begun in Ukraine, but it is no longer possible to find potassium iodide in pharmacies. Ukrainians are buying water and long-life food in case they need to stay indoors for several days. We talked to Anatoliy Gryznovsky, Head of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Bogomolets National Medical University, Honored Worker of Science and Technology of Ukraine, about how serious a disaster could be in the event of a terrorist attack at the ZNPP.

"I will tell you right away that it is possible to accurately predict the scale of a nuclear disaster only when a nuclear bomb is detonated. When we know the exact power of the nuclear charge and explosion. When it comes to a terrorist attack at a nuclear power plant, we are faced with a huge number of unpredictable circumstances. Therefore, we can only give approximate scenarios for the development of events. Of course, there are many such scenarios. But for ease of understanding, I would single out three.

Internal explosion

The first is the so-called Fukushima scenario. That is, overheating and explosion of the reactor due to the failure of cooling systems. What can reassure us a little bit is that our situation is different from Fukushima in many ways. Let me remind you that the Fukushima accident was caused by a tsunami, i.e., an unpredictable natural disaster. Not only did the cooling systems fail, but water flooded the reactor hall and depressurized it, and the plant's reactors were operating at full capacity at that moment!

In our case, the reactions at Zaporizhzhya NPP have long been switched to a "sleep" mode. That is, the intensity of the reactions in the reactors has been reduced to the required minimum. Therefore, if terrorists destroy



the beam that covers the cooling machine of Zaporizhzhya NPP and it loses all the water used to cool the reactors, the reactors will overheat gradually, over several hours. This gives time for the plant personnel, us, and the international community to respond and

try to implement measures to prevent a catastrophe. I am sure that response scenarios have been developed long ago, but of course, information about them is classified.

In addition, this point that the reactors are in "shutdown mode" gives us

hope that even in the worst-case scenario, the explosion will not be as powerful as in Fukushima or Chernobyl. We can use the household analogy that Fukushima and Chernobyl happened when “the water in the pot was boiling and bubbling,” while the “pots” of our reactors are barely warming up and this “smoldering” of reactions is constantly maintained.

So, if the explosion is not too powerful and does not compromise the integrity of the special reinforced concrete reactor shell (which was not present in Chernobyl), the radiation will remain inside the reactor hall.

Of course, it is good that there will be no immediate release of radiation into the air, but this will mean that Zaporizhzhia NPP will be a place of uncertainty for hundreds or even thousands of years. Nuclear reactions after the reactor explosion will be “not so active”. But if left unchecked, radiation will accumulate excessively in the building, increasing the risk of its release. We will have to constantly monitor the situation inside the reactor. And if necessary, we will need to apply certain technologies to reduce the activity of reactions. For example, at one time during the Chernobyl disaster, helicopters were used to deliver graphite directly into the fracture of the building, which thus reduced the intensity of the processes that took place there. That is, we will need to regularly launch certain remote monitoring devices to the station.

If the Russians close access to the facility after a terrorist attack, there are now special aerial reconnaissance tools that allow us to determine the level of

radiation, and this can be done even from space. However, it will still be a place of constant danger from the spread of radioactive contamination: with water and air.

“Dirty bomb”

The second danger is damage to the temporary nuclear storage facilities at the ZNPP. Spent nuclear fuel is stored there in special metal casks called fuel assemblies. Damage to the fuel element cladding can be called a “dirty bomb” effect. That is, there will be a leak and spread of spent radioactive substances, which, nevertheless, cause significant damage to the environment and human health. It will not be a nuclear explosion, it will be a rupture of the protective shell, and radioactive substances will come out. This can be compared to breaking a mercury thermometer. It is impossible to predict exactly how the thermometer will break, in which places, and how much poison will leak out. This is the same with fuel rods. In the worst case scenario, we are talking about a huge amount of radiation that will get into the air, soil, and water. It is interesting that the Russians used to intimidate that it was Ukraine that was preparing to drop a “dirty bomb” and now they are actually terrorizing with the possibility of its use.

“Dead Zone”

The worst-case scenario is an explosion of such power that it would rupture the reactor vessel and lead to a massive release of radiation into the air. In this scenario, the territory of the ZNPP itself will be contaminated and restrictions will be imposed on at least a 30-kilometer zone around the plant. But again,

everything will depend on the weather conditions and wind rose at the time of the release, as well as the volume of the release itself. For example, in Japan, after Fukushima, this zone was 30 kilometers, then it was reduced to 10 kilometers. But there was a favorable wind rose and ocean currents. In our case, if radiation gets high into the atmosphere, a large amount of it can be spread by winds over a large area.

A very destructive nuclear explosion at ZNPP could occur if the Russians massively and systematically bombard the reactor shell with several high-powered bombs. However, it is believed that it is almost impossible to damage the reinforced concrete shell of the reactor from the outside. Many experts say so.

Of course, we want to believe that there will be no catastrophe, and in the event of a terrorist attack, the consequences will be minimal. But let me remind you that radiation is very harmful to human health: it disrupts the thyroid gland, can destroy DNA, and penetrate cells, tissues, and organs. Improper restoration of these cells later leads to serious systemic diseases.

And radiation is easily carried by air, water, insects and animals. Therefore, any radiation leak in Ukraine is undoubtedly a great disaster for the whole world. In the event of a significant release, radiation will undoubtedly spread to varying degrees across the globe, even reaching America, albeit in minimal amounts. Any terrorist attack on the ZNPP will significantly worsen the environmental situation around the world. The world must help us prevent this tragedy.”



RUSSIAN IPSOS: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE MEDIA LITERATE?

Karyna Nikitishyna

Propaganda and information and psychological operations (IPSO) are one of the aspects of the war that Russia has been waging against Ukraine since 2014. The number of fakes and the Russian elite's inept calls for "action" has only increased since the start of the full-scale invasion; and now that the counteroffensive has begun, the enemy is bombarding not only Ukraine with missiles, but the entire global media space with its lies. The struggle for information space became even more intense in June.

An endless stream of daily lies about the failed counteroffensive and significant losses of Ukrainian troops at the front – this is how Russia's media space has looked like over the past month. Even before the start of the counteroffensive, propagandists were preparing for a new ISRP – they began to prepare photos and videos of allegedly destroyed Ukrainian military equipment, as warned by the Strategic Communications Directorate on the morning of June 5.

And a month later, a certain trend has already been noticed: Russians like to discuss the losses of Ukrainian equipment, especially "hit Leopards," posting photos of destroyed equipment faked in editors from the beginning of the counteroffensive to the present day. To the real losses, which, unfortunately, do exist, propagandists add a bunch of fictitious ones. A particularly famous fake was posted on Solovyov's channel, where a photo of a destroyed Russian T-80 was photo-shopped with a Leopard2A4 and a message: "Question for experts – Leopard2A4?". Russian media outlets use not only Photoshop: to make it more believable, they also destroy replicas of tanks made of wood.

But a counteroffensive has begun even in places where it was not planned: the leader of the Wagner PMC, Yevgeny Prigozhin, accuses Shoigu, the Ministry of Defense, and Solovyov and other propagandists of hiding the real state of affairs on the battlefield, namely the constant defeats of the Russians. "They still hope that they can win this war. But since there are no successes in the management, the leadership of the Defense Ministry ca-

refully deceives the president, and the president receives reports that do not correspond to reality. (...). We hear all day long about 60 destroyed Leopards, about 3,000 killed enemy soldiers (...). Two Leopards were destroyed, plus one T-72, plus several Bradleys. No one destroyed 60 Leopards, this is complete nonsense. Shoigu lives by the principle: "For a lie to be believed, it has to be a terrible lie."

For whom are such fakes made – for Ukrainians, most of whom trust only trusted Ukrainian publications and official data from the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine? Of course, there are Russophiles here, too, and many people are not able to distinguish truth from fiction, but the fictitious losses are intended not so much to frighten and demoralize Ukrainians as to reassure Russians that their country cannot lose this war and is only gaining further ground. The other goal is to provoke Ukrainian and foreign media to explain and clarify the situation on the battlefield on the Ukrainian side. The list has recently been updated with a new fake: Kyiv announced general mobilization to close the "holes" at the front. However, general mobilization was announced on February 24, 2022, and periodic orders from territorial recruitment and social support centers (former military commissariats) across the country are only meant to remind citizens of planned activities.

On June 19, the propaganda resource RIA Novosti again took advantage of the general ignorance of the Russian people. "The United States is afraid of the Russian "superpredator" that destroys the units of the Armed Forces" is the title of an article selectively translated from English by 19FortyFive about the Ka-52 Alligator helicopter. But one has only to read the text in English to see that these "super predators" are being successfully destroyed in Ukraine: at least two between June 12 and 16 and one on the first day of the full-scale invasion, according to the author of the original article.

On June 20, Kyrylo Budanov, the head of Ukraine's Main Intelligence Directorate, joined the telethon, immediately refuting a dozen Russian fakes, ranging from Budanov not being in Ukraine to the fact that the man had died. Citing the German newspaper

Stern, the Kremlin claimed that Budanov was in a serious coma. The publication itself assures that it did not publish such a lie: "The story is nothing more than an outright fake, another Russian hoax. It is unlikely that any reader will bother to check whether such a report can really be found on Stern's website, given the fact that most Russians face a language barrier." There are even more such fakes about the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Valery Zaluzhny, and even Putin himself has spoken out: "Where is he? Where is he? I think I know. Ask him where he is. But for this you need to switch to a foreign language. I think he's abroad. But I could be wrong."

In an interview with the Kyiv Post, Budanov only laughed at Solovyov's comment about his "serious injury" and the fake news about Zaluzhny's death. "Now in Ukraine, a special detachment of immortal commanders is being created – Valeriy Zaluzhny, myself, Stepan Bandera, Symon Petliura, Ivan Mazepa. Therefore, the Russians and their propagandists will still have a lot of work to do in a nervous, hysterical environment. A squad of immortals will come in the middle of the night to the dreams of Russian citizens who wanted to seize Ukraine and give them nightmares."

The real tragedy of this month was the explosion of the Kakhovka dam. And events of this magnitude always leave behind a lot of fake news designed to misinform people. One of them was, at first glance, strange news: the alleged confession of the 205th Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade of the Russian Armed Forces to blowing up the dam. "The threat of a large-scale enemy offensive was very high, and the Kherson direction was supposed to play an important role in this offensive. As I wrote in November, in this case, the dam blowing up was inevitable. But... we miscalculated a bit and the consequences of such an uncontrolled action will soon lead to significant losses of territory."

The question arises – why would the Russian Armed Forces confess to such a serious crime? Especially since the Russian authorities, represented by Putin and his henchmen, deny their involvement in the ecocide in every possible way, and shift the blame onto Ukraine. By the way, the Russian ISIS

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is working, because on social media one can often come across comments from real accounts of foreigners who believe that Ukraine should simply lay down its arms to prevent deaths, because this is what its resistance has led to; Russia is the clear winner in this war. Therefore, media literacy should be taught not only to Ukrainians or Russians, but to everyone else in general.

However, even the Ukrainian media did not immediately ask themselves whether this confession was true. All of Ukraine's largest media outlets began to massively publish this news, while the 205th Brigade does not even have an official channel in Telegram. Would anyone in Russia publish such data to an audience of thousands if it could harm the security of the state? Ukraine already has verified evidence that the explosion was indeed carried out by the 205th Brigade, but the confession is not true. Such fakes may be deliberately spread in order to accuse

the Ukrainian media of presenting lies to the audience and spreading fakes by Ukraine.

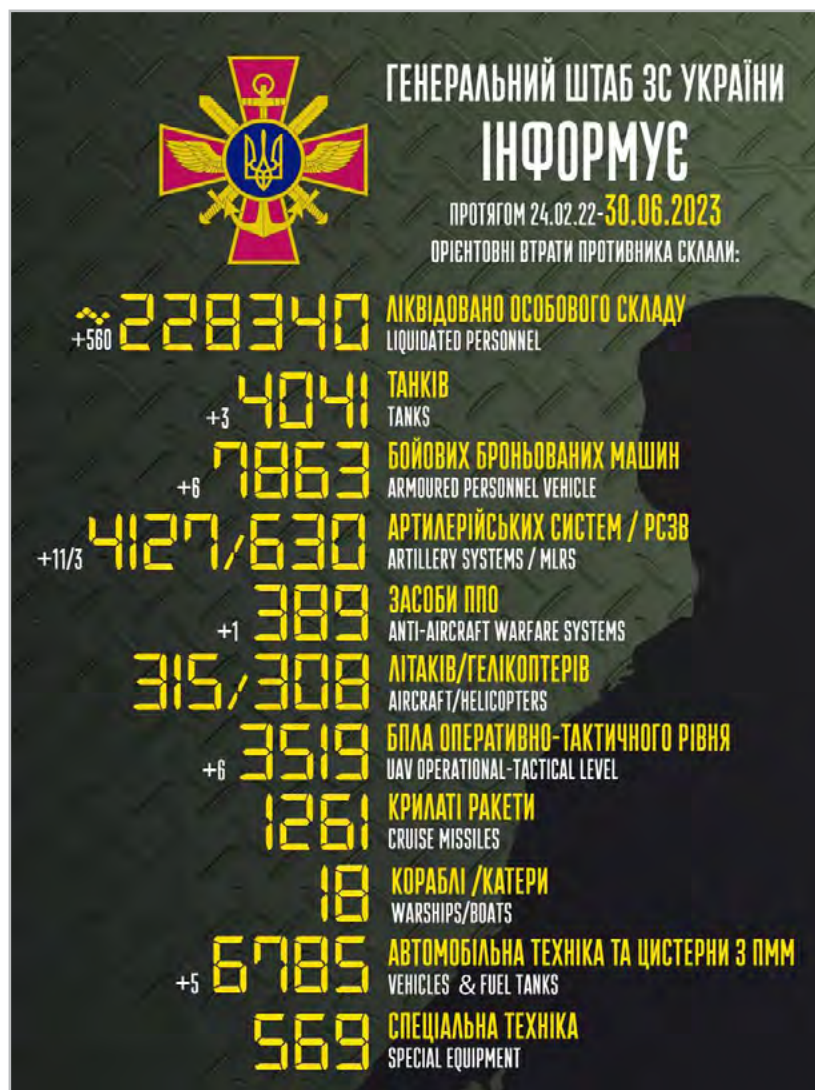
It should be added that information attacks should be expected not only from the Russians, but also from people who cooperate with them. An example was the recent peacekeeping visit to Ukraine by the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa. On June 16, when the delegation arrived in Kyiv, Russia shelled the capital once again, which immediately confirmed the fact that Putin and his army do not respect not only Ukraine but also high-ranking officials from other countries. But unexpectedly, the South African spokesman Vincent Magwenya said on the same day that he believed there was no explosion and that the air raid was "deliberate disinformation": during the alarm, "people were just going about their business." In this regard, I would like to emphasize once again that Ukrainians are used to explosions. And while some people follow safety

rules and go down to bomb shelters, many believe that it's "as lucky as you like," and they still need to work. Many people also want to just relax and live as if there is no war in the country. The Russian media skillfully seized the opportunity and claimed that there was no strike on Kyiv at all, and that the "Kyiv regime" had put on "another show" for foreign guests.

Nowadays, when a huge amount of information comes from unverified sources, anonymous pages with "leaks" on social media, some foreign media are paid with blood money, and even honest and influential communication channels pick up fakes in the wake of news, it is very important to develop your own media literacy and critical thinking. After all, war is not only about fighting – it is, first and foremost, an information war that begins long before the shelling and will continue for years afterwards.

UKRAINIAN NEWS

Total enemy combat losses



According to the General Staff, total enemy combat losses from February 24, 2022 to June 30, 2023 are approximately as follows:

personnel – about 228,340 people were eliminated,
tanks – 4,041 units,
armored personnel carriers – 7,863 units,
artillery systems – 4,127 units,
MLRS – 630 units,
air defense systems – 389 units,
aircraft – 315 units,
helicopters – 308 units,
operational and tactical level UAVs – 3,519 units,
cruise missiles – 1,261 units,
ships and boats – 18 units,

motor vehicles and tankers – 6,785 units,
special equipment – 569 units.

Bucharest Nine countries support Ukraine's accession to NATO

The countries of the Bucharest Nine adopted a declaration supporting Ukraine's accession to NATO and our country's Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

The declaration was signed during the summit in Bratislava by the presi-

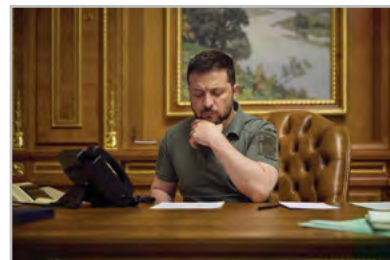


dents of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and the Slovak Republic.

"Ukraine is part of the Euro-Atlantic community, and its security is linked to the security of its allies. We support Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations and the decision taken in 2008 in Bucharest that Ukraine will one day become a NATO member," the declaration reads.

The summit in Bratislava was also attended by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. "The Bucharest Nine expects to take political relations with Ukraine to a new level at the summit in Vilnius in July 2023.

Zelensky: Kakhovka HPP dam was mined and blown up by the occupiers



For over a year now, Russia has been controlling the entire Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant. It is impossible to blow it up from the outside by shelling. The dam was mined and blown up by the Russian occupiers.

This was stated by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his address to the participants of the Bucharest Nine Summit, which he attended on Tuesday, June 6.

According to Zelenskyy, this state of affairs once again proves how Russia treats the people and territories it has seized and what Russia actually brings to Europe and the world.

"This is the largest man-made environmental disaster in Europe in decades. This is the most dangerous terrorist in the world. And that is why

Russia's defeat - a defeat that we will ensure anyway - will be the most significant contribution to the security of our region, our Europe and the whole world," Zelenskyy emphasized.

He thanked all the leaders, states and international organizations that have already condemned the terrorist attack. However, this is not enough to guarantee security, according to the guarantor.

Rammstein-13



On June 15, a meeting was held as part of the Rammstein format.

Minister of Defense Oleksiy Reznikov stated after Ramstein that he was satisfied with the results of the meeting, and also spoke about the partners' commitment to start training pilots of the Armed Forces on Western fighter jets. First, there will be training on the F-16 under the guidance of instructors from the Netherlands and Denmark. Other countries will join later.

Canada

- 288 AIM-7 missiles for air defense of Ukraine for \$500 million;
- 6750 assault rifles;
- 1.1 million cartridges of caliber 7.62 mm;
- 10,000 105-mm artillery shells;
- 250,000 cartridges of 5.56 mm caliber;
- 70 thousand sniper ammunition.
- continuation of the UNIFIER operation to train the Ukrainian military until 2026;
- facilitating the training of F-16 pilots;
- maintenance and support of Ukrainian F-16 aircraft after their transfer to Ukraine;
- continued delivery of Senator armored vehicles (134 out of 200 have already arrived in Ukraine);
- assistance with maintenance of Leopard-2 tanks in Poland.

USA

- air defense systems and missiles for them. In addition, it is important to remind that on the contrary on the day of "Ramstein", Washington approved a \$350 million package. Before it, in particular, it includes ammunition for HIMARS and armored vehicles - 10

Stryker armored personnel carriers and 15 Bradley infantry fighting vehicles. Delivery of these weapons could be quick, as they would be taken from Pentagon warehouses. And this is important against the background of losses that are inevitable during the offensive.

United Kingdom

- air defense systems and hundreds of missiles for them. In addition, the country's Ministry of Defense published an intriguing video of two types of drones: quadcopters that drop something similar to a torpedo into the water, and a large UAV shaped like a monowing. The British did not give details, but said that these will be reconnaissance and strike drones, and the help will arrive in July. The package will also include radars, guns, and a significant amount of ammunition.

Denmark

- a long-term package of military aid worth \$2.6 billion until 2024;

Italy

- emergency means of protection, the details are not specified;

Norway

- multi-year package of defense assistance;

Germany

- multi-year package of defense assistance;

- maintenance of Leopard tanks;
- 64 missiles for the Patriot air defense system.
- 2 Wisent 1 armored demining vehicles, 2 tractors with trailers for transporting heavy equipment and 16 Zetros trucks.

Sweden

- creation of service centers for transferred military equipment near Ukraine;

- testing capabilities of NATO fighters, in particular Gripen, by the Ukrainian military.

Spain

- 20 tracked armored vehicles;

- 4 Leopard 2A4 tanks;
- a Role 2 plus field hospital capable of providing emergency surgical care and treatment.

Denmark and the Netherlands (jointly)

- more air defense systems and hundreds of missiles for them;

- training of Ukrainian pilots;
- 14 Leopard 2 tanks.

The Pentagon announced the total amount of mili-

tary aid to Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian invasion



The US Department of Defense estimated the total amount of military aid to Ukraine at more than 40 billion dollars. This is stated in a statement published on the website of the Pentagon.

It was noted there that the rest of the partners provided the Armed Forces with military aid worth 27 billion dollars. At the same time, the allies trained three times more Ukrainian fighters than the United States.

"Ukraine is assisted by 53 countries, the United States, as a percentage of its gross domestic product, ranks 13th among allies and partner countries that support Ukraine," the Pentagon said in a statement.

Currently, the attention of Western countries is focused on the supply of anti-aircraft defenses, anti-tank systems and ammunition, as well as short- and long-range artillery.

The United States has allocated a new military aid package to Ukraine worth \$325 million



The United States will provide Ukraine with a new batch of weapons and ammunition. The total value of the announced support will be \$325 million.

The aid package includes, among other things, ammunition for NASAMS

and HIMARS, 155-mm and 105-mm artillery shells, 15 Bradley infantry fighting vehicles, 10 Stryker armored personnel carriers, TOW missiles, and more than 22 million rounds of small arms ammunition. The Pentagon noted that this is the 40th package of assistance to the Ukrainian Armed Forces since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion.

US to provide Ukraine with depleted uranium tank shells - WSJ



After several weeks of internal debate, the administration of US President Joe Biden intends to provide Ukraine with depleted uranium tank shells.

The Wall Street Journal reports this with reference to a senior administration official.

The Pentagon wants the American Abrams tanks transferred to Ukraine to be armed with depleted uranium shells, which are regularly used by the US Army and are very effective against Russian tanks.

"The shell hits like a freight train. It is very long and very dense. So it directs a lot of kinetic energy to a specific point in the enemy's armor," explained Rand Corporation military analyst Scott Boston.

Training of Ukrainian pilots on F-16: training center to be located in Eastern Europe

Training of Ukrainian pilots to operate American F-16 fighters will begin in the coming months.

This is stated in a statement by the Dutch Ministry of Defense.

It noted that the Dutch military is already working on a training plan with



Denmark and the United States. In addition, three other countries - Belgium, Luxembourg, and the United Kingdom - are advising the Netherlands on certain issues.

In parallel, the members of the "fighter jet coalition" are setting up a special training center for Ukrainian pilots in an Eastern European country.

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry did not disclose any details. They only noted that the creation of such a center would help meet Ukraine's defense needs in the long term.

Ukraine submitted a request to Australia regarding F-18 fighter jets



Ukraine submitted a request to Australia about the status of dozens of F-18 fighter jets that were decommissioned.

This was announced by the Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia, Vasyl Miroshnychenko.

Today, June 13, it became known that Ukraine had made an initial inquiry into the condition of approximately 41 aircraft stored at an air base north of Sydney. Currently, the Ukrainian side is considering their potential transfer in order to strengthen its own Air Force.

"There was a request for information on the status of the F-18. "Ukraine is considering various possibilities regarding the transfer of fighter jets, including this," the ambassador said.

Russians are preparing a man-made disaster in the temporarily occupied

Crimea - intelligence



In Armyansk, in the north of the Crimean peninsula, Russians are preparing to evacuate both representatives of the occupation administration and the local population. This was reported by Ukrainian intelligence on Telegram.

Due to the lack of water in the North Crimean Canal as a result of the explosion of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant, production processes at the Crimean Titan plant in Armyansk have been disrupted to a critical level. The Russians are unable to resume work in the minimum proper mode. Information about the possible shutdown of the plant is being spread in the city.

At the same time, according to intelligence, the occupation army's engineering units have been mining the plant's workshops, which are still operating, and planting explosives near the plant over the past few days.

A terrorist attack on the Crimean Titan, which the invaders are preparing for, would mean an artificial man-made disaster, terrible in its consequences.

EU countries close to agreeing on plan to transfer frozen Russian assets to Ukraine - CNBC



The European Union is close to agreeing on a detailed plan to use frozen Russian assets to rebuild Ukraine. This was reported by CNBC, citing officials familiar with the situation.

According to open sources, Russian assets totaling more than 220 billion euros are stored in EU countries. These assets were frozen by European authorities after Russia's invasion of Ukraine to punish the Kremlin for its aggression.

"We have had quite lengthy discussions on how to use these assets to pay for Ukraine's recovery. I hope we will be able to voice our ideas soon, at least on the proceeds of the frozen assets," said one of the officials.

At the same time, the EU emphasized that the transfer of confiscated funds is a very complicated process.

The war in Ukraine has led to the larg-

est increase in the number of refugees in decades



The full-scale war in Ukraine has resulted in the largest annual increase in the number of people forcibly displaced by persecution, conflict, violence and human rights violations in decades.

In 2022, the number of displaced people increased by 21% and amounted to 108.4 million by the end of the year. The UN believes that this number may have increased to more than 110 million in May. The main factors behind the increase are Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the war in Sudan.

"These figures show us that some people are too quick to decide on conflict and too slow to find solutions. The consequence is devastation, displacement and suffering for each of the millions of people forcibly displaced from their homes," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

Among the internally displaced people, 35.3 million were refugees who fled abroad in search of safety. And 62.5 million people (58%) were internally displaced.



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KAKHOVKA HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT EXPLOSION

WHAT THREATS TO UKRAINE AND THE WORLD FROM A MAN-MADE DISASTER



Inna Mikhno

On the night of June 6, the Russian occupiers blew up the dam of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant. The explosion has already been called an ecocide and the largest man-made disaster in Europe in a decade, which is identical to a nuclear explosion. About 80 settlements were in the flood zone, and in some places the flooding reached the level of the roofs of private houses. The Ukrainian authorities, together with the services and volunteers, did their best to rescue people and animals. At the moment, the biosystem of the southern Dnipro delta, the irrigation system and water supply facilities that supplied water to the Crimean peninsula have been destroyed. Fields mined by the occupiers have also been washed away. But worst of all, the threat of a nuclear attack at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant was created. According to the Geneva Convention, all these actions constitute a war crime.

Last year, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that the occupiers would mine the dam and oth-

er structures of the plant. As a result, the consequences of the tragedy were terrible. The high water left thousands of people homeless and destitute. The worst part is that it took the lives of at least 17 people. 68% of the flooded territory is occupied by Russia, so it is unknown how many people died there. Wild animals are also dying.

We talked to Viktor Vyshnevsky, a hydrologist and doctor of geographical sciences, about the consequences of the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station and the threats posed by the shallowing of the reservoir.

Tons of water rushed in

According to Viktor Vyshnevsky, the Kakhovka dam was built on silted sands that are easily eroded. This played a fatal role: the dam, which was blown up in one town, gradually "slipped" almost completely:

"A piece of the right spillway remained of the dam. Any rocket with several hundred kilograms of explosives is not capable of destroying any hydroelectric facility on the Dnipro, these are solid structures. A missile can create a hole of, for example, 10 meters. In the Kakhovka dam, however, a hole of

several hundred meters was created, so it is clear that everything was planted from the inside, and the amount of explosives was estimated at tons, if not tens of tons. We have lost an important hydroelectric power plant, and it is impossible to restore it in a year. If we manage to build the hydroelectric power plant in five years, it will be a very positive result," says scientist Vyshnevsky.

Kakhovka Reservoir is the second largest reservoir of the six cascade reservoirs in Ukraine (2,155 square kilometers) and the first largest (18.19 cubic kilometers of drinking water), located in three regions with a length of 240 km. The reservoir's fauna included more than 150 species of zooplankton, more than 180 invertebrates, and 56 species of fish.

According to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, the estimated amount of damage caused by the explosion of the Kakhovka HPP for Ukraine is already UAH 55 billion.

The lower reaches

According to hydrologist Viktor Vyshnevsky, after the explosion, the water level that reached Kherson was

in some places more than five meters. As a result, we have four partially flooded cities (Nova Kakhovka, Oleshky, Hola Prystan, Kherson) and several dozen villages.

"Between Kherson and Hola Prystan, the only village in Ukraine that was one meter above the water level was flooded. This is Bilohrudove. In addition, the water level rose in the Ingulets River, which is a tributary of the Dniro, and spread upstream. Business facilities and residential buildings have been flooded, and there are inevitable casualties," he says.

In addition, he said, the area of about 350 km along the Dniro riverbed will either be flooded or dehydrated.

"When the reservoir is empty, part of the area below, which was flooded, may grow grass and reeds – and this is not the worst option. But the part that is higher than the lower pool will dry out very quickly, become covered with cracks and crust, and will not be used in any way. In a spectacular summer, the wind rose will carry dust with all the heavy toxic elements from industrial activity that have been deposited at the bottom of the repository for years," he added.

Consequences for the economy and industry

The economic losses associated with the liquidation of the consequences of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant explosion will be enormous.

"We can debate the validity of the hydroelectric power plant construction. But it was built and began to be used intensively. The Dniro water was supplied to the south of Kherson region and stretched as far as the Kerch Peninsula. The North Crimean Canal will be the first to stop functioning for at least 5 years. And during these years, the hydraulic structures will fall into disrepair. Everything will have to be restored. This will apply to both the Kherson region and Crimea," says Viktor Vyshnevsky.

He added that the 130-kilometer-long Kakhovka Main Canal originated from the Kakhovka Reservoir and was used primarily for irrigation of the eastern part of Kherson Oblast. It also served as a water supply line to the city of Melitopol. Therefore, irrigation on the basis of this canal will also stop. Another canal was located not far from the city of Nikopol – Dniro – Kryvyi Rih. Its main use is to supply water to the Kryvyi Rih industrial hub.

"Not far from Kryvyi Rih, there is a thermal power plant that was powered by the canal. Its operation will gradually stop. The city will also face





problems with water supply. Water was taken from the reservoir to support a number of irrigation systems. This is the South Rogachiv irrigation system. Irrigation in Kherson region, Crimea and part of Zaporizhzhia region will be suspended for a long time. In addition to the Zaporizhzhia NPP, there is also a thermal power plant in Enerhodar," the scientist says.

As of June 8, water intake from the reservoir to settlements and for the Zaporizhzhia NPP became impossible, as the water level dropped to a dead point of 12.5 meters. The Ministry of Environmental Protection noted that a drop of 13.2 meters already jeopardizes the cooling of the NPP reactors.

Implications for shipping and fisheries

The shipping industry will also come to a standstill with the possibility of ships leaving other river ports for the Black Sea. Previously, below Kyiv, all ships were guaranteed a depth of 3.65 meters, which allowed the largest cruise ships to safely use the reservoirs. According to the scientist, we also lost a reservoir that was of great importance for the country's fisheries.

"Although there are six reservoirs along the entire length of the Dnipro, only two of them actually provided 80% of the total catch. These are the Kremenchuk and Kakhovka reservoirs. More than a thousand people worked

at the Kakhovka reservoir, simply fishing for their livelihood. Thousands of tons of fish were taken to the lower reservoir, and the vast majority of them died when they found themselves on land and in unusual conditions with higher salinity," Vyshnevsky added.

According to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, the losses to the fishing industry from the massive fish kill at the hydroelectric power plants could reach about UAH 4 billion, and losses from the death of all biological resources could reach up to UAH 10.5 billion. And the water industry will feel these consequences for years to come until the fish population is fully restored.

Consequences for the population

Among other things, waste storage facilities, house sewers, etc. were submerged. Industrial facilities with harmful and toxic substances (chlorine, ammonia, oil products) were also destroyed.

"The water is polluted not only in the mouth of the Dnipro, but also in the Dniro-Bug estuary and the Black Sea. The Black Sea current exists in the latter under the influence of the prevailing winds. The movement of water in the current is counterclockwise. This means that contaminated water from the estuary flows into the Gulf of Odesa and pollutes the beaches of Odesa, the cities of Chornomorsk, Za-

toka, and southern villages, including the mouth of the Danube. The coastlines of Romania and Bulgaria will be contaminated by the current. It is likely that contaminated water will be captured in the Bosphorus. Theoretically, this water could reach Georgia and the Krasnodar Territory. This concerns primarily bacteriological contamination," the scientist noted.

As of June 12, the Ministry of Health has already recorded a sharp jump in the number of pathogens in the water that can cause serious infectious diseases. After the explosion, the quality of drinking water deteriorated sharply in five regions of Ukraine. And at a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council on June 6, it was announced that 150 tons of machine oil had been released into the Dnipro River in addition to the usual amount.

The cities of Kryvyi Rih, Nikopol, Marhanets, Bilozirka, and dozens of villages used water from the reservoir for their own needs.

According to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, about 1 million people will be left without drinking water. This will threaten the epidemiological situation in the Black Sea region.

Is it worth rebuilding?

According to hydrologist Vyshnevsky, if the Kakhovka reservoir is not restored, it will be necessary to com-



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"ZNPP. The cheapest option is about \$2 billion for one power unit. It's absurd to abandon the most powerful nuclear power plant; the use of pumps is possible, but it is an additional cost." The reservoir generated electricity, was used for shipping, drinking and industrial water supply, irrigation, fisheries, etc. There is nothing but silt on the flooded 2,000 square kilometers. It will be impossible to use this land for agriculture for at least the next 10 years. The Velykyi Luh with its sandy arms and ecosystem was destroyed 70 years ago. It can be restored, but it will take decades," he says.

Therefore, in his opinion, the reservoir needs to be restored and in the same place.

"If the reservoir is built 500 meters lower, part of Kakhovka will be flooded as a result of a 16-meter rise in the water level. If it is built 500 meters higher, it will be impossible to supply water to the North Crimean Canal. Drinking water is taken either from rivers that

provide sufficient quality or from underground sources. There are no such sources in the Kherson region, except for the Dnipro. The Ingulets River has very poor water quality, with water discharged from mines, quarries in Kryvyi Rih and sewage. It is not suitable for long-term consumption. Askania Nova exists solely thanks to underground water sources. Not everywhere in the Kherson region has such sources, so there is no alternative but to bring water. And every person with all the utility needs needs at least 50 liters of water per day to function," he summarized.

It is worth noting that Ukrhydroenergo estimates that the restoration of the hydroelectric power plant will cost the country about \$1 billion.

Ecocide

Ukraine is currently facing a real environmental problem. Other world-famous sites with protected status are also suffering from the occupier's actions. These include Dzharylgach Island and the Kinburn Peninsula, the Oputsky Reserve, where Russia has set up military training grounds, the Askania Nova Reserve in the Kherson region, the underwater inhabitants of

the Black and Azov Seas, and Khortyt-sia Island in Zaporizhzhia. Due to the dam blowing up, the Nizhnedniprovsky National Park was flooded and such a natural protected area as the Oleshky Sands with rare species of animals and plants was threatened with extinction.

Ukraine needs the world's attention as never before

According to Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, the explosion of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant is a war crime and that the only way to stop the biggest terrorist of the 21st century, Russia, is to expel it from Ukraine.

The least we can do is speak out and draw attention to the scale of the disaster.

For example, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has already announced that for three months the United States will provide financial assistance to Ukrainians (\$608,000) who suffered as a result of the hydroelectric power plant. And the Pentagon intends to announce a new package of military aid to Ukraine worth more than \$2 billion, and Canada - \$400 million.

ДЛЯ ДІТЕЙ

Лебідь, щука і рак

Плавав собі лебідь біля берега. Зігнувши шию, дивився у воду. А назустріч йому – щука. Зупинилась і питає:

– Скажи, будь ласкавий, де ти буваєш, коли річка замерзає?

– А для чого це тобі знати?

– Та я хотіла б на зиму кудись втекти, а то під льодом задихаюся без свіжого повітря.

– Я на зиму відлітаю до теплих країв та живу там до весни.

– Візьми і мене з собою! – попросила щука.

– Домовились.

Почув їхню розмову рак і каже:

– Можна і мені з вами?

– Добре, якщо дуже хочеш.

Минуло літо, настала осінь. Лебідь і говорить:

– Будьте готові на завтра. Після обіду вилітаємо.



Щука сказала ракові збиратися.

Рак подумав, подумав і мовить:

– А як же ми, сестро, будемо жити без їжі?

Давай візьмемо з собою харчів.

– І куди ми їх покладемо?

– Давай складемо все на віз та

впряжёмось у нього.

Рак і щука знайшли віз, покладали туди харчі та чекають лебедя. Другого дня прилетів лебідь і каже:

– Ну, ви готові? А то я вже лечу!

– Готові, готові, тільки ти, будь ласка, допоможи нам

тягнути віз.

– Добре. Чіпляйте мені мотузку за ногу.

Рак прив'язав лебедя за ногу. Свою мотузку взяв у клешні, а щука за третю вчепилася зубами.

– Ну, разом!

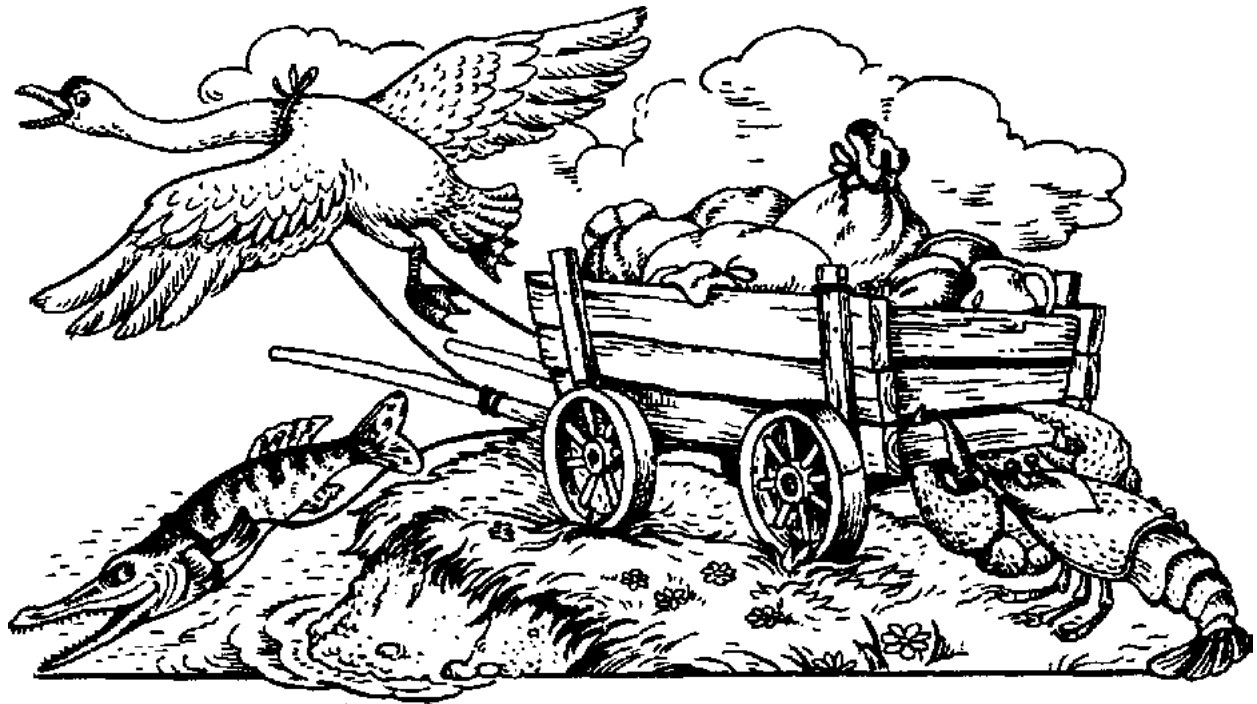
Рушаймо!

Рак посунув назад, щука стрілою

розігналась у воду,

а лебідь підлетів вгору. Обірвались всі три мотузки і віз залишився на тому ж місці, де й стояв.

Тільки жабки добре насміялись і немало дивувались, як лебідь, рак і щука не вміли злагодити поїздку.



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99					100						101			

ЗА ГОРИЗОНТАЛЛЮ:

1. Обрядова каша з ячмінних або пшеничних зерен, уживана з солодкою підливою напередодні Різдва чи Водохреща. 4. Тисяча кілограмів. 8. Сукупність предметів, виробів (із тканини, хутра, шкіри), якими покривають тіло. 11. Потяг до чого-небудь. 13. Відчайдушна людина, яка нічого не боїться, яку не спинає ніяка небезпека. 15. Стара назва літери «а». 17. ...-д'Івуар (державна в західній Африці, що межує на півночі з Малі і Буркіна-Фасо, на сході з Ганою, на заході з Ліберією і Гвінеєю, на півдні омивається Гвінейською затокою). 19. Естонський хижий звір родини котячих із короткою жовтою шерстю і довгою пишною гривою у самців. 27. Низький чоловічий голос. 29. Сигнал тривоги у випадку якого-небудь нещастя. 30. Форма спільності людей за первіснообщинного ладу, господарського і соціального об'єднання кровних родичів. 32. Кухар на кораблі. 34. Муніципалітет у Франції, у регіоні Нор-Па-де-Кале, департамент Нор. 35. Американський фізик-теоретик, який був удостоєний Нобелівської премії з хімії в 1998 році за розвиток теорії функціонала електронної густини. 37. Притока річки Міссісіпі, що протікає територією США. 39. Невеликий зал, кімната перед головним залом у великих громадських будинках, палацах. 41. Південна трав'яниста, рідше кущова рослина з великими зубчастими листками. 42. Те саме, що долина. 44. Навальний напад війська на ворога. 45. Японська настільна гра. 48. Розмінна монета Соціалістичної Республіки В'єтнам, дорівнює 1/100 Донга. 49. Представник групи ймовірно слов'янських племен, що згадуються візантійськими авторами з 4 ст. до початку 7 ст. 51. Арвідас Ромас ... (відомий радянський литовський баскетболіст). 55. Тонкі дошки. 56. Нижня опорна частина чого-небудь (будівлі, споруди, конструкції і т. ін.). 57. Заздалегідь обдуманий план, намір, переважно таємний, вартий осуду. 58. Жаляча комаха. 59. Голкіпер. 61. Електричний прилад для сушіння волосся, рук і т. ін.

струменем нагрітого повітря. 63. Пістолет Токарева. 66. Сімнадцята літера грецької абетки. 67. Жіноче ім'я (від грецьк. пустеля). 70. Місце з'єднання зшитих кусків тканини, шкіри і т. ін. 72. Міра ваги коштовного каменю, що дорівнює 0,2 грама. 74. Фахівець з історії. 75. Чоловіче ім'я (грец. непереможний). 76. Ім'я 3-го президента Хорватії Йосиповича. 77. Одиниця вимірювання потужності в Міжнародній системі одиниць. 79. Гучний, протягливий крик тварини. 80. Шлях, засіб, рух духовної практики в буддизмі, завдяки якому досягають просвітлення. 81. Револьвер особливої системи з обертовим барабаном. 83. Святий ... (старозавітний праведник). 85. Ірландська республіканська армія. 86. Хімічний елемент, що належить до VII групи періодичної системи, який з металами утворює солі. 88. Звуконаслідування, що означає звук капання. 90. Мілілітр. 91. Зухвала, груба, нахабна людина. 92. У Давній Греції — музичний жанр, присвячений Аполлону. 94. В давньоєгипетській релігії — бог Сонця, творець світу. 95. Те саме, що насіння. 97. Англійський філософ-схоласт, францисканець. 99. Представник народності, яка живе на узбережжі Охотського моря і в північних районах Якутії. 100. У деяких країнах Східної й Південної Азії та Африки — легка двоколісна ресорна коляска, в яку впрягається людина. 101. ...-Грусть (історична місцевість Києва).

ЗА ВЕРТИКАЛЛЮ:

1. Родова громада, рід. 2. Торговельна надбавка. 3. ... Має (естонський лижник, олімпійський медаліст). 4. Хімічний елемент, проста речовина якого — легкий сріблястий метал — міцний і корозійностійкий. 5. ... Паркер (британський сценарист, режисер, продюсер — стрічки «Now Is Good», 2012; «The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel», 2011). 6. Висловлення заохочення, спонукання до дії. 7. Представник, довірена особа організації, установи і т. ін., що виконує різні доручення, завдання. 8. Одиничний вектор. 9. ...-капо (у музиці — «спочатку» (знак повторення)). 10. Почуття сильного обурення. 12. Велике приміщення, призначене для чого-небудь. 14. Художній фільм режисера Олександра Іва-

нівського (кіностудія «Радянське кіно», 1928 р.). 16. Осіння оранка поля для сіяння ярх культур на весні. 18. Річка на Північному Кавказі, ліва притока річки Кубань. 20. Густа солодка маса, яку бджоли виробляють із нектару квітів. 22. Чорна мазь для змащування шкіряного взуття. 24. Фенольна сполука рослинного походження, що містить велике число гідроксильних груп. 25. Нагромадження чого-небудь у великій кількості. 26. Оптичне скло, обмежене двома сферичними поверхнями або однією сферичною та однією плоскою, здатне збирати або розсіювати промені, що проходять крізь нього. 28. Вічнозелене хвойне дерево. 30. ...-Кінон-Тав (область в складі Уельсу, розташована на півдні країни). 31. Наліт у роті, на губах від спраги. 33. Геометрична фігура, утворена двома лініями, що виходять з однієї точки. 35. Останній правитель I династії Ранняго царства Давнього Єгипту (бл. 2890 до н. е.). 36. Санта ... (різдвяний персонаж в західних країнах). 38. Стіна із вставленими в неї іконами, яка в православній церкві відокремлює вівтар від центральної частини. 40. Підліток, юнак, який внаслідок акселерації є вищим на зріст, фізично більше розвинутим, ніж його ровесники попередніх поколінь. 43. Місто в Японії, в префектурі Сідзуока. 46. Місто, де проводиться Всесвітній економічний форум. 47. Німецький математик, який дослідив властивості дзета-функції і показав її зв'язок із розподілом простих чисел. 50. Чотирнадцята літера вірменської абетки. 51. Муніципалітет у Франції, у регіоні Лангедок-Руссільйон, департамент Гар. 52. Невеликий ресторан, в якому напої та закуски споживають біля стойки буфету або за столиками. 53. В релігії давніх єгиптян — богиня неба, дружина бога землі Геба. 54. Харчовий продукт, що його одержують із молока при його сквашуванні й відокремленні сироватки. 55. Однорічна трав'яниста теплолюбна рослина родини злакових. 58. Незамурована частина стіни, споруди, різної форми і призначення. 60. Місто в Японії, у префектурі Фукуї. 62. Нотаріус. 64. Російська фігуристка. 65. Слуга у панів або при ресторані, готелі (в поміщицькому та буржуазному побуті). 68. Вертикаль-

VOCAL STUDIO

Oleksandra Zabashta


Oleksandra Zabashta is an opera and chamber singer, vocal teacher, soloist of the Kyiv Operetta Theater, soloist of the National Honored Academic Ukrainian Folk Choir H. Verivka



- Vocal lessons for children and adults
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- Work on vocal breathing, sound management, intonation, diction and musical image
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 lesia.zabashta@gmail.com

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Стипендія ім. С. Вовка/СУА 2023 року надаватиметься особам українського походження, зокрема українцям Америки, які закінчили перший курс акредитованого університету. Вони повинні бути студентами денної форми навчання та мати середній бал не нижчий, ніж 3,5. Грант у розмірі \$4000 буде доступний для студентів, магістрантів та аспірантів у таких галузях:

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- медицина
- право
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Кінцевий термін подачі заявок — 1 червня 2023 року. Зацікавлені заявники можуть ознайомитися з детальнішою інформацією за посиланням: www.unwla.org

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на частина будови, яка служить для підтримання перекриттів і для розділення приміщення на частини і т. ін. 69. Муніципалітет у Франції, у регіоні Аквітанія, департамент Атлантичні Піренеї. 70. Навальний, різкий раптовий порив сильного вітру (іноді з дощем). 71. Той, хто керує ватагою. 72. Плосковерхі плато або останці, звичайно з крутими чи обривистими схилами, головним чином у Середній Азії. 73. Короткий, різкий, поривчастий рух

кого-, чого-небудь. 78. Колишня дрібна монета Ізраїлю, що дорівнювала 1/100 ізраїльського фунта. 80. У середньовічній Скандинавії — знатна людина. 81. Задум, бажання зробити щонебудь. 82. Представниця самодійського автохтонного народу на півночі Євразії (Росія). 84. Згущена варінням смола. 85. ... Кальман (угорський композитор). 86. Горюча рідина, продукт перегонки нафти. 87. Кінцева частина всіх горизонтальних або похилих

рангоутних дерев. 89. Чітко окреслена, глибока, неширока долина, яр чи річище, звичайно порослі лісом. 91. Титул монарха, феодального правителя в багатьох країнах Сходу в середні віки, а також особа, що мала цей титул. 93. Трав'яниста рослина з довгим стеблом і великими квітками (переважно червоного кольору). 95. Муніципалітет в Італії, у регіоні Лігурія, провінція Генуя. 96. Не ми, а 97. Обласний центр в Киргизстані. 98. Я і ти.

ВІДПОВІДІ ДО КРОСВОРДУ

3а горизонтально: 1. Кутя. 4. Тонна. 8. Одяг. 11. Нахил. 13. Угара. 15. Аз. 17. Кот. 19. Ест. 20. Мі. 21. Нав. 23. Латанія. 26. Лев. 27. Бас. 29. Набат. 30. Рід. 32. Кок. 34. Нав. 37. Кон. 38. Місюрі. 39. Аванзал. 41. Акант. 42. Діл. 44. Атака. 45. Го. 48. Су. 49. Ант. 51. Кабоніс. 55. Тес. 56. Основа. 57. Умисел. 58. Оса. 59. Ворота. 61. Фен. 63. Тр. 66. Ро. 67. Васа. 70. Шов. 72. Карат. 74. Історик. 75. Анкита. 76. Іво. 77. Вар. 79. Рев. 80. Яна. 81. Наран. 83. Нов. 85. Іра. 86. Галоген. 88. Кан. 90. Мі. 91. Хам. 92. Ном. 94. Па. 95. Насів. 97. Оккам. 99. Евен. 100. Рикша. 101. Кинь.

3а вертикально: 1. Клан. 2. Тн. 3. Як. 4. Титан. 5. Ол. 6. Нй. 7. Агнт. 8. Орт. 9. Да. 10. Гнів. 12. Хол. 14. Ася. 16. Зяб. 18. Лаба. 20. Мед. 22. Вакса. 24. Танід. 25. Навап. 26. Лініза. 28. Сосна. 30. Ронта. 31. Смара. 33. Кут. 35. Каа. 36. Кляус. 38. Іконоста. 40. Аксеперат. 43. Іто. 46. Давос. 47. Ріман. 50. Тс. 51. Сов. 52. Вар. 53. Нут. 54. Сир. 55. Тей. 58. Отір. 60. Оно. 62. Нотар. 64. Усова. 65. Лакей. 68. Стіна. 69. Аро. 70. Шкал. 71. Батар. 72. Кир. 73. Ривок. 78. Ароп. 80. Ярл. 81. Намір. 82. Ненка. 84. Вар. 85. Імре. 86. Гас. 87. Нок. 89. Падь. 91. Хан. 93. Мак. 95. Не. 96. Ви. 97. Ош. 98. Мі.

AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY THROUGH THE EYES OF A UKRAINIAN IMMIGRANT

Myroslav Hrehk

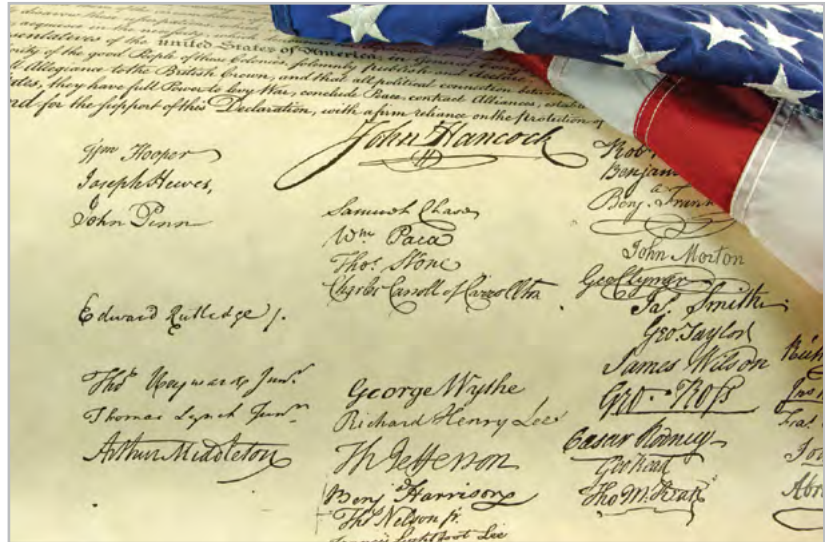
When we say America, we usually mean the United States of America. On July 4, the United States will celebrate its Independence Day for the 247th time, Independence Day, as Americans themselves call it – the holiday – Fourth of July.

Despite the fact that Independence Day is officially celebrated on July 4, the final wording of the Declaration of the North American Colonies was approved two days earlier – on July 2, 1776. It was only on July 4 that representatives of 13 states at the Second Continental Congress decided the fate of further relations with London by adopting the Declaration of Independence, in which the colonies were first called the “United States of America” and proclaimed an independent state.

The main compiler of the document was a prominent figure of the American Revolution, diplomat and philosopher of the Enlightenment (in the future the 3rd President of the United States (in 1801-1809) Thomas Jefferson, who gave the document literary perfection, providing it with colorful, but at the same time, accessible literary phrases. Together with him, another future US president, John Adams, as well as Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston, worked on the document. In American historiography, the authors and signatories of the Declaration are called the Founding Fathers, and they have such authority that when controversial issues arise in the interpretation of the US Constitution or laws, lawyers take into account their views recorded in manuscripts, books, and even personal correspondence.

The fate of some of the 56 Founding Fathers who signed the document on August 2, 1776, is interesting: nine of them died during the War of Independence, five were captured by British troops and executed for treason. The aforementioned Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on the same day and exactly half a century after the signing of the Declaration, on July 4, 1826.

The US national flag is a historical echo of those events: today, it features 50 stars (according to the number of states), plus seven red stripes and six white stripes, symbolizing the first 13



states that signed the Declaration.

The first Independence Day celebration took place on July 8, 1776 in Philadelphia. On that day, the Declaration of Independence was read publicly for the first time after people gathered at the Liberty Bell Square.

It is known that turkey was suggested by Benjamin Franklin as a traditional dish for celebrating Independence Day. Fireworks are an integral part of the celebration of this day.

The Declaration of Independence itself proclaimed the principle of popular sovereignty as the basis of the state system and rejected the monarchical theory of the divine origin of power that prevailed at the time. In opposition to the British crown, the Founding Fathers (including aristocrats of British descent) confirmed the right of the people to revolt and overthrow the despotic government, declaring the inalienable rights of every person inviolable, namely, “the right to life, liberty, and the right to happiness.”

The right to life, liberty and happiness. These words have always been relevant, especially now, when there is a war in Ukraine, and when the racists want to take away this right from the Ukrainian people.

Coming back to the understanding and perception of America, I remember when I was a little boy, it was perceived as something big and wealthy, distant and unattainable. Packages from America came to the village, filled with all kinds of good things that were

not available in stores. People who received these packages were considered lucky, rich. They distributed these things among their families, sometimes even selling them to neighbors and friends. In general, it was believed that those who had come to America to work before the Soviet regime had become rich and should help their poor relatives back home.

My great-grandfather Mykhailo also went to the United States in the early 20th century, worked there, sent money, and then they used to send it to my great-grandmother Anna (I called her grandmother Anna), and she used it to buy land and expand her farm. They used to say that land is iron capital – it will not burn in the fire, nor will water take it away. The Muscovites came and took it away without fire or water. So, he invited his grandmother Anna to come with the children to his place, because it was good there. However, my grandmother was afraid to sail on the ship, as she called it, “on the slate,” and begged him to come back. He did return. And soon the First World War began, and he was taken to the Austrian army to the front, from where he never returned. I remember how my grandmother Anna was constantly complaining, she could not forgive herself: “Why didn’t I listen to him, why didn’t I go to America,” because the Soviets came, took the land, robbed the farm, and killed the children who became adults and went against them.



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Heavy memories...

I return to the words right to life, freedom, and happiness. The key, in my opinion, is freedom, because having it, you can build a happy life for yourself. And America is first and foremost about freedom. Freedom of thought, speech, and action. It is also freedom of creativity, the possibility of free, purposeful, often hard work. That is why the United States is a rich and prosperous country, the richest in the world. It provides all of its citizens with opportunities for a happy life: young people with access to comprehensive development and quality education, adults with access to professional growth and gainful employment, and the elderly with access to a comfortable life. For this reason, it attracts emigrants from different countries like a magnet.

However, this freedom is not permissive; it cannot restrict or harm the freedom of other people. Therefore, there are restrictive measures in place in the form of laws, law enforcement agencies, and most importantly, moral and restraining principles. In America, it is a shame to be a thief, a bandit, a liar. This causes public and individual condemnation. Being an honest person is more important here than any benefits or wealth. In addition, it has a beneficial effect on a person's well-being, moral, psychological and even physical condition. "I am an honest person!" – an average American can proudly say about himself.

Honesty goes hand in hand with the kindness and goodwill of Americans.

An immigrant woman who finished her housework early, went out and sat down to rest on the side of the road, waiting for a public transport, was pleasantly surprised when passing cars stopped and people asked if she was okay, if she needed help. Eventually, fleeing from this pleasant obsession, she had to return to the house. These expressions of friendliness and willingness to help can be found at every turn – in a store, in public transport, on the street, in public places.

Of course, the most important thing is freedom of choice. Starting from the choice of school, profession, way of communication and life to the choice of the government. The opinion of the majority of society is the cornerstone in building foreign and domestic policies and development strategies. This is true democracy (the power of the people), not the fake democracy that existed in the former Soviet Union and now exists in Russia, Belarus, and some Central Asian countries.

Important in this regard is the ability of the state to reliably defend its freedom, democracy and independence from encroachments by envious neighbors, open and hidden enemies. This function is performed by the armed forces. The United States has created the most powerful army in the world, highly technological and progressive. It is the main one in the NATO bloc, a guarantor of security and protection of other democracies in Europe and in different parts of the world. The United States of America

is the largest supplier of weapons to our Armed Forces in the fight against the racist aggressor, the largest financial donor, and an assistant in training and instructing our military. Without their help, Ukraine would not have been able to successfully fight and defeat the Muscovites. Many thanks to them for that!

Of course, a country as big as the United States has its problems, and there are pages of history that do not embellish it. One of them is the deportation of Japanese to concentration camps during World War II, which is now being mentioned by some politicians and talked about a lot in an effort to humiliate America. However, these are far from the kind of camps that were in Nazi Germany, and the government recognized this mistake at the time and apologized to the Japanese. The problem of racism is still a heavy burden. And in this matter, the state is doing everything possible to get rid of it, so that all nationalities can live happily, so that in reality, not just in declarations, all citizens have equal rights and freedoms. The strength of the state lies not in the fact that it does not make mistakes, but in recognizing them and successfully correcting them.

I don't know what the world would be like if there were no USA, but I know for sure that human civilization would be different, and it would probably lose a lot. So, long live and prosper America! And Glory to Ukraine!

Oleh Solyar



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EVENTS 2023

JULY

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22 JUL UKRAINIAN SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL & FUNDRAISER

Jing Li and Toni Gale

Where: Odd Fellows Cupertino 70 Lodge

When: Saturday, 4 PM – 7 PM

Following the success of last summer's fundraiser, join us on July 22nd at the Odd Fellows Lodge in Cupertino as we gather with friends to enjoy food, music, and drinks to celebrate the resilience of the Ukrainian people! This event is co-sponsored by the Odd Fellows Lodge 70 and the NorCal Peace Corps Association. Слава Україні! Glory to Ukraine!

Guests will enjoy a traditional 3-course Ukrainian dinner prepared by returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Ukraine. The event will also feature Ukrainian guest speakers and stories from other returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Ukraine.

Tickets start at \$10

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1210624642940906/>

22-23 JUL UKRAINE: RUN TO REBUILD SCHOOLS San Francisco Marathon

ReimagineUkraine.org

Where: San Francisco

When: Saturday, Sunday

Our fundraising campaign aims at helping children in Ukraine regain access to safe school education that they have lost due to the unprovoked Russian war against Ukraine. To accomplish this goal, we partnered with a trustworthy direct-action Ukrainian non-profit organization, savED, which works to restore school infrastructure. SavED is co-founded and run by the ex-Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, Anna Novosad, with all the funds going directly toward the most immediate and impactful ways of restoring kids' access to education.

Reimagine Ukraine Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization. Donations and gifts are deductible to the full extent allowable under IRS regulations (EIN: 92-0296559).

This year we are teaming up with the SF Marathon to raise money to rebuild schools in Ukraine. Run a family 1K, 5K, 10K, Half Marathon, Marathon or an Ultra race with us.

<https://donorbox.org/ukraine-run-to-rebuild-schools>

3 AUG STEPAN GIGA – SAN FRANCISCO – USA & CANADA

ATLAS Entertainment

Where: City Nights 715 Harrison Street San Francisco, CA 94107 United States

When: Thu, 7 PM - 10 PM

Discover Ukrainian music – attend Stepan Giga's live performance on August 3 in San Francisco!

Stepan Giga is a singer, composer, and People's Artist of Ukraine. He has released 5 music albums and has received 3 "Golden Disk" awards.

Stepan Giga has become the voice of several generations of Ukrainians – his songs are passionately sung by both the youth and adults.

Moreover, this tour has a charitable purpose! A portion of the proceeds from this tour by ATLAS Entertainment will be donated to the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Tickets start at \$35

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/stepan-giga-san-francisco-usa-canada-2023-tickets-646262387197>

5 AUG 5'NIZZA NORTH AMERICAN TOUR 2023 | SAN FRANCISCO

ATLAS Entertainment

Where: City Nights, 715 Harrison St, San Francisco, CA

When: Saturday, 7 PM

Serhiy Babkin and Andriy Zaporozhets will perform in eight cities, including Vancouver, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Chicago and Toronto.

Only the most famous songs, including Jamaica, Soldier, Arrow, I believe in you; only the most sincere acoustic guitar chords, light percussion and two voices that slowly immerse you in the rhythms of reggae, funk, rock and hip-hop.

This special musical blend of lyricism and healthy sarcasm hits all

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the vital points at once, bringing each of us back to carefree youth when the trees were taller.

For two decades now, 5'NIZZA has been delighting listeners with incomparable songwriting, lyrical lyrics and skillful wordplay.

Tickets start at \$20

<https://bomond.com/events/5-nizza-north-american-tour-2023-san-francisco>

24 AUG

ARTEM PIVOVAROV – LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO

ARTEM PIVOVAROV, FishCanFly

Where: 3140 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94110

When: Thursday, 9 PM

Artem Pivovarov with a big charity tour in the USA and Canada!

Artem Pyvovarov is an original

Ukrainian artist, whose songs instantly become hits and become #1 on the charts. The winner of the Yuna award "Best Artist" and "Hit of the Year".

At the concerts, you will hear your favorite hits, including "Дежавю", "Міраж", "Рандеву", "Думи", and you will be able to recharge yourself with positive emotions because Pivovarov Team concerts are always sincere communication and energy exchange.

<https://eventcartel.com/events/artem-pivovarov-live-2-tickets-7107/?promo=0afb58c725dac18b25da4a17b1dc5fe>

UKRAINIAN HEROES WITH THE PROTEZ FOUNDATION IN SAN FRANCISCO

Dear friends,

Thank you for coming yesterday, June 9th and for supporting our Ukrainian Heroes during their visit to California with the Protez Foundation.

This marked the third group of our defenders to visit San Francisco, Sacramento, and the Bay Area this time.

We express our deepest gratitude to Father Georgii and the St. Michaels Ukrainian Orthodox Church for generously opening their doors and hosting our event, providing blessings and kind words. We also extend our thanks to Mr. Dmytro Kushneruk Consul General at the Consulate General of Ukraine in San Francisco, for attending our event and greeting our defenders.

It is of utmost importance to assist our warriors in minimizing psychological trauma and helping them reintegrate into their daily lives. During our heartfelt conversations, we discussed Ukrainian heroism, the magnitude of the tragedy, and the needs of our Heroes.

We extend our gratitude to all the active participants in our Action, and we are thrilled to announce that we were able to collect \$5,880 for the Protez Foundation! Mykola Sarazhynskyy thank you for constant work!


Thank you all once again for your unwavering support!


Glory to Ukraine!

Glory to Heroes!


Hromada Team







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