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CHARITY EVENT DEDICATED TO VALENTINE'S DAY – “KOHAYTESYA CHORNOBRYVI!”

Dear friends, we are pleased to share with you photos and a report from a charity event dedicated to Valentine's Day. The charity event “**Kohaytesya chornobryvi**” took place on February 15 at the **Ukrainian Hall San Francisco** and brought together the Ukrainian community, guests from San Francisco and the surrounding area, as well as the city of Sacramento.

The theme of the evening put everyone in a wonderful and romantic mood, as bright feelings help us see our world in a range of bright colors, inspire us to create and change lives for the better.

Yarema Kuzyshyn, co-founder of the **non-profit organization “Hromada”**, started the evening with a welcoming introduction and a report for 2024. He introduced the guests with the projects that the organization managed to fund last year in Ukraine.

The concert program was opened by **Stasya Volskaya**, who performed popular Ukrainian songs with the accompaniment of the virtuoso guitarist **Anton Demianchuk**.

The highlight of the evening was the performance of professional musicians and singers, namely opera singers **Ivanna Taratula Filipenko** and **Oleksandra Zabashta**, who performed world hits in Spanish, Italian and English about bright feelings and human relationships. Some of them are “Come Prima”, “Besame Mucho”, “I found my love in Portofino”. The piano duet, consisting of pianist **Natalie Kokhanyy** and composer **Olena Lushchik**, performed the pieces “Beloved”, “Deep Well”, and “Spring”.

The program of the evening also included an auction with valuable items, and the participants had the opportunity to take an active part in it.

Special thanks to the generous donors of the auction items, namely:

Natalie Kokhanyy for the silver ornament “Angel”, artist **Ihor Butkovsky** for two wonderful paintings, **Zhanna Romanchenko** and **Tanya Omelyuk** for the transportation of lots from Ukraine, member of Ukrainian Parliament **Rostyslav Tistyk** for a valuable souvenir of chevrons of glorious Ukrainian military units, **Anna Hontar** for a wonderful necklace of her own work, **Natalia Lutsak** for an authentic home-made embroidered women's



shirt. **Yulya** – for delicious craft cookies, **Tanya Pushka** – for embroidered Christmas tree decorations.

The event was not without the active participation of each of the guests of the evening. All those present took part in a collective singing contest.

This added to the spirit of competition and brought everyone a lot of positive mood and smiles.

We also want to sincerely thank all the guests of the evening, because your presence made it special! To all those who supported us financially



but could not attend for valid reasons. We thank our team of volunteer artists: **Natalie Kokhanyy, Ivanna Taratula Filipenko, Oleksandra Zabashta, Olena Lushchik, Stasya Volskaya, Andriy Shegera, Anton Demianchuk.**

We are grateful to the **Ukrainian Hall San Francisco Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church** and **Father Roman Bobesiu** for the kindness of the venue.

We would like to thank the team that provided a delicious dinner, namely: **Nataliya Bankova, Alla Pogorelova, Lyubov Starodubtseva, Anita Kassem Kashmiri, Tetiana Marchenko, Anna Myslyvets, Dmytro**

Starodubtsev, Olga Nakhodkina.

We would like to thank **Julia Sydorenko** and her company **@floryi_com** for the floral decoration of the tables.

We thank **Marina Anisovych** for supplying delicious dumplings **@maryna_pastry_chef.**

We thank **Vasyl Vusatyuk** for providing transportation.

We also thank **Andriy Shegera** and **Taras Turiv** for the sound and lighting of the evening.

We thank **Andrii Slota, Andrii Fil** and **Ivan Haid** for their help with organizational issues.

We would like to thank **Yuriy Bon-**

darchuk for the wonderful and professional photos.

Since we all had a common goal – to raise funds for Hromada’s initiatives, the result of our efforts was a successful financial result!

So, the total amount of funds raised was **\$5,516.**

Costs of organizing and holding the evening: **\$994.25.**

The result of the evening: **\$4,521.75!**

Let’s do good together and for the good of Ukraine!

THANK YOU!

SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Vitaliy Portnykov | NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

THREE YEARS OF WAR



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

The three-year mark of the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war is not just a calendar mark in modern history. It is the moment when not only the tactical but also the strategic consequences of what is happening become apparent. Most importantly, the true character of the conflict, which the Kremlin is still trying to present as an accidental misunderstanding, as someone's insidious intrigue, as a temporary obstacle to the restoration of "natural" relations between the two "brotherly peoples," becomes clear.

In fact, what has been happening since February 2022 is not an accident, but a pattern. A logical result of the Kremlin's entire policy since the collapse of the Soviet Union. A natural outcome of the drama that began not in 2022, or even in 2014, but on the very day when Vladimir Putin declared that the collapse of the USSR was "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the twentieth century."

Today, when we evaluate the results of three years of war, we must understand that we are actually evaluating the results of three decades of attempts to recreate an empire that began literally from the first days of Ukrainian independence.

First of all, this war demonstrated the reality and importance of the Ukrainian state. Not just a legal reality, but an existential reality. The war proved what Putin and his supporters categorically refused to believe: Ukraine is not a "non-state" or an "artificial entity." Ukraine is a full-fledged European country with its own vision of the future.

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>

This vision of the future has turned out to be so important to Ukrainians that they are defending it at the cost of their own lives. It is a real blow to the ideological construction of the Russian world. Why didn't Ukrainians from the east and south of the country, who had been voting for pro-Russian forces for years, rush into the arms of the "liberators"? Why were Russian troops not greeted with flowers in Kherson, unlike the Ukrainian troops who actually liberated the city? Where is the "Russian world"?

The second outcome of the three years of war is the actual collapse of the "end of history" era. The time when it seemed that democracy had won for good, that the future belonged to the liberal worldview, and that the competition of ideologies was a thing of the past.

The war in Ukraine has demonstrated that the world has not become safer. Democracy has not won completely. Not everyone is ready to live by the rules established after World War II. Putin is not only seeking to revise the results of the collapse of the USSR, he is seeking to revise the entire system of international relations that was formed in the second half of the 20th century. It cannot be said that he is not succeeding. Because three years after the outbreak of this war, we have reached a situation where many of the representatives of the new administration in the United States also speak Putin's language and call morality in politics garbage that should be simply thrown away.

In this sense, Ukraine has suddenly found itself at the forefront of a battle not just for its own independence, but for the preservation of the principles on which the modern world order is based. By providing assistance to Kyiv, the West is not only protecting Ukrai-

ne, it is also protecting itself, the democratic model of the world, and the right of people to make a free choice.

Did Putin expect this outcome of his war? Obviously not. He was counting on a quick victory, Ukraine's surrender, and the West's forced recognition of the new reality. But instead, he got a protracted conflict, the way out of which is still debatable, no matter how much the new American president talks about the imminent prospect of its end.

The third result of three years of war is our losses. It is not only about tens of thousands of dead, destroyed cities and villages, and millions of refugees. We are talking about entire generations whose lives have been changed by the war. It is about children who are learning the sounds of air raid warnings instead of texts from school textbooks. About mothers who will never see their sons again. About the destroyed fates, mutilated lives, and lost futures.

For what? For the sake of Putin's imperial ambitions? For the sake of mythical "geopolitical influence"? For the sake of the Kremlin's illusion of power, and in the end, to find itself in a historical dead end - and not alone, but with the whole world.

As we reflect on the prospects for ending the war, we must be honest with ourselves. Peace can hardly be achieved through compromises and diplomatic formulas, let alone by talking about privileged economic relations.

For Putin, giving up on Ukraine means giving up on the entire imperial project, telling himself that Russia will not restore the borders of the Soviet Union and will not be the geopolitical hegemon of Europe. His regime is based on militaristic rhetoric, on the image of a "besieged fortress," on the



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idea of confrontation with the West. Of course, it is also based on the idea of a new Yalta, on the division of the world between the United States, Russia, and China. This cannot be achieved without a victory over Ukraine. And Putin would love to meet Donald Trump and Xi Jinping in Moscow on May 9 and offer them to divide the world.

For Ukraine, accepting Russia's terms means giving up the very idea of Ukrainian statehood, the right to make its own civilizational choice, and the right to a European future. This is not about territorial concessions, but about the importance of preserving statehood.

For the West, preserving Ukraine on the political map of the world is not only a struggle for the priority of

international law, but also an opportunity to prove that dictatorships cannot determine the rules of the game in this century, that we cannot face the threat of constant redistribution of borders, and thus the threat of World War III. In fact, the future of civilization, the future of democracy and the right of nations to sovereignty depend on the outcome of this war.

So, we can state that the world is at a real historical crossroads. Either the logic of civilized states that cooperate on the basis of mutual respect and international law wins, or the logic of empires wins, where the right of the strong prevails, where violence and death determine the fate of entire nations.

The war in Ukraine is not just a re-

gional conflict. It is a litmus test for the entire world order of the 21st century. If the aggression goes unpunished and triumphant, if the annexation of territories by force is recognized as a "new normal," this will be a verdict on the entire system of international law that was built after World War II.

Therefore, the international community, and especially Western countries, must realize that when you help Ukraine, you help yourself. When you defend the principles of international law in Ukraine and its right to sovereignty, you defend these principles for the world and for yourself. And this is the hope for a world order in which wars like Russia's aggression against Ukraine will be condemned and impossible.

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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Oles Doniy

3 YEARS OF WAR



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

This was not expected by the Kremlin elite led by Putin, nor by Russian generals, nor by Western politicians and diplomats. Before February 22, 2022, the embassies of Western countries were evacuated from Kyiv because the West did not believe in the ability of a country that demographically, militarily, and economically had several times fewer resources than Russia to withstand a direct armed clash “head-on.” Even less faith was placed in Ukraine’s ability to resist by Russia’s arrogant leaders and the Russian population, which was indoctrinated by the controlled media. The “Kyiv in three days” thesis was not just media chewing gum by Russia’s most powerful television channels and their propagandists. In Russia, it was a top-down belief that Ukraine would bow its head and break in the shortest possible time. The “three days” have already turned into three years. During these years, Ukraine has not only not bowed to the enemy, and a really powerful enemy, but has performed miracles, holding back the enemy’s troops and dealing them crippling blows.

What are the results of the third year of full-scale aggression by the enemy? Russia failed to achieve its desired defeat of Ukraine in a high-speed cavalry attack and changed its tactics to wear us down through long-term tension: gnawing away at meters in the East and bombing civilians far behind the front line almost every night. Ukraine’s economic stability is there, and it is largely supported by the help of our Western allies. But suddenly, on the initiative of the new leadership of the

United States (our most powerful donor), a lively discussion among politicians began in absentia about the likelihood of correcting the course of cooperation between the two countries. The Ukrainian army is heroically fighting at the front, adopting Western weapons, using innovative technologies, including those of domestic production, and is actually in the millions, but at the same time, official statistics on “unauthorized dismissal” and direct desertion (Articles 407 and 408 of the Criminal Code) show a dangerous monthly growth rate. The nation demonstrates unity in its attitude to the Russian enemy, but at the same time, the authorities are using this unity to maximize their stay in power and, officially, refuse to hold elections – perhaps for years, perhaps for decades. Domestic policy is raising more and more questions, and there is virtually no way for citizens to influence the government without elections.

The political typhoon caused by Donald Trump’s victory in the United States’ presidential race has swept through many countries and reached Ukraine. True, the newly elected President no longer mentions his promise to end the war in 1 day, but he constantly demonstrates his desire to intervene with new approaches.

A significant shock to Ukrainian society was the fact that the United States government (Secretary of State Marco Rubio, National Security Advisor Mike Volz and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff) and Russia held talks in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on February 18. The talks were preceded by a telephone conversation on February 12 between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. At the very least, these contacts resulted in an agreement to resume the full-fledged activities of embassies between the two countries, which means the relocation of several hundred diplomats and spies under diplomatic cover to the capitals of both countries, and subsequently their physical contacts with the local establishment and increased mutual influence. Ukraine was also discussed in Saudi Arabia, which means that the basic formula “About Ukraine only with Ukraine” was broken.

A series of emotional statements followed. The US president did not mince

words: “The dictator without elections, Zelenskyy, better move faster. He will soon have no country left.”

Statements about the elections, for which Trump blames Zelenskyy personally, became more and more scathing: “He refuses to hold elections, his rating in real Ukrainian polls is low.”

There is a consensus among the entire political class in Ukraine about the unwillingness to hold elections in Ukraine. The Ukrainian establishment perceived the war as an opportunity to stay in power as long as possible: perhaps additional years, perhaps decades, at least as long as the war lasts. It would be naïve to think that Trump’s criticisms of the Ukrainian election were made because of his romanticized desire for democracy. Rather, we can believe that there was a rational calculation behind these harsh criticisms: both our enemies and our allies have already realized that the issue of elections is painful, even painful, for the Ukrainian government. Accordingly, Russian propagandists are turning to the topic of elections to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the Ukrainian government. For Trump, on the other hand, this topic has become a bat that he can use to beat out what he does best – signing deals and treaties.

As early as February 3, the US President said that Ukraine should pay for financial and military assistance with its resources, and more specifically, with rare earth metals: “We are looking to enter into an agreement with Ukraine whereby they will provide what we give them with their own rare earth elements and other things.”

In fact, this idea was promoted by Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his “Victory Plan” back in October last year. The fourth point of this plan contained theses on joint investment and joint use of resources available in the country, in particular, uranium, titanium, lithium, graphite and other strategically valuable resources that are a significant advantage in global competition. However, despite the fact that the Ukrainian President traveled to different capitals around the world to present this plan, after the presentation of this project in the Verkhovna Rada on October 18, it was habitually forgotten, as well as a number of similar PR projects. But one of the advisors to

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the newly elected US President took the idea more seriously, and it resurfaced in a new wrapper and shone with new colors when it was creatively re-worked by Donald Trump.

The very idea of US investment in the Ukrainian economy and in the extraction and processing of minerals is positive, as it would facilitate our economic integration with the Western world, which in turn would encourage Western countries (in this case, the US) to create a system to protect their investments and economic interests (i.e., support for the Ukrainian security system). However, the text of the “Bilateral Agreement on the Terms and Conditions of the Reconstruction Investment Fund” leaves more questions than answers, as it contains only the obligations of the Ukrainian side, and the agreement has suddenly ex-

panded to cover all minerals, including oil and gas. However, there are no real commitments from the US side in the text of the agreement, so there are still fears that Ukraine will not be treated like the Budapest Memorandum, when our country gave up the world’s third nuclear potential and received vague wording on support.

Meanwhile, it is clear that the idea of signing a cooperation agreement has greatly tensed and worried Russia, and its leaders have begun to say that they have much more minerals than Ukraine, and it is with Russia that the United States should sign cooperation agreements.

So what about Trump? After he actually got Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian government to sign a text that would satisfy him by threatening to hold elections, the rhetoric changed. Now

Zelenskyy has been invited to sign the agreement in Washington, and when asked about the “dictator,” Trump says he could not have said that, and he is now silent about the elections in Ukraine, at least until the agreement is signed and he has a new idea. From the businessman’s point of view, it is obvious that the tactic is succeeding. However, Ukraine does not need back-room games, no matter how beautiful they may look later. Ukraine is still at war, our enemy is unfortunately powerful and as aggressive as it was three years ago. That is why we need real support in overcoming the global evil that is sitting in the Kremlin. And we hope that this support will come from the United States. Because the war can go on for a long, long time.

SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

FR. ROMAN BEBESIUK | SPIRITUAL TREASURY

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



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

Dear readers,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Fr. Roman Bebesiuk. I am a priest of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and serve as a pastor at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in San Francisco and St. Volodymyr's Church in Santa Clara. I am grateful for the opportunity to have a space in this wonderful newspaper where I can share my thoughts on the spiritual life of a Christian and the life of the Church.

San Francisco is a unique and colorful city that fascinates with its architecture and streets that rise and fall rapidly, making your heart beat faster in anticipation of the new. It is on one of these streets, at 215 Silliman St., that a modest building is located – the Church of the Immaculate Conception. It may not attract attention from the outside, though it is the center of the spiritual life of Ukrainians who come here in different ways, responding to God's call to pray together. For more than 60 years, this church has been uniting the faithful who seek the Lord, want to preserve the Ukrainian tradition and pray in their native language. Its walls are saturated with prayers, and the saints in the magnificent stained-glass windows speak the language of Love to everyone who crosses



the threshold of the shrine.

This church has witnessed many spiritual events: here, through the Sacrament of Baptism, hundreds of people become God's children, here newlyweds unite their hearts in holy matrimony, and, during each Divine Liturgy, the Lord comes in Holy Communion to those who open their hearts to Him. This is a place where everyone finds spiritual solace, returns to God's grace through Confession, and feels part of the great family of Christ. Now, as never before, prayers are offered here for Ukraine, for victory, for peace, and for the entire Ukrainian people.

History of the parish

From the moment Ukrainians arrived in San Francisco, they sought to have their own church because they realized that without God there was no future. At the request of the parishioners, Archbishop Konstanty Bohachevsky appointed Fr. After his arrival on June 25, 1957, interest in purchasing a building grew, and three months later, after a thorough search, the parishioners purchased a house at 857 Girard St. for \$15,000, of which \$8,000 was donated and the rest was covered by a loan from "Providence".

On August 3, 1957, the parish was officially registered as the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The first Divine Liturgy was held on December 22, 1957. Since then, the church has become not only a spiritual but also a cultural and social center. The parish grew so much that in four years it paid off its debt in full, and the church opened a native school, headed by Prof. Z. Panasenko.

As the community expanded, the premises became cramped. Therefore, in April 1968, the parish purchased a larger building, a former synagogue, at 215 Silliman St. On October 2, 1968, Patriarch Josyf Slipyj visited the parish and blessed its further development.

Over the decades, the parish was led by various priests, each of whom contributed to the development of the community. The work of Fr. Petro Dyachok, who served here for 18 years and recently returned to Ukraine, was especially significant, continuing to pray for our community.

Modern life of the parish

Today, the parish of the Immaculate Conception is a spiritual and com-

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munity center for Ukrainians. Fr. Deacon Oleh Zatvarsky, ordained by Bishop Venedykt last year, helps lead the services. The Ukrainian school of St. Princess Olha operates at the church, where children study the history of Ukraine, their native language, and learn about the cultural heritage

of their people. There are also active brotherhoods, sisterhoods, and parishioners who organize charitable events in support of Ukraine.

The parish is alive and well. Every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. there is a Confession, and at 12:00 the Divine Liturgy. The doors of our church are always

open to everyone who seeks the Lord.

So, we are located at this address:
215 Silliman St San Francisco, CA 94134

Our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/UkrainianCatholicChurchSF

Our Website: www.ugccsf.org

WHITE HOUSE SCANDAL: A DUEL OF EGOS OR A GEOPOLITICAL RIFT?

The failure of the meeting between the US and Ukrainian presidents has many subtexts, contexts and consequences

Nadia Banchik
US correspondent for
"Hromada"

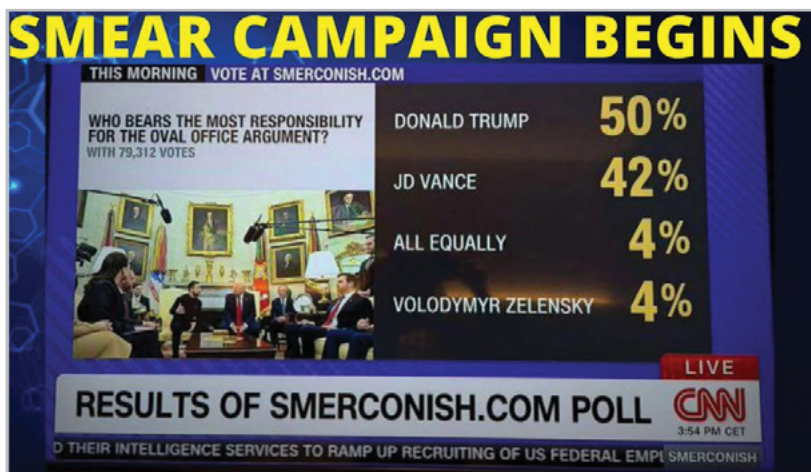
An unprecedented scandal

Although this is only one of many opinion polls conducted in the United States, the evidence of the American reaction to the events that took place in the White House on the last day of February is quite eloquent and coincides with the reaction in Europe. (*The website smerconish.com positions itself as "a unique base for non-ideological thinking. Here, independent points of view, not tied to a party point of view, are welcomed and demonstrated. This does not mean that we ignore the opinions of the left and the right, but rather that we offer them as part of a balanced presentation"*). Another poll on the same website asks whether President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy should apologize to US President Donald Trump: Yes – 12.18%; no – 87.82%.

This already indicates the beginning of certain processes in which Americans will try to determine the limits of what is permissible for the 47th President, who honestly received a mandate from a little more than half of the voters...

...On February 28, President Zelenskyy's visit to Washington began according to the usual protocol: a meeting, a discreet handshake, and the start of negotiations that were supposed to end with the signing of a mutually beneficial business agreement on investments in the development of mineral extraction in Ukraine. Everything was going smoothly until Zelenskyy raised the issue of guarantees for Ukraine. Business interests alone cannot protect Ukraine from a new Russian attack, as evidenced by the experience of previous years: Putin's Russia attacked Donbas in 2014, despite the fact that some mines were joint ventures with the Americans and employed Americans.

— We cannot trust Putin's agreements because we have already had a bitter experience with the Minsk agreements," the President of Ukraine



explained.

Unexpectedly, the conversation between the two businessmen turned into a heated exchange of emotional statements about whether Zelenskyy had the "cards" to defend his country and who "disrespected" whom in the Oval Office.

— "I didn't come to play cards," replied the President of Ukraine, who had just shown Trump photos showing the consequences of Russian torturers' abuse of Ukrainian prisoners of war.

— "You're playing for World War III!" Trump angrily retorted.

— "You have disrespected this sacred place, the Oval Office!" said Vice President J.D. Vance. "You hate Putin!"

"Zelenskyy is not ready for peace. Let him come when he's ready," the White House host summarized. Of course: instead of discussing "peace," the president of Ukraine showed photos of his country devastated by the very person with whom he was offered to make "peace."

The quarrel ended with Zelenskyy's expulsion and a flood of angry posts from Vance, Trump, and Secretary of State Mark Rubio, who was present at the meeting. They all accused Zelenskyy of disrupting the signing of the agreement.

Afterward, Zelenskyy expressed his gratitude to the American people and President Trump on the X network; he

repeated his gratitude during a detailed interview on Fox News (*with host Bret Baier*) that same night.

"There is a strong relationship between our peoples, and so I have always started [*my speeches*] with a thank you to your people from our people. This is the most important thing and, of course, gratitude to the President and, of course, to the Congress, but first of all to your people. Your people have to save our people... this is very, very important, and we are grateful and sorry for that. We really wanted to have only a strong relationship, and I am very confident that we will have that," Zelenskyy was quoted as saying by The Hill.

However, when Baier asked him if he should apologize for the quarrel, Zelenskyy said that he was "not sure I did anything wrong."

"In any case, it's not good for both sides, and I've been very open, but I can't change our Ukrainian attitude towards Russia," Zelenskyy said when asked if the public dispute was useful for Ukrainians. "It's very clear that the Americans are our best friends, the Europeans are our best friends, and [*Russian President Vladimir*] Putin, with Russia, we are enemies.

Who is the winner of the verbal duel?

In fact, Vance started the quarrel by throwing a remark: "You don't have

any cards! It's hard for you to gather an army!" and Trump has already joined in. However, Zelenskyy fended off all the claims like a boxer holding a punch.

Commentators on the quarrel immediately noted that Vance had grossly violated White House etiquette. First, the vice president has no right to interfere in a conversation between the presidents without getting permission to speak from the owner of the White House. Secondly, the Vice President has no right to address the President of another country directly through the head of his own President.

In fact, Vance provoked a quarrel between Trump and Zelenskyy, which the whole world saw live.

This was also noted by Zelenskyy in an interview on Fox News.

"When asked by Baier what made Zelenskyy angry and changed his tone, he suggested that it was Vance who intervened during the Oval Office talks," The Hill notes.

It all looked like a pre-planned provocation to disrupt the signing of the most important agreement and blame Ukraine, or Vance's "arbitrariness" that Trump could not prevent. However, why did Trump seize on Vance's interference so eagerly and develop this topic until Zelenskyy was expelled from the White House? After all, he could have simply "overlooked" the interference, brought the conversation to the signing of the agreement, and then, in private, reprimanded Vance for violating the chain of command. No, he deliberately inflamed the situation.

After that, most Republicans, including Senator Lindsey Graham, expressed full support for Trump-Vance. However, John Bolton, a former White House national security adviser in Trump's first term, immediately said that the real winner of this fight was Putin.

The most influential Republican-supporting newspaper, the Wall Street Journal, ran an editorial titled "Putin Wins in Trump-Zelenskyy Oval Office Play."

The Democrats unanimously gave the winner's palm to Zelenskyy.

However, the most important thing is that immediately after the quarrel in the White House, Zelenskyy was expressed ardent support by all the leaders of European countries, except, of course, Hungary and Slovakia. This support was also expressed at the NATO leaders' summit in London on March 1-2. The United States did not attend.

European leaders expressed their readiness to support Ukraine finan-

cially and with weapons; British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron said they were ready to send a peacekeeping expeditionary corps after signing an agreement on at least a ceasefire. However, all the leaders emphasized that Ukraine needs a lasting peace with genuine security guarantees.

European Commission President Ursula Fonderlain said that Ukraine needs a "just and lasting peace" (*ABC News*).

At the same time, European leaders expressed the need to smooth out the dispute between Trump and Zelenskyy and the differences between the US and the EU and Britain.

"The obvious destiny of the Americans is to be on the side of the Ukrainians, I have no doubt about that. I want the Americans to understand that it is not in their interest to disassociate themselves from Ukraine," Macron said at the summit in London (*quoted by ABC News*).

A similar position was expressed by Keir Starmer. "Strengthening Ukraine in securing peace when it comes. We must learn from the mistakes of the past. We cannot accept a weak agreement like the Minsk agreement – which Russia can easily break. Instead, any agreement must be backed by strength. Every nation must contribute to this as best it can," said Keir Starmer after the summit (*quoted on the official Downing Street website*).

To this end, "I have hosted European leaders here in London... to work together... for the security of the UK, Ukraine and Europe as a whole. Through my discussions in recent days... we have agreed that the UK, France and others... will work with Ukraine on a plan to end the fighting... then we will discuss that plan with the United States... and go forward together. The purpose of today's meeting was to bring our partners together around this work... to strengthen Ukraine... and to maintain a just and lasting peace... for the good of us all," the website says (multiple dots are in the original, written on the British Prime Minister's official website in almost poetic form!).

However, it seems that the dispute in the White House was the culmination of much deeper processes that Europe is trying to prevent by building a bridge across the chasm of a deep geopolitical rift.

The collision of opposing currents

In a short article, I am trying to trace the causal sequence of events that

have kaleidoscoped over the past month (*aka Trump's first month in the White House*).

Thousands of fired civil servants... Chaos and confusion in government agencies... Hundreds of thousands of people sent by military planes and helicopters back to the countries from which they were driven, mostly by persecution or the inability to have a piece of bread; from where they were lured by the Statue of Liberty A complete halt to refugee admissions and, consequently, the closure of the U4U program...

Then there is Vice President J. D. Vance's speech at a crucial international conference on European security, which actually showed that the United States is abandoning Europe, leaving behind its own commitments that supported the true "golden era" of Euro-Atlantic civilization, carefully built by joint efforts on the ruins of World War II and the experience of the Cold War...

Threats to Canada and Denmark. One can understand the threats to Mexico, because it did not fight drug cartels and illegal immigrants, but why to Canada? Is it in the interests of ordinary Americans to suddenly impose 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports? How much do eggs cost in supermarkets now? What about gasoline?

This is the outcome of the first 30 days of the lightning-fast activities of the 47th President of the United States, Donald Trump, who won a decisive victory in the 2024 elections under the main slogan: "Let's make America great again!"

Ukraine is at the epicenter of events, in complete uncertainty... Trump once issued a formidable warning to Putin, saying that he was destroying his "beautiful" (*in Trump's words*) state, and if he did not sign an agreement with Ukraine, he, Trump, would be forced to further strengthen sanctions... Then, after the meeting of the American and Russian delegations in Riyadh, he suddenly starts to criticize Zelenskyy calling him a "dictator without elections," while flattering Putin...

What does all this mean? Why all this chaos? Kāma Gradation, the leader of the free world?

A head-on collision and a geopolitical rift

Trying to understand this whirlwind, I come to a conclusion: Trump and Trumpism are a consequence of the historical pattern of development of the very "golden age" of Western civilization, which lasted from the late

1940s to the present.

The essence of these processes, which are too complex to analyze in a short article, boils down to a head-on collision of two powerful currents that have been going on under the surface of the most comfortable civilization in modern history.

They are conditioned by the peculiarities of the experience of post-Hitler Europe, on the one hand, and the essence of post-Soviet capitalism, on the other. Powerful influences flowed from the West to the East, aiming to spread the civilization of welfare and free development to regions that did not have it and did not have the experience of postwar Europe. The destructive forces shaped by the era of initial capital accumulation in post-Soviet countries, especially in the Russian Federation, regardless of their origin, mainly from organized crime and people who came from the Soviet security forces, moved from East to West.

Summarizing these complex processes, we get two powerful currents that were rushing toward each other. From the West – comprehensive assistance to the development of capitalism in the post-Soviet space in order to build the same system of universal prosperity and peace; from the Russian Federation – powerful attempts to destroy the West.

Initially, these attempts manifested themselves in the almost free penetration of destructive forces from Russia to the West (*and the West seemed not to notice or pay due attention to this*): Russian oligarchs were buying up the most luxurious real estate and corrupting the West with a special style called “bulling”; Russian spies were infiltrating Western intelligence agencies and government institutions, etc. Free movement allowed Russian agents of influence to settle in Western countries.

Russia's wars against Ichkeria became the first point of contact between Russia and the West. The West did not notice this (*nor did Ukraine, by the way*).

The war against “international terrorism,” especially “Islamic terrorism,” after the infamous September 11, 2001, created unprecedented opportunities for Russia to actually conquer the West under the slogan of an “ally” in this war. The Russian Federation received a final indulgence for the de facto genocide of Chechens, and it used its alliance with Western countries to infiltrate Western countries, including “Islamic terrorists.” Of course, all the terrorist cells created by the USSR in the Middle East and other countries of

Asia and Africa were awakened.

The de facto defeat of the “West”, first in Iraq and then in Afghanistan, gave Russia even more opportunities for various ways of decomposing the “West” from within. (*Isn't this defeat due not only to the US mistakes in the East, but also to Russia's secret “participation” in these conflicts, in particular, infiltration into terrorist groups?*)

However, the most destructive processes have developed in the Russian Federation itself, destroying the sprouts of democracy and turning the country into a de facto Nazi dictatorship.

However, the “West” could not fully realize the destructive potential of the post-Soviet Russian Federation, did not consider it possible to leave the comfort zone, which was unprecedented in history, could not adjust from the pacifist basis of its civilization, and made a strategic decision: to continue comprehensive relations with Russia, closing its eyes and burying its head in the sand, because it is known that where there is trade, there is no war.

Meanwhile, the destructive forces of the Russian Federation have met in the West with time bombs laid down by the very development of civilizational trends within the Western world.

At present, the destructive forces of the Russian Federation, aimed at the systematic destruction of Western civilization, are facing a head-on collision with the natural trends in the development of this civilization itself, which is reflected in the rapid movement from the centrist basis of political life to the left of the political spectrum. The dissatisfaction of various social strata, who felt themselves relegated to the margins, merges into a single fervor: Workers in industries that are dying out as a result of the technological revolution and “green technologies”; racial groups that consider themselves victims of “affirmative action against minorities”; residents of states bordering Mexico that have borne the brunt of immigration, both illegal and legal; those citizens who consider US assistance to allies excessive (without thinking about how important the US reputation as a reliable guarantor of world security is to the interests of citizens!), etc.

Under the influence of both these trends and direct Russian agents, the political “pendulum” swung sharply to the far right, bypassing the center.

In the United States, this was most pronounced. After all, the 2024 elections featured candidates who represented centrism: Nikki Haley from the GOP (*right-of-center*) and Kamala

Harris from the Democratic Party (*left-of-center*; *yes, she leaned more to the left, but with the help of the system of checks and balances, she could have been brought to the center – unlike Trump*). (*In Europe, these processes have not yet prevailed over centrism, but are steadily gaining strength.*)

Trump has “saddled up” all these trends for now. His speeches, deliberately devoid of traditional diplomacy and full of hate speech, have abolished centrism as a systemic principle that has restrained any attempts to incite conflict and build a dictatorship.

Trump's arrival in the White House, both for the first and second time, was a diagnosis of the deep crisis that gripped the West. The crisis was expressed in Trump's direct attack on American state institutions, which are the basis of the democratic political, economic, moral and cultural system of the United States.

This attack, which was defeated in Trump's first term, is now thoroughly prepared and systematic. The leadership cadre has been selected in advance and has been proven in protecting Trump from those forces that opposed his attacks on the US system. Now these cadres carry out their boss's instructions without hesitation or any resistance.

Having built his personnel “bulldozer”, Trump has struck at lightning speed, from all directions, massively and ruthlessly, against the economic, political, legal, ideological and moral system embodied in the relevant structure of US government institutions at the highest leadership level.

The strategic goal of these attacks is to destroy the system of checks and balances and replace it with sole “presidential” control.

However, Trump's “revolutionary” fervor is not limited to domestic politics. His goal – no less – is to destroy the very “golden” world order and replace it with...

What is a true “golden age”?

It is impossible to define it in one word. Let us think about it.

Biden made a desperate attempt to delay the “golden era”, the destruction of which was no longer possible to stop after the large-scale attack of the Russian Federation on Ukraine. Under Biden, the world returned for a moment to a black-and-white moral division according to the rules defined for almost 80 years.

The Marshall Plan, NATO, the Common Market, the EU – the stages of building modern Western civilization. Yes, this is a separate civilization, which

was methodically built by the joint efforts of all the countries that entered it. Two fundamental principles – the doctrine of nuclear mutual destruction and the economic-political-cultural-moral – seemed unshakable, unquestionable, absolutely necessary for the survival of humanity as a biological species, at least in “Western civilization”. Under these principles, politics in “Western civilization” fluctuates freely depending on the will of the voters, but within fairly clear boundaries, called centrism (*right- and left-wing*) and attested both in the fundamental documents (*Constitutions, penal codes, electoral legislation, etc.*), and in the unwritten tradition: not to give power to the most radical groups on both sides of the political spectrum, who actually call for the replacement of democracy with the dictatorship of their political force. However, destructive processes were ripening under this surface. Only the most obvious ones are named. An egalitarian approach to individual rights inevitably led to the expansion of the involvement of social groups that have been persecuted throughout history, and “positive discrimination” arose. Rapid scientific and technological development, which turned into a real all-round technological revolution at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries, created a qualitatively new level of opportunities, which is used, on the one hand, for the further development of humanity, and on the other, for the action of subversive forces – freedom of speech turns into unlimited opportunities for manipulating the consciousness of entire human communities. The peace and prosperity of the “West” attracted the oppressed from less fortunate regions of the globe, and their number gradually exceeded the capabilities of the “West” to provide them with decent integration, and the difference in culture exacerbated this crisis.

However, it is likely that all these crisis phenomena could have been resolved if the “Western civilization” had not collided with the “Eastern”.

The head-on collision took place on February 24, 2022. Biden tried desperately, but failed to secure a victory

for Ukraine that would mark the return of this order and the destruction of the destructive forces of the Russian Federation. As a result of numerous mistakes and miscalculations on the part of both Ukraine and the West, the warring camps of Ukraine-West and Russia-Iran-North Korea-China found themselves in a relative equilibrium that guarantees the continuation of a terrible war with no end in sight.

The Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine became the epicenter of the same frontal collision, as a result of which the cracks in Western civilization (caused by its own development) became an obstacle to the reliable defense of Ukraine as an outpost of this civilization.

Trumpism – a bid for a new world division

Here appeared Trump-tararamp. His foreign policy ideology is defined as neo-imperialism. Here is one description of this ideology.

“This is Putin’s idea of “multipolarity” (*Munich-2007*), combined with America’s own imperialism, which had been dormant. From the cartoons of the Soviet magazine “Krokodil”.

The USA in this world of geo-dream should swell to the size of the North American continent. And the rest of the world should be divided into empires with authoritarian rule.

These empires are Trump’s desired partners,” – this is how Evgeny Wilk describes this “new world” on the website “Kasparov” (*the website of the Russian dissident Garry Kasparov, who personally and with his associates is fighting Russian imperialism*).

For the sake of this “new world”, USAID was liquidated, notes Wilk, the center of humanitarian aid from the US around the world, to the poorest, the most suffering... Down with the soft power of US influence! China will fill the vacuum!

No, Trump is not fighting China and, as you can already understand, will defend Taiwan with the same “courage” as Ukraine. He does not need this. His program is aimed at making China the master in the Far Eastern region and a convenient partner as the sole

Master.

Just as Putin’s Russia is the master and a convenient partner in Central Europe and beyond the Urals.

The enemy, the main and most dangerous enemy, is Europe. Europe as the bearer of values that Trump supporters contemptuously call “globalism”. Not about the power of empires and the power of business, but about human rights, democratic principles of government,” Wilk notes.

Europe (*with the exception of Hungary and Slovakia*) is desperately resisting this – for now? Precisely because of the powerful vaccination by Hitler and the Cold War.

It was Trumpism that became the most powerful threat that awakened Europe and united it around the preservation of a world order of rules and laws. And it is this Europe that sees Ukraine as an integral part of its security and its civilization.

This Europe is resisting the final separation of the Trumpists from Euro-Atlanticism as the basis of this civilization.

The most important question: How long will this vaccination last for Europe?

If it lasts at least until November 4, 2026, then perhaps the world will still see the return of the good old world order, although not the “golden era”, because it will be necessary to significantly and rapidly increase military power – to confront Russia. Because on November 4, 2026, the US will hold midterm elections, in which, most likely, Trumpism will be shaken, and the Democrats will strengthen their positions in Congress.

If Trumpist tendencies also gain strength in Europe, the world will approach the limit it approached in the late 1930s – with the difference that there were no weapons of mass destruction then.

Ukraine needs to hold out at least until November 4, 2026 – with the help of Europe, which will take the lead and build at least a bridge over the abyss into which we all risk falling.

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"UKRAINE HAS NO INTENTION OF SURRENDERING TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION": AN INTERVIEW WITH SERHIY KRYVONOS

Serhiy Kryvonos is a Major General in the Reserve of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, First Deputy Commander of the Special Operations Forces of the Armed Forces (2016-2019), Deputy Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine (2019-2020), Ukrainian military and political figure.

Карина Никітішина
Ukrainian correspondent for "Hromada"
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Could a full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine have been avoided?

It is important to note that much needed to be done by our military and political leadership. Since October 2021, the Ukrainian authorities have known from our American partners about the planning of Russian aggression, but in the 4.5 months that preceded it, insufficient measures were taken to strengthen the country, increase combat capability and readiness for defense. Could this situation have been avoided if the country, and the population in particular, had been better prepared and informed? Perhaps, then the Russians would not have dared to interfere with us. However, the question now is not what could have been done differently, but how to avoid making such mistakes in the future. This could have been avoided if the country had been properly prepared and mobilized. This issue is quite simple. There is no need to invent something new: a clear elaboration of the existing Law of Ukraine "On Mobilization Preparation and Mobilization", which is available on the website of the Verkhovna Rada, provides for what should be done before and during mobilization.

According to the US president's recent claims, could he really have

prevented the outbreak of full-scale military aggression if the Ukrainian president had shown a greater ability to negotiate with Russia at the time?

First, we cannot know what exactly President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Donald Trump talked about during his first term in office. Secondly, on the issue of agreements: to agree on what exactly? I don't remember Putin sincerely trying to make peace with Ukraine (or anyone else, for example) during his time in power in the Russian Federation: *The Second Chechen War, Russia's invasion of Georgia in 2008* – ed.)

What are the consequences if the United States stops providing any assistance to Ukraine in accordance with Donald Trump's statements?

The United States will certainly continue to exist without Ukraine, just as Ukraine can live without the United States. However, such a situation is unlikely to be beneficial to either the Ukrainian or American people. With regard to President Trump's statements, it is important to understand that American democracy has been built over many decades and is organized in such a way as to prevent any manifestation of usurpation or concentration of power in the hands of one person. That is why, in addition to President Trump, there is also the American parliament. Quite often, the president's decision depends on the support of the parliament. Similarly, the parliament is highly dependent on the sup-

port of the American people. It is this three-branch system of government that has allowed the United States to exist as an independent country for almost 250 years. Everything depends on the will of the American people. Therefore, all decisions are ultimately made not only by one president: they must be supported by the parliament and the American people themselves.

Time will tell. I would like to say that we should not assume that the bulk of the assistance is provided by America alone. We have also received a lot from various European countries. We are grateful to both the United States and European countries for their support. In addition, it is worth noting that the US military and US military-industrial complexes that produce US weapons have gained significant experience "thanks" to the Russian-Ukrainian war, unfortunately. This is a new, modern experience that the Americans did not gain in Iraq or Afghanistan, where they had been for decades. Weapons that have been tested by the war with the Russian Federation are being improved thanks to the experience gained. We are strengthening each other: you provide us with weapons to help us defend ourselves, and you, in turn, are improving your own weapons using our experience.

What steps does Ukraine need to take to become less reliant on partners assistance?

First, in order to become more independent from the assistance of other states, in particular, Ukraine needs to

comply with the Law on Mobilization Preparation and Mobilization. According to this law, the President has to establish the procedure for developing and implementing a mobilization plan. According to this plan, the Cabinet of Ministers, in cooperation with the Verkhovna Rada, works on the implementation of this plan. After the plan is approved by the President of Ukraine, it begins to apply to almost every enterprise that is capable of producing products to meet the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, from clothing to shells and drones. This law should have been drafted in the first days of the full-scale Russian aggression, because we still cannot fully meet the needs of the Armed Forces. If we want to withstand and win this war, we need to understand that we need not only motivated and trained people, but also, above all, the economy. We have to switch to manufacturing military products and we are capable of doing so.

Secondly, in order for the situation to become much better than it is today, certain processes must be led by qualified specialists. But I would like to emphasize once again that the current situation is not hopeless. Ukraine is capable of surviving this war, whether it is done with the help of the United States or only with the support of European countries. But one thing is clear: Ukraine is not going to surrender to the Russian Federation, because we clearly understand that we are fighting a powerful dictator who aims not only to subjugate Ukraine politically, but also to destroy it as an independent sovereign state. If Ukraine stops fighting Russia, Russia will start fighting Europe. They (European countries – ed.) understand that it is better to help Ukraine fight this war than to allow the entire potential of the Russian Federation to go to Europe. If the American people, who have been supporting democracy for decades, do not express the support they have in previous years, then something in the world will change not in favor of American democracy.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States, Americans, and to all those who supported Ukraine during these previous ten years of war. Every bullet, every scope that our friends from America bought worked in favor



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of our independence. I hope that despite some temporary political misunderstandings between the leaders of our countries, this support will remain, and we will continue to defend our in-

dependence together. By defending Ukraine's independence, you are helping to preserve democracy in your own country.



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UKRAINIAN NEWS

Total enemy combat losses

Протягом 24.02.22 – 28.02.2025

ОРІЄНТОВНІ ВТРАТИ
ПРОТИВНИКА СКЛАЛИ~874560 +1060
особового складу
personnel370
літаків
aircraft331
гелікоптерів
helicopters10222 +13
танків
tanks27274 +172
БПЛА оперативно-тактичного рівня
UAV operational-tactical level21234 +17
бойових броньованих машин
troop-carrying AFVs3085
крилаті ракети
cruise missiles23847 +54
артилерійських систем
artillery systems28
кораблі/катери
warships/boats1
підводні човни
submarines1303 +1
РСЗВ
MLRS38994 +126
автомобільна техніка та цистерни з ПММ
vehicles & fuel tanks1087
засоби ППО
anti-aircraft systems3763 +4
спеціальна техніка
special equipment

Щ Генеральний штаб Збройних Сил України

According to the General Staff, the total combat losses of the enemy from February 24, 2022 to February 31, 2025 are approximately as follows:

- Personnel – 874,560 people were eliminated,
- Tanks – 10,222 units,
- Armored personnel carriers – 21,234 units,
- Artillery systems – 23,847 units,
- MLRS – 1,303 units,
- Air defense systems – 1,087 units,
- Aircraft – 370 units,
- Helicopters – 331 units,
- Operational and tactical level UAVs – 27,274 units,
- Cruise missiles – 3,085 units,
- Ships and boats – 28 units,
- Submarines – 1 unit,
- Vehicles and tankers – 38,994 units,
- Special equipment – 3,763 units.

Zelensky leaves White House early, press conference with Trump canceled



President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky left the White House early after

a public dispute with US leader Donald Trump and US Vice President J.D. Vance.

It is noted that after talking to journalists, Zelensky and Trump were supposed to hold one-on-one talks and then go to the media with final statements.

According to sources in the White House, the leaders did not hold a press conference. In addition, it is alleged that it was Trump who asked Zelensky to leave the White House.

Journalists also reported that the signing of the agreement between the US and Ukraine on rare earth metals was canceled.

Ukrainian Armed Forces jamming Russian UAVs along the entire front-line, depriving the enemy of one of its main advantages



The Ukrainian military has been effectively jamming Russian guided aerial bombs using electronic warfare along the entire front line.

By creating radio noise, Ukraine has effectively neutralized one of Russia's main advantages on the battlefield.

A year ago, Russian frontline bombers were dropping hundreds of guided bombs daily along the 1,300-kilometer front line. According to Deep State analysts, the satellite-guided KAB and UMPK bombs, which could fly 40 kilometers or more thanks to retractable wings, were a "miracle weapon" for Russia. At the time, Ukraine had almost no means to counter them.

According to Russian public media reports, the bombs are "still flying" and their strikes have been recorded in Sumy, Chernihiv, and Donetsk regions.

An important nuance is that "all satellite correction systems are out of order."

The reason for this is the growing effectiveness of Ukrainian electronic warfare, which actually "saturates" the

front line.

Trump extends US sanctions against Russia for a year



US President Donald Trump has extended for a year the sanctions imposed on Russia for violating Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

It is noted that Russia's actions and policies continue to pose an "unusual and extraordinary" threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

"Pursuant to Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am extending for one year the national emergency declared by Executive Order 13660," the order reads.

The document suggests that it refers to the sanctions imposed by the US administration in 2014, 2018, and 2022.

DPRK sends additional troops to Russia – South Korean intelligence



North Korea has sent additional troops to support Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The number of troops is being estimated.

"After almost a month-long lull, North Korean troops were deployed again in the frontline area of Kursk starting in the first week of February. It seems that additional troops have been deployed, but their number is still being studied," the intelligence agency said.

According to Joongang, citing sources, in January-February, North Korea sent from one thousand to three thousand additional troops to Russia. They were transferred to the Kursk front on Russian cargo ships and military aircraft. These were motorized rifle, engineering, and electronic reconnaissance units.

European Commission President announces total amount of EU support and tranche to be disbursed in March



Over the three years of the Russian invasion, the European Union and its member states have provided assistance to Ukraine worth 145 billion euros.

This was stated by the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen during the Support Ukraine Forum in Kyiv on Monday, February 24.

"The European Union and its member states have supported Ukraine with 145 billion euros. This is more than anyone else has helped," von der Leyen said.

According to her, the EU helped Ukraine cover the country's budget deficit for 2025.

"I can announce that a new payment to Ukraine for 3.5 billion euros will be received in March," von der Leyen said.

Ukrainian Parliament voted on resolution on democracy and Zelensky's legitimacy



Ukrainian Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) has approved a resolution on supporting democracy in Ukraine, which states that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's powers should last until the end of martial law. This means that presidential elections will be held only after the war is over.

The statement emphasizes that President Volodymyr Zelensky was elected in free, transparent, democratic elections, and his mandate is not in question by the Ukrainian people and the Verkhovna Rada.

How much money is needed to rebuild Ukraine: the latest estimates



Three years after the outbreak of full-scale war, the cost of restoring and reconstructing Ukraine is estimated at \$524 billion. This amount is 2.8 times the nominal GDP of Ukraine in 2024.

These data were provided by the Ukrainian government, the World Bank, the European Commission and the UN.

According to the RDNA4, which covers the period from February 24, 2022, to December 31, 2024, direct losses in Ukraine amounted to \$176 billion. This is more than the \$152 billion recorded in the RDNA3 in February 2024.

The housing, transportation, energy, trade, industry, and education sectors suffered the greatest losses.

About 13% of the housing stock was damaged or destroyed. This affected more than 2.5 million households.

In the energy sector, the number of damaged or destroyed facilities has

increased by 70% compared to the previous estimate. This applies to the infrastructure of electricity generation, transmission, distribution and heat supply.

The regions located near the front-line suffered the most damage: Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, and Kyiv. These regions account for about 72% of the total losses.

Reconstruction of the housing sector requires almost \$84 billion. Transportation infrastructure needs about \$78 million.

Restoration of the energy and mining industries will cost almost \$68 billion. Trade and industry need more than \$64 million, and agriculture needs more than \$55 billion.

Separately, almost \$13 billion is needed for cleanup and waste management in all sectors.

Musk denies rumors of Starlink shutdown in Ukraine



The businessman published the relevant post on the social network X.

The SpaceX founder reacted to a Reuters report that claimed that Washington could cut off Kyiv's access to satellite internet if it refused to sign an agreement on rare earth metals. On social media, Musk said that this information was not true.

"This is not true. Reuters spreads fake news, second only to AP as the heirs to news disinformation," Musk wrote in his post.

Musk also posted an image with the word "lie" highlighted on the Reuters logo.

North Korea provides 50% of Russia's ammunition – the Defence Intelligence of Ukraine



As of February 2025, North Korea provides 50% of the aggressor country's ammunition in the war against Ukraine. This was announced by the head of the Main Intelligence Directorate Kirill Budanov.

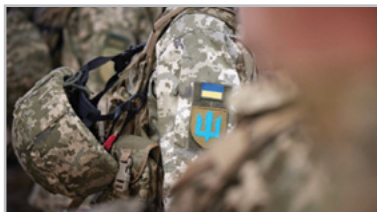
"In this aspect, we cannot but mention their strategic ally, the DPRK, which covers 50% of the front's ammunition needs. 50% of the ammunition is Korean ammunition," Budanov said.

According to the intelligence chief, the DPRK has begun large-scale supplies of 170-mm self-propelled howitzers and 240-mm multiple launch rocket systems to Russia.

At the same time, he recalled the DPRK's assistance with manpower.

Meanwhile, Budanov said that the plan to recruit new military personnel to the Russian army has been reduced by 100,000 people.

The Ministry of Defense told how many women applied to the recruiting centers of the Armed Forces



Almost 9,000 women have applied to the Ukrainian army's recruitment centers since the start of their work. Overall, the share of women among candidates has increased to 21%.

They said that the largest number of applications from potential female candidates was recorded in Chernivtsi, Khmelnytsky, and Ternopil regions.

The positions of UAV operators, drivers, and shooting specialties are in the highest demand.

Meanwhile, more than 32 thousand

Ukrainians have applied to the recruitment centers of the Ukrainian army this year. More than 7,000 are already being considered as candidates for the Defense Forces.

The highest number of applications was recorded among residents of Dnipropetrovs'k, Kharkiv, Lviv, Zaporizhzhia regions and the city of Kyiv.

Russian troops shot Ukrainian prisoners in Kursk region

Today, February 23, a video was posted online showing Russian soldiers allegedly shooting captured Ukrainian soldiers in the Kursk region. This was reported by the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights Dmytro Lubinets on Telegram.

According to the ombudsman, a video of the alleged brutal shooting of Ukrainian prisoners of war in the Kursk sector has begun to circulate on social media. According to one of the Ukrainian soldiers, these are soldiers of the 82nd Brigade.

As noted by Lubinets, the footage shows the Russian occupier deliberately shooting a Ukrainian prisoner of war in the head.

"The shooting of Ukrainian prisoners of war is another proof of the inhuman cruelty of the Russian army. The video circulating on social media shows the deliberate killing of defenseless Ukrainian prisoners of war. This is a gross violation of the Geneva Convention and all norms of international humanitarian law. As the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, I have already appealed to the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross," the Ombudsman wrote.

As you know, recently, Russian military Telegram channels have also disseminated a video of the alleged execution of Ukrainian prisoners of war by Russian occupation units.

In early February, it became known that the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has recorded 79 executions of Ukrainian prisoners of war since the end of August 2024.

Another 15 children returned to Ukraine from the temporarily

Liudmyla Kinal, DDS
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occupied territories



On February 19, 15 more children were returned to Ukraine from the Russian occupation as part of the Bring Kids Back UA initiative. Among them is a large family.

This was announced by the head of the Presidential Office Andriy Yermak on Telegram.

He said that a mother from a large family was under constant pressure from the occupiers because she refused to give up her Russian documents. The children were forced to attend educational institutions where active enemy propaganda was conducted.

In addition, three teenagers who had received calls to the occupation army returned to the government-controlled territory. One of them was abducted from his home by Russians and forced to sign a contract.

“Two young children, after losing their mother, ended up in a Russian orphanage, where they were isolated from their families, forced to sing propaganda songs and taught military skills,” the OP’s head added.

Previously, an investigation revealed that at least 314 Ukrainian children were placed under the Russian adop-

tion program.

Prior to that, Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets reported a “high risk” of deportation of another 1.5 million Ukrainian children by Russia.

Zelensky says there is a shortage of missiles for Patriot air defense systems

Ukrainian air defense lacks missiles for the American Patriot anti-aircraft systems. A way out of this situation could be a license for their production.

“We count every day, excuse me, at 3-4-5 in the morning, when the commander calls me and says: “We are near this town”. I don’t want to say which city it is now, but we have no missiles for Patriot systems under this city. We have exhausted all of them, as I understand it,” the president said.

The President said that this is wrong and one of those things that makes everyone nervous. That is why Ukraine is asking its partners for licenses to produce the relevant missiles.

Also, on December 10 last year, Zelenskyy said that Ukraine needs additional Patriot air defense systems to fully protect the sky from Russian attacks.

According to him, the Ukrainian military needs 10 to 12 such systems to completely cover the sky.

February 14 a Russian attack

drone hit adome over the fourth power unit of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.



As a result of the attack, the shelter at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is damaged and the fire is extinguished. The damage to the shelter is estimated to be significant.

“Ukraine was building this shelter together with other countries of Europe and the world, together with America – with everyone who wants real safety for people. The only state in the world that can attack such facilities, occupy the territory of nuclear power plants and conduct hostilities without any regard for the consequences is today’s Russia. And this is a terrorist threat to the whole world,” President Zelenskyy wrote.

“No deterioration of the radiation situation at the NSC-OU industrial site and ChNPP in general has been recorded. No release of radioactive products beyond the established limits was detected.

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

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

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

28 MARCH
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St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church Sacramento

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When: Friday, 5 PM

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When: Sunday, 2 PM – 5 PM

Join us for a Pysanka Master Class with professional pysanka artist Olenka Kleban.

A pysanka is the most loved decorated egg of Ukraine. It comes from the word 'pysaty', which means 'to write'. Designs are drawn on the egg shell with hot wax, followed by submerging the egg in dye. A pysanka of many colours is dyed multiple times, with wax designs drawn on the egg between dyeings. Areas of the shell covered in wax resist dye, whereas un-waxed areas absorb dye and turn subsequently darker with longer periods of dyeing. A pysanka is completed by melting off the wax to reveal designs.

Designs written on pysanky are imbued with meaning. Symbols and patterns represent various needs for a successful life. Plants, animals, celestial bodies, weather events, farming implements, and religious symbols come into play.

At this Pysanka master class - Advanced level - you will improve your knowledge and skills in Pysanka art.

Participants are encouraged to decorate at least 2 eggs in the span of the workshop: one to get acquainted with the process, and another for good luck.

Kistkas (wax writing tools) will be provided for the duration of the workshop; participants will have the option to purchase tools and dyes to take home after the workshop if they wish.

This workshop will focus on making pysanky with aniline dyes, which is the most common and quickest technique for colouring the egg.

Price is **\$75** for 3-hour master class

per person (cash, check or PayPal) and includes all supplies. Light refreshments will be served.

There are only 6 spots available and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserve your spot – pay today online.

Master class is for adults and kids of age 12 y.o. and up.

All proceeds will go to humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Please come in time to save your spot.

Olenka Kleban is a pysankar (pysanka artist) born and raised in Hamilton, Canada, now residing in San Diego. As is customary for children in the Ukrainian diaspora, Olenka learned how to make pysanky from a very early age. In her teenage years she took to making pysanky prolifically, which honed her ability to hand-draw geometric designs on the egg and acquaint herself with traditional and regional patterns. Before moving to California, Olenka taught dozens of pysanka workshops per year in and around Toronto as part of Kosa Kolektiv, a Canadian folk arts group. <https://www.facebook.com/events/house-of-ukraine/pysanka-master-class-with-olenka-kleban-advanced-level/1209358471198767/>

4,5,6 APRIL
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AT THE
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DakhaBrakha, The Freight

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When: Friday, 8 PM

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DakhaBrakha was created in 2004 at the Kyiv Center of Contemporary Art "DAKH" by avant-garde theatre director Vladyslav Troitskyi, with a name that means "give/take" in the old Ukrainian language. Theatre work has left its mark on the band performances – their shows are always staged with a strong visual element.

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