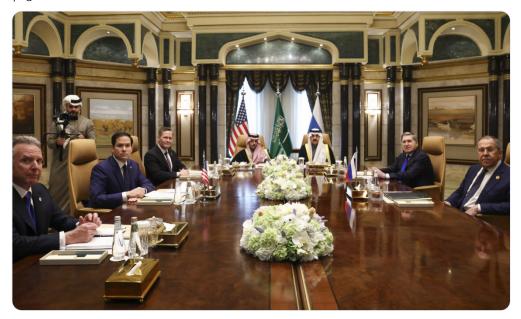


In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll take out my crystal ball and predict what the alliance between the US and Russia could mean for Ukraine, Europe and geopolitics in general. These recent changes could be a real risk for the whole of Europe, and need to be addressed quickly.

1/23



Some of us have been reporting on Trump's pro-Kremlin tendencies for years now. His Moscow connections go back all the way to the late 80s, and the 2016 US presidential elections raised a lot of red flags about the close connections of his associates to Russian operatives.



CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT AN OFFENSE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES; FALSE REGISTRATION OF A DOMAIN NAME; AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MONEY LAUNDERING

RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN 2016 U.S. ELECTIONS



Boris Alekseyevich



Dmitriy Sergey Barlin



rich Anatoliy Semevevich Ko



atoliy Nikolay Yury



Aleksey Viktorov



Artem Andreyevi



Sergey Aleksandrovich



Aleksandr Vladimirovich



Aleksey Aleksandrovici



Ivan Sergeyevich



Pavel Vyacheslavovici

DETAILS

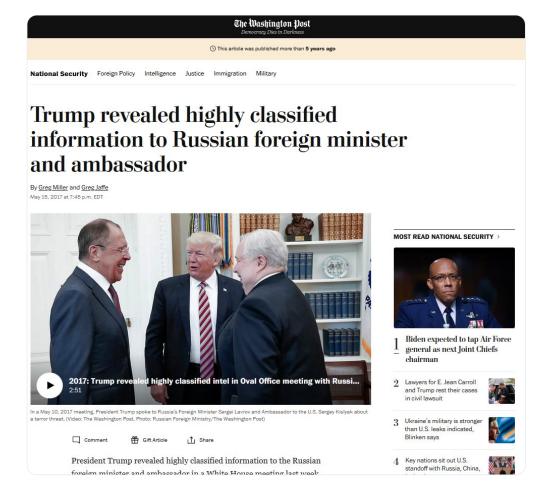
On July 13, 2018, a federal grand jury sitting in the District of Columbia returned an indictment against 12 Russian military intelligence officers for their alleged roles in interfering with the 2016 United States (U.S.) elections. The indictment charges 11 defendants, Boris Alekseyevich Antonov, Dmitriy Sergeyevich Badin, Nikolay Yuryevich Kozachek, Aleksey Viktorovich Lukashev, Artem Andreyevich Malyshev, Sergey Aleksandrovich Morgachev, Aleksandr Vladimirovich Osadchuk, Aleksey Aleksandrovich Potemkin, Ivan Sergeyevich Yermakov, Pavel Vyacheslavovich Yershov, and Viktor Borisovich Netyksho, with a computer hacking conspiracy involving gaining unauthorized access into the computers of U.S. persons and entities involved in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, stealing documents from those computers, and staging releases of the stolen documents to interfere with the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The indictment also charges these defendants with aggravated identity theft, false registration of a domain name, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Two defendants, Aleksandr Vladimirovich Osadchuk and Anatoliy Sergeyevich Kovalev, are charged with a separate conspiracy to commit computer crimes, relating to hacking into the computers of U.S. persons and entities responsible for the administration of 2016 U.S. elections, such as state boards of elections, secretaries of state, and U.S. companies that supplied software and other technology related to the administration of U.S. elections. The United States District Court for the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C. issued a federal arrest warrant for each of these defendants upon the grand jury's return of the indictment.

THESE INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS, AN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT RISK, AND AN ESCAPE RISK

If you have any information concerning this case, please contact your local FBI office, or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

www.fbi.gov

According to one former employee, IRA staff on the ``foreign desk'' were responsible for meddling in other countries' elections.\251\ In the run up to the 2016 U.S. presidential election, for example, foreign desk staff were reportedly trained on `the nuances of American social polemics on tax issues, LGBT rights, the gun debate, and more . . . their job was to incite [Americans] further and try to `rock the boat.' ''\252\ The employee noted that ``our goal wasn't to turn the Americans toward Russia. Our task was to set Americans against their own government: to provoke unrest and discontent." \253\ Based on conversations with Facebook officials, it appears that Kremlin-backed trolls pursued a similar strategy in the lead up to the 2017 French presidential election, and likely before Germany's national election the same year.\254\ The IRA also apparently had a separate ``Facebook desk'' that fought back against the social network's efforts to delete fake accounts that the IRA had developed into sophisticated profiles.\255\ In addition, in the United States, Russian-backed social media accounts linked to the IRA paid for advertisements to promote disinformation and encouraged protests and rallies on both sides of socially divisive issues, such as promoting a protest in Baltimore while posing as part



Politics

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Casey Michel / April 25, 2024

CRIME GUYS

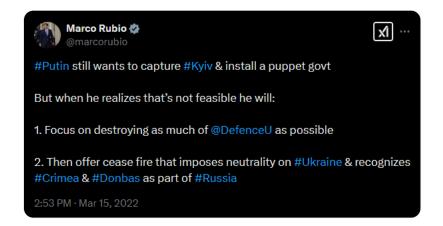
How Paul Manafort Turned Trump Against Ukraine

Amid rumors that the oft-disgraced fixer might be making a return to Trump's orbit, it's worth revisiting his role in fostering the former president's animus toward the war-torn nation.

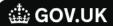
The recent Rubio-Lavrov meeting in Saudi Arabia was an eye-opening event for many who were still optimistic about Trump and Ukraine – the outcome was that Putin got absolutely everything he's ever wanted from the war, and at the same time it seems that the US got nothing.







From the beginning of the war back in 2014, Moscow's goals in Ukraine have been the same: install a pro-Kremlin puppet regime in Kyiv after the ousting of Yanukovych, capture vast areas of land from Ukraine, alienate Ukraine's allies and undermine NATO.



Home > International > Foreign affairs

Press release

Kremlin plan to install pro-Russian leadership in Ukraine exposed

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss gave a statement on the Kremlin plan to install pro-Russian leadership in Ukraine.

From: $\underline{\textbf{Foreign, Commonwealth \& Development Office}} \ \textbf{and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss}$

Published 22 January 2022

Putin: Russia helped Yanukovych to flee Ukraine

① 24 October 2014





Ukraine's pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych (left) was ousted in February

Russia helped ousted Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovych to flee from violent protests in February, Russian leader Vladimir Putin has said.

Why The Trump Decision To Delay Aid To **Ukraine Is Under Scrutiny**

DECEMBER 6, 2019 · 7:42 PM ET

HEARD ON ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

By Audie Cornish, Sam Gringlas













President Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy meet in New York. Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images



In Feb 2022, their initial plan to capture Kyiv in 3 days & install a puppet regime failed, and the war quickly expanded. Eventually, Putin abandoned the idea of forming puppet states of LPR & DPR, and announced the annexation of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk & Zaporizhzhia.



Deluded Putin 'thought he would capture Kyiv in three days'



Tom Sanders

Published February 24, 2023 12:16pm Updated February 24, 2023 12:34pm

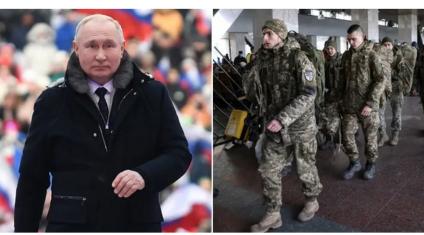






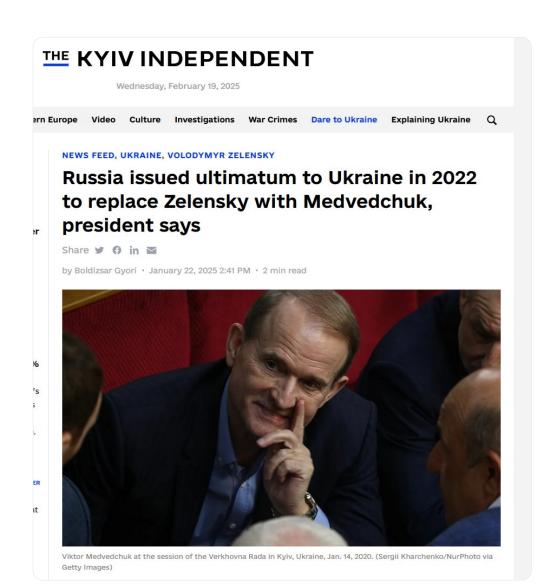






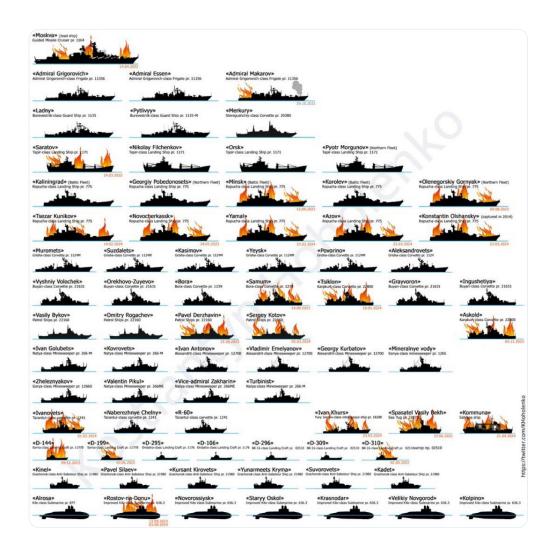
Deluded Putin believed FSB reports which said he would seize Kyiv in just three days (Picture: Getty)

Vladimir Putin initially thought <u>Russia</u> could defeat Ukraine and overthrow its government in just three days, according to leaked FSB intelligence.

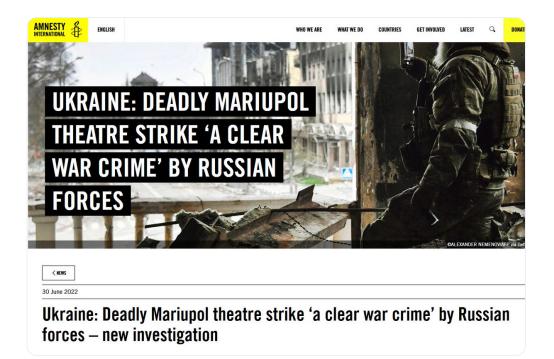


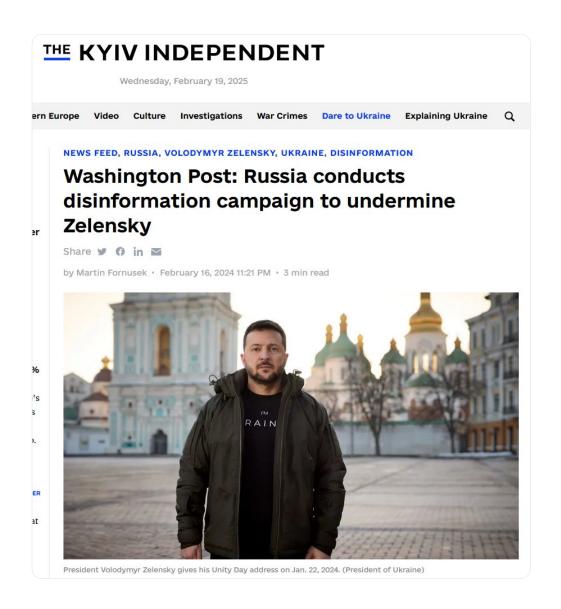


Ukrainians fought fiercely, and even managed to take away a big part of Russia's Black Sea navy. Russia resorted to meatwave attacks, bombing civilians & critical infrastructure, and controlling the online information space through massive disinformation campaigns.

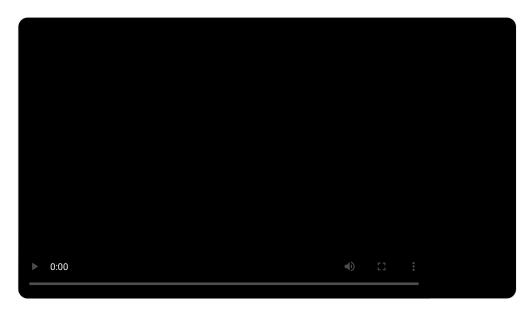








Then, after almost 3 years of brutal war, everything changed, as they had hoped: Trump won, and this time it was quickly obvious whose side he was standing on. We had already seen Trump capitulating to Putin in Helsinki in 2018, but this was something completely different.



First of all, Trump excluded the Europeans and even Ukrainians from the peace talks. Soon after the meeting, both sides agreed to "lay the groundwork for future cooperation on matters of mutual geopolitical interest and historic economic and investment opportunities."



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NEWS > DEFENSE

Trump and Putin stun Europe with peace plan for Ukraine

U.S. president announces that talks with Russia's leader on ending the war will start "immediately," after his defense chief warns that Ukraine's peace goals won't be met.

☑ SHARE



| Mikhail Klimentyev/SPUTNIK/AFP via Getty Images

This article is also available in: French

FEBRUARY 12, 2025 9:58 PM CET

BY TIM ROSS, CLEA CAULCUTT, HANS VON DER BURCHARD AND JACOPO BARIGAZZI

The below is attributable to Spokesperson Tammy Bruce:

Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov today as a follow up to President Donald Trump's conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on February 12. Secretary Rubio was joined by National Security Advisor Mike Waltz and Special Envoy Ambassador Steve Witkoff, the team chosen by President Trump to reestablish the bilateral relationship. Foreign Minister Lavrov was joined by Russian Aide to the President Yuri Ushakov.

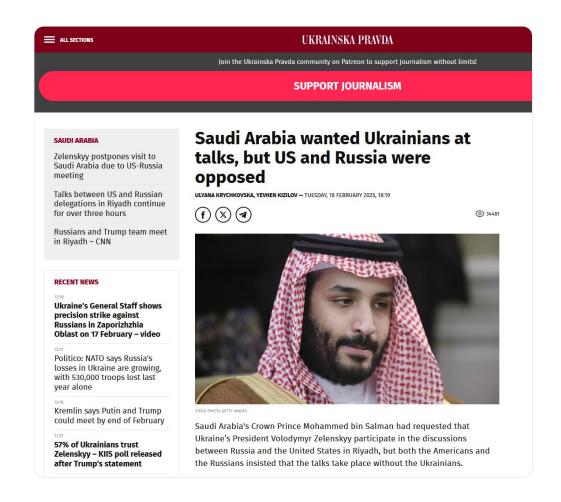
President Trump wants to stop the killing; the United States wants peace and is using its strength in the world to bring countries together. President Trump is the only leader in the world who can get Ukraine and Russia to agree to that.

We agreed to:

- Establish a consultation mechanism to address irritants to our bilateral relationship with the objective of taking steps necessary to normalize the operation of our respective diplomatic missions.
- Appoint respective high-level teams to begin working on a path to ending the conflict in Ukraine as soon as possible in a way that is enduring, sustainable, and acceptable to all sides.
- Lay the groundwork for future cooperation on matters of mutual geopolitical interest and historic
 economic and investment opportunities which will emerge from a successful end to the conflict in
 Ukraine.
- The parties to today's meetings pledge to remain engaged to make sure the process moves forward in a timely and productive manner.

One phone call followed by one meeting is not sufficient to establish enduring peace. We must take action, and today we took an important step forward.

We would like to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting under the leadership of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud.



After the meeting, Rubio stated that they'd restore staffing to embassies, create a "high-level team" to support Ukraine-Russia peace talks, and to "explore closer relations and economic cooperation".

Lavrov said that "Russia will not accept NATO troops in Ukraine."

⊙ Wate

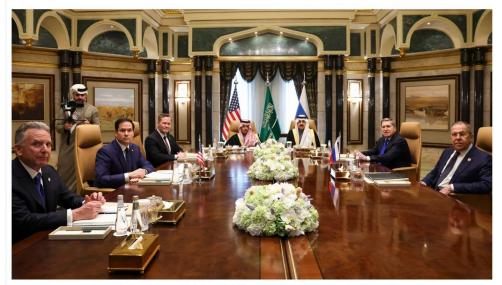
World / Europe

US and Russia to appoint teams to negotiate end of Ukraine war in talks that excluded Kyiv









US and Russian officials meet for talks mediated by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 Evelyn Hockstein/AFP/Getty Images



The Trump administration said the talks are a first step to assess whether Russia is "serious" about ending its war in Ukraine, while Russia expressed hopes of normalising relations with the US. Credit: AP

World

Russia will not accept NATO troops in Ukraine, Lavrov says after Saudi Arabia peace talks

US and Russian officials held more than four hours of talks in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

5 min read

Published 19 February 2025 5:45am

Source: Reuters

The US side also proposed a three-stage peace plan:

- 1) Ceasefire deal
- 2) Elections in Ukraine
- 3) Peace deal

Lavrov later claimed that he was "unaware" of such a plan, commenting that "I haven't seen this information, I haven't seen this news."





MEWS w/ @NanaSajaia - US/Russia 3 stage peace proposal would force new Ukraine elections: foreign diplomatic sources

The US and Russia are proposing a three-stage peace plan, according to multiple foreign diplomatic sources close to the talks in Saudi Arabia. The plan includes a ceasefire, elections in Ukraine, then signing of a final agreement.

Multiple foreign diplomatic sources tell FOX the US and Russia consider holding new elections in Ukraine to be a key condition for the success of the settlement process. This piece is certain to stir controversy, as Russia does not hold true elections and the Ukrainians balk at the prospect of installing a pro-Russia puppet president.

A US source familiar with the negotiations softens this claim – telling me people are "floating" the elections piece – and "it may be part of future talks, but not today."

The White House has NOT YET COMMENTED - but is expected to soon.

Ukraine also disputes the notion that Zelenskyy's popularity is too low to win reelection, even without Russian interference, citing his refusal to sign anything in Munich.

Multiple foreign diplomatic sources provided this readout from the Ukrainian side: "Putin assesses the probability of electing a puppet president as quite high and is also convinced that any candidate other than the current President of Ukraine will be more flexible and ready for negotiations and concessions. In turn, D. Trump is ready to accept any election result, including the possibility of election of a pro-Russian puppet. D. Trump and V. Putin consider the chances of the current President of Ukraine being re-elected as low."

Last edited 3:12 PM · Feb 18, 2025 · 853.3K Views



Here's how I see things going in the near future: first, Trump and Putin will come up with an extremely biased and unfair ceasefire plan for Ukraine. It will most probably include Russia keeping all the invaded regions, and Ukraine agreeing to not join NATO.

Opinion Ukraine

Trump's senseless capitulation to Putin is a betrayal of Ukraine - and terrible dealmaking Timothy Garton Ash

Thu 13 Feb 2025 16.12 CET

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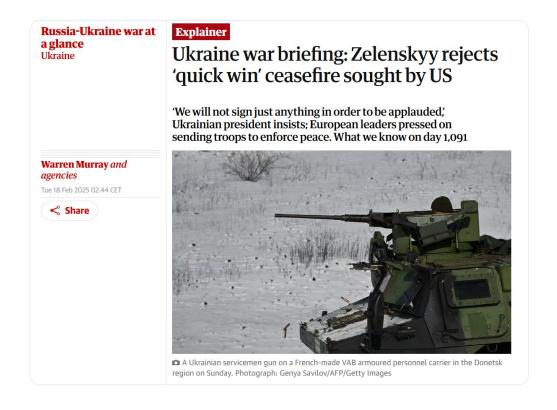
As the US and its European allies head to the Munich security conference, Europe must learn from its tragic history and oppose appeasement

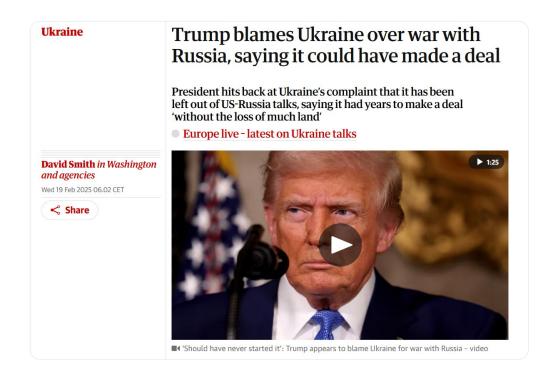


🗖 An artwork depicting Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin at an exhibition called Yalta 2.0, in Yalta, Crimea, 8 February 2025. Photograph: Alexey Pavlishak/Reuters

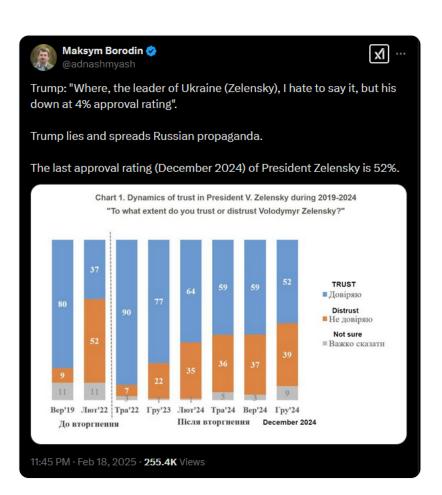


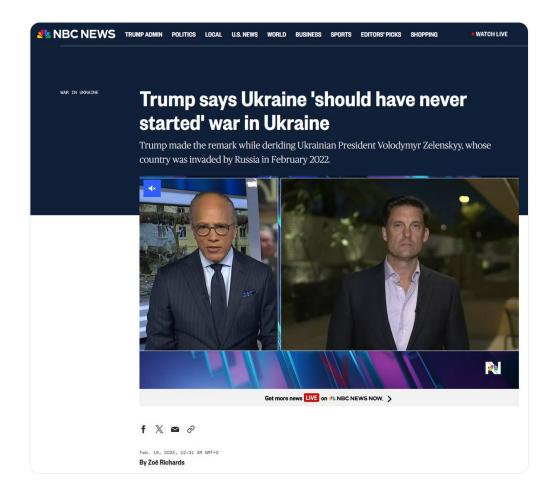
This will of course be rejected by both Ukraine and the EU, after which the two sides will eventually find some kind of middle ground and come up with a flimsy Minsk 3 type of deal. During all this time, both the US and Russia will defame Zelenskyy, blaming him for the war. 12/23



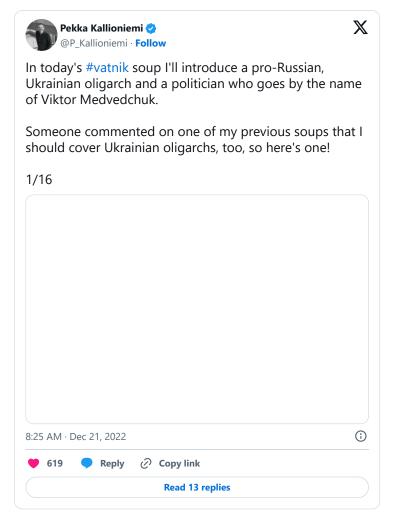


The goal there is to decrease Zelenskyy's popularity, and try to promote a pro-Kremlin and pro-Trump leader in the country. This process was already started by Trump, who said that Zelenskyy's approval rate is "down at 4%," and that he shouldn't have "started the war".





The Kremlin candidate to lead Ukraine will probably be someone close to Viktor Medvedchuk. This candidate will be heavily promoted by Russian operations and pro-Kremlin Ukrainians like Diana Panchenko (who will also keep on criticizing Zelenskyy).



Before the eventual ceasefire and elections, Trump will continue criticizing NATO and Europe, blaming them for continuing the war in Ukraine. Some have even suggested that Trump might pull US troops from Europe, leaving it extremely vulnerable to a future Russian invasion.

The New Hork Times

Updates Tracking Major Moves Lawsuits Tracker

In Trump's Cross Hairs

Federal Worker Cuts

Trump Discussed Pulling U.S. From NATO, Aides Say Amid New Concerns Over Russia











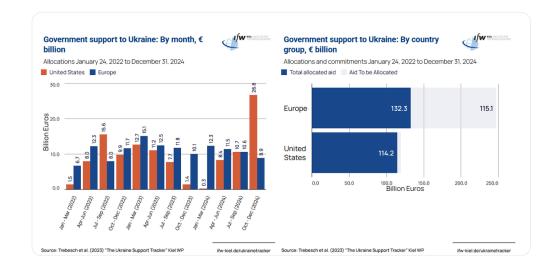
President Trump with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, left, and the national security adviser, John R. Bolton, at the NATO summit meeting in Brussels last year. Mr. Trump's threats to withdraw from the alliance had sent officials scrambling to prevent the annual gathering from turning into a disaster. Doug Mills/The New York Times

By Julian E. Barnes and Helene Cooper

Jan. 14, 2019



The Trump admin will also continue spreading lies about the aid sent to Ukraine by his predecessor, claiming that the US has "given over double what Europe has" (it hasn't) and that a large part of the aid has gone missing (it was actually spent elsewhere).





If the US and Russia manage to get their puppet regime in power, this will launch a massive operation of dividing Ukraine's resources between the two. Chinese companies are already operating in the Donbas region, and the US probably wants Russia to kick them out.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Zelenskyy tells aides to reject U.S. pitch for 50% of Ukraine's rare earth minerals

The Ukrainian president did not feel the draft agreement included security guarantees for Kyiv.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the Munich Security Conference on Feb. 5. Sean Gallup / Getty Images



Feb. 17, 2025, 7:24 AM GMT+2

By Kristen Welker, Courtney Kube, Carol E. Lee and Nnamdi Egwuonwu



Part of the deal would also be lifting sanctions against Russia. This would effectively help the Kremlin to bounce back economically and even supercharge their war economy so that they can continue producing weapons and equipment for future wars.

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SUPPORT JOURNALISM

US secretary of state suggests EU may lift sanctions against Russia if peace is reached

IVANNA KOSTINA, ANASTASIA PROTZ — TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2025, 16:15



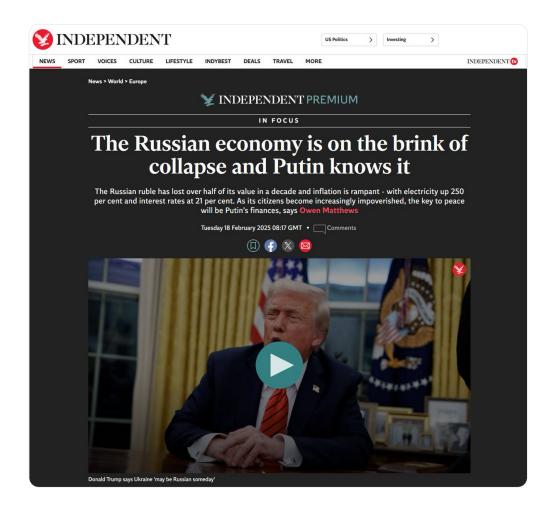








Marco Rubio, US Secretary of State, noted that the resolution of the Russo-Ukrainian war must occur with the agreement of all parties. He also hinted that this could serve as grounds for the EU to lift sanctions against Russia.



Meanwhile, Trump's threats against Greenland and Canada will continue. Greenland is full of valuable resources, and Canada has some of the largest known reserves of rare earth minerals in the world. Many of these resources are necessary for building modern technology.



Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Arts Travel Earth Audio Video Live

Trump says he believes US will 'get Greenland'

26 January 2025

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Ian Aikman BBC News



The US president was asked about the island in the Air Force One press room $\,$

U.S.

Trump on 51st State: "Canada needs America's protection from countries like America"

2 DAYS AGO by IAN MACINTYRE | EMRIANMACINTYRE

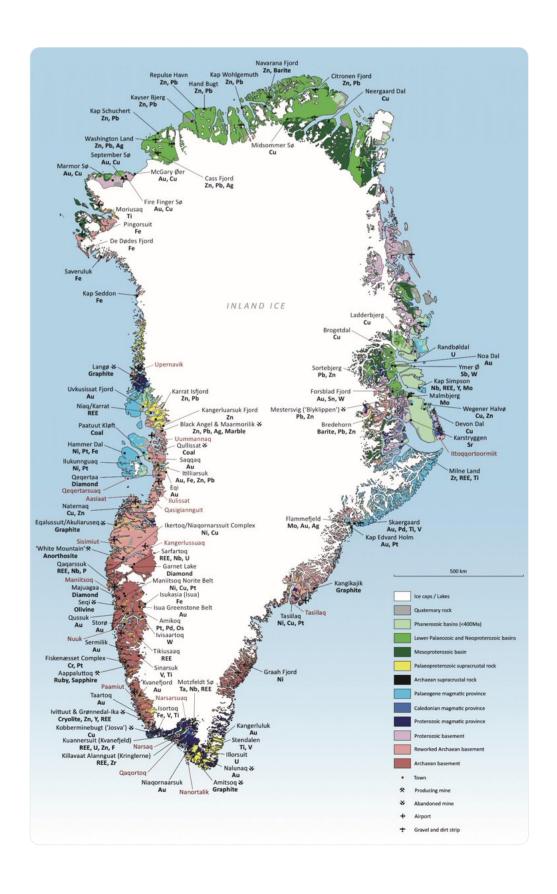






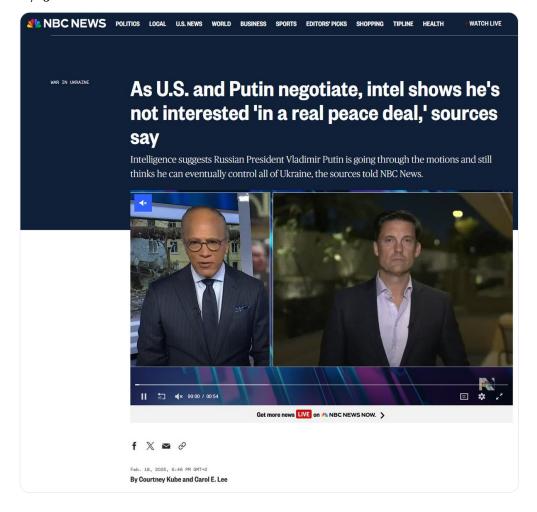
Photo Credit

WASHINGTON D.C. – Asked about his earlier comments regarding **Canada** becoming the 51st state, President Donald **Trump** clarified that Canada needs America to offer **it** protection from hostile aggressor nations like America.





Even if there is a ceasefire, Putin will probably continue the invasion against Ukraine. Intelligence sources from the US and close allies show that Putin is "not interested in a real peace deal", and wants to eventually control all of Ukraine.



This is also evident from Lavrov's statements – the Russian Foreign Minister has stated that Ukraine is not a real country and should be divided among Russia, Romania, Poland and Hungary. In Romania, this claim could be even used to get Calin Georgescu elected.





> Lavrov talks about statements of some Romanian politicians on annexing Ukrainian territories: There are such conversations

Lavrov talks about statements of some Romanian politicians on annexing Ukrainian territories: There are such conversations

Updated time: 19.02.2025 10:19 Published time: 18.02.2025 18:14







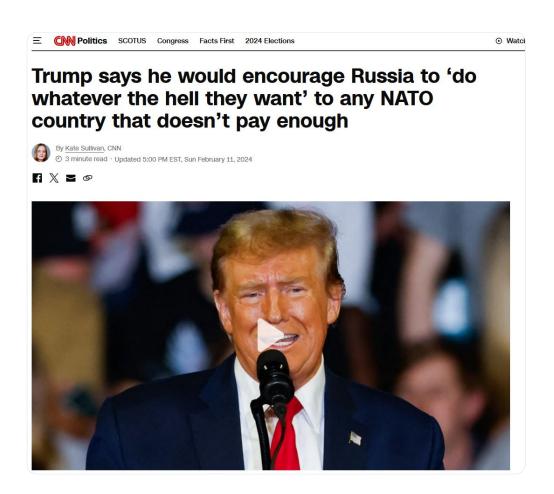


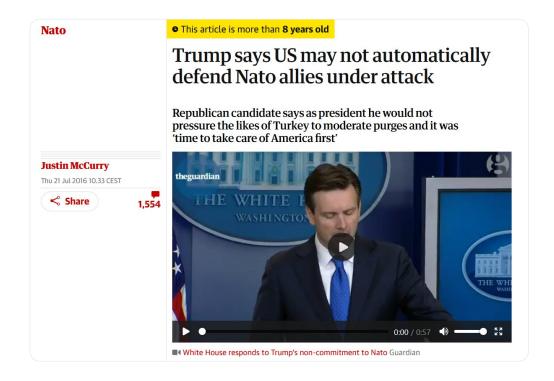


nto: Seraei Lavrov, Russian Foreian Minister / Photo Source: Profimedia Images

Sergei Lavrov spoke on Tuesday in Riyadh, following negotiations with the US delegation, about the statements made by some Romanian politicians regarding the claim of territories belonging to Ukraine. The last statement made in the public space regarding the territories that Romania should claim was made by the former independent candidate for the presidential elections, Calin Georgescu.

Trump has been right about many things in the past, including the need for Europe to get rid of Russian energy & ramp up their defense budgets. But right now, it seems that Europe has become a target for both America & Russia, and the European leaders are in panic mode.

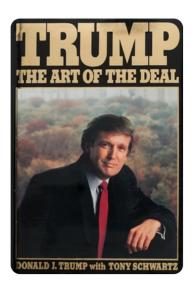




To conclude, Trump has offered Putin

- 2) no NATO membership for Ukraine,
- 3) no US soldiers in Ukraine,
- 4) withdrawal of US soldiers from Europe, and
- 5) sanctions relief

Whereas Trump gets back nothing. Art of the Deal.





The 2nd edition of "Vatnik Soup — The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation" is officially out!

You can order your copy here:



•••