



Vatnik Soup @P_Kallioniemi

Oct 21, 2025 · 21 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1980622037782524357](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, we'll explain the context of the upcoming Budapest Blunder, and how it follows the infamous Alaska Fiasco from two months ago and Trump's absurd delaying of serious aid to Ukraine and effective sanctions on Russia for the past nine months.

1/20



Two months ago, Trump embarrassed the United States by rolling out the red carpet for war criminal dictator Putin and overall acting like a pathetic servant eager to meet his master. Of course, the Alaska Fiasco didn't bring peace any closer.

2/20



Vatnik Soup 
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In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll explain the Alaska Fiasco and how it marks the peak of Trump's two-year betrayal of Ukraine. What was sold as "peace talks" turned into a spectacle of weakness, humiliation, empty promises, and photo-ops that handed Putin exactly what he wanted.

1/24



12:32 PM · Aug 18, 2025



14.2K



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Worse, the main outcome of the humiliation was to delay serious sanctions, which the US Congress, in rare bipartisan unity against Russia, was on the verge of passing. Two weeks by two weeks, Trump Always Chickens Out, postponing any real pressure on Putin for 9 months now.

LATEST NEWS

Bipartisan Russia Sanctions Bill Gains Support, Could Reach Senate Vote Soon

Jul 10, 2025 10:57 Updated Jul 11, 2025 17:00 ⌚ 3 min read



CYRIL BARABALTCHOUK
Author



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WORLD NEWS

Trump warns of 'severe consequences' if Putin does not agree to stop war after summit

August 13, 2025



1 of 10 | President Donald Trump says there will be "very severe consequences" if Russia doesn't agree to stop the Ukraine war after Friday's summit with President Vladimir Putin. He said a pre-summit call with Ukrainian and European leaders was "very friendly."

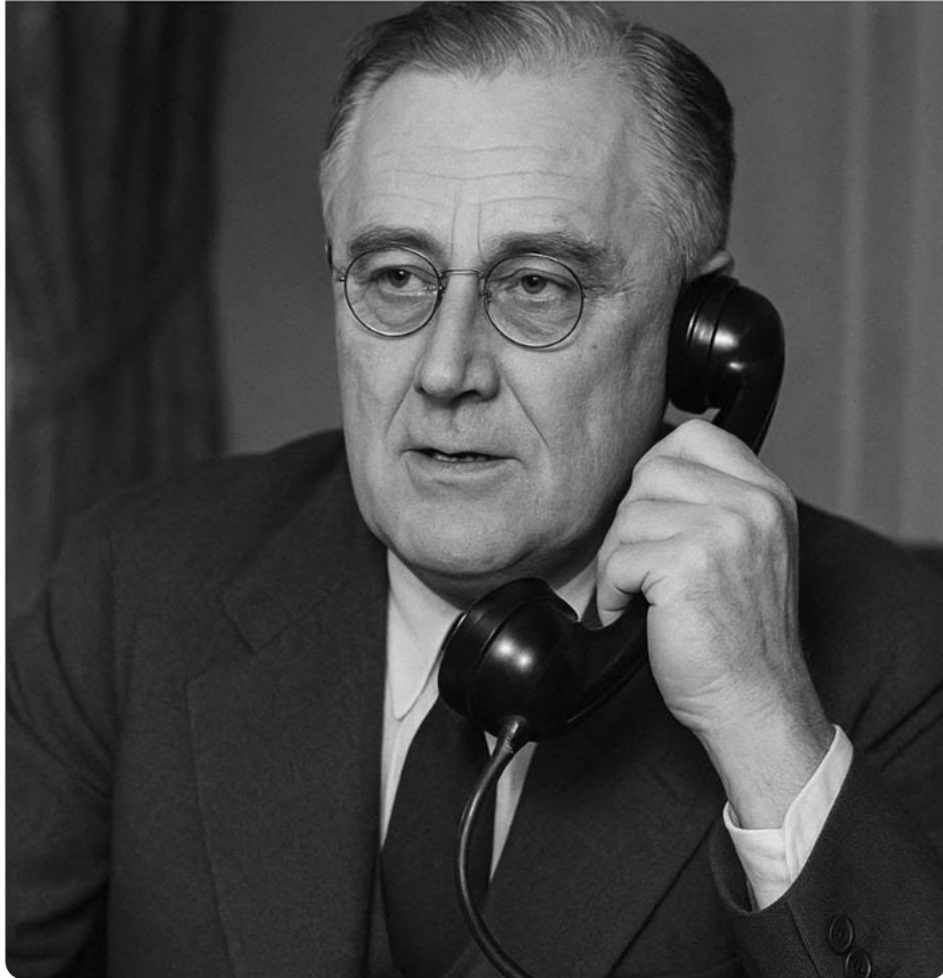
BY [GEIR MOULSON](#), [SYLVIE CORBET](#), [STEFANIE DAZIO](#) AND [LORNE COOK](#)

Updated 10:53 PM GMT+3, August 13, 2025

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In the latest instance, Trump had been promising Tomahawks to Ukraine, but decided to check with the aggressor first. After a 2-hour phone call with him, Trump announced Ukraine won't be getting Tomahawks after all, since — would you believe it — Putin didn't like the idea.

**Adolf, do you mind if I sell
Churchill some weapons?**





The other announcement was a planned meeting with Putin in Budapest, of all places. In 1994, the UK, US, Ukraine and Russia signed the Budapest Memorandum there, with Russia fully recognizing Ukraine's borders and sovereignty. Yes, that includes Crimea, and Putin knows it.



Confirm the following:

Budapest Memorandum, 1994

1. **The Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America reaffirm their commitment to Ukraine, in accordance with the principles of the CSCE Final Act, to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine.**



President Vladimir Putin signed a law ratifying the Treaty between Russia and Ukraine on the Russian-Ukrainian State Border

April 23, 2004 00:00

2004

The treaty, signed in Kiev on January 28, 2003, is a framework document determining the state border between the two countries on land, including rivers and lakes, and the fundamental approach to the issues connected with the Black and Azov seas and the Kerch Strait.

The line of the state border has been mapped as a result of the joint work on the demarcation of the border carried out by the Russian and Ukrainian demarcation commissions.

The basis of the border is the administrative boundary between the RSFSR and the Ukrainian SSR at the time of the dissolution of the USSR, which is to be sealed by corresponding state legal documents.

The description of the passage of the state border and the atlas of the maps of the state border between the Russian Federation and Ukraine have been made and agreed upon, and form an inalienable part of the treaty.

Vladimir Putin interviewed by the German ARD TV channel, August 29, 2008

Интервью телеканалу ARD



Россия не будет в изоляции из-за событий вокруг Южной Осетии и Абхазии - Путин

Crimea is not a disputed territory.

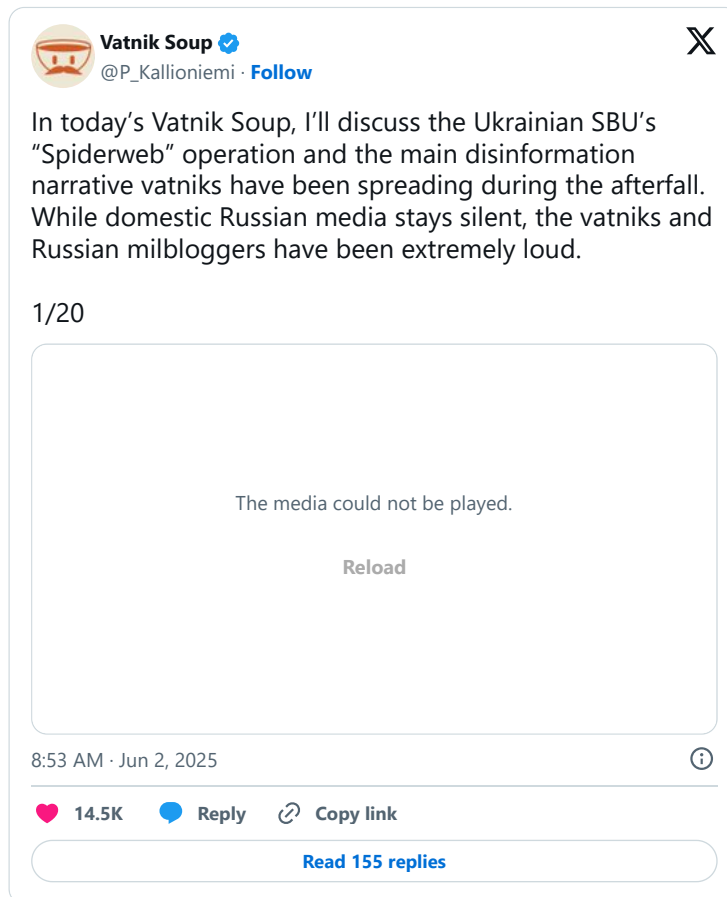
Under heavy US pressure, Ukraine in exchange handed over all of its nuclear weapons — the world's third-largest nuclear stockpile at the time — to Russia, allowing Putin to invade Ukraine and do his regular nuclear blackmail on the whole world.

6/20



Conventional arms were destroyed as well, in particular strategic bombers were either dismantled or given to Russia. Yes, that's the bombers that Russia uses against Ukrainian civilians and that Ukraine destroyed in the daring "Spiderweb" operation.

7/20



The U.S.-led campaign to denuclearize Ukraine began in 1992. Having strained under the yoke of foreign powers for centuries, Kyiv jealously guarded its nascent independence. Many Russians viewed their neighbor's sovereignty as anomalous, and Ukraine's postcommunist leadership feared what they might do about it. Mr. Kravchuk had been born in 1934 under one foreign government, Poland; saw his father die fighting a second, Germany; and lived decades under communist rule. He was determined not to see his nation subjugated again. The inherited Soviet arsenal represented a potent check against future Russian aggression.

Kravchuk's government therefore harbored apprehensions about abandoning it. He considered trading this ace for an ironclad territorial guarantee, something akin to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Article 5 umbrella. But Secretary of State James Baker balked. He believed this would result in identical demands from all post-Soviet states. When Ukraine subsequently resisted committing to disarmament through the 1992 Lisbon Protocol, Mr. Baker put this defiance to an end with a blistering phone call. "I have never heard one man speak to another in quite that way," Jim Timbie, an aide who was with Mr. Baker at the time, said in describing the secretary's side of the conversation to Ambassador Thomas Graham Jr. Mr. Baker required that the signing ceremony the next day adjourn without speeches from the parties.

Following U.S. elections that November, Mr. Kravchuk gained an untested negotiating partner but not new leverage. Bill Clinton's administration proved even less amenable to his concerns. As archival documents show, a new cadre of officials approached the issue with a heightened sense of certainty—and urgency. “Ukraine could not keep nuclear weapons,” Steven Pifer, a State Department official who later served as ambassador to Ukraine (1998-2000), recalled in 2018. “No one in the U.S. government questioned” this objective. A sign in the Office of New Independent States fashioned a Clintonian mantra to match the prevailing view: “It’s the nukes, stupid.”

The full-court press began on the president's sixth day in office. Teleconference transcripts reveal Mr. Clinton neither waited for the full-scale review of disarmament policy the General Accounting Office recommended in 1993 nor for Ambassador Strobe Talbott's comprehensive appraisal of existing policies toward post-Soviet states before dialing up the pressure on Kyiv. On his first call with Mr. Kravchuk in office, on Jan. 26, 1993, Mr. Clinton offered \$175 million—which grew to \$700 million by 1994—in exchange for dismantlement of Ukraine's nuclear arsenal. He also proposed “strong security assurances” from the U.S. to assuage Mr. Kravchuk's security fears.

The final nuclear warheads were handed over to Russia by July 1996. The US paid Ukraine around half a billion dollars to aid the effort.

After the Soviet collapse, Ukraine also inherited approximately 102 strategic bombers: 23 Tu-95MS, 19 Tu-160, and more than 60 Tu-22M3. But when it agreed to give up nuclear weapons, it also agreed to scrap or dismantle the majority of these bombers.

The rest of the bombers were eventually turned over to Russia because Ukraine faced challenges in maintaining and operating these strategic bombers due to economic constraints, a lack of spare parts, and geopolitical pressures.

After a stopover in London, the senators returned to Washington and declared that the U.S. should devote funds to speed up the destruction of more than 400,000 small arms, 1,000 anti-aircraft missiles, and more than 15,000 tons of ammunition.

SCROLL DOWN FOR VIDEO



Then-Senator Barack Obama inspected decommissioned artillery shells in a warehouse in Donetsk, Ukraine, and argued that Congress should allocate money to speed up the destruction of thousands of tons more

Alaska was a great choice - for Putin, as the US state was once part of the Russian Empire, sold to the US by a previous Tsar. Russians have been pushing disinformation on this to their children to promote their imperialist goal of Alaska returning under Moscow's rule.



Painting by Russian artist Sergei Mironenko, "Alaska is Ours," 2014, wood, decal, varnish. (Open source)

Russian propaganda has come up with the false narrative that Alaska was not sold but leased for 99 years, although there is no evidence to back this up. According to the myth, the Soviet Union decided not to take the peninsula back in 1966.

Another myth circulated in Russia is that the country never received the gold for Alaska, as it allegedly sank in a sea storm while being transported by ship.





Budapest Memorandum aside, Orbán's Hungary is again an excellent choice — for Putin and Orbán. Conveniently, the White House refused to answer whose idea it was. From his call with Trump, Putin once again got more time to keep bombing Ukraine, without giving up anything.

9/20



Donald J. Trump ✓ +

@realDonaldTrump

I have just concluded my telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin, of Russia, and it was a very productive one. President Putin congratulated me and the United States on the Great Accomplishment of Peace in the Middle East, something that, he said, has been dreamed of for centuries. I actually believe that the Success in the Middle East will help in our negotiation in attaining an end to the War with Russia/Ukraine. President Putin thanked the First Lady, Melania, for her involvement with children. He was very appreciative, and said that this will continue. We also spent a great deal of time talking about Trade between Russia and the United States when the War with Ukraine is over. At the conclusion of the call, we agreed that there will be a meeting of our High Level Advisors, next week. The United States' initial meetings will be led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, together with various other people, to be designated. A meeting location is to be determined. President Putin and I will then meet in an agreed upon location, Budapest, Hungary, to see if we can bring this "inglorious" War, between Russia and Ukraine, to an end. President Zelenskyy and I will be meeting tomorrow, in the Oval Office, where we will discuss my conversation with President Putin, and much more. I believe great progress was made with today's telephone conversation.

‘Your Mom’: Trump White House Goes Back to Middle School With Response to Question on Putin Summit

Isaac Schorr | Oct 17th, 2025, 3:32 pm

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President Donald Trump speaks to the media as he leaves the White House, Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in Washington, as White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt, looks on. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

White House press secretary **Karoline Leavitt** and communications director **Steven Cheung** dove back into the middle school well to respond to a question from HuffPost on Friday.

After President **Donald Trump** announced on Thursday that he would meet with Russian dictator **Vladimir Putin** in Budapest, HuffPost reached out to ask who had suggested Budapest.

Leavitt replied, “Your mom did,” while Cheung kept it shorter, writing back only, “Your mom.”

Putin has been testing the EU’s and NATO’s resolve in various ways for years: invading Europe without becoming a pariah, waging hybrid war on the EU itself, and lately regularly violating NATO airspace. More and more aggressive, encountering little protest or response.

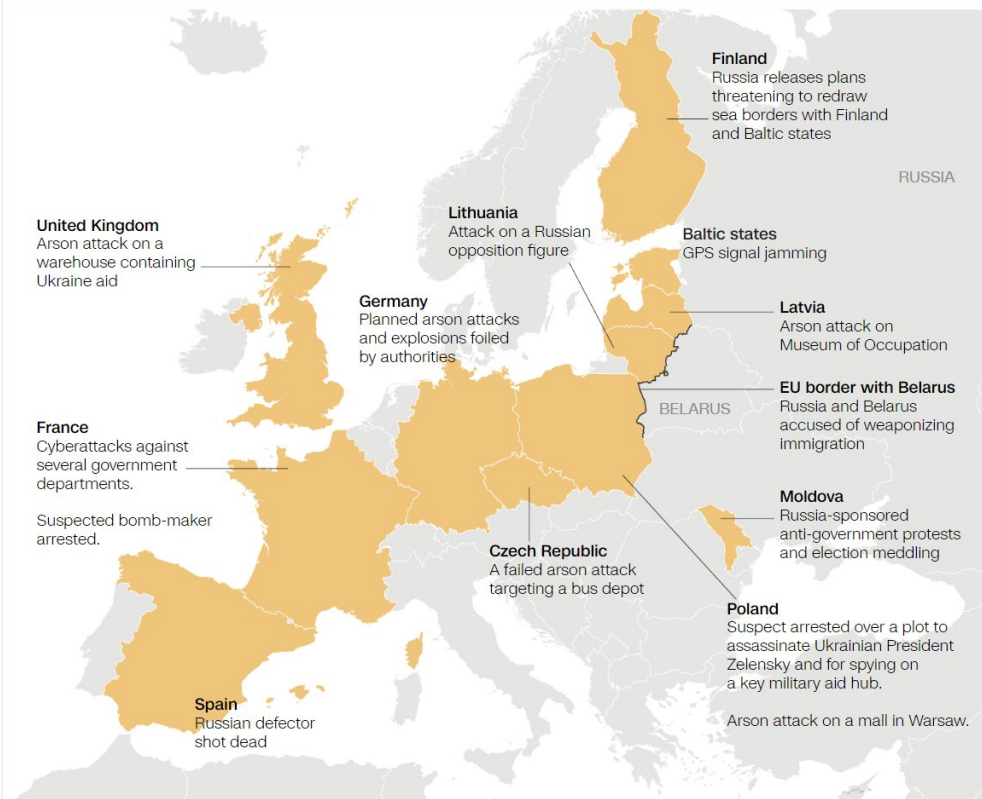
E

Mapping Putin's covert war in Europe

▶ 0:00



Reported Russia-linked hybrid attacks in 2024



Sources: UK Counter Terrorism Policing, Institute for the Study of War, German police, Estonia's Foreign Ministry, French Prime Minister office, French National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor's Office, Czech government, US State Department, Polish government, Museum of Occupation in Riga, CNN reporting
Graphic: Rachel Wilson, CNN

WORLD > EUROPE • 4 MIN READ

NATO intercepts three Russian jets over Estonia's airspace

UPDATED SEP 24, 2025 ▾

By  Sophie Tanno



Estonia's Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna, pictured in May, said Friday's violation was "unprecedentedly brazen." *(Ozan Kose/AFP/Getty Images)*



NATO intercepted three Russian jets that violated Estonia's airspace on Friday, the country's foreign ministry and an alliance spokesperson said.

Three Russian MiG-31 fighter jets entered Estonian airspace over the Gulf of Finland without permission and remained there for a total of 12 minutes, the Estonian foreign ministry said.

Poland says it shot down Russian drones after airspace violation

10 September 2025

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Adam Easton in Warsaw and Jaroslav Lukiv



Poland closest to open conflict since World War Two, warns PM

At least three Russian drones were shot down by Polish and other Nato aircraft in Poland's airspace during overnight attacks on Ukraine, the Polish prime minister has said.

Donald Tusk said Poland had recorded 19 drone incursions, with some flying deep enough to temporarily close four airports, including Warsaw's main hub Chopin.

Flaunting his impunity by landing in Budapest, Putin will keep on testing how far he can go in defying international law. Despite having notified its withdrawal, Hungary is still bound by the Rome Statute to arrest him for his genocidal kidnapping of Ukrainian children.

ICC refers Hungary to oversight body for not arresting Netanyahu during state visit

As Israeli leader visited in April, Hungarian PM Orbán called Budapest's commitment to International Criminal Court 'half-hearted,' and began the process of leaving it

By AP

25 July 2025, 2:36 pm

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2



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, left, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shake hands after a press statement at the Carmelite Monastery in the Buda Castle in Budapest, Hungary, April 3, 2025. (AP/Denes Erdos)

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — A panel of judges at the International Criminal Court has reported Hungary to the court's oversight organization for failing to arrest Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he visited Budapest in April, stating that the move undercut the court's ability to bring suspects to justice.

The Israeli leader received a red carpet welcome from Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán during a state visit, in defiance of an ICC arrest warrant. Netanyahu and former defense minister Yoav Gallant are accused of crimes against humanity in connection with the war in Gaza.

Ukraine situation: ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II finds that Mongolia failed to cooperate in the arrest and surrender of Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and refers the matter to the Assembly of States Parties



Today, 24 October 2024, Pre-Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Court (“ICC” or “the Court”) found that, by failing to arrest Mr Putin while he was on its territory and surrender him to the Court, Mongolia has failed to comply with the Court’s request to cooperate in this regard contrary to the provisions of the Rome Statute (“Statute”), thereby preventing the Court from exercising its functions and powers within the meaning of article 87(7) of the Statute. In view of the seriousness of Mongolia’s failure to cooperate with the Court, the Chamber deemed it necessary to refer the matter to the Assembly of States Parties.

The Chamber reaffirmed that personal immunity, including that of Heads of State, is not opposable before the ICC, and no waiver is required. States Parties and those accepting the Court’s jurisdiction are duty-bound to arrest and surrender individuals subject to ICC warrants, regardless of official position or nationality. The Chamber highlighted that the ICC operates independently of State involvement, addressing serious international crimes. Under Article 86 of the Rome Statute, all States Parties must fully cooperate with the Court to support its mandate. The Chamber further recalled that the Court performs functions that align with the general interests of the international community by exercising jurisdiction over the most serious international crimes, which include grave breaches of fundamental norms of international law.

[Finding under article 87\(7\) of the Rome Statute on the non-compliance by Mongolia with the request by the Court to cooperate in the arrest and surrender of Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and referral to the Assembly of States Parties](#)



Press Release: 17 March 2023 | [Українська мова](#) [Русский](#)

Situation in Ukraine: ICC judges issue arrest warrants against Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova



Today, 17 March 2023, Pre-Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Court (“ICC” or “the Court”) issued warrants of arrest for two individuals in the context of the situation in Ukraine: Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Ms Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova.

Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, born on 7 October 1952, President of the Russian Federation, is allegedly responsible for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population (children) and that of unlawful transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation (under articles 8(2)(a)(vii) and 8(2)(b)(viii) of the Rome Statute). The crimes were allegedly committed in Ukrainian occupied territory at least from 24 February 2022. There are reasonable grounds to believe that Mr Putin bears individual criminal responsibility for the aforementioned crimes, (i) for having committed the acts directly, jointly with others and/or through others (article 25(3)(a) of the Rome Statute), and (ii) for his failure to exercise control properly over civilian and military subordinates who committed the acts, or allowed for their commission, and who were under his effective authority and control, pursuant to superior responsibility (article 28(b) of the Rome Statute).

Definition

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Article II

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

1. Killing members of the group;
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Putin should already have been arrested in Mongolia, but this is a war over Europe and Hungary is an EU member, making the provocation much worse. And the EU was neither consulted on this, nor invited, further straining European unity. A weaker EU: all to Putin's benefit.

WORLD NEWS

Orbán celebrates Hungary as 'the only place in Europe' where a Trump-Putin meeting can be held



President Donald Trump greets Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán during a summit to support ending the more than two-year Israel-Hamas war in Gaza after a breakthrough ceasefire deal, Monday, Oct. 13, 2025, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, Pool)

Putin's Budapest visit makes awkward spectacle for EU, NATO

By Gergely Szakacs and Lili Bayer

October 17, 2025 5:48 PM GMT+3 · Updated October 17, 2025



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a plenary session of the Russian Energy Week forum at the Moscow Manege in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025. Alexander Zemlianichenko/Pool via REUTERS [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)

Hungary's PM Orbán slams EU and pledges crackdown on foreign influence



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By euronews

Published on 15/03/2025 - 19:00 GMT+1 • Updated 16/03/2025 - 1:08 GMT+1

"There is always an empire that is trying to take away the freedom of the Hungarians, and right now it is the one in Brussels," Viktor Orbán said in a speech on Saturday.

Hungary's prime minister on Saturday vowed to rid his country of those he claims work for the interests of foreign powers, saying his right-wing government will eliminate a global "shadow army" serving the European Union and a "liberal American empire".

In a public address, which coincided with a national holiday commemorating Hungary's 1848 revolution against Habsburg rule, Viktor Orbán told a group of several thousand supporters that Hungary in the coming weeks will uproot media outlets and other organisations that have received funding from abroad.

"After today's festive gathering comes the Easter cleaning. The bugs have overwintered," Orbán said. "We will dismantle the financial machine that has used corrupt dollars to buy politicians, judges, journalists, pseudo-NGOs and political activists. We will eliminate the entire shadow army."

Orbán, in power since 2010, has used the 15 March celebration in recent years as a podium from which to launch increasingly hostile words against the EU.

Which route will Putin's plane take to fly to Budapest for meeting with Trump?



Remember that Putin started this war in 2014 after the Euromaidan, when Ukrainians protested against Yanukovich because they wanted to be part of Europe and the EU, not another impoverished and oppressed Russian-puppet-state-dictatorship like Belarus.13/20



Vatnik Soup 
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In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll introduce a former Ukrainian politician and president, Viktor Yanukovich. He's best known for selling his country to Russia, trying to turn it into an authoritarian state, and eventually fleeing to Moscow once his plan failed.

1/22



5:48 PM · Feb 22, 2025



 9.7K  Reply  Copy link

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For Orbán, a corrupt authoritarian ruining Hungary in the Yanukovich tradition, hosting the meeting is supposed to boost his popularity ahead of upcoming challenging elections. Orbán and Putin helping each other makes perfect sense.

 **Vatnik Soup** 
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Soup of the Week, episode 9: How Viktor Orbán Built the EU's First Dictatorship



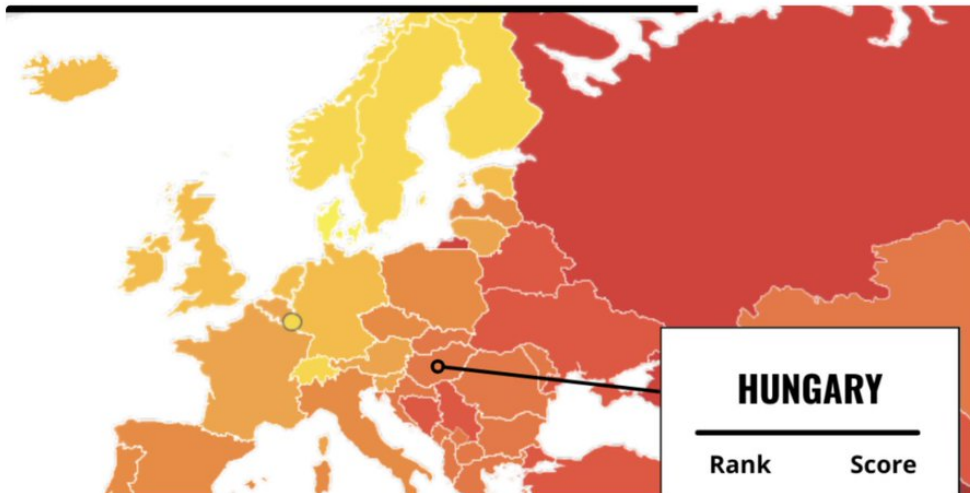
1:00 PM · Oct 9, 2025 

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Once more, Hungary takes last place in the EU on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index

HOME / NEWS / ONCE MORE, HUNGARY TAKES LAST PLACE IN THE EU ON TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL'S CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX



February 11, 2025

For the third year in a row, Hungary retained its ranking as the European Union's (EU) most corrupt country in the 2024 edition of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), published today by the Berlin-based Secretariat of Transparency International (TI). The CPI, which is compiled every year by the international anti-corruption organisation, also shows that Hungary's ranking on an international scale of 180 countries fell by six places to the 82nd within a year. In the absence of sufficient measures to restore the rule of law and to weed out systemic corruption in Hungary, the country irrevocably lost 1.04 billion euros worth of EU cohesion policy funding in 2024, and more losses are to be expected in the coming years, according to TI Hungary's country report released in Budapest on 11 February.

Orban's Hungary Is Now Officially The Poorest Nation In The EU

19 June 2025 at 09:46



Hungarians call on the EU to act against their government's violations of European values, late May 2025

Hungary now ranks last among European Union member states in a vital measure of household welfare—Actual Individual Consumption (AIC) per capita—according to **June 18, 2025 data from Eurostat**. At just 72% of the EU average, Hungary trails all 26 other countries in terms of what families actually consume, including public services like healthcare and education.

In stark contrast, Luxembourg leads the bloc with 141%, while the Netherlands and Germany stand at 120% and 118%, respectively. Even Poland, a Central European peer, comes in at a much healthier 85% of the EU average, dramatically outpacing Hungary in real living standards by about 13 percentage points.

This glaring gap grows more compelling when set against GDP per capita. Although Hungary's GDP reaches roughly 77% of the EU average, lifting it above several low-income EU nations, its households nonetheless remain poorer in consumption terms. This discrepancy highlights the fact that economic output isn't translating into real benefits for Hungarian families.

Behind the numbers lies a painful reality: under Viktor Orbán's increasingly authoritarian and pro-Russian Fidesz regime, Hungary has been systematically pillaged. State-owned industries have been hollowed out, public subsidies redirected to political allies, and EU funds commandeered by power networks close to the government. Meanwhile, ordinary Hungarians contend with low real wages, high inflation, brain drain, and a hollowed middle class—classic symptoms of wealth siphoning from citizens into elite pockets.

Adding insult to injury, a new Median poll **published June 18 by HVG** shows the opposition Tisza party—led by former Orbán insider Péter Magyar—leading Fidesz by 15 points among decided voters: 51% to 36%. Support among under-40s is even stronger, with 58% backing Tisza, while Fidesz remains stuck with older voters. Three months ago, Tisza's lead was only nine points.

The political earthquake traced by the polling data is significant not just for internal politics but geopolitically:

Hungary has long been the most vocal Kremlin ally within the EU and NATO, repeatedly vetoing Ukraine support and echoing Russian propaganda.

Now, as public support collapses, so does a key pillar of Putin's influence inside European institutions.

Fidesz's plunge in support coincides with the broader economic malaise. GDP growth has stalled, inflation remains among the EU's highest, and U.S. tariffs threaten exports—yet the government continues to trumpet superficial gains even as households feel none of the benefits.

Hungarians now consume far less than citizens of Poland—a country Orbán used to cite as a benchmark—yet boast a higher GDP. This divergence suggests that Hungary isn't just slipping behind; it is being held back by design.

Eurostat's figures, paired with HVG's poll, deliver a potent message: Orbán's model—steady macroeconomic figures coupled with authoritarian control and favoritism—has failed. Real wages are stagnant, household living standards deteriorating, and Hungarian voters are increasingly turning away from the regime.

Absent fundamental reforms—transparent allocation of EU funds, stronger rule of law, wage increases, anti-corruption enforcement—Hungary's slide looks set to continue. The poll signals not just a possible political turnover in 2026, but a decisive shift away from a pro-Russian, kleptocratic governance model.

POLITICS

Hungary vows safe passage for Putin for US-Russia summit

Orbán is Trump's and Putin's closest ally in the EU, and a staunch critic of Western support for Kyiv

AFP



(Photo by Sefa Karacan/Anadolu via Getty Images)

Hungary's foreign minister said on Friday that his country would ensure that Russian President Vladimir Putin can enter and "hold successful talks" with the US despite an ICC arrest warrant against him.

But for some reason, Trump's "MAGA" entourage are also big fans of the authoritarianism-corruption-poverty governance model. They are connected to Orbán in particular through the Carlson family, the Heritage Foundation, and CPAC.



Vatnik Soup ✓
@P_Kallioniemi · Follow



In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an American conservative think tank, The Heritage Foundation (@Heritage). Heritage is best-known for opposing military aid to Ukraine and for their political initiative called Project 2025, a potential blueprint for a Trump presidency.

1/23



Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts with former president Donald Trump on a private plane in April 2022. (Obtained by The Washington Post)

12:07 PM · Oct 7, 2024



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Szabolcs Panyi ✓

@panyiszabolcs



💰 PM Viktor Orbán's asset declaration shows €14,000 in the bank with his wife, 50% of his home, and a house in his hometown. Meanwhile, his father's "mini-Versailles" mansion—undeclared, of course—cost €30 million to rebuild.

Does Hungary have the EU's most corrupt leadership?



CURRENT

Heritage Foundation and Danube Institute Sign Landmark Cooperation Agreement



James Carafano, Vice President of The Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy at the Heritage Foundation, with Centre for Fundamental Rights analyst Zoltán Koskóvics, French-British journalist Anne-Elisabeth Moutet and President of the Counterpoint Institute Shea Bradley-Farrell at CPAC Hungary in May 2022

Tibor Illyés/MTI

As part of the new cooperation agreement between the two institutions, each year four researchers from the Heritage Foundation will visit Budapest and work with the Danube Institute as visiting researchers.

Lili Zemplényi — 16.03.2023

In the years since, Orbán has become an astute practitioner of the authoritarian playbook. He centralized power, changed elections laws in his favor, assembled his own clique of oligarchs, promoted white Christian nationalism, passed anti-LGBTQ legislation, curtailed freedom of the press, cracked down on dissent, and drew closer to Putin.

He also began to raise his profile in the West with the help of Fox News host Tucker Carlson. Now one of Orbán's most fervent fanboys, Carlson already had family ties to the Hungarian leader through his father, Richard Carlson, whose lobbying firm, Policy Impact Strategic Communications, is a registered lobbyist for Orbán. According to *The New York Times*, in 2019, the firm introduced Tucker to the Hungarian ambassador, set up an interview on Carlson's show that year with Hungary's minister of foreign affairs and trade, and otherwise helped Fox News orchestrate meetings and interviews with relevant Hungarian officials.

Then, last August, Carlson spent a full week broadcasting his nightly Fox News show from Budapest, replete with fawning interviews with Orbán and gushing voice-overs about how Hungary was a "small country with a lot of lessons for the rest of us."

Earlier this year, Carlson went even further, releasing a "documentary" called *Hungary vs. Soros: Fight for Civilization*, which portrays the country as a rightist utopia that has conquered illegal immigration thanks to its supposedly impenetrable border fence. Not one to shy away from antisemitism, Carlson depicts Soros as a villainous Jewish financier pulling the strings of the world leaders, directing a global conspiracy to keep borders open, and serving the interests of leftist ideologues through his support of civil society groups. "It's appalling to see Tucker Carlson and FOX invoke the kind of anti-Semitic tropes typically found in white supremacist media," tweeted Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League. "There's no excuse for this kind of fear mongering, especially in light of intensifying #antisemitism."

Republicans to meet allies of Hungary's Viktor Orbán on ending Ukraine aid

Hungarian appearance at two-day event part of Orbán's transatlantic attempt to bolster Russia's war



📷 Viktor Orbán at the Chancellery in Berlin before a meeting with EU leaders, on 13 November 2023. Photograph: Tobias Schwarz/AFP/Getty Images

Allies of Hungary's far-right prime minister **Viktor Orbán** will hold a closed-door meeting with Republicans in Washington to push for an end to US military support for Ukraine, the Guardian has learned.

Members of the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs and staff from the Hungarian embassy in Washington will on Monday begin a two-day event hosted by the conservative **Heritage Foundation** thinktank.

The first day includes panel speeches about the Ukraine war as well as topics such as Transatlantic Culture Wars. It is expected to feature guests including Magor Erneyi, the international director of the Centre for Fundamental Rights, the institute that organized CPAC (Conservative Political Action Conference) Hungary. **Kelley Currie**, a former ambassador under then president Donald Trump, said she was invited "but declined".

After the call with Putin, Trump met Zelenskyy, with "Secretary of War" Pete Hegseth wearing... a Russian flag tie. Hegseth's department had previously posted Russian flags on US Flag Day, spelling errors ("nations" and "makes") included (did a Russian write this?).

17 OCT, 23:20

Pentagon chief wears tie in Russian flag colors to Trump-Zelensky meeting

Pete Hegseth was seated to Donald Trump's left



Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth
© REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

WASHINGTON, October 17. /TASS/. US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth drew attention with an unexpected fashion choice at the meeting between US President Donald Trump and Vladimir Zelensky - a tie in the colors of the Russian tricolor.



Department of War 🇺🇸 @DeptofWar · Jun 14



Happy Flag Day! 🇺🇸

Let us honor the emblem of our nation and the stars and stripes that unite us all. As we display our nations flag and reflect on the values it represents, let's celebrate the freedom, courage and resilience that makes our country great.





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Russia National Day

PRESS STATEMENT

MARCO RUBIO, SECRETARY OF STATE




JUNE 12, 2025

On behalf of the American people, I want to congratulate the Russian people on Russia Day.



It's not even clear what Trump expects Ukraine to accept — handing key territories to Russia? A ceasefire? But it's Putin that's refused. He started this war and still hopes to achieve his genocidal goals.


17/20

 **Vatnik Soup** ✓
@P_Kallioniemi · Follow

In today's Vatnik Soup and the "Degenerate Russia" series, I'll show you the brutal reality of Russian war crimes, in particular the horrific tortures and sexual abuses of children, women and men.

Buckle up, this one is not for the faint-hearted.

1/24



2:05 PM · Jun 26, 2025

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Trump and Putin hold phone call but Kremlin refuses Ukraine ceasefire

Trump describes call as 'excellent,' despite Putin's lack of support for ceasefire that US said was primary objective



Beyond Trump's optimistic rhetoric, no breakthrough appears in sight. Composite: EPA

Pjotr Sauer

Tue 20 May 2025 00:33 CEST

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Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump have held a rare phone call, which the US leader described as “excellent”, but the Kremlin refused to agree to a ceasefire in the war with Ukraine, despite pressure from Washington and European allies.

Trump tells Ukraine: Accept Putin's demands 'or be destroyed'

US president, shouting and swearing, pressures Zelensky to surrender the Donetsk region



6003

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An angry Donald Trump is said to have thrown aside Ukrainian battlefield maps and pressured Volodymyr Zelensky to give up territory
Credit: AFP via Getty Images

Memphis Barker Senior Foreign Correspondent. **Kieran Kelly**
19 October 2025 9:01pm BST

Donald Trump demanded that Ukraine submit to Vladimir Putin's peace terms or face destruction in an angry meeting at the White House last week, it has emerged.

The US president, who spoke with his Russian counterpart shortly before hosting Volodymyr Zelensky, warned that Putin would "destroy" Ukraine unless a peace deal was in place.

Trump said in Alaska he and Putin had agreed on most points. It is particularly shocking that he did not appear to push back on the most important, Putin's territorial demand, which Zelenskyy, with European support, has said is an absolute red line. Abandoning territory Ukrainians have spilled much blood over 11 years to defend is politically indefensible and militarily suicidal. It would mean relinquishing the belt of towns and fortifications as well as rivers and ridge lines that have enabled Ukraine to resist Russia's advances and help protect the rest of the country. Giving up this land would plunge Ukraine into political turmoil and leave it badly exposed to further Russian aggression.





The White House 
@WhiteHouse

X.com

"Thousands of people being slaughtered each and every week — NO MORE, GO HOME TO YOUR FAMILIES IN PEACE!" - President Donald J. Trump



Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump

The meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine was very interesting, and cordial, but I told him, as I likewise strongly suggested to President Putin, that it is time to stop the killing, and make a DEAL! Enough blood has been shed, with property lines being defined by War and Guts. They should stop where they are. Let both claim Victory, let History decide! No more shooting, no more Death, no more vast and unsustainable sums of money spent. This is a War that would have never started if I were President. Thousands of people being slaughtered each and every week — NO MORE, GO HOME TO YOUR FAMILIES IN PEACE!

Even with a ceasefire, atrocities under Russian occupation would continue, and war would resume once Russia rearms and regroup. When one side is determined to conquer, murder and enslave the other, there's really not much left to negotiate outside the battlefield.

18/20

Putin's goal remains the complete surrender of Ukraine – US intelligence

Moscow is not making peace proposals, but issuing ultimatums, according to a member of the US Senate Intelligence Committee



Mariia Spaliek
News editor at LIGA.net

AUGUST 15, 17:59



Mark Warner (Photo: WILL OLIVER/EPA)

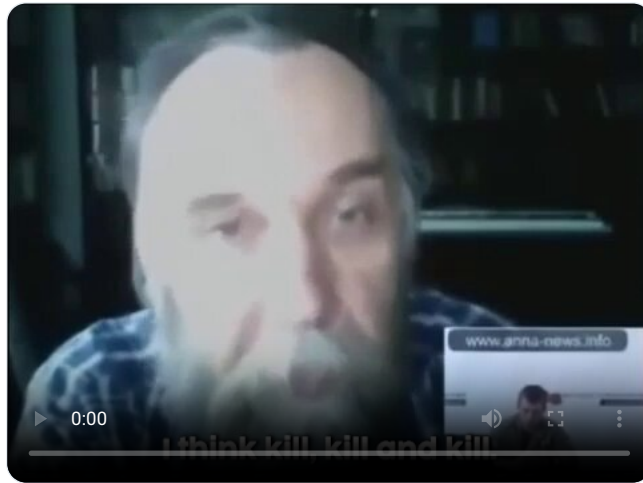
UNITED24

We really do need all of Ukraine.
Really all of Ukraine.

Video: Russian Media

▶ 0:00





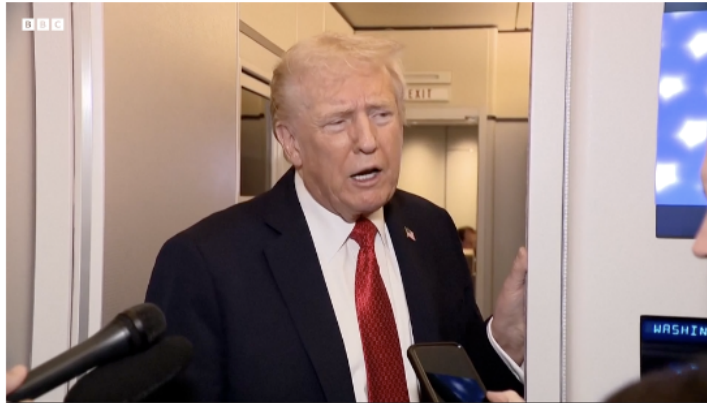
And indeed, while Zelenskyy offered to join the talks as well, the Russian side has already made it clear they don't want to give up anything, possibly even canceling the whole thing. Trump is bending over backwards to help them, and the Russians are laughing at him for it.

19/20

Zelensky ready to join Trump-Putin talks after 'frank' White House meeting

16 hours ago

John Sudworth in Kyiv, and Maia Davies



Watch: 'Let it be cut the way it is,' says Trump on Donbas region

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said he would be ready to join Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin at a proposed summit in Hungary if he were invited.

Trump's hope for quick second summit with Putin may be stalled as pre-meeting tabled for now

7 HR AGO ▾

By  Kristen Holmes .  Jennifer Hansler



Russian President Putin and US President Donald Trump pose for a photo during the welcoming ceremony prior to the meeting on war in Ukraine at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, on August 15, 2025. (Contributor/Getty Images)

President Donald Trump's **hopes for a quick meeting** with Russian President Vladimir Putin may be stalled after sources familiar with the matter told CNN that an expected pre-meeting between the world leaders' key foreign affairs aides this week had been tabled, at least for now.

Rubio and Lavrov on Monday had a phone call and discussed “next steps” to follow up on the call between their two presidents last week about a possible end to the conflict in Ukraine, according to a brief US State Department readout of the call. Rubio “emphasized the importance of upcoming engagements as an opportunity for Moscow and Washington to collaborate on advancing a durable resolution of the Russia-Ukraine war, in line with President Trump’s vision,” according to the readout.

The Kremlin, meanwhile, described the call as a “constructive discussion” that dealt with “possible concrete steps to implement the understandings” Trump and Putin reached on the call.

A source familiar with the matter told CNN, though, that officials felt after the Rubio-Lavrov call that the Russian position has not evolved enough beyond its maximalist stance. For now, the source said, Rubio is not likely to recommend the Putin-Trump meeting move forward next week, but Rubio and Lavrov could speak again this week.



In conclusion, no good can be expected from Budapest. If Trump really wanted to budge Putin, he could have done it over the phone — before he even became President. Instead, nothing but an endless cycle of empty words and broken deadlines. And war and occupation continue.

Fact check: It wasn't 'in jest.' Here are 53 times Trump said he'd end Ukraine war within 24 hours or before taking office

By [Daniel Dale](#), CNN

🕒 16 min read · Published 5:07 PM EDT, Fri April 25, 2025



Former President Donald Trump speaks to supporters during a political rally while campaigning for the GOP nomination in the 2024 election at Erie Insurance Arena on July 29, 2023 in Erie, Pennsylvania. Jeff Swensen/Getty Images

Washington (CNN) — He wasn't joking.

When President Donald Trump was reminded in an [interview with Time magazine this week](#) that he had said he would end the Russian war on Ukraine on "day one," he claimed he hadn't been speaking literally or seriously.



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

You can order your copy here:

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