



The Death Agony of Ukraine : The First Anniversary of the Ukraine War

Published on LeftOpposition.com on February 25th,
2023 ; Final Version May 31st, 2023, Ariel Plotnik
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FREE ANALYSIS, FLIER, AND
PAMPHLET, February 25th, 2023
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1. Today marks one year from the day Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, expanding a conflict in development already for many decades. The war, instigated by NATO's relentless expansion and the global geopolitical and economic interests of US and European imperialism, especially for the Black Sea Region and north east Ukraine, is quickly escalating toward the outbreak of a Third World War with potentially catastrophic consequences. These consequences are not only the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people, millions of displaced refugees or the destruction of Ukraine but the possibility that a nuclear fallout may eradicate cities, countries or the world.
2. The depth of the political, economic, or societal changes arising from the Ukraine war not just in the Ukraine itself but in Europe, Africa, Eurasia, Asia, or even the United States is as rapid as it is sweeping. It is important to provide a brief assessment of the war up to the present day. The amount of funding, weaponry or the current state of the alignment of forces on both sides requires a summary, if not a critical examination.
3. On January 25, 2023, the Department of State released a fact sheet titled "U.S. Security Cooperation with Ukraine", and as of January 25, 2023, the United States has provided Ukraine with 77 items of military, intelligence or security equipment. These are (1) over 1,600 Stinger anti-aircraft systems; (2) over 8,500 Javelin anti-armor systems; (3) over 50,000 other anti-armor systems and munitions; (4) over 700 Switchblade Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems; (5) 160 155mm Howitzers and up to 1,094,000 155mm artillery rounds; (6) over 5,800 precision-guided 155mm artillery rounds; (7) 10,200 155mm rounds of Remote Anti-Armor Mine (RAAM) Systems; (8) 100,000 rounds of 125mm tank ammunition; (9) 45,000 152mm artillery rounds; (10) 20,000 122mm artillery rounds; (11) 50,000 122mm GRAD rockets; (12) 72 105mm Howitzers and 370,000 105mm artillery rounds; (13) 298 tactical vehicles to tow weapons; (14) 34 tactical vehicles to recover equipment; (15) 30 ammunition support vehicles; (16) 38 High

Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and ammunition; (17) 30 120mm mortar systems and approximately 166,000 120mm mortar rounds; (18) 10 82mm mortar systems; (19) 10 60mm mortar systems; (20) 2,590 Tube-Launched, Optically-Tracked, Wire-Guided (TOW) missiles; (21) 545,000 rounds of 25mm ammunition; (22) 120mm ammunition; (23) 10 Command Post vehicles; (24) 1 Patriot air defense battery and munitions; (25) 8 National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS) and munitions; (26) missiles for HAWK air defense systems; (27) RIM-7 missiles for air defense; (28) 12 Avenger air defense systems; (29) high-speed anti-radiation missiles (HARMs); (30) precision aerial munitions; (31) 4,000 Zuni aircraft rockets; (32) 20 Mi-17 helicopters; (33) 31 Abrams tanks; (34) 45 T-72B tanks; (35) 109 Bradley infantry fighting vehicles; (36) over 1,700 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs); (37) over 100 light tactical vehicles; (38) 44 trucks and 88 trailers to transport heavy equipment; (39) 90 Stryker Armored Personnel Carriers; (40) 300 M113 Armored Personnel Carriers;

(41) 250 M1117 Armored Security Vehicles; (42) 580 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAPs); (43) 6 armored utility trucks; (44) mine clearing equipment and systems; (45) over 13,000 grenade launchers and small arms; (46) over 111,000,000 rounds of small arms ammunition; (47) over 75,000 sets of body armor and helmets; (48) approximately 1,800 Phoenix Ghost Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems; (49) laser-guided rocket systems; (50) Puma Unmanned Aerial Systems; (51) 15 Scan Eagle Unmanned Aerial Systems; (52) 2 radars for Unmanned Aerial Systems; (53) Unmanned Coastal Defense Vessels; (54) over 50 counter-artillery radars; (55) 4 counter-mortar radars; (56) 20 multi-mission radars; (57) Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems and equipment; (58) Counter air defense capability; (59) 10 air surveillance radars; (60) 2 harpoon coastal defense systems; (61) 58 coastal and riverine patrol boats; (62) M18A1 Claymore anti-personnel munitions; (63) C-4 explosives, demolition munitions, and demolition equipment for obstacle clearing; (64) obstacle emplacement equipment; (65)

- tactical secure communications systems; (66) 4 satellite communications antennas; (67) SATCOM terminals and services; (68) thousands of night vision devices, surveillance systems, thermal imagery systems, optics, and laser rangefinders; (69) commercial satellite imagery services; (70) explosive ordnance disposal equipment and protective gear; (71) chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear protective equipment; (72) 100 armored medical treatment vehicles; (73) over 350 generators; (74) medical supplies to include first aid kits, bandages, monitors, and other equipment; (75) electronic jamming equipment; (76) field equipment, cold weather gear, and spare parts; and (77) funding for training, maintenance, and sustainment.
4. The incomprehensible figures of military items are difficult to grasp on their own terms. To provide a glimpse of the scope and scale of these figures, the Center for Strategic and International Studies estimates that no less than 12 years would be required to replenish the number of the Javelins the United States supplied to Ukraine. In another figure of time, a single missile for the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile Systems (NASAMs), which are produced by the defense contractor Raytheon, requires no less than 32 months for production. With three pods for launchers, through which the system dispatches no less than six missiles simultaneously, the more than 8 NASAMs within Ukraine's possession burn through approximately 216 months of production—several years—within seconds.
 5. In terms of artillery munitions, the United States' decision to supply Ukraine is a cause for and has given rise to significant and unparalleled changes in stockpiles and production. On November 11, 2022, the United States struck a deal with South Korea to purchase thousands of rounds of 155mm ammunition in an attempt to offset the diminished domestic stockpiles the United States lost through its supply to Ukraine. On January 17th, 2023, the Pentagon, as reported by the *New York Times*, tapped into a vast but little-known stockpile of American ammunition in Israel to help meet Ukraine's dire need for

- artillery shells in the war with Russia. Thus far the United States has supplied Ukraine with more than 1,000,000,000 rounds of artillery munitions.
6. It is hard for anyone, even defense experts, to imagine a billion rounds of artillery munitions and yet this sum, which is an astounding amount of munitions, is still insufficient for Ukraine's war effort. In response to Ukraine's rabid demand for these munitions, the Pentagon, which is incapable of resupplying the Ukrainian armed forces with new munitions under the current rates of productions, recently called for a 500 percent increase in the number of artillery shells produced on a monthly basis. ["Forging Shells for Ukraine's Artillery," *New York Times*, A7 on February 6th, 2023] This is due, in part, to the fact that as of August 30, 2022, Pentagon officials reported that munitions donated to Ukraine have severely depleted the United States' own stockpiles.
 7. In an article entitled, "Arming Ukraine Drains NATO Stockpiles," the authors from the *New York Times* write: "Now, nine months into the war, the West's fundamental unpreparedness has set off a mad scramble to supply Ukraine with what it needs while also replenishing NATO stockpiles." [November 27th, 2022]
 8. The effect of the Pentagon's mission, "a mad scramble," to supply Ukraine with munitions is felt not only in the United States but throughout Eastern Europe. In Kostenets, Bulgaria, a factory dormant for more than 35 years, produced its first 122-millimeter shell in January, 2023 after the United States recommissioned production of the high-explosive and lethal round of aerial death for Ukraine's 2S1 and D-30 howitzers. As noted by the *New York Times*, "representatives from the U.S. embassy quietly attended the ribbon-cutting last month for the new production line" on January 17th, 2023.
 9. The 2S1 and D-30 howitzers draw into sharp relief the Pentagon's ahistorical approach. It stands to mention a little known fact about General Douglas MacArthur. In his rejection of the original caliber for John C. Grand's M1 rifle, chambered in an experimental

- .276 cartridge, that Douglas sought to advance the standard 30-06 Allied round for the greatest ease of use vis-à-vis existing ammo stockpiles. In NATO's current framework, upon which the lessons of World War II appear not to play a part, no where more pointedly than in the debacle over munitions is the lack of a strategy visible than in the complete absence of forethought over the advancement of its standard for artillery, if not in terms of its munitions altogether. It underscores the ahistorical approach Washington takes not just to strategy but to the entire conflict, the perpetuation of which is wholly dependent upon continuous firepower.
10. In the initial reports on the more than 142 M777 howitzers supplied to Ukrainian armed forces by the Pentagon before November 25th, 2022, the *New York Times* described the rate of fire as "firing 2,000 to 4,000 artillery shells a day, a number frequently outmatched by the Russians," a rate of fire for which "Artillery Is Breaking Ukraine."
 11. In an earlier article published on June 22nd, 2022 in the *Guardian*, however, the rate of fire is reported as far greater, at a rate of 6,000 artillery rounds a day, according to Vadim Skibitsky, deputy head of Ukraine's military intelligence. These figures, which are likely substantially reduced to conceal the actual rate of fire, are likely much higher, as more than 350 pieces of artillery are out of service and under repair in Radom, Poland, at the Polska Grupa Zbrojeniowa, where the Polish government's primary defense contractor for US EUCOM is located. Out of service and under repair, these pieces are a reflection of the fact that artillery is not only breaking Ukraine but breaking Ukraine's howitzers, if not burning up its barrels at a greater rate of fire than the guns are capable of withstanding. It merely underscores NATO's mad scrambling.
 12. With the Ukrainian army shooting more than 300,000 rounds a month or, most likely, 10,000 rounds a day, in continuous firepower, the Pentagon's network of defense industry partners' attempt to

- keep up with the accelerating pace of discharge casts an ever thickening fog over the future of its engagement.
13. The decision to build a factory for munitions in Wiesbaden, Germany, for instance, specifically for the purpose of arming Ukrainian forces with artillery munitions has yet to have had an effect. As one Ukrainian soldier notes, “We have equipment, but we don't have much ammunition.” [روسيا] نتجه لحسم المعركة الأطول: نتقدم بنجاح نحو باخموت ; alarabiya.net, February 7th, 2023] The soldier's comment merely begs the question, as funding appears to be utterly limitless.
14. As of November 20th, 2022, more than three months ago, no less than 21 countries, including the United States, has contributed hundreds of billions of dollars to Ukraine's war effort. (1) \$110,000,000,000, from the United States; (2) \$30,000,000,000 from European Union institutions; (3) \$7,100,000,000 from the United Kingdom; (4) \$5,460,000,000 from Germany; (5) \$3,900,000,000 from Canada; (6) \$3,000,000,000 from Poland;
- (7) \$1,400,000,000 from France; (8) \$1,200,000,000 from Norway; (9) \$850,200,000 from the Netherlands; (10) \$809,350,000 from Sweden; (11) \$675,000,000 from Italy; (12) \$643,290,000 from Denmark; (13) \$608,000,000 from Japan; (14) \$588,760,000 from the Czech Republic; (15) \$582,140,000 from Austria; (16) \$383,410,000 from Spain; (17) \$336,150,000 from Estonia; (18) \$335,950,000 from Portugal; (19) \$321,560,000 from Australia; (20) \$314,600,000 from Latvia; and (21) \$306,670,000 from Finland.
15. Just in terms of the United States alone, the funding is not only seemingly limitless but utterly unprecedented. In an article published well before the first anniversary of the Ukraine war, Stimson, a Washington “nonpartisan” think tank, published an analysis entitled “U.S. Security Assistance to Ukraine Breaks All Precedents.” In the analysis, Stimson argued that “[since] the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the United States has committed an astounding \$17.6 billion in security assistance to support the Government of

- Ukraine, breaking almost all quantitative and even qualitative precedents. That figure eclipses the yearly total of any security partner of the 21st century.” Published on October 20th, 2022, more than three months ago, the figure, an astounding \$17.6 billion at that time, is many times larger now than at the time of Stimson’s analysis.
16. In an article entitled “House Leader Won’t Provide ‘Blank Check’ for Ukraine” from October 19th, 2022—published just a day before Stimson’s report—the *New York Times* wrote: “In total, Congress has approved more than \$60 billion to Ukraine this year alone by overwhelming margins, the largest amount of military aid the United States has committed to any country in a single year in nearly half a century, since the Vietnam war.”
 17. Coming one after the other, these reports—the earlier reporting a larger amount, the later reporting a small amount—indicate the degree to which the funding for the Ukraine war represents not a quantitative but qualitative shift in the objectives of America’s foreign policy. Less than a year old at the time, the Ukraine war already amounted to an unparalleled splurge in the finance capital of America’s brutal history of imperialist adventure.
 18. A more recent assessment of the funding comes from the US Senator, GOP Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell. McConnell, who, like McCarthy, is beholden—just as much—to a group of far right nationalists from the imperialist right in the US House of Representatives such as Mr. Gaetz, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Gosar, Ms. Greene of Georgia, Mr. Massie, Mr. Norman, Mr. Rosendale, Mrs. Miller of Illinois, Mrs. Luna, Mr. Moore of Alabama, and Mrs. Boebert.
 19. In contrast to McCarthy, who disavows Washington’s blank check, McConnell, however, openly agrees with limitless, continuous, non-stop funding for Ukraine. Opposing 11 Republican senators, McConnell is aggressive, forcefully marshaling support for a \$40 billion aid package to Ukraine in his conference during a session in May.

20. On February 17th, 2023, McConnell, who joined Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, and Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov, on a panel at the Munich Security Conference this year, stated: “The Ukrainians have to live with Ukraine.”

21. There is no problem, “[as] long as [Ukrainians] are willing to fight for [their] country,” he continued, “and it is not costing a single American soldier’s life and what we are doing is providing the money and what we have sent you so far is [not more than] 0.02% of our [Gross Domestic Product].” Broadcast on C-SPAN, McConnell’s comments puts the funding provided Ukraine thus far into perspective.

22. McConnell’s comment about “a single American soldier’s life,” however, is noteworthy. Compared against Zelensky’s own words, his noteworthy comment appears to be a clear foreshadowing of what is to come. Alongside McConnell’s parapraxis, Volodymyr Zelensky, who is NATO’s puppet, has

already come out to announce—openly and without any reserve for the secrecy of NATO’s future plans for the United States and its workers—the circumstances under which the United States’ military shall enter the conflict. During a press conference on February 24th, 2023 memorializing the first anniversary of the Ukraine war, President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, announced that in the event of Russia’s victory in Ukraine, the United States would be required to send its soldiers into the war in Ukraine. Zelensky stated: “ I want to thank Americans. I am glad that I have bipartisan support but the messages we hear are frightening. If Ukraine loses, Russia is bound to wage war with NATO countries, and the United States will have no choice but to send its own soldiers, sons and daughters into war, as we [Ukrainians] are doing right now. This is a great tragedy.” It appears that by all accounts, Zelensky’s slip of the tongue is by design.

23. The *New York Times*, however, is far ahead of Zelensky, having reported as early as July 10th, 2022 Biden’s commitment to

- stand with Ukraine for “as long as it takes,” even if “neither he nor anyone else can say how long that will be or how much more the United States and its allies can do over that distance, short of **direct military intervention.**”
24. The gigantic sums of money the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, or Poland advance, however, make no comparison for the amount the Soviet Union allegedly invested in its defense in the years prior to its dissolution. Printed for the first time in 1981, the famous brochure *Soviet Military Power*¹ continued—with the exception of 1982—to be updated yearly until 1991 when the Department of Defense published a special final edition in 1991—the only edition to contain a map at the end with TVDs (i.e., Театр Военных Действий)—entitled *Military Forces in Transition* with a special notice on the failed coup d'état from August 19—21, 1991.
25. In the 1991 edition, the chapter, “Production of Ground Forces Materiel: USSR and US,” mentions how the USSR built 3,500 tanks in 1988, 1,700 in 1989, and 1,300 in 1990 for a combined total of no less than 7,500 tanks, an astounding number of armored materiel. Towed and self-propelled field artillery respectively amounts to 1,000 and 900 in 1988, 800 and 750 in 1989, 700 and 400 in 1990, for a combined total at 4,450 pieces of artillery.
26. Although unmentioned in the 1991 edition, the 1987 editions explain how the USSR’s strategic defense program cost no less than \$200,000,000,000 for all types of defensive weapons, requiring no less than 15 to 17 percent of the Soviet Union’s Gross National Product to fund a military buildup, whose legacy—together with large phased array ballistic missile warning or target tracking radars—remains combat effective.

¹ The mystery of *Soviet Military Power* is that none of the previous editions suggest the authors had any idea what the Soviet Union is or where it was going. Had the authors read *Revolution Betrayed*, the final edition might well have come less as a surprise than as a realization of the prediction the great founder of the Worker Peasant Red Army Leon Trotsky forecast as early as 1936.

27. While these statistics are for the three years preceding the collapse of the Soviet Union, a comparison with Western weapons and funding indicates the degree to which the Western powers fully, completely and totally underestimated Russia's military power to Ukraine's. It contextualizes the 31 Abrams—a clear, glaring disparity—with a clear perspective on their ultimate futility. Without any mention of missile, aircraft, air or naval defense systems, these almost unbelievable disparities reflect an adamant and unassailable imbalance in the qualified economy of forces.
28. Military “experts” from the Pentagon, who are more than likely still influenced by the ‘calculus of war,’ as in Vietnam, than by the critiques of the military’s failure to consider the application of Clausewitz’s to that war, continue to hedge their bets against escalations. The escalations, which take the form of incessant calls for the shipment of more advanced weaponry, are ‘calculated’ to cause a clearly quantifiable amount of damage.
29. The *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, for instance, believes that should Ukraine continue to receive a steady supply of ammunition, particularly for artillery, as well as spare parts, Ukraine would stand to recover territory Russia seized. “The question,” we are told, “is whether these advantages will prove sufficient for Ukrainian forces to retake territory from entrenched Russian troops.” Neither Rob Lee nor Michael Kofman, the leading military calculators of the study, provide a specific amount from the application of their undisclosed formula. The calculation, however, does not resolve in the final analysis. The escalations have not resulted in the direct recovery of any quantifiable amount of territory.
30. Ukraine’s September counteroffensives, which seized upon Russia’s failure to shore up its defenses in the northern Donbas along the massive stretch of its land bridge into Ukraine, achieved momentary success with absolutely no lasting military significance for the overall war. The current struggle for Bakhmut, during the course of which the weaknesses

- of Ukraine's armed forces are becoming clear, demonstrates the futility of the U.S. led NATO proxy force. Just look at the number of bodies piling high at the Ukrainian morgues!
31. On February 7th, 2023 the *New York Times* posted a small photo of a morgue in Ukraine, a ghastly reminder of the war's death toll. The longest running battle in the war, Bakhmut, a so-called 'meat grinder,' projects the life expectancy for soldiers fighting on its front to no longer than four hours, as reported by a former Marine, Troy Offenbecker, in an interview published on February 20th, 2023 at *ABC News*.
32. Well before the battle of Bakhmut, however, *The New York Times*, displayed on the front page of its newspaper for June 19th, 2022, a picture of "50 fresh graves outside the walls of Lviv's historic cemetery" below a photo of a mortician carefully preparing a dead soldier for his burial. Bemoaning, "[an] Endless Caravan of Death," the authors remarked, how "[in] Ukraine, no one is quite sure exactly what the toll is, except
- that many, many people have been killed."
33. On November 10th, 2022, more than three months ago, General Mark Milley, the chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, who undoubtedly received high level intelligence reports on confidential statistics of Ukrainian deaths, estimated that Ukraine's civil loss of life—without any mention of its dead, dying or wounded soldiers—amounted to no less than 40,000 deaths. More than three months since the compilation of Milley's statistic, the number is likely to be much higher now.
34. Ukrainians, whose life blood, guts, and flesh are ground in Bakhmut like meat, are not merely "Playing With Fire in Ukraine," as Mearsheimer's well founded commentary relays from his article published in *Foreign Affairs* on August 17th, 2022. The Ukrainian masses are the victims of a scheme, the primary strategists of NATO's expansion premeditated for Eastern Europeans in the immediate aftermath of the USSR's dissolution.

35. In a position paper entitled “Toward a New World Order: The Future of NATO,” published in Open Society Foundations on November 1st, 1993, George Soros, who is undeniably one of the most ambitious strategists of NATO, a truly unremarkable Iago in the Shakespearean sense, vied for “the combination of manpower from Eastern Europe with the technical capabilities of NATO” as a way “to reduce the risk of body bags for NATO countries.”
36. With NATO’s exploitation of “manpower from Eastern Europe” as nothing other than Ukrainian men projected on to its breadbasket as cannon fodder, Soros’ ratiocination, the substitution of a NATO country’s working aged men for those of a non-Member State’s, thereby gags “the main constraint on [NATO countries’] willingness to act,” stifling public opinion behind the straight jacket of increasingly closed, European borders of nationalism such as “Ukrainian nationalism” akin to Bandera-ism.
37. Soros’ ratiocination of premeditated murder is far beyond anything as hellish as fire. It is the *death agony* of capitalism, resulting in both a contribution to and a result of the insoluble antagonisms of the outmoded capitalist nation-states against the ever expanding objective developments of an irretrievably globalized economy, and it meets its sole repudiation in permanent revolution.
38. “The socialist revolution,” as Leon Trotsky’s invocation of cosmopolitan fraternity demands, “starts off in the arena of the nation-state, it unfurls on the international arena, and is completed on the world arena. Thus, the socialist revolution becomes a permanent revolution in an advanced and wider sense of the word; it attains fruition only in the everlasting victory of the new society on our entire planet.” [(Лев Троцкий, *Итоги и Перспективы | Движущие Силы революции* [Москва: Издательство «Советский Мир», 1919]).
39. Despite the unprecedented sums of money doled out for death on NATO’s proxy in Ukraine, the Ukrainian armed forces are already beginning to show signs

of an imminent collapse. 1) Ukrainian armed forces have been unable to maintain “a highly centralized, informed command structure” throughout the war. The fact that Ukraine’s command structure, if one can call it that, has undergone two purges by the Central Intelligence Agency without a substantial change in its internal operability reveals just how deeply engrained into its command structure is a lack of uniformity. This is not to mention the loss of personnel in a helicopter crash or the corruption endemic to the Zelensky regime. 2) Ukraine’s armed forces have not been able to withstand losses. The losses, which have been described as “triple digit losses,” as reported by *Der Spiegel* on January 20th, 2023, have not been replenished in any meaningful sense. Apart from staggering, irreplaceable losses, there are reports of desertions, which indicate not only a falling morale among Ukrainian soldiers. But suggest a lack of cohesion within Ukraine’s own structure for command and control and it is precisely so.

40. In an article entitled, “Ukraine has a tough choice on Bakhmut,” published on February 14th, 2023 in the *Wall Street Journal*, “General Koval acknowledged some personnel issues.” Among the personnel issues is more than one incident in which “a battalion of draftees withdrew without warning,” and the one Koval mentions from December, “[left] a dangerous gap in the lines” on the front in Bakhmut. This is a startling admission. It is comparatively less startling when a soldier, unit, or company deserts but an entire battalion’s desertion is by far an indication of a military’s own internal weakness.
41. On January 25, 2023, the Biden administration announced the United States will be sending 31 M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine. The fact that Abrams tanks require no less than three streams of supply line logistics such as jet fuel, munitions, or maintenance, indicates the degree to which Ukrainian armed forces, which are not even capable of creating a single unit of the more than 300,000 artillery rounds its military fires on a monthly basis, are not scheduled to meet these

- demands by any stretch of the imagination.
42. If you combine the fact that Ukraine's demands for Main Battle Tanks includes not just Abrams but the highly sophisticated tanks of the German Leopard or the British Challengers, both of which are dependent upon a global network of parts, maintenance or facilities operated by a single corporation in the defense industry, the thought that Ukrainian armed forces are capable, let alone able, to consolidate the different mechanized gun systems into 3) a striking force comparable with a *Panzerwaffe*, as NATO would like, is not just a stretch of the imagination but pure fantasy. Not to belabor the point but to speak of a general in the Ukrainian armed forces comparable to a Guderian or a Rommel or any of the generals in the *Wehrmacht* who executed Blitzkrieg on behalf of the Nazis, is absurd.
43. A reference to Nazis, however, is not the result of a desire to smear the Zelensky regime politically with "anachronisms" from Europe's darkest days. The fact that the Ukrainian regime and its military forces are saturated with neo-fascists and the symbology of the Nazi war machine is well documented throughout the press.
44. Revisionists, who serve in honor of Ukrainian fascism, are dead set on rewriting the history of Ukraine with a narrative that promotes as a national hero Stepan Bandera, the fascist mass murderer and ally of the Third Reich who led the notorious Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists. The glorification of Bandera by Ukrainian neo-fascists is no where more apparent than in Ukraine's Military Commander, Valery Zaluzhnyi, who shares selfies snapped behind triumphant images of the Ukrainian *Bannerträger*. A conspicuous example of which is Zaluzhnyi's selfies celebrating the 114th anniversary of Bandera's birth. The Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, not only agreed to the celebrations but shared Zaluzhnyi's selfies on its Twitter profile.
45. If the current scope and scale of the damage and violence unleashed in the name of the

- Ukrainian war is anything but a small measure of what is to come, then any conservative prediction of the death, mayhem or chaos the collapse of Ukraine's military portends to unleash is bound to be staggering, if not altogether breathtaking.
46. In an article entitled, "Kırım Köprüsü'nün havaya uçurulması ne anlama geliyor?," from the Turkish newspaper, *Sabah*, a Turkish journalist named Barlas speaks to the terrifying consequence of Ukraine as NATO's proxy. Barlas states: "Ukraine no longer exists in any real sense of the word, especially as other European powers take part in the aftermath of a Russian victory." Barlas' critique of Zelensky is just as relevant as that of Ukraine. He writes: "Ukraine's comic head of state, Zelenksy, now plays a tragedy, saying, "I burned so the whole world burns."
47. Ukrainian refugees, who fled the conflict, already number in the millions. The United Nations estimates that 7, 800, 000 refugees have sought refuge throughout Europe.
48. Already a small country prior to the eruption of militarism on its streets and in its cities, Ukraine's initial population contained roughly 40 million people. Ukraine's initial population is now severely diminished. Although rough estimates continue to put the number at 36 million. If the number of refugees, however, is 7, 800, 000, then certainly the number of Ukrainians remaining in the country is far less than 36 million. It is likely that the population is less than 28 million now, as the number of refugees is likely deflated to draw attention away from the burgeoning refugee crisis.
49. Indeed, recent studies from the Kiel Institute indicate that no less than 10,000,000 refugees have fled Ukraine since the beginning the of war. In § 2.5 of a recent study entitled, *Ukraine Support Tracker: Which Countries Help Ukraine*, openly reports how the Ukraine war is resulting in human suffering and destruction, "more than 10 million Ukrainians were forced to flee their homes, and almost five million of these left Ukraine to [find] refuge in other countries."

50. Ukrainians, who have fled, are scattered around the world, mostly Europe, in an ensuing diaspora. In terms of their distribution, “Poland clearly ranks first among European countries, hosting over 1.56 million Ukrainian refugees, many of whom are single, widowed mothers with fresh young children ready to fill the gaps for Europe’s ever widening, stagnating declines in natality. Germany comes second with 1.06 million refugees, while the Czech Republic (486, 133), Italy (169, 306) and Spain (161, 012) are in 3rd, 4th, and 5th place respectively.
51. Taking into account the population size of each welcoming country, Estonia tops the list (with a share of 4.96%), the Czech Republic comes 2nd (4.54%), followed by Moldova (4.15%) and Poland (4.12%).” Ukrainians’ burgeoning refugee crisis emphasizes how the Ukraine war impacts the “inner political life” of non-warring countries and the increasingly global character of the war. These figures point to the life-changing impact the war continues to cause throughout Europe, extending beyond nationalist borders.
52. In his groundbreaking work, the *Transitional Program*, which celebrates the establishment of the greatest international in the history of internationals, the Fourth International, Trotsky wrote: “The whole world outlook, and consequently also the inner political life of individual countries, is overcast by the threat of world war. Already the imminent catastrophe sends violent ripples of apprehension through the very broadest masses of mankind.” [(Leon Trotsky, *The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International: The Transitional Program* [New York: Labor Publications, 1981] pp. 18)].
53. The “violent ripples of apprehension” over the outbreak of world war is exemplified in the fraught and contentious relations within NATO, especially between Slovakia and Hungary. An example of these fraught and contentious relations is a recent exchange of the former to the latter, which reveals the vulgarity and latent barbarism of NATO member

states. In a recent letter penned by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Slovakia attacking Viktor Orbán in Hungary for failing to tow the line on the Ukraine war and insufficient bellicosity towards Russia, Rastislav Káčer, published a voluminous post in Facebook.

54. Replete with bizarre references to “little green men,” Káčer wrote “For Putin's collaborators and especially for ours in the Carpathian Basin and Felvidek (the Hungarian name of Slovakia, - ed.), for all those who want peace at the cost of the destruction of Ukraine, I have only one message: f*** you.” Káčer’s words, which are not his own words but the words of the Slovakian bourgeoisie on behalf of whose class he is the representative, reflect the politically degraded discourse within the “inner political life of individual countries” overcast by the Ukrainian war.

55. Rooted more deeply within the economy, the effects of the Ukraine war are beginning to ripple throughout industry. In an article entitled, “While Piling Sanctions on Russia, Europeans Spare Some Sacred Cows,” the

New York Times published on October 19th, 2022, the authors explain how “the continued success of Belgium [in the face of] the Russian diamond trade” exemplifies how there are “sacred cows some E. U. Nations refuse to sacrifice, even as their peers accept pain to punish the Kremlin.” The ‘sacred cows,’ however are spread well across Europe, despite the economically fraught, contentious tension radiating throughout the national centers internally resistant to the overarching, outwardly NATO policies demanding compliance.

56. In Germany, for instance, access to cheap Russian gas, oil, or coal is severely limited not only by sanctions (which conflict with the national interests of individual Member States just as sanctions do with Belgium’s diamond, Greece’s shipping, or France's uranium trade) but also by the explosion of the Nord Stream pipelines.

57. The successful explosion of Nord Stream and Nord Stream 2 destroyed decades of diplomatic, business, and economic development between Germany and Russia, causing not only a

- rapid increase in the inflated costs for cheap Russian gas, oil or coal but an economically debilitating slowdown in Germany's main industries.
58. Another direct consequence of the explosion of the Nord Stream pipeline became the expedition of Europe's plunge into economic despondency. An example of this despondency is a sacred cow. Formed in Germany as early as June 21st, 1879, 144 years ago, Linde, a centuries old champion of German ingenuity, recently delisted from the Frankfurt Stock Exchange for lack of business, causing one of the country's largest, most historic, German centers of production and industrial output to recede, the effect of which is still well underway and to be felt for generations to come.
59. The Ukraine war, which is often described as a regional conflict, is hastening decades long, simmering tensions between NATO powers to a boil point. While Germany's militarism, long suppressed and supplanted by America's (which houses major military installations, bases, and industries within the besieged country's border), lags behind, the alarm bells for rearmament are ringing throughout Berlin's ruling circles.
60. Within the United States, many false alarms continue to ring out against the Ukraine war such as "anti-war" sentiments among members of the House Freedom Caucus. The House Freedom Caucus, which seeks to exploit the current war in Ukraine to advance its own foreign policy agenda of imperialism, recently introduced into the House of Representatives a resolution, House Resolution 113, requesting the United States "[to end] its military and financial aid to Ukraine and urges all combatants to reach a peace agreement." Supported by Mr. Gaetz (for himself, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Gosar, Ms. Greene of Georgia, Mr. Massie, Mr. Norman, Mr. Rosendale, Mrs. Miller of Illinois, Mrs. Luna, Mr. Moore of Alabama, and Mrs. Boebert), the resolution is not, as it states, directed towards ending the war in Ukraine but ensuring the United States' own readiness to confront, "in the event of a conflict," none other than China.

61. No union with supporters of the January 6th insurrection by Donald J Trump, all of whom have accelerated the disintegration of bourgeois forms of democracy as exemplified in the fiasco of McCarthy's election as Speaker of the house, is possible without betrayal of the working class. The enemy of my enemy is not necessarily a friend, and the working class must assert its interest for the termination of the war independently and on the basis of its revolutionary leadership.
62. The attempt to divert attention away from the Ukraine conflict to China is merely the reflection of a split within the ruling elite over the exact tactics with which to stun, confuse, or compound the effort to promote a genuine resistance to war, militarism or barbarism. The answer to this war is not to be found in the considerations over the best readiness for a specific conflict calibrated to occur in the future but against any or all conflict now, against any or all imperialist governments or against any or all bourgeois nationalist, right, center or left.
63. The Russian press' euphoria for America's fellow travelers is unrestrained. The attempt to stack Douglas MacGregor's quotes one on top of another into a "refutation" of NATO's imperialism is simply out of scope with the reality of the situation. MacGregor's warnings, all of which appear to be fairly well grounded in an exaggeration of Russia's military prowess, are as apprehensive as they are foreboding but none of his premonitions result from a historical analysis of the root causes of the war.
64. Although he criticizes US and European media's reliance upon the propaganda narrative of an "unprovoked war," unleashed without cause by the evil Vladimir Putin, his analysis is not, *ipso facto*, rooted in the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. It is likely for this reason and this reason alone, the Russia media bends over backwards to run headline after headline with the "ex-Pentagon" official's latest and most exaggerated truism.
65. As Trotsky exclaims in his book, *Bolsheviki and World Peace*, the development of a global

- ‘workshop,’ the separate, disparate, antagonistic nations, leads “to struggle for the subjection of the world-embracing economic system to the profit interests of the bourgeoisie of each country,” where Ukraine is one of the countries subject to the profit interests of the United States as against Russia. The objectivity of a global ‘workshop’ therefore completely dispels the myth of a ‘provocation.’ [(Leon Trotsky, *Bolsheviki and World Peace*, [New York: Boni and Liveright, 1918] p. 20)]
66. The struggle over Ukraine is therefore a struggle over Ukraine’s extremely rich sources of minerals, deposits of gas, oil, coal, or mines full of natural salt, no less than the country’s strategic position on the western border of Russia and the frontiers of the former Ottoman Empire on the strategic heights of the Black Seas.
67. It is important to understand that the origin of the war within the breakdown of the global economy in regards to the bourgeoisie’s desire to subjugate a competitor’s satellite nations entails its continuation long after
- a ‘ceasefire,’ ‘accord,’ or ‘peace’ is decided.
68. The upshot is that “[war] is the method by which capitalism, at the climax of its development, seeks to solve its insoluble contradictions. To this method, the proletariat must oppose its own method, the method of Social Revolution.” (*Ibid.*, p. 29)]
69. Similarly, Russia’s own decision to launch a “Special Military Operation,” which feeds into the West’s false narrative of an invasion, reflects the desperation and reaction on the part of the Putin regime to the catastrophic dissolution of the USSR by the Stalinist bureaucracy, the restoration of capitalism and the creation of an oligarchic regime based on the theft and privatization of state assets, all of which Trotsky predicted as early as 1936 in his famous work, *The Revolution Betrayed*.
70. The interests for which the Putin regime continues its fight are not those of the Russian masses, but of the capitalist ruling classes. It launched the invasion with the hope that it could reach a compromised settlement with its

“partners” in United States including recognition of the “security interests” of the Russian state, and which would allow the Russian oligarchy to continue its plunder of Russian resources without interference and the continued defense of its national interests in favor of the ruling elite.

71. Although Seymour Hersh’s exposition of the explosion of the Nord Stream and Nord Stream 2 proves the culpability of the United States’ covert operation to deprive Germany of access, control or supply to Russia’s cheap reserves of natural gas, the Russian ruling elites, which have thus far begun to characterize its foes as the “collective West,” are, nonetheless, at great lengths to profess faith in the system appeasing NATO war mongering with continued calls for an “investigation” by its Member States. The naïveté of the Putin regime could not be farther from reality.
72. Putin’s attempt to generate support for the war by relying upon reactionary national chauvinism is rebounding. The deeply unpopular war, which

caused no less than 260,000 young men to flee to neighboring countries such as Georgia, exposes nothing more than the widespread and rapidly growing awareness that the war is the outcome of the dissolution of the USSR and the restoration of capitalism.

73. Leon Trotsky, the primary leader of the Russian revolution of October 1917, predicted the restoration of capitalism in Russia in a book entitled, *Revolution Betrayed*. In his book, Trotsky warned that the policies of the Stalinist regime, far from having assured the triumph of socialism in the USSR, were actually preparing the ground for the restoration of capitalism.
74. As he later elaborated, “The USSR thus embodies terrific contradictions. But it still remains a degenerated workers’ state. Such is the social diagnosis. The political prognosis has an alternative character: either the bureaucracy, becoming ever more the organ of the world bourgeoisie in the workers’ state, will overthrow the new forms of property and plunge the country back to

- capitalism; or the working class will crush the bureaucracy and open the way to socialism” (Leon Trotsky, *The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International: The Transitional Program* [New York: Labor Publications, 1981] pp. 32-33).
75. The present conflict with Russia is a reflection and a continuation of the unending series of wars and interventions launched by American imperialism since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, as predicted by Trotsky and is being launched with the desire to offset its decline with access and control not only over the resource rich deposits of Ukraine as a “de facto” member of NATO but Russia, the largest source of raw materials in the world.
76. Staring into the abyss of its protracted decline, not least of which are disruptions to the dollar—at first convertible into gold at a rate \$35 per troy ounce in 1944 but no longer after the collapse of the Bretton Woods Conference on August 15th, 1971, the United States is reeling from one crisis after another.
77. Suffocating from ever tightening inflation, the dollar, whose quantitative easing has not eased but exacerbated the country’s and the world’s economic crises, continues to worsen as a diminishing world reserve currency. Indebted to the tune of more than 31.8 trillion dollars, the United States, acutely aware of its status and fleeting struggle for dominance, is tied in the straight jacket of an existential crisis, the desperate escape from which is visible not merely from the money (i.e., \$113,000,000,000) but also the vast swath of “technical capabilities” supplied to Ukraine, not a single one of which has resulted in an advantage powerful enough to sway the ultimate outcome of the war in any direction. Any failure in Ukraine would return on American credibility within NATO like a bounced check, devaluing its ‘political’ accounts among NATO Member States.
78. America’s compounding interest rates of debt, at a level of 31.8 trillion dollars, is further testament to the inescapable and impending death agony of the Ukraine war. What is the root cause of America’s indebted existential struggle? The

existential struggle of the United States is no where more obvious than in an examination of the historical trajectory of the United States' economic development, the most condensed explanation of which is on the basis of the cause and effect arising from mergers and acquisitions after the end of the Civil War. The series of mergers and acquisitions—the first between 1873-1895 climaxed in 1898 - 1904, the second between 1916 - 1929, the third between 1965 - 1969, the fourth between 1984 - 1989, which arose out of and deepened the “essentially parasitic, destructive, criminal modus operandi” of financial parasitism, and the fifth wave, which began in 1992—led ultimately to the 2008 global crisis, the ever looming danger of which is a major impetus for the surging pursuit of raw materials, minerals, or deposits of gas, oil, or coal in Russia's lands. The Ukraine war represents an attempt to “offset” America's ever deepening decline through the acquisition of these elements of imperialist plunder together with new markets, materials, or cheap labor.

79. It is worth mentioning a famous scene from *American Psycho*. Based on the book written by Bret Easton in 1991, where Christian Bale introduces himself to a woman at a club, the scene encapsulates the current state of financial parasitism in America. She asks him, “What do you do?” He says, “I am into murders and executions.” She responds by saying, “Do you like it?” He responds, “Well,” it depends. Why?” She says finally, “Well, most guys I know, who work in mergers and acquisitions, really don't like it.” It is not merely that the vast majority of the financial elites in the United States are living a double life, one of mergers and acquisitions, another of murders and executions.
80. It is that the historical trajectory of these double lives are beginning to converge on a focal point in the history of the class struggle. The imperialist war abroad proceeding hand-and-hand with the unrelenting assault on the living standards, wages, or surplus value of the proletariat gives way, first and foremost, to the objective reality of the class struggle.

81. Hence the contradictions that produce imperialist war also produce the objective foundation for social revolution. The First World War created and Russian revolutionaries intercepted the conditions for the Russian Revolution of October 1917. Today, even as the ruling class seeks to throw humanity into World War III, budding revolutionary struggles are blooming throughout the world.

82. In that regard there is a famous quote by Karl Marx in his reading of Hegel's *Lectures on the Philosophy of History* (1837), "Part III: The Roman World, Section II, Rome from the Second Punic War to the Emperors, regarding Caesar."

83. Often abbreviated to "the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce" from the *Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*, Marx wrote: "But it became immediately manifest that only a single will could guide the Roman state and now the Romans were compelled to adopt that opinion; since in all periods of the world a political revolution is sanctioned in men's opinions, when it repeats itself. Thus Napoleon was twice

defeated, and the Bourbons twice expelled. By repetition that which at first appeared merely a matter of chance and contingency becomes a real and ratified existence."

84. Accordingly, the Russian revolution, whose dress rehearsal after Japan defeated Russian forces in 1905 ushered in an era of reigning Soviets, at first appearing to be "merely a matter of chance and contingency" shall manifest itself as "real and ratified" in the hands of "all-out" generally striking American workers.

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