
UDC 327(477):355.01

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War in Ukraine: another solution to consider

As a native of the North-East of the Democratic Republic of Congo, I have experienced the horrors and the tragedies of war. I saw innocent people killed, women raped, children orphaned, and infrastructure destroyed.

As a young adult, I went through the hardships of fleeing my country of origin and living in a refugee camp for about three and a half years before emigrating to Canada.

My heart is full of sadness, sorrow, pain, grief, suffering, and misery when I see innocent Ukrainians experiencing the horrors and tragedies of war. The loss of human lives and infrastructure, as well as wounds inflicted by the enemy, will leave a long-lasting trauma on the future Ukrainian generation; an injury that will take decades to heal.

Here in the United States of America, public sentiment around the war in Ukraine is divided.

One group of educated people, scientists, who understand the geopolitical and economic intricacies of the world, wants the enemy to lose the war. This will restore peace in Ukraine, restore world order, protect the sovereignty of Ukraine, and humiliate the enemy on the world stage. Thus, this group continues to advocate for sending military and financial aid to Ukraine.

There is another group that does not understand the geopolitical and global consequences of the Russia-Ukraine war. This group views Ukraine as a distant country that has nothing to offer American interests. One of the arguments put forward by this group is noteworthy: “If the United States cannot take care of its southern border with Mexico to stop the flow of illegal crossing of migrants and drugs, then why spend billions of money protecting the Ukraine's borders?”. Unfortunately, many people in this group suffer from emotionality, in which the mind is clouded by media pundits. Hence, this group strongly opposes sending aid to Ukraine.

Then another group feels war-weary. The war has been going on for too long.

Billions of dollars have been spent both in Ukraine and in countries that have opened their borders to accept migrants. Indeed, the enemy must be defeated. However, there is a lack of clarity and, a coherent plan to provide a long-term solution to end the conflict.

If the Ukrainians win the war and the Russians lose, what happens next?

The sentiment that the Russians would shut up, accept defeat, and act civilized after losing the war does not make much sense in many minds here in the United States.

Then, there is a crisis of accountability and a lack of transparency. Many American taxpayers would appreciate it if political leaders ensured transparency and accountability in how the money was spent. Thus, this group advocates ending aid to Ukraine until some legitimate issues are resolved.

Ukrainians lived peacefully until the enemy decided to attack. Therefore, the majority here in the United States believes that the enemy must be defeated, the lives of Ukrainians must be protected, peace must prevail, and Ukraine must return to normal life.

At the same time, after spending billions of dollars, Ukrainian positive progress in the conflict is either too slow or lacking. This slowness and lack of funds scare away many American taxpayers.

It is clear that if the United States and its allies stop funding Ukraine in this conflict, then the enemy will win the war; therefore, the geopolitical and global economic consequences will be even greater in the future.

If the United States and its allies continue to fund Ukraine in this conflict, the proud and selfish enemy will prolong the conflict to the point of exhaustion. As a result, the horrors and tragedies of war will continue.

I still believe in the goodness of humanity. Although “peace through strength” makes sense in the minds of Americans. In the case of Russia and Ukraine, “peace through strength” will lead to resentment and ongoing revenge, where the struggle will continue for generations.

Should United States taxpayers and their allies continue to fund Ukraine in the Russia-Ukraine war? Sitting around a table and arguing for or against sending aid to Ukraine (something Americans love to do) is a healthy, productive conversation; however, as the conversation continues, so do the horrors and tragedies of war in Ukraine.

Humanity has fallen but is not completely corrupted and decayed. There is still goodness in humanity. Maybe “peace through strength” is not the way to follow. Maybe it is time for both Ukraine and Russia to sit at the table to appeal to each other's goodness. Worth trying.