

Ending the Ukrainian War

Now is the time for an exercise in realpolitik by the western powers upon whose economic and military aid the continuation of the war depends, to act to bring the Russo-Ukrainian War to an end. To date the United States had expended over well of \$100 billion on military aid to Ukraine to sustain what has become a war of attrition with Russia. Additional billions in military aid have been furnished by Britain, Germany and France. Yet, the Ukrainian military now says that a major offensive cannot be launched before 2025; and that it will require an additional 500,000 troops, while Ukraine is currently struggling to rotate and reinforce its front-line soldiers. In response, the strategy of the Ukrainian government is focussed on joining NATO, presumably to secure western troops to serve on the battlefield.

It is time for the United States to organize an international congress of the western powers to draft a peace treaty to be imposed on the political leadership of Ukraine, upon its acceptance by Russia. The Ukrainian Army has fought a valiant and successful war to maintain the independence and freedom of all but a narrow strip of land in eastern Ukraine. To ask the Ukrainian Army to fight an endless war of attrition in the forlorn hope of freeing every inch of Ukrainian territory from Russian occupation, is beyond endurance and asking far too much of exhausted soldiers on the front lines. It is time for the Ukrainian government to give up the aim of liberating every inch of Ukrainian territory, and to accept the current border – the battleline—that both armies have fought resolutely to establish and are unable to advance to their advantage. What is needed is a peace congress comprised of the United States, Britain, Germany, and France, with Ukraine and Russia having observer status, to set forth the terms of a peace treaty to resolve the costly stalemate and bring an end to the war of attrition.

Proposed Peace Treaty Terms

- 1) that the eastern border of Ukraine be demarcated along the Dnieper River (Dnipro River) in the South, and eastward and northward along the current line of battle between the Ukrainian and Russian armies;
- 2) that Ukraine be recognized as an independent neutral country, with its new borders guaranteed by the signatories of the peace treaty: viz. the two principals, Russia and Ukraine, and the four western power guarantors (or NATO, at the signing stage);
- 3) that Ukraine be forbidden to join the NATO alliance;
- 4) that Ukraine be forbidden to station nuclear weapons on its soil;
- 5) that Ukraine be permitted to maintain military forces – an army, air force and navy -- for domestic order and the defence of its borders from incursions by foreign armies and/or paramilitary forces;
- 6) that Ukraine agrees to cede the eastern section of Ukraine, currently occupied by Russian forces, to Russia with the eastern Ukraine to have a commonwealth status in the Russian Federation similar to the United States sovereignty over Puerto Rico;
- 7) that the suzerainty of Russia over Crimea be recognized by all parties;

- 8) that Russia agrees to recognize the new eastern border of Ukraine as legitimate and inviolable;
- 9) that the western power signatories agree to readmit Russia to world councils, and to end economic sanctions against Russia, Russian businesses, and state enterprises; and in return,
- 10) that Russia agrees to refrain from furnishing nuclear weapons to North Korea;
- 11) that Russia agrees to prosecute the cyber criminals on its soil, who are engaged in cyber crimes against western institutions, businesses, and peoples; and
- 12) that all parties agree that hostilities will cease on the signing of the treaty by Ukraine and Russia, and the guarantors of the Peace Treaty.

Situation Analysis: The West can impose the peace treaty on the political leadership of Ukraine by threatening to refuse to extend any further economic and military aid in support of the Ukrainian war effort. Such a treaty will be welcomed by the Ukrainian military and the people who see no end to a hopeless war of attrition that is bleeding the Ukrainian army, that is destroying the economy and infrastructure of Ukraine, and that to date has forced 6.6 million Ukrainian refugees to flee abroad. Ukraine will further benefit from the ending of the war which will enable western aid to shift to restoring the economy and rebuilding the infrastructure of Ukraine.

Such a peace treaty would be welcomed by Russia as it will extricate that country from an intractable, demoralizing war -- resulting from its ill-advised invasion -- that is severely damaging the Russian economy, embarrassing the Red Army, and destroying the combat capability of the Russian military forces. The signing of the Peace Treaty will allow Russia to save face with a marginal gain of territory and will enable Russia to claim that it has established a homeland for Russian-speaking, Russian Orthodox Ukrainians.

For the West, it will free up hundreds of billions of dollars of military aid monies and enable the armaments, missiles, munitions, jet fighters, and air defence systems, destined for Ukraine, to be retained to rebuild the western military alliance forces. Above all, the Peace Treaty will end the risk of the West being drawn into a costly and devastating World War III. (Have our political leaders forgotten the origins of the First World War?) The location of the eastern border of Ukraine is not of any geopolitical significance sufficient to merit the heavy financial and military cost to the West in continuing to support Ukraine in prolonging a military stalemate, while running the risk of becoming involved in a broader war. It is time for the western powers, under the leadership of the United States, to step in and end the war by imposing a peace treaty on Ukraine that Russia can accept.

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