

Thoughts on Ukraine – II

Regrettably, the much-heralded Ukrainian counter-offensive to drive Russian forces out of eastern Ukraine, has become bogged down in minefields, with both sides suffering high casualties. It is now quite apparent that Ukraine needs to face military realities in the field, and geopolitics, and to agree to a negotiated end to the war.

Despite a valiant war effort that has driven the invader back and preserved the heart of the country from conquest, Ukraine needs to abandon its strategic war aim to retake the eastern occupied lands, and to reclaim the Crimea. There is little prospect of driving the Russian forces out of the fortified eastern lands without risking the destruction of the Ukrainian army in offensive operations against an entrenched enemy, while the infrastructure of the country and the homes of Ukrainians are being bombarded and destroyed by aerial attacks. It has become a futile war that begs for a negotiated resolution to end the carnage.

The Ukrainian army locked in a war of attrition,
With a decisive victory beyond achieving,
On the battlefield, with losses ever mounting,
And faced with a desperate enemy regime,
Willing and able to deploy,
Tactical nuclear weapons, in risking
Mass destruction and a world war,
To avoid a humiliating defeat in Ukraine.

Far better to sacrifice the occupied lands,
Painful, regrettable, yet necessary,
To stop the bleeding and debilitation,
An amputation to save the body politic.
To gain peace, independent and prosperity,
With reconstruction aid replacing weaponry,
And the survival of a people assured, with
The world freed from the threat of Armageddon.

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