

# Review of: "[Commentary] Ukraine on the brink – Is Western appeasement plunging Europe into a catastrophe?"

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First of all, it is worth emphasizing the author's high level of understanding of the processes in this part of Europe. Indeed, the events of 2014 became a prelude to or approval of what happened in 2022. The indecision and inertia of the American government, something similar on the part of the EU, and even the inability of the unbalanced Ukrainian elites (in some sense) at that time to make an adequate decision became the impetus for the events of 2022. We saw something similar earlier in Georgia.

Is it just a matter of Russia's desire to maintain the status quo regarding the property rights of the oligarchy and bureaucracy? In my opinion, we forget that Russia is the last empire in Europe held by force of arms. Let us recall the recent extermination of the Ichkeria people. Russia does not have its own history or its own historical myth. There is a myth of Kyiv Rus' and Russia as its legal successor. But it's stolen from Ukraine. Imagine that Ukraine, with its perception around the world, now proves to everyone that Russia is a very young country with a poor history and the same stolen culture. Therefore, it is not only a problem of an oligarchy (it also still hardly (!) exists in Ukraine and can be restored in case of further government mistakes and the creation of new idols), but also because of the lack of strong political, social, and market institutions. They never existed in Russia. Russia was not democratic under either Gorbachev or Yeltsin (here I don't agree with the author). Because there were no tools of democracy. Privatization carried out without them by the Gaidar government created this oligarchy.

And finally, regarding the two "brother nations," they never existed. Ukraine was occupied by Russia at the beginning of the 18th century, with the destruction of all social institutions. The Ukrainian Baturyn of that time in many respects influenced the fate of modern Bucha. Something similar was repeated by the bandits of Muravyov when they seized Kyiv in 1918 (the same was done by the military group of Girkin (Strelkow) in 2014 in Donbas). Later, Russia carried out the genocide of Ukrainians twice. Tens of millions were killed in the time of appr. 70 years of the last occupation.

Russia is afraid of Ukraine in the EU and NATO because this will lead to the destruction of the myth of Russia as an empire. The same support of the imperial myth would drive Russia, in case of weakness of Ukraine, to the territory of Poland, Moldova, and the Baltic states. And today, Ukraine is actually the most combat-capable actual member of NATO.

I suggested that the author add to the descriptive part an analysis of the interaction of the strategies of the main political actors based on the Axelrod tournament. Especially interesting would be such players as the USA and Germany. Even in the last two years, they have changed their strategies twice.

It could be something like this:

EU - Collective.Strategy; Ukraine - TitForTat; Kazakhstan - HardTitForTat

Hungary - CyclorDDC; Poland - CyclorCCCDCCD; France - GTFT (generous TFT)

Germany - Resurrection; GB - ShakeHand

India - BushMosteller; USA – MemoryTwoPlayer

China - CyclorCCCCCD; Türkiye - Cooperator

Russia - MemoryOnePlayer ...

Thanks to the author for raising the topic.