

# Russia's Blitz on Ukraine

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Edmund Burke is often quoted for saying “*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing*”, but Martin Luther King said much the same thing: “*The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people*”.

By the same token, to ignore the Russian invasion of Ukraine and suffering of the people of Gaza is a crime of omission.

[Mike Waltz](#) as national security adviser was a member of the Trump administration that understood the reality of war but was ousted because of [Signal-gate](#). President Trump's own [military record](#) is inglorious. During the Vietnam war he received four draft deferments because of college and after graduation a medical certificate for bad feet.

As presidential candidate in 2015, Trump [mocked](#) former GOP nominee Senator John McCain because he had been captured during the Vietnam war, and in 2018 as president he [canceled a visit](#) to the Arne-Maisne American Cemetery near Paris. As he remarked, “Why should I go to that cemetery? It's filled with losers”.

Trump regarded the more than 1800 U.S. marines who had been killed at [Belleau Wood](#) in 1918, stopping the German advance on Paris, as “suckers”. Nor could he understand why the United States would intervene on the part of the Allies. This is the mindset of the U.S. commander-in-chief at the time when its closest ally, Europe, faces its greatest challenge since 1940.

There is no doubt that Europe faces a series of failures, having enjoyed “the peace dividend” after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. In the same incremental fashion as Nazi Germany in the 1930s, Russia has adopted a policy of [Heim ins Reich](#) and claimed Transnistria in Moldova, Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia as well as the Crimea, before launching its invasion of Ukraine. *After Ukraine its next target could be [the Baltic states](#) with their Russian minorities.*

In 2005 Vladimir Putin [stated](#) that the collapse of the Soviet Union was “the biggest geopolitical catastrophe of the century”, and Sir Alex Younger, former head of MI6, [believes](#) Putin's aim is a reestablishment of Russian influence. Consequently, the former Warsaw Pact states' decision to throw in their lot with Western states is an infringement of Russian sovereignty.

According to Ukraine's former commander-in-chief [Valery Zaluzhny](#) World War III has begun, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies in a report on [Russia's shadow war against the West](#) details Russia's escalating and violent campaign of sabotage and subversion against European and U.S. targets in Europe from 2022 to 2025.

Europe has been caught on the back foot, and the European think tank Bruegel in Brussels in its [analysis](#) *Defending Europe without the US: first estimates of what is needed* concludes that Europe could need 300,000 more troops and an annual defence spending hike of at least €250 billion to deter Russian aggression.

A Russian attack on a European Union country is conceivable, and assignments by NATO, Germany, Denmark, Poland and the Baltic states put Russia as ready to attack within three to ten years. For this reason, Europe's first priority is to continue supporting Ukraine as the most effective deterrent against a Russian attack on the EU.

With 29 national armies involved, the main drawback is the lack of a unified command. The [joint British and French proposal](#) to establish a "coalition of the willing" to provide a peace-keeping force for Ukraine has been dismissed as "[political theatre](#)", and Azeem Ibrahim, a research professor at the Strategic Studies Institute, [deems it](#) "heavy on symbolism and dangerously light on credibility".

Instead, he recommends a NATO-integrated effort, but with outliers like Hungary and Turkey and [the aversion to Europe](#) reflected in Signal-gate this is unlikely. However, with [Readiness 2030](#) Europe has stepped up and demonstrated not only the will but also the means to shoulder the burden.

Russia's [overnight attacks](#) on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities have provoked outrage, and Keith Kellogg, President Trump's special envoy for Ukraine, has [roundly condemned](#) them. "The indiscriminate killing of women and children at night in their homes is a clear violation of the 1977 Geneva Peace Protocols designed to protect innocents."

Republican congressman Don Bacon has [urged](#) the United States and its allies to act resolutely: "The US & Allies must arm Ukraine to the teeth, sanction Russia to the max, & confiscate the US\$300 billion in overseas Russian assets."

*President Trump is blessed with the benefit of doubt. As he has warned on [Truth Social](#), "I've always had a very good relationship with Vladimir Putin of Russia, but something has happened to him. He has gone absolutely CRAZY! He is needlessly killing a lot of people, and I'm not just talking about soldiers. Missiles and drones are being shot into Cities in Ukraine, for no reason whatsoever. I've always said that he wants ALL of Ukraine, not just a piece of it, and maybe that's proving to be right, but if he does, it will lead to the downfall of Russia!"*

Perhaps this insight can lead to affirmative action.