



## **Orwellian Morning Joe "Redefines Success" in Ukraine—Erasing Their Warmongering**

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**Glenn Greenwald (GG):** There was no way Ukraine was going to beat Russia without the deployment of NATO troops into that war, which could never have happened because that would have been World War Three with a nuclear power. And those of us who said at the time and who said this war is going to produce no good, it's not defending Ukrainians, it's destroying Ukraine and sacrificing Ukrainians at the altar of the real American goal, which is to weaken Russia, we were called Russian agents, we were called Putin apologists, and we lost that debate. Because the media always succeeds in getting majorities of Americans on the side of whatever new shiny word they present. Yeah, forget about Iraq, forget about Libya, forget about Syria. Forget about Vietnam, all the times we lied to you, all the times we told you things were going to happen that didn't happen, forget about all that. We have a new war. This one's the real deal. This time, we're really on the right, the good side. This one's different. And every time it turns out not to be. And then we get to the end, and if we had a healthy country, we would have a lot of politicians in Washington, a lot of people in the media standing up and saying: Over here, hold me accountable, I'm to blame, I made a mistake. I was wrong, fire me, scorn me. Put me out of office. But obviously, that doesn't happen. They all unite and pretend that they never said or did any of the things that they're ashamed of. And because they unite and all protect each other and no one gets held accountable, they all get to move on to the next war and do the same thing. Now it's been clear for a while that the US and NATO were going to have to abandon Ukraine in part because the touted counteroffensive, this vaunted Ukrainian move against Russia went nowhere, it was a debacle. They barely made any inroads or encroachments into the Russian defensive line. They barely moved the front line. And yet they lost enormous amounts of military equipment and thousands and thousands of Ukrainian lives, which they don't even have any more to give. They're pulling men in their 40s and 50s on buses and sending them to the front line. They don't have men to fight anymore. It's an all conscript army, people are

desperate to get out of the country. They're fleeing and paying money to leave because they know they're being used as cannon fodder. And the fact that we now have a new war in Israel that we have to pay for, Biden already wants that \$14 billion which of course will nowhere be near enough. A war that we care a lot more about, at least right now, than we do the war in Ukraine. It was already clear the war in Ukraine had to come to an end and now that we have a new war to pay for and to arm and fund and talk about, no one cares about this war any more and everyone is ready to throw Zelensky to the side. Here is Morning Joe this morning, or yesterday, rather, on Monday morning saying the sort of things that if anyone said three months ago, these very people would have instantly branded them Russian agents. Listen to this conversation.

**Newscaster (NC):** [inaudible] has done an extraordinary job. How much longer do we continue pushing? I think what many people in the Pentagon would think is the unrealistic goal of Ukraine driving every last Russian out of their country.

**GG:** If you would, I promise you, if you said six months ago what Joe Scarborough said yesterday, that it's unrealistic to think that Ukraine can drive every Russian troop out of Ukrainian soil, they would have tried to destroy your reputation. They absolutely would have called you a Putin apologist, an appeaser, a Kremlin agent. But now that they know that Joe Biden's hands are tied, that he can no longer fund this war in Ukraine, nor can the EU – and even if they did it isn't going to move this line. There's no more Ukrainians to fight, there's no more money to give them. There's no more artillery to give them. There's no other way to make up this shortage against Russia. Now that they know that Biden is going to lead Zelensky to the peace table, the negotiating table to forge a peace deal that involves having Russians keep control over Ukraine, now he's saying of course, it's not realistic to drive every Russian out of Ukraine. That was so obvious from the beginning and that these people insisted that was the only outcome that you could talk about. Even though it was never any more realistic back in February of last year or January this year or April of this year or than it is now. Do you see how they give themselves permission to just completely change the rules of discourse while pretending they're not doing it?

**NC:** It's exactly the right question, Joe. And what concerns me is when people get disillusioned and increasingly come to where you and I are that, as desirable as it is, it's simply not feasible. They're going to increasingly say, and we're hearing it in the House, we're hearing it in parts of Europe: why should we keep doing this? We're already stretched, we're trying to support Israel, we're worried about Taiwan and even if we give everything we need to give or want to give to Ukraine, it still won't lead to success. What I argued, therefore, is that the United States needs to have some very direct conversations with Ukraine, with President Zelensky talking about...

**GG:** There's really no nobody more despicable than these people. First of all, they look at war as a fun little game that they get to just kind of play with on their screens and feel good about themselves with and accuse their political adversaries of being traitors. Seriously, do

you think there's even been a one second of thought that Joe Scarborough has given to how many people how many young Ukrainian men lost their lives in Ukraine fighting in this war that they were forced to fight, even though all along there was no plausible scenario in which they achieved their stated goals? They don't care in the slightest! In the slightest about Ukrainians or Ukraine! It's all a game to them. And now they just turn around and say, Look, of course, what you and I know, us reasonable people, we know, there's no way Zelensky can win this war. And now we have to sit down with him and say, Look, the gig is up. Time to sit down and give away part of your country. Where they were eager to destroy anybody's reputation who suggested that all along, and they are now going to pretend that they were among the people doing that.

**NC:** ...increasingly put all their emphasis on holding on to what they've got in the long run diplomatically through sanctions. Yes, we can try to see the rest of their territory return, but for right now, let's have 80% of this country safe, 80% of this country rebuilt.

**GG:** These people make me sick. They're talking about having Russia control 20% of Ukrainian territory as though that's some kind of victory. As though they accomplished that, they could be proud of that. And now we're all supposed to pretend that when they go to the negotiating table and hand over 20% of Ukraine to Putin that that's some kind of success, like, Oh well, we got most of their country back for them. I never believed that Putin wanted to take over all of Ukraine. He attacked Kiev because, of course, that's what you do at the start of the war to try and discombobulate the government, to try and destabilise them, to not have them understand where the attack is coming from. But Russians in Moscow were saying all along that their goal was to liberate these parts of eastern Ukraine that they viewed to be repressively abused by Kiev, by the central government in Kiev. They've been fighting for that goal for years by arming separatists in the Donbass. And, of course, they're going to keep Crimea and that's what they wanted. But anybody who said, Oh let's just give Russia 20% of Ukraine as part of a deal would have been mauled just a few days ago. And now, because it's what Biden's going to do, they're all acting like that's the thing that we were trying to achieve all along.

**NC:** We saw a cease fire as an interim arrangement to expose the Russians for what they are so we can rebuild support for Ukraine in this country. But we've had two fighting seasons. The idea that one or two or three more years of this is going to result in success, I simply don't see it. Russia is on a war footing. They have access to also arms from North Korea and Iran. So I just think anytime in foreign policy, anytime in life, there's a big gap between what you're trying to do and your ability to do it, you've either got to increase your means or lower your goals. And I think here, the only realistic option as a tactical measure is to lower our goals.

**GG:** Lower our goals. Right on the screen, it says: "Redefining success in Ukraine". Yes, you know what they're doing?! They're redefining success in Ukraine to mean complete and total failure. A loss. Another American war loss. They're kind of proud of themselves because this

time they didn't require any American soldiers to lose their lives. They kept talking about how they're so happy they only pay for it and send Ukrainians to die. "Redefining success in Ukraine", that is such an Orwellian phrase, because what it means is accepting defeat and trying to convince Americans we actually won so they don't look at us with even more contempt than they already hold us in.

**NC:** This is to lower our goals. Well, you know, this situation is often fluid, has been fluid in Ukraine for quite some time. But we're at a new stage, just like we talked about after October 7th. That war was going to go in stages. The Ukrainian war has gone in stages and now Russia is dug in defensively. They're not having generals run up to the line. So snipers can not take them out. They're not exposing themselves to aerial bombardment. They are dug in in a defensive posture. And that has made all the difference...

**GG:** That has been true since at least a year ago. They've been dug in. We had Richard Medhurst on our show, who people will call a conspiracy theorist, has this little YouTube show. And I kept saying he was probably the smartest and best person to talk about this war of anybody I've heard. And I heard him talking about back in February the World War One and World War Two trench tactics Russia was using, their defensive postures with dragon teeth and bunkers that were very deep and multiple layers of defensive trenches that the Ukrainians could never hope to breach. He turned out to be completely right. Obviously, he's not put on the media. If he was heard on the media, he would be called a Russian agent for sure. Let's listen to the rest of this, it's unbelievable. Do you see there's not one second of Hey, by the way, we should point out that our network for the last 18 months has been saying something completely the opposite of what we're now saying. Because they know every other network and every other media corporation and everyone in the government and everyone in the Republican and Democratic Party who supported this is all going to get together and pretend that they knew all along that this is what they were hoping for. Redefining success in Ukraine is what it even says on the screen.

**NC:** Yeah, the Russians had enough time as Ukraine was preparing this offensive to build those defensive lines with trenches and land mines and making it very difficult for the Ukrainians to push through. I was told recently that the Ukrainians have only taken back 0.25% of the land that Russia took in the east of the country.

**GG:** Oh, my God, that is the counter offensive. I'm about to show you how these people in the media were saying this counter-offensive is going to change everything, it's a game changer. Just hold on, keep supporting this, the counter-offensive is coming. They took back 0.25%, that's basically nothing. That is nothing. The Russians actually took more on net. The reality is the line barely moved. But on net, the Russians took back more than the Ukrainians took back with this unbelievably exciting counteroffensive that was going to transform the whole war and push the Russians out of southern Ukraine and then out of eastern Ukraine. They were going to cut them off. Break their supply chain.

**NC:** Nothing. And clearly not nearly enough to persuade policymakers up on Capitol Hill that it's worth carrying on funding them. Now, the Europeans are actually now matching the Americans when it comes to military spending on Ukraine, but they wouldn't be able to pick up all of the slack. I guess the only question with what you're proposing, Richard, is that would that then look like victory for Vladimir Putin? I mean, effectively...

**GG:** Oh, you think? Do you think it might look like a victory for Vladimir Putin if he ends up with 20% of Ukraine? Despite the fact that he fought all of NATO, which said all along that the only acceptable goal is to expel every single Russian troop from every single part of Ukrainian soil, including Crimea? Do you think it might look like success for Vladimir Putin if he ends up with one fifth of Ukraine? If the US ends up having to beg him to accept that, maybe he won't, maybe he'll want more.

**NC:** He'll be able to sell that. And he will sell that as victory back at home. But even if we step back with a more objective eye and think, Well, okay, so they didn't take Kiev, but they took a big chunk of the country in the east and was this an indication that the Russians actually won effectively?

**NC:** I don't think so, look where Russia started. They wanted to basically eliminate Ukraine as a sovereign, independent...

**GG:** Oh my God, these people are such unbelievable liars. They will say anything, anything. They're going to try and sell this as a victory. Get ready. That's what they're doing. Now, just to conclude in June so I am talking about four months ago Max Boot, the neocon warmonger who cheers every single war and has for 25 years though he never, ever gets near the front line, he sends everybody else to fight in these wars, classic, vented neocon scumbag, brought out David Petraeus who was the heralded, brilliant general under President Bush, who was going to lead to a reversal of the Iraq war with the surge that the neocons were selling that never went anywhere. And then he was going to bring in these brilliant counter insurgency tactics to Iraq and Afghanistan that changed nothing. And then he ultimately had a sad ending because he was convicted of giving classified information, in fact, the most sensitive type to his mistress so she could write a hagiography about him, a book that was going to praise him to the sky. He's now hurled out. And there you see the headline: The Ukrainian offensive is beginning. David Petraeus is optimistic. Talking about how he went to Ukraine, met with military and civilian officials, came back so excited about the counter offensive. Understands the difficulties and challenges, but is sure it's going to win. How do these people never lose their standing? Their accountability. The minute there's a new war as there is now Max Boot and David Petraeus are going to be brought onto CNN and the pages of The Washington Post, and they're going to tell you again how to think about this war, even though they have nothing but a history of failure and lying. The Ukraine offensive is beginning, David Petraeus is optimistic. It was a complete disaster and it was predictable. We had John Mearsheimer on our show and other analysts were saying that at the time – at the time, not afterward. Explaining in detail all the reasons Ukraine could never win, and why this counter offensive

was a fraud. It was just an excuse to spend another six months giving money to the US military industrial complex, putting who knows how much money in the pockets of Zelensky and his cronies in Ukraine and having more and more Ukrainians die just to get to this point that we were always going to get to which was having to negotiate with Russia about how much land they were going to take of Ukraine so they could feel safe. It's not to say these people are wrong, they're morally despicable. The Ukrainians and the Russians could have had a deal, they were close to a deal. They tried to have a deal from the start. And a lot of people like Naftali Bennett, the former Israeli prime minister and other officials and diplomats said that it was made impossible because Biden, Biden officials and Boris Johnson said, we don't want a deal because their goal was never to defend Ukraine. That was the lie, the pretext of the war. The goal was to sacrifice Ukraine, to have it destroyed, to have Ukrainians die so they could try and weaken the Russians. Only they didn't even do that. Because the Russian military is stronger than ever. And now they're going to have control of a significant part of Ukraine that they did not have at the start of the war. And they sent out this woman, Katty Kay from BBC to say, do you think it's possible that this war could be sold by Vladimir Putin as a victory? Do you think it's possible he might sell it as a victory, actually? Is it a victory? Oh, no, I don't think so. They only got 20% of Ukraine. These people are a disgrace, they're pathetic. And they do this war after war after war after war.

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