



## The Ukraine War Is A Giant Ponzi Scheme

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**Dimitri Lascaris (DL):** Did you know that in 2025 alone, the US military has launched more than 100 airstrikes on Somalia? I'll have more to say about that later in this report. But first, let me remind you to please like and share this video if you find it to be informative. And if you're not already a subscriber to Reason2Resist, we warmly encourage you to become one so that you can help us to expand the reach of our unapologetic resistance journalism. So with that, let's get into today's report. This year, Santa Claus has been working overtime for Volodymyr Zelensky. On December 27th, two days after Christmas, Santa delivered more goodies to the Ukrainian president. The latest gift for Zelensky's regime comes in the form of a 2.5 billion dollar economic aid package from Canada to Ukraine. This new Canadian aid comes hot on the heels of the EU's announcement that it would loan 90 billion euros to

Ukraine over the next two years. Like the EU, Canada is characterising the new aid not as a gift or a grant to Ukraine, but rather as a loan, or more precisely, as loan guarantees. In other words, Canada is guaranteeing to some third-party lender that if Ukraine defaults on a loan made by that lender to Ukraine, then Canada will pay the loan. Zelensky was on his way to Florida when he met with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, or as I like to refer to him, Prime Minister Goldman Sachs, in Halifax yesterday on the eastern coast of the country. And that is the venue at which Carney announced the new economic aid package. And here's some of what Prime Minister Goldman Sachs had to say.

**Mark Carney:** Thank you for taking this time just at a crucial moment in this process. Under President Zelensky's leadership, we have the conditions, the possibility of a just and lasting peace. But that requires a willing Russia. And the barbarism that we saw overnight in the attack on Kiev shows just how important it is that we stand with Ukraine during this difficult time and that we create the conditions for this just and lasting peace in a true reconstruction. And I want to underscore something that has happened in recent weeks, is the development of that possibility under your leadership and also the prospect of true prosperity for the Ukrainian people. I'll just finish with one point on Canada. We've provided military assistance, further military assistance. We're announcing today further economic assistance for Ukraine, two and a half billion dollars worth of economic assistance that helps unlock financing from the IMF, from the World Bank, from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to begin this process of rebuilding.

**DL:** So, as you heard in the string of cliches unleashed by the Prime Minister in Halifax, the Prime Minister referred to overnight attacks by the Russian forces on Ukraine as barbarism. Apparently, Russia launched drone and missile strikes as it has been doing regularly during this devastating war, and in the course of those attacks, it's reported that one person was killed and 27 were wounded. For its part, the Russian Federation said that these attacks were in response to attacks by Ukrainian forces on what it described as civilian objects in the Russian Federation. Now, to my knowledge, Carney has never used the word barbarism to describe Israel's attacks on Palestinians. Not even last month or in late October, I should say, when Israel killed 104 Palestinians in a 24-hour period, including 46 children and 20 women. And this during a so-called ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, nor has Carney used the word barbarism or anything like it to describe Trump's mass slaughter of civilians in the Caribbean, including civilians who had survived an initial US strike but were wiped out in a double-tap strike ordered by the US military. Moreover, you just heard Carney credit Zelensky with creating the conditions necessary for a just and lasting peace. That is a bald-faced lie, my friends.

In fact, Zelensky just reiterated Ukraine's categorical opposition to recognising Russian sovereignty over any of the territory Russia now controls in the east of the country. Not only that, but Ukraine is insisting on security guarantees from NATO that mirror Article V of the NATO treaty. Either of these demands, standing alone, is a deal breaker for Russia. Put together these two demands and any others that Zelensky might conjure up, guarantee that this 20-point peace plan that Zelensky and Trump are working on, will be dead on arrival.

Now you can complain all you want about the conditions, the demands of the Russian Federation, you can argue as strenuously as you wish that they are unfair, unjust, violative of international law, but the reality is that those are Russia's demands. Russia's demands have been made repeatedly. It has been completely consistent in regard to articulating those demands, and there's nothing that the West can do to cause Russia to abandon those demands. So, in those circumstances, to say that Zelensky, who is rejecting categorically pretty much all of Russia's core demands, that he's creating the conditions for a just and lasting peace, is just an insult to our intelligence.

Now, finally, why did Carney announce this new aid on December 27th between New Year's and Christmas? After all, he could have made the announcement before Christmas, earlier in December. As I've said many times, the timing of announcements like these is not random. Canada's government, like all governments, chooses to time its announcements in such a way as to minimise the political damage of the announcement and to maximise the political benefit. With this new economic aid package, Canada has now committed nearly \$25 billion to Ukraine. That's a lot of money for Canada. And there's no end in sight to this military-industrial boondoggle. The Canadian people who are struggling more and more with the basic necessities of life, including groceries and rent, their patience for this boondoggle is beginning to wear thin. A fact of which Mark Carney is undoubtedly aware. And so I incline to the view that the reason why we got this announcement between Christmas and New Year's is because the Prime Minister and his advisors know perfectly well that generally speaking, Canadians are paying a lot less attention to the news during that period.

Now, before I explain why the loans from the EU and Canada are unlikely to be repaid, let's take a closer look at the Canadian government's announcement of this new aid package. And here up on the screen, I have put the readout, or I'm sorry, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's office yesterday, December 27th. It begins by characterising this war as "a struggle between democracy and authoritarianism." If Canada's government and other NATO governments were truly interested in democracy and authoritarianism, then why are they so closely aligned with Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and on and on?! The Trump regime itself is a profoundly authoritarian and anti-democratic administration. And Canada is more closely aligned with the United States than any other government on God's green earth.

Now, the platitudes and propaganda don't stop there. In the very next paragraph, the statement says that Russia launched a full scale invasion that was unprovoked. That is a mantra that we have heard on countless occasions since the Ukraine war blew out into the open in February of 2022. And interestingly, the question of whether Russia's invasion of Ukraine was unprovoked was addressed indirectly at least by a new release of declassified documents by the National Security Archive. This too happened around Christmas time, and perhaps that too was done intentionally to minimise attention to the release of information. But here you can see an article, a recent article dated December 25th, on what those documents show. They show that, quote, "Long before Russia's confrontation with the West hardened into open hostility, Putin privately warned President George W. Bush," – this was over 20 years ago – "that NATO expansion into Ukraine and Georgia would create permanent instability. The

documents show Putin repeatedly arguing that NATO's eastward expansion posed a direct threat to Russia's security and would lead Moscow to resist by political and strategic means during their final meeting in April 2008 in Sochi. Shortly after a NATO summit in Bucharest, Putin told Bush that Ukrainian membership would generate, quote, 'long-term confrontation', close quote, and warned that Russia would rely on anti-NATO forces inside Ukraine to block the alliance's advance."

So this new information adds to a mountain of evidence that right across the Russian political spectrum there was heated, heated opposition to Ukraine's entry into NATO, that Western leaders knew this, that even foreign policy luminaries from the West, like George Kennan or former Clinton Defence Secretary William Perry had warned about it, and yet, four successive administrations, the Bush administration, the Obama administrations, the first Trump administration, and the Biden administration all aggressively pursued the project of incorporating Ukraine into NATO. And it's no exaggeration to say that by the end of the first Trump administration, Ukraine was a de facto member of NATO. By that point in time, the Trump administration had provided lethal weaponry to Ukraine. It was the first US administration to do that. It had engaged in extensive military training of Ukrainian soldiers to NATO standards. It was working hard to ensure the interoperability of Ukrainian military forces with NATO military forces. It had engaged in numerous highly provocative military exercises with Ukraine. It had established a command centre at the Rammstein military base in Germany that led right to the Ukrainian military command. So certainly one could argue that under the first Trump administration, Ukraine became a de facto member of NATO. It definitely was one by the end of the first Biden administration. And all that remained to be done, basically, was to incorporate Ukraine formally into the NATO military alliance and confer upon it the rights and obligations of Article V of the NATO treaty. That's the provision relating to the reciprocal defence of a NATO member that comes under attack.

So let's go back to the statement on December 27th. The part I want to focus on is not the preambular propaganda, it's the description of the economic aid package. And that's in the middle of the page. I've sidebarred it in orange, and you'll see that it says: "Building on Canada's strong support for Ukraine, the Prime Minister today announced new measures to support a just and lasting peace. Canada is announcing an additional \$2.5 billion commitment for Ukraine, including," – now, let's pause there. The word including implies that what we're going to get is a list of the components of that \$2.5 billion commitment. So when you get all of those things together, those components are added together, it should not come out to \$2.5 billion. It should add up to \$2.5 billion. But that's not what happens here. The first component is financing that will enable the IMF to lend Ukraine an additional \$8.4 billion as part of an extended financing programme. Why would a commitment that is no greater than \$2.5 billion enable the IMF to loan \$8.4 billion? There may be an explanation, but it's not provided here.

The next component, "Canada's participation in extended and expanded debt service suspension for Ukraine up to \$1.5 billion in 2025, 2026." I want to focus here on the words debt service suspension. So Canada is explicitly acknowledging in this statement that the obligations of Ukraine to service its debt will be suspended with respect to at least certain

parts of that debt in the year ahead. That in and of itself is an explicit acknowledgement by the Canadian government that Ukraine is in serious financial trouble. And I'm going to come back to that in a moment. The third component is a loan guarantee of up to \$1.3 billion in 2026 to the World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to support Ukraine's reconstruction. And finally, a loan guarantee of up to \$322 million in 2026 to the European Bank for reconstruction and redevelopment to support Ukraine's gas imports and reinforce its energy security. Now there's no way to add these numbers up to get to 2.5 billion. You know, 1.3 plus 1.5 equals 2.8. 1.5 billion and 1.3 plus billion plus 322 million equals approximately 3.1 billion. And then you've got this other thing: 8.4 billion IMF loans. So again, I don't know how you get 2.5 billion out of this, but the most important thing of all is that nowhere, nowhere in this statement or in the comments that Carney has made to the press is there an explicit acknowledgement that it is unlikely – I would go so far as to say a virtual certainty – that Ukraine will not be able to pay back these loans and loan guarantees.

Now, why do I say that the repayment of these loans and loan guarantees is highly unlikely? Well, let's start by taking a look at the explosive growth in Ukraine's debt to GDP ratio. Back in 2021, the year before the Ukraine war, the invasion happened, the Ukrainian debt to GDP ratio was less than 50%. By the end of 22, it had risen, this is the first year of the war, to approximately 77%. That's a huge increase in the space of one year. Then it went up significantly again in 2023. It rose to approximately 81%, I would say. And then by the end of 2024, it had gone up to 90%. It had nearly doubled in the space of three years. Now, this obviously put enormous strain as Ukraine's economy was being eviscerated and the costs of the war were spiralling ever upward, this put enormous strain on the government's finances. And inevitably, the government did actually default already on certain of its debt. And you can see here a report that was issued several months ago in the financial press that the International Rating Agency, S&P Global, had announced Ukraine's default on its GDP-linked bonds.

On June 2nd, 2025, the Ukrainian government failed to make the required payment of \$665 million, which led to the bonds downgrade from CC to D. Pausing there, \$665 million should not be an insuperable obstacle for a European country as large as Ukraine. And in the final paragraph, the Ukrainian government suspended payments on commercial obligations that were not restructured in September of last year. So Ukraine has already been in default on some of its debt for some period of time. The obligations it defaulted on last year amounted to approximately 6% of total commercial debt and less than 3% of total public debt. And there's another interesting comment here in the second last paragraph. It said the Ukrainian government has an interest in servicing domestic debt to avoid pressure on the banking system, which is the mainholder of its bonds. So basically, the Ukrainian government is favouring Ukrainian banks over foreign lenders. And it's fair to say that the Ukrainian oligarchs have a very significant interest in a number of those banks and stand to benefit handsomely from preferential treatment accorded to bonds that their banks have purchased from the Ukrainian government.

So the bottom line here is that the Canadian government is extending credit to a foreign government that is already in default on certain of its debt and whose debt to GDP ratio is exploding and whose economic situation is deteriorating. Let me tell you just how bad the situation has gotten in Ukraine. Many of you will know that the Trump administration and the Russian government are putting pressure on Zelensky to hold elections in Ukraine. Zelensky's term expired in May of 2024. And although Russia was able to hold an election during the war, Ukraine has repeatedly said that it cannot do so. But understandably, now that we're almost into 2026, and this man's term expired in the first half of 2024, a lot of people are asking whether he's legitimate. He gave up his democratic legitim legitimacy, assuming he had any, well over a year ago. And the Russians are saying, how can we rely upon a peace deal that has been signed by a president whose term expired over a year ago?

And so in the face of this pressure, the Ukrainian government is saying now that it cannot hold an election if it has to foot the bill because it doesn't have the money to conduct an election. You gotta be in some bad situation if you don't have enough money as the government of a nation as large as Ukraine to finance an election. And here you can see a report issued yesterday by Russia Today. "Ukraine cannot afford to finance elections on its own due to a budget deficit, according to senior advisor to Zelensky, Mykhailo Podoliak". Now, it could be that Ukraine is lying because Zelensky doesn't want to hold an election because he knows perfectly well that if he holds an election and it's an honest election, he's likely to get turfed out of office unceremoniously. He is deeply unpopular now. That's what the credible polls show, and it's not surprising at all. So maybe he's just making up an excuse to avoid holding an election, but the mere fact that he thinks that that excuse will be viewed as credible by Western governments really says a lot about the dire financial condition of Ukraine.

And one final thing I want to add about this is that, Prime Minister Goldman Sachs, he was formerly a banker at Goldman Sachs, and then he served as the governor of the Bank of Canada, and then the governor of the Bank of England. So if anybody in the leadership of NATO countries understands the risks involved in lending money to Ukraine, it would be Mark Carney. He can't claim to be ignorant. He can't claim to be relying upon others who have misinformed him. He has to understand perfectly well that it is highly unlikely that Ukraine is going to be able to repay its debts, the debts it's incurred in connection with this ongoing and failed proxy war. And yet he is continuing to characterise this aid as credit rather than a grant or gift, which is exactly what it is. He's deceiving the Canadian people, and enough is enough. At a bare minimum, the corporate press should be highlighting the reality of this economic aid. And every single report I have seen, I haven't read all of them, of course, there have been so many about the EU's 90 billion euro loan to Ukraine and this new economic aid package. I have not seen a single one of them highlight the risks associated with this lending and these loan guarantees. It's as if the corporate press is completely oblivious to the possibility that Ukraine is not going to be able to pay back this money. At the end of the day, my friends, that's just plain old journalistic malpractice.

Now, not only are Western governments deceptively portraying this economic aid as loans that are going to be repaid, they're also devoting an utterly inordinate amount of time and energy to the failed proxy war and are neglecting serious domestic problems as a consequence. Now, to get a sense of just how much time Canada's current government is devoting to this proxy war, I examined this week all news releases of the Prime Minister's office issued since March 14th of this year, when Mark Carney first came to power. According to the PMO's press releases, Carney spoke with Zelensky either in person or remotely 21 times since Carney became prime minister on March 14th of this year. That's 21 times in less than 10 months. During that same period, Carney spoke with Trump or J.D. Vance, either in person or remotely, only eight times. There is nobody, no foreign leader to whom Carney has spoken in these nine and a half months, nearly as much as he has spoken to Zelensky. Carney has spoken with Zelensky nearly three times as often as he's spoken with Trump. And on average, he's spoken with Zelensky every two weeks during this nine and a half month period.

And what's really remarkable about this is that the importance of Canada's relationship to Ukraine and the importance of this proxy war to the Canadian people is a tiny fraction of the importance to Canada of its relations with the United States government. The US is by far the largest trading partner of Canada. We share the longest undefended border in the world with the United States. We are locked into very important and burdensome security relations with the United States. And for those and a host of other reasons, Canada's relations with the US are of far more importance than they are to any other country, including and particularly Ukraine. And this past year, those relations have taken on an added importance because Trump has launched a tariff war against countries across the world, and one of the countries in his sights is Canada. Canada has been subjected to very substantial tariffs with potentially extremely negative long-term consequences to the Canadian economy. So if the Canadian government were going to be focusing on one foreign government and repairing relations, managing those relations in 2025, that government should have been the United States government. As I said, Carney has spoken to Zelensky nearly three times as much as he's spoken to US President Donald Trump or US Vice President J.D. Vance during the past nine and a half months.

The other thing I want to say about all these meetings and the remote conversations as well, is that there are a lot of hidden costs associated with them. It's not just a question of Mark Carney getting on a plane and flying to Kiev or to Paris or Berlin or London to meet with the members of the coalition of the killing and the Ukrainian president. Before that happens, there has to be extensive preparation by not just the prime minister, but also by his close aides. There has to be security protocols that are respected, arrangements have to be made to fly the Canadian Prime Minister's entourage, including his aides and his security personnel, to the venue and to ensure that they're secure and they have easy access to the site. There has to be consultations amongst numerous people during the course of the meetings, and then afterwards there has to be a debrief, and everybody has to fly back to Canada. And when you add it all up, every one of these trips by the Canadian Prime Minister to some city other than Ottawa is probably costing the Canadian taxpayer millions of dollars. And when you add it

all up, all the money that Canada has spent during the course of this war in having its foreign minister, its prime minister, or other senior Canadian officials travel abroad and consult with their partners in NATO about the Ukraine proxy war – it's probably tens of millions of dollars. And when you add up all the money that NATO collectively has spent on these meetings, I wouldn't be at all surprised if it's well in excess of one billion dollars. But quite apart from the money, the financial outlays to carry on these meetings, the amount of time and energy that is being devoted by NATO leaders and their close staff to this failed proxy war truly boggles the mind. There's only so much time in the day, and invariably it is taking them away from meeting or addressing the pressing domestic needs of their constituents.

Now, not only do these calls and meetings consume inordinate time, energy, and money, but they seem to accomplish absolutely nothing. And just to give you a flavour of how little they accomplish, I'm going to show you a statement from a recent meeting, a readout of a recent conversation between the Prime Minister of Canada and Zelensky. This is from November 23rd of this year. And it says: "Today the Prime Minister spoke with Zelensky. The leaders discussed the next steps in supporting Ukraine toward a just and lasting peace. They welcome Trump's continued efforts towards a negotiated settlement and expressed their support for the ongoing process. They emphasise the need for Ukraine to be at the centre of any negotiations. The Prime Minister affirmed Canada's willingness to contribute to the success of peace negotiations in collaboration with key partners. In this respect, the two leaders welcomed the meeting of national security advisors taking place today in Geneva", and blah, blah, blah. "The Prime Minister and the President agreed to remain in close and regular contact".

This is pretty par for the course in terms of these readouts that you get of Carney's discussions with Zelensky, his endless and innumerable discussions with the Churchillian Ukrainian president. What does all of this mean? What does this change? Has anything actually altered on the ground as a result of this? Has the tide of the war been changed? Has the advance of the Russian forces across the front line been arrested or reversed? Is the Ukrainian economy getting stronger as a result of any of these meetings? No, all that's happening is that Russian forces continue to advance, more and more infrastructure is being destroyed, more and more people are being killed, Ukraine is going into greater debt, and Western states are spending more and more money, which they'll never recover from this failed proxy war. That is what we get for all of these meetings and the associated costs of these meetings. At the end of the day, my friends, I must ask: why do we in the West? Continue to tolerate this military-industrial boondoggle. When are we going to demand that the gravy train be stopped? Now, in the lead up to this meeting, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke to the press about the Trump regime's role in this latest round of so-called peace negotiations. And this is what the war criminal had to say.

**Marco Rubio (MR):** There's a reason why this war hasn't ended and that is because there's complex factors at play. I know that sounds like a throwaway line, but it's true.

**DL:** It is a throwaway line. It's not because of complex factors. It's because the Trump regime doesn't want the war to end. The Trump regime, if it wanted the war to end, it would stop



sending weapons to Ukraine, would stop providing military intelligence to Ukraine, would stop exacerbating and escalating the sanctions against Russia, and it would say, "we're done with this war, completely and utterly done with this war", at which point the Ukrainian vassal Zelensky would have no alternative but to sue for peace. But it keeps these things going because it wants the war to continue. It wants its military-industrial complex to be enriched, now at European expense. And at most, what it's looking for is a pause in the fighting so that Ukraine can be rearmed by the West at European and Canadian expense, I should say, and that it can mobilise more soldiers, train those soldiers, and rebuild fortifications on the new front line, because the front line has been continuously moving deeper and deeper into Ukrainian-held territory. That's the most that Trump is looking for here. If he wanted this war to end, he would have ended it long ago. So, yeah, that is a throwaway line, Secretary Rubio.

**MR:** What we have tried to do in this entire process – and let's be clear about this. I mean, the United States is engaged in this. The president says this, and I'll translate what I think he's trying to say to you in all of this, and I think he's been pretty clear about it: it's not our war. It's a war on another continent. We have equities, we have engagement in this war, but it's not our war per se. But we have been told by everybody – I think everybody would agree that there's only one nation on earth, there's only one...

**DL:** All right, let's just stop there for a second. It is their war, as I've explained, I'm not going to repeat it all. During the first Trump administration, Trump did everything possible to exacerbate the situation in Ukraine and to provoke Russia. And one thing I didn't mention earlier when I was talking about the first Trump administration's policies with respect to Ukraine is that it was Trump that withdrew the United States during his first term from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, which was a highly provocative and dangerous move. And he did so without any justification whatsoever. So now Rubio is about to tell you about how the United States is the only government in the world that can solve this conflict.

**MR:** ... Entity on earth that can actually talk to both sides and figure out whether there's a way to end this war peacefully, and that's the United States. And we've invested a lot of time...

**DL:** Yeah, so the United States government – again, it was the Biden administration that sent the British poodle, Boris Johnson, to Istanbul in early 2022 to tank the negotiations between Ukraine and the United States, which were on the cusp of resolving the war on terms that would not have required Ukraine to cede an inch of territory to Russia. And there's no way in hell that Ukraine can get anywhere near that good of a deal now. It was the US, along with its British lapdog, that proved to be the insuperable obstacle to peace in the first half of 2022. And we're being told by this lying psychopath that the United States is the only government in the world that can bring this war to an end.

**MR:** A lot of energy at the highest levels of our government. I believe, you know, President Trump has had more meetings with foreign leaders and others on the war in Ukraine than on any other subject, including trade.

**DL:** Now, that may be the only true thing that Rubio says in this entire statement. It just confirms what I've been saying throughout this report. We in the West, our governments are devoting an absolutely obscene amount of time, energy, and money to this war. And what they're doing is effectively just a big, elaborate kabuki theatre. I mean, they're not even accomplishing anything, and the whole thing isn't really designed at the end of the day to accomplish anything, certainly not in terms of peacemaking. If anything, it's just designed to convince us that these warmongers are actually peacemakers.

**MR:** He's invested a lot of time. Steve and Jared have invested time. I've invested time. The Vice President, the Secretary of War, others, the Secretary of Treasury and more have invested a tremendous amount of time and energy in this. And what we're trying to figure out here is what can Ukraine live with and what can Russia live with, sort of identify what both sides' positions are and see if we can sort of drive them towards each other to some agreement. Wars end generally in one of two ways: Surrender by one side for another or a negotiated settlement. We don't see surrender any time in the near future by either side, and so only a negotiated settlement gives us the opportunity to end this war. A negotiated settlement requires two things: both sides to get something out of it, and both sides to give something. And we're trying to figure out what can Russia give and what do they expect to get, what can Ukraine give and what can Ukraine expect to get. In the end, the decision will be up to Ukraine and up to Russia. It will not be up to the United States.

**DL:** This mediator shtick is really getting tiresome. The United Trump regime is constantly presenting itself as the only adult in the room. "We're just here to bring the parties together, figure out what each side wants, see if there's some overlap between them that could form the basis of a peace deal. And we're the only people who can do that. But at the end of the day, it's up to them whether or not they're going to bring an end to the slaughter". No, this is complete nonsense. The United States is a party to the war. It is, in fact, the driving force behind the war. It is the primary provocateur which caused this war to begin in the first place, and it is the primary obstacle to ending the war. You cannot be so involved and committed and engaged in the prosecution of the war against the Russian Federation and claim with a straight face, not if you have an ounce of integrity in you, that you can be a neutral arbiter in the dispute between them.

And I think the Russians understand this shtick perfectly well. And as I've said before, as a securities class actions lawyer, I have been involved in dozens of high stakes, complex dispute resolution processes involving world class mediators – many of them, too many to count. And I could tell you that if we were told that a prospective mediator had close financial or other ties to the adversary in the dispute, we never ever would have agreed to have that person act as a mediator. Mediators have to be scrupulously neutral, scrupulously unengaged with one side or the other, and free of any potential conflicts of interest. There is a

huge, glaring conflict of interest here because the United States has been the driving force behind this war on the side of Ukraine from the very beginning. So please spare us this "mediation, we're-the-only-adult-in-the-room-shtick", Marco Rubio. It's just gotten so tiresome.

The bottom line, folks, is that the Trump administration could have ended this war by now. Not within the 24 hours, as he promised repeatedly, but he certainly could have ended it by now, or at least he could have gotten deep into productive negotiations leading eventually to a just and lasting peace. But he has no interest in doing so. If he did, he wouldn't be providing the military intelligence, he wouldn't be escalating the sanctions, he wouldn't be providing the weaponry which the Europeans and the Canadians are now paying for. He would be providing ironclad assurances to the Russians that the United States will veto as it has the right to do, any attempt to bring Ukraine into NATO. He's not doing any of those things.

And not only is he not doing any of those things, but this man is bombing the bejesus out of the whole damn world. He just began ordering airstrikes on Nigeria. And Nigeria never attacked the United States, Nigeria never threatened to attack the United States, nor did any armed group in Nigeria. And if they're so concerned about Christians in Nigeria, why doesn't the United States give a damn about all the Christians that Israel has murdered during the course of its existence, and in particular during the genocidal rampage of Israel in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria. In all of these countries, Israel has killed Christians repeatedly, destroyed churches, and religious facilities repeatedly. So the idea that Trump is now bombing Nigeria because he wants to protect Christians is quite frankly laughable. Not only is he now bombing Nigeria, but he has bombed Yemen, he has bombed Iraq, he has bombed Syria, he has bombed Iran, and not only bombed Iran, but bombed its nuclear facilities, which have a specially protected status under international law for obvious reasons.

And as I mentioned at the outset, for some unknown reason, he's launched over 100 airstrikes in Somalia in 2025 alone, and has done so according to the Washington Examiner, which just reported on this, in the name of counterterrorism. Well, that's rich because there is no worse terrorist entity on God's green earth than the Trump regime today. On top of all of that, Trump has mercilessly bombed civilian marine vessels in the Caribbean during the past couple of months. And as we all now know, on at least one occasion when the US detected that some passengers on a civilian vessel had survived the initial strike, the US, the Trump administration ordered that those survivors be finished off when no rational person could claim that they posed any kind of a threat to anybody. The fact is that this president is not only not a peace president, he is congenitally and fanatically committed to war.

Now, after Rubio delivered his litany of lies to the credulous press in Washington, Zelensky jetted off to Florida. And as he was approaching, Trump gave an interview to Politico. And it took him no time to contradict what Rubio had to say. On December 26th, the day after Christmas, Trump gave an interview to Politico in which he discussed the peace plan that Ukraine has been working on with Washington's European vassals. In that interview, Trump said that Zelensky, quote, "doesn't have anything until I approve it, so we'll see what he's

got", close quote. This is one of those rare occasions when Trump is being honest. It is absolutely true that the terms of any offer to the Russians will be dictated by the US government. For all the reasons that I stated, the US government effectively controls the prosecution of this war on the Ukrainian side and controls the Ukrainian government itself. Anything that the Ukrainian government does, which could have significant implications for Russia's relations with the United States and vice versa, you ought to assume that that was done with the full-blown approval of the US government. Ukraine and Zelensky are dependent upon the United States government, frankly, for their very existence. And in those situations, you don't bite the hand that feeds you, not when your life depends upon it. So whatever is likely to emerge from this latest round of interminable discussions now taking place in Florida is not going to result in a peace, let alone one that is just and lasting.

If anything, it's just going to fool a few more people into thinking that Trump actually has a genuine desire to bring this war to an end. This war, my friends, will end when Russia achieves all of its military objectives on the battlefield. And until then, regrettably, sadly, and outrageously, people will continue to die needlessly in the Ukrainian battlefield, infrastructure will continue to be destroyed, and funds, public funds that are vitally needed for the reconstruction of Ukraine and for the needs of our own populations here at home will continue to be squandered on a massive scale. Trump's endless blather about peace reminds me from a scene in the Monty Python classic, *The Meaning of Life*, in which the grim reaper visits a dinner featuring an American couple and a British couple. The American and British couple have been killed by a poisonous dish, but they don't know that yet. And this is what happens.

**American:** I don't see it that way, Jeff. Let me tell you what I think we're dealing with here: a potentially positive learning experience that can –

**Grim Reaper:** Shut up! Shut up, you American! You always talk, you Americans. You talk and you talk and you say, Let me tell you something and I just want to say this.

**Brit:** Now, look here. You barge in here quite uninvited, break glasses, and then announce quite casually that we're all dead. Well, I would remind you that you're a guest in this house.

**Grim Reaper:** Quiet, Englishman, you're all so fucking pompous. None of you have got any balls.

**DL:** And this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from Montreal, Canada for Reason2Resist on December 28th, 2025.

**END**

