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## **History will Report US and NATO’s Response to Putin’s War on Ukraine was Shameful!**

While the United States, NATO, the UN and the free world watch Vladimir Putin continues the rape of Ukraine they do nothing but feed the tragedy with more weapons to kill more Russian and Ukraine soldiers and citizens. . History will look back on this cowardly behavior as a failure of these agencies to take immediate and unequivocal action to focus on Putin as the cause of this inhumane tragedy and bring it to an end.

The state mission of all these international agencies is one of preventing a repeat of the tragedies of past rogue and imperialistic dictators like Hitler from attacking neighbor countries and expanding their power by force. The United States has traditionally claimed to be the protector of targeted nations by dictators and engaged in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the invasion of Afghanistan and other actions against aggression to live up to its promise to help protect attacked democracies from the aggression of expansionist tyrants.

The United States spent years to track down Osama bin Laden to halt his terrorist actions against the United States and hold him accountable for the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. The United States has engaged in similar actions against other country leaders identified as terrorists and threats to neighbors and humanity including Saddam Hussein, Manuel Noriega and Slobodan Milosevic in Kosovo.

With these presidents of the past, the United States has done nothing to end Putin’s invasion, destruction and devastation of Ukraine even as the consequences of that invasion have had devastating impacts on both the nation of Ukraine, its citizens and the economic stability of the United States and around the world..

NATO's asserts that its fundamental goal is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security by political and military means. Although NATO came into existence following World War II to protect against a repeat of the history of Hitler’s aggression against other countries, they take no action to halt Putin’s Hitler like behavior based on the irrational argument that Ukraine is not a member of NATO.

The argument for not halting Putin and feeding death and destruction to the cause in form of weapons for Ukraine because that country is not a member of neighbor is both stupid and irrational. Are the people, culture and county of Ukraine any less damaged, their innocent residents killed and culture destroyed than Poland and the other countries targeted for Hitler’s aggression in World War II?

The humanitarian goal should be to take the action required to stop Putin and end the war not escalate it and kill more Ukrainians and Russian soldiers. Would the free world have to find another excuse for not taking the steps required to halt Putin if Ukraine were a member of NATO? The logic is even less defensible when similar past Soviet Union nations including the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are NATO members. History documents that NATO did not use this irrational argument when it decided to provide protection from the inhumane behavior of Slobodan Milosevic in Kosovo.

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The United States and NATO further rationalize their “approved” military behavior to perpetuate the war by supplying weapons to Ukraine by expressed fear that Putin will use of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction were the United States and NATO to get involved in the war. This argument is in the face of the reality that Putin is engaging in an expressed plan to totally destroy the country of Ukraine, its people, and infrastructure, an outcome that may well exceed the damage that might come from the use of a nuclear weapon.

Putin is as defined by all international measures is a war criminal and should be treated as such. Most observers have come to see that Putin will use what ever military resource at his disposal to win in Ukraine including the use of weapons of mass destruction if they can be employed without creating a threat to his own imperialistic goals. If true, the fear of his use of nuclear weapons is irrelevant, and steps should be taken at the earliest possible date to forestall any further damage and plan for the strategy to use in retaliation in the event that he does use these weapons. If his use of these weapons is considered inevitable, it is better to take the earliest possible deterrent action than putting off that decision and subject Ukraine to further devastation by Putin.

What is the consequence of not taking steps to end Putin's War now? Failure to take more direct, assertive and aggressive action against Putin will result in the war continuing for an undefinable period of time leading to the death of thousands more Ukrainian citizens, soldiers and citizens, a consequence that alone should justify taking more aggressive action to end the war now. Further, Putin's war has caused world wide economic instability, countries dependent on Ukrainian food to facing starvation, the lack of access to energy causing unnecessary increases in the cost of fuel and supply chain problems that have contributed to inflation across the world.

The greatest shame that history will report will be that the resulting war of attrition will be lost. As is true of most long wars, those that supported and were willing to provide aide to the Ukrainians will lose heart for the fight. The continued economic pain, changes in political power and other negative consequences will result in pressure by the citizens of the United States and other allies to end the war, and it will end based on conditions that could have been avoided had the US and NATO gotten directly involved. Thousands of lives lost, a nation's infrastructure destroyed and the independence of a democratic nation compromised because of a strategy based on diplomacy which most everyone knew would not produce peace.

History will say “Shame on the US and NATO for not learning and being directed by the lessons that should have been learned in Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan”.

What is the alternative for the United States and NATO to force Putin to end his invasion of Ukraine? It should be clear that following the existing non-engagement policy is not working and will lead to a continuation of humanitarian, economic and world stability problems unless changed. It is time for the United States and NATO to live up to its avowed promise to protect countries like Ukraine from the atrocities being engaged in by Putin. If it is inevitable that direct engagement with Putin is inevitable it should be clear that the sooner this happens the quicker Putin can be brought under control and held accountable for his war crimes.

The first action to be taken is for NATO to declare Ukraine a de facto member of NATO following a formal petition by Ukraine for admission as a member. The same criteria used to admit the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania can be used to define the process for Ukraine to become a full NATO member.

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The second action is to present Putin with a formal ultimatum that demands his halt of all military actions against Ukraine and the total withdrawal of all Russian military assets from Ukraine by a specified time and that all aggression against Ukraine be halted.

The third action should be to demand that Russia pay for the damages done to Ukraine and to participate in the reconstruction of the county they destroyed.

The ultimatum should clearly unwaveringly state that if Putin refuses to comply with the ultimatum he will no longer be recognized as the leader of the Soviet Republic and based on his criminal acts against Ukraine designated as a War Criminal, pursued as a criminal, with a reward to be paid for his capture.

To further enforce the ratification of this ultimatum, a blockade should be imposed on Russia by NATO on land and sea that will cut off all ability to engage in communication and commerce with the rest of the world.

Finally NATO troops will respond by all out action against Russian forces that remain in Ukraine after the dead line to protect the country's assets, infrastructure and citizens from any further military action by the Russian military.

To date the shameful and fear based policy of the United States and NATO is doing nothing to bring and end to the horrors in Ukraine. The existing policy is only fueling the furtherance of the war and the related death and devastation with no end in sight. If Putin's inhumane behavior proves that direct involvement is inevitable, then immediate aggressive action would the multiple benefit of a plan that has the potential to achieve a near term end to the war.

Such a plan would also change history's view of how the States and NATO would respond to any future aggression by a dictator like Putin and likely dissuade similar behavior to that taken by Putin against Ukraine.

Until the United States and NATO decide to live up to their promise to protect peaceful countries from aggression and invasion they will continue to be regarded by history as "paper tigers" based on their shameful decision to abandon Ukraine and perpetuate the horror of the war by supplying weapons that will serve to sustain the destruction of Ukraine and its people with no plan or timeline to the horrors of Putin's war.

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