

Ten Reasons Why Ukraine Matters to America

America's image. Across the board, our national political leaders, including the President and senior leadership of both parties, have pledged time and again to "stand by Ukraine". This support has been echoed by George W. Bush, Condoleeza Rice, Bob Gates and many other distinguished Republican elders. Now, due to a small minority of obstructionists, US military aid to Ukraine is in doubt. Our allies around the world are shocked and dismayed at this apparent about-face, and deep fears about the USA's commitment to peace and security are taking root. Our role as the premier defender of global order and security is beginning to fray, and this reputation, dating back to Second World War, will be very hard to re-establish if we fail Ukraine now.



Public opinion. Despite the views of the vocal minority, American voters overwhelmingly support Ukraine. A recent survey by the Pew Charitable Trust concluded that "Two years on from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, 74% of Americans view the war there as important to U.S. national interests - with 43% describing it as very important."

The Russia threat. Geographically larger than other nation, with one of the world's biggest armies, and led by an anti-Western leader with an aggressively expansionist agenda, Russia can only be described as an enemy of the United States. What harms Russia's imperialist agenda is therefore good for America. While the Ukrainians have done a commendable job of degrading the Russian armed forces' war-fighting capacity, Moscow has dramatically increased its arms industries and military spending. Ukraine can overcome this gap, but not without continued robust support from Washington.

NATO. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (also know as the Washington Treaty) came into being in large part due to US support, and our country has been a major beneficiary of the alliance. NATO troops from other countries have put their lives on the line in support of US interests in Bosnia, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia etc. Ukraine borders four important NATO member countries - Poland, Romania, Hungary,

and Slovakia, and many of America's partners in NATO partners have predicted that Russia will invade other European nations if it succeeds in subjugating Ukraine.

China's ambitions. Most strategic thinkers believe that if a lack of American resolve and leadership contributes to Russia conquering Ukraine, China will view that as a clear green light for invading Taiwan.

Natural resources. According to the Washington Post: "Ukraine harbors some of the world's largest reserves of titanium and iron ore, fields of untapped lithium and massive deposits of coal. Collectively, they are worth tens of trillions of dollars." Lithium and cobalt are particularly important to our country's energy transition.

Economic partnership. The United States and Ukraine have a bilateral investment treaty. U.S. exports to Ukraine include coal, machinery, vehicles, agricultural products, fish and seafood, and aircraft. U.S. imports from Ukraine include iron and steel, inorganic chemicals, oil, iron and steel products, aircraft, and agricultural products. Major US companies active in Ukraine include Philip Morris, RTX, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, MasterCard, Honeywell, General Dynamics, John Deere, Cargill and many more.

Self Interest. After years of the US arms industry languishing, Russia's invasion has started to breath new life into it, with real benefits to the American economy. As was reported last November in the Washington Post: "Funds that lawmakers approve to arm Ukraine are not going directly to Ukraine but are being used stateside to build new weapons or to replace weapons sent to Kyiv from U.S. stockpiles. Of the \$68 billion in military and related assistance Congress has approved since Russia invaded Ukraine, almost 90 percent is going to Americans..."

Human capital. Authors, artists, activists, actors and athletes, Ukraine has produced some of modern age's greats, including Gogol, Isaac Babel, Golda Meir, Simon Wiesenthal, the Klitschko brothers, Igor Sikorsky, Mila Kunis and many others. Today Ukraine is leading the way in developing aerial and naval drones and is an important player in software development and information technology.

The right thing. If there's a concept our country has embraced, it's freedom. From Lincoln to Kennedy to Reagan, we've deemed this the greatest of all American values. And there is no better example today of the love of liberty than Ukraine's underdog struggle to retain its autonomy, its territory and its identity. It is a battle that

resonates with Americans because it's an essential part of our own identity and so we immediately recognize it in others.

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