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What is happening and what is going to happen in Ukraine?

Today, the territorial issue is irreconcilable, which threatens a long war that will end with the defeat and surrender of one of the parties (most presumably of Ukraine, given the state of its economy). All this will have consequences for the contenders, for the region and for the world.



The events in sight make it clear that Russia, although it has not yet managed to fully achieve the originally planned objectives, is imposing its logic on the conflict in Ukraine. And perhaps that is the final result that will occur, that is, Russia will end up winning the war without achieving all the goals it had set for itself.

For Russia, the threat that once meant Ukraine joining NATO has now been replaced by the threat embodied by the Western warmongering organization's decision to defeat Moscow, bring about regime change, and even disintegrate it.



In this sense, for Russia, this dispute, which forced it to carry out a special military operation to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity, has been transformed into an existential conflict. Therefore, from the initial objectives that led to the incorporation of

five Russian-speaking provinces that belonged to Ukraine: Crimea, Donetsk, Lugansk, Kherson and Zaporozhie, which although without having fully recovered their territory, make up 23% of the former territory of Ukraine, it has passed to the possibility that Russia intends to occupy another 4 provinces, also of Russian-speaking majority: Odessa, Nikolaiev, Dniepropetrovsk and Kharkiv that together with the previous ones would configure a total of 43% of what was Ukraine.

This would transform that country into a dysfunctional state, not only because it would lose its outlet to the sea, but also because Poland, Hungary and Romania would claim ancestral territories of their own, inhabited by minorities from those countries.



It has become clear to the West that the continuation of NATO's expansion that began in 1999, continued in 2004 and was intended to continue in 2008 with the entry of Georgia and Ukraine into the organization, is not and will not be without difficulties, as the current conflict attests.

The West, which in 2010, at the NATO Summit in Lisbon spoke of a new phase of cooperation with Russia and even of creating a "true strategic partnership", now assumes Moscow as a dangerous enemy that must be contained and weakened. Today Europe and the United States consider Russia an "existential threat." That's why his "all or nothing" bet. For Washington, the situation is even worse. Their credibility and ability to protect are at stake. A defeat in Ukraine will have strategic repercussions.

NATO would not only lose the endorsement of being an organization that provides security, but the Manichean discourse of its leaders around that they are waging a

confrontation between "garden and jungle" as defined by Josep Borrell, Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy or between "democracy and autocracy" as stated by the president of the United States, Joe Biden, it would be questioned.

In this framework, its objective is to defeat Russia, weakening it to the point that it ceases to be a power, dismembering it and dismantling its capacity to be a major international actor and a protagonist of tomorrow's world.

In the context, Ukraine has ceased to play a leading role. Its function is secondary. At the moment, for Kiev, the only thing that gains value is a military victory, the defeat of Russia and its expulsion from the territories that Moscow has claimed as its own after the referendums held in September 2022. Kiev sees salvation and of course the future of its existence in joining NATO and the European Union, so that in fact, it can be a "Western country".



Ukrainian military troops killed

Analyzed in this way, this conflict is at a stalemate until the victory of one of the contenders. Today, the confrontation has reached a zero-sum point that faces an existential "all or nothing" in which the occupation of territories in the usual way ceases to be relevant to give way to the search for the attrition of the enemy. It is true that war is fought on the battlefield, but as never before in history, now we must also appreciate that the economic capacity of the Russian state is being confronted against the economic capacity

of the West, the productive potential of armaments and ammunition of Russia vs. that of the West and the competence of each party for mobilization, training and full combat readiness of troops. It should not be forgotten that "war is the continuation of politics" and that "politics is the concentrated expression of economics."

And in this logic, Russia has made the best of it and is winning the war. It has strengthened its defensive lines to the point of making them impenetrable. Ukraine has paid a heavy cost. It is estimated at 45,000 the final casualties since the beginning of the "counteroffensive" three months ago, a figure to which we must add tens of thousands of wounded and a very high number of weapons and equipment destroyed in the frustrated attempt to violate the defense system created by Russia. The so-called Ukrainian "counteroffensive" has been a total failure, today already accepted by political leaders and especially military, media and Western think tanks.



Overwhelming Russian superiority over Ukraine in terms of firepower (missiles, artillery and aviation).



Russia's overwhelming superiority over Ukraine in terms of firepower (missiles, artillery and aviation) and its pre-eminence in relation to troop mobilization capacity, have established a distance that is very difficult to overcome. Not even the billionaire economic, financial, and logistical support from the West has been able to change the equation.

The result of the war will be given by the effects of attrition, logistical capabilities, weapons, equipment, by the potentialities that are available for the replacement of human resources, but also by the possibilities of the economy and the arms industry where the supremacy of Russia is very evident.

Wars end with an armistice, a negotiation, or a defeat and surrender by one side. In the current situation there is no possibility of reaching a peace treaty. The agreements that could have been made on the basis of the [Minsk Protocols in 2014](#) or the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations of March last year are no longer possible. In both cases they were torpedoed by the West and used for purposes that had nothing to do with peace. The objectives of the two warring sides are absolute while each side understands that its existence is at stake.

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Edited by [María Piedad Ossaba](#)