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Sergio Rodriguez Gelfenstein  
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## *Ukraine will be the first battle won in the world that is being born*

For the time being, the conviction seems to be spreading in the United States that Ukraine is not going to win the war against Russia, pessimism spreads and panic floods the interstices of imperial power. We don't know yet, but perhaps, Ukraine is the first battle won in the world that is being born.



While a live genocide is taking place in Palestine that has already lasted more than a month, sponsored and militarily fueled by the United States, Ukraine, the other putative daughter of Washington, is struggling in oblivion.

November has made public a series of statements that account for the rotten and terminal state in which Kiev finds itself, only waiting for an extreme unction that will undoubtedly have repercussions beyond its borders.

On the first day of this month, the head of the Pentagon, General [Lloyd Austin](#), speaking at the Senate hearing on additional funds, stated with extraordinary forcefulness that Ukraine could not win the conflict with Russia without Washington's support. In this way, something known to the military for a long time that Western political leaders have sought to hide became apparent. Put simply, Ukraine's military effort depends almost exclusively on the contribution of the United States to sustaining it.

To make the assertion more evident and perhaps thinking that there might be some doubts about it, just three days later, on November 4, White House press secretary [Karine Jean-Pierre](#) warned that the U.S. government "is running out of funds to finance arms shipments to Ukraine." In something that might seem laughable if thousands of human lives were not at stake, the spokeswoman said that they will begin delivering "smaller aid packages" to expand the capacity to support the Kiev regime "for as long as possible".

It is worth remembering that on October 20, the White House asked Congress for a new aid package for Kiev worth \$60 billion. However, last Thursday, the House of Representatives passed a bill that provides for more than \$000 billion in emergency aid for Israel, but in which there is no mention of Ukraine. The explanation came from Republican Congressman [Mike Johnson](#), the new leader of the House of Representatives, who stressed that Israel's needs are more "urgent" than Ukraine's.



[Ukrainian Finance Minister Sergei Marchenko Calls for Urgent Help to Cover Growing Public Deficit](#)

All this comes as Ukrainian Finance Minister [Sergei Marchenko](#) informed the public that his country faces a deficit of \$29 billion by 2024, so without the help of its Western allies, it will be difficult to overcome such a hurdle. Marchenko said he saw a lot of "tiredness" and "weakness" among Ukraine's partners, adding that Western officials "would like to forget" about military actions, although hostilities "are still ongoing, on a large scale."

Adding data to support the situation, the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces himself, General Valeri Zaluzhny admitted in an interview for the British magazine *The Economist*, that Russia was in a better position in the armed conflict, describing the current situation on the front line as "a stalemate" in terms of the level of technology.

Zaluzhny's interview caused not only discontent and demoralization in Ukraine, but also widespread terror among some of its allies. Conversely, President Zelensky asserted that his country was not at an impasse with Russia. He claimed that what was happening was that Moscow had total air superiority that forced them to take care of their military. He then outlined a proposal to overcome this situation, starting with the delivery by the West of the promised F-16 multirole fighter jets.



General Zaluzhny on the cover of Time magazine

The next day, November 5, the former adviser to the head of the Ukrainian Presidential Office, Alexei Arestovich, agreed with Zaluzhny that Ukraine could not – under the current conditions – defeat Russia on the battlefield. Arguing in favor of his idea, [Arestovich](#) said that: "The enemy is more powerful in terms of economic, military,

mobilization and organization, and our partners, on whom we depend, are not interested in defeating the Russian Federation."

The interesting thing about this statement is that, on the one hand, it was the first time that Ukraine has publicly refuted the idea that the failure of operations depends exclusively on the West's contribution in armaments and financial resources, by incorporating the large deficits in terms of human resources and organization in which foreign aid has no major influence. On the other hand, this declaration explicitly depends on the West to sustain the actions, as General Austin had already pointed out.



[Alexei Arestovich noted that Ukrainian citizens, including those in power, must "quickly sober up and face reality."](#)

This debate, which covers the country's internal news news, is part of an electoral dynamic ahead of next year's presidential elections. But Zelensky closed off any possibility in this regard, saying that elections cannot be held in a situation where martial law prevails.

Although it was rumored that the new Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, linked to former President Pyotr Poroshenko, had filed a request to remove Zaluzhny, such information was denied by Presidential Office adviser Sergei Leschenko, who characterized it as "fake news." However, the damage had already been done when it became clear that a section of society wanted Zaluzhny to leave.

In this regard, the Presidential Office issued a harsh public criticism of Zaluzhny, but the president did not make the decision to remove him. Zelensky must have taken note of Zaluzhny's excellent relations with NATO military commanders and especially with the US secretary of defense. However, it is necessary to understand the negative dimension of what it means for any country when the head of State and the head of the armed forces issue contradictory opinions publicly, particularly when referring to the situation of the conflict in its military aspect. The New York Times noted that such a situation is an expression of "an emerging gap between military and civilian leadership at an already

difficult time for Ukraine," especially since "the fissure [between Zelensky and Zaluzhny] comes while Ukraine is fighting its war effort, militarily and diplomatically."



Mural to the glory of General Zaluzhny in Bakhmut

This controversy was once again the reason for Arestovich's intervention in order to continue "rubbing salt in the wound". It is no secret that the former adviser has expressed his aspiration to the presidency. In a way, that explains its constant appearance in the media and on social networks. It is in this context that his apparent interest in mediating the brawl, which evidently undermines the fighting spirit of the armed forces, is explained. Arestovich has called on Zelensky to "show good sense" and settle his disagreements with Zaluzhny. He has also let him know that "the key to changing the position of the opposition, of the Americans, of the whole world, of the Army and of society" is in his hands, taking the opportunity to tell him that it is not those who criticize him and urge him to hold the elections, who generate instability in the country "but yourself, with its ineffective policies that undermine citizens' faith in victory, feelings in the military, the confidence of partners and allies."

Some of the most influential Western media have joined this controversy. For example, "Time" magazine, which has now become - openly - a strong critic of the Ukrainian government, published an article in which it describes Zelensky as a person who lives on the margins of reality. The assertion is surprising considering that this media outlet is strongly linked to the CIA, the main foreign intelligence agency of the United States.

In this regard, journalist and former "Fox News" host Clayton Morris wondered: "Why would a CIA-backed magazine suddenly decide to paint the true and bleak picture of the

situation in Ukraine? To get their support, or [to] lay the groundwork for something less nice?" Morris claimed that in order to write the article, "Time" gained access to Zelensky's inner circle and as a result, he could be portrayed as a "mentally unstable and unfulfilled leader."

The article, published on October 30, comments on Zelensky and his entourage, noting that the Ukrainian president's excessive optimism outside of reality, even despite failures in combat operations, "hinders his team's attempts to realize new strategies and ideas."

With extreme harshness, the publication assures that Ukraine will no longer be able to count on the necessary human resources to use all the weaponry that the West has promised it. At the same time, he claims that it also conspires against it, that local officials "steal like there's no tomorrow."

In the background of this dispute is the [disagreement](#) between Zaluzhny and Zelensky in the assessment that each has of the situation at the front in the face of the failure of the counteroffensive. On this matter, the New York Times went so far as to say that the operations of the Ukrainian military failed to make "any progress" causing - on the contrary - a large number of casualties, adding that "Ukraine is facing intensive Russian attacks in the east", while skepticism in Europe and the US Republican Party has grown.

Since June 4 (the start date of the "counteroffensive"), the Ukrainian armed forces have had 90,557 casualties (including dead and seriously wounded and irretrievable) as well as 1 tanks and 900,595 armored vehicles destroyed. To give you an idea of the significance of this figure, suffice it to say that so far the West has sent 830 tanks (out of the 1 committed) and 550, <> armored vehicles to Ukraine.

Russia, for its part, is carrying out active defense operations that means the execution of small-scale offensive actions in some sectors, focusing its attacks through strikes against air assets, places of troop concentration and logistics. It should be remembered that - from a military point of view - for Russia this conflict basically has the characteristics of a war of attrition that has already exceeded Ukraine's possibilities, also affecting the United States and especially Europe.

In this context, manifestations of desperation are beginning to be seen among the Ukrainian elite. Thus, a call for "understanding" from the West has begun to take place because, according to Zelensky, Ukrainian troops are defending "common values" such as democracy, attacked today by the Russian autocracy. In the collective imagination it is a question of installing a new bipolarity "democracy vs. autocracy". Zelensky's uneasiness calls on the West to fight against the Russian danger that could "kill everyone", leaving

the door open to attack NATO countries, in which case "... You will send your sons and daughters [to war]. And the price will be higher. It's very important not to lose the will, not to lose this strong position, and not to lose your democracy."

At the height of his frustration, last Monday, November 6, the overwhelmed Ukrainian president asked "the United States, the European Union and Asian countries" to send his country air defense systems or "at least [rent them](#) during the winter."

The truth is that the so-called "counteroffensive" of the Ukrainian Armed Forces did not live up to the hopes of the West and was probably the last chance for Ukraine because it no longer has the resources to carry out a major operation on the front.

This whole situation is putting on the table the possibility of a negotiated solution to the conflict, if there is one at this point. The Washington Post itself has pointed out that there was a possibility of resolving the Ukrainian conflict diplomatically, but it has now disappeared, since Russia has an advantage on the front and is unlikely to freeze.

Although Zelensky refuses to accept such an idea, it has become more and more widespread. For example, Slovakia's Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Juraj Blanar, stated unequivocally that there is no military solution to the conflict in Ukraine.

Even Josep Borrell, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and a perennial warmonger, has had to acknowledge that the crisis in West Asia has had a strong impact on policy towards Ukraine. In an unusual burst of honesty, Borrell said: "Let's be frank, the Middle East crisis is already having a lasting impact on our policy in Ukraine." Borrell called for a solution to the conflict in the Middle East but not to forget Ukraine because: "If Ukraine loses, we lose. We have to maintain our unanimity and our unity in support of Ukraine."

As Indian diplomat and international political analyst MK Bhadrahumar has said: "The war in Ukraine is on autopilot." He argues that the strategic objectives set by President Vladimir Putin in February last year remain unscathed. But now, "Russia feels that it has taken the lead in the war and that this is irreversible."

Although Russia has not launched a major offensive, the preparation for it is obvious. However, for the past month, what happens in Ukraine will be irremediably tied to the conflict in West Asia. This situation cannot be absent from political and military assessments. The simultaneity in time of both events and many others that are occurring in various corners of the planet, are related to the crisis of the West and the United States and the inability to maintain their unilateral hegemony on the globe.



It seems unlikely that the United States will be able to deal with the two conflicts at the same time, especially since they are not the only ones. At the same time, it must contend with China on the economic level, manage its own internal crisis, sustain the colonial power that is tottering today in Africa and generate responses to the silent rebellion that is beginning to manifest itself in different ways in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially because Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela have been able to resist and hold their flags high.

For the time being, the conviction seems to be spreading in the United States that Ukraine is not going to win the war against Russia, pessimism spreads and panic floods the interstices of imperial power. We don't know yet, but perhaps, Ukraine is the first battle won in the world that is being born.

*Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein for La Pluma, November 9, 2023*

*Edited by [Maria Piedad Ossaba](#)*

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