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A verbal and gestural combat sport at the Oval Office: for what are the results?

The conversation in the Oval Office turned out to be a deal-breaker for Ukraine, an embarrassment and the expulsion of the Kiev politician from the White House.



In a tense exchange at the top of the diplomacy of the anti-Russia Western alliance, Zelensky, the emblematic figure of the Ukrainian decline, sees his status waver in the face of Trump and Vance. A shock of a few minutes was enough to upset the transatlantic diplomatic balance and to cut off the last hope of the warmongering Europe.

This confrontation, full of verbal clashes and heavy innuendos, has exposed deep fissures within Western alliances, threatening to undermine much-needed support for Ukraine. While Russia is using this opportunity to strengthen its influence on the geopolitical chessboard, the repercussions for the EU and NATO are potentially disgusting. While the incident highlights the fragility of Ukraine's diplomatic credibility, at the same time, its Western allies are sadly

seeing their confidence shaken. This article delves into the heart of this fateful moment. It explores in an analytical approach, its disastrous consequences for Ukraine and its sponsors (EU and NATO), as well as its strategic implications for a conflict that continues to redraw the global strategic balances.

For Ukraine, the EU, and NATO, this event has exposed critical structural flaws and internal divisions, undermining their influence on the international stage

Indeed, it is in a climate of growing tensions and skepticism about Ukraine's resilience in the face of the conflict that Western support, in addition to showing its limits in the face of a powerful Russia, reveals its own structural vulnerabilities. Since the beginning of the confrontation on February 24, 2022, Ukraine has positioned itself as a symbol of the manifestation of hatred of Russia. This, while benefiting from a considerable influx of weapons, funds and diplomatic support from the United States, the EU and NATO. However, this image has been crumbling at an increasingly accelerated pace since Trump's return to the White House last January while exposing the limits of a disorganized Western strategy as well as the internal weaknesses of Ukraine and its Western mentors.

Since February 2022, Ukraine and its allies have only shown mixed results, struggling against the firmly anchored Russian offensive. In this context, burdened by considerable human and material losses, Ukraine sees its population showing signs of weariness, while its economy, close to collapse, depends exclusively on foreign aid. Every risky diplomatic move on Zelensky's part is turned to his disadvantage. It illustrates the challenges of managing relations with its critical allies. For the EU and NATO, this situation underlines the internal divisions that are weakening their commitment. Faced with a crisis economy, inflation and political tensions, the EU is showing signs of fatigue while some members, such as Hungary and Slovakia, are openly skeptical. NATO, caught between strategic ambitions and political realities, fears a direct confrontation with Russia.

For Russia, this dynamic offers a tremendous opportunity to reassert itself on the world stage. The Kremlin is skillfully exploiting the dissensions among Ukraine's allies by portraying Zelensky as a helpless leader. Every crack in the Western anti-Russian front strengthens Moscow's position, both on the military front and in international negotiations. Thus, this scenario becomes a critical turning point, where mistakes by Ukraine and its allies could turn challenges into strategic victories for Russia.

A clash that reveals the fractures in the Western anti-Russian alliance

Held in a media format, the spat between Trump and Zelensky exposed the deep fractures within the Western alliance. Under the harsh lights of the Oval Office and with the no less

prominent participation of US Vice President Vance, this explosive face-off revealed palpable tension and crucial divergences within the transatlantic coalition against Russia. In this intense gymnast-on-a-swing setting, Volodymyr Zelensky (the perfect embodiment of vassalage) was pitted against a Donald Trump and a JD Vance with incisive speeches, on the one hand questioning Ukraine's management of US funds and on the other suggesting severe endemic corruption.

The exchanges testified to a growing distrust and visible weariness about American engagement on the ground in Ukraine, calling into question the effectiveness and cost of this alliance (something we have discussed extensively in a previous article).

This confrontation resonated beyond the walls of the room, offering Moscow an opportunity to consolidate its influence on the global chessboard, reinforcing the sense of an isolated Ukraine in the face of a resolute Russia. This moment, loaded with rhetoric and diplomatic challenges, could well represent a delicate turning point in international relations and the dynamics of support for Ukraine, threatening to change the strategic balance in Europe.

A fragility of transatlantic relations generates a hard blow for Ukraine

Transatlantic relations are now fragile. A fragility that threatens key support for Ukraine. The dispute at the White House on February 28 highlighted the internal fractures in the United States that risk compromising strategic support for Kiev. While Trump expresses recurring doubts about military and financial aid, his Vice President Vance, a figure of populist isolationism, reinforces this trend by calling for a refocusing of priorities on national interests. This polarization is accentuated by the criticism relayed in conservative media, depicting Ukraine as a resource well for the United States. This threatens to undermine the essential bipartisan support for Kiev. At the same time, the diplomatic crisis engendered by these tensions has profound strategic implications: any withdrawal of American support would mean the end of the conflict and the surrender of Ukraine and its allies in Brussels Europe, as well as that of NATO, which are fighting Russia by proxy.

The specter of a disengagement therefore sends a worrying signal to European allies already under political and economic pressure. Russia, for its part, is serenely exploiting these divisions to its advantage, seeking to weaken the unity of the anti-Russian transatlantic alliance and to present Ukraine as an unreliable partner, while the United States appears as a faltering ally. This situation further complicates the task for Zelensky and his sponsors in the EU and NATO who, without Washington, would be at a loss to maintain a Western coalition against Russia. This transatlantic skirmish at the summit reveals the fragility of support for

Ukraine and raises the question of a possible gradual disengagement, which places Zelensky in a diplomatic impasse with potentially long-lasting consequences.

A strategic failure that generates disastrous results for Ukraine

The stormy confrontation between Zelensky, Trump, and Vance in the Oval Office represents much more than a diplomatic skirmish. It embodies a strategic failure with geopolitical and geostrategic repercussions of global proportions. For Ukraine, the EU, and NATO, this event has exposed critical structural flaws and internal divisions, undermining their influence on the international stage.

For Ukraine, already weakened by a protracted conflict, this situation deepens its isolation and compromises its credibility. The European Union, for its part, sees its position as a pillar of stability and solidarity undermined, exposing its internal divisions and its reduced capacity for action. NATO, once seen as the supreme military force and now overtaken by Russia, finds itself weakened by significant internal tensions. On a global scale, this failure underscores an imbalance of power that paves the way for a multipolar world in which traditional Western alliances are seriously challenged. This crisis reveals a critical turning point, increasing the need for a strategic reassessment in the face of contemporary challenges. From the above, we can deduce that this Oval Office quarrel symbolizes a dark turning point for Ukraine, the transatlantic alliance, and the West. It reveals deep divisions, weakened leadership, and fragile unity, weakening the position of Kiev, the EU, and NATO vis-à-vis Russia and undermining the credibility of their alliance. In an increasingly competitive world, this crisis could mark the beginning of a rebalancing of power at the expense of Ukraine and the Western order.

It can be said that this dispute is a dark turning point that could well seal the fate of Ukraine. While it is similar to a grenade with the pin pulled, thrown into the legs of Russia's adversaries, at the same time, for the dress code and the aggressiveness of physical gestures, Washington is demanding an apology from kyiv.

Is this not an unprecedented humiliation?

Mohamed Lamine KABA, March 03, 2025

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