

مركز البيدر للدراسات والتخطيط

Al-Baidar Center For Studies And Planning



UKRAINE.. WITH NEUTRAL EYES

Dia Al-Nasiri

5

UKRAINE.. WITH NEUTRAL EYES

مركز البيدر للدراسات والتخطيط

Al-Baidar Center For Studies And Planning



UKRAINE..WITH NEUTRAL EYES

Dia Al-Nasiri

5

Book Name:Ukraine..with neutral eyes

The author: Dia Al-Nasiri - a journalist and media figure who has worked in various Iraqi and Arab media organizations and is currently holding the position of media advisor for Iraqi affairs.

Number of pages: 72 pages

Publisher: Al-Baydar Center for Studies and Planning

Baghdad: August - August 2022.

first edition

ISBN: 978-9922-9781-5-4

All rights reserved to Al-Baydar Center for Studies and Planning

No person, institution or entity has the right to reproduce this book, or part of it, or transmit it in any form or means of information transmission, including copying or recording, without the written permission of the Center.

Deposit number in the House of Books and Documents in Baghdad (2584) for the year 2022

About Center

Baidar Center for Studies and Planning is a non-governmental and non-profit organization established in 2015 and registered with the NGO Directorate in the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Baghdad.

The Center seeks to contribute to developing the state and its institutions, by proposing ideas and practical solutions to the main problems and challenges facing the state, including improving public sector management, policies and strategic planning, using reliable data and best practices. The Center engages the relevant authorities in the state with regular meetings to support this objective and utilises the support of international organizations dedicated to assisting Iraq's development. The Center also seeks to support economic reforms, sustainable development and provide technical assistance to the public and private sectors. The Center also seeks to support development of the private sector to provide job opportunities for citizens through training and upskilling, in a way that reduces dependence on government institutions and contributes to supporting and diversifying the country's economy.

The Center aims to utilise the vast amount of potential in Iraq's human resources by organizing programs to prepare and develop promising young people, including leaders capable of proposing, adopting and implementing visions and future plans that advance society and preserve its value system based on the commitment to a high moral standard and rejection of all types of corruption.

book contents

Center’s Introduction	11
In the Beginning	13
Entering the Capital, Kyiv	17
The Decision to Stop Exporting	12
The Visit to Urban and Bucha	23
Ukrainian official Rhetoric is Changing	27
What is the story behind the Azovstal plant and the Azov battalion?	33
A Visit to the Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor	39
Christian Sectarianism is One of the Causes of War	43
Ukraine losses	49
Current Description of the Scene	57
Volodymyr Zelensky’s character (before the war)	61
Volodymyr Zelensky’s position following the war and the positions of the world’s countries	69

Center's Introduction

The Russian-Ukrainian conflict represents the most prominent and important international event at the present time. This is due to its political, economic and military repercussions on the world and Europe in particular, which believed that war and military action had become part of European history since the end of World War II. Also, this conflict or the ongoing war on the Ukrainian lands is in the depth - as many thinkers believe - the feverish throes of the birth of a new world that marks the end of unipolar rule, and the emergence of a bipolar or multipolar world.

Since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and even before that, it has received wide attention from thinkers, writers and opinion holders, as well as the various media outlets locally, regionally and internationally. At the media level and the accuracy of the information and facts that are circulated and addressed due to the division of the conflict axes and its strategic objectives.

Therefore, an objective approach to the nature of the Ukrainian-Russian conflict and knowing the real facts of the various dimensions of the issue, undoubtedly, is not without difficulty and complexity. This is due to the political and military backgrounds of both parties or the conflicting parties and those who support them regionally and internationally.

“Ukraine with Neutral Eyes” is research from a series of articles that dealt closely with the Ukrainian reality and documented the most prominent events, information and figures for the first hundred days since the beginning of the conflict of the Russian military action on February 24, 2022, with an explanatory analysis in an attempt to install or disassemble some data to anticipate the expected results for the future of this conflict.

It is necessary to extend sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. Diaa Al-Nasiri, who put great effort during his writing of this paper, which contains the most important details of the Ukrainian event, with a vision that investigates objectivity and impartiality in dealing with reality, as the title of this research indicates, he recorded and witnessed directly the events, as his travels through the most important Ukrainian sites and cities such as Kyiv, the Urban district, Mariupol, the Chernobyl reactor, the Azovstal plant, and others.

Al-Baydar Center for Studies and Planning hopes, through its publication of research and studies on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, within the framework of identifying the nature of the conflict and its developments and the repercussions and results that it will have at the global and regional levels in our region, that this paper will be useful to all those interested and researchers in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, with its documented events and field data, with the mention of some important numbers and statistics that illuminate some of the mysterious angles of the conflict.

In the Beginning

Frankly, I was not enthusiastic about going to Ukraine, especially in terms of the complications of travel, transportation and access due to the limitation and constraints of an Iraqi passport, in addition to the fear and anxiety of family, also the travel distance and my lack of similarities with the Iraqi situation except for its international dimensions, and the impact of the war on the prices of energy and food are all factors that did not create a desire for me to rush to cover the Ukrainian war. Despite all of this, I decided to write down my memoirs, observations and impressions from the first moment of entering Ukraine after overcoming most obstacles of passing through the Polish and then the Ukrainian borders. While trying to pass the Ukrainian border the number of questions, investigations, and communications via landlines and cellular phones which I received increased noticeably, and all I understood from their language (Iraki), i.e. Iraqi, while they mostly speak only their own language, and through the common words between the Ukrainian language and the English language, for example, the word (problem) in addition to the body language and some of the expressions that appear on their faces, I deduced from them dissatisfaction and annoyance. Until now, I did not understand the reason for that dissatisfaction. A: Was it me, my nationality, or the fact that they were forced to take measures they were not accustomed to? however my sense of inferiority and disrespect arouse and a state of rage towards the Iraqi political leaders, at that point I decided that I'll inform them of what I faced after my return to Iraq at the first meeting that "Iraq is not respected", especially in embassies and with passport officers, and there is a need to build bridges of respect through direct diplomatic means or joint projects, for it is their responsibility towards a country that bears a historical legacy that stretches back thousands of years.

Entering Ukraine was also tiring and complicated, as I stayed for a long time on the Ukrainian border, and they were surprised by the Ukrainian visa on my Iraqi passport. Several security agencies jotted down my information and my passport and requested verifications of the visa I obtained from Beirut, because no visa was allowed to be issued from Baghdad, even to the relief organizations and the Red Cross as well as an embassy employee in Baghdad told me.

The first impression after crossing the borders is that the issue of migrants and refugees is a very exaggerated topic. Whose who talked about large numbers do not distinguish between the numbers of refugees and the travelers, as the travelers had no choice but to travel by land, because air and sea travel was completely halted, leaving only the land routes.

Another paradox is that the return of refugees, returning travelers and border-crossers is so large that the crowds at the border and train reservations are not normally available due to the large number of travelers and you can hardly find a seat as I travelled by train from Lviv (the first Ukrainian city which is two hours away from the border of Bologna by car) to the capital, Kyiv, and I could not get a train in the first place due to the lack of availability, so I waited four and a half hours at the train station because most of the trains are booked towards the capital (Kyiv), which is about ten hours by the train and everyone I saw looked like everything but refugees in the literal sense of the word. What reinforced my impression was the statement of the mayor of the capital on Friday morning (May 13th) that two-thirds of the capital's residents had returned, but the strange thing was that the local and foreign media did not address this issue and did not take pictures of the returnees with the same interest in the pictures of the departed. Perhaps the issue of characterizing all border-crossers as refugees has two goals from my point of view:

First, to put pressure on Europe on the one hand.

Second: To create a state of global sympathy with Ukraine and to create public opinion thereafter.

This impression is reinforced by the intense presence of media journalists on Ukraine's border with Poland and not within Ukraine's borders, depicting the entry of Ukrainians into Poland (and not the other way around) and their timid influx without distinguishing between refugees and transients or travelers and perhaps departing and others, because the authorities prevent private cars from entering or perhaps it had strict procedures, which compels travelers to walk the land borders on foot for a distance of (500) meters, after which taxis and buses are available to transport travelers to their destinations, as well as the clear spread of tents that provide water and pieces of pizza or sandwiches after recording information of both (the refugee or the traveler), in exchange for a free bottle of water or a piece of pizza or a cold sandwich, the information of the Ukrainians is written down by the owners of the tents that resemble (the famous Hussainiya processions that provide food and services to visitors to Shiite shrines in Iraq), of course, with the big difference in terms of the way and the Iraqi generosity compared to the numbers of tents that I saw on the borders of Bologna, which were not more than (100) tents at the upper limit, and it was interesting to me that some of the tents bearing the Israeli flag and also Blue star of David Relief tents.

Frankly, I can say that the situation of the worst Ukrainian refugee is better than the life of an Iraqi citizen who lives in Sadr City or remote areas, and that they move between the borders (entering or leaving) by simply showing their identity or mostly their passports, especially since life is almost normal in the cities of the West, unlike the cities in Eastern Ukraine, which is witnessing fierce battles, as it seems that Russia does not want to occupy other cities and does not want to

overthrow the capital, Kyiv, as is the common impression of the Russian war on Ukraine, where the Russian forces withdrew from Kyiv after a month and a half from the beginning of the war, as the Russian army took control on the suburbs of (Bucha and Urban), located north of the capital, Kyiv, 20 kilometers from the center of the capital, specifically the parliament and government headquarters.

Entering the Capital, Kyiv

I arrived in Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, on Thursday, May 12, 2022, and after ten hours I spent on the train coming from the city (Lviv) in western Ukraine, where the main train station seemed to be very crowded as it was the most popular means of transportation in light of the suspension of airport traffic, I had an extensive dialogue with The Lebanese media colleague Ali Rabah, who has been in Ukraine for more than a month and explained to me in detail the situation in the capital and the eastern borders and some of the problems faced by journalists and the dangers surrounding the profession. I was surprised by the almost stable situation in the capital, although the movement of citizens was not at its peak, that the residents of the capital gradually began to regain confidence in their sense of safety after the withdrawal of the Russian army from the Kyiv neighborhoods for reasons that some believe that the Russians withdrew because they faced fierce Ukrainian resistance and the use of weapons which was “stored for black day”. While others believe that strong Western and American warnings that Putin received prevented him from continuing the invasion and the dangers that await Putin if he occupied the capital, just as happened to ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during the occupation of Kuwait in 1991, when the international community imposed harsh conditions on him and compensation amounting to 52.4 billion dollars was paid and continued until 2022, that is, it took more than thirty years to pay compensation to Kuwait and all the companies and affected countries. Others argued that the arrival of the Russian army to Kyiv and then its withdrawal from it was intended to secure the occupation of eastern Ukraine and the cities around which the conflict is taking place. There are those who believe that the Russian army was unable to secure fuel for the army that entered some neighborhoods of the capital, although this opinion was neither scientific nor accurate, in my opinion, because a large, well-trained and advanced army in



the world such as the Russian army, it is unreasonable to not have calculated for such circumstances, especially that Russia is the most important global source of energy as it exports about (10) million barrels of oil per day, and it is the most important source of natural gas to Europe, and its gas exports constitute a third of the world's exports. It is not possible for a country with this huge economic and military size not to have taken all of that in its accounts. So I decided to search for an answer to the most important question: Why did the Russian army withdrew after its trained forces entered some of the capital's neighborhoods? Sirens are still heard from time to time, but in the center of the capital and near the residence of President Zelensky, who seems to have not left his presidential position during the war, as he is surrounded by tight security protection, which appears through the extensive and continuous security deployment or security barriers near the palace, as well as going down from time to time to the Maidan Square in the center of the capital, or his keenness to be in various places, such as visiting the newly built building of the Center for Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery,

and for some other activities, including receiving foreign officials at the level of US Congress President Nancy Pelosi, after meeting the British Prime Minister, as well as other Western presidents, and I heard about the presence of guards and American forces, perhaps elite forces or Marines, surrounding President Zelensky, especially when he recorded a televised speech with a video clip, which was broadcast later. It was recorded in the center of the main square in the center of the capital. The visits were usually made very early as the government is committed to conducting a curfew, starting from nine in the evening and continuing until dawn. Returning to the people, where I read a statement by the mayor of the capital, Kyiv this morning, that two-thirds of the capital's residents have returned, and among the returnees and those who did not leave, some of them seem stubborn to the state of war or have not accepted it yet and are keen to go to restaurants, cafes and smoke the water pipe (calion), as they call it, which is a Turkish name, because the Turks are clearly present in Ukraine due to the absence of travel restrictions. The Turks are allowed to enter Ukraine without a prior visa, and some bars and amusement parks have resumed their activity, but the sale of alcoholic beverages stops at five in the afternoon (out of respect for the state of war and casualties), as they say. But some musicians chose to play national anthems, while others chose soft music or classical songs. I noticed that people speak in a quiet and semi-faint tone, and even house bells are hardly heard from people like me as we are used to the hustle and bustle, everyone here speaks at a low pace that only the two sides of the dialogue hear. Even the echoes of war here are quiet, unlike what we hear on the radio or watch on television, which many parents in our countries are keen to keep loud.

The Decision to Stop Exporting

Since the beginning of the war, the Ukrainian government decided to stop the export of many of the main consumer and food items, including wheat, sunflower oil, eggs and chicken, which constitute the most important exports of Ukraine, but rather an important percentage of the world's exports, as I read some reports that say that Ukrainian exports of wheat do not constitute more than 5 % of the world's exports, and here is the question that I did not get an answer to, which is if the Ukrainian wheat constitutes only 5% of the volume of exports in the world, then why has the price of a ton globally doubled, as well as the prices of vegetable oils, which constitute Ukraine's exports globally, 15%, mostly through Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea, as well as exporting wood and basic materials that are made in Ukraine in order to control the market from falling into the hands of war traders and not to manipulate economic security during crises. These decisions greatly affected the global market and the increasing demand for Ukrainian foodstuffs, which the war revealed was a cornerstone in the stability of global food security. Clearly on the shops before



it is reflected in the restaurants and cafes that seem stable at the prices of consumer goods and their availability in most shops and markets. For example, (Novus) a supermarket, whose size does not exceed two hundred meters, is within a well-known chain, which is a major shopping station in bus and train stops, this place, as you can see in the pictures I took on an ordinary day, was not completely empty, but two things caught my eye, the French croissants, as well as the shelves of fresh vegetables, means that all the owners of ovens and shops still maintain their production at the same pace and quality as if there was no war. It is also strange that the pastries that remain on the shelves and are not sold are collected the next day from the same manufacturers and is replaced with new and fresh bread to maintain quality, as the country of wheat is the first in the world to provide the necessities of living with the same quality, efficiency and flow to its citizens. Another item is eggs, it is well known that Ukraine is a major source of eggs at prices that do not compete even in Middle Eastern countries. For example, if Ukrainian eggs were produced in Ukraine and shipped by plane to Iraq, they would compete with the price of the Iraqi product in its land in terms of quality and value. Returning to the market competition, the many types of eggs are placed in a large refrigerator for their multiplicity. What caught my attention is the halal eggs, which secure the needs of the Muslim consumer and may produce halal eggs for Muslims. Because other types of eggs are mixed with some forbidden ingredients with the food that the chicken eats before laying eggs. In the sense that the producers do not want to offer eggs mixed with forbidden food to Muslims out of respect for their sanctities. This kind of honesty might not be found with some Muslim merchants in their own countries. As for prices, they did not rise in all commercial or food stores. Such governments and leaders respect their people, think about their stability, availability of food and drink, encourage their people to be fierce defenders of their country with enthusiasm.

The Visit to Urban and Bucha



On Tuesday May 17th, 2022, I visited the Urban district, which is located northwest of the capital, Kyiv, twenty kilometers from the capital, and I also visited the city of Bucha, where they witnessed fierce battles between Russian and Ukrainian forces, which were the headlines of the news bulletins of various Western and Arab media and other foreign news agencies. (Urban governorate) is mainly of modern construction and there are modern residential buildings that were built to accommodate the displaced to the capital, after the beginning of the battles in 2014, in which the Russian army took control of the (strategic) Crimea, which is located in the south of Ukraine and separates the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. These battles led to the massive displacement some people, especially to the capital, Kyiv. This district witnessed great destruction in homes, shops, commercial centers and modern residential complexes. County officials say about 1,500 people were killed during its more than month-long occupation. However,

they face a major dilemma that hundreds of decomposing corpses, which make up 30% of the number of victims, have not been identified due to mutilation or decomposition of corpses. Talking about the Battle of Arpen reminded me of what was called the Battle of Baghdad Airport during the American occupation of Iraq, and the stories and legends that talked about violent and legendary battles that took place at the airport, or a limited or lethal nuclear weapon that was used to bring the battle to an end, the story that no one could prove or provide an integrated account of. The Arab media at the time bet a lot on the Battle of Baghdad, which did not happen. When a partial clash took place with the Iraqi forces at the airport, the Arab imagination went into fantasy mode , and since then it has been called the Battle of the Airport, which apparently does not exist except in the imagination of some.

Returning to Ukraine and within the second episode of my series of articles entitled (Ukraine with Neutral Eyes), I promised the readers that I would search for the reasons for what happened in the outskirts of Kyiv and why the Russian army withdrew from there since there is no formal Russian narrative.

During the field tour, I had an appointment with the military commander of the Urbin district, Nikolai Lyachenko, where he received us at the headquarters of the military command, which was controlled by the Russians during the battles, and was the headquarters of the Russian military command throughout their stay there. Lyachenko says that Kyiv was a strategic target for the Russian army and that they wanted to bring Kyiv down at any cost but withdrew from it forcibly because of the resistance of the Ukrainian military forces. Lyachenko believes that the Russians will return to Kyiv because they insist on occupying it. As for the Ukrainians, the capital city of Kyiv represents all of Ukraine, General Lyachenko believes that the Russians were forced to withdraw their forces and forcibly transfer

their soldiers to other fronts.

Dr. Yahya Kharbatli is a Palestinian academic and university professor who has lived in Ukraine for 45 years and has taught at Kyiv National University, which is one of the oldest universities and was built during the time of the Tsars. Kharbatli believes that Kyiv is a strategic target for Russia for two reasons: the first is the symbolism of the capital Kyiv and Putin's intentions to overthrow the government and create a government loyal to Russia. The second reason is to strengthen the battles in the east. Dr. Kharbatli believes that the corruption in Russia, especially among senior officers, who deluded the Russian military leadership into the ease of occupying Kyiv, because they relied on misleading and unrealistic information led to the seduction of the Russian president and made him believe that the Ukrainians would welcome the Russian army. But President Putin soon faced a reality counter to the false intelligence he had previously received, which reinforces Kharbatli's belief that the Russian army was surprised by the Ukrainian resistance, since the Ukrainian army was receiving periodic and accurate intelligence information from Washington about the Russian army's movements and intentions, which prompted the Ukrainians to take all necessary precautions for any surprised Russian attack.

Bashir Al-Wondi, an Iraqi expert and researcher in strategic security and has many books and articles on security and military research, and who recently published a research paper in Arabic and Russian entitled (The Revealing War.. The Ukrainian Crisis and the Fragility of the International System) believes that the Russian army did not intend to occupy Kyiv, but rather was The army's goals are to control and occupy the cities of eastern Ukraine and secure the eastern Russian borders, also based on two reasons:

First, because the Russians wanted to delude the Ukrainians that their main battle is the capital Kyiv, so they made the Ukrainians focus all their strength

and efforts in order to defend Kyiv as a strategic goal, while the Russians were preoccupied with the Ukrainians from another Russian goal, which is to control the eastern region, especially Danbas. Therefore, the goal of the Russians was different from the goal of Ukrainians; The Russians want to secure the western borders of Russia, which represent the eastern borders of Ukraine, while the Ukrainians aimed to defend the capital, Kyiv. The second reason is a military tactic based on a military academy base that says if you want to occupy one kilometer, you must advance five kilometers. Al-Wendy believes that the Russians have succeeded in their plan so far under a military base known as “the investment of victory”.

For example, and confirming Bashir Al-Wondi’s opinion, the former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the veteran US diplomat said in an interview with *The Spectator* magazine, that “if Russia stops at the level it has reached so far, it will invade 20% of Ukraine.” and the greater part of Donbass, the main industrial and agricultural area, and part of the land on the coast of the Black Sea. And if it stops at this point, it will be a victory for it”) Kissinger’s statement and the 20% was also made by President of the Republic Volodymyr Zelensky after the start of the Russian attack on Ukraine, in which he boasted: that the Russian army, with all its might, could not occupy more than 20% of the Ukrainian lands, and credits this to the role of the Ukrainian army and its fierce resistance in stopping the Russian army from advancing.

Ukrainian official Rhetoric is Changing



Today is May 21st, Ukrainian government rhetoric is continually evolving. The Ukrainians were celebrating many successes on various fronts a week ago because they had managed to keep the Russians out of Kyiv, the nation's capital, while also reducing the number of clashes. In the capital, where there haven't been any airstrikes or bombings for more than 10 days, things are starting to get back to normality. Additionally, over thirty Western and Arab diplomatic missions have returned to Kyiv over the last week, with the American embassy staff—which supports the regime—being the latest to arrive. The Ukrainian speech talked about the need to open humanitarian corridors in the besieged Mariupol province, specifically the Azovstal steel factory, where the Azov battalion (or the neo-Nazis as Russia calls them) was stationed, which might be comparable to the Iraqi Republican Guard under Saddam's regime, and perhaps this is what led the Russians to view this battalion as a terrorist group. Because they are not fighters

or members of the Ukrainian army, the Russian government wants to prosecute them as terrorists rather than as prisoners. What matters is that all Ukrainian forces holding Mariupal were unsuccessful in being saved by their country's army after fighting the Russian army for more than eighty days. Following a three-day exchange of 264 Ukrainian injuries, many of which were deemed critical, the tale of Mariupol came to an end, and the Russian army seized control of the entire city. The Ukrainian orders arrived only after roughly a thousand Ukrainian forces had already given up. As a result, events can have changed to save face in the media. The Ukrainian president imposed his persona as a real leader and fighter who stood by his people, refused to leave his city, appeared in numerous locations familiar to Ukrainians, and did not flee to caves or basements or otherwise hide from the public. We must never forget that the performance of the Ukrainian president is frequently referred to as a media war or a psychological war. He excelled in the media over the Russian media, perhaps because he was an actor or a performer before he was a politician.

Mariupol is a city located in the southeastern part of Ukraine, bordering the Sea of Azov. It is located in the Donetsk region. The historical city center is located at the confluence of the rivers Kalmos and Kalchik in the Sea of Azov. It is the tenth largest city in Ukraine and the second largest in Oblastdonetsk. Its population is close to half a million people.

A military security justification for the suspension of airstrikes on the capital is that the (comfortable) party on the front need not escalate on other fronts. Two instances of that are:

First, during the Iran-Iraq conflict, when the Iraqi army is in charge and has the upper hand, Iran bombards Baghdad or other cities. The second example is from World War II, says Winston Churchill, a military officer and British Prime

Minister, 1940-1945 and 1951-1955. We understand that we have harmed the adversary on all fronts when the British capital London is targeted more frequently. Going back to Ukraine, the Russians' possession of Mariupol is a strategic success for them for a number of reasons:

First: because the control of Mariupol will open a land bridge between Crimea and Donetsk.

Second: Mariupol is the most important southeastern region of Ukraine on the borders of Russia and prevents the export of most of the Ukrainian agricultural and industrial production. Thus, Russia has taken control of its borders, its western coast, and its most important water port for Russia in terms of trade and security, and its warmest outlet for trade exchange

Third: Russia has thus almost completed its control over all of the eastern Ukrainian cities.

Since Ukraine rejects dialogue because of the Russians' obvious field supremacy, the Russians are thus more in need than ever to begin negotiations with them. President Zelensky of Ukraine is unwilling to engage in negotiations as long as his nation is under Russian occupation. The Ukrainian diplomacy could not disguise its dissatisfaction with several European politicians despite being divided over issue. Dmytro Kuleba, the foreign minister of Ukraine, said:

“Ukraine will determine how, where and when it will end, this is our land, we are at war, but we are also ready to negotiate. We are grateful to the partners for all their help, but not a single partner has the moral or political right to break us, forcing us to make any compromises.” The Ukrainian minister accused Western countries and Western media of being agents of Russia, without naming them.

My investigation on the Ukrainian ambassador to Germany revealed that he appeared to be rigid in his attitudes and utterances and did not adhere to diplomatic protocol. Andrey Melnik, the ambassador of Ukraine to Germany, told the German intellectuals who signed the open letter to “go to hell” at the beginning of his response to the letter, which calls on countries to cooperate. This shows that he has no control over the appropriate language to use when describing others. The German daily “Die Zeit” released a message from the west urging Kiev to cease receiving military support and to quickly establish the environment for discussions. About 20 German intellectuals (writers, media experts, and philosophers) expressed their belief in an open letter titled “Stop the Fire Now” that the West’s continued military support for Ukraine distorts the perception of its purpose. These intellectuals included Erich Fade, a former military advisor to Angela Merkel, Johannes Warwick, a professor of international politics, Richard Brecht, and writer and director Alexander Kluge. Furthermore, the West should “question itself what exactly they want and whether delivering weaponry is the proper method” before arming Ukraine. Military specialists believe that Ukraine won’t be able to retake all of its seized territory, including the Donetsk, Luhansk, and Crimean regions, according to the letter. Russia can escalate its military more easily since it has larger military forces. Despite their condemnation of Russia’s activities, especially its war crimes in Ukraine, the writers declared that they are certain that “extending the conflict in Ukraine would not solve the situation.” In the open letter, it was emphasized that “recent developments regarding transit transport to Kaliningrad, as well as Putin’s statement regarding the transfer of missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads to Belarus, show that the risk of escalation is increasing” and that “the West must do everything possible to ensure that the parties reach a negotiated solution in the future.” German thinkers believed that engaging in discussions did not entail compelling Ukraine

to submit or accept Putin's terms of peace, and that the West should make it clear that it "had no interest in perpetuating the conflict and changes its policy accordingly." Andrey Melnik, the Ukrainian ambassador to Germany, called the letter's authors "defeatists." Other than this, what a bunch of losers and false intellectuals, he tweeted. You should all be damned for your cynical advise. The Ukrainian ambassador is renowned for his blunt, direct style of communication that is devoid of all formal language. He said the transfer of 30 "Gebard" anti-aircraft tanks was decided upon at the summit held at the American air station "Ramstein" in Germany in late April, but it has not yet been carried out due to a shortage of ammunition, according to Andrey Melnik.

A pressure network of politicians and media has also started to work in Europe to push the concept of a compromise with Russia, which is unacceptable for Ukraine, according to Mikhaïlo Podolak, assistant to the chief of staff of the President's Office.

"In Europe, the pressure network that the Russian Federation built over a 20-year period started to function again. It purchased politicians and journalists who started to lift their heads again and say let's work so that Russia does not feel degraded," he claimed.

Russia as a whole must feel ashamed after this conflict because civilization cannot coexist with such barbarism.

With the knowledge that the weather conditions do not warrant turning on the heating at this time from the beginning of spring to the beginning of summer, Finland will attempt to block the supply of Russian gas as of May 21. However, it cannot tolerate not operating the ovens, heating the water, or refueling gas automobiles. The rest of Western nations can learn from Finland's experience

living without Russian gas after it refused to pay the ruble, which had risen to its highest level since the beginning of the conflict. In contrast, the price of wheat increased by 59% on a worldwide scale as it recovered roughly 50% of its value versus the dollar. According to CNN, the US Air Force sent newborn milk from Switzerland and Germany to the US on instructions from US President Joe Biden in regards to the misplaced baby milk in the US. Imagine with me that the world's most powerful economy—the United States of America—builds an air bridge to transport newborn milk.

In conclusion, Russians appear to be more forgiving in the fight against biting fingers, despite their market did not conceal its unfavorable responses, making them impossible to track or evaluate. Whoever cries out first may lose first in this conflict since there is a Russian party controlled by Putin with an iron fist and several Western parties, each with distinct objectives. Because each has its own strategy and tactics, not everyone who loses a battle also loses in talks.

What is the story behind the Azovstal plant and the Azov battalion?

What is the story behind the Azovstal plant and the Azov battalion?



I would like to share with you the significance of taking possession of and conquering the Azovstal Steel and Iron Factory, which was taken by Russian troops after the Azov battalion resisted for more than eighty days and reinforced it inside, following the Russian forces' conquest of Mariupol.

Southeast Ukrainian city of Mariupol is where Russian forces launched persistent attempts to take over the Azovstal Iron and Steel Works plant. However, President Vladimir Putin urged his Defense Minister not to take over the factory in order to preserve the lives of his soldiers and requested replacement. Regarding that, the factory, which is the remaining stronghold of Ukraine in this city.

The historical roots of the Azovstal factory go back to the former Soviet era, and it is currently owned by Rinat Akhmetov (or Akhmetov), who is classified as one of the largest Ukrainian industrialists and exporters. One of the largest metal and steel factories in the world, and practically began operating its first furnaces

in 1931, before it was essentially completed in 1933.

But the Nazi forces soon destroyed the factory completely during its retreat under the weight of the strikes of the Soviet army in 1943, during World War II, before its reconstruction began the following year. However, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Azovstal went on the path to privatization, and his ownership eventually settled in the hands of Akhmedov, who owns the investing company for the factory, Metinvest, and Forbes magazine estimated Akhmedov's wealth at about \$7.6 billion in 2021.

Following the start of hostilities in February 2022, the factory was paralyzed, after it was annually producing 4 million tons of steel, 3.5 million tons of other metals and 1.2 million tons of galvanized or galvanized steel (as it is called in Iraq and some Arab countries), that is, steel that undergoes a chemical process that prevents it from corrosion.

According to the British daily The Guardian, the enormous facility is situated in an industrial district with a sea view of Azov and covers an area of more than 11 square kilometers. It has a significant number of explosion-proof structures, railroad tracks, vaults, and subterranean tunnels.

Due to its proximity to the territories ruled by pro-Russian rebels in the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow had previously seized in 2014, observers regard the industrial city where the plant is located as a crucial strategic area that the Russian troops are seeking to dominate.

“ Yan Gagin, an adviser to the pro-Moscow Donetsk People's Separatist Group, claimed to RIA Novosti, a Russian state news network, that “under the city there is another city.” He noted that the fortified site is designed to withstand bombing and siege, contains a communications system and tunnels that facilitate Its residents’

What is the story behind the Azovstal plant and the Azov battalion?

movement to and from the city, and is reportedly built against a nuclear bomb.

Akhmedov turned against Russia's proxies, refused to support the Russian invasion, and despite his disagreement with President Volodymyr Zelensky, he helped finance the government by paying \$34 million in tax advances. In 2014, Azovstal steel workers organized a movement to retake Mariupol by force from pro-Russian (Ukrainian state media) separatists in Crimea. He served as an MP for the Pro-Moscow Regions Party and was accused of involvement in the shadowy underworld and of having ties to former US President Donald Trump.

The plant, which contains several nuclear and blast-resistant structures, railroad tracks, cellars, and subterranean tunnels, resembles a big spreading metropolis along the Mariupol shoreline. The structure has a lower city developed along its underground network, thus it does not appear the same inside as it does outside.

The subterranean plant has seven levels. A fake floor of camouflage with solids, mining, and raw materials is included in its initial substrate to give the impression that it is a final storage unit.

As one moves deeper into the ground, where there is a second lower layer, the camouflaged floor conceals a hidden metropolis that starts to emerge, and below it another layer consisting of farms in which various types of fruits and vegetables grow, so that the factory restaurant is able to achieve self-sufficiency, especially in emergency circumstances, which is what explains the steadfastness of the Ukrainian fighters stationed inside it throughout the period of the siege.

An extra level with a café and a workshop is located at the bottom of the industrial facility, and below it is a floor with accommodation for the residents. On the top floor, there is a system unit connected to control units located on all computers in the industrial city, as well as an advanced communications system

that allows the fighters within to interact with the outside and watch activity outside the building. These are the facts that are now known about the plant that we have gathered through some of the writings and statements made about it, but there are two more crucial issues. The Azov battalion's capitulation was the ultimate.

The Azov Battalion is the second topic. According to the official Russian and media descriptions of them, the Azov Battalion is an extreme right-wing and neo-Nazi unit of the Ukrainian National Guard that is stationed in Mariupol on the Sea of Azov shore. where the (separatist) troops battled and overcame them during the Donbas War in 2014. In May 2014, Azov was established as a volunteer force. In June 2014, it engaged in its first military action when it retook Mariupol from pro-Russian (separatists). All Azov members are now serving contract soldiers in the Ukrainian National Guard as a result of the city's incorporation into the National Guard on November 12, 2014.

In 2015 and 2016, the battalion gained a lot of attention and sympathy from neo-Nazi movements and also used Nazi symbols to express its slogans. Azov representatives say the symbol is an abbreviation of the "national idea" and deny any connection to Nazism. In March 2015, a spokesperson for the battalion said that about 10-20% of its members were Nazis.

A provision in the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act passed by the US Congress blocked military aid to Azov on the grounds of its white supremacist ideology but later rescinded the ban on aiding the group. The members of the battalion come from more than 22 different countries.

Putin is speaking about Moscow's plans to free Ukraine from "neo-Nazis," their allies, and their ideology, according to Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, who

What is the story behind the Azovstal plant and the Azov battalion?

also noted that Kyiv had drawn the purported “volunteer battalions.” According to the Russian account, they are organizations of ultra-nationalists who support and provide Ukrainian businesses connected to the post-2014 government with funding and equipment.

The battalion eventually put down its arms, hundreds of troops gave up, and images of them circulated, which had a significant negative impact on the morale of the Ukrainian army and the individuals who had placed a lot of money on this unit. Moscow, on the other hand, is considering excluding the members of the Azov brigade from any prisoner swap since it views them as war criminals rather than prisoners of war. The timing and format of discussions, as well as who will be the powerful side to push its negotiating demands, will determine whether it will prosecute them on terrorism-related charges.

A Visit to the Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor

A trip to the Chernobyl nuclear plant was one of my journalistic career's most significant and hazardous stops. Nuclear radiation or atomic dust, the first adversary of humanity, lurks beneath sand atoms, amid clouds, or possibly with raindrops, attaches to all living and non-living things, and spreads in woods, rivers, and lakes. This is where the danger resides.



I have various press objectives I have established since I arrived Ukraine. One of those objectives was the Chernobyl reactor. I had a hard time getting security and medical permissions. After the Russian army, who had been occupying it for over 36 days, left, I was the first Arab journalist to access the Chernobyl reactor alongside my colleague, journalist and photographer Moath Hamed from Palestine. He entered it through the border of Belarus, which is roughly 30 kilometers from the reactor. From there, the Russian army traveled to Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, which is roughly 130 kilometers from the reactor, but because

the city is sensitive and contain many secrets and dangers, the Russian army was forced to retreat, and because the Russians believed (or Perhaps) they wanted to convince the world that Ukraine had resumed its nuclear activities and biological experiments, within the media war and to persuade public opinion to stand with Russia in its battle, and the alarm went off 36 years after the infamous Chernobyl explosion in 1986 due to the movement of troop carriers, cannons, tanks, and all other types of logistical support in the city of Chernobyl and its surroundings, as well as some units digging trenches, bunkers, emplacements, and fortifications.

Observatories and private laboratories reported a sharp rise in nuclear radiation levels as well as an alarming expansion in the movement of radioactive dust and mist. It was determined that the rise in radiation was twenty times greater than the steady state. The world became enraged as it pleaded with the two sides in the war not to provoke the atoms, radioactive or nuclear, because the issue is bigger than a war here or a conflict there. This is because seventeen European and former Soviet countries did not forget the horror of the nuclear cloud that covered their countries at the time, and more than 2.5 million people are the victims of that big bang, some of whom are still suffering from its effects today. Reactor No. 4, which was shut down for a century below and covered with tens of thousands of tons of cement, resembles a seething radioactive volcano. Its silver dome, which is 100 meters high, is enough for anyone who wants to blow up half the planet to tamper with it until the nuclear dragon emerges from its cave and catastrophe ensues. Its strength is believed to be 500 times that of the Hiroshima bomb, and its temperature reached 4000 degrees. The main thing to remember is that although the Russians left Chernobyl quickly, they carried with them some extremely significant instruments, computers, and technology that, in the opinion of Ukrainian specialists, correctly monitor the radiation. The Chernobyl reactor's Nikolai Vaslevich, head of the laboratory for the measuring unit, said to me: (The

laboratory technology is no longer functional. We need all the stolen software in order to get this laboratory back up and running, and the damages from the computer theft are estimated to be six million euros).

The engineer and head of the Chernobyl Radiological Monitoring Laboratory, Alexander Myrmia, who accompanied us to the Russian army's excavations, told me: "I have worked here since 94, and everyone knows what happened at Chernobyl." As they did not let us to remain here, but (the invaders) came to battle, and we did not forewarn them to stay so that they would be exposed to radiation, the same phrase signifies radiation.

The Russian media is talking about Moscow obtaining very important documents about biological laboratories conducting research and bacteriological tests for the United States of America, a Russian claim that has gone unproven up until this point but may prove later. The Russians may have other words that they chose not to reveal.

A halt was necessary for the entrance formalities forty kilometers outside of Chernobyl. The area has turned into a military barracks that no one is allowed to enter, according to our licensed Ukrainian guide, who also warned us against taking pictures of some military locations and opening the car's windshield or getting out of the vehicle in other locations. Workers are only allowed to work here for a maximum of fifteen days in order to prevent their bodies from being exposed to radiation. Additionally, it is not permitted to collect anything that is discovered that does not contain radioactive materials, particularly in the city that was abandoned for about 35 years. We got out of town. After I collected notes and photographs, after passing through two stations that were each approximately 10 kilometers apart, it carried out a thorough inspection to check for radiation in our bodies, clothes, tools, cars, and everything else. Therefore, we left the city

where time has stood still, the wood on its buildings has deteriorated, and rust has continued to eat away at its rusted iron through the years. When more than 100,000 people were evacuated from a thirty-kilometer radius, the city's landmarks, including newspapers, instructions, children's toys, beds, and automobiles, remained unaltered. Over the course of a few days, during what has been called the greatest evacuation in history, people were evacuated from the explosive reactor. The operation involved about 600,000 Soviet soldiers at the time, and it cost about \$30 billion to contain the disaster's effects, evacuate, and house the displaced. At the time, the Soviet Union was in a semi-bankrupt state, and oil prices were so low that Mikhail Gorbachev, the president at the time, believed the operation to lower oil prices was a Saudi-American plot to weaken the Soviet Union. According to legend, the Soviet Union's breakdown and collapse in 1991, following the fall of the infamous Berlin Wall, was caused by the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe.

Christian Sectarianism is One of the Causes of War

One aspect of the war between Russia and Ukraine is sectarian. Most of the population of eastern Ukraine on the Russian border (the length of 2000 km) is orthodox, while most of the rest of Ukraine are Catholic.

According to Syrian writer Hosni Mahli, some view Russia's involvement in Ukraine as a "crusade to defend the Holy Orthodox territories from Western heresy and apostasy," referring to the Kiev authorities supported by Washington and its allies.

Creating a Ukrainian Orthodox Church separate from the Russian Church was declared by US-backed Ukrainian President Poroshenko on December 16, 2018, adding that "Ukrainian national security hinges to a considerable part on religious independence from Russia." According to him, this choice represented a "win for the faithful people of Ukraine over the "demons of Moscow."

At a special gathering of bishops in the Ukrainian city of Kyiv, Poroshenko made the declaration. The Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church's new head is the 39-year-old Archbishop Epiphany.

President Putin was shocked by the church's departure from the Russian Patriarchate in Moscow, with which it had been linked since 1686, and he unsuccessfully tried to prevent it. The leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, who has been bringing the Orthodox ranks together since Ukraine's independence in 1991, failed in this endeavor as well.

The situation between Moscow and Kiev and Moscow and Istanbul has gotten worse as a result of Bishop Epifani's trip to Istanbul on December 5, 2019, to receive the letter of ecclesiastical sanction from the Orthodox Church in Istanbul

(Constantinople) granting independence to the new Ukraine church.

After the Russian church announced its separation from the Orthodox family, the Ukrainian Church declared its independence as a form of protest against Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople in Istanbul, who is known for his close ties to Washington and without which he has no influence whatsoever. Even in Turkey, he takes into account its interests in order to ensure the support of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

As the Orthodox Ukrainians made up around 25% of all Christians connected with the Russian Church, some people think that the split of the Ukrainian Church from the Russian Church dealt a serious blow to the calculations of the Russian president, which lost millions of followers and millions of dollars from church property that Kyiv sought to control to the east of the country.

Given that more than 60% of the population in Russia and the neighboring nations is Orthodox, this issue humiliated the Russian Church at a time when Orthodox Christianity in Eastern Europe had seen a major comeback following the fall of the Soviet Union.

Since President Putin relied on the Church “as a uniting force that enhances his position as a representative and protector of the interests of the original Russian nation, after the status of the Church declined during the Soviet period,” many scholars point to the close ties between the Kremlin and the Moscow Patriarchate throughout history.

As a result, Putin exerted great effort to support the church politically, morally, and financially. He did this by restoring church properties that were sold off during the communist era, erecting numerous churches and cathedrals, and incorporating the study of Orthodoxy into the curricula of public schools. Putin

ordered the Russian army to construct an army cathedral in Moscow, which was opened in September 2020 as part of the 75th anniversary commemoration of Russia's victory in World War II. The Kremlin's and the Russian army's Moscow Patriarch Kirill shares these same sentiments of pride and reciprocates them, talked in his speeches about "the role of the Church in ensuring the spiritual unity of peoples in the states existing on the territory of historical Russia, and its importance in protecting the system of Orthodox values that the Russian Orthodox civilization carries to the world." As a result, Patriarch Kirill becomes a crucial Putin-supporting ally.

Orthodox Christians outside Russia are widely distributed in both the Balkans and the Middle East, mostly in Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq and southeastern Turkey. These areas were under Ottoman rule from the fifteenth century until the beginning of the First World War.



The Orthodox Church of Tsarist Russia, which had a direct stake in the Christian people in the Ottoman Empire's domains in the Balkans, the Caucasus, and the Middle East, supported the Ottoman Empire throughout these years of intense conflict. Given that Russia was at that time the dominant power, the Treaty of Kucuk Kainarja in 1774 acknowledged its oversight of these Christians' rights.

According to history, the Ottoman Sultan's insult to Orthodox Christians by giving the keys to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem to Catholics while disregarded the Orthodox Church's rights in the Holy Land was one of the reasons why Russia and the Ottoman Empire were at odds.

It is ironic that the Russian interest in Orthodoxy in the Middle East continued during the era of the Soviet Union, which exercised its influence in the Middle East through the Orthodox present in it, which explains the presence of a large number of Arab left-wing and communist Christians.

In the area, there are two patriarchates. Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and the eastern part of Turkey are all under the authority of the Patriarchate of Antioch, which has established itself as the Arab Orthodox Church. A million Christians follow it, half of whom are currently in Syria after many departed during the previous 10 years. The occupied Palestinian territories, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority's territory are all included in the Jerusalem Patriarchate's territorial authority. The rivalry between the Churches of Antioch and Jerusalem to control more of the area explains why the former has ties to the Russian Church while the latter has ties to the Church of Constantinople in Istanbul.

Currently, the political stance of the Russian Orthodox Church and the policies of the Russian government are in alignment. The Russian government's objectives are directly related to the plight of Orthodox Christians in Syria and Lebanon,

which was mentioned by Russian President Vladimir Putin in a speech from September 2015 in which he “expressed his country’s concern about the situation of Christians.” He charged that “sufficient steps to protect them” had not been taken by the West.

Putin’s defense of Christians, and specifically the Orthodox, is seen by some as “one of the reasons for the Russian intervention to prevent the institutions of the Syrian state from collapsing, as long as this state guarantees the rights of Christians and defends them against the dangers of genocide by terrorist groups supported by the West.”

The President of Russia has often stated that Russia would not forsake its critical interests in the Middle East or in any other part of the globe, and that one of these interests is the problem of Christians’ conditions.

The Russian Orthodox Church, as a “symbol of the distinctive cultural values of the Russian people,” plays a major role in Russian foreign policy, which attaches special importance to religious minorities in their places of existence, at a time when the Christian-Catholic West ignored the crimes that Christians were subjected to in Syria and Iraq at the hands of ISIS and the other factions.

Despite the tight historical links and the unity of faith and sect, Russia lost the geopolitical conflict in the Balkans that is mostly based on religious/sectarian grounds when Bulgaria, Serbia, and Montenegro (with their Orthodox majorities) turned away from it. The Byzantine Church in Constantinople, which enjoys strong support from Washington, Paris, and other European capitals, is the case for the Christians of Greece and Cyprus. This is especially true after America and Europe’s various institutions and agencies infiltrated these two nations, as is the case in Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Kosovo.

Consequently, “Tel Aviv” was able to infiltrate every one of them by cleverly inciting sectarian hostility among Christians while omitting to do the same with Muslims. Washington and its allies in the Orthodox sect in Georgia and Armenia also sought to keep these people away from the Russian Orthodox Church by fomenting political unrest in these two nations through color revolutions.

After the Church of Istanbul was recognized, which was denounced by the Russian Church while highlighting the continuation of its relations with the Egyptian Church Council, which the Pope did not share his decision with, the Ukrainian Church, in coordination with Washington, recognized the Coptic Pope in Egypt, Tawadros.

Whatever the outcome of the current crisis in Ukraine, it is now obvious that Washington and its allies had long-term plans when they encouraged terrorist organizations to wage war against “Shiites and Alawites” at the start of the “Arab Spring” and continued to do so while also inciting Shiites to wage war against themselves, as is the case in Iraq right now. And yet, challenges continue to arise for Russia on all fronts, including politics, the military, the economy, as well as socially and culturally.

According to many analysts and historians who are well-versed in Russian history, and the Russians whose human losses are estimated at more than (20) million of their sons during World War II, and only 6 million of them fell in the defense of Ukraine, some see “Orthodox identity as closely linked to the Russian national identity, and with feelings of pride, pride, and cultural superiority throughout all stages of history,” which President Putin seeks to prove.

Ukraine losses

The war between Russia and Ukraine, or the military operations as Moscow refers to it, reached its 100th day on June 3. As they drove more than half of the Russian army into the state of Belarus, which is far from the capital, Kyiv, on February 24, the Russian troops started their operations from numerous axes. The Russian forces traveled 130 km through Chernobyl and its nuclear reactor, moving quickly for less than a day until they reached the outskirts of Kyiv, the country's capital. They stayed there for about two months, fighting and conducting operations every day, before returning and completely withdrawing from this axis. The Russian military command focused the battles on the east and south Eastern Ukraine and occupied many cities and towns that declared their secession from Ukraine, such as Donbas and Donetsk, after which the city of Mariupol and the port of Mariupol were seized and the strategic Azovstal steel and iron factory was seized and eliminated the Azov Battalion, which is considered as the Republican Guard or the elite forces, while the battles continue to strengthen the presence of Russian forces. On the entire eastern strip of Ukraine after controlling southern Ukraine, even if we linked the map to the Crimea, which it occupied In 2014, Russia would have almost completely secured the Azovt Sea, which is the most important port for Russia militarily and economically, because it would have secured its access to the Black Sea away from the eyes of the NATO defense system and its missiles - which is the Russian strategic goal of all this fuss.

According to a report published by the Associated Press in Geneva on estimates of Ukrainian losses after 100 days of the war, in which it stated that there is no hope on the horizon for the approaching end of the war, as Moscow issued scant information about the losses in its ranks after the passage of one hundred days of the war in Ukraine, civilian corpses in the streets of Bucha; bombing scene in

Mariupol; Chaos at Kramatorsk train station following a Russian missile strike.

Here are some figures and data from 100 days ago that, while fluctuating and occasionally ambiguous, provide additional insight on the economic instability, relocation, and death brought on by the conflict at a time when there is little prospect of it ending soon.

The Death Toll and the Injured

No one knows how many fighters or civilians have been killed, and claims of casualties are impossible to verify by government officials - who sometimes exaggerate or lower their numbers for public relations reasons.

Government officials, UN agencies, and others who carry out the horrific task of counting the dead do not always have access to the places where people have been killed.

In Mariupol alone, officials reported the deaths of more than 21,000 civilians and Moscow released scant information on casualties among its forces and allies, and did not say how many civilians were killed in areas under its control. In places such as the long-besieged city of Mariupol, possibly the biggest killing field of the war, Russian forces are accused of trying to cover up the dead and dumping bodies in mass graves, obscuring the tally.

“With all these caveats, at least tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians have been killed so far,” President Volodymyr Zelensky told the Luxembourg Parliament.

The city of Severodonetsk in the eastern Luhansk region that has become the center of the Russian offensive has seen nearly 1,500 casualties, according to the mayor. Evidence indicates that 600 people were killed in an airstrike at the Mariupol Theatre. These estimates include those killed in strikes or Russian forces

and those who succumbed to secondary effects such as starvation and disease as food supplies and health services collapsed.

“After 100 days of war, 60 to 100 Ukrainian soldiers die in combat every day, with about 500 injured,” Ukrainian President Zelensky said.



Russia’s last publicly released figures for its forces came on March 25, when a general told state media that 1,351 soldiers had been killed and 3,825 wounded.

Observers from Ukraine and the West say the real number is much higher, while Zelensky speaks of more than 30,000 Russian soldiers died - “more than the Soviet Union lost in the 10 years of war in Afghanistan”; In late April, the British government estimated Russian casualties at 15,000.

While the CIA estimated the Russian losses at about 15,000 since the outbreak of the war. In the Moscow-backed separatist enclaves in eastern Ukraine, the

authorities reported the loss of more than 1,300 fighters and nearly 7,500 wounded in the Donetsk region, along with 477 civilians killed and about 2,400 wounded; In addition, 29 civilians were killed and 60 wounded in Luhansk.

For her, Ukraine's ambassador to Geneva, Yevnia Filipenko, said that the 100-day mark was more about the faces of children who lost their parents or their homes, or the faces of runaway mothers than any particular number. "It's not about numbers, it's about the feelings and suffering of Ukrainians," she said in an interview.

Effects of Destruction

Constant bombardment and airstrikes have reduced large areas of many cities and towns to rubble.

The Ukrainian Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights said that the Russian army destroyed nearly 38,000 apartment buildings, displacing about 220,000 people.

Nearly 1,900 educational facilities from kindergartens to primary schools and universities were damaged, including 180 completely destroyed.

Other infrastructure losses include 300 cars, 50 railway bridges, 500 factories and nearly 500 hospitals that have been damaged, according to Ukrainian officials.

The World Health Organization counted 296 attacks on hospitals, ambulances and medical personnel in Ukraine this year.

Leaving Home

UNHCR estimates that about 6.8 million people have been expelled from

Ukraine at some point during the conflict.

But since the fighting subsided in the area near Kyiv and elsewhere, and the redeployment of Russian forces to the east and south, some 2.2 million have returned to the country, according to the report.

The UN's International Organization for Migration estimates that as of 23 May there were more than 7.1 million internally displaced people - those who have fled their homes but remain in the country. That's down from more than 8 million at a previous count.

Seizure of land

Before the war in February, according to Ukrainian officials, Russia maintained authority over 7% of Ukrainian land, including the Crimea (which it seized in 2014) and the separatist-held regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. However, according to President Zelensky, Russian soldiers currently hold 20% of the nation.

And while the front lines are constantly changing, that amounts to an additional 58,000 square kilometers (22,000 square miles) under Russian control, a total area slightly larger than Croatia or slightly smaller than the US state of West Virginia.

Russia and Ukraine Economy

Europe started to become less dependent on Russian energy as the West implemented a number of retaliatory sanctions against Moscow, particularly on its important oil and gas industries.

This week, Evgeny Guntmacher, Academic Director of European Dialogue, noted in a research study that Russia is presently subject to more targeted sanctions than any other nation—more than 5,000 in total.

He also mentioned that around \$300 billion in Russian gold and foreign exchange reserves had been blocked in the West, and that between January and March, aviation traffic in the nation had decreased from 8.1 million to 5.2 million people.

Additionally, according to the Kyiv School of Economics, over 1,000 businesses “self-sanctioned” the reduction of their activities in Russia.

The MOEX stock index for Russia has dropped by around 25% since immediately before the invasion and by nearly 40% since the year’s beginning.

According to data released last week by the Russian Central Bank, annual inflation in April was 17.8%.

In the meantime, Ukraine says that the conflict consumed 35% of its GDP, causing it to suffer a terrible economic blow. The chief of staff for Zelensky, Andrey Yermak, reportedly stated that “our direct losses presently approach \$600 billion.”

A significant grain exporter, Ukraine claims it hasn’t been able to ship out 22 million tons of grain. It attributes the increase in shipments to either the Russian blockade or the capture of capture of major ports.

Zelensky accused Russia of stealing at least half a million tons of grain during the invasion.

Implications for the World

The repercussions spread around the world, driving up commodity costs on top of the inflation that was already in full swing in many places before the invasion. Developing countries are under severe pressure due to the rising costs of food, fuel and financing.

The cost of gasoline at the pump and a variety of petroleum-based goods have increased due to a 20 to 25% increase in the price of crude oil in London and New York.

African nations who received 44% of their wheat from Russia and Ukraine in the years prior to the invasion had disruptions in their wheat supplies.

The price of cereals throughout the continent has increased by 45%, according to the African Development Bank. The lack of food and fertilizer in the nation may have an impact on 1.4 billion people globally, according to Amin Awad, the UN crisis coordinator for Ukraine¹. The effects of this war on people, he said, are unforgivable. He told reporters in Geneva on Friday via video clip from Kyiv that “this conflict has no victor.”

1. Since 2013, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has served as the department's director for the Middle East and North Africa.

Current Description of the Scene

Up to the present, there have been unstated norms of engagement that Ukraine and Russia have abided by. President Zelensky's office as well as the military and political leadership have not been attacked by Russia. However, Ukraine is only engaged in a defensive war and has not and will not fire a single shot into Russian territory, embarrassing some neutral or pro-Russian Western capitals and enabling the imposition of six packages of sanctions on Russia, the most severe of which went into effect at the beginning of this week and prepares the import of fuel made of oil and gas with the exception of export via pipelines (so that the supply of Europe with Russian gas does not stop through the pipelines),



The scheme to overthrow the capital and change the regime (Nazi) is the declared Russian goal, according to the Kremlin's description. The dumping of Russia in The Kremlin describes the stated Russian purpose as a plot to topple the

capital and replace the old (Nazi) administration. The American-Western strategy to dump Russia into Ukraine forced the West to consider giving Ukraine “limited support” in the form of financial aid and military aid so that Ukraine could defend itself rather than engage in aggressive activity. Ukraine is a tool to drain Russia because of the amount and quality of its armaments, especially when each party proclaimed its demands. Until now, Kyiv has rejected and refused to accept the fait accompli that Russia wants to discuss and that was imposed by its military force during the previous time. President Zelensky does not hesitate to state that there is only one solution, which is to sit down at the negotiating table, which Ankara and Paris are working on, along with some capitals. This will take place on February 24, 2022 (the date of the first Russian attack on Ukraine), and here the ambitions and desires of every international or regional party become clear. The other is mindful of the risks and repercussions of continuing the conflict on the West’s economy, particularly given that it has not yet fully recovered from Corona’s impact on international commerce.

The millions of tons of Russian wheat stockpiled, which makes up 5% of the world’s wheat, has increased wheat prices by more than 40% worldwide. As a result, it is thought that the food crisis is contrived in order to increase the level of mobilization against Russia given that OPEC and the United States have little influence over oil prices. There are three factors, the most significant of which is Tehran’s refusal to ratify the nuclear agreement, which would have allowed Tehran to export its oil to the rest of the world; the second is China’s refusal to comply with American demands, which still purchase Russian oil in spite of the embargo, The Biden administration was refusing to communicate with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (due to Biden’s position on the latter in light of the killing of the Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi), but that may change if there is a response between the two men. Saudi Arabia’s failure to respond to American demands to

increase production in order to reduce the price of oil is because of what it wants Riyadh to do.

It is worth noting that the European Union, despite its support for Ukraine and its reception of more than 6 million displaced people, cost the host countries great financial burdens, but the steps for Ukraine's accession to the European Union are still very slow.

Volodymyr Zelensky's character (before the war)

It is impossible to discuss the Ukrainian situation without bringing up the president, Volodymyr Zelensky, and his pre-war personality. How did he become president and come into power? What procedures or techniques did he employ to win the support of the Ukrainian people and win the presidency? Particularly given the reputation that developed in Arab and Western public opinion as a result of his shift from humorous representation—he occasionally performed parts in which he was naked—to the president and state administration prior to and during the war.

His Life

The Ukrainian president, born in 1978, is married and has two sons. His birthplace is in the city of “Kryvyi Rih” in eastern Ukraine, which in Arabic means “the Crooked Century.” It is located in the Donbas region under the control of the so-called separatists (who want to separate from Ukraine). Russians or of Russian descent, but they did not deny their affiliation with the Ukrainian nationalism.

Zelensky is a Jew who knows Russian, Ukrainian, and English. There are many Jews in Ukraine, but tens of thousands of Jews from outside the country make an annual pilgrimage to the city of Uman, where one of the Jewish rabbis has a tomb and is revered as a saint. This city is roughly 170 km south of Kyiv, the country's capital, and there are several viewpoints about the Jewish faith in Ukraine. They hold religious events and rituals in coupled with the Jewish New Year festival. The second-largest faith after Orthodox Christianity, with even Muslims outnumbering Jews in terms of population.

However, I have not been able to find a precise figure for the percentage of Jews or Muslims in Ukraine. Jews in Ukraine, both before and after the (Servant of the

People) party came into power, hold the majority of parliamentary seats, and they have made it clear that they would like Ukraine to become the capital of a Jewish state if the right circumstances were to arise. Zelensky's.

How did Zelensky start politics?

He began his political life in 2015 when he was a history lecturer in a school in the capital, Kyiv, and he believed that history is more important than other subjects. To the courtyard to participate in the elections, one of Zelensky's students filmed him criticizing the political elite without fear: "They all look the same, they all steal, and we are like fools. We have to choose one of two in every election, even if I was destined to be president I shall recover all the money that politicians stole, and throw them in prison. The video was published by the students on social networks, where it was widely accepted and went viral, it scored more than eight million views, Which inspired the students to encourage their teacher to run for office in 2019. They advised him that since he had millions of views and that the majority of them had interacted with his speech, he had a strong chance of winning. Everyone who viewed the video wanted you would win the presidency, and the students' attempts to persuade their teacher, who appeared to be skeptical at first, persisted. He gave them a number of explanations for his somber demeanor and anguish about winning, along with the fact that he comes from a modest family and lives in a well-to-do area and lacks the sum of 2 million kriffin, or around 8,000 dollars (which is the amount required to register him as an official candidate for the elections), Which prompted the students to encourage their teacher to run for office in 2019. They advised him that since he had millions of views and that the majority of them had interacted with his speech, he had a strong chance of winning. Everyone who viewed the video wanted you would win the presidency, and the students' attempts to persuade their teacher, who appeared

to be skeptical at first, persisted. He gave them a number of explanations for his somber demeanor and anguish about winning, including the fact that he comes from a modest family and lives in a well-to-do area and lacks the sum of 2 million kriffin, or around \$8,000 USD (which is the amount required to register him as an official candidate for the elections), the students collected the nomination money and gave it to their teacher, who still resides in his father's home because he and his wife are divorced. The money was given to the teacher in a black bag that resembled garbage bags, which forced him to accept the *fait accompli* despite his lack of confidence in his chances of winning and his reluctance to run for the top spot in the nation.



Zelensky stood for office and surpassed all predictions, becoming president with a vote of 73%, although the polls gave him no more than 10%, but he did not know his triumph. As a result, things went as the students desired, against the wishes of their teacher. Where he went about his daily business, slept in late,

was preoccupied with ironing shirts or waited in line to use the restroom, and no one was willing to provide a hand or give him priority. When the doorbell rings, the prime minister rushes in with dozens of security guards around his modest neighborhood, congratulating Zelensky on becoming the head of state,” and invites him to ride in a modern luxury Mercedes, apologizing to the president that the convoy may not befitting him.

These are, in short, the events of the first season of the most famous TV series in Ukraine under the name (Servant of the People), which later turned into the most watched series in the world on the Netflix platform and the rest of the other platforms. He personally plays the role of the president in it, and he produced the series through his own company under the name kvartal 95, this series (with its three seasons) moves the president from the stage of a virtual president to a real one.

The series was broadcast on the Ukrainian 1+1 channel, which was produced by the Zelensky Company for visual programming and also aired other hilarious shows. This channel is a part of a network of channels owned by Kolomoisky, a Ukrainian-Jewish millionaire who is also an Israeli citizen and who funded Zelensky’s election campaign. Kolomoisky, who owned 49% of the assets of Privat Bank, the largest and most developed bank in Ukraine, which President Poroshenko nationalized in favor of the state, which owned the remaining 51% of the bank’s assets, carried out this act, in my opinion, as retaliation against the billionaire Poroshenko (ruled Ukraine between 2014 and 2019).

The Servant of the People broadcast the first season in 2015 and the second season in 2017, and 2018, the current president formed a party called “The People’s Servant” and it was registered and he became president of the party, taking advantage of all the ground and popularity he gained through the popular series,

as well as he adopted all the slogans and ideas he put forward in the series, and in 2019 the third season of the series was broadcast, and in the same year, that is, in September of the year 2019, Zelensky won the presidency, achieving 73% of the vote, turning Zelensky from a hypothetical comedian president through acting. He worked as president during 4 years with the actors, to a real president, he and some of his co-stars moved to the palace, in other words, Zelensky concluded the show in 2019 and started his work as the real fifth president of Ukraine. He won the presidential seat along with his party (the People's Party). In the first part of the first season, Zelensky did not hide his admiration for former US President Abraham Lincoln. The series simulates other historical figures from whom he quotes certain positions in each entitlement or challenge during the course of the series, such as fighting the corrupt or facing the parliament that He criticizes him for discussing trivial matters that do not rise to the level of the real challenges facing Ukraine. For example, when the hypothetical president wanted to take Parliament's approval on important decisions he deems necessary, he suddenly enters Parliament and finds them mired in trivial discussions about naming a street in the capital, Kyiv. Whenever the head of the council tried in vain to stop them from arguing, he couldn't, but Zelensky hit the podium and shouted, "Putin died." Then everyone fell silent and said to them, "That was a joke. I just wanted to draw your attention." Zelensky enters into a hypothetical discussion (in black and white) with Abraham Lincoln, who abolished slavery in America, and about the comparison of how to benefit from his experience in combating slavery. Zelensky tells him: But in Ukraine there is no slavery, and Lincoln tells him, "Be who you are and fight the corrupt who enslaved the citizens with their corruption."

In the second season, Zelensky fights a fierce (virtual) war against corruption and nepotism and interrupts his father, whose life suddenly changes, taking advantage of his position as the president's father. But Zelensky decides to stay

in the public park, to accept that, cancel all protections, hold those close to him accountable, and overthrow the largest bribery operation targeting his ministers by performing scenes that make the character of Zelensky the most beloved to people and make the series and its hero the first character in the country as if he is an organic model of (the utopia). He did not stop teaching his students, even when he was president, all these modest practices, his asceticism in office, his refusal to run office, his virtual living in a popular neighborhood, ironing his clothes and boarding public transport buses even after taking office, made him the closest to people.

All of this was part of a carefully thought-out, meticulous, and shrewd plan (which Arab folklore refers to as a “Jewish plan”) intended to communicate his electoral platform to the general population. Rather than printing images and filming videos pleading with people to vote for him or begging them to learn about his political platform, holding seminars, sponsoring extravagant election festivals and parties, wandering between theaters, courtyards, and squares, and spending money. Television channels and commercials, as well as Netflix, which brought in millions of dollars for him even after winning the election, to recoup his investment many times over with its revenues before he was elected president of the nation.

It is strange that President Zelensky in the second season of the series portrayed himself as a warrior against corruption where he imprisoned the prime minister who announced that he would become president because he was involved in corruption files, He also waged an all-out war with Russia. And in the third part, Zelensky is imprisoned by the corruption mafias (which still exist in Ukrainian reality today). Zelensky was imprisoned by the corrupt who fought against him and whose interests were damaged when he took over the leadership of the

country. After entering prison, he met the Prime Minister, who put him in prison and receives a very strong blow from him that breaks his nose and puts him in a coma. Then Zelensky gets out of prison and returns as president to rule Ukraine. Zelensky's release from the virtual prison coincides with his entry into the palace in reality. All the roles that the president played in the series make him not only loved and draw viewers to sympathize and love him, but they love the strength and seriousness of his personality that shows him as a strong and brave man who is not afraid or afraid. Rather, it promotes him as an honest person who loves his country and the people, but did Zelensky really plan to be president in order to fight Russia and win it.. In the second part of the article I will talk about Zelensky's behavior and performance and his media discourse before and during the current war with Russia.

On June 8, 2022 my journalistic mission in Ukraine ended, and I returned from Kyiv by train to Lviv and from there to Poland, carrying a large amount of new information and experiences, and looking for answers to bigger questions.

Volodymyr Zelensky's position following the war and the positions of other countries

After February 24th, 2022, things won't be the same for the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who used a clever plan to earn the confidence of voters in 2019 and win the presidency with more than 70% of the vote (as we explained in episode No. 9 of our article series Ukraine with neutral eyes), and who is now attempting to sabotage win international support, particularly from Western nations, in order to stand by him in his conflict with Russia.

Comedian Zelensky has faced a new and big challenge. The fiery pictures and statements ignited the enthusiasm of the Ukrainian people, as well as the sympathy of world public opinion. The statement attributed to Zelensky: "We need a weapon, not a ticket," in response to the offer of US President Biden, who expressed his country's readiness to evacuate the president and his family from Ukraine. I did not find confirmed evidence or a statement by a reputable media outlet confirming or denying the origin of the American offer, nor the Ukrainian refusal. In times of war, tensions and strife, rumors abound and the ground becomes available to believe everything.

Zelensky mastered the game of media and advertising representation as no one else had preceded him except for the ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The similarity between the two men and their speeches is great, and we will mention some points of similarity.

The (old continent) should support Ukraine with money and weapons and announce Ukraine's accession to the European Union immediately; contrary to what some senior politicians believe, this will not occur in the near future (within a year or two). The Ukrainian president has persuaded the European Union and

the general public that he is defending Europe and the world, defending global security, and defending global food security, and not just Ukraine.

The topic of Ukraine joining NATO within weeks or months, as the Ukrainian state media wants or promotes, won't happen in the short or medium term as long as Turkey, which has a veto in NATO, and other nations refuse to join new members.

As a result, he recalls some of the statements and actions of the overthrown Iraqi president. All of Saddam's ministers were required to wear the (olive) military uniform during official and governmental meetings during the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Saddam raised the slogan of defense or (the protector of the eastern gate), referring to Iraq's geographical location. Iraq is located in the far east of the Arab countries on the borders of Iran. No one asked for it, as Zelensky does today in his war with Russia.

Zelensky convinced the world that he is a fighter protecting Europe and defending his country. Days before the start of the Russian military operations, Kyiv was telling the world that Putin would strike Ukraine tonight with nuclear weapons, but several months later, this thing did not happen and there were no intentions to use nuclear weapons, as Ukraine claimed. But Europe, after months of slumber, woke up to several facts and was convinced that it was unable to bear the direct or indirect costs of war and was unwilling to endure the harsh cold of winter without Russian gas. Europe is unable to afford to host seven million displaced Ukrainians, each of whom receives housing and transportation allowances, and they are free to choose any country they wish to live in within the Schengen countries (European Union). They also do not pay for their communications and even internet service is provided for free for the (uninvited) arriving guests,

Europe today is paying a heavy bill for the steadfastness of (Zelensky) in the face of Putin, and it is remarkable that Putin does not respond to him or to his speeches, perhaps because he does not see himself as a response to a comedian.

Returning to the beginning of the war and the terms of the negotiations and what accompanied them, Zelensky knows perfectly well that Russia will go to war against his country, but he did not move his soldiers or tanks to confront the Russian army in an inexplicable move. The Russian army reached the capital, Kyiv, within hours, and then withdrew from it after a month and a half. It did not overthrow the government or occupy the president's palace (and he is able to do so), unlike what Zelensky portrayed to us. As a reminder, we will recall the most important negotiating points and conditions for each party during the negotiations that began after the war and were hosted by Russia, and then stopped at the end of April 2022.



The Russian conditions: The Russian conditions during the negotiations that took place with the Ukrainian delegation are summarized in the following:

Ensuring the security of Russia with the borders of NATO and the non-entry of Ukraine into the alliance.

The complete disarmament of Ukraine.

Eliminating neo-Nazis (as Putin described).

The Ukrainian conditions: As for the conditions that the Ukrainian delegation brought to the negotiating table with the Russian side are summarized in:

Russian army immediately lay down its arms and withdraw from Ukraine completely.

Putin stop recognizing the two separate republics of Ukraine, the Donetsk Republic and the Donbass Republic.

The Crimea return to Ukraine and its entire territory according to the pre-2014 borders.

Remarkable statements about the conflict:

In order to maintain pressure on the West, I will quote some statements of Ukrainian and Western leaders and make accusations about the situation:

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, the former prime minister of Norway, said after his meeting with US President Biden in June: We are not part of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, but we provide military support to Ukraine to defend itself.

The Secretary-General of NATO added: We must be prepared for a long war of attrition in Ukraine. Russia is suffering great losses in Ukraine. Our goal is to support the Ukrainian leadership, not to make decisions about it.

The Ukrainian envoy to Turkey Vasyl Bodnar, who was delegated to convince the Turks of the Ukrainian views towards the negotiations that Turkey wanted to host on its land, tweeted on his page from Turkey, accusing Ankara of buying (stolen) Ukrainian wheat by Russian forces.

“Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky tricked European nations into supplying Kyiv with weaponry,” claims member of the European Parliament Thierry Mariani. In order to please him, Zelensky “managed to swiftly gain from European blindness and succeeded in capturing European capitals that are now ready for economic and geopolitical suicide,” he adds.

He emphasized that, in his view, providing weapons to Ukraine “increases tensions in Europe and might affect all parties.”

Ukrainian Ambassador to Berlin Andrei Melnik criticized German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's refusal to visit Kyiv. Melnik said in a press statement on May 3, 2022, “Playing the role of an angry man does not appear to be the work of a statesman. After Schulz said that he does not want to travel to Kyiv at the moment because the Ukrainian side has canceled the invitation of German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to visit the country. The reason for all this tension is that Germany did not provide Ukraine with weapons despite American pressure.

Before coming to a conclusion, it is important to outline or convey the perspectives of various nations, particularly those that are both impacted and affected by the events taking place in the Ukrainian arena.

Some European Union countries, especially Ukraine's neighbors that are affiliated with the former Soviet Union, seem sympathetic to Ukraine because of their desire to engage with NATO countries and stay away from the eastern camp. As for others, especially Germany, France, Italy and Hungary, these countries seem, contrary to the statements of their leaders, trying to pressure Ukraine to enter into negotiations. Despite pressure from Kyiv and Washington to expedite the need to support Ukraine with money and weapons, some of these countries are very hesitant to send arms shipments that they promised at the beginning of the war. This is because Moscow and shortening the duration of the war of attrition, but Europe, which is already struggling with economic stagnation due to the Corona epidemic, does not seem to be able to handle a new economic stalemate. It is caught between the claws of Washington, which is pushing hard to keep the momentum of the conflict going on the one hand, and the Russian jaw and economic pressure on the other due to the rise in oil and gas prices as well as the high price of food supplies.

Britain: It is the nation that is most antagonistic toward Russia and biased toward Ukraine for a number of reasons, the most significant of which is the European Union's frailty as a result of Brexit and its lack of concern for the costs and repercussions of the war at a time when Britain is among the most benefited nations as a result of its decision to freeze more than \$100 billion US in Russian cash deposits in its country, in addition to the property of Russian businesspeople, officials, and their families being frozen, as well as in-kind deposits at palaces, Chelsea Club, and other venues.

America: It is trying to weaken Russia (the historical enemy) and flood it with sanctions and the Ukrainian quagmire at the expense of the state and people of Ukraine.

- China: It has moved away from the circle of American economic harassment because the latter is devoted to coordinating the situation and supporting Ukraine, and it is also the most beneficiary, as it has become one of the countries that buy Russian oil without going through US sanctions or monitoring at reasonable prices.

- Saudi Arabia: It does not respond to US pressures by raising oil production in order to reduce its price globally as long as US President Joe Biden still adheres to his position towards Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, which may change after the two men met at the regional security summit that held in Jeddah.

- Iran: Iran's position is settled towards Russia, but it was not able to benefit financially from the situation, and also could not proceed with signing the nuclear agreement, which includes lifting sanctions on Iranian oil and benefiting from its high prices globally. It has also not been able to remove the name of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard from the list of US sanctions. As one of the conditions of the nuclear agreement between Iran and the West.

Here, I cannot fail to evoke the position of the Kurdistan Regional Government, which offered the West to supply it with gas in order to compensate for the acute shortage of energy and fill the vacuum as an alternative to Russian gas, in a step that may expose them and Iraq to risks that are not calculated in the event of involvement with or against any international or regional party.