

Why We Fight:

Anarchists and the Struggle for Freedom in Ukraine and Russia

Now it has spilled out of Russia. The whole world has now seen what had been happening on the sly during “counter-terrorist operations,” in police departments, in secret prisons and the Federal Penitentiary Service’s unclassified institutions, and in the army, as well as on the streets and in home. The genocide in Bucha is undoubtedly a terrible tragedy and a huge grief for the victims and all decent people. But I hope that over time it will lead to society’s re-examining the policy of giving people uncontrolled power. Ridding the world of violence seems to be an almost unmanageable task, but I think that when Russia doesn’t have policemen who “Putin told to beat the holy fuck” out of someone, when it doesn’t have military men whose crimes will be “written off by the war,” when it doesn’t have security officers who “defend the motherland,” and when there is no support in society for patriarchy, racism, and xenophobia, there will be much less violence.

--- Ivan Astashin, "Violence Is the Norm"

Cover Photo: Russian Riot Police attack anti-war protesters in March 2022



Seven Years of Rising From Infantilism

Oleh Andros

2022-04-14

Let's talk about seven years.

Today I “celebrate” not quite a “round” date (seven is not a “round” number, ie. it is an odd number). In the beginning of March 2015, I set out on the months-long path from being entirely a pacifist Kyiv civilian to becoming an active “participant of the ATO (anti-terrorist operation).”

We, the drafted soldiers and officers, left our sheltered and comfortable lives in the Kyiv region behind and traveled first by train, then by bus to the “division line” in the Donetsk region.

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(After the active battles of the previous summer, in 2014 the front line between Russians and Ukrainians was established as a division line between Ukraine-controlled territories and pro-Russian separatists areas in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. This line appeared in April 2014, after Russian colonel Girkin-Strelkov ignited the Russo-Ukrainian war in the city of Slovyansk in the Donetsk region. Minsk treaties (first and second their variants) declared the status quo. The line (not an official border, Kyiv and Moscow didn't recognize the newly "established" so-called "people's republics of Donetsk and Luhansk") was "completed" in February 2015, after capturing of the Ukrainian city Debaltsevo by the Russian regular army and pro-Russian separatists. So from February 2015, until the full-scale Russian invasion on February 24, 2022, the division line was relatively stable, except capturing of small Donbas villages by Ukrainian forces and the battle in Avdiyivka in 2017).

There was a cold wind from the fields that day, and the same wind is blowing today.

Back then, we filled our magazines with the proverbial thirty rounds per "horn" (Soviet slang name for magazine), and today I have one of my supporters in this unsustainable world besides me again, the AK-74 rifle. Back then, I slept in a sleeping bag on a makeshift bed of empty boxes

of artillery shells... and tonight I will sleep in the same familiar position.

I would have a lot of helpful advice for myself eight years ago, when I first encountered political violence. I brought cobblestones to the rebels on Hrushevsky Street on January 19, 2014. And one month later I watched the news from Crimea unfolding in silent helplessness, feeling too weak and incapable to face the Russian invading forces.

More precisely, I was a prisoner of learned helplessness – I thought that Ukraine had enough armed forces to repel the Russian occupation of Crimea and then Donbas by force. But this was precisely the moment when we, Ukrainians, needed to give up our hopes that “the state would save us”. It turned out that the state and the armed forces are ourselves, not some abstract structures far away.

In 2014 I was not ready to face the cruel reality which meant that a newborn Russian dictatorship wants to destroy everything that I love, all the values that I appreciate, democracy, and freedom too.

(For the foreign reader, I am referring to the Hrushevskogo street riots which were part of the famous Euromaidan or Revolution of Dignity protests in 2013-2014. For us, it was a fight for democracy against the corrupted, pro-Russian, authoritarian regime of the

member the stories of some of my inmate friends about how their fathers had “raised” them. “My dad beat me with a stick.” “Mine whacked the fucking hell out of me with a hose.”

As for these last arguments, you might counter me by saying that they are criminals from difficult backgrounds. Perhaps. What about domestic violence? According to the Consortium of Women’s Non-Governmental Associations, at least five thousand women were killed as a result of domestic violence [in Russia] in 2018 alone.

Once in power (whether as conferred by epaulettes or as the “head of the family”) and believing in their impunity, many, many people in Russia become executioners, sadists, and rapists. And if this is also bolstered by xenophobic propaganda and strong alcohol, the monsters begin doing the unimaginable. Since the regime in Russia gives some people the authority to inflict whatever they want on those in their jurisdictions, and forces others to go along and not to rebel, violence becomes commonplace.

Now it has spilled out of Russia. The whole world has now seen what had been happening on the sly during “counter-terrorist operations,” in police departments, in secret prisons and the Federal Penitentiary Service’s unclassified institutions, and in the army, as well as on the streets and in home. [Bucha] is undoubtedly a terrible

In addition to war, there is also quite enough cruelty (sadism, I would even say) both in the army and outside it. By the way, it is quite logical that since Russian soldiers bully and actually torture their fellow soldiers, they would not have any moral barriers vis-a-vis the enemy and the “enemy” civilian population. The infamous story of Private Andrei Sychev, who was tortured by his mates on the occasion of the New Year, is an eloquent illustration of relations within the army.

As probably everyone knows now, there are whole torture “conveyor belts” in the Russian penitentiary system. In such places, prisoners are tortured with extreme cruelty. And, it seems, with a particular relish. They are tortured both by Federal Penitentiary Service employees and by other prisoners who have signed contracts with the wardens. They torture and rape prisoners, and sometimes they kill them. Moreover, this goes on in both adult and juvenile penitentiaries.

And the cops? They also enjoy torturing, beating, and, on occasion, raping detainees in police departments.

However, cruelty is found not only among the security forces. Due to the fact that I was reputed to be a “lawyer” in the penal colony, many prisoners brought their verdicts to me to “have a look.” I wish I hadn’t seen them. Out of greed, in a drunken stupor or out of fear, these seemingly utterly ordinary people had done terrible things. I also re-

Ukrainian leader, and Russian puppet Yanukovich. In response to anti-protest laws in Ukraine (announced on 16 January 2014 and enacted on 21 January 2014), a standoff between protesters and police began on 19 January 2014 that was precipitated by a series of riots in central Kyiv on Hrushevsky Street, outside Dynamo Stadium and adjacent to the ongoing Euromaidan protests.)

One year after that, in February 2015, I became a newly drafted soldier. It was not a voluntary decision, but rather compulsory, because I remained the same scared childish person as in 2014. But it was a necessary stage in preparation for my volunteer act now, in 2022. Now I see the bitter truth: nobody except us will defend us and my values.

Russian invasion showed me that it isn’t ok to just sit by passively and wish that the authoritarian dictatorship and bully would act civilly. That bullies only understand violence. And I didn’t ever want to feel helpless to defend my freedom and my way of life again. Like I felt hopeless in 2014 as an untrained civilian.

Seven years is a long enough time, both for the spiritual development of one person and for a radical change in the world. Babies born in 2014 are already in the first grade. People have amassed capital and started families. States had time to start and end wars.

What of significance was happening to us?

First: of course, the COVID-19 panic of 2020, which continues to this day (but has been all but forgotten about it in Ukraine), when checkpoints appeared for a rather far-fetched reason all over Ukraine, and barriers appeared all over “united” Europe. Regarding my pragmatic world-view and looking back now, the scale and need for lockdowns that destroyed the global economy seem exaggerated. I’m not a COVID skeptic, I trust evidence-based medicine and am vaccinated, having two doses of Pfizer. But I believe that some governments worldwide abused their position and took advantage of the virus to enforce more control over their people. And the COVID shock factor was used to the advantage of governments that have long been preparing for war, like Azerbaijan in 2020 and the Russian Federation in 2022. Any excuse would do, and some regimes saw COVID as good a cover story as any.

Second: the relative rise of the Ukrainian economy in 2016-2020. The well-to-do “we”, the conditional middle class, had enough money to support with their cash not only the lower rungs of the Maslow pyramid but also the music industry, up to festivals of thousands of audiences like “Atlas Weekend”. There was even a movement of “Burners” (Burning Man US festival fans) in Ukraine. And my social circle in Kyiv visited nightclubs in Podil (a dis-

who was the first to employ torture and execute the so-called enemy using elaborate methods. To refresh your memory of those events, I would remind you of several well-known cases. The bombing of Katyr-Yurt. The murder of six dozen civilians in Novy Aldy by the Petersburg riot police. The abduction, rape, and murder of the 18-year-old Chechen girl Elza Kungayeva by Colonel Yuri Budanov. In addition, human rights defenders, journalists, and the European Court of Human Rights have reliably verified a huge number of abductions and the cruelest tortures of Chechens by Russian forces.

I remember the first time I found out about these tortures at school. A classmate told me that his brother had “fought” in Chechnya and brought back a videotape showing the torture of local residents. I didn’t watch the tape: what my classmate told me sufficed. A few years later, in the ninth grade, I met a Chechen boy my age, who told me about similar tortures to which his relatives had been subjected. I was told the same thing about men who had been involved in the Chechen campaign whom I met in prison. Only Chechens themselves do not like talking about the torture and rapes; therefore, the information found in open sources details only a small portion of the crimes committed by the Russian security forces in Chechnya.

Violence Is the Norm

Ivan Astashin

2022

I'm not surprised by the violence. I am not surprised because I know about the violence that occurs in Russia every day. Senseless cruelty is seemingly the norm for some Russians. I don't have a ready answer to why this is the case. It's worth asking sociologists, anthropologists, and psychologists for an explanation.

Those of you who were born in the early 1990s or earlier probably know about the brutal executions, tortures, and rapes of the Chechen population by Russian soldiers. Some of you will say that the Chechen militants were cruel too. Yes, they were. But it is always worth remembering that it was the Russian troops who invaded Chechnya, and not vice versa. Another big question is

trict where the techno scene flourished, often compared with places like Berghain in Berlin). Entirely new to politics, young men and women even fought against the far-right and cops, who were scourging these clubs. (Police tried to control drug trafficking in the Kyiv techno scene, and far-right NGOs made self-promotion on "fight against drug dealers").

The Corona Crisis showed acutely how the middle class really needs to be culturally filled. I mean, the middle class felt a lack of music, any type of entertainment, etc. during lockdowns. So before the crisis of 2020, the Ukrainian middle class was ready enough to pay for the cultural needs, not only for the basic needs.

Taken together, it shows that Ukrainians during the "hybrid" Moscow invasion, unnoticed anywhere but Donbas, were thinking not about survival, but about the attributes of material prosperity, and cultural needs, too.

This comes strictly in contrast with Russian propaganda in 2014-2022, which claimed that Ukraine is a country drowning in poverty, corruption, nationalists lynching, suffering from "Nazi junta" etc. We were not "in poverty". Of course, a lot of Ukrainians couldn't find jobs in Ukraine and instead moved to the EU, especially Italy and Poland.

But in general, the Russian "hybrid", unofficial invasion since 2014 didn't lead to starvation and economic fall in

Ukraine, as Putin expected (maybe it was his “plan B” for this war, in case he did not win immediately).

Certainly, the darkness around Ukraine and the world was creeping in. The failed uprising against the Chinese dictatorship in Hong Kong, 2019. Syria in ruins, with Putin’s active assistance. Behind the ever-expanding Iron Curtain, in Belarus, Luka (this is how Belorussian opposition calls Lukashenko) suppressed an uprising against himself. More precisely, the 2020 protests in Belarus were similar to the Orange Revolution 2004, the pacifist way of protest, which did not work against the KGB, whose workers literally set prisoners on the bottles. (This is a type of torture used in Post-Soviet prisons when a prisoner is raped by a bottle or police baton etc.).

Orange revolution 2004 in Ukraine and Belorussian failed revolution 2020 were totally pacifist and hippie-style. This doesn’t work against dictatorship. Rebels have to use violence against violence (unfortunately for non-violent activists and philosophers).

Lukashenko’s victory over the opposition in 2020 led directly to enslavement of Belarus by Putin’s dictatorship, and, finally, to the 2022 war: Luka gave Belorussian territory for the free use of Russian invaders.

Exactly one year ago Putin suppressed the rather timid protests in support of Navalny in a few cities of Russia. Back then I worked as a news journalist, and I

rect action to protect themselves, their values, and their communities like Ukraine has. They hate countries for no reason, they support ones whom they have never met and know vanishingly little about. It’s easy, safe, and pleasant to tackle imaginary fascism in Germany or express support for Palestinian militants. However, waging war against actual fascism is perilous (though also delightful at times). Antifascists all over the world should revise their distorted beliefs. Otherwise, they risk missing out on a crucial juncture of history.

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in the Russian state today. The only people resisting fascism in the 21st century are the Ukrainians — both ideologically and practically, armed either with guns or our national flag. We are fighting fascism in terms of the global order, because we are protecting democracy and human rights. We are fighting fascism ideologically, as we stand for peace and mutual respect among peoples. We are fighting fascism in the name of being, since we believe that love defines life, not domination and hate.

Without exaggeration, Ukraine today is an antifascist nation. We are standing on the front lines of a worldwide struggle against totalitarian darkness and rage. Volunteers from all over the world come to Ukraine to help us exterminate the fascist beast. There is no denying that our Azov regiment was put on the map by right-wing rabble-rousers, but it has now shifted its attitudes and taken a stand against fascism conceptually, and practically. There is no chance you can find antifascists like us anywhere else in the whole world. No one has embodied antifascism as Ukraine has. There is no other country that has managed to incarnate antifascism without any ideological bias, aside from the protection of freedom and humanism.

Many of the world's antifascists are merely LARPer. Occasionally, they break into a scuffle with the others like themselves, but from the other party. Few have taken di-

could hardly believe my eyes when I read that the Russian Foreign Ministry's invectives against the West were written in 2021, and not at the height of the Cold War. Even then, in April 2021, we experienced another chill of suspicion when the "bunker grandfather" (a nickname for Putin coined by Navalny) stationed troops around Ukraine under the guise of exercises.

All together, both Lukashenko's brutality and the violence of Putin, who went completely insane in quarantine, were forming a noose, tightening and ready to choke Ukraine. But when Putin tried to kick the chair from underneath he didn't account for the will of the Ukrainian people. We are holding it in place and will not let Ukraine hang. We are still holding on, keeping Ukraine from falling.

And when it comes to my personal development over the past seven years, I gradually rose from infantilism to an awareness of myself, my needs, and my level of responsibility to the future of Ukraine.

I am more prepared for the war of 2022 than my frightened self was in 2014-2015. Eight years ago, I was chasing away the idea that the unfolding war was about me. Now it is absolutely clear that it's about me. It is about freedom, respect and democracy for me and for future generations of Ukrainians.

My fellow service members in the army are also similarly affected. We are all from entirely different walks

of life, from IT specialists to sommeliers, plumbers, and tractor drivers. Some of us are IT “teamleads” with \$3k salaries (an unbelievable amount for ordinary Ukraine citizens), and some of us have nine years of education and can’t code to earn such money. But what we all have in common is living on the edge and doing what needs to be done. We are not victims, but we are standing up to this bully, Putin. We possess the place that we need to, and we certainly have nowhere to retreat. It is not Donbas around us, as unfamiliar as it was to us Kyiv dwellers back in 2014, but... we look around us and fight to protect the places where we worked, rested, and loved.

There are “hardships of the life of a serviceman” mentioned in the Charter of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In the Soviet times, nobody understood for what ideological reason servicemen had to face dangers in Afghanistan and other countries. (The same feelings had US soldiers in Vietnam – their war was aggressive and unfair). But in the ongoing war, the dangers of war for Ukrainians turn out to be not hardships but just a part of ordinary life.

I no longer wish to write satire about the people around me in the style of Jaroslav Hašek, which I did when I observed the tragicomic situations at the brigade headquarters in Volnovakha city in 2015. There is no more tragicomedy, and there are no more understatements, doubts

protests; independent reporting on, and protests against the war, are criminalized with penalties of up to 15 years in prison.

Incitement of anti-Ukrainian hatred: Russian state media and authorities disseminate conspiracy allegations that Kyiv is developing a biological weapon of a selective ethnic anti-Russian nature; they depict the Ukrainians as enemies of humanity, and conversely, accuse NATO of the same. Russian propaganda turned out to be inspired by the Third Reich: the speech Putin gave on the eve of the offensive is a clear paraphrase of Goebbels’ pre-war oration.

The vulgarization of Russian patriotism: Russian “patriotism” is reduced to the letter “Z”, this primitive symbol of military aggression. Since the beginning of the invasion, it has evolved from a simple mark for armored vehicles, into a contemporary swastika.

As it follows from these salient facts, notably the worship of this concept of national supremacy, scathing intolerance to any kind of dissent, hate speech in state media, and war crimes, Russia can be safely declared to be a fascist state. We are witnessing one more “killing joke”: the ideology of the USSR, for decades, was defined by its opposition to fascism, while Russia had turned into a fascist regime. This is not an ironic remark: any scientific definition of fascism accurately describes what is happening

ous about implementing relatively left-wing policy. The ruling Servant of the People party has many specific post-Soviet shortcomings, but it seems cautious during decision-making, and responsive to public feedback. Certainly, there are solid grounds for criticism, but obviously, it will not move towards authoritarianism, despite holding a mono-majority, and its leader, President Zelensky, is a living testament to that.

Violation of the laws and customs of war, and conduct of war crimes: Russia had invaded Ukraine without any legitimate reason, it is occupying our towns, conducting massed shelling and rocket attacks against residential areas, commencing airstrikes on hospitals and shelters; attacking humanitarian corridors. The Russian military commits robberies, plunders civilian residences, and conducts other violent crimes against civilians and their property, including widespread rape. Russian troops are responsible for the forcible abduction of thousands of Ukrainians to the Russian Federation; as well as for numerous cases of kidnapping and torturing of mayors and councilors in small Ukrainian towns.

Suppression of dissent in the Russian Federation: independent media in Russia have ceased their activities; Russian censorship rules stipulate that the war must be called a “special operation”, it is forbidden to use the word “war” itself; there is a brutal crackdown on any anti-war

about the legitimacy of the drafting, and two-faced stories in the Russian propaganda style of “not everything is so unambiguous.” There is no more hypocritical “ATO” instead of war.

(For foreign readers: a massive problem of recognizing war by Ukrainian society was the official naming of the Russo-Ukrainian war. From 2014 to 2018, it was called “ATO”. From April 30, 2018, until February 24, 2022, it was called “Joint Forces Operation”. Ukrainian officials seemed very hypocritical doing this naming, maybe for some diplomatic and international law reasons. Anyway, thousands of people died and were injured not because of “total war” in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, but because of some unclear phenomenon called “ATO”. This is why feelings of mistrust of Ukrainian officials were widespread in society – until the beginning of total war in 2022).

There are no more orders not to return fire to the enemy (typical order for the Ukrainian army after the first and second Minsk treaties in 2014-2022). There is no surrender of Crimea to the Russian “little green men” (March 2014) and Sloviansk to incomprehensible “intruders” (April 2014). The enemy is no longer “hybrid” and no longer “ih-tam-net” (a quote from Putin’s speech in 2014, which means “there is no Russian army in Ukraine”). There is no more pretending, this is all-out war. No one is pretending it is anything else. The masks

have been removed in February 24, 2022 – now only will against will and weapons against weapons remain.

I have the privilege of knowing several fine people in the Russian Federation. They are a ray of light in the darkest realm of totalitarianism. They are now writing desperately from there, from the center of evil. They write me messages and make anonymous blogs. Because any voice against Putin and war in Russia became a punishable crime, and free speech in blogs too.

We, Ukrainians, and a few non-zombified Russians who took to the streets are alive, vital.

We are the very roots of Polissya, the Wild Steppe, and Slobozhanshchyna (historical regions of Ukraine, well-known because of Cossacks, guerillas, Anarchists, and rebel movements). We are sprouting through the flames, through the asphalt and concrete.

We are the living versus the lifeless (non-living).

The zombified, intimidated, or indifferent population of Russia is the embodiment of the dead.

I know of only a few people in the Russian Federation who are still “living beings”, and not yet dead.

We are now at the center of the Hollywood narrative of the war of good versus evil (and universal, inherent in all fairy tales). Only intense emotions. Only hatred, outrage, and anger. Only life on the edge as we hide in the dugout from the firing of self-propelled artillery and Grads rocket

erless action. Putin failed to persuade the global community that democratic and thriving under the toughest conditions Ukraine is actually miserable and unworthy of international support.

Russian state media relied on trumpeting the narrative of fascists among the Ukrainian military and volunteer units, but managed to convince only a marginal section of Western leftists. Such arguments as a “coup d’etat” in Ukraine, or the “Kyiv Nazi junta” had been completely disavowed during the past eight years of war. Moreover, thousands of Europeans and Americans had visited Ukraine and made up their mind according to their own experience — and their conclusions did not line up with the Kremlin’s line

The fact that Ukraine is far from fascism can be easily substantiated by our public life, inter alia, free elections, rotation in power, freedom to protest, etc. A mass of research in recent years has revealed that Ukrainians disapprove of hate crimes, even against marginalized groups. Furthermore, prevalent attitudes regarding social and economic issues tend toward the left side of the political spectrum.

Right-wing radical parties are not represented in the Ukrainian Parliament, as they fail the electoral threshold, while the popular liberal party Holos, or voice, leads its own parliamentary faction and is remarkably vocifer-

reason for Ukraine's constant and fierce resistance to the full Russian military invasion of 2022 are provocations conducted by Neo-Nazis.

The new round of the devastating war over the last month exposed how blunt and corrupted the Russian regime is: they had not worked off actual intelligence regarding Ukrainian moods and capabilities, but relied on Russian state TV propaganda. As a result, the Russian army started their offensive without adequate preparation, supply, and even realistic operational objectives. This fish rots from the head down, and said head believed that the Ukrainian army would not resist, and that Ukrainian citizens will give Russian soldiers a warm welcome. Well, the Ukrainians did indeed welcome them with palyanytsya (a traditional Ukrainian bread and symbol of hospitality), but in a completely different way. Russians can't really pronounce this Ukrainian word correctly, so it became a quick and precise background check when identifying subversive Russian reconnaissance groups, and a popular joke and meme.

Nevertheless, this vast narrative was wrecked, much like a ship led by a self-aggrandizing and incapable captain. His crew was reluctant to deliver bad news to him, and didn't report on the oncoming blizzard and the rocks in the distance. And just like that, the Russian assault on February 24 turned out to be an impudent and pow-

launchers. And each time, this feels like a new birth, as you realize that you risk not writing the next lines of your article after another shelling.

Of course, according to the laws of the psyche, you cannot live for months with these emotions only. As in any fairy tale, the narrative within which we find ourselves is dramatized with valleys and peaks of tension.

But let us remember our present feelings. Not all generations are privileged to be actors in a poignant play.

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Fascism Reborn

We must slay it

Dmitry Mrachnik

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Fascism reborn. Humanity thought that they destroyed it 77 years ago, but it survived and remained hidden. Fascism manifested itself in racism in Europe and USA; in Soviet totalitarianism where it destroyed any independent opinion; in the silent, hidden genocides of nations that were carried out on the whim of leaders in every corner of the world; in the cultivation of national chauvanism and the idea that belonging to a certain identities can wash away all sins; in aggressive ignorance reinforced by cannibalistic state propaganda; in doublethink, cowardice to speak the truth openly, and in a passionate desire to lie and reap the bloody fruits of lies.

An Antifascist Nation

The dramatic change of narrative in the
Russian-Ukrainian war

Dmitry Mrachnik

The undeclared war against Ukraine has been ongoing for the past eight years. During this time, Kremlin propagandists have been relentlessly forging an extensive narrative: Russia, being an international peacekeeper and the “progenitor of communism”, is fighting Ukrainian “Nazism,” and considers the Ukrainian revolution of 2014 to be a fascist coup resulting in a Nazi junta. Ukrainian volunteers in Donbas are **Banderites** (followers of Stepan Bandera, a Ukrainian nationalist movement leader in the 1940s), while Volodymyr Zelensky (being Jewish) is just a toy in the hands of radical nationalists. Thus, according to Vladimir Putin, the only

can the bright ideals of human progress finally become universal and make the world a better place. If cowardice, indifference and doublethink prevail, then the world will lose its chance to become better and more just. It's time for the rest of the world to come to its senses and slay the beast before it carves the letter Z across the whole planet.

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Fascism reborn in Russia. This opinion may seem absurd, and many would prefer to think that the manifestations of Russian fascism is just an outlier, a short-term consequence of propaganda, or simply an accidental concentration of lies and cruelty. But this is also how people thought in the 1930s, when the world saw fascism at its best for the first time. No one wanted to believe that Adolf Hitler and his National Socialist Party were anything more than a temporary misunderstanding, unable to survive in the then enlightened world that had seen the horrors of the Great War. But these excuses only helped the fascist monster drink blood and keep biting the limbs off innocent people. The fatal mistakes that allowed the disgusting, swastika-covered eagle to spread its wings above Europe are being repeated again. Fascism does not need this unanimous consent of graduate students of political regimes – it is enough for it to concentrate evil with impunity, while the rest of the world brushes it aside and does not want to believe what they are seeing.

Now a disgusting double-headed eagle with an innocuous Latin letter Z on its chest spreads its wings over Ukraine. Russia has already become a totalitarian state. It closed itself off from the rest of the world and found a convenient target. Moscow's propagandists, just like their German predecessors, are declaring total war on common sense and rabid anti-Semitism, replacing Jews

with Ukrainians. Regardless of language and origins, for Russia Ukrainians are always clueless and at the same time evil and sneaky culprits behind Russia's misfortunes. They hide behind every door, they develop viruses in evil labs and crucify Orthodox children. Not by themselves of course, but only after the approval from the globalist capitalists backstage, which for common Russians is represented by NATO, an insignificantly weak and indecisive defense union that is scared to put dictators in their place, but at the same time evil and treacherous, ready to destroy Russia simply out of hate for its successes.

Yet the 21st century has been much more fortunate than the 20th: Ukraine wasn't conquered like Austria, or Czechoslovakia, or a second Polish Republic. We kicked Russian fascists in their teeth and bathed them in blood. The values of the progressive world are being protected at a cost of thousands lives of our citizens who have been shot, raped and simply killed for refusing to wear slave collar with the Z letter on it. Ukrainians are being killed for refusing to live in the cruel anti-intellectual "Russian world", where the freedom of opinion and freedom of speech are absent unless it's supervised by the FSB. We did not live up to the expectations of the newest Fuhrer Vladimir Putin, who wanted to commit the Anschluss, then continue with the occupation, followed by the cleansing of

all dissenters and finally the destruction of Ukraine as a phenomenon. We are giving a worthy push back to the Russian fascists yet their leader doesn't think to stop, because he still lives in self-isolation from any information other than that which is pleasing to him personally. He doesn't care about thousands of dead Z-soldiers, as he yearns for total domination. If he manages to devour Ukraine today, tomorrow he will switch to Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The day after that he will devour the rest of the world.

The world must open its eyes and see the truth: while it was cynically repeating "Never Again" fascist came back to power. Citizens of the world need to express solidarity and defeat this monster, or it will destroy everyone – slowly, one by one. If Ukraine is gone, the progressive part of the world will lose its power and will be dispersed. After that, Putin's clones will start to appear in all the capitals of the world and the spring of 2022 will look like a cakewalk. Today, Ukrainians were dealt the role of the main antifascists of humanity and unless the rest of the world joins us in this fight, the dawn will never come again. The world will lose all of its accomplishments, which might be seen as unimportant: freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of self-determination. Humanity must gather its strength and hit the Kremlin. Only then