Negative: Ukraine Inspector General

By “Coach Vance” Trefethen

Case Summary: The AFF plan reforms oversight of US aid to Ukraine by appointing a Special Inspector General similar to the one appointed for aid we gave to Afghanistan during the war in that country (Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction or SIGAR, as you may hear in the round). An "Inspector General" is someone who works for the government but is outside the chain of command for the agency they are inspecting. They audit, review, inspect, and critique the operations of the agency under their oversight and make recommendations for reform. They are supposed to detect waste, fraud, poor performance, etc. and write reports about it. They have NO POWER to actually do the reforms. Either Congress or the agency being inspected has to take the initiative to act on the recommendations in an IG report.

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Negative: Ukraine Inspector General

TOPICALITY

1. "Investigation" versus "Reform"

OIG ("Office of Inspector General") doesn't reform anything. They investigate and recommend reforms

US Dept of Commerce, Office of the Inspector General, undated webpage. "FAQs About OIG Investigations" (accessed 22 Nov 2022) https://www.oig.doc.gov/Pages/FAQs-About-OIG-Investigations.aspx

Generally, when an investigation is complete, OIG will produce a report based upon relevant witness interviews, records, and other evidence. The report will be reviewed within OIG to ensure that it is fact-based, objective, and clear. It will then be provided to appropriate individuals, including management, accompanied by recommendations as warranted, so that they may consider any appropriate corrective actions based on the results of OIG's investigation.

Violation: No reforms being debated in the round

The resolution requires that we debate something being significantly reformed, but after the plan is enacted, nothing will be reformed. We will instead have someone writing reports about what could be reformed. Since we don't know yet what that is, the resolution cannot be affirmed until the report is finished and we know whether significant reforms are justified, and what they are.

Impact: Resolution not upheld means Negative ballot

The Affirmative team has made a case for investigation but not for reform. They've failed to affirm the resolution as written and instead affirmed something else that was easier for them to affirm. Since no one is affirming the actual resolution we came to debate, there is no genuine Affirmative team in the round. No matter who wins, you should vote Negative.

Double bind: Problems either unknown or unsolved

If the Affirmative has enough evidence to prove there are problems with US aid to Ukraine in the Status Quo, but doesn't present a plan to reform and fix them, then their plan fails on Solvency. If the Affirmative doesn't have enough evidence to prove the problems exist, but wants to investigate further, then they don't have a case for Affirming the resolution, but are advocating instead for the "Status Quo plus more study." The Affirmative team loses this round either way because the harms of their case are either unknown or unsolved.

INHERENCY

1. The US AID Inspector General

The US Agency For International Development (USAID) I.G. already exists and has already written reports

Acting Deputy Inspector General Nicole Angarella 2022 (Acting Deputy I.G. of the US Agency for International Development) "Ukraine Oversight" (accessed 22 Nov 2022) https://oig.usaid.gov/our-work/ukraine-oversight

USAID OIG is committed to ensuring comprehensive, independent oversight of USAID’s support of Ukraine and its people in response to Russia’s invasion. Our oversight work, through Audits and Investigations, will identify key areas where USAID programming is at risk or can be improved while holding those who corrupt or abuse these critical programs accountable.   
**Identifying Key Risks Affecting Ukraine Assistance**We provided an [Advisory Notice](https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Ukraine%20Advisory%20-%207_22_2022_0_0.pdf) to USAID which highlights key lessons from prior oversight work that are relevant to USAID’s developing response in Ukraine. Accompanying the notice is a [Fraud Schemes Alert](https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Ukraine%20Fraud%20Awareness%20Alert%207.22.22.pdf) (also available in [Ukrainian](https://oig.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/Ukraine%20Fraud%20Awareness%20Alert%207.22.22%20-%20Ukrainian_0.pdf)) which identifies red flags for potential fraud schemes that could compromise USAID's Ukraine response, and identifies mitigation steps that help detect and prevent these schemes.

2. The Dept. of Defense Inspector General

The US Dept of Defense also has an Inspector General for Ukraine aid, and he's busy writing reports too

US Dept of Defense 2022. "Oversight Update: Ukraine Assistance - DoD Office of Inspector General Oversight" Nov 2022 (accessed 22 Nov 2022) https://media.defense.gov/2022/Nov/17/2003116556/-1/-1/1/OVERSIGHT%20UPDATE\_NOVEMBER%202022.PDF

The Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DoD OIG) continues to prioritize efforts to plan and execute timely and relevant oversight of the DoD’s support to Ukraine. Through visits to the region led by Acting DoD Inspector General (IG) Sean O’Donnell and other senior leaders, the DoD OIG engages with stakeholders directly involved in the DoD’s support to Ukraine. These interactions help the DoD OIG identify areas of highest risk and develop targeted oversight.  
**[END QUOTE. THEY GO ON LATER IN THE ARTICLE WRITING QUOTE:]**In addition to planning oversight work, the DoD OIG continues work on eight ongoing projects and recently issued an evaluation of the DoD’s planning and accountability of equipment and support provided to Ukraine. This evaluation determined the extent to which the DoD developed plans to provide and account for security assistance and intelligence support authorized by the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act to the government of Ukraine.

3. The US State Department

If all that's not enough, the US State Dept. has an Inspector General for Ukraine as well

US State Department, Office of Inspector General 2022. (article is undated but contextually had to have been written in 2022) " Ukraine Response Oversight" accessed 24 Nov 2022 https://www.stateoig.gov/ukraine-response-oversight

The Ukraine related activities of the Department of State (Department) and the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) are a top oversight priority for the Office of Inspector General (OIG). The complexity, scale, and timing of efforts in response to the situation in Ukraine demand robust oversight. We are leveraging our extensive knowledge of the programs and operations of the Department and USAGM to develop a plan that provides timely and critical information for Congress and the U.S. taxpayer.

Details on what the State Dept. I.G. is covering

US State Department, Office of Inspector General 2022. (article is undated but contextually had to have been written in 2022) " Ukraine Response Oversight" accessed 24 Nov 2022 https://www.stateoig.gov/ukraine-response-oversight

At OIG, we are deploying our resources, including recent supplemental funding, to target fraud, waste, and abuse in three high-risk areas:

-Security assistance

-Humanitarian and economic assistance

-Diplomatic operations and programs

4. No gaps - they're all working together

All the I.G.s are cooperating nicely and have everything covered

US State Department, Office of Inspector General 2022. (article is undated but contextually had to have been written in 2022) " Ukraine Response Oversight" accessed 24 Nov 2022 https://www.stateoig.gov/ukraine-response-oversight

Multiple federal agencies are responding to the crisis and OIG is coordinating with offices across the inspector general community, including inspector general offices at the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). A variety of working groups, comprised of auditors, inspectors, and investigators, are meeting on a regular basis to collaborate and achieve results.

5. Dollars are being audited

All 3 of the I.G.s (USAID, State Dept. and Defense Dept.) are inspecting the billions of dollars in aid to Ukraine

US Dept of Defense 2022. "Oversight Update: Ukraine Assistance - DoD Office of Inspector General Oversight" Nov 2022 (accessed 22 Nov 2022) https://media.defense.gov/2022/Nov/17/2003116556/-1/-1/1/OVERSIGHT%20UPDATE\_NOVEMBER%202022.PDF

The DoD OIG and the OIGs of the Department of State (State) and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have made oversight of the many billions of dollars provided to Ukraine a top priority. Accordingly, we are leveraging the oversight models our offices employed to jointly oversee eight overseas contingency operations to ensure coordinated oversight of our individual agencies’ response efforts and enhanced collaboration across the oversight community. Acting IG O’Donnell and the heads of the State and USAID OIGs, Diana Shaw and Nicole Angarella, formally announced their oversight partnership with a joint statement issued on November 1, 2022.

6. Military equipment is being audited

Defense Dept. I.G. is auditing the military equipment being supplied to Ukraine

US Dept of Defense 2022. "Oversight Update: Ukraine Assistance - DoD Office of Inspector General Oversight" Nov 2022 (accessed 22 Nov 2022) https://media.defense.gov/2022/Nov/17/2003116556/-1/-1/1/OVERSIGHT%20UPDATE\_NOVEMBER%202022.PDF

In recent weeks, the DoD OIG announced two new projects related to Ukraine, including an evaluation of security controls for defense items provided to Ukraine within the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) area of responsibility. This month, Deputy IG for Evaluations Michael Roark and a team of evaluators visited Poland to observe DoD operations to transfer equipment to Ukraine. Their evaluation will determine the extent to which the DoD complied with Defense Transportation Regulations and DoD instructions when conducting these operations. The DoD OIG also announced an audit of the DoD’s training of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The audit will include multiple training sites within the USEUCOM area of responsibility and will determine the extent to which the DoD is training the Ukrainian Armed Forces to operate and maintain U.S.-provided defense articles. Auditors recently traveled to Germany to meet with Army officials and a Ukrainian military officer to understand the scope of the training the Army is providing to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. In addition to planning oversight work, the DoD OIG continues work on eight ongoing projects and recently issued an evaluation of the DoD’s planning and accountability of equipment and support provided to Ukraine.

US military personnel are in Ukraine now monitoring weapons and equipment, and Ukraine is cooperating

NBC News 2022 (journalists Courney Kube and Phil McCausland) 31 Oct 2022 "U.S. military inspectors in Ukraine to keep further track of weapons and equipment" (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/us-military-inspectors-ukraine-keep-track-weapons-equipment-rcna54891

American military personnel are now in Ukraine to help keep track of the [billions of dollars’ worth of](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/biden-lost-temper-zelenskyy-phone-call-ukraine-aid-rcna54592) weapons and equipment the United States has sent since[the start of the Russian invasion](https://www.nbcnews.com/world/russia-ukraine-news), a senior U.S. defense official and senior U.S. military official said.  Led by Brig. Gen. Garrick Harmon, the U.S. defense attaché to Ukraine, the inspections have already begun with the help of the Office of Defense Cooperation personnel who have returned to the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, the officials said. The U.S. had conducted similar checks on aid prior to the war, but they stopped for months after Russia invaded on Feb. 24. “There have been several of these inspections,” according to the senior defense official, who declined to give details on the locations of the on-site inspections. The Ukrainians have been “very transparent” and are supporting the inspections, the official added.

7. Status Quo solves

Existing oversight and accountability is working and adequate in Status Quo

CNN 2022. (journalists K [ylie Atwood](https://www.cnn.com/profiles/kylie-atwood), [Jeremy Herb](https://www.cnn.com/profiles/jeremy-herb), [Katie Bo Lillis](https://www.cnn.com/profiles/katie-bo-williams) and [Melanie Zanona](https://www.cnn.com/profiles/melanie-zanona)) 26 Oct 2022 Inside the House GOP effort to keep weapons flowing to Ukraine (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/26/politics/kevin-mccarthy-house-gop-ukraine-funding-blank-check

Estonian Defense Minister Hanno Pevkur argued there already is clear accountability when it comes to weapons getting onto the battlefield. “I understand their position to have more accountability. I also have information from (Joint Chiefs Chairman) Gen. (Mark) Milley, who said to me that there is more of an accountability as ever, regarding the help sent to Ukraine, because they even have a barcode system to track basically each shipment which was sent to Ukraine,” he said. “I believe this is exactly what also Republicans want to hear that yes, there is accountability.”

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. Ukraine aid is tiny

**It may sound like a lot, but when we do the math, it turns out to be trivial. We'll see this in 3 sub-points:**

A. US aid to Ukraine is $310 million per day

Mark Cancian 2022 (Senior Adviser, International Security Program, Center for Strategic & International Studies) 17 June 2022 "Aid to Ukraine Requires Increased Oversight"' (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.csis.org/analysis/aid-ukraine-requires-increased-oversight

Unlike earlier packages, the [most recent aid package provides large resources directly to the Ukrainian government:](https://www.csis.org/analysis/what-does-40-billion-aid-ukraine-buy) $8.8 billion of economic support, $4 billion to purchase weapons, and potentially several billion dollars more in training, law enforcement, and humanitarian assistance funds. Further, the rate at which the United States provides military and humanitarian aid has increased from $150 million a day early on to $310 million per day in the latest aid package. Only part of this goes directly to the Ukrainian government; most aid flows through other institutions, particularly the Department of Defense. Nevertheless, Ukraine is by far the largest recipient of U.S. military and economic aid.

B. Federal government spends $6.3 trillion per year

Congressional Budget Office 2022 "Monthly Budget Review: September 2022" (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58493/html#total-outlays-down-by-8-percent-in-fiscal-year-2022

Outlays in fiscal year 2022 were $6.3 trillion—$548 billion (or 8 percent) less than in the previous year, CBO estimates. If not for the shift of certain payments from October 2022 (the first month of fiscal year 2023) to September 2022, outlays this year would have been less, and the decrease from fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2022 would have been $611 billion, or 9 percent.

C. Do the math. It's 1.8% of what the federal government spends every day of the year

$6.3 trillion divided by 365 days = $17.26 billion per day. The $310 million per day we're giving to Ukraine equals about 1.8% of the $17 billion Congress spends every day.

2. No diversion of Ukraine weapons

No Ukraine weapons being diverted. And Pentagon and State Dept. are taking efforts to prevent

NBC News 2022 (journalists Courney Kube and Phil McCausland) 31 Oct 2022 "U.S. military inspectors in Ukraine to keep further track of weapons and equipment" (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/us-military-inspectors-ukraine-keep-track-weapons-equipment-rcna54891

The U.S. has not seen any evidence of weapons being diverted to a black market or used for anything other than their original purpose, the defense official said, but the Pentagon and State Department remain aware of those risks and are taking efforts to prevent it. “Thus far, intense internal demand for use on the battlefield by Ukrainian military and security forces within Ukraine is assessed to be impeding black-market proliferation of small arms and guided infantry weapons,” the State Department document states.

Security measures are being put in place to prevent diversion, but it isn't really a problem: Accounts of diversion are internet rumors and Russian propaganda, not real news

NEWSWEEK 2022 (journalist Yevgeny Kuklychev) 18 July 2022 "Misleading Posts Peddle Russia's Ukraine Weapons 'Smuggling' Propaganda" (accessed 14 Nov 2022) https://www.newsweek.com/misleading-posts-russia-ukraine-weapons-smuggling-propaganda-newsweek-fact-check-1725107

But the article explicitly focuses on this as a potential issue for the West, stressing the fact that EU officials and watchdogs, in coordination with Ukrainian military and government, are developing a set of measures to prevent or minimize weapons smuggling, while ensuring that the equipment delivered to Ukraine is carefully tracked and monitored. "The Information that Ukraine is becoming a major hub for arms smuggling does not correspond to reality," the article concludes, quoting Yuriy Sak, an adviser to Ukraine's defense minister, who suggests that claims to the contrary "could be part of Russia's information war to discourage international partners from providing Ukraine with weaponry that is necessary for our victory." EU officials have since [dismissed](https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-polytics/3528705-peter-stano-eu-lead-spokesperson-for-foreign-affairs-and-security-policy.html) the concerns about the security of weapons that the West provides to Ukraine. Nevertheless, dozens of accounts went on to share either the link (with original misleading headline) or screenshots of the publication, accompanying it with misleading comments that posit the hypothetical as a fact.

The only diversion thus far is weapons captured by Russia from Ukraine during combat

**[…and that's not Ukraine's fault nor is it corruption, and wouldn't be solved by audits or inspections. It's a normal effect of war - equipment gets left behind or captured as battles take place.]**

US State Department, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs 2022. "U.S. Plan to Counter Advanced Illicit Diversion of Certain Conventional Weapons in Eastern Europe" 27 Oct 2022 (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.state.gov/u-s-plan-to-counter-illicit-diversion-of-certain-advanced-conventional-weapons-in-eastern-europe/

Thus far, intense internal demand for use on the battlefield by Ukrainian military and security forces within Ukraine is assessed to be impeding black-market proliferation of small arms and guided infantry weapons such as MANPADS and ATGMs from Ukraine.  Pro-Russian forces’ capture of Ukrainian weapons – including donated materiel – has been the main vector of diversion so far and could result in onward transfers.  Russia probably will also use these weapons to develop countermeasures, propaganda, or to conduct false-flag operations.

Source Indictment: Col. John Mills. Makes claims about election fraud that election officials of his own party deny

Travis Waldron 2021. (journalist) HUFFINGTON POST 1 Nov 2021 " Glenn Youngkin’s Right-Wing Allies Are Ready To Claim Virginia’s Election Was Stolen" https://www.huffpost.com/entry/glenn-youngkin-donald-trump-amanda-chase-election-fraud\_n\_617ecfa1e4b03072d7059adf

Retired Col. John Mills, a former Trump administration official, suggested during one appearance that Democrats and election officials are working in concert to commit absentee ballot fraud in the county. “Fairfax is the Fulton County, Georgia, of Virginia,” Mills said on the Oct. 27 show, referring to the largest county in Georgia that was key to President Joe Biden’s 2020 victory in the state. Republicans have baselessly asserted that widespread mail-in ballot fraud occurred there in 2020, and have used those claims to justify a partisan [attempt to take over](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/georgia-voting-rights-democracy-jim-crow_n_6143cc4be4b08f5f38aeb8fb) the Fulton County election board. No such fraud actually took place in Fulton County or anywhere else in Georgia, a fact election reviews, hand recounts and the state’s Republican governor and secretary state have repeatedly confirmed. The basis for Fredericks’ and Mills’ claims, meanwhile, is a lawsuit that claims Fairfax County elections officials improperly accepted absentee ballots during the early voting period. A judge [dismissed the suit](https://wtop.com/fairfax-county/2021/10/judge-dismisses-lawsuit-claiming-fairfax-county-broke-absentee-ballot-rules/) on Friday.

SOLVENCY

1. Plan failed in Afghanistan

Link: Afghanistan had a Special Inspector General that identified corruption

Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) 2016. CORRUPTION IN CONFLICT: LESSONS FROM THE U.S. EXPERIENCE IN AFGHANISTAN, Sept 2016 (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.sigar.mil/pdf/lessonslearned/SIGAR-16-58-LL-Executive-Summary.pdf

Our analysis reveals that corruption substantially undermined the U.S. mission in Afghanistan from the very beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom. We found that corruption cut across all aspects of the reconstruction effort, jeopardizing progress made in security, rule of law, governance, and economic growth. We conclude that failure to effectively address the problem means U.S. reconstruction programs, at best, will continue to be subverted by systemic corruption and, at worst, will fail.

Failure: Afghanistan failed because of corruption

CNBC 2021. (journalist Christina Wilkie) 5 Nov 2021 "‘9/11 millionaires’ and mass corruption: How American money helped break Afghanistan" (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.cnbc.com/2021/09/10/9/11-millionaires-and-corruption-how-us-money-helped-break-afghanistan.html

Over time, U.S. government contracts became the fuel for a system of mass corruption that engulfed the country and, eventually, doomed its fragile democracy.  “The ultimate point of failure for our efforts, you know, wasn’t an insurgency,” said Ryan Crocker, a two-time U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan[in 2016](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/afghanistan-papers/documents-database/?document=crocker_ryan_ll_first_interview_01112016). “It was the weight of endemic corruption.”

Impact on the Round: AFF offers no solution

Affirmative simply says, let's do again what we did in Afghanistan. And that means we set up a Special Inspector General who issues reports on corruption that produce no results. If the Affirmative believes corruption is a major problem in Ukraine, they need to identify it and propose a plan to fix it, not simply a process that has already been tried and failed.

2. Can't do much more - They're trying to fight a war!

Can't expect much more transparency, because Ukraine is trying to fight a war, for heaven's sake!

Courtney Buble and Patrick Tucker 2022 (journalists) GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE 12 July 2022 " Defense Department Record-Keeping Practices Are Hurting Oversight of Ukraine Aid, Inspector General Warns" (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.govexec.com/oversight/2022/07/defense-department-record-keeping-practices-hurting-oversight-ukraine-aid-inspector-general-warns/374146/

Prior to the publication of the alert, Marine Corps Lt. Col. Anton Semelroth, Defense spokesman, told *Government Executive* that, “we remain committed to providing transparency to the public and to Congress about how security assistance funds are utilized. Defense articles provided are subject to standard end-use monitoring requirements, for which the Government of Ukraine has provided assurances that it will ensure physical protection and accountability.  “Ukrainian leadership has assured us that they understand the importance of accountability, and we are committed to working with them to further enhance accountability in the future," Semelroth added. "With that said, we acknowledge that Ukraine is fighting a war. This involves risk, which can only be minimized by the withdrawal from Ukraine by Russian forces.”

DISADVANTAGES

1. Too much oversight

Link: Status Quo already has 3 Inspectors General overseeing Ukraine aid

Cross apply the Inherency evidence. It's the State Department, US Agency for International Development, and the Defense Department.

Link: "Too much oversight" happens when it's duplicated and micro-managing.

Lee Hamilton 1999. (former US congressman) 15 July 1999 " Oversight vs. glitzy investigation" (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.csmonitor.com/1999/0715/p11s1.html

\*Oversight must be comprehensive. There is a vast number of federal government activities that never get into the newspaper headlines, but it is still the task of Congress to look into them. Yet there is such a thing as too much oversight. Good oversight draws a line between careful scrutiny and excessive micromanagement. \*The oversight agenda of Congress should be coordinated to eliminate duplication. The administration often complains, with some justification, about the burdens of redundant oversight and testimony.

Link: Duplication of effort increases cost and reduces efficiency of delivery of government services

United States Government Accountability Office 2011. " Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars, and Enhance Revenue" 1 March 2011 (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-11-318sp.pdf

Overlap and fragmentation among government programs or activities can be harbingers of unnecessary duplication. Reducing or eliminating duplication, overlap, or fragmentation could potentially save billions of tax dollars annually and help agencies provide more efficient and effective services.

Link & Brink: Can't afford any slowdown in Ukraine aid. Now is critical time to increase delivery of weapons to Ukraine so they can win the war

Prof. Kristina Hook 2022 (Assistant Professor of Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University’s School of Conflict Management, Peacebuilding, and Development and a former US Fulbright scholar to Ukraine) " Ukraine is winning but needs weapons to end Russia’s genocidal occupation" (accessed 14 Nov 2022) https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraine-is-winning-but-needs-weapons-to-end-russias-genocidal-occupation/

Ukraine’s stunning counteroffensive success in the Kharkiv region has provided conclusive proof that the Ukrainian Armed Forces are more than capable of defeating Russia on the battlefield. Now is the time to end the war by providing Ukraine with everything necessary to consolidate these gains and secure a decisive victory. Victory requires a coordinated, multifaceted, and long-term approach with economic, diplomatic, humanitarian, and logistical support all needed in order to bolster the Ukrainian transition to NATO-standard weaponry. Above all, this means a full commitment by Ukraine’s [partners](https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3151901/contact-group-aids-ukraines-current-battle-looks-to-long-term-assistance/) to increase arms supplies to the country.

Turn: Best way to prevent diversion of Ukraine weapons is to win the war

US State Department, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs 2022. "U.S. Plan to Counter Advanced Illicit Diversion of Certain Conventional Weapons in Eastern Europe" 27 Oct 2022 (accessed 24 Nov 2022) https://www.state.gov/u-s-plan-to-counter-illicit-diversion-of-certain-advanced-conventional-weapons-in-eastern-europe/

The United States’ priority is to ensure that Ukraine has the weapons it needs to defend its territory against Russia’s further invasion.  Helping to ensure Ukraine maintains control of its territory is a primary means to limit potential illicit diversion of weapons by Russia’s forces, Russia’s proxies, and non-state actors.

Impact: Genocide. Ukraine must win this war to prevent Russian genocide against their country

Prof. Kristina Hook 2022 (Assistant Professor of Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University’s School of Conflict Management, Peacebuilding, and Development and a former US Fulbright scholar to Ukraine) " Ukraine is winning but needs weapons to end Russia’s genocidal occupation" (accessed 14 Nov 2022) https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraine-is-winning-but-needs-weapons-to-end-russias-genocidal-occupation/

Many Ukrainians are also guided by their historical experience of previous genocidal campaigns waged by the Kremlin. Throughout the past eight years of Ukraine’s armed conflict with Russia, Ukrainians have repeatedly referenced the 1932-33 Holodomor famine to [underscore](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/vladimir-putins-war-to-crush-ukraine-is-part-of-a-long-kremlin-tradition/) that “Russia [past and present](https://thesocietypages.org/holocaust-genocide/the-holodomor-and-the-russian-ukrainian-conflict-history-repeating/) is threatened by an independent, prosperous, and democratic Ukraine.” While Ukrainians view their current fight against Russian imperialism as part of a [centuries-long](https://twitter.com/avalaina/status/1532738139520917509) struggle, one critical distinction separates today’s brutal war from earlier atrocities. Whereas the international community largely ignored the 1930s Soviet genocide, Ukraine now enjoys overwhelming backing from the democratic world. This could well prove decisive. History [indicates](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/ukraine/why-russias-war-ukraine-genocide) that genocidal campaigns typically end either in the total victory of the perpetrators or the victims, with external support often playing a decisive role. Efforts to find “middle ground” or promote negotiated settlements in such situations do not last or protect victims.

Voting Impact: Any other choice besides arming Ukraine is morally repugnant

Prof. Kristina Hook 2022 (Assistant Professor of Conflict Management at Kennesaw State University’s School of Conflict Management, Peacebuilding, and Development and a former US Fulbright scholar to Ukraine) " Ukraine is winning but needs weapons to end Russia’s genocidal occupation" (accessed 14 Nov 2022) https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukraine-is-winning-but-needs-weapons-to-end-russias-genocidal-occupation/

The achievements of Ukraine’s counteroffensive should be sufficient to silence the skeptics who continue to question the value of arming the country. Likewise, the accompanying scenes of liberation should be enough to convince advocates of appeasement that condemning Ukrainians to Russian occupation is morally repugnant. Now is the moment for the international community to consolidate its support for Ukraine and deal a decisive military blow to Russia’s genocidal invasion.