

Putin's Kinzhal Strike BLOWS UP Trump-Zelensky Farce, Russia Takes Control

Trump's panic was overflowing during his meeting with Zelensky as the US president leaned heavy toward Russia's position. Danny Haiphong details how a massive Kinzhal heavy strike on Ukraine and Putin's dire warning has led Trump to intensify his attempt to crawl out of the deepening grave of the Ukraine proxy war that the US & NATO have dug for themselves. SUPPORT THE SHOW: PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: <https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai...> Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: \$Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: <https://paypal.me/spiritofho> #trump #ukraine #putin #russia #zelensky

#Danny

So, the situation in Ukraine has gone from bad to worse, and the recent Zelensky–Donald Trump meeting didn't help matters at all. Russia is in full control, and that includes the narrative itself. Even before the meeting, things were going incredibly badly not only for Ukraine but for Donald Trump, too. And this has to be noted, because Donald Trump and his administration are making it out to seem like not only are they mediators, but that they're also in full control. Now, before the meeting even started, there were developments that spelled doom for the situation in Ukraine—for Ukraine itself, and for its U.S. and European backers. First, let's get to the fact that Vladimir Putin recently met with commanders during an inspection, and this caused panic among Western elites, especially in elite media.

And here's an article talking about how Vladimir Putin had donned military fatigues to meet generals and send a warning to Ukraine ahead of Donald Trump's meeting with Zelensky on December 28th. The Kremlin released footage of Russian President Vladimir Putin wearing a military uniform as he delivered a fresh warning to authorities in Kyiv. Now, what was that warning? I spoke about this a year ago, speaking to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but today—judging by your reports, judging by the pace we're seeing on the line of contact—our interest in the withdrawal of Ukrainian military formations from the territory they currently occupy has been reduced to virtually zero.

Not only was Putin in military fatigues saying that Russia is not going to pull back its forces, but we also had Donald Trump call Vladimir Putin—or engage in a phone call with him—in which both presidents agreed to push for a lasting peace over a temporary ceasefire, according to Putin's top aide, Yuri Ushakov. Remember, the "lasting peace agreement" part of this is a Russian demand. It's a Russian point of contention, in which Russia wants to end this conflict on terms suitable for itself. And that's what a lasting peace agreement, as opposed to a so-called ceasefire, really means. So, President Donald Trump called Vladimir Putin on Sunday to discuss a number of issues relating to the peace talks ahead of his meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky.

The two presidents held a friendly, well-wishing, and businesslike conversation for one hour and fifteen minutes, during which they expressed mutual interest in reaching a lasting, peaceful settlement to the Ukraine conflict, according to Ushakov. Putin stressed the need to rely on the understandings reached between the presidents at the summit in Anchorage earlier this year. Both the Russian and U.S. leaders agreed that a temporary ceasefire, as proposed by Ukraine and its European backers, would only prolong the conflict and risk a resumption of hostilities, according to Russia's aide. So they called—Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin engaged in a phone call.

And that phone call—what did it do? It only reiterated Russia's position, Russia's side of this conflict, and where Russia is going. Do you see a pattern here? This is all about Russia. Russia is in command, and it is driving the narrative. And it keeps getting worse, because before this meeting even happened, we saw Ukraine hit by some of the heaviest overnight attacks in months ahead of it. Russia carried out one of its biggest attacks on Kyiv, using an estimated 500 drones and 40 missiles, including the powerful hypersonic Kinzhal missiles. And this was according to Volodymyr Zelensky.

This happened on the weekend after Christmas and appeared to target power stations and residential buildings in Kyiv. Officials said at least 22 people were injured, including two children, and 12 were taken to the hospital. I think only one death occurred during these strikes. But again, Russia is pounding Ukraine. This is happening nearly every day—sometimes consecutive days—where you have hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles hitting Ukraine, pounding its energy sector, its ability to supply the military with the necessary power and equipment it needs to fight on the front lines. Because, as Vladimir Putin said, the front-line situation is only getting worse.

Now, during the meeting, things did not get better for Volodymyr Zelensky at Mar-a-Lago, because there were numerous moments in the press conference that Zelensky and Trump held which showed that Donald Trump is really going into these meetings looking to wash his hands of the conflict. And the only way he can do that is by repeating Russia's position and going where the momentum actually is right now—and that momentum is with Russia. So here are a few examples of this. Here's a question about the attacks we just talked about, and how they impact the so-called peace negotiations that Donald Trump is supposedly engaging in today.

#Interviewer

The recent attacks over the past couple of days that Russia has staged against Ukraine show that President Putin isn't serious about peace. What is your reaction to that? No, he's very serious. I think, you know, I can say that I believe Ukraine has made some very strong attacks also. And I don't say that negatively—I think you probably have to. I don't say that negatively. I think—he hasn't told me that—but there have been some explosions in various parts of Russia. And it looks to me like, I don't know, I don't think it came from the Congo. I don't think it came from the United States of America. It possibly came from Ukraine, but I haven't...

#Danny

This is very interesting. Look at Zelensky's face—look at how he's looking here. It's not a look of confidence or of being pleased with what Donald Trump is saying. What's so interesting about Trump's comment is that he's saying Ukraine is hitting Russia because it's not the Congo, but he's also saying it's not the United States of America. In fact, the U.S. has to provide all the logistical support for Ukraine to carry out its attacks inside Russian territory. So Trump is wrong there. But the point is, you can see how he's talking about this—oh, it's not just Russia, it's Ukraine too—because Trump is trying to stand in the middle of it.

And he's trying to look like he's not taking sides on either end. But with Russia's side being the one on the way to victory, he's actually hedging toward that side—at least politically, at least so-called diplomatically, in terms of public relations. And that's very bad news for Ukraine, because what it exposes is that Ukraine is, in fact, in completely and utterly dire straits. Here's Donald Trump reiterating that there isn't going to be a temporary ceasefire in this conflict. And that's a very smart move on the part of the United States and Donald Trump, because if they pushed for one and didn't get it—which they won't from Russia—then it would be a very bad, bad, bad public relations move for Donald Trump. But here's what they said at the presser.

#Interviewer 2

Would you agree to a ceasefire to allow for a referendum?

#Interviewer

Not a ceasefire. And that's one of the points we're working on right now. No, not a ceasefire. He feels that, look, you know, they're fighting to stop, and then if they have to start again—which is a possibility—he doesn't want to be in that position. I understand that position. And the president feels strongly about that or something. But I think we're finding ways we can get around that. I understand President Putin from that standpoint. You have to understand the other side. And, you know, I'm on the side of peace. I'm on the side of stopping the war. So, I think that's a problem that's going to get solved. Yeah.

#Danny

You know, what's so interesting about this is you see Donald Trump standing next to the U.S.'s proxy, and that proxy, Zelensky, is obviously very uncomfortable here. But Donald Trump is simply stating a very basic fact, which is that Russia does not want to see a resumption of hostilities after a so-called ceasefire is put into place. And what Donald Trump is actually minimizing is the Russian position, which is that a ceasefire would allow Ukraine to rearm and continue fighting this conflict even longer than it can right now under the auspices of Russia's special military operation and war of attrition.

So Donald Trump says he understands Russia's position, and this is what exposes and continues to reveal the reality of the situation. Donald Trump wouldn't be saying any of these things if Russia were actually losing—if Russia were on the back foot, being pushed back and in retreat. The reality is, it's far from that. Russia is not only pounding Kyiv, hitting its infrastructure and logistical capacity, especially in the energy sector, but it's also making major progress on the battlefield. And this was the comment Donald Trump made that really, I think, shocked Zelensky himself.

This was a clear indication that Donald Trump will say anything and go along with whatever he can to make sure he doesn't look like he's on the losing side, but also that he doesn't appear to be supporting Ukraine in any way, which could be very detrimental to him politically and electorally—not just for him, but also for the GOP, which has to win midterms in about a year. So here's Donald Trump on the shocking comments he made to the press when asked the following question.

#Interviewer 2

I did. I did.

#Interviewer

They're going to be helping. Russia is going to be helping. Russia wants to see Ukraine succeed—at least once. It sounds a little strange, but I was explaining to the president. President Putin was very generous in his attitude toward Ukraine succeeding, including supplying energy, electricity, and other things at very low prices. So a lot of good things came out of that call today. But they'd been in the works for two weeks—with Steve, Jared, Marco, and everybody.

#Danny

What's so incredibly shocking about this isn't just the comments he's making about how Russia wants to see Ukraine succeed, but—without even playing the video again—let's just look at Zelensky's body language here. Look at how he's looking at Donald Trump. Look at the faces he's making. He's basically saying that what Donald Trump is saying is BS. There's a point here, I believe, where he's chuckling. You can see he's chuckling right there. I mean, this is Zelensky basically mocking Donald Trump in front of the press. It's incredible, because oftentimes it's the United States that's in that kind of position with its proxies—proxies that wouldn't dare to talk, look, or act like this in front of their paymaster. But this just shows and reveals the devastating situation Ukraine is in. And I'm going to show you the face drop from Zelensky now, during that part of Trump's comment where he talks about Russia being interested in the success of Ukraine.

#Interviewer

He wants to see Ukraine succeed—at least once. It sounds a little strange, but I was explaining that to the president.

#Danny

I mean, just this kind of behavior, I think, is indicative of the desperation, because on the one hand, Zelensky needs Donald Trump. He needs the United States to continue providing military support, logistical support, intelligence support—on and on. Just overall diplomatic and political cover. And now that it's all crumbling because Russia is winning, there's absolutely no denying this anymore. Volodymyr Zelensky is really coming undone. Ukraine is coming undone. And this kind of reaction is not only indicative of that collapse, but it's also suicidal in many respects, because the United States holds the cards here when it comes to Ukraine. It is the United States that made this happen.

It is the United States that could, ostensibly—if it were a different system and acted rationally, if it weren't an empire driven by endless profit and war for warmongers, profiteers, weapons contractors, Wall Street, and so on—end this in one fell swoop, in a snap. But it's not. Zelensky, though, could very well find himself on the other end of the graveyard if he continues to act like this, because this, to me, is such a pattern for Zelensky. It just feels like a matter of time before the U.S. establishment—especially the Trump-aligned U.S. establishment—gets sick of this kind of behavior. I mean, just look at the reaction. Let's continue.

#Interviewer

President Putin...

#Danny

So let's play it on silent again. I just want to show you the faces he's making as Donald Trump is saying these comments, right? Oh, well—what? It sounds ridiculous, right? I mean, that's in front of the mainstream media, in front of the corporate media. Of course, Donald Trump has a contentious relationship with the corporate media and has kept that as part of his brand. But at the same time, it absolutely is indicative of what's going on here—a complete and utter collapse. And the reason the United States is not pulling out of this conflict, not doing what I just said, is that all those forces aligned with Ukraine are still with Ukraine: the intelligence forces, the big weapons contractors, Wall Street, etc.

I mean, they're all aligned with the Ukraine conflict. They want to see it continue. And there's no figure in Washington right now who better exemplifies these forces—who's backed by them, controlled by them, and ultimately does their bidding—than Lindsey Graham, who is a major, so-called "ally." Many see him as an enemy of the Trump administration, but the truth is, Trump keeps him close because this is the deep state, and they're both friends and adversaries at the end of the day.

This is what ruling-elite politics is really all about. Here's Lindsey Graham with Zelensky in an earlier meeting that perfectly exemplifies the dynamic that really exists within Washington—and why the Trump administration, despite these meetings, despite occasionally playing the mediator, having calls with Putin, then Zelensky, then going to Europe, going back and forth—this is what it's really all about. And Lindsey Graham is someone who can articulate that better than anyone else.

#Zelensky

"Free or die. Free or die. Now you are free. Yes, and we will be. And the Russians are dying. It's the best money we've ever spent. We're dying."

#Danny

We're dying.

#Zelensky

I mean... now you are free. Yes, and we will be. And the Russians are dying.

#Danny

And the Russians are dying. It's the best money we've ever spent. This is what it was always all about. And the Trump administration has come in, and all of what we just went over—Vladimir Putin going to inspect command posts, talking about the unstoppable momentum of the Russian military on the battlefield from Siversk to Pokrovsk—I mean, all the progress it has made, moving closer to the full liberation of the Donetsk People's Republic, moving toward the full liberation of all the Russian territories that have been federated into the Russian nation. And the strikes on Kyiv that continue to happen daily, if not twice a day, or every other day—the hundreds of drones, the dozens of missiles—they just pile up over time.

These attacks have only gotten more intense over the course of November and December, showing that Russia is pushing things forward in the special military operation while staying true to it as a war of attrition. That's really bad news, because even the mainstream media reports that Russia can keep this up for many years—maintaining a stable economy, a steady military force on the front lines, grinding down Ukraine, grinding down the collective West, grinding down the United States military. And this is what's forcing Donald Trump to engage in a so-called peace process without being able to achieve any real results. Now, that's not what you hear from the Trump administration. The Trump administration says the results are coming.

We're 90% of the way there. We're close to reaching a peace agreement. Even now, Vladimir Putin's side—the Russian side—is saying the same thing. But Dmitry Peskov said it best: that the 90% they claim they've reached toward a real peace deal, a full peace agreement, will be done on terms

favorable to Russia. It will be done within the context of the objectives of the special military operation. You'll hear this a lot from the Russian side, and that's the reality of the situation. This whole meeting—the optics, the incredibly poor optics for the Trump administration and for Zelensky—are all about Russia. This is about nothing else except Russia. So Donald Trump has to do whatever he can to wash his hands of this conflict. It's not a conflict popular with the population that voted for Donald Trump.

Midterm elections are coming, but it's even worse than that, because Donald Trump also has to find a way to actually create a cessation of hostilities—to actually engage in one. Because if they don't, Russia's victory will occur. It will happen, and it's not going to take three years. That's how long Donald Trump has in his term, that's how long the Republican Party has in their presidential term to avoid such a catastrophe. But it's not going to take three years. Ukraine does not have three years. That behavior from Zelensky—the strikes on Kyiv, the movement on the battlefield—that's going to create an irreconcilable crisis for the Ukrainian regime, the Kyiv regime, far sooner than three years from now.

We won't be talking like this three years from now unless something changes. And the only change that could happen—one that would be acceptable to Russia—is a full peace agreement under the auspices of international law, a fully mediated peace deal that holds the Ukrainian regime accountable. Not through U.S. mediation, but through the full power and weight of the so-called United Nations and international law. Of course, that's probably a pipe dream, right? The Ukrainian regime is run by proxies, by terrorists, by fascists, by Nazis—by people who have no interest in peace with Russia. And that's why a friend of the show, Mark Sloboda, says what's likely to happen is a collapse, a complete collapse, of the Ukrainian regime.

A lot of these forces are going to go underground, and they're going to try to keep fighting Russia without the mechanics or infrastructure of a full state apparatus. That's likely what you'll see the CIA continue to support as well—which is highly likely. But Donald Trump doesn't care about that. The U.S. administration doesn't care about that. What they really care about is washing their hands for that full 20 to 30 seconds the medical providers tell you to, to get all the bacteria off and all the diseases that might be on your hands from whatever you were doing before. That's what Donald Trump wants to do.

But Donald Trump is not interested in a full peace agreement because he can't be interested in one. I don't know what's in Donald Trump's head. He's not allowed to be, as the president of the United States of Wall Street, the president of the United States of the military contractors, the president of the United States of the CIA—the president of the United States of, you know, all these forces that make up the so-called deep state or the entirety of the ruling elite. These forces want to keep making money off supplying Ukraine with weapons. They want to keep making money off encircling Russia. They also want to, as Lindsey Graham said, kill Russians.

There is a major component, a major element of the ruling elite, that has not changed its mind about Russia. You heard those questions from the mainstream media to Donald Trump. Did those sound like questions coming from people who are interested in peace? No. These are so-called journalists—stenographers of war, yes—but they’re stenographers for the very people driving the conflict. As Alastair Crooke has said many times on my show, Donald Trump is not operating in a vacuum. And Trump himself operates within this context, not simply as a peace-loving figure, but as someone trying to manage a declining and unstable empire.

This is what I think a lot of people who voted for Trump, who continue to see him as a peacemaker, fail to understand—and they do this on purpose. They fail to understand that it was never about the Trump administration’s ideas or whims, or what they personally felt about the conflict and how much interest they had in peace. It was always about the actual context on the ground—what’s been happening in the Ukraine conflict—pushing Donald Trump to hedge, hedge, and hedge toward Russia simply because he needs to see this conflict stop before the bleeding leads to a complete and utter death-knell situation for Ukraine.

So this is the situation that Donald Trump finds himself in. It’s not a favorable one. That’s why, when we see these optics—when we see Donald Trump slapping around Zelensky, when we see Zelensky losing his mind at the White House or Mar-a-Lago, where this particular meeting took place—this is not about Donald Trump being strong. It’s not about Donald Trump taking the reins and taking firm hold of a foreign policy initiative that’s going to change the game and change everything. No. Russia is the one changing everything on the battlefield. It’s Vladimir Putin and his forces changing everything on the battlefield—everything when it comes to this war.

And it’s Donald Trump who has to play catch-up, trying to put out fires from all sides of the collective West because everything is crumbling right now. This also includes Donald Trump’s entire foreign policy agenda—it’s all falling apart. We’re seeing it with China and Taiwan: China encircling Taiwan after Donald Trump signed off on an \$11 billion arms package to the island, which is considered a province of China under international law. We see it on all fronts. In West Asia, that so-called peace deal over Gaza has completely failed—debunked, just an absolute failure, a blight on the overall track record of the Trump administration. It’s not going anywhere. The Israelis keep killing.

The next phase is really never going to happen. They’re trying to impose a foreign body—an international body—on the Palestinian people, and it’s going really poorly. Everything for the Trump administration is going poorly on the foreign policy front: an imminent war, possibly with Venezuela, which won’t go well—and nobody is saying it could go well, not even within the U.S. deep state. This is exactly the big problem the Trump administration faces, not least because it comes within the context of a crumbling domestic situation. Prices are high. You have articles coming out about people making six figures living in complete and utter squalor—at least by the standard of living that people making six figures expect. People cannot buy homes.

People cannot have children. This malaise, this resentment, these deteriorating living standards continue to plague the United States—not to mention the fact that the Trump administration has only expanded the policy of repressing people's political rights to a greater degree than ever before. All of this is causing a cascading crisis for the entire U.S. empire, for the whole system. And this system cannot change direction without essentially conceding defeat on some or many fronts. This is where Donald Trump is. It's not a favorable position. Donald Trump is not going to reach some kind of peace agreement from these talks. It is not 90% of the way there.

What's 90% of the way there is Russia's victory—Russia's military victory. And Russia, as Vladimir Putin said at that inspection, that's the direction they're going to go in. That's the direction they're going to continue to pursue because it's the only one that will lead to the logical conclusion of where this conflict is heading. That is Russian victory. Donald Trump is not going to provide that. The United States is not going to provide that. No one is going to provide that other than Russia. And that is the reality confronting the collective West, causing this panic—peace-deal hysterics, meetings in Mar-a-Lago, attempts by Donald Trump to mediate, trying to get Europe in line, Zelensky in line, trying to play around with the details of the inevitable.

Donald Trump is trying to manipulate and configure the details of the inevitable in a way that will be acceptable, that will be palatable to the U.S. establishment, in the hope that the establishment can save the Trump administration from the disaster waiting for it—one that's already unfolding before its eyes. This is not where a U.S. president wants to be, but it's a situation that can be summed up by those words Pete Hegseth loves to use when he talks about the strength of the Pentagon and the military: "F around and find out." That's what Biden did. That's what Trump did in his first term. That's what Obama did during the coup and afterward. Now, the Trump administration—this current iteration—is doing the same. F around and find out. They're finding out. They've found out. In the end, it's over. Stick a fork in it, bury the last remnants of this carcass. The Trump administration is really whistling past the graveyard.