

## PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION - V.V. PUTIN, IS MOVING FORWARD

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***Abstract:*** *Analyzing with great interest and attention the events that took place on the international stage, in connection with the increasingly cruel war, launched by Putin against Ukraine, three and a half years ago (24.02.2022), as well as the actions of President Donald Trump, after taking the oath of office for the new term (21.01.2025) to end the bloody conflict and to bring the two leaders - Putin and Zelensky to the negotiating table, we find that in the past seven months we have been part of a "dialogue" of the deaf. All the pressures and promises of President Trump have had no positive effect, on the contrary, after each Putin-Trump dialogue, Russia has carried out new destructive bombings, targeting residential areas, destroying apartment buildings and deliberately and plannedly killing dozens of civilians, including many children.*

*I believe, with sufficient arguments, that this war primarily affects all of Europe, but also most of the world's states, having profoundly negative effects on the world economy and vital trade flows.*

*Given the evolution of events in recent weeks, most political and military analysts, both abroad and in Romania, are skeptical and do not see a solution to stop the aggression of the Russian Federation; on the contrary, **Putin is moving forward**, with the aim of conquering all of Ukraine, transforming it into a **Vassal Governorate**, with an obedient regime installed by the Kremlin.*

*The systematic delay, mimicking negotiations with the Trump Administration, has only the aim of lulling Western leaders to sleep, while the war intensifies.*

*If Putin is left free to achieve his goals, the danger for Europe will be, in the short and medium term, from the Prut to Lisbon, as French President Emmanuel Macron has bluntly declared, provoking Moscow's anger*

***Keywords:*** *Ukrainian war, Russian Federation, V.V. Putin, Donald Trump, Volodimir Zelenski.*

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

**The course of events** in this insane war is known to those interested and, to a large extent, to ordinary people around the world.

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In this article, I will only refer to the diplomatic and other events that have occurred since the Alaska Summit (08/15/2025). The goal is to show those interested in peace and war the falsehood, cynicism, hypocrisy and blatant lies of the Kremlin, which the United States of America and President Donald Trump are fooling (I do not think that this is just naivety, it may be something much more serious - a possible "under the table" deal with the Moscow dictator).

After the Putin-Trump Summit in Alaska, the man who started the bloodiest European conflict since World War II assured cynically, lyingly and hypocritically, as everyone knows him, **declaring that he only wants peace**, but that the Ukrainians invaded and killed by missiles and drones are sabotaging his negotiations. And Donald Trump, in his narcissistic naivety, believed Putin, at least partially, probably because he doesn't want to get involved with the stakes for the world in the war in Ukraine. Instead, he wants **the Nobel Peace Prize** as soon as possible<sup>1</sup>.

Many analysts around the world consider the Alaska Summit a sinister farce, in which Putin imposed his views on a Trump anesthetized by the cold blue eyes of the Kremlin Dictator.

Even during the Summit, Ukraine was subjected to massive bombing, which annihilated the motto of the Alaskan meeting – *“In Search of Peace”*.

Putin's hypocrisy and cynicism came to the fore once again after he assured Trump that the invaders and the invaded are brothers, that while they are killing Ukrainians, **the Russians feel boundless pain (!?)**.

## **2. Timeline of events**

**Alaskan refusal comes to light**<sup>2</sup>: Putin has rejected the armistice, he wants a treaty first and then a ceasefire. Donald Trump doesn't seem too bothered by this position, believing in Putin's good faith (big mistake!).

After the awkward Summit ended, Trump announced that he had called Putin and that a Putin-Zelensky meeting (!?) would take place, followed by a trilateral<sup>3</sup>. From then until today (08/31/2025) nothing good

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<sup>1</sup> Adrian Cochino, *Imperiul nu a făcut nimic rău. Ce ne putem aștepta de la Vladimir Putin și de la Donald Trump după summitul din Alaska*, 16.08.2025, available at <https://hotnews.ro/imperiul-nu-a-facut-nimic-rau-ce-ne-putem-astepta-de-la-vladimir-putin-si-de-la-donald-trump-dupa-summitul-din-alaska-2046363>, accessed on 21.08.2025.

<sup>2</sup> George Sirbu, *Refuzul din Alaska iese la iveală: Putin a respins armistițiul, vrea întâi tratat și apoi încetarea focului / Donald Trump, mesaj după ce a vorbit la telefon cu Zelenski și liderii europeni și NATO: „Toți au spus aceasta e cea mai bună cale”*, available at <https://hotnews.ro/donald-trump-mesaj-dupa-ce-a-vorbit-la-telefon-cu-zelenski-si-liderii-europeni-si-nato-toti-au-spus-aceasta-e-cea-mai-buna-cale-2046310>, accessed on 22.08.2025.

<sup>3</sup> *Trump a anunțat că l-a sunat pe Putin și că va avea loc o întâlnire Putin – Zelenski, urmată de o trilaterală / Ce a spus Zelenski despre „chestiunile teritoriale”, după ce a ieșit*

has happened, with Putin happily adding new aberrant conditions, rightly unacceptable for Ukraine.

**The agreement on Monday, August 18, 2025**, at the White House regarding the next step towards ending the war in Ukraine – **a bilateral meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky** – seemed to be unanimous, between Donald Trump and the European leaders who came to the extraordinary meeting organized by the American leader, CNN noted. Then came, like a cold shower (it was expected), Russia's response:

„The idea was discussed that it would be appropriate to study the possibility of raising the level of representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian sides," Kremlin adviser Yuri Ushakov said serenely during a press conference on the phone call between Trump and Putin. But no leader was named, nor was it indicated who the "representatives" at the next level of the talks would be (note: so the stalling continues under various pretexts, and Ukraine continues to be chopped up daily with hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles. Another example that you can't trust the Russians). Details on the subject can be found in the material "The Kremlin's Game with the Zelensky-Putin Meeting"<sup>4</sup>.

The article published by Adrian Cochino on the Hotnews.ro website on August 21, 2025, presents Russia's point of view on the conditions for a Vladimir Putin–Volodymyr Zelensky meeting. Questions are raised about the Summit desired by Trump<sup>5</sup>.

According to the text released, "Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reiterated a condition that Ukraine has already rejected as unacceptable and once again raised the issue of the "lack of legitimacy" of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (n.a. The request of Russian leaders has been repeated dozens of times, since February 2022). The statement tempers optimism regarding a Summit between the two leaders, fueled by US President Donald Trump.

Lavrov also said that the best option for a security guarantee for Ukraine would be based on the talks that took place between Moscow and

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*de la Casa Albă / Reacția Moscovei / Comparația surprinzătoare a lui Merz*, available at <https://hotnews.ro/volodimir-zelenski-donald-trump-casa-alba-2047413>, accessed on 22.08.2025.

<sup>4</sup> Andrei Stan, *Jocul Kremlinului cu întâlnirea Zelenski-Putin. Ce trădează schimbarea bruscă de retorică a Moscovei*, available at <https://hotnews.ro/jocul-kremlinului-cu-intalnirea-zelenski-putin-ce-tradeaza-schimbarea-brusca-de-retorica-a-moscovei-2048905>, accessed on 22.08.2025.

<sup>5</sup> Adrian Cochino, *Rusia a anunțat condițiile pentru o întâlnire Vladimir Putin – Volodymyr Zelenski / Semne de întrebare privind summitul dorit de Trump*, available at <https://hotnews.ro/rusia-a-anuntat-conditiile-pentru-o-intalnire-vladimir-putin-volodimir-zelenski-2049471>, accessed on 23.08.2025.

Kiev in 2022. Essentially, it is about the aggressor also being the guarantor of the security of the aggressed state (!?).

**In an interview with Hotnews.ro, security expert Iulia Joja<sup>6</sup>** has warned (with arguments) that Russia has no reason now to stop the war in Ukraine and sees these sterile negotiations as an opportunity to delay and avoid more sanctions and more military aid for Kiev. Events confirm that Putin and his cabal are stalling for time, continuing to destroy Ukraine.

In the aforementioned interview, Iulia Joja analyzed the "security guarantees" considered by the allies for Kiev and warns that they will not be so secure, given that **"no one remembers there being a treaty that the Russians respected"**:

- "Russia, through its president and through Kremlin spokespeople and allies, reminds us almost daily that it is an imperial war. So we give it Crimea, then Donbass and so on";
- "From the point of view of Russia, which denies Ukraine's sovereignty, a meeting between Zelensky and Putin would be a loss, because it would represent an acceptance of Ukraine's sovereignty and independence";
- "How Romania can prevent the worst-case scenarios is to help Ukraine keep the Russians away from our borders, both maritime and land";
- "The fact that Romania still does not have a clear or sufficiently clear position, and at least not a public one, if it does not even perform enough to sit at the table with the rest of the decision-makers, shows me that there is room for more, much more."

**The above-mentioned interview** is much more extensive and I believe that it should also be studied by our politicians and military (if they haven't done so yet, taking into account the lame and slow functioning of the current **Governing Coalition**, busy hunting for privileges and self-interests and relentless attacks on competitors.

**An interesting analysis** is present on the website adevărul.ro, with the title: **"How Putin exploited Trump's theatrical diplomacy to play his game"** (Cristina Ene, 08/27/2025)<sup>7</sup>. Here are the main facts and ideas:

- **The Washington summit** has upset Putin's calculations for a new Yalta or a new Munich, but the Russian president believes he still has an ace up his sleeve—a plan B to buy more time, betting on the fact that he

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<sup>6</sup> Interview with Iulia Joja, „*Crede cineva că Rusia a intrat în acest război pe scară largă pentru Donbas?*” *Ce poate face România pentru a fi la masa discuțiilor*, available at <https://hotnews.ro/interviu-riscam-sa-semnam-ceva-cu-rusii-care-nu-valoreaza-mai-mult-decat-hartia-pe-care-s-a-semnat-de-ce-summiturile-din-alaska-si-de-la-casa-alba-nu-ne-au-adus-mai-aproape-de-sfar-2048908>, accessed on 23.08.2025.

<sup>7</sup> Cristina Ene, *Cum a exploatat Putin diplomația teatrală a lui Trump pentru a-și face jocul*, available at <https://adevarul.ro/stiri-externe/rusia/cum-a-exploatat-putin-diplomatia-teatrala-a-lui-2467825.html>, accessed on 24.08.2025.

can make Donald Trump wait for Russia to negotiate while the hostilities continue, reports Foreign Affairs, in an analysis signed by **Alexander Gabuev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center**;

- **Moscow's bet** is that it has time on its side—it has the numerical advantage on the battlefield and is making progress in the Donbas. Its strategy is long-term: subjugating Ukraine by manipulating the US into believing that it is Ukraine that is opposing a peace agreement;

- **Initially, Putin** had reason to hope that he could turn the US against Ukraine. In the first direct negotiations, Moscow tried to compartmentalize things, proposing to work simultaneously on a peace agreement and normalizing relations by resuming arms control talks and laying the groundwork for mutual trade and investment;

- **In the summer**, however, the first signs appeared that the charm offensive was starting to fall apart (n.a. Putin and his huge propaganda machine launched praise, often exaggerated, for Trump, knowing his megalomania and narcissism). Advised by European leaders, Volodymyr Zelensky repaired his relationship with Trump and signed the minerals agreement. Recently, the US gave Kiev the opportunity to buy American weapons with European money;

- **Then came the first threat**: Russia will face “serious tariffs” if it refuses to conclude an unconditional ceasefire demanded by Ukraine and Europe (n.a. to this date the new sanctions have not been launched);

- **An economic squeeze followed**: the US imposed punitive tariffs of 25% on India due to purchases of Russian oil. Additional US sanctions, for example on energy giants Rosneft and Lukoil, would cause even greater damage;

- **According to analyses** by Russian and international specialists, Russia's war economy would last between 18 and 24 months. The time may be much shorter.

#### **The mirage of a peace agreement:**

- **After Trump** turned the page (rather late and a bit timid), the Kremlin thought that a meeting with Trump could bring the US back on track. At the same time, the emissary Steve Witkoff (quite easily fooled by the Kremlin foxes), returned from Moscow with an apparently acceptable peace plan. But it was only a mirage, writes Foreign Affairs;

- **After three hours of discussions** (n.a. a kind of dialogue of the deaf), the scheduled working lunch was canceled, and the press conference was relegated to short statements. It was a clear sign that Russia's plan A had failed. Putin, however, achieved a key objective: he convinced Trump to abandon a ceasefire in favor of a peace agreement (n.a. so the war continues, stalling for time is taking its toll);

- **How did Putin succeed?** It exploited Trump's theatrical diplomacy, tricking him into making serious concessions (!?). The statements of American officials (n.a. there are too many yesmen and, moreover, unprepared ones in Trump's team) were telling in this regard: "Russia is willing to give up some of its maximalist demands". The Russians claim (they cannot be believed) that they only want the Donetsk and Lugansk regions, accept the freezing of the front in Kherson and Zaporozhye (so they are not withdrawing) and offer in exchange the small occupied portions of the Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy and Kharkiv regions (!?!). This would mean a territory almost ten times larger. Moreover, Ukraine would cede the most fortified portion of Donetsk, essentially the key to all of northern and central Ukraine. With all these maximalist oddities proposed by Russia, Trump accepted the logic of "**territorial exchanges**" (n.a. totally unbalanced and unacceptable for Ukraine).

**An apparent concession: security guarantees:**

- **Witkoff (in his naivety and incompetence)** announced **epic progress** in this regard: Putin agreed for the first time to the concept of security guarantees for Ukraine (note: these will probably have the same "effect" as the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, an act by which the US, UK and Russia guaranteed the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine in return for the transfer of a significant nuclear arsenal to Russia). Moreover, Russia would be willing to adopt a law by which it would not take any more territories from Ukraine after a peace agreement. These promises (note: empty) were hailed as "**revolutionary**" by Trump's team, and the American president presented them as a major achievement (!?);

- **The Europeans came up with their own plan:** "reassuring forces" in Ukraine, to which would be added "air support" from the US; **The "epic progress"** turned out to be strikingly similar to Russia's positions in the first failed negotiations in Istanbul. Putin wants no Ukraine-West security partnership, a non-negotiable condition for Kiev;

- **At this point** it is impossible to predict how Trump will manage the gap between the positions of Russia and Ukraine. It is quite likely that the US president will quickly get bored and will throw everything at the mercy of the European powers. Already Vice President J.D. Vance has given signals in this direction;

- **While Putin is stalling** (successfully, n.a.) Europe also has a plan B: military aid, sanctions and, ultimately, the confiscation of the almost 250 billion dollars in frozen Russian assets.

Moscow reacted promptly and harshly to **these disputes over "security guarantees"**: "The Kremlin does not accept NATO troops in Ukraine and criticizes European security plans."<sup>8</sup>:

- **Russia does not agree** with the European proposals regarding security guarantees for Ukraine and will not accept any presence of NATO troops on its neighbor's territory;

- In this context, **the cunning Kremlin spokesman**, Dmitry Peskov, however, praised the efforts of US President Donald Trump to end the war in Ukraine as "very important" and said that Moscow hopes that they will continue (n.a. he also knows from the psychological profile made by Russian specialists how much he likes Trump's praise?!);

- **Peskov stated** that a deployment of European troops in Ukraine would mean a NATO presence there, which, he says, is something that Russia wanted to prevent from the beginning (n.a. in other words only we, the invaders, are allowed in Ukraine and we do not ask anyone's approval);

- **Peskov also states** "in fact, from the very beginning, NATO's advance and the infiltration of this infrastructure into Ukraine could be called among the root causes of the conflict situation that has arisen (n.a. the Russians have been holding it for many years with the "roots of the conflict" although they clearly know that no one threatened them, and it would be difficult for a European country to do so, given the huge nuclear power of this eternal aggressor and terrorist state);

- In fact, the answer to **what the Russians want** is on Sergei Lavrov's T-shirt with which he showed up in Alaska, rudely defying the American hosts, with the inscription "СССР", so they are working hard to restore the "Evil Empire", as it was called by the late US President, Ronald Reagan;

- **Those who negotiate with the Russians**, whether American or European, should at least read the book **"Russia's War on Everybody"**<sup>9</sup> (Russia's War on Everybody. And What it Means for You, by Keir Giles, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc., 2023) and the few biographies of Putin published in the West, some published by Russian authors, well-versed in the Kremlin Dictator;

- **For potential Romanian readers** I would dare to recommend the article published in Revista de Științe Militare no. 3/2024, „Maskirovka—

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<sup>8</sup> *Kremlinul nu acceptă trupe NATO în Ucraina și critică planurile europene de garanții de securitate*, available at <https://adevarul.ro/stiri-externe/europa/kremlinul-nu-accepta-trupe-nato-in-ucraina-si-2467838.html>, accessed on 27.08.2025.

<sup>9</sup> Keir Giles, „Războiul Rusiei cu lumea”, Niculescu Publishing House, București, 2023.

activitate complexă a Kremlinului și a propagandiștilor săi, perfecționată din 1917 și până astăzi”<sup>10</sup>.

**Those interested in the war on the Romanian border with Ukraine**, which has been going on for three and a half years, have certainly noticed that starting with 15.08.2025 (the date of the Trump-Putin Alaska Summit), dozens of analyses, statements and comments appear daily on various media vectors, most of which are clearly against the war launched by Russia against its neighbor. I believe that it is impossible for me to present, even briefly, the main elements of the positions of the belligerents and observers from almost all countries of the world in a 10-12-page article. That is why I have made a selection of those that seem to me to be more relevant and of interest to the Romanian public.

### **3. A SYNTHESIS OF SOME ANALYSES AND COMMENTS**

**I present a brief summary of the analyses and comments** appearing in the Romanian and foreign media regarding the war in Ukraine:

**3.1. New behind-the-scenes information:** Confusion and inexperience (n.a. is that all?!): how did Trump's team come to believe that Putin was ready for peace even before the Alaska Summit!?<sup>11</sup>:

- Shortly after meeting with Vladimir Putin in Moscow, Steve Witkoff gave Donald Trump important news: the Russian president was willing to offer significant territorial concessions to end the war in Ukraine, writes Reuters. What followed and will follow in the coming months completely contradicted and continues to contradict this optimistic impression;

- After Steve Witkoff presented the information to the American president on this subject, Donald Trump welcomed the "significant progress" of his emissary and accepted a historic (!?) Summit with Putin, suggesting that he would discuss a territorial exchange;

- In a phone call on August 7 with several European leaders, Witkoff indicated that Putin was willing to withdraw from the Ukrainian regions of Zaporozhye and Kherson in exchange for Kiev's ceding of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions (n.a. completely false, Putin wants Odessa and the mouths of the Danube, along with the Republic of Moldova, he could not make this promise);

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<sup>10</sup> Constantin Mincu, *Maskirovka—o activitate complexă a Kremlinului și a propagandiștilor săi, perfecționată din 1917 și până astăzi*, „Revista de Științe Militare” no. 3/2024.

<sup>11</sup> Adrian Cochino, *Noi informații de culise. Confuzie și lipsă de experiență: cum a ajuns echipa lui Trump să creadă că Putin e gata de pace, înainte de summitul din Alaska*, available at <https://hotnews.ro/noi-informatii-de-culise-confuzie-si-lipsa-de-experienta-cum-a-ajuns-echipa-lui-trump-sa-creada-ca-putin-e-gata-de-pace-inainte-de-summitul-din-alaska-2053751>, accessed on 28.08.2025.



- The proposal surprised (and rightly so) many of the participants in the conversation, as it abruptly departed from their own assessments of Putin's position, said four people with knowledge of the discussions, including American and European officials (note: apparently Steve Witkoff likes to be the innocent victim of the famous Soviet-Russian Maskirovka!);

- Confronted with his own innocence and incompetence, Witkoff changed his story the next day. In a phone call convened by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio with European national security advisers, the "special envoy" (!?) said that Putin was not actually offering to "withdraw from the two territories in question." Trump's envoy should have known what Putin has said, countless times in recent years: "Wherever the Russian soldier's boot steps, it is Russian territory." You can't demand knowledge of geopolitics and diplomacy from a real estate tycoon;

- **The so-called Witkoff**, with no diplomatic experience whatsoever, seriously violated standard protocol by attending the meeting without a State Department secretary and thus left without a record of Putin's precise proposals. The cunning Kremlin foxes, trained by the KGB and GRU, did their job with the naive Trump envoy;

- **The image that emerges from the interviews** is that of an American president willing to act quickly on foreign policy decisions, relying more on close people and instinct than on traditional diplomatic channels and the deliberative process typical of most previous administrations (in this case, Trump would have needed Victoria Nuland and Condoleezza Rice, experts on the space of the Russian Empire);

- **As a tragic conclusion, the war in Ukraine is not closer to the end, on the contrary!** Despite the Summit, Kurt Volker, former US ambassador to NATO, who also served as US special representative for Ukraine during Trump's first term, firmly states this fact;

- **As a result of these embarrassing blunders**, the Trump Administration has postponed, sine die, new sanctions against Russia. The game is played only in Russia's favor;

- **The exaggerated and unfounded reliance on trusted advisors like Witkoff** was accompanied by an aggressive purge of the US national security establishment and the firing or reassignment of Russia and Ukraine experts from the Pentagon, State Department, and National Security Council (to Russia's delight);

- **Witkoff**, a close friend of Trump, has been praised for his work ethic. But some American and European officials fear that the Russians are taking advantage of his lack of experience at the negotiating table;

- **The idea of a territory swap**, entirely in favor of Russia, has alarmed European officials, who fear (rightly) that a more lenient US policy towards Putin under Trump could force Ukrainians to make painful

concessions to end the conflict that began with Russia's occupation of Crimea in 2014 and escalated with the full-scale invasion in 2022;

- **Volker**, Trump's former envoy, expressed confidence (!?) that Trump will eventually exert strong pressure on Putin to change his position through tougher economic sanctions and military support for Ukraine. "**Trump will not really have a choice**" Volker said, quoted by Reuters. So far (08/31/2025) The Trump administration has not made any decisions that would bother the Russians!;

- **Most international observers** believe that the August 15 summit between Trump and Putin, which took place in Anchorage, did not bring any tangible progress. Trump had already lowered his expectations in the days leading up to the meeting, presenting it as a step in a diplomatic process rather than an opportunity to reach an agreement;

- **The US president** has not yet made any territorial concessions on behalf of Ukraine, although he came out of the meeting stating that a temporary ceasefire is not a prerequisite for a lasting peace – a position also supported by his friend Putin, but not by most European leaders;

- **Meanwhile, European allies** have immediately begun to strategize to influence Trump's next move. Missing from the picture, as usual, are Orban's Hungary and Fico's Slovakia, staunch allies of Moscow. Unfortunately, Romania is also missing, due to incompetence, inadequacy to realities and possibly intellectual laziness, to which can be added the profound misunderstanding of today's geopolitics, in which dictators play their part shamelessly;

- **Given the way President Zelensky was humiliated** in the Oval Office, the chief instigator being J.D. Vance, a kind of aggressive cowboy who has nothing in common with diplomacy or politics, the relevant European leaders concluded that it was a good idea to accompany Zelensky to the White House, to the meeting with Trump on August 18. In the end, that meeting was a relative success, signaling a renewed cooperation between the US and Europe (we do not know how long it will last, given the deep hostility of Trump's inner circle against the old continent (J.D. Vance, Marco Rubio, Pete Hegset and others). The most important agreement: Trump and European leaders agreed to formally outline future security guarantees for Ukraine);

- **However**, the end of the war seems distant. Russian officials, including Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, have said they will not accept any security guarantees for Ukraine that would involve the presence of foreign troops in the country. Although Trump has requested a meeting between Putin and Zelensky, Moscow has said such a summit is unlikely in the short term. It is yet more evidence that Putin is brazenly and cynically stalling for time and continuing the war by hitting Ukraine with even greater force;

- **Unfortunately**, the new sanctions against Russia are still pending, leaving the aggressor free to move forward. The possible scenarios tend towards pessimism, with the Russians seeing why they have known better, over the last 300 years, to attack and subjugate all their neighbors, whom they claim to be "liberating", of course against their will.

### **3.2. Interview with historian Armand Goșu, specialized in the Soviet-Russian space. Some elements of interest for this complicated topic – the war in Ukraine <sup>12</sup>:**

- **Putin analyzes** developments on the front through the lens of World War I. In recent years, he has often spoken about this. He compares the war of attrition that Russia is waging in Ukraine with the Western Front in France, from 1914-1918. He repeats that Russia would have been a victorious country if it had resisted until the end. And he laments the fact that the Russians ran out of patience for a few more months. It didn't matter that a million more people were dying, what mattered was that Russia would have won and dictated the terms of peace (n.a. if the Tsarist Empire had remained standing, we would never have heard of Putin). He laments the fact that Nicholas II did not resort to violence to maintain himself in power and abdicated (n.a. Putin learned his lesson and killed or imprisoned his opponents);

- **Putin's success at the Alaska Summit should not be underestimated.** It may have minor consequences, but – at the same time – it may be a turning point for the future shaping of the international scene. It was not only a symbolic victory for Putin – welcomed with a red carpet on US soil, the guarantor (so far) of world order – against whom the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant, but it marked a change in the American vision of the war in Ukraine;

- **It cannot be said that Putin did not win anything in Alaska.** Armand Goșu claims that he won, he achieved his goal. Putin convinced Trump that the White House's peace efforts must focus on finding a comprehensive solution to end the war (obviously in favor of the Russian aggressor), not on an unconditional ceasefire, and the fighting can continue until then. Moreover, Trump did not introduce additional sanctions as he promised (!!);

- **In his game with Trump**, Putin has bought time. The Kremlin leader's plan is to continue the offensive, hoping to create a substantial advantage on the battlefield. But if Ukraine holds out this fall, which is possible provided **the West** increases its supplies of ammunition and drones

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<sup>12</sup> *Putin luptă cu Zelenski pentru mintea lui Trump. Interviu cu istoricul Armand Goșu*, available at <https://www.contributors.ro/putin-lupta-cu-zelenski-pentru-mintea-lui-trump-interviu-cu-istoricul-armand-gosu/>, accessed on 29.08.2025.

and extends financial aid, Putin will have to adjust his demands or he will need several more years to achieve his goals. How Trump positions himself will also matter, because he is the one who can deliver time;

- **The interview with Armand Goșu** is much more extensive and offers credible explanations and analyses, with arguments, and I believe it should be studied by those interested in the fate of Ukraine, but also ours and that of Europe.

### **3.3. Russian troops are on the offensive on the entire front in Ukraine, states General Gerasimov**

"The strategic initiative is entirely ours"<sup>13</sup> (Saturday, August 30, 2025)

- **"The combined group of troops** continues a permanent offensive along almost the entire front line," Gerasimov said in a speech to Russian commanders published by Zvezda, the official newspaper of the Defense Ministry;

- **Gerasimov also said** that Russia currently controls 99.7% of the Luhansk region, 79% of the Donetsk region, 74% of the Zaporizhia region and 76% of the Kherson region;

- **The Ukrainian Defense Ministry** and other Ukrainian officials promptly described Gerasimov's statements as "blatant lies."

### **3.4. The Matryoshka Campaign and the Ukrainian Crisis (...maybe also about the US leaving NATO) Author General (ret.) Alexandru Grumaz, 08/30/2025<sup>14</sup>**

- **I think the article by General (ret.) Alexandru Grumaz** is particularly interesting in the context of the war in Ukraine, but also in that of Romania's timid and inadequate positioning;

- **Here's what he says:** For today's Romania, the Strategic Partnership with the US is no longer important, from what foreign policy leaders tell us. They proclaim it but in reality they don't give a damn about it. At the moment, Moldova and Ukraine are our targets/priorities (!?).

- **Western leaders, unfortunately,** don't know the current Romanian leaders. And then how can they relate? You didn't go to school for politics, neither in Washington nor in Paris, nor in Berlin nor in London, and you can barely hit a handball ball and you don't play golf. The Western world makes

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<sup>13</sup> Viorela Marin, *Trupele ruse sunt în ofensivă pe întreg frontul din Ucraina, afirmă generalul Gherasimov. „Inițiativa strategică este cu totul a noastră”*, available at <https://hotnews.ro/trupele-ruse-sunt-in-ofensiva-pe-intreg-frontul-din-ucraina-afirma-generalul-gherasimov-initiativa-strategica-e-cu-totul-a-noastra-2055251>, accessed on 01.09.2025.

<sup>14</sup> Alexandru Grumaz, *Campania Matrioșka și criza Ucraineană (...poate și despre plecare SUA din NATO)*, available at <https://evz.ro/campania-matrioska-si-criza-ucraineana-poate-si-despre-plecare-sua-din-nato.html>, accessed on 02.09.2025.

friends in schools, otherwise it's all good (only the military still go to renowned schools either in Washington, or in London or in Paris, but they are... timid, as a colleague told me a few days ago);

• **The above-mentioned article** contains many elements of great interest, in the current political and military context around the world and especially in Europe. I believe that it should be studied by those who "manufacture" national policies on their knees.

#### **4. What has Romania done and what is it doing in the context of global diplomatic unrest regarding the war in Ukraine?**

The answer is very simple and easy to argue: it does almost nothing. It is enough to carefully read the articles recently published on the "evz.ro" website, by:

1. General (r.) Alexandru Grumaz (see footnote no. 15);
2. Octavian Hoandră (August 29, 2025) on "evz.ro", with the suggestive title: "Nicușor Dan – Oana Țoiu, caricatura politicii externe a României"<sup>15</sup>.



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<sup>15</sup> Octavian Hoandră, *Nicușor Dan - Oana Țoiu, caricatura politicii externe românești*, available at <https://evz.ro/nicusor-dan-oana-toiu-caricatura-politicii-externe-romanesti.html>, accessed on 02.09.2025.

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