

## Gradual Escalation II: How to Lose a War

September 10, 2024

In an earlier article (August 19, 2024), I wrote that the gradual, piecemeal approach of western Europe and the United States in aiding Ukraine's war with Russia is a self-defeating and ridiculous strategy. The article can be downloaded from Blog.UylessBlack.com. Scroll down to "Warm Wars," then click on "Gradual Escalation." The article you are reading has a link on this page, identified with "Gradual Escalation II."

To briefly review the main points of the first article: the West (with America as a major contributor) has been sending financial and military aid to Ukraine. But it has been doing so on an *incremental, gradual* basis. During this time, Ukraine has been fighting for its very existence and practically begging for more immediate help.

The Biden administration has placed limits (both in time and the kind of military weapons) it has doled out to the ally, a recipe for failure.

The other major point of the first article: Regardless of one's opinion on America's involvement in Ukraine, get in immediately with a full commitment. Otherwise, stay home.

On to additional thoughts. Condoleezza Rice, the former Secretary of State and National Security Adviser, offers these ideas about the U.S. strategy in Ukraine during the initial stages of the conflict, and this approach is still prevalent in America's war blueprint in Ukraine.

The incremental way in which the United States and its allies supplied weapons to Ukraine---first debating whether to send tanks, then doing so, and so on---gave Moscow breathing room to mobilize its defense industrial base and throw its huge manpower advantage at the Ukrainians.<sup>1</sup>

For the duration of the war, America and most of the EU nations have continued this practice. As one example, Ukraine has repeatedly asked the West for authorization---that is, permission--- to use West-supplied long-range weapons to strike targets deeper into west Russia. The West has balked at this request, while Russia is reported to have acquired long-range ballistic missiles from Iran; while Russia routinely bombs Ukraine, destroying the nation's cities and infrastructure.

The situation is a Kafkaesque nightmare for a country fighting for its life. It is made even more absurd because the West, led by America, is afraid of provoking Putin into escalating Russia's war against Ukraine! It is a situation that defies belief.<sup>2</sup>

- The Western leaders fear that if they grant Ukraine's request, "it could escalate the war." Fantastic. The West has overwhelming advantages in military might (including nuclear weapons), population, and wealth. Yet the West is afraid of what is essentially, a third world country.

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<sup>1</sup> Condoleezza Rice, "The Perils of Isolationism," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October, 2024, 15.

<sup>2</sup> *The CDA Press*, September 12, 2024, A3.

- Even more: “Biden has allowed Ukraine to fire U.S.-provided missiles across the border in self-defense, but has largely limited the distance they can be fired.” ...While Russia goes about destroying Ukraine with Soviet missiles and bombers.

Recently, the United States and Britain pledged almost \$1.5 billion in additional aid to Ukraine. Much of this money will be used to repair the energy grid (before winter) that Russia has repeatedly attacked throughout the war.

Putin is counting on the West to give up. He is waiting the West out. He has designs on much more in Europe than Ukraine. The West and America made the commitment to “go in.” So, for god’s sake, go in!

As documented in the first article, wars are not won by gradualism, or by procrastination. Get in or get out.