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War in Ukraine: when the impossible became a reality

They say that even the darkest night ends sooner or later with dawn...

For Ukraine, such a night has come and has been going on since February 24, 2022, when the army of the bloody dictator Putin launched the first rockets on a peaceful territory in the heart of Europe. The rockets were followed by a ground offensive and airstrikes by the Russian army against the capital city of Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities, which planned to welcome spring with joy soon, but instead met countless bombs, tanks, artillery, barbarians in soldier's uniforms and ... ugly death. In other words, they met the "Russian world" in all its infernal beauty and beastliness.

A month has passed since then, and it feels like an eternity! During this time, entire cities and towns in the north, south and east of the country disappeared from the face of the earth. The hearts of thousands of children, women and men – the innocent sons and daughters of our blessed land – have stopped beating forever. Millions of Ukrainians left their own homes or what was left of them as a result of the Russian invasion, to be forced to go into the unknown, seeking salvation and shelter abroad or in other regions of the bleeding Ukraine that have not yet been torn apart.

Agreed, not so long ago, such an apocalyptic scenario, which even the main villain of the last century, Hitler, would envy, was impossible to imagine on the territory of the flourishing European

continent. However, the reality turned out to be much darker. Moreover, even more cruel than yesterday's cannibalistic fantasies and threats of numerous Russian propagandists. Yes, almost every day during the last years, they openly threatened to bomb Kyiv, to destroy Ukrainians just for their language, or to forcefully return the original Slavic nation to the bosom of the "Russian world" on TV screens or on the Internet.

However, the reality that Ukraine faced at the end of February was even more ruthless than these obsessive delusions of Putin's propagandists. Suffice it to say that the main blow and atrocities of the occupying army fell precisely on the Russian-speaking cities – Kharkiv, Sumy, Mariupol, Chernihiv, etc. It is unlikely that the propaganda asset of the main war criminal of the 21st century could imagine that the Russian-speaking residents of the mentioned cities, by the way, historically oriented towards and loyal to the Russian Federation, would become the main target for the "second army of the world". What they arrogantly call their army...

And they did, because despite all the predictions of cabinet strategists from the Kremlin, Kharkiv residents and Ukrainians from other cities did not come out with flowers, but met the occupier from the East with the usual Russian checkmate and Molotov cocktails. Apparently, this angered the Kremlin boss so much that a decision was made to erase these Ukrainian cities from the map of Europe. Erase together with the disobedient and freedom-loving people!

It would seem that nothing threatens the plans of the invaders and the unexpected resistance of the Ukrainians will be overcome, albeit with a certain delay in time, but the reality once again came as a surprise to many.

It turned out that there is a combat-capable army in Ukraine, which, despite all the skeptical forecasts of authoritative domestic and foreign experts, was able, gritting its teeth, to withstand the first insidious blow of the enemy, to recover from it within a week or

two, and then to take up the reliable defence of the native land on the entire front line with the idea of a future counteroffensive. Was it possible to believe in this in the first days of the war, especially given the assurances of the same “analysts” that Kyiv would fall to its knees in 3–5 days from the beginning of the Russian aggression?! Absolutely not, but the reality, according to tradition, surprised, first of all, the Russian invader, whose blitzkrieg failed miserably. And now, in front of this reality, odes are being sung all over the world, from America to Australia, admiring the unprecedented courage, ingenuity and heroism of our people and its armed forces. Being Ukrainian today is fashionable and prestigious! At least, according to the words that are heard from everywhere.

The reality in which Ukraine found itself due to the fault of the “liberators” debunked another myth that the government and the people are independent. In peacetime, the highest leadership of the country could quite justifiably be treated differently: accused of corruption, reprimanded for social and economic miscalculations, not well perceived due to lack of proper statesmanship experience, etc. At the same time, probably few Ukrainians will be able to deny that in the most dramatic period of the state's modern history, its government is with the people. It did not leave its high offices and go into comfortable exile abroad, as it was offered more than once, but remained in the thousand-year-old Kyiv to fight back the occupier in a righteous way on its land and with its people.

The new reality that emerged after Russia's attack forces us to look at the people of Ukraine in a different way. Of course, we are noticeably different – in language, faith, habits, traditions and political views. They were different... In the times of the current inhumane trials that have befallen us, we have become one, despite all the past differences, disagreements and disputes. Today, Ukrainians are one big family whose members, some at the front and some at the rear, stood side by side to protect their Motherland. And

it makes no difference whether you are rich or poor, what language you speak, what church you go to, or what ideals you profess. The main thing now is to achieve such a desired victory over the hated enemy through joint efforts, through blood and sweat, pain and suffering. By the way, thanks to him too (no matter how paradoxical it sounds), because it was he who united our souls and ardent hearts, which are now beating in unison for a common great goal in this truly patriotic war!

Russia's war against Ukraine destroyed a number of other stereotypes for the first time or for the second time. For example, about the invincibility of the "second army of the world", which actually turned out to be not as formidable (and thank God!) as it was portrayed by the Russian mass media and generals. About the effectiveness of leading international organizations or military-political blocs, which in fact are unable to stop the unjustified aggression of one country towards another. About the inviolability of international security guarantees, regardless of who signed them. What are the signatures of guarantor countries under the same Budapest memorandum worth? Rhetorical question. In short, the reality, as it often happens, turned out to be completely different from expectations.

In view of the last lines, the people of Ukraine should abandon certain vain hopes and do the righteous thing themselves – work daily and hourly for victory in the war with Russia. Yes, it will be difficult and painful more than once, there will be new destruction and losses, grief and tears, but they will surely be followed by the dream dawn. Ukrainian dawn...