



Solidarity Ukraine –issue 45- Clockwork Orange

IN THIS ISSUE

Colour orange

Agent orange for Russia

Orange warning in Ukraine

Clockwork Orange in Europe

Useful Contacts

The Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (iriv) has been associated since February 24, 2022 with international solidarity in favor of Ukraine attacked by Russia. The Covid pandemic has weakened democratic countries. Conspiracy theories and hate speech have exploded on social networks. This new war in Europe is no longer peripheral, it is existential for the European Union which plays its influence in the world. This Newsletter is the 11th published in 2025 and the 45th since the Russian aggression. Orange is a neutral color attached to the Revolution in Ukraine during the 2004 elections - the flag chosen by the opposition that demanded the end of a corrupt power inherited from the past. Russian disinformation has

strengthened with Covid and increased tenfold since its alliance with China, Iran, or North Korea, which form a common front against the West. They rely on a victim narrative where Westerners would be responsible for all the ills against their countries and the whole world. Agent Orange used in Vietnam is one element among others in a broader and systematic strategy of distorting facts and misinformation. Westerners have committed and recognized crimes in their stories that they must repair and assume. But they are not responsible for all the misfortunes of the planet. An escalation is reached in November 2025 with a return of nuclear weapons brandished as a threat by the United States like Russia. Europe is carried away by the Russian regime in a strategy of ultra-violence against individuals (hot war) and institutions (hybrid war). The Europeans are in the situation described by Stanley Kubrick in «Clockwork Orange» - victims of psychological and mental conditioning to lower their guard and submit to autocracies who only want «their own good».

- 1- Colour Orange
- 2- Agent orange for Russia
- 3- Orange warning in Ukraine
- 4- Clockwork orange in Europe

* this logo was designed by Caritas Canada in February 2022

Color orange

Orange is a mix of red and yellow with all the shades of the fruit to which the color is associated – from clementine (yellow) to blood orange (red). Intermediate color, orange was technically difficult to produce in the Middle Ages (saturation and stability). Its heterogeneous nature symbolically combines the primary colors that compose it (red and yellow) and the negative weight of the mixture in a medieval society where only purity is valued. The color remains associated with the fruit of the orange tree, the golden apple – that of Adam, of Paris and the attributes of power. (1) Orange is linked to Buddhism, to the saffron robes of monks who used to recover abandoned fabrics and tints using natural colors (sandalwood or turmeric), to give an orange hue, a sign of renunciation of the material world. It symbolizes purity, holiness and disinterestedness, central virtues in Buddhist monastic life. The bright color protects against distractions and temptations, to stay focused on spiritual practice. The orange dress is a uniform that makes it easy to recognize a Buddhist monk, giving him respect and reverence within the community. (2) Orange is also associated with the 2nd chakra of the human body, the link between creativity and dynamism. In Hinduism, it represents the purifying fire of the body and passions, a symbol of liberation. (3)

In Europe since 2004, the color orange is that of the eponymous Revolution in Ukraine. A sign of independence after having broken free in 1991 from the domination of the USSR. For researcher Valentyna Dymytriva (4) "As a politically neutral color, orange illustrated the renewal of political life that the opposition candidate claimed, namely the defense of the interests of the people against corrupt power. She opposed the blue and white colors of the Party of Regions and its presidential candidate, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich." In an electric electoral context, "the color orange allowed opposition leaders and their supporters to become visible in the streets. The diffusion of this color in public space has borrowed methods and techniques, which circulate between the field of marketing and communication and the socio-political field of mobilization. Activist associations such as Greenpeace or Act-Up have used these buzz and flash mob methods to organize original operations, 'punches' intended to strike public opinion and stimulate word-of-mouth. Orange color was recovered in opposing speeches according to political affiliations. It represents violence for the party in power– the orange is a tropical fruit imported from abroad. It is associated with non-violence, in reference to Hinduism and Gandhi, for the opposition, supporters of change and liberation. The art of political communication consists in associating one's camp with positive symbols and one's opponents with negative meanings. Brandishing the nuclear weapon, as Vladimir Putin has done since the beginning of the conflict with an escalation in autumn 2025 (missiles), led to President Trump's shattering announcement to resume nuclear tests (October 29, 2025) interrupted since 1992 in America.

Agent orange for Russie

Agent Orange used in Vietnam by the US army is a chemical weapon that has marked memories. André Bouny, founder of the International Committee in Support of Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange (CIS) and author of the essay "Apocalypse Vietnam, Agent Orange" (5), estimates that more than 100 million liters of defoliants and herbicides were sprayed on the (South) Vietnam, between 1961 and 1971. We talked for the first time about a genuine ecocide. But the first to have used a chemical weapon in Indochina were the French on January 17, 1951, during the battle of Vĩnh Yên, to stop the attack of the Viet Minh soldiers. The Europeans first resorted to biological weapons during the First World War (1914-1918) - mustard gas, used in Belgium in 1915, by Germany, a pioneer in this field with its powerful chemical industry; France also had advanced plans in this field (6).

A 2007 French Senate report (7) recalls that at the time of the ratification of the International Convention against Chemical Weapons in 1993 "The Soviet Union had developed an impressive arsenal of chemical weapons, as well as biological weapons". For chemical weapons, "about one-third of Soviet weapon systems were designed to implement them, whether they were missiles, aviation bombs or artillery munitions" For biological weapons, "they experienced an unparalleled development in the world within the framework of the military-industrial complex 'Biopreparat". This complex developed under cover of civilian activities, after the signing of the 1972 protocol on the prohibition of bacteriological weapons. "The chemical arsenal itself, inherited from the Soviet Union, represented, at the time of the conclusion of the 1993 convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons, 40,000 tons of chemical agents, or two thirds of the world's stocks." For nuclear weapons, Russia is also ahead in nuclear warheads (4300) far ahead of the United States and China. Both for chemical and nuclear weapons, Russia is therefore overequipped.

Russia nevertheless presents itself as a peaceful country, orchestrating massive disinformation campaigns against the United States and the Westerners who would poison the planet (8). Soviet propaganda blamed the CIA for the AIDS virus to "exterminate the Africans"; the virus was allegedly created at Fort Detrick biological military center. During the Covid pandemic (2020-2021), Russia accused once more the United States of having created the virus in a laboratory. Chinese and Iranian propaganda supported this fake thesis as Covid started in China. Authoritarian regimes challenge the West by orchestrating a global disinformation campaign relayed by social media, and their allies (North Korea). Any element of the past is instrumentalized to investigate a case against Westerners guilty for all the ills against the planet. Nuclear weapons have always been the ultimate weapon of deterrence – proliferation had known a truce in the 1990s. It is always considered the best psychological protection against one's opponents.

Orange warning for Ukraine

The Russian offensives against Ukraine redoubled with a resurgence of violence in the autumn of 2025 despite an alleged “peace spirit” by president Vladimir Putin. For Roman Kostenko, secretary of the Ukrainian National Security, Defense and Intelligence Committee "We cannot be prisoners of an environment in which the enemy has no restrictions"

On 29 June 2025, Ukraine confirmed its withdrawal from the Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines adopted in 1997 and signed by 164 states (accession by Ukraine in 2005). In March 2025, the three Baltic countries – Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia – and Poland, all close allies of Ukraine, had announced the same decision. In the fall of 2024, US President Joe Biden authorized the supply by the United States of anti-personnel mines to slow down the Russian advance (9). US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin had justified his decision by the change in tactics of the Russian army "their mechanized forces are no longer on top. They move forward on foot to approach and take action to pave the way for mechanized forces." The fight was unequal since Russia has not ratified the Ottawa Convention. For Philippe Delacroix, French ambassador (10) "The Ottawa process had been initiated in October 1996, following the adoption, within the framework of the United Nations, of the amended Protocol II to the Convention on certain conventional weapons, concerning 'mines, booby-traps and other devices'. The impact of anti-personnel mines during the Balkan crisis (1991-1995), was decisive for some States and many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to completely ban the use of these mines. Handicap International (member of the ICBL) recalled that 84% of the victims of anti-personnel mines in the world are civilians, including 35% of children (11). Ukraine is the most heavily mined country in the world with 23% of its soil polluted by landmines and unexploded ordnance (12). Aid to demine the country has undergone budget cuts by the Trump administration since January 2025. Russia has used at least 13 different types of anti-personnel mines, the number of which is estimated at 2 million (13) – they will remain a threat to Ukrainians for decades.

In the nuclear field, Ukraine had also committed itself through the Budapest Convention signed in 1994 with Russia to renounce nuclear weapons. Ten years later, the Russian regime attacked its country and annexed the territories of Crimea and Donbass. If the nuclear threat has been brandished by the Russian president since the beginning of the conflict to dissuade the Westerners from providing aid to Ukraine, the announcements of the last week of October 2025 (nuclear missiles) have revived the debate and caused an escalation of the American president Donald Trump (during his Asian tour on October 29, 2025), who suggests that his country should resume nuclear tests. This escalation is for experts purely verbal – President Trump wishes to express his exasperation faced with a Russian counterpart who has been wasting his time since the meeting in Anchorage (Alaska) in August 2025. Yet the nuclear threat is real - many countries have them or are seeking to access them. They truly represent main dangers for Western democracies (14) ; in Europe only France and UK have the nuclear weapons.

Clockwork Orange in Europe

In the film by Stanley Kubrick «Clockwork Orange» (15), the British filmmaker describes two forms of violence. First, the ultra-violence of modern society with the emerging of a gang of young people into the aseptic universe of a couple followed by an unleashing of gratuitous and uncontrolled brutality. On the other hand, the violence of institutions (police, prison administration, hospital) that recondition "offenders" by inflicting physical and psychological torture on them (16). Psychiatry is a formidable weapon in the hands of totalitarians, denounced by Milos Forman in «One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest» (17). He was alluding to Soviet totalitarianism and its use of psychiatry against dissidents. The methods applied by Vladimir Putin since his accession to power in 2000 (Chechnya, Syria, Ukraine...) are part of this double individual and institutional violence inspired by Stalinism. Political opponents are sent to prison where they are tortured, as in the time of the Gulag. Confessions are extorted from dissidents, as during the great purges. A latent and insidious terrorism is exerted on the population, especially the youngest recruited for war. The ill-treatment inflicted on Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilian populations in the occupied zone are those observed in the former Yugoslavia: rape of women and men, torture and killings of civilians (Bucha in March 2022), torture of prisoners... These facts constitute war crimes.

The European Union was very naive in 2014 during the first Russian aggressions against Ukraine, out of economic interest – Germany and other countries benefited from cheap Russian oil and gas. In 2025, Europe is facing a more complicated equation – pro-Russian far-right parties (overtly or insidiously) have made a breakthrough in the European Parliament both in Western and Eastern countries (18). The Russian influence is massive among European and national parliamentarians. To counter Russian propaganda, influence is the 6th strategic function of the National Strategic Review (RNS) of the French armed forces with deterrence, prevention, protection, intervention, knowledge, and anticipation. The RNS is an interministerial summary document entitled 'a new analysis of the threats facing France and a strategic course for the armed forces and foreign policy actors'. The fight against disinformation is crucial in the face of "the internal legitimacy crisis of democracies", where the "confrontations of political models and value systems" are manipulated by extreme and divide citizens. It is aggravated by "the globalization of flows of goods, people and communications" which has "greatly increased our interdependencies" with the digital revolution and the speed of access to information that arrives directly on smartphones where citizens are trapped by algorithms. The Artificial Intelligence (AI) should enhance the trend by multiplying cheap fake pictures, videos and websites.

As in 'Clockwork Orange', Europe is subjected to a double violence exerted by Russia and its allies - on individuals (hot war) and on institutions (hybrid war). The nuclear threat is one of the instruments of this terror strategy which is polymorphic, throwing confusion into minds and using all the anxieties and fears of the Europeans (precariousness, downgrading, climate disasters, war, nuclear weapons...). The EU must resist, like Ukraine, anytime anywhere to defend its values and its colors. *Slava Ukraini !*

- (1) Laurent Hablot. « Or des Dieux, fruit de jouvence ou couleur du traître : l'orange au Moyen Âge ». J. Grévy; C. Manigand; D. Turrel. *Vert et Orange. Deux couleurs à travers l'histoire*, PULIM, pp.21-31, 2013, 978-2-84287-594-7. ([halshs-01260094](https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-01260094))
- (2) Buddhism - <https://bouddha-bouddhisme.com/> téléchargé le 16 juillet 2025
- (3) Académie de Creteil- Orangé- téléchargé le 16 juillet 2025
- (4) Valentyna Dymytra, « Quand une révolution devient orange. Approche sémio-discursive d'une couleur en politique », Dossier ENS , p. 85-101, <https://doi.org/10.4000/mots.21714>
- (5) Leroy, M. (2015). Agent orange : la guerre du Viêt Nam n'est pas finie. *Ballast*, 3(2), 74-85. <https://doi.org/10.3917/ball.003.0074>.
- (6) Lepick Olivier. Une guerre dans la guerre : les armes chimiques, 1914-1918. In: *Revue Historique des Armées*, n°203, 1996. Grande Guerre, Année 1916. pp. 73-86.DOI : <https://doi.org/10.3406/rharm.1996.4555> ; www.persee.fr/doc/rharm_0035-3299_1996_num_203_2_4555
- (7) André VANTOMME « Rapport fait au nom de la commission des Affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (1) sur le projet de loi autorisant l'approbation d'un accord entre le Gouvernement de la République française et le Gouvernement de la Fédération de Russie relatif à une coopération en matière de destruction des stocks d'armes chimiques en Fédération de Russie, », Paris, janvier 2007
- (8) Sophie Lepault « Russie, Chine, Iran. La revanche des empires », France, 2024, 93 minutes diffusé sur Arte le mardi 28 mai 2024
- (9) Chloé Hoorman et Faustine Vincent « Washington livre des mines antipersonnel à Kiev », *Le Monde*, 22 novembre 2024
- (10) *Le Monde avec Afp*, Guerre en Ukraine : Volodymyr Zelensky signe un décret en vue du retrait de Kiev de la convention d'Ottawa sur les mines antipersonnel », dimanche 29 juin 2025-
- (11) Philippe Delacroix « La convention d'Ottawa sur les mines antipersonnel : traité exemplaire ou cas d'espèce ? », Paris, CNEMA, 2012- The Ottawa Convention was innovative in four aspects: negotiation mode and role of NGOs grouped within the International Campaign to Ban Anti-Personnel Mines (ICBL), winners of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997; humanitarian approach to disarmament on the protection of victims, in particular civilians, and human suffering; multilateral negotiations and follow-up mechanisms of the Convention placed outside the strict confines of the United Nations to involve NGOs; finally of the original monitoring mechanisms implemented by the countries (CNEMA in France)..
- (12) Observatory of anti-personnel mines - November 2024 report
- (13) UN Programme for Development (PNUD), October 2024
- (14) North Korea, Iran, Pakistan...
- (15) Stanley Kubrick « Clockwork Orange», USA & UK, 1971
- (16) Alain Brossat, « Alex invictus - Orange mécanique ou l'inservitude volontaire », *Appareil* [En ligne], Articles, mis en ligne le 14 janvier 2009, consulté le 16 juillet 2025. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/appareil/698> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/appareil.698>
- (17) Milos Forman « One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest», USA , 1975 ; Oscar for the best movie
- (18) From the fourth to the third of deputys in June 2024
- (19) Jonathan Guiffard « L'influence comme fonction stratégique, un funambulisme pour démocrates », Institut Montaigne, 8 juillet 2025-

Newsletter written on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 and corrected on October 31, 2025

Plan International, en Pologne, Roumanie et Moldavie, pour apporter aide matérielle et psychosociale aux jeunes ukrainiens et à leur famille, et [sollicite des dons](https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don) pour ce faire.- <https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don>

L'Aide médicale et caritative France-Ukraine - envoi de convois d'aide humanitaire, des soins aux blessés, des échanges de savoir-faire médical, une aide psychologique et organise des colonies de vacances pour les enfants orphelins - HelloAsso - <https://www.helloasso.com/associations/aide%20medicale%20caritative%20france%20ukraine/collectes/aider-ukraine-amurgence-help-ukraine/don>

Le Comité d'aide médicale Ukraine - réfugiés en transit dans l'ouest du pays, et collecte fonds, médicaments et équipements pour l'hébergement et les soins via ses partenaires français, l'association SAFE et l'organisation FONDEMOS. - <http://www.cam-z.org/en/news/121/>

JeVeuxAider.gouv.fr est la plateforme publique du bénévolat, - une page dédiée Mobilisons-nous pour l'Ukraine .- <https://www.jeveuxaider.gouv.fr/engagement/benevolat-ukraine/>

Les Banques alimentaires - une aide d'urgence à apporter aux frontières de l'Ukraine, dans les pays frontaliers accueillant des réfugiés - <https://www.banquealimentaire.org/urgence-ukraine>

La Protection Civile et l'Association des maires de France ont établi une [liste](#) (lits de camps, sacs de couchage, lingettes, conserves, pansements hémostatiques, solutions antiseptiques ...).

L'Association des maires de France a dressé les [lieux de collecte](#) à travers toute la France. Les Maires de France appellent à la [solidarité avec l'Ukraine](#) . De nombreuses villes de France organisent des collectes de produits de première nécessité - <https://www.amf.asso.fr/documents-les-maires-france-appellent-la-solidarite-avec-lukraine/41122>

La plateforme officielle « *Je m'engage pour l'Ukraine* » lancée le 8 mars 2022 par le gouvernement pour accompagner les Français souhaitant héberger chez eux des Ukrainiens réfugiés et accueillis en France.- <https://parrainage.refugies.info/>

Les associations, fondations, entreprises et collectivités territoriales peuvent utiliser ce [formulaire en ligne](#) pour renseigner leur capacité d'hébergement.- <https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/hebergement-personne-morale-ukraine>

Bibliothèque sans frontière (BSF) - Depuis le début de l'offensive russe en Ukraine, BSF se mobilise et déploie, partout en Europe, des solutions d'urgence pour l'accueil et l'intégration des populations réfugiées. « Bonjour France » est une application pour smartphone innovante et totalement gratuite, qui propose un apprentissage accéléré du français depuis l'ukrainien, disponible depuis le 19 octobre 2022.

<https://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2022/10/14/bsf-lance-bonjour-france-une-application-innovante-dapprentissage-du-francais-pour-les-refugies-ukrainiens/>

La mission catholique de l'Eglise polonaise en France suggère également le lien suivant : <https://mission-catholique-polonaise.pl/polska-we-francji/pere-brzys-la-mcp-lance-une-initiative-nationale-pour-aider-lukraine/> - **Source** : conférence des évêques de France