



Solidarity for Ukraine – 01/04/2023- issue 14 – Total disappointment

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The Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (iriv) is associated to the international solidarity for Ukraine attacked by Russia on 24th February 2022. After a pandemic that has weakened democratic countries with the disturbing rise of conspiracy theories and hate speech on social networks, we do hope this war in Europe will be an opportunity to reflect on a new solidarity, among European and international allies. This issue is the fourth for 2023 and the 14th since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. This month of April 2023 begins strangely- Russia takes over the presidency of the Security Council at the UN as the sad anniversary of the war crimes committed in Bucha in April 2022 by Russian troops is celebrated. This issue examines the causes and consequences of disappointment. The term is polysemic; it is also full of

nuances, which have been singularly lacking in Russian strategy since the beginning of the conflict. We will specifically ask about “being disappointed”. In a first point, we will evoke two perspectives- we can be disappointed by others, but also by ourselves when we believed in a cause that turned out to be a smoke and mirrors. We will then consider the attitudes of the different protagonists in the face of disappointment, their «resistance to frustration» to use the so overused terms of psychology. First the Russian president (the aggressor), then his Ukrainian counterpart (the aggressor). Finally, we will discuss the possibilities that are offered in the face of disappointment- to act as if nothing had happened, the strategy «Everything is fine Madame la Marquise»; to continue the aggression and brutalize the relations. We will consider lessons learned from disappointment.

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* the logo was designed by Caritas Canada in February 2022

Being disappointed

In the Petit Robert (French Dictionary, 1990 edition), the term «disappointment» is associated with deception in the 19th century. The first recorded occurrence in the 12th century refers to the Latin «deceptio» which is the noun of the verb deceive. At the present time, disappointment is synonymous with «deception, disillusionment or misunderstanding».

The highlight of all these proposals is the burning feeling of having been deceived, of having been the toy of a manipulation, of having us take «bladders for lanterns» (French expression coming from a medieval tale). In this case, the cause of the disappointment is external, there was a deliberate will to deceive expressed by a third party. But one can also have deceived oneself, be lulled into illusions, have taken one's desires for realities, be left for example on the hypothesis, optimistic, that one was dealing with benevolent and intelligent beings before realizing, with dread, that we were addressing very ordinary, malicious and not very clever beings. You can only attack yourself, which further increases your disappointment.

The French dictionary “Petit Robert” underlines the consequences of being disappointed. They are often very personal. They translate into a feeling of “spite” which is “grief mixed with anger, due to personal disappointment, a tingling of self-esteem”. The dictionary suggests as synonyms «bitterness, jealousy, resentment». These mixed feelings are not very constructive and can sometimes lead to the worst, with exaggerated and violent reactions that further aggravate his frustration or sadness.

Love is obviously the most famous example that has inspired so many novels or plays. In the French novel that was very popular in the XIXth Century in France «Le comte de Monte Cristo» (1) written by French novelist Alexandre Dumas (who became very popular abroad with the translation of its main book “The Three Musketeers” evokes the story of Edmond Dantès, victim of an unjust and unfair imprisonment fomented by his rivals, Mondego and Danglars, to take his place with his fiancée but also his social position. Dantes embarrassed and learned it at his expense by being sent to the castle of If (nearby Marseilles in the South of France). Revenge is the best romantic spring. The hero thinks while incarcerated about how to free himself and get revenge. He approached a fellow prisoner, Abbé Faria, who would be the key to his triumphant return and a ruthless revenge against all those who had betrayed him. All the romantic ingredients are present: the jealousy that Edmond Dantès aroused without realizing it; the smallness and the baseness of his detractors who not content to set up a cabal against him deprive him of all existence by symbolically «killing» him.

Disappointed Russian president

On Friday, 17th of March 2023, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for the Russian leader for war crimes committed in Ukraine. A further disappointment for the Russian President who had already been very disappointed since 24 February 2022 by the unexpected resistance in Ukraine (2).

The Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants against two individuals: Mr. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Ms. Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova, Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights in Russia. Vladimir Putin "is alleged to be responsible for the war crime of illegal deportation of people [children] and illegal transfer of people [children] from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation." The court added, "The crimes were allegedly committed on occupied Ukrainian territory," the ICC said, adding that there were "reasonable grounds to believe that Mr. Putin is personally responsible for the aforementioned crimes."

A first disappointment came from Volodymyr Zelenski who did not fit the profile that his Russian counterpart had made of him- a presumptuous young inexperienced, who knew nothing about life, the real, that of a "perfect idiot". He couldn't understand anything because he didn't know the "school of the street". He had been too well brought up, too spoiled, with family, friends, a professional success. His success on television as a humourist had aroused the most perfect contempt in the man of the KGB, who knows so well the human turpitudes, who has spawned with the «high society» of the suburbs of Saint Petersburg , without faith or law, where threat and extortion are common social and professional practices. Putin intended to get rid of this «puppet» president as quickly as possible in a few weeks, who had improvised «president in reality» after having been in a television series «The servant of the people» (3). After three years (2019-2022) of intensive study, his judgment was without appeal and confirmed by his henchmen who gave him a caricatural profile - «burlesque, comic, grotesque, ridiculous» (Petit Robert). The summoned specialists, experts in psychology and other behavioural sciences behaved like cheap coaches, psychologist apprentices, the team of substitutes for real professionals who would not have made such major mistakes. They lacked subtlety and intelligence because the game was played in advance according to them; they were so sure they were right.

A final disappointment of the Russian President came from the Western United States in the first place, and the European Union (especially the European Institutions) who responded as one man and gave unconditional support to the man of Kiev, and to an entire people, Ukraine. US President Joe Biden attacked Vladimir Putin from the beginning of the conflict in very strong terms - "war criminal" (4) and continued to support Volodymyr Zelensky until he triumphantly welcomed him in Washington in December 2022. Vice President Kamala Harris took up the torch in February 2023 at the Munich Conference on Security in Europe by attacking Russia with unyielding terms and calling it "crimes against humanity" (5)

Ukrainian disappointment

The Ukrainian president has become the herald of the Western camp; Ukraine, the flagship of democracy at war against repeated attacks by authoritarian regimes. The future of Europe and democracy is at stake in Ukraine's troubled land.

The disappointment may have come from the Western camp. Volodymyr Zelensky was rightly surprised by the German reluctance to deliver his Leopard tanks and by allowing other countries like Denmark and the Baltic states to do the same. The French ambiguities are also disappointing with a president Emmanuel Macron who has worked so hard to maintain a dialogue with a Russian president who was blatantly lying to him and whose outcome has been as fruitless as with American President Trump, whom he also claimed to like. The Franco-German couple was not on the front-line defending Ukraine.

President Zelensky, on the other hand, was able to count on the unwavering support of Poland (despite a sensitive past between the two countries) and the United Kingdom which found a Churchillian breath (despite a Prime Minister Boris Johnson who was not always at his best). The candidature of Finland and Sweden, historically neutral countries, are other reassuring signs for the Ukrainian president. The threat of the obstruction of Turkish President Recep Erdogan who finally gave up vanished and the two new members should join the ranks of the allies in a military alliance enriched of two strategic countries. In March 2023, new worrying signs came from the European Union, with Bulgaria and Slovakia, whose leaders came to power following the example of Hungarian President Victor Orban who has proved to be an indispensable ally of Russia (and any authoritarian regime), after giving in to the sirens of Russia (6). Hungary confirms its «Trojan Horse» position within the European Union to relay all the most authoritarian and anti-democratic speeches (and hate speech) that claim to undermine the foundations of the European Union.

Ukrainian disappointment mainly came from the rest of the world. Why is Africa striving to see a war between Europeans in Ukraine? Why does it refuse to see that Russia is acting as a colonizing country towards the Ukraine that it wants to vassalize? Why does the extreme, understandable sensitivity of African countries to imperialism and neo-colonialism not apply to Ukraine? The terms of trade with its Russian neighbour are just as uneven as African countries with former colonizing countries. Why this inequality of treatment for Ukrainians? Ukraine may also be disappointed by Asia, and in the first place India, long considered the “first democracy in the world” (for its number of inhabitants) which does not respect the embargo against Russian hydrocarbons and benefits from the situation. Why this unfair and surprising game when China, Russia's ally, is just as threatening to the Indian regime? Why this short-term view? South America is just as disappointing- Bolsonaro's Brazil would obviously have supported Putin, a friend and supporter of the International Supremacism and far right over the world. But why President Lula's blindness and refusal to support Ukraine and the Ukrainians? The Brazilian President's radical and overtly anti-NATO stance has become a “stumbling block” with Western countries. (7)

Lessons learned from a disappointment

The popular adage is that anger is bad advice because it would be the expression of negative emotions. Yet it can be perfectly justified, a healthy reaction to a deluge of hostilities as incomprehensible as sterile. Disappointment is not of the same order, it is a matter of a deeper process, the accumulation of elements in charge, a series of evidence that can no longer be denied. It often materializes after numerous alerts that have not been taken seriously, the impossibility of being heard and understood, the failure of any communication. It is then important to get out of denial even if it is painful and difficult to admit one's mistake when it lasted several years.

What are the possible reactions to disappointment? The first is resentment or bitterness which are not very constructive feelings. To the disappointment of others add that of oneself is not an inspiring strategy. The risk is to sink into sterile pressure. We can also act "as if nothing had happened", continue tirelessly to do and do the same things over and over again, in the hope that, over and over, we will be heard, and that disappointment will be a bad memory. The bet is risky and not very credible. It's not convincing to anyone. It's better to be honest with yourself, admit that you've made a main mistake, and make the right decisions to change the balance of power. A final strategy linked to the previous one is to radically change things, by coming out of a sterile face-to-face and addressing other interlocutors. It is then a question of taking a new start for a new breath; the Anglo-Saxons speak of «fresh start». This solution may seem radical; it is often the most constructive and sometimes the only solution when all other means have been exhausted and its proposals have been unsuccessful.

Hillary Clinton in 2009 (8), when she was Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs under Barack Obama's presidency, spoke of "reset" in diplomatic relations with Russia. She said the Cold War was nothing but a bad memory. Fourteen years later, it feels like a "rewind". Vladimir Putin orchestrated a formidable «comeback» of the global tension between two antagonistic blocs. The disappointment he had to conceive in seeing the resistance of the Ukrainian president, and the Western support, should lead to a brutalization of relations, an escalation in hostilities. The question is whether he still has the means. Russian troops are skating in Ukraine. Faced with the disappointing strategies of Africa, India or Latin America, and even within the European Union (Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia...) , President Zelensky should certainly not let himself go to bitterness or resentment, nor renunciation. His formidable combativity should inspire him for this new phase of the war, already global for some analysts, only regional for others (9). One thing is for sure, he will find a plan B and will be able to address the right interlocutors to get out of this formidable duel between Democracy and Dictatorship – *Slavi Ukraini* ! (10)!

- (1) Alexandre Dumas « Earl of Monte Cristo », Paris, 1844
- (2) Ouest France avec Afp, 17 mars 2023- <https://www.ouest-france.fr/europe/russie/vladimir-poutine/guerre-en-ukraine-la-cour-penale-internationale-emet-un-mandat-darret-contre-vladimir-poutine-337c38d8-c4d6-11ed-93d7-4c4cd65beb9c>
- (3) Humorous series «The Servant of the People», a Russian-language programme broadcast on Ukrainian and Russian television, of which Volodymyr Zelensky was the author, main actor and producer
- (4) Joe Biden « I think that Putin is a war criminal”- mars 2022 - President Biden answers reporters' questions on if Russian President Putin is a war criminal: "I think he is a war criminal." https://www.c-span.org/video/?518741-...https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXY1_bmZODY
- (5) Kamala Harris at the Security Conference in Munich- *US vice-president tells Munich security conference that Russia's actions in Ukraine constitute 'crimes against humanity'. She says: 'We have examined the evidence, we know the legal standards, and there is no doubt.' The official determination, which came at the end of a legal and factual analysis led by the US state department, carries no immediate consequences for the war -* <https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2023/feb/18/kamala-harris-russia-committed-crimes-against-humanity-ukraine-video>
- (6) Jean-Baptiste Chastand- « En Bulgarie et en Slovaquie, des socialistes copient le Hongrois Viktor Orban », Le Monde 31 mars 2023 https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2023/03/31/en-bulgarie-et-en-slovaquie-des-socialistes-copient-le-hongrois-viktor-orban_6167668_3210.html
- (7) Bruno Meyerfeld “A Washington, Lula veut porter la voix des pays du Sud » , Le Monde, 11 février 2023
- (8) Hillary Clinton and her Russian colleague Sergei Lavrov -Hillary Clinton is all smiles with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov after presenting him a device with a red knob during their meeting in Geneva on Friday. - <https://www.politico.com/story/2009/03/video-wrong-red-button-019719>
- (9) Special issue dedicated to Ukraine presented by French journalist Caroline Roux « L'événement », jeudi 16 février 2023, France 2.
- (10) « Glory to Ukraine » - sentence repeated by the Ukrainian president at the end of all his speeches which is also the name of the second film dedicated by Bernard Henri Levy to Ukraine « *Slavi Ukraini* » , Paris, February 2023

Contacts utiles

Pour aider l'Ukraine, voici une liste d'associations & ONG - **Source** : <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A15542>

Support Ukraine – une plateforme accessible sur - <https://www.supportukraine.co/>

Croix-Rouge Française - [Croix-Rouge française](https://www.croix-rouge.fr/Nos-actions/Action-internationale/Rechercher-un-programme/LA-CROIX-ROUGE-FRANCAISE-EN-UKRAINE) pour des dons financiers, en soutien de la Croix-Rouge ukrainienne, au Comité International de la Croix-Rouge - <https://www.croix-rouge.fr/Nos-actions/Action-internationale/Rechercher-un-programme/LA-CROIX-ROUGE-FRANCAISE-EN-UKRAINE>

Médecins sans frontières - [fonds d'urgence](https://soutenir.msf.fr/faire-un-don/~mon-don) dans les pays limitrophes de l'Ukraine et cherchent à faire entrer du matériel médical et du personnel. - <https://soutenir.msf.fr/faire-un-don/~mon-don>

Secours populaire - lance un appel aux dons d'urgence à l'Ukraine. - <https://don.secourspopulaire.fr/ukraine/~mon-don>

Protection civile - un appel aux dons pour financer d'autres besoins (défibrillateurs, respirateurs, groupes électrogènes, etc.) : <https://don.protection-civile.org/soutenir>

Fondation de France - lance un [appel à la générosité](https://dons.fondationdefrance.org/solidarite-avec-les-ukrainiens/~mon-don?) pour soutenir les centaines de milliers de personnes affectées par le conflit en Pologne et en Roumanie - <https://dons.fondationdefrance.org/solidarite-avec-les-ukrainiens/~mon-don?>

Agence des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés - situation d'urgence de niveau 3 pour la crise en Ukraine, le plus élevé. L'UNHCR a renforcé ses opérations en Ukraine et dans les pays voisins, pour la soutenir, vous pouvez faire un don : https://donner.unhcr.org/fr/fr-fr/urgence-ukraine?_cv=1

Unicef - un besoin urgent de financement pour répondre aux besoins essentiels des enfants Pour faire un don sur le site Unicef.fr - https://don.unicef.fr/b/mon-don?cid=322&_cv=1

ONG Care International - un [formulaire en ligne de dons d'urgence à l'Ukraine](https://soutenir.carefrance.org/mon-don/~mon-don?ns_ira_cr_arg=IyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyPkRj6HFA1Y69SN8wBpGdbU49oyB0t9PJwOohrrNCWZ1E1xvYyuCP14dJQ2nrY0C9CFXInHRxueOqPBpQ7tkkn%2F&private_server_time=1672227862538&cid=13&_cv=1) pour apporter une aide d'urgence aux populations et aux réfugiés - https://soutenir.carefrance.org/mon-don/~mon-don?ns_ira_cr_arg=IyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyPkRj6HFA1Y69SN8wBpGdbU49oyB0t9PJwOohrrNCWZ1E1xvYyuCP14dJQ2nrY0C9CFXInHRxueOqPBpQ7tkkn%2F&private_server_time=1672227862538&cid=13&_cv=1

L'ONG française ACTED organise des convois humanitaires pour l'Ukraine

association Solidarités International – une [collecte des fonds](https://dons.solidarites.org/b/mon-don?cid=880&_cv=1) pour envoyer des convois de vivres et biens de première nécessité, distribuer de l'eau et des repas aux réfugiés - https://dons.solidarites.org/b/mon-don?cid=880&_cv=1

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