



Solidarity for Ukraine –issue 27- Pax Europeana

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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 5th one for 2024 and the 27th since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. May 9th is the Day of Europe (1). In 2024, we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Allied landings in Normandy, the end of Nazism and the restoration of Peace. The US Congress voted last Saturday, April 20th, 61 billion in aid to Ukraine after 6 months of republican obstruction, highly isolationist.

Europeans must prepare to take charge of their defense and security (2). Anniversaries may be an opportunity to take stock of a brutal event that changed our life. In a first point we will talk about the theory of change - the steps sometimes followed to overcome a major drama. In a second point, we will study the case of Russia which seems to fuel a destructive anger. In a third point, we will see how Ukraine overcame its trials, reconstruction can be hectic. In conclusion, we will reflect on the peace process – under the aegis of the United States, exceptional men helped change the course of tragic events that seemed hopeless in the 20th century. In 2024, could the European Union play this role of «peacemaker» - a *Pax Europeana* for the 21st century?

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* the logo was designed by Caritas Canada in February 2022

Theory of change, steps and new course

Swiss psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler Ross suggested a model that has become popular to describe the different sequential (linear) stages that would follow people facing the death of a loved one (3). The first step is denial - denying or refusing change by clinging to a current and known situation that is more reassuring. The second step is anger – one can no longer remain in denial, and one violently displays a behavior of frustration with one's surroundings. The third step is bargaining - one still resists change by suggesting something to stay in the current situation that reassures while knowing that it can no longer continue. The fourth stage is depression, which paradoxically opens a possibility of acceptance; we no longer refuse change, but we are anxious about its negative sides (a disorder) and skeptical about its positive sides (it is a leap into the unknown). The fifth step is acceptance – we are ready to accept a change that is inevitable, always disturbing but necessary. We can no longer continue as before; we then demonstrate more emotional stability by adopting a retrospective vision that allows us to approach a more constructive phase, preparing for action.

Canadian director Jean-Marc Vallée's film «Demolition» (2015) radically illustrates the different stages or extreme emotional states through which the main character (played by Jake Gyllenhaal), a young man, is fulfilled by his social and professional life when he suddenly loses his wife in a car accident (4). He initially seems insensitive, which shocks the parents of her wife. Then he begins to dismantle everything around him (fridge, computer, toilet door...) or destroy houses. This demolition symbolizes the mental torments he is going through. The hero is not totally destructive since he begins an epistolary relationship with the customer service of a candy dispenser, which was in the hospital where his wife died. He finds a benevolent and salutary listening with an older woman, probably a widow, who has a young teenage son who is also going through an existential crisis. The wounded man and the tormented teenager help each other, this collaboration or sharing of grief saves them both.

Faced with a brutal shock, everyone reacts in one's own way without necessarily following all the steps suggested by dr Elisabeth Kübler Ross whose model was the subject of criticism ; the experiment carried out in American universities was not conclusive. The duration of the process is also very different from one person to another, sometimes it can last a very long time or come back harder after a new brutal shock. We do not always get to the bottom of things the first time, the solutions that had satisfied us collapse after a new shock. We have to dig deeper and accept truths that were not pleasant to hear or admit. One thing is certain, after the deconstruction, the reconstruction should not delay too much. A necessary new start (or reset) is often accompanied by a radical change in the course of our life.

Demolition and permanent anger in Russia

For the past two years, the long series of analyses provided by experts in military strategy and psychological warfare to understand Vladimir Putin's behavior have been in the same direction – the Russian president is still in a demolition phase. One hesitates between the denial of a past Russian greatness that he wishes to restore; the anger in the face of the resistance of the countries he has attacked or the western democracies that he has challenged; or bargaining, constantly dangling a possibility of agreement in the Western camp while sowing discord within it. The fundamental element, the shock, is the collapse of the USSR in 1991.

The denial was expressed at the beginning of the war, as after the fall of the USSR which left skeptics and destroyed many apparatchiks. The Russian army sincerely believed that the Ukrainian army would be defeated in three weeks, three months at most. Yet the Ukrainians held, impressing not only their allies but also their opponents. The role of herald of the resistance of Volodymyr Zelenski was decisive both on Western support and on the mobilization of men and women in Ukraine. The delayed support provided by the USA and the EU (ammunition) in the past 6 months hasn't greatly changed the war even if doubts are increasing on the Western side.

Anger had been brewing since 1991; the February 24th, 2022 attack is just another twist. Vladimir Putin was not the only one to conceive of a stubborn resentment towards Western democracies that he and many curiously blinded analysts lacked “elegance and restraint” by “humiliating” Russia. The collapse of the USSR could have been a great opportunity for the Russians to regain control of their destiny. But very quickly the apparatchiks of yesterday were able to turn the situation to their advantage to continue to serve their own interests. The Russian intelligence services were the armed arm of a new form of “mafia totalitarianism” set up by the Saint Petersburg clique, with methods borrowed from the great gangsterism (5)- the streets of Moscow had nothing to envy to those of Chicago under the Prohibition with Al Capone, or of Hong Kong and Macao, cut by the Chinese triads after their return to the motherland in the late 1990s (6), or the streets of Palermo, under the rule of bloodthirsty godfathers who savagely eliminated great clerks of the Italian State, General Carlo dalla Chiesa, in 1982 or Judge Falcone in 1992 (7).

Finally, bargaining is the preferred weapon of a Russian president who has continued to blow the heat and cold with Western countries that have been slow to react. Its last «decoy» in December 2023 was to launch the idea of a ceasefire with Ukraine, if it agrees to leave them the territories occupied by Russia since 2014 (8). The Russian President has felt strong since the war in the Middle East began in October 2023 with friendly countries multiplying harassment against Western countries – Iran through terrorist movements or direct attacks (9), Syria under Bashar Al-Assad, or China and North Korea. In 2024, Vladimir Putin bet on discord within the Western world: the potential election of Trump in the United States in November 2024, and the victories of extreme parties in Europe in June 2024. Crucial and decisive elections..

Resilience and chaotic reconstruction in Ukraine

In Ukraine, President Zelenski and the entire population passed all stages of the theory of change in record time. As in Russia, the process had begun ten years earlier, in Maidan in February 2014, the first major demonstration of acceptance – Ukraine’s dependence on Russia could no longer last. This hold had to stop; the USSR had already been an endless ordeal with Stalin’s criminal relentlessness to break any Ukrainian resistance. It was an existential question of survival. The only chance the Ukrainians had was to be firmly anchored to the western camp, which was reaching out to them through a partnership agreement with the European Union.

The reconstruction began with the election of a new president in 2019, Volodymyr Zelenski, experienced in communication techniques and surrounded by a young team equally expert in the most advanced technologies - Ukrainian hackers have done wonders to counter Russian attacks; drones on the ground have reduced already considerable losses in skillful (male and female) hands. The difference in profiles between the belligerents is obvious, a world separates the Russian and Ukrainian leaders. It may seem surprising to talk about reconstruction while Ukraine is still subject to Russian attacks that have redoubled since the end of 2023, when the Russian army managed to counter the Ukrainian offensive launched in the summer. Yet at the heart of the battle, the country must prepare for its future. Ukrainian negotiations with Western countries have never stopped since the beginning of the conflict and have even accelerated thanks to the Russian coup de force – negotiations for its entry into NATO started in 2022, but especially for its accession as a member of the European Union whose process officially began in November 2023. It can be long and difficult, but adversity is a powerful stimulant. They don’t have any other alternative.

In 2024, the main concerns in the reconstruction process come from within the country. Criticism began to multiply in the face of a mobilization of the population that would not concern all men and women of fighting age. It is important to reassure the Ukrainians not to cause a phenomenon of psychological demobilization that would add to the fatigue (and even exhaustion) of the fighters despite courage and perseverance that have always impressed their Western allies (and explain their support). Another disturbing element comes from the criticism of President Zelenski, who had been able to count on the massive and unconditional support of the population who could prefer other military leaders, such as former head of the army. But what would Valeri Zaloujny have done instead of Volodymyr Zelenski? The Ukrainian president met tirelessly with all his allies and even invited himself in places where he was not always welcome, with countries implicitly supporting the Russian president such as Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates that defied Western bans in December 2023 to welcome Vladimir Putin.

Reconstruction cannot be done in a spirit of division and discord while the institutions must be completely reset, to fight against endemic corruption in Ukraine.

2024, a first milestone for a *Pax Europeana* ?

The history of the twentieth century has experienced resounding reversals. The American & allied landing on the Normandy coast in 1944 **(10)** allowed the return of peace in Europe, after decades of totalitarianism **(11)**. To build peace, we must reconcile with ourselves. It must also be embodied in exceptional human beings. The mediation of a neutral and benevolent third party is finally decisive. In the 1970s, Egyptian President Anouar el Sadat **(12)** symbolized this courage and desire for peace. He normalized his relations with Israel after a fourth Israeli-Palestinian conflict **(13)**. Egypt has dissociated itself from its Syrian ally and got closer to the United States. In September 1975, by the so-called Sinai II agreement, Egypt accepted to give up military force. President Sadat went to Jerusalem in November 1977. A long and difficult negotiation under American patronage led to the framework agreements of Camp David (in September 1978), then to the Treaty of Washington (in March 1979). Egyptian territory is evacuated in stages, relationship with the Jewish state is normalized. President Sadat was assassinated on the 6th of October 1981 by Egyptian Islamists during the military parade commemorating the 1973 war. He was a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1978 with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

In the 1990s, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin **(14)** played the same decisive role for peace. In 1948, he was part of the delegation that negotiated the armistice agreements with the Arab states in 1949 in Rhodes. In 1967, he held at the highest position in the Israeli army and allowed the victory of the Six Day War. He then pursued an active political career in several governments. He was convinced that force would not resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict-a political way out for the Palestinians. After the 1992 electoral victory of the Labour party, he engaged in parallel and secret talks in Norway after the failure of the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference. The September 1993 Declaration of Principles defines a political process to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. Yitzhak Rabin broke a taboo by recognizing the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the representative of the Palestinian people, in exchange Yasser Arafat recognized the right of the State of Israel to exist. In 1994, Yitzhak Rabin won the Nobel Peace Prize with Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat. On November 4th, 1995, he was killed by an Israeli Jewish religious extremist.

The United States had a decisive influence in the 20th century for restoring peace in Europe (during World Wars I & II) and the Middle East. They were present alongside presidents Sadat and Rabin to lay the groundwork for a peace process in Camp David in 1978 or Oslo in 1993. The tragic end of the Egyptian and Israeli leaders illustrates the resistance to peace in their own countries. For Democracies, peace remains the only way out. *Si vis pacem, para pacem*. For authoritarian regimes or extremist movements, war is the only way to remain in power. *Si vis bellum, para bellum...* On the anniversary of the Allied Landing in Europe (1944-2024), the EU could in turn play the «peacemakers». The condition of a *Pax Europeana* is that Europeans would take their military destiny in hand and build a European Defense and Security Policy **(15)**- a new stage of the EU project for peace in Europe and to support all democracies in the World.

- (1) Declaration by Robert Schuman marking the beginning of European <https://www.education.gouv.fr/9-mai-journee-de-l-europe-323168>
- (2) The aid voted by the US Congress concerns a «democracy» package of 95 billion including 61 billion for Ukraine, 8 billion for Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific region, 17 billion for Israel and 9 billion in humanitarian aid in priority for the Palestinians.
- (3) Dr Elisabeth Kübler-Ross , « On Death and Dying », 1969- Change Management Theory cited by Canadian site Cymba- https://www.cymha.ca/resource-hub-files/t_change_modele_de_kubler_ross.pdf
- (4) Jean-Marc Vallée « Demolition », USA, 2015
- (5) Nick Greene « Putin, a spy become president », documentaries un 3 parts – Ascension, Enemies and traitors, Putin for ever, BBC, London (UK), 2022, - broadcasted by France Télévision, in 2023- <https://www.france.tv/documentaires/societe/poutine-l-espion-devenu-president/>
- (6) Antoine Vitkine – « Triades, les mafias chinoises à la conquête du monde », documentaries in 3 parts (Birth of an Octopus, Chinese Eldorado, Serving the Red Empire) <https://www.arte.tv/fr/videos/RC-024605/triades-la-mafia-chinoise-a-la-conquete-du-monde/>
- (7) Christophe Bouquet, « Mafias et banques » documentaries in 3 parts (The time of pioneers , Follow the money, Criminal International) – broadcasted by Arte in 2023- <https://www.arte.tv/fr/videos/102289-001-A/mafias-et-banques-1-3/>
- (8) Sylvie Kauffmann « Poutine et le piège de la négociation », Le Monde, 4 janvier 2023
- (9) Iranian attacks against Israel on 14th of April 2024; Hamas (Gaza and the West Bank) attacks on the 7th of October 2023 that was a reminder to the Kippour War (1973-2023) and Hezbollah (Lebanon) permanently or Houthis (Yemen) attacks in the Red Sea since October 2023
- (10) An American and European mobilization in which famous resistance fighters notably in France - Romain Gary, Joseph Kessel, Jean Moulin, Germaine Tillion, Lucie Aubrac, ou Missak et Mélinée Manouchian
- (11) Mussolini in Italy, Hitler in Germany, Franco in Spain and Salazar in Portugal,
- (12) Anouar El Sadate - https://www.larousse.fr/encyclopedie/personnage/Anouar_el-Sadate/141978
- (13) Kippour war in 1973
- (14) Yitzhak Rabin - https://www.larousse.fr/encyclopedie/personnage/Yitzhak_Rabin/140127
- (15) speech by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, 17th of April 2024, posted on LinkedIn by the European Commission- <https://www.linkedin.com/video/live/urn:li:ugcPost:7186334983278538753/>

Newsletter written on Tuesday 2 January 2024 ; updated on 30th of April 2024

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