



Solidarity Ukraine –issue 37- Red lines

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The Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (iriv) has been associated since 24 February 2022 with international solidarity in favour of Ukraine attacked by Russia. The COVID pandemic has weakened democratic countries. Conspiracy theories and hate speech have exploded on social media. This new war in Europe is no longer peripheral, it has become existential for the European Union which plays its influence in the world. This newsletter is the 3rd published in 2025 and the 37th since the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Red symbolizes fire (life) and blood (death). It is associated with the divine or sin. It was the color of the nobility of the clergy (cardinals) as that of the Bolshevik revolutions of 1917 or of communist China of 1949. Red is a color of passion. It fits

perfectly with the tyranny of emotions that characterizes the 21st century. We often hesitate between laughter and tears in the face of a geopolitics that escapes us and makes us anxious. The falsification of history is a specialty of the USSR as well as of Putin's Russia, the recovery of the Red Army is a good example. At the beginning of 2025, Ukraine is subliminally sending red lights to its allies as US aid enters a transactional phase. The "red lines" that must not be crossed, judged as points of no return, must be used wisely against opponents who constantly blur the cards and push the limits ever further. The European Parliament has recalled what would be the red lines of the EU in an eloquent text, published in January 2025, facing a Russian informational war that is about to recover the allied victory of the Second World War (1945-2025). If yesterday Allies decide to declare a war to the European Union, they must be prepared to red flag from Europe. Let's hope for the best but be prepared to the worst.

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* le logo a été dessiné par Caritas Canada en février 2022

Colour red

Red would be the color, «only worthy of this name» for Michel Pastoureau (1). In Latin “coloratus” or “colorado” in Spanish means both “red” and “colored”. In Russian “krasnoï” means “red” and “beautiful”. The Red Square in Moscow is the “beautiful place”. The supremacy of the red has imposed itself on the whole West. The color has two facets - fire (life) and blood (death, hell, the flames of Satan). In Antiquity, it has the attributes of power, religion and war. The god Mars or the Roman centurions are dressed in red, the purple drawn from murex (mollusks of the coasts of Palestine and Egypt). In the Middle Ages, the lords adorned themselves with the bright red of kermes (cochineal eggs) while the peasants were content with the vulgar Garance, more obscured. The cardinals in purple, characters «ready to shed their blood for Christ» oppose the red devils of the paintings. For the Protestant reformers, “red is immoral”, it is the color of “papists”. In ancient times, the bride was in red before the ban gradually prevailed - the color was associated with prostitutes. Red is associated with both the divine and the sin of flesh.

As early as the 18th century, a red rag means an imminent danger. Under the French Revolution, the Constituent Assembly decreed that in case of disturbances, a red flag would be raised to warn that the public force could intervene. Despite the flag, the National Guard shoots without warning on the «martyrs of the Revolution» in July 1791. The red flag becomes the emblem of the oppressed people and of the Revolution in progress. During the Revolution of 1848, it almost became the official emblem of the French Republic, but Lamartine saves the three colors. Soviet Russia in 1918 and communist China in 1949 adopted the red, revolutionary and proletarian flag. The Soviet army is red, like Mao’s little book (2).

The red nose is also that of clowns. According to Pascal Jacob (3), the tradition goes back to the end of the 19th century, when Albert Fratellini composed his character, giving him a white figure and a red nose that recalls drunkenness. According to Mathieu Chouinard (4), the modern clown was born in England in the second half of the 18th century, in the circus world. Its function was to relieve tension during perilous acrobatics. In the United Kingdom, the «Red Nose Day» has been celebrated since 1985 (5). The day is intended to raise funds for children in need. In the United States, the initiatives of the Republican president, re-elected in November 2024 by most of his fellow citizens, throws trouble in Europe and the world by conducting a curious strategy of maximum destabilization in an already anxiogenic geopolitics. His proposals to annex Panama or Greenland or the Gaza Strip (6), as well as his assessment of the “debt” (7) that Ukraine would have owed to the US (aid turned into a loan), have caused many questions and negative emotions. Transactional diplomacy or “red nose” operation in international relations ?

Red army in Russia

After the October Revolution of 1917, the revolutionary Bolsheviks organized a liberation army which took the name of «Red Army of workers and peasants» (8). Faced with the counter-revolution led by the White Army (white Russians loyal to the tsar), it becomes the Red Army. After the Second World War, in 1946, it was officially called the Soviet Army until the end of the USSR in 1991 but it continues to be called the Red Army. According to French historian Benoît Bihan (8), “Whatever the defects of the Soviet regime may have been, particularly in its Stalinist version, the defeat of Nazi Germany is undeniably to his credit. The magnitude of this victory has, moreover, played a decisive role in prolonging the «Soviet moment» in Russian and world history: not only by legitimating in a lasting way, in the eyes of its own population as well as abroad, the Communist Party and the state it controlled, but also by making Moscow from a pariah of international relations into an unavoidable superpower. The USSR owes it to its «Red Army of workers and peasants».

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of the Nazi extermination camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau (27 January 2025), an article by Xenia Fedorova, former president of *Russia Today* (9), blamed Westerners for having forgotten to invite Russia. For French journalist and writer Alla Poedie (10), this is a caricatural example of falsification and historical distortions using a well-known antiphon - Russia would be unjustly ostracized by the West. There is an abysmal difference between the Red Army of 1945 and Putin’s army in 2025. The first liberated Auschwitz and ended one of the worst chapters in human history, the second intends to enslave a sovereign country, bombs maternity hospitals, kidnaps Ukrainian children to Russify them, destroys cities and speaks openly, atomic blackmail in support, to wipe out a whole people who have a bad taste for resistance.” Alla Poedie recalls that the first Ukrainian Front of the Red Army which liberated the Nazi extermination camp was formed of the men of Lieutenant Anatoly Shapiro, a Ukrainian Jew, who commanded a Ukrainian battalion. Russian propagandist Xenia Fedorova deliberately forgets it, since according to Moscow the Ukraine does not exist.

For Yuri Fedorov, at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI), between March 2022 and October 2023, Russian military casualties increased from 231 to more than 600 per day; since November 2023, a thousand per day (11). The Institute for the Study of War, a U.S. Think Tank, reports 1,700 casualties per day, for a total of more than 600,000 dead and wounded since February 2022, including 79,819 Russian soldiers killed. The Russian army needs 30,000 men a month to continue its offensive. The partial mobilization of 300,000 men in September 2022 had led to the exodus from Russia of one million of the most educated men who do not recognize themselves in this war of aggression. Since the beginning of the conflict, the Russian army has been offering huge bonuses and offers. The first reason to get involved is for profit.

Red lights in Ukraine

Ukrainians expected a cold shower, suspended in the US election of the 4th of November 2024. They can indeed light several red lights at the beginning of 2025, which began in extreme anxiety after three years of war that weakened their country and soldiers. They preferred to remain discreet, out of caution, as they are dependent on US aid. They fear reprisals from a new US administration with a surprising transactional approach.

On the first day of his arrival in the White House, on January 20, 2025, the Republican president signed a series of decrees, which caused a wave of shocks in Ukraine and worldwide (12). The United States is the world's largest contributor to official development assistance in absolute terms (\$64.7 billion in 2023) but not in relative terms (related to the country's wealth, calculated by GDP). Only five countries meet the international target of 0.7% of GDP (Norway, Luxembourg, Sweden, Germany and Denmark); the United States is 25th in the world (0.24% of their GDP) and France is 11th (0.48%). The reasons given by the US president to justify the freeze of assisted programs are that they "serve to destabilize world peace by promoting in foreign countries ideas that directly run counter to harmonious and stable relations within and between countries". In the case of Ukraine, the American aid included demining operations where almost one-fifth of the territory is occupied by the Russian army. The director of the Veteran Hub, an NGO dedicated to helping veterans reintegrate into society, announced the closure of a shelter and the suspension of a phone line. The co-founder of the charity Voices of Children, which helps children affected by the conflict, deplored the suspension of their activities and the arrest of hundreds of specialists made available thanks to US aid.

US diplomats from the State Department's Office of European and Eurasian Affairs have asked (in vain) to exempt the US Agency for International Development (USAID) programs concerning Ukraine. Since February 2022, its funds have represented nearly \$40 billion (\$2.6 billion for humanitarian aid, \$5 billion for development and \$30 billion in direct aid to reduce the effects of Russian aggression (energy, support for democracy, health care). These brutal announcements would be intended to prepare negotiations on new bases between the American team and Ukraine (13). President Trump's transactional strategy is based on a "give and take" strategy. On several occasions, he has made disparaging remarks about the Ukrainian president presented as a formidable negotiator, and always winning, against a pusillanimous Democrats' administration. President Trump wanted to obtain an agreement ensuring the «security» of access of the United States to Ukrainian minerals in exchange for the American military and financial support in Kiev. These natural resources on Ukrainian soil are crucial for the Defense industries and the industry of Advanced technologies (14). The good news is that Ukraine's mining wealth interests the White House. The bad news is the offensive and openly pro-Russian strategy of the American team that meant to humiliate President Volodymyr Zelenski, taking as a witness the whole world, during the clash occurred «live» on July 28, 2025 between the two presidents.

Red lines for Europe

For the French researcher Bruno Tertrais (15), the expression “red line” is polysemic. In politics, “it is a matter of preventing an event considered unacceptable”. In diplomacy, it refers to an internal position when preparing for a negotiation, suggesting that any given concession would be unacceptable. In a more military strategy, the expression is used privately (“off”) by governments to define the threshold at which action would be taken; a “*casus belli*” if the line was crossed. It is a strategy of deterrence- a succession of coercive actions, even brutal, are carried out to send a strong message to its opponents. A warning shot. The shots of warning when the forces of law and order want to make it clear to the madmen that they are preparing to charge. For Bruno Tertrais, “the art of the red line” is particularly difficult. Drawing such lines creates important political dilemmas. In particular, “if the red line is too vague it is not credible; if it is too precise it may be more credible, but the cost of non-response may be too high” (16). A line that is too sharp can mean to the opponent that he is safe if it remains below, a line that is too blurry will prompt him to test it. There is no ideal.

The year 2025 marks the end of World War II (1939-1945). Russia is trying to rewrite history to its advantage, calling for a new «Yalta». To prevent this new offensive in the Russian information war, the European Parliament issued a strong and precise resolution on 24 January 2025 (17). The European institution recalled the 10 red lines already crossed by Putin’s Russia (succession of 10 «recitals»). The Parliament has strongly challenged the Russian Federation on its repeated attempts of intense propaganda (among its population and international public opinion) by falsifying European history and spreading false information , by giving an erroneous analysis of historical facts to justify Russian aggression against Ukraine (in particular the Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement) presenting its «special operation» as a «denazification» campaign, by erasing from its history the famine caused by the Stalinist regime against the Ukrainians (Holodomor), by deporting thousands of Ukrainian children to Russia (a characterized crime against humanity in Ukraine for the International Court of Justice). , by organizing the forced Russification of the occupied territories...

The European Parliament warns European countries against the information war waged by Russia. The European Commission has recalled its red lines against the trade war declared by the United States since 20 January 2025. The end of social media moderation (GAFAM) has opened another Pandora’s box. To defend democracy, and all democrats in Ukraine, Europe and the world, the European Union has recalled its “red lines”. It hopes to rely on the United States but nothing is less certain. We must be prepared but we could have many supports worldwide on our side.

Russia and its supporters must be prepared- in Europe, the red is set. ***Slava Ukraini !***

- (1) Michel Pastoureau et Dominique Simonnet (2005) « Le petit livre des couleurs », Paris : Editions du Panama
- (2) **Qingya Meng** , « *Le petit livre rouge de Mao, une rhétorique au service de la révolution* »- 28/2022- <https://doi.org/10.4000/trans.7707> ; <https://journals.openedition.org/trans/7707>
- (3) Pascal Jacob (2) Historien du cirque et directeur artistique du cirque Phénix <https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceinter/podcasts/les-p-tits-bateaux/les-p-tits-bateaux-du-vendredi-29-septembre-2023-6816092>
- (4) Mathieu Chouinard, clown et comédien canadien, Radio Canada, 1^{er} juillet 2017- <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/ohdio/premiere/emissions/matiere-premiere/segments/entrevue/29938/nez-rouge-clown-mathieu-chouinard>
- (5) Fêté le 21 mars au Royaume-Uni depuis 1985 et organisé par Comic Relief <https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/>
- (6) Alain Frachon « Le promoteur Trump et la riviera de Gaza », Le Monde, 7 février 2025
- (7) Selon le président Donald Trump les Etats Unis auraient consacré 300 milliards de dollars à l'Ukraine (en fait 183 milliards) et cette aide serait un prêt gagé sur les richesses minières ukrainiennes (estimées à 500 milliards)
- (8) Armée rouge, mot clé- L'histoire par l'image - <https://histoire-image.org/mots-cles/armee-rouge> téléchargé le 5 février 2025
- (9) Benoist Bihan , historien français, L'Armée rouge. De la milice à la force militaire, De 1941 à 1945, Pages 185 à 201, in « Les meilleures armées de l'histoire », 2021 - <https://shs.cairn.info/les-meilleures-armees-de-l-histoire--9782262100216-page-185?lang=fr>
- (10) Xenia Fedorova, ancienne présidente de Russia Today, tribune dans le JDD, 23 janvier 2025- <https://www.lejdd.fr/International/80e-anniversaire-de-la-liberation-dauschwitz-labsence-de-la-russie-relance-le-debat-sur-la-memoire-historique-154154>
- (11) Alla Poedie, Quand la propagande s'invite dans la mémoire d' Auschwitz – La règle du Jeu- 3 février 2025- <https://laregledujeu.org/2025/02/02/41495/quand-la-propagande-du-kremlin-sinvite-dans-la-memoire-dauschwitz/>
- (12) Chloe Hoorman, Thomas d'Istria, Marie Jego, Elise Vincent et Faustine Vincent, « Russie - Ukraine, un recrutement à marche forcée », Le Monde, dimanche 8 & lundi 9 décembre 2024
- (13) Thomas d'Istria et Philippe Ricard, « L'Ukraine panique et fait appel aux donateurs européens », Le Monde, 2 & 3 février 2025
- (14) Editorial du Monde « En gelant leur aide internationale, les Etats Unis s'affaiblissent », 2 & 3 février 2025
- (15) Thomas d'Istria « Ukraine : l'enjeu des terres rares dans une négociation de paix », Le Monde, 6 février 2025
- (16) Bruno Tertrais, « L'art de la ligne rouge », Fondation pour la Recherche stratégique, Recherches & Documents, n°01/2015, février 2015
- (17) Bruno Tertrais cite Yoel Guzansky, « Thin Red Lines: The Syrian and Iranian Contexts », Strategic Assessment, vol. 16, n° 2, juillet 2013
- (18) Résolution du Parlement européen publiée le 24 janvier 2025- https://memo.site/euoparlament_resolution

Newsletter written on Wednesday 5 February 2025 updated on 28 February 2025

Useful Contacts

To help Ukraine, we would like to share the contact with the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (National Union of Journalists of Ukraine) - <https://nuju.org.ua/>

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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](#) 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](#) 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](#) 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, our 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](#) 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](#) 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