

Beat: Politics

## Trump Slaps Europe as Putin Prepares for Retaliation

### Politics

Iraq, 20.02.2025, 14:43 Time

#### USPA NEWS - Introduction

The international stage has witnessed dramatic shifts following U.S. President Donald Trump's recent statements regarding Washington's commitment to NATO and its future relations with Europe. In a bold move, Trump has effectively sidelined European allies by engaging in direct negotiations with Russia over Ukraine's fate—without consulting NATO partners.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin is closely monitoring these developments, prepared to exploit any opportunity to expand his country's influence across Europe. Could Europe be on the brink of a new geopolitical earthquake in the aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine war.

#### Trump Reshapes the Balance of Power

Since his return to the political arena, Trump has not concealed his dissatisfaction with America's European allies. He has repeatedly criticized NATO members for failing to meet their defence spending commitments, warning of a potential reduction in U.S. support—or even a complete withdrawal—if Europe does not “pay its fair share.”

However, the real shock came with the U.S.-Russia negotiations on ending the Ukraine war, which appear to be heading toward a deal that could include significant concessions to Moscow, such as:

- \* Ukraine ceding 20% of its territory currently under Russian control, with the creation of a demilitarized zone in those areas.
- \* A commitment from Ukraine to remain neutral and forgo future NATO membership.
- \* Security guarantees for Ukraine, including arms supplies and defence cooperation to ensure stability.
- \* A requirement for Ukraine to repay the financial aid provided by the U.S. during the conflict as part of the peace agreement.
- \* The organization of presidential elections in Ukraine under current conditions to establish political legitimacy and internal stability.
- \* The restoration of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Russia, including reopening embassies and fostering cooperation.
- \* Russia agreeing to distance itself from Iran and North Korea while limiting its military presence in Syria.
- \* U.S. participation in balancing power against China, curbing Beijing's military and economic influence.

#### Trump's Blow to Europe

Trump has also delivered a direct warning to Europe, threatening to withdraw U.S. forces from the continent—a move that has sent shockwaves across NATO capitals. His threats include:

- \* Reducing U.S. military presence in Europe by 20%, withdrawing approximately 20,000 troops.
- \* Pressuring European nations to increase defence spending, arguing that American taxpayers should not bear the primary burden of collective security.
- \* Threatening NATO withdrawal if allies do not “pay their bills” and treat the U.S. “fairly.”
- \* Shifting military focus toward China and redirecting American forces to counter Beijing's growing influence.
- \* Imposing steep tariffs on European goods, particularly automobiles, with a 100% increase in trade duties.

#### The Future of NATO

Trump's rhetoric has sparked widespread concern among NATO members, raising questions about Europe's security and stability, especially if the Ukraine war ends on American terms—leaving European financial and military investments in Ukraine effectively wasted. Additionally, Russia's resurgence could pose a renewed threat to Eastern Europe and the continent as a whole.

For Washington, Russia may serve as a strategic tool to discipline European nations that have attempted to challenge U.S. global leadership.

## Putin Eyes Retaliation

On the other side, Vladimir Putin is closely watching these developments, recognizing that a diminished U.S. role in Europe could present him with a golden opportunity to reassert Russian influence. With growing doubts over NATO's cohesion, Putin may pursue his objectives through various strategies, including:

- \* Strengthening alliances with emerging powers to counter Western influence.
- \* Using energy as leverage, increasing gas prices for Europe.
- \* Interfering in European politics by supporting nationalist and far-right movements to destabilize the European Union.
- \* Enhancing economic ties with the U.S. by offering competitive prices on raw materials and natural resources.
- \* Exploiting Ukraine's occupied territories, which contain vast untapped natural resources.
- \* Negotiating with the U.S. to establish a demilitarized zone and eventually push NATO forces out of Eastern Europe.

## Conclusion

### A Clouded Future for Europe

Europe now faces a defining moment. After decades of relying on American security guarantees, the continent must reconsider its defence strategies—whether by bolstering its own military capabilities or forging new alliances that may exclude the U.S. altogether.

But the critical question remains: Can Europe stand on its own, or will internal divisions make it vulnerable to increasing Russian influence? The coming months will reveal the contours of a new world order.

### A Bloody Future for the Middle East

The biggest casualty of this geopolitical shift may be the Middle East. With Russia's role potentially diminished, the region's new political map could be redrawn by American and Israeli interests, reshaping it in a way that serves Washington's global ambitions—especially in countering Iran and curbing China's growing influence.

## Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-25366/trump-slaps-europe-as-putin-prepares-for-retaliation.html>

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V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): M. General Dhurgham Zuhair Fakhri

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