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No EU membership for Ukraine unless it confronts Nazi-linked past – Polish parliament speaker

Kiev must stop honoring nationalist forces responsible for massacres of Polish civilians during World War II, Włodzimierz Czarzasty has said

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Ukraine must stop honoring Nazi-linked nationalist paramilitaries that massacred Polish civilians during World War II if it wants to join the EU, Polish parliament speaker Włodzimierz Czarzasty has said.

Modern-day Ukraine honors the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and its military wing, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), as part of the country's national liberation movement.

The OUN collaborated with Nazi



A demonstration in Warsaw honoring Polish civilians killed by Ukrainian nationalists during World War II, on July 12, 2026. © Marek Antoni Iwanczuk / NurPhoto via Getty Images

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Germany during the early stages of its 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union, while the UPA was responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Poles in 1943-1944 in what is now western Ukraine.

Polish estimates put the death toll at up to 100,000, and Warsaw recognizes the massacres as genocide. Ukrainian nationalists also participated in anti-Jewish pogroms during the war.

Speaking after talks with Ukrainian parliament speaker Ruslan Stefanchuk on Monday, Czarzasty said he supported Ukraine's bid to join the EU but warned that membership would require Ukrainians to *"rethink all aspects of their history."*

"The EU is, after all, about democracy and values. It's not just an ATM," he said, adding that European integration also means *"calling genocide genocide"* and acknowledging historical crimes.

In Ukraine, streets and buildings are named after WWII-era nationalist leaders, including OUN chief Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevich, who served as a deputy commander of the German-led Nachtigall Battalion and later commanded the UPA. Ukrainian military units and officials also frequently use the UPA's red-and-black colors alongside Ukraine's blue-and-yellow national flag.



Read more: Ukraine's envoy to Poland doubles down on veneration of Nazi collaborators

In June, Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky added the honorary title *"Heroes of the UPA"* to the name of an active commando unit, sparking outrage in Poland. Ukrainian authorities have also advanced plans for a national pantheon and, in May, reburied Andrey Melnik, one of the OUN's leaders, with state honors.

Polish President Karol Nawrocki responded by stripping Zelensky of the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest state honor, which had been awarded by his predecessor. Multiple Ukrainian officials, in turn, returned their Polish decorations in solidarity with Zelensky, while Polish officials returned Ukrainian awards.

The European Parliament backed Poland's position last month, condemning Zelensky's decision to honor the UPA as an *"unnecessary and unprovoked escalation"* that disregarded Polish grief and was *"not in line with European values."*

Despite the dispute over historical atrocities, Poland remains one of Ukraine's biggest supporters in its conflict with Russia.

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Moscow has repeatedly condemned the glorification of Nazi collaborators in Ukraine and has stated that one of its goals in the conflict is to “*denazify*” the country.

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- J James Lippman 8/11/2026 at 10:51 AM 0

no membership period, regardless of what it confronts!

[Reply](#)
-  Michel Fortin 8/11/2026 at 10:46 AM 0

Still stuck on this NAZI bullcrap

[Reply](#)
- J Juan Carlos 8/11/2026 at 10:39 AM 0

(sic) «No EU membership for Ukraine unless it confronts Nazi-linked past». 🙄Hmmm...What about the present day? 😏

[Reply](#)
- T Tyrone 8/11/2026 at 6:25 AM 0

Okay and what part of Ukraine's recent past and present must Ukraine acknowledge if:
 - 40% of the Polish Army was killed by «Russians 2022 : denazifying Ukraine»

You see you silly Polish Jewish Nazis keep putting your foot in it.

After losing to Russians from Feb 24/22. You want your WW2 reparations back. Lost after supporting Nazis in Ukraine

[Reply](#)
- T Tyrone 8/11/2026 at 6:32 AM 0

Didn't I tell you Polish Jewish Nazis to prepare for a Nuclear Strike: anytime soon.

[Reply](#)

 **jurekp85@hotmail.com** 8/11/2026 at 10:30 AM  0

Hey, Tyrone, you yourself sound like a Jewish Nazi throwing around baseless accusations. Try to make a point that you could support with evidence.

[Reply](#)

A **Alex Litvenenko** 8/11/2026 at 6:54 AM

5

Why didn't anyone in Poland, or the rest of NATO say this 4 years ago? Or before giving billions of Dollars/Euros to those crazed punks?

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 **jurekp85@hotmail.com** 8/11/2026 at 10:22 AM  0

Polish opposition parties, Konfederacja and Konfederacja Korony Polskiej, were saying this loud and clear long before Russia started its military action against Ukraine. (check this with the AI apps) However, the government ignored their protests and warnings. Polish media reported on that, but the international media ignored it.

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G **Guerrillero Rebelde** 8/11/2026 at 10:16 AM

0

   8/11/2026 Yemeni army targeted a Saudi ship in the Bab el-Mandeb strait, killing 3 crew members.

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P **P K** 8/11/2026 at 10:04 AM

0

Nazis hating Nazis how funny

[Reply](#)

R **Richard** 8/11/2026 at 9:34 AM

0

Ukraine stops honouring Nazi's? That will be the day.

[Reply](#)

A **Arne** 8/11/2026 at 8:55 AM

0

EU is sooo so near that taking Ukraine in won't make it much nearer. 🤔