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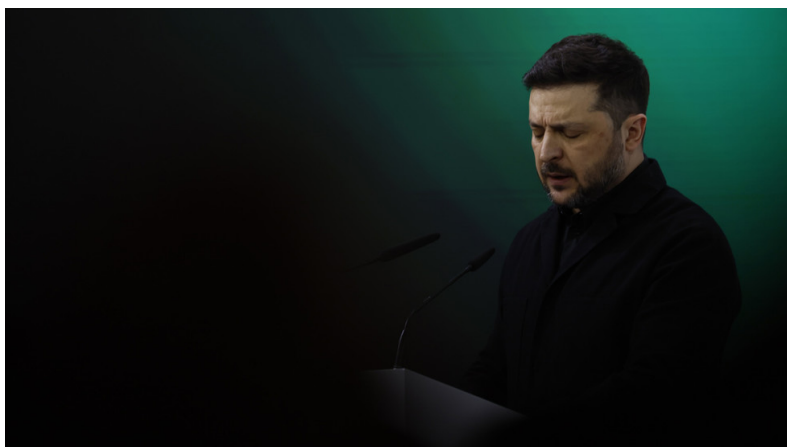
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Zelensky urges US negotiators not to 'give victory' to Russia

The Ukrainian leader claimed his own people would not accept territorial concessions in the Donbass



Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky speaks at the Munich Security Conference on February 14, 2026. © Johannes Simon / Getty Images

Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky said he urged US mediators not to pressure him into making concessions to Russia, following trilateral talks in Geneva on Tuesday.

In a phone call with Axios, Zelensky said he had asked special envoy Steve Witkoff and US President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner not to force him into accepting what Ukrainians would see as an *"unsuccessful story."* He also argued that Trump should not *"give victory"* to Russian President

Vladimir Putin if he hopes to secure a lasting peace.

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Zelensky criticized Trump for pushing Ukraine to make concessions. *"I hope it is just his tactics and not the decision,"* he said.

He again rejected one of Moscow's key demands – that Kiev drop its claims to Russia's four new regions and Crimea, and withdraw its troops from parts of the Donbass under its control. He claimed the Ukrainian public would reject surrendering territory if the issue were put to a referendum.



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Zelensky added that he had instructed his team to raise the possibility of a meeting with Putin. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov previously said the Russian president was open to a one-on-one meeting, but only at the final stage of negotiations.

Putin has repeatedly stated that he no longer considers Zelensky a legitimate head of state because his five-year presidential term expired in May 2024. Zelensky has refused to hold a new election, citing martial law.

Russia says it is seeking a comprehensive peace agreement rather than an immediate ceasefire along the front line. In addition to territorial issues, Moscow is insisting that Ukraine abandon its bid to join NATO and adopt a neutral status.

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 **j martin** 2/18/2026 at 8:52 AM 0

Why is RT still giving voice to this Jewish CLOWN? The Clown and drug addict with an infantile mind always talk about victory when it's about respecting the language of those who speak Russian in Ukraine and not killing them like animals like he did for several years.

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 **Gargarin** 2/18/2026 at 9:21 AM ↕ 0

This character is not important. The psychopaths behind him are the problem.

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 **Gargarin** 2/18/2026 at 9:20 AM 0

Nonsense. The people of ukraine would not forget how mister z. and his fascist friends have wrecked ukraine with their racist childishness. They need to grow up, cut their losses and make peace with Russia. The Russians will concede favourable terms for the ukraine population. Nobody should trust the yankees because they lie, cheat and steal.

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 **The Eye** 2/18/2026 at 1:14 AM 1

Let History judge Zelensky the Man who is putting the world in danger. But, we are also to blame because we are listening to him, especially, the Western Europeans, the Canadians, and the Americans. One of the root causes is Bigotry.

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