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The revolt against Zelensky

Military commanders, political rivals, and Brussels are closing in on Ukraine's increasingly isolated leader

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By **Vitaly Ryumshin**, journalist and political analyst



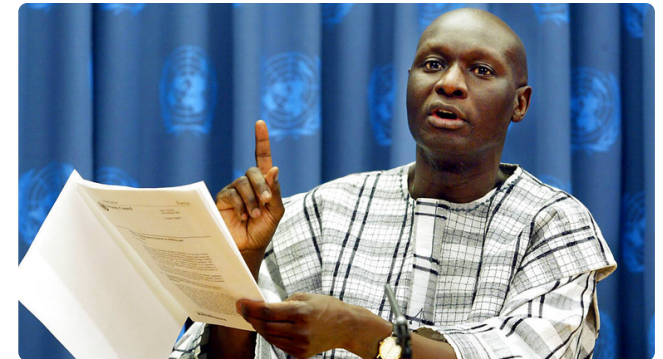
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chants of "*Shame!*" can once more be heard, and the sense of déjà vu is so strong that it feels as though it's still July 2025, when Ukraine was protesting against Zelensky's

You can think whatever you like of Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky, but there is no doubt that the man has a talent for uniting people and he's particularly good at uniting them against himself.

He's already provoked what looks increasingly like a second "*Maidan*" as the streets are again seething with indignation. Cardboard signs have replaced banners, while

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attempts to dismantle the independence of the NABU and SAP anti-corruption agencies.

This time, however, the immediate cause is different because the demonstrations began as a protest against the resignation of Defense Minister Mikhail Fedorov, continued as a protest against the strategy of Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Alexander Syrsky, and now threaten to become a festival of personal grievances against Zelensky himself.

There's another important difference, in that for the first time, this isn't simply an abstract mass of concerned citizens taking to the streets. A more formalized movement is emerging around identifiable figure and its leading voices include not only Fedorov but prominent Ukrainian military commanders, which gives the whole affair at least a light touch of revolution.

Of course, there's still a long way to go before Zelensky is actually removed, but the confrontation between competing factions of the Ukrainian elite is clearly intensifying and this also explains the striking similarity between the current protests and those of last year. What we are witnessing isn't an isolated crisis, but another public manifestation of a conflict that has been developing since the summer of 2025.

The essence of that conflict is fairly simple in that Zelensky wants to become the full sovereign of Ukraine, but his opponents want to strip him of much of that power and turn him into something closer to a figurehead. The West, meanwhile, wants to ensure that whatever the outcome, the Ukrainian government remains firmly within its orbit.

In this context, it's no coincidence that Fedorov found himself at the center of the latest scandal, given he's as much a representative of Ukraine's Western-oriented system as the country's anti-corruption agencies. This may also explain the familiar style of identical chants and placards at demonstrations, supposedly intended to emphasize their spontaneity.



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Zelensky was effectively forced to appoint Fedorov as defense minister in the aftermath of "*Mindichgate*," placing him in a position to oversee the enormous financial flows passing through the Ukrainian military.

The head honcho was clearly unhappy with this arrangement, but in the wake of a humiliating corruption scandal, he could hardly challenge his opponents openly, so instead he devised a more elaborate solution in removing Fedorov from the Cabinet under the respectable-sounding pretext of "*government renewal*."

The maneuver appears to have been only half successful. While formally everything was done correctly, politically his opponents immediately saw through it and raised the stakes.

Ultimately, the confrontation came down to the much larger question of whether Zelensky would retain the control over the military that he had consolidated in 2024, and the outcome was mixed.

Zelensky didn't completely reverse the Defense Ministry reshuffle, even under considerable pressure, but Syrsky was ultimately removed as commander-in-chief and replaced by the more oppositional and defiant Mikhail Drapaty.



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Drapaty had previously left his post as commander of the Ground Forces amid controversy after publicly criticizing conditions within the Ukrainian military and this time he was among the first senior figures to criticize the command openly and support Fedorov following his dismissal. Zelensky will clearly find him more difficult to manage than Syrsky, who was considered reliably loyal to the presidential administration.

At first glance, this looks like a return to early 2024, when Commander-in-Chief Valery Zaluzhny possessed sufficient personal authority to challenge the president, but there's an important difference. When Zaluzhny was



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dismissed, he lacked powerful political backing capable of confronting Zelensky directly, however Drapaty, by all appearances, has precisely that, and those backers appear willing to bring Zelensky publicly to heel.

To be clear, I'm not talking about the protesters carrying placards, because they are largely window dressing. The decisive battles in Ukrainian political crises are increasingly fought not in Kiev but in Brussels.

Last year, Zelensky held his ground until the European Union threatened to withhold financial assistance, and, this time, according to reports, events followed much the same script, while Syrsky appeared certain to remain in his position until the Western Europeans intervened.

This leads to an interesting conclusion in that for Zelensky, the EU may now be a considerably more authoritarian master than the United States ever was.

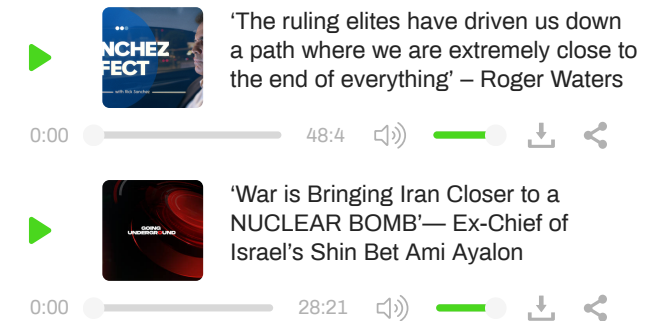
At first glance, one might expect the opposite, but when Ukrainian grant-funded organizations were primarily overseen by the US Democratic establishment and the Biden administration, Zelensky retained considerable room for maneuver. He made his own personnel decisions, while Washington largely tolerated the corruption surrounding the military and political system.

Once the opposition moved increasingly under the wing of the European bureaucracy, however, the demands became considerably stricter and anti-corruption measures are now attached to financial assistance. Major personnel changes increasingly appear impossible without consultation abroad, and Brussels seems intent on shortening the strings attached to its Ukrainian puppet.

Zelensky therefore finds himself in an unenviable position. Although he remains formally commander-in-chief the room in which he can



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exercise those powers independently appears to be getting smaller.

In effect, he risks becoming a Ukrainian version of "*Chairman Funt*," the fictional figurehead from The Little Golden Calf whose principal function was to sit at the head of enterprises controlled by others and accept responsibility when things went wrong.

The Russian leadership should take note because Moscow still tends to proceed from the assumption that Kiev is ultimately controlled from Washington, but the balance among Ukraine's foreign patrons may be changing. Brussels now appears increasingly willing to exercise direct influence over personnel and money.

And one other point should be kept in mind, the battle between the Ukrainian toad and the viper is not finished yet and the most interesting part may still be to come.

This article was first published by the online newspaper [Gazeta.ru](#) and was translated and edited by the RT team



ANALYSIS

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M

Mali Zarkovac 7/27/2026 at 8:36 PM

0

What happens at this point after 4 years of the SMO with Zelensky Regime is Irrelevant !
Russia is at War with NATO not Ukraine ! The Fall of the Kiev Government will not end with a
Russian Victory! It will only signal the beginning of a Direct War with NATO

[Reply](#)



Darrel Smith 7/27/2026 at 2:32 PM

0

but he still have his best friend. The white powder

[Reply](#)

b

b keegan 7/26/2026 at 7:52 AM

4

Zelensky is and always will be a piece of trash who is interested only in money. Ukrainians
need to stand up to this dictator.

[Reply](#)

K

Khikus Filthius 7/26/2026 at 9:49 AM ↑

1

More to the point the Russians need to kill their enemy!

[Reply](#)

G

GeorgeBMac 7/26/2026 at 11:51 AM ↑

1

Russia doesn't stoop to such depths — that's an Israeli/American thing

[Reply](#)

C **Carlo Caporaso** 7/27/2026 at 12:42 PM ↕

0

Ukrainian government officials are extremely corrupt and the population uneducated imbeciles. The consequences are a murderous western puppet in command of Ukraine Zelensky.

[Reply](#)



Kalen 7/26/2026 at 6:55 AM

4

Before the elections, Volodymyr Zelenskyy like Donald Trump, promised to put an end to all wars. That is why he was elected as the president of Ukraine. Then, he started a war that neither the Ukrainians nor the Russians wanted. To remind you; Donald Trump was also elected as an anti-war candidate. But after becoming president, he started another war and attacked Iran. These are not democracies.

[Reply](#)

G **GeorgeBMac** 7/26/2026 at 11:54 AM ↕

2

Perhaps even worse are his record of war crimes, targeted assassinations, piracy, kidnapping and extortion. America has not only lost its way, it has lost its values.

[Reply](#)

C **Carlo Caporaso** 7/27/2026 at 12:37 PM ↕

0

No US President has the power to stop endless wars. The Jewish investment bankers are extremely powerful whom generate lucrative profits on manufactured wars and have been throughout history.

[Reply](#)



Truth Detective 7/26/2026 at 5:26 PM

0

RT, has some more derogatory ignorant Anti Semetic Troll's in the commentary section. Blame the sinful organization of murderer's, not a breed or culture of human's.

[Reply](#)

 **White Wing** 7/26/2026 at 6:15 PM ↕

2

Are you Jewish?

[Reply](#)

 **Paul Domnich** 7/27/2026 at 4:00 AM ↕

1

Drop the anti semetic whining.

[Reply](#)

 **Марк Шевчик** 7/27/2026 at 9:52 AM ↕

0

Blame America? Yeah...

[Reply](#)

 **Mario Super** 7/27/2026 at 11:01 AM ↕

0

It is not spelled Semetic to begin with and I would strongly suggest you learn who Semites are. Spelling doesn't seem to be your stronger suit.

[Reply](#)

 **M Hanna** 7/27/2026 at 7:33 AM

1

How did a comedian become president??? 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔

[Reply](#)

 **Марк Шевчик** 7/27/2026 at 9:51 AM ↕

0

We're not talking about trump here...

Well same token. Name recognition is more important than policy stance!

[Reply](#)

 **chew chow** 7/27/2026 at 9:44 AM

1

Zelenski should be hanged.

In 2026

in parts.

[Reply](#)

M **Марк Шевчик** 7/27/2026 at 9:49 AM ↕

0

By the eggs

[Reply](#)

M **Марк Шевчик** 7/27/2026 at 9:49 AM

0

Maybe Maidan II will have 'krainians fight AGAINST «outside forces» instead of eating coup-borsch.

[Reply](#)

A **Anton hart** 7/26/2026 at 3:58 AM

6

Zelensky should be captured then tortured and executed in public – he is a Jewish agent used by the Jewish mafia to attack Russia like the bolsheviks did – the Bolsheviks were 98% jewish but of course this fact is hidden from the public

[Reply](#)

 **LATIN AMERICA** 7/26/2026 at 4:22 AM ↕

2

Putin does not want to kill NAZInsky.

[Reply](#)

M **Michael Zenar** 7/26/2026 at 3:01 PM ↕

-1

... little putko doesn't have permission to do it!

[Reply](#)

 **Truth Detective** 7/26/2026 at 5:20 PM ↕

0

Arrest, and Interrogate, make him sing, about Biden, and the USA, and, try him, as a mafia kingpin, responsible, for lying, to Ukraines' voter's, and, as a Mass Murdering Godfather, of the Ukrainian Bandara Azov Galacia Nazi regime. Oh, the trial, will be worldwide covered. If Russia doesn't arrest him, the 73% of Ukrainian citizen's, that he lied to, will hang him, and, his political military mafia clan. Of course, the Pentagon, will

ted to, with hanging him, and, his political military mafia clan. Of course, the Pentagon, will hire Cutout's, from, the CIA Blackrock mafia, to liquidate him, and, make it look, like an accident, or, Russia, did it. Snitches get stitches, in the gangland psycho-sociopathic cultures. The biggest mass murderer's, are, government's, where sinner's hide and compete, using every mafia trick, for rule. God, is keeping track, of every thought, word, and deed, of all the human's. Sadly, HE, let's humanity continue, until, a sane mind, puts' a stop to it all. Monetary Rule, is, the foundation, of all sin, as it replaced Sharingism, of all the earths' resources. Blame Lucifers' 5,000 invisible army of corruptor's, too. God, being so upset, lets' this go on and on. Where, are the good men? Scared, and easily rooted out by the spy network, now, digitalized. Where, is the Last Good Prophet, appointed by God? Talk, talk, talk. Explain. Reason. Solution? Court's? Caging? Psychotherapy? We waited for the death of Hitler, but, he escaped, with USA Military Intelligence assistance, to South America. Where will this newest batch, of murdering thieves go, and hide? 🤔😡⚖️🇷🇺

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