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# Ukraine has 'one last chance' – Medvedev

Moscow is prepared for unconditional negotiations with Kiev based on realities on the ground, the former president has said



Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev. © Alexey Danichev

Authorities in Kiev have one last opportunity to preserve some kind of statehood after the Ukraine conflict inevitably resolves, former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has said, urging Kiev to engage in peace talks.

Speaking at an international legal forum in St. Petersburg on Tuesday, Medvedev - who serves as the deputy chairman of the

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Russian Security Council - admitted that Moscow doesn't like the current political regime in Kiev "at all."

Nevertheless, he suggested that Ukraine's leaders have *"one last chance to preserve, under certain conditions, after the end of military actions, some kind of statehood or, if you like, some kind of international legal personality and gain a chance for peaceful development."*

Though the Ukrainian government lacks any sovereignty and is a failed *"quasi-state"* in its current form, Moscow remains open to holding unconditional direct peace negotiations that would take into account the current realities on the ground and address the root causes of the conflict, Medvedev stated.

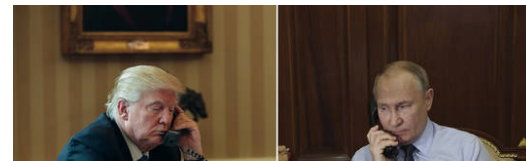
Moscow is concerned that there are currently no individuals in Ukraine that have the legal authority to sign any sort of a peace deal with Russia, he noted. This concern mainly has to do with the fact that a treaty signed by the current leadership could subsequently be rejected once a new government in Ukraine is elected, he explained.

Zelensky's presidential term officially expired last year, and he has since repeatedly held off holding new elections, citing the conflict with Russia and martial law.

While Moscow has questioned Zelensky's legitimacy as Ukraine's leader, last month, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov signaled that the Russian side may overlook his status in order to resume peace negotiations.

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"The interests of entering the peaceful settlement process are above all else," Peskov said, stressing that *"the primary goal is to begin this negotiation process,"* while all other questions are *"secondary."*



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Last week, delegations from Russia and Ukraine met in Istanbul, marking their first direct talks since Kiev unilaterally abandoned the peace process in 2022. The head of Russia's negotiating team in Istanbul, Vladimir Medinsky, later said the two parties had agreed to conduct a prisoner swap involving 1,000 POWs from each side, and to continue contacts once both have prepared detailed ceasefire proposals.

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 **Fog552** 5/20/2025 at 9:05 PM 0

Russia is threatening Ukraine of désintégration if it does not proceed with negotiating and refuse to accept its defeat now while Ukraine allies threaten Russia of more sanctions and more war if Russia rejects a suspicious and premature cease file

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 **Howie J** 5/20/2025 at 8:52 PM 1

Couldn't get any clearer than that.

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 **Zed** 5/20/2025 at 9:04 PM 0

It's posturing like always. The war has finally become damaging to Russian politics and economy. That's what is absolutely clear.

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 **ShamanRa** 5/20/2025 at 9:04 PM 0




The more I hear from Medvedev, the more I admire him. The way in which he delivered that message gave the hint of Russia possibly annexing nazified Ukraine in its entirety.


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**carlito brigante** 5/20/2025 at 9:03 PM

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Medvedev isn't bluffing. Russia is too big to fail literally and metaphorically. They have all the cards. If Zelenskyy doesn't capitulate soon, this coming summer will see a steamroller operation that will rival operation Bagration.

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**Mark** 5/20/2025 at 8:45 PM

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I hope the Ukrainian authorities seize the moment and agree. As Mr. Lavrov said, «Every time Kiev rejects a peace offer Ukraine shrinks.» If they fail this time around, they'll likely lose Odessa and Kharkiv, and maybe more.

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**Zed** 5/20/2025 at 9:02 PM ↑

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Nope, absolutely not. Same narrative, time grinds on, no Russian or western advancement.

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**Сергей Р.** 5/20/2025 at 9:02 PM

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Peaceful development to do what? Pay off war loans with no international attention? That's boring. Dude in big boots crew would change residency before that happens.

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**steve drake** 5/20/2025 at 9:02 PM

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Europe will pressure Zelensky to keep fighting. They do not want peace to break out, their goal is to destroy Russia anyway they can that includes destroying their own economy and citizens in the process. Trump needs to pressure Europe and Ukraine more than Russia to get any peace deal. With the warmongers in power in the West we are all at risk.

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**Robert Mould** 5/20/2025 at 8:57 PM

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The West have one last chance

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**Z** Zed 5/20/2025 at 9:01 PM ↕

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😏 ok bub

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**H** Harald 5/20/2025 at 9:01 PM

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EU looks set for more hostilities and that is worrysome, I hope Trump sets his foot down and gives the EU orders to work for peace, if not this could be ugly!!

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