Hillary Clinton demands escalation of US-NATO war against Russia

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Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state and the Democratic Party's presidential candidate in 2016, on Thursday demanded that the Trump administration escalate the US-NATO war against Russia in Ukraine. Clinton made the demand in a guest essay in the *New York Times*, published hours after US President Donald Trump met Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Shenzhen, China.

Clinton called on Trump to expand US support for Ukrainian strikes deep inside Russia, a nuclear-armed state. "Another way to stop Mr. Putin's ballistic missiles is to help Ukraine strike missile launch sites inside Russia," Clinton wrote.

Clinton proposed that the Democrats use their majority to escalate the war against Russia. "In January, the new Congress should go further and pass additional support for Ukraine to help it win this war," Clinton wrote.

Clinton called on Democrats to use Trump's demand for a $1.5 trillion military budget—under conditions in which the Democratic Party supports an expansion of military spending—as "leverage" for an escalation of the US-NATO war against Russia. "Democrats are rightly working to use this leverage," Clinton wrote. "They should also work with serious-minded Republicans to make winter support for Ukraine an additional condition of passage."

The essay states the real content of the Democratic Party's opposition to Trump. For 10 years, from Clinton's 2016 campaign through Trump's first impeachment to the present, the Democrats have criticized Trump from the right on foreign policy, and their central demand has been a more aggressive policy against Russia.

Clinton's essay constitutes a set of marching orders to the Democratic Party. The Democrats intend to completely repudiate the outcome of the 2026 election, which showed widespread opposition to war, inequality and the domination of American society by the oligarchy.

The Democrats have made clear in a series of actions, including their sabotaging of the impeachment charges against Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, the nomination of right-wing House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries as the next Speaker and their votes to advance a pro-corporate permitting bill gutting environmental regulations, that they agree with large portions of the administration's domestic policies and its right to wage criminal wars of aggression all over the world.

At the Majority Democrats conference in Denver last week, attended by Jeffries and at least a dozen prospective Democratic presidential candidates, Senator-elect James Talarico of Texas urged his colleagues to work with Trump. "We should make the final two years of his presidency the most productive of any presidency in American history," he said. Such an alliance will produce nothing but horrors for the American and world working class.

The Democrats have demonstrated that where they do differ from the administration—in demanding an ever more aggressive escalation against Russia as well as China—they will be absolutely ruthless in pursuit of their agenda. They intend to use the majority they obtained under false pretenses in the election, which was a popular repudiation of imperialist war, into a means of enabling the hated Trump administration to wage war all over the world, including with nuclear-armed states.

The only cost of the war against Iran that Clinton named was the depletion of the Patriot air defense missiles she wanted sent to Ukraine. "This problem is a lot harder to solve because the Trump administration has severely depleted America's own stockpile of Patriots in its ill-fated war with Iran ...," Clinton wrote.

On domestic policy the Democrats have no significant differences with the administration. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York voted three times between November 9 and November 18 to advance the permitting bill, demanded by Trump, that would exempt whole classes of projects from federal environmental review.

At the Munich Security Conference in Germany in February, Clinton said that Democratic presidents had deported more immigrants than Trump. "More people were deported under my husband and Barack Obama ... than were in the first Trump term or this first year of Trump's second term," Clinton said.

The Democrats' demands are the latest stage in the decade-long escalation of the US-NATO war against Russia. The war began with the Maidan coup of February 2014, in which the United States backed the overthrow of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych.

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“We’ve invested over $5 billion to assist Ukraine in these and other goals that will ensure a secure and prosperous and democratic Ukraine,” Victoria Nuland, the assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, told a conference of the US-Ukraine Foundation in Washington on December 13, 2013.

Russia responded to the coup by annexing Crimea, and the United States began funding and equipping Ukraine’s armed forces. Clinton ran in 2016 on a program of escalating the war with Russia, a policy that was widely rejected by the population. At the second presidential debate, on October 9, 2016, the Democratic candidate called for a no-fly zone in Syria, where Russian warplanes were supporting the government.

That led to the election of Trump, and Clinton could not lead the escalation she had campaigned on. The Democrats attributed her defeat in part to Russian “meddling” and made the charge that Trump had colluded with Moscow the center of their opposition to the new president.

“Vladimir Putin himself directed the covert cyberattacks against our electoral system, against our democracy, apparently because he has a personal beef against me,” Clinton told donors on December 15, 2016, according to audio obtained and posted by the *New York Times*.

The Democrats used the allegations to demand a harder line against Moscow. Congress voted new sanctions on Russia in July 2017 by 419–3 in the House and 98–2 in the Senate.

On the eve of Trump’s meeting with Putin in Helsinki in July 2018, Clinton wrote on Twitter: “Question for President Trump as he meets Putin: Do you know which team you play for?”

Despite the Democrats’ accusations that he was a “Siberian candidate,” Trump massively intensified the arming of Ukraine. The Trump administration told Congress on March 1, 2018, that it would sell Ukraine 210 Javelin anti-tank missiles and 37 launchers, lethal weapons that the Obama administration had declined to supply.

“I gave you the Javelins to take out all those tanks. Obama gave you sheets” (medical supplies), Trump told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House on February 28, 2025.

Demanding an even further escalation, House Democrats impeached Trump on December 18, 2019, for withholding military aid from Ukraine in order to press Zelensky to announce an investigation of the activities of former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter in Ukraine.

Democratic Representative Adam Schiff of California, who led the prosecution, told the Senate on January 22, 2020, that, “as one witness put it during our impeachment inquiry, the United States aids Ukraine and her people so that we can fight Russia over there and we don’t have to fight Russia here.”

This arming of Ukraine massively intensified under Biden. “The United States has committed $2.5 billion in support of Ukraine’s forces since 2014, including more than $400 million this year alone,” the White House said on September 1, 2021, announcing another $60 million in military aid that included Javelin missiles.

The conversion of Ukraine into a frontline state for a proxy war against Russia prompted the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Four days after the invasion, Clinton told MSNBC that “a very motivated and then funded and armed insurgency basically drove the Russians out of Afghanistan. ... But I think that is the model that people are now looking toward.”

Biden used Putin’s invasion to massively expand the arming of Ukraine against Russia. “We are going to support Ukraine as long as it takes,” Biden said at the NATO summit in Madrid on June 30, 2022.

During Biden’s presidency Congress voted $174.2 billion in five emergency bills between 2022 and 2024 in response to the invasion. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on May 31, 2024, that Biden had approved Ukraine’s use of American weapons against Russian forces inside Russia, across the border from Kharkiv. In November 2024, Biden authorized Ukraine to fire American long-range missiles into Russia.

When the Democrats’ attacks on working-class living standards and their policies of global war, including the Gaza genocide, led to their defeat in 2024, Trump returned to office. Trump, despite his efforts to make the European powers bear the cost of the war, has continued the escalation against Russia.

On November 11, the top Democrats on the House and Senate armed services committees and the House Foreign Affairs Committee said of Trump’s envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner: “They and Trump are working for Putin, not for the benefit of the people of the United States.”

Clinton’s essay makes clear, once again, that the Democratic Party is a party of war and austerity, completely hostile to the interests of the working class. In the interests of intensifying the war against Russia and the trade war against China, both nuclear-armed states, the Democrats are perfectly willing to work with Trump in attacking fundamental social programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.



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