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A Shameful and Sickening Spectacle¹

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If America's Founders could see Trump and Vance berate and bully Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, they would never stop throwing up. Such a sickening spectacle is more at home in a banana republic than the world's oldest democracy.

The European media began referring to Trump as "Putin's Poodle" after he claimed Zelensky "started the war" that began when Russia invaded Ukraine. Trump later walked back that brazen lie, as well as the claim that Zelensky was a "dictator." For those keeping score, Zelensky was democratically elected while the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague [issued a warrant](#) against Putin for war crimes in connection with the war.

Prior to Trump's assumption of power, the United States and the European Union provided aid to Ukraine without any strings attached or demands for groveling displays of gratitude, demands that are especially dishonest since President Zelensky has repeatedly thanked the United States for its aid.

Now Donald Trump is demanding Ukraine pay the United States in mineral wealth and J.D. Vance is castigating Zelensky for failing to thank them for being the victim of a highway robbery. The U.S. media is too timid to call Trump "Putin's poodle," but they're already referring to the smarmy J.D. Vance as Trump's attack dog.

The EU has provided more aid to Ukraine than the United States and has done so without demanding anything in return. Moreover, most of the aid we have provided comes in the form of weapons manufactured by our military industrial complex. It is as much about using taxpayer money to prop up American companies as it is to aiding Ukraine.

But Trump needed to divert attention from his plummeting poll numbers. The share of Americans who [disapprove](#) of his job performance swelled from 41% to 51% in a month while the share of those who think the economy is on the wrong track has spiked, from 43% to 53% over the same January to February period. His approval rating in the most recent poll was -11% (42% approving, 53% disapproving).

Trump pretends that he is putting "America First," but as always he is only looking out for himself, and it seems that one way Trump looks out for himself is to look out for Vladimir Putin.

The impact of international sanctions on Russia has finally started to [bite](#): The ruble has lost half its value against the dollar and euro, inflation is rising, and labor shortages are causing the economy to constrict, with one [observer](#) claiming that the Russian economy is "on the verge of collapse."

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), March 2025, page 1.

Who is Trump putting first when he threatens to cut aid to Ukraine? America or Russia?