

IS UKRAINE A RUSSIAN COLONY?



**How can we stop the war without sacrificing
Ukraine and our values?**



By Jeff Thompson

A Discussion About Ukraine

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An Introduction

“Facts are stubborn things.” John Adams

Is America starting WW3? - Tucker Carlson

Isn't Ukraine corrupt and a “failed state?” - Charlie Kirk

Why should we care about Ukraine's borders? - Everyone

A brief background - I moved to Austria in 1978 to smuggle bibles behind the Iron Curtain. Later, my wife and I continued this work by moving to Berlin, regularly crossing Checkpoint Charlie bringing our secret cargo to believers under communism.

After two trips to the Soviet Union, I was kicked out and denied a visa from 1984 - 1989. However, history happened, and the Berlin Wall fell in November 1989. That next April I was given a visa to visit the Soviet Union after 6 years of denials.

This began a series of events that led to us working with the Russian Ministry of Interior for 8 years, from 1991-1998. We taught a rehabilitation program using the bible in 59 youth prisons across Russia, Siberia, and the Russian Far East.

During this time period the Russian Orthodox Church put pressure on the Ministry of Interior. The Church proposed new laws to restrict the activity of foreign missionaries on Russian soil.

I share many stories from this time period in my book “Leaving The American Sector” available from www.mercyprojects.org. The point is, we have closely followed the events in Ukraine and Eastern Europe for over 40 years. We have been a registered charity in Ukraine since 1994.

Within these pages I hope to give more context to the Tucker Carlson interviews with Putin and Lavrov. Interviews where he did not push back and ask hard questions.

At the same time it is a valid question. Why should Americans care about what happens to Ukraine?

Is this war our fault as some claim? Did we cause this war by allowing NATO expansion?

Others have stated that Ukraine is a failed state, corrupt, and not really worthy of our support. Or, the most difficult question is; Are we close to starting WW3?

Keep reading as we dig into some of these issues. For my wife Paula and I, our ministry is about helping people and strengthening families. Not about politics. However, the destiny of Ukraine and our many friends and co-workers there hang in the balance.

We trust that God is in control. Still, we know the truth, we have lost co-workers in this war, and we stand with them as they fight for their freedom.

End

Part 1

The Ukraine Invasion - From 3 Days to 3 Years

“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”

George Orwell

The country of Ukraine suffered a full scale invasion by Russia on 24 February, 2022. This was a major escalation of the war begun in the Donbas in April 2014, after the invasion of Crimea.

This “hot” and brutal war continues today. Our generals gave the Ukrainians 3 days to hold out against the Russian army. Almost 3 years later, Ukrainians still fight heroically for their homeland.

You may ask: “Why should we care about the territorial integrity of Ukraine’s border when we do nothing to secure our own southern border?”

We will answer that question. But first some context. Ukrainians have always voted, throughout their complicated history, to leave the domination of their Russian neighbor. They speak Russian but chose the Ukrainian language as their official language in Article 10 of their first constitution in 1996. The Ukrainian people want the freedom to determine their own future.

This is a post-colonial western value called self-determination. In the American revolution we threw off the restrictive shackles of our European colonizers, Great Britain, to form our own identity. Not everybody agreed. There was much debate about revolting against the British. Because obviously, we spoke the same

language and shared the same heritage. This is the argument used by Putin about Ukraine.

Today, there is no positive argument for colonization. Simply but importantly, the country of Ukraine is not a Russian colony.

Ukraine Votes To Leave the Soviet Union

When the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, it was because the Ukraine SSR held a referendum, a vote, on whether or not to leave the Soviet Union. In December 1991, 84% of the population voted, and over 92% of them voted to leave. The Soviet Union dissolved the next day.

As Gorbachev is reported to have said, ‘Without Ukraine there is no Soviet Union.’

Vladimir Putin was a KGB officer in Dresden, East Germany, at the time of the collapse of the Berlin Wall. He experienced firsthand the dismantling of the Soviet Union and wrote in 2021 that:

“The greatest geopolitical tragedy of the 20th century was the breakup of the Soviet Union.”

The full scale war on Ukraine is a form of righting the historical wrongs of the past. Putin states that Ukraine is in their “sphere of influence.” Lavrov says that Ukraine is within their “security interests.”

Thus, in 2014 when Putin sent troops into Crimea to take it back, and tanks into the Donbas, it was justified in his way of thinking. It is a little like Mexico deciding to take Texas and California back because there are Spanish speakers there who need protection.

Vladimir Putin calls this a “Special Military Operation.” It is against the law in Russia to call it a war. Why you may ask? Because Russia cannot go to war against itself. Again, according to Putin, “Ukrainians and Russians are one people.”

Lavrov Tells Tucker That Russia Did Not Start the War

Sergey Lavrov told Tucker Carlson in his interview Dec 5, 2024:

“It is not us who started the war. Putin repeatedly said that we started the special military operation in order to end the war which the Kiev regime was conducting against its own people in the Donbas.”

This is a main Russian talking point that Tucker allowed without any comment or pushback.

Tucker did not question this line of reasoning. He accepted Lavrov’s answers at face value, as he did in the previous February 2024 Putin interview. In other words, Tucker provided no historical context or detail, no further questioning.

In the traditional sense, this is not journalism. Intentional or not, this is acting as a mouthpiece. The one-sided Russian message was magnified to Tucker’s platform of 20 million followers. For two years other journalists applied to interview Putin and were turned down. Only Tucker was chosen. Why?

Tucker Carlson On Russian TV

Today, if you visit Russia or Hungary, be sure to tune in to Rossiya 24 and watch Tucker Carlson dubbed into Russian. I watched it

several times in 2023. The TV Channel Rossiya 24 regularly broadcasts clips of Tucker's shows. Why, you may ask?

Because his opinions agree with theirs. Because as an American, he is a better apologist for Russian disinformation than they are. This is why Tucker was chosen for those interviews.

The Russian strategy of choosing Tucker, a rightwing media superstar closely connected to Donald Trump, is a strategic stroke of genius. What better way to magnify their message to American conservatives and the next president?

Lavrov and Putin: "In 2014 A Coup Took Place in Kyiv."

The Russian grievance goes back to 2014. The leader they backed, Viktor Yanukovich, elected in 2010, had campaigned on a promise to sign the "Association Agreement" with the European Union. In November 2013 he reneged on this promise after a last minute meeting with Putin in Moscow.

The next day, students began pitching tents in the street and area around St. Michaels Cathedral in Kyiv. The "Maidan" protest had officially begun.

Part 2

Maidan - The Revolution of Dignity

"Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable." John F Kennedy

The students' peaceful protest was initially filled with singing and dancing. If the CIA was behind it as some claim, this was not the way to overthrow a government. Police arrived late one night to disperse the protestors and violently beat up the students. Filmed on cell phones the police violence spread virally overnight.

The protest now began in earnest and moved from St. Michael's to Maidan (Independence Square). Downtown Kyiv was closed, barricades were built, tents were pitched, and thousands braved the cold winter temperature to camp out in the street. They hoped to force the government to sign the agreement with Europe. For two months there was little to no violence.

Private volunteer groups of para-military men, from both western and eastern Ukraine, outfitted with shields and clubs, now joined in, having seen the cell phone videos. People organized into groups. Medical stations were set up. Molotov cocktails made with beer bottles were stored in the streets.

Local people came out of their homes, our staff included, serving sandwiches and stacking cobblestones. There was no drunkenness, no riots, and no looting. Internet based news stations popped up to cover the protests, since official government channels would not do it.

In eastern Ukraine, the Russian speaking town of Mariupol sits on the Azov Sea, a short 35 miles from the Russian border. A well trained group of Russian speaking paramilitary volunteers, the Azov Battalion, joined the protestors in Kyiv. Some of the Azov Battalion volunteers had swastikas on their helmets. These Russian speaking volunteers described themselves as Ukrainian nationalists.

Ironically, it is their Russian speaking city that Putin claimed was persecuted by the Ukrainians. Putin raged from Moscow that Nazis had filled the streets of Kyiv. The president, Yanukovich, was losing control. These same Russian speaking people that Putin talks about, fought, and fight today, for Ukrainian independence.

A “Coupe” With Cobblestones

By February 2014 protestors and paramilitary groups clashed almost daily with police. Special forces “Berkut” sniper police were called in to quell the uprising. Over 100 protestors would give their lives, their cobblestones no match for the snipers firing on them. President Yanukovich hurriedly and secretly fled late the night of February 20th. He was given safe haven inside Russia.

Ukrainians Reject Being A Russian Colony

After the Maidan revolution in 2014, (Lavrov called it a coup when speaking to Tucker) there have been two presidential elections in Ukraine. There have also been 4 different prime ministers in office. Actually, democracy is alive and well in Ukraine. Whoever the US backed in 2014 is now long gone. A corrupt military regime did not take over.

Unlike Russia, the country of Ukraine has elections. The only exception is now during the war. The Ukrainian people are not protesting this lack of an election, they agree with it. They are fighting for their survival. Again, new people and political parties actually come into power in Ukraine. In contrast, Putin has controlled Russia since 1999 with no real candidates running against him.

Putin: “Ukraine Attacked Russian Speakers in Donbas”

Putin and Lavrov claim that the Nazi government in Kyiv does not represent the Russian speaking people in the Donbas. Proof of this is that the people in Donbas lived in a country that adopted Ukrainian as the official language. This was a threat, an attack, on the Russian culture and language of the Donbas. According to Lavrov, the people in Donbas rose up to separate themselves in 2014 from the illegitimate Ukraine government.

Tucker did not ask Lavrov how the Donbas separatists got tanks and rocket launchers. It was clearly not an organic uprising of oppressed people. No. It was a Russian military takeover of the Donbas. (Look up Igor Girkin). (10)

I was there in 2014. We helped Russian speaking Ukrainian citizens who were refugees from the Donbas. Protestant churches were closed by the separatists and 4 deacons murdered in Slaviansk in June 2014. We helped their widows. Again, the separatists, supplied by the Russian army, brought terror to protestant believers. (11)

According to Putin and Lavrov, the entire war in Ukraine is justified because Russia is defending Russian speaking people from the Nazi Kyiv regime. (Zelensky is Jewish but I digress)

In Summary: The Russian Talking Points

1. Russian speaking people and culture was attacked by unjust laws making Ukrainian the official language.
2. A coup took place in 2014. The Ukrainian government is not legitimate.
3. Russia did not start the war. Ukraine did.
4. NATO attacks them by using long range ATACM missiles.
5. They desire peace on the basis of their defined “security interests.”

Tucker Carlson did not ask Lavrov what the Russian “security interests” are. However, Lavrov clearly stated that there will be no NATO membership, or EU membership for Ukraine. In other words, Russia will never agree to the idea that Ukraine can determine their own political future. Russia will not allow self-determination for Ukraine.

According to Lavrov, Russia desires peace, but ... on their terms. A peace based on their “security interests.” That means a peace agreement where Russia retains authority over Ukraine. Ukraine belongs in their empire. Ukraine has no right to determine their own future. It means Ukraine will remain a Russian colony, not an independent country.

Of course the problem is, Ukraine has consistently rejected the Russian Empire ruling over them, and continues to reject the idea of being a Russian colony today.

Part 3

A Brief Timeline of Ukraine's Struggle

"You can't have peace talks if both sides want to fight."

Konstantin Kisin

This timeline is simply meant to show that Ukraine's desire for independence is nothing new. This is an important point for those who say, "Russia and Ukraine are the same." No, they are not the same.

- 1917-22 - Ukraine fights for independence but is conquered by the Red Army. It is assimilated as a founding member in the new USSR.
- 1932-33 - Under Stalin Ukraine experienced man-made famine. Crops were destroyed by Soviets sent to Ukraine to enforce "collectivization." 6 Million people died in the Soviet enforced "Holodomor" or Great Famine.
- 1930s Stalin - Ukrainian books were burned, libraries closed, the language was banned, professors, doctors, teachers, and scientists were abducted, killed, or fired.
- 1939 - WW2 starts. Ukraine sees a path out of the Soviet Union. They welcomed the German army as liberators from Stalin's rule. In a year the Ukrainian militia groups switched again, and fought both the German and the Soviet armies. This betrayal of the Motherland is never forgiven.

- 1945 - Yalta Conference - Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt meet to divide up Europe. The Baltic States, invaded by the Soviets, are given to the USSR. Half of Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, all are given to the USSR. These countries later became the Warsaw Pact.
- 1986 – Gorbachev declares Perestroika
- 1989 – Berlin Wall falls.
- 1990 - East (Soviet) and West Germany are reunified. The Warsaw Pact countries all leave and secretly inquire about joining NATO instead.
- 1991 - Soviet Union dissolves – Ukraine declares independence but remains completely dependent on their Russian neighbor.
- 1994 - Ukraine's nuclear (Soviet) missiles are removed to Russia and the Budapest memorandum is signed that guarantees Ukraine's borders will be sovereign.
- 1999 - Poland, Hungary, Czech all officially join NATO
 -
- 2002 - Baltic States join NATO
- 2004 – Orange Revolution - Massive election fraud takes place for the Russian supported candidate. People move to the streets and pitch their tents. A new election is called and the western leaning candidate Yushchenko wins. The Ukrainian democracy stabilizes.
- 2014 – Maidan Revolution – The protestors ousted Russian supported Yanukovich (whom they elected in

2010) He accepted billions from Russia to not sign the European Association Agreement. He fled to Russia.

- 2014 – Putin says Nazi's took over the Kyiv government. He invades Crimea. Obama/Biden do nothing. Donbas is attacked with tanks and artillery supplied by Russia.
- 2020-2021 - Putin is sequestered due to Covid. He writes an essay, "On The Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians."
- 2022 - Feb 24th The full scale invasion begins.
- 2024 - Feb 9th Tucker Carlson interviews Putin. He says, "Somebody had to do it." (Other journalists had been denied. Tucker was chosen. Why?)

In December 2024 Tucker returned to Moscow to interview Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. The goal was to prevent a nuclear war.

Yes, the political direction in Ukraine has turned toward Europe. And yes, the Russian government is not happy about this. However, this does not give Russia the right to invade Ukraine, to threaten nuclear war, to bomb hospitals and schools, and to abduct Ukrainian children and adopt them into Russian families.

Of course, peace negotiations will be very difficult, but as Warren Buffet said; "You can't make a good deal with a bad person"

Ukrainians ask, if Putin agrees to a deal now, won't he break it again in a few years after he builds up his military again?

Part 4

Helping Ukraine: Should We?

“There are no foolish questions. No man becomes a fool until he has stopped asking questions.” Charles Steimetz

Q. Are Russia and Ukraine the same?

- A. Vladimir Putin thinks so. Ukrainians do not agree. The timeline shows, Ukraine is a distinct country, with its own language and customs. Like Serbians and Poles, they are close Slavic cousins with Russians.

Q. Why would Putin say that Nazis have taken over Ukraine?

- A. Ukraine welcomed the German army in WW2 as liberators from Stalin. A battalion of men trained with the German army in Poland. Because of this, Ukrainians will be forever linked with the Nazis. In 2014 some paramilitary volunteers had swastikas on their helmets or shields. When asked about it, they said they were Ukrainian nationalists. (from Russian speaking Mariupol)

Q. If Putin takes over Ukraine, is it a threat to America?

- A. Putin is a bully, a strongman, who if not stopped will go on to threaten other countries such as Poland. Russia invaded Chechnya, Georgia, Crimea, and now Ukraine. He is a threat to Europe, and Europe is in NATO.

Q. Is America starting WW3? - Tucker Carlson

- A. No. Russia is. Putin only understands force, might, and resolve. That is what will drive him to the negotiating table. Nothing else.

Q. Isn't Ukraine corrupt and a "failed state?" - Charlie Kirk

- A. The timeline reveals a country that has struggled to establish itself in the shadow of big brother Russia. Is there corruption? Yes. Is there corruption in America? Yes. They have successful democratic elections. They are not a failed state.

Q. Why should the borders of Ukraine matter to America when we do not enforce our own southern border?

- A. Donald Trump was elected our 47th president. The border will be fixed asap. Will that stop the war in Ukraine? No. There is no connection. Should our border be closed? Yes. Should Ukraine's border be honored by Russia? Yes.

Q. Isn't Ukraine extremely corrupt? Why do we give them money? Is it because of Burisma paying bribes to Hunter Biden?

- A. Most of our aid goes to US defense industry companies like Raytheon, Boeing, etc. to replenish the stocks of munitions we have already sent. Burisma and the Bidens is another topic, not connected to this war. The U.S. has allocated \$125 billion to assist Ukraine. Contrary to popular belief, most of that money (over 80%) stays within the U.S.

There's no Obama-style plane loaded with pallets of cash landing in Kyiv. (Like in Iran and Afghanistan)

Q. Aren't we risking war with Russia by allowing long range missiles?

- A. President Trump is against the use of our ATACMS inside Russia. These long range missiles have been used since November to hit Russian military targets, thus preventing additional missile attacks on Ukraine. Ukraine fights with one hand tied behind its back.

(We don't help them to **win**, we help them to **fight**.)

Q. How should America help Ukraine?

- A. We should be decisive. Close down the airspace. Supply them militarily, and force Putin to negotiate. The slow drip of support only lengthens the war.

We should stand against tyranny and appeasement. We should have an open dialogue, negotiate, and cause both sides to compromise. Our approach under Biden has failed. To abandon Ukraine now would be a failure as well.

In Conclusion

On day one, America was capable of controlling the airspace over Ukraine by creating a "no fly zone for both sides." Biden did not do this. Instead, our generals did nothing. Our help for Ukraine has been a slow drip of support, keeping them in the fight, but not enough to win the fight. This supports my thesis:

*"We are not trying to help Ukraine **"win"** the war, we are helping them **"fight"** the war.*

Our hope and prayer is that Donald Trump will show determined leadership and do everything to secure Ukraine as an independent, democratic country, and not a Russian colony.

Dr. John Mearsheimer believes that Ukraine belongs to the Russian sphere of influence. Our real worry should be China, he says. He argues that Russia is not a threat to anyone.

According to this logic, when Russia attacked Ukraine February 24, 2022 we should have ignored the event. As Charlie Kirk said back then, "it is a family squabble."

Tucker Carlson, Vladimir Putin, and John Mearsheimer all agree on a main point. This war is our fault. This could have been avoided if those pesky East European countries would have stayed out of NATO. They argue that we provoked the Russians by expanding NATO 25 years ago.

Someone must ask the question. In the 1990s, should we have forced the east European countries back into the Warsaw Pact? Force them back into communism?

What about the reunification of Germany? Was that a mistake?

NATO did not recruit or chase after these countries. In "Not One Inch" by M.E. Sarotte, the author documented how they came to us, often secretly, to ask about joining the alliance. Why? Because they wanted protection from Soviet Russia should it ever again rebuild and become strong.

In Mearsheimer's worldview, Russia is a weak colonial power, and no threat to America or world peace. He ignores the fact they have the largest nuclear arsenal in the world.

Part 5

30 Years of Working In Ukraine

“The only source of knowledge is experience.”

Albert Einstein

As a Christian ministry called Mercy Projects, our work is spiritual and humanitarian. Our work is not political. However, because we are foreigners, (non Russian) and because we are Christian missionaries, (not Russian Orthodox) we are not allowed to work in Russia. (I was kicked out in 2008)

During the 17 year period we worked in Russia, I met people in government, in the military, and prison officials all over the country. I went to birthday parties for Russian generals, I visited their summer dachas. We discussed the Cold War, nuclear war, how many cars I owned and the flavor of Russian potatoes.

Our goal was not to start a new church or change their religious or political ideas. No, our goal was to fully share the gospel of Jesus Christ. We preached this gospel travelling thousands of miles to far away prisons. We travelled from the Kamchatka Peninsula in the east, to Vladivostok, Sakhalin island, the Buryat Republic, throughout Siberia, to Moscow, and St. Petersburg.

The artist Sting wrote a song in the 80s, “I Hope the Russians Love Their Children Too.” I can tell you they do. The Russian people are wonderful, but they are fed a daily diet of propaganda about the war with Ukraine and about the West. Our ministry there during the 1990s was a brief season of openness for the country. When Boris Yeltsin chose his replacement in 1999 to be Vladimir Putin, that period of openness quickly closed.

Finally, in 2008 I was denied entrance at Moscow's Domodedovo airport. Guards took me upon my arrival into a holding room. I waited 5 hours, watched by armed guards. Finally, they escorted me like a criminal to a waiting plane and down the aisle to the last seat, in the last row, of an already full Lufthansa jet. I didn't have my passport or my luggage. An hour after the plane took off, a flight attendant came back and brought me my passport.

Coincidentally, our book "Leaving the American Sector" came out in 2007.

No Problems In Ukraine

While working in Russian youth prisons we simultaneously opened an office in Kyiv. Our immediate goal was to get vulnerable children into safe care, preferably with families or with their mothers. The life journey of an orphan usually meant escaping the orphanage, living on the streets, getting arrested and going to a youth prison. We tried to end this awful process.

A social orphan is a child that has at least one parent, but has been abandoned. Orphanages were full of them. There are virtually no statistics that track or count the vast number of social orphans who experience life as if they have no parents.

Child and Family Sponsorship

Children deserve to be raised in safe and loving families. This is our first goal in Family Sponsorship. We work to aid families of widows, single mothers, and other families in need of help. We provide resources including a local Christian caseworker to assist them in their difficult situation.

The trauma of rejection and abandonment by parents is something not easily healed. Counselors in our camp ministry seek to mentor and disciple young people, becoming like a trusted friend or father figure, to help them navigate life. Ultimately, we believe the most important step in their journey is to experience the love and forgiveness of Christ.

We also encourage placing orphans in permanent, loving families through adoption, first in their own country, and in Ukraine, we support Christian foster families.

Refugees and Internally Displaced People

There are more than a million displaced people from the Donbas. Most of them remain inside Ukraine as internally displaced. This is the case for Peter and his wife Irina.

They are Russian speakers from Bakhmut in the Donbas. (The kind of people whose culture, Putin says, was attacked by Ukraine.) He is 67 years old, and married to Irina for a very long time.

Peter used to have three dairy cows and would sell the milk to his neighbors. He grew vegetables at home and worked at a factory.



He felt that his retirement would be okay. They didn't have a lot of money, but they had their village home and a small pension.

“We come from Bakhmut, Peter said. We had our house and didn’t want to be refugees. Where would we go? So when the Russians took Bakhmut, we decided to stay. I didn’t think it would be that bad. I wasn’t too worried.

But after a week I noticed that neighbors disappeared, especially men. I realized that we had to leave, and quickly. That night, we packed up our belongings into a few boxes, put them in this trailer, and left on dirt roads at midnight.

We escaped. Thank God we made it out. We lost everything but we are alive. Now, all I have in this world is this car and trailer. We had our own small house. I was retired. Now, we live in someone else's house and pay rent.”

Interestingly, he said it matter-of-factly, assuming we would understand that he wasn’t complaining. He showed us their garden full of potatoes, tomatoes, onions, and cabbage. He was thankful for our help.

A New Rocket Waters the Garden



A neighbor of Peter’s, an enterprising Ukrainian man, needed a water tank for his strawberries. It just so happened that his company removed a Russian rocket

from a farmer’s field. He asked to take it home and has transformed it into a watering tank for his garden.

Mercy Projects helps families. These families are just like us with hopes and dreams for their children. Please go to www.mercyprojects.org to learn more about family sponsorships.

In Conclusion - What About Israel?

Most conservatives do not question helping Israel in their war with Hamas. Nobody questions the almost 50,000 death toll of Palestinians.

Q. Why should we care about Israel's border when we do not care about our own?

A. Nobody is asking this question. Why not?

It is because Israel's border issue with Palestine is not connected to our southern border. Just as Ukraine's border with Russia is not connected to our southern border..

We love Israel politically and biblically, but for some reason, we are willing to sacrifice Ukraine to be a Russian colony.

Our heart's prayer is for lasting peace and security for Ukraine and Israel. We pray that our leadership will have the strength to enforce the peace if necessary.

Ukraine should not be forced to become a Russian colony simply because China is a rising power. Dr. John Mearsheimer is wrong.

We are all grateful that the French came to our aid to fight the British. America would not exist today without Lafayette landing on our shores. Ukraine's war is not ours, but then again, freedom isn't free.

He who the Son sets free is free indeed. John 8:36



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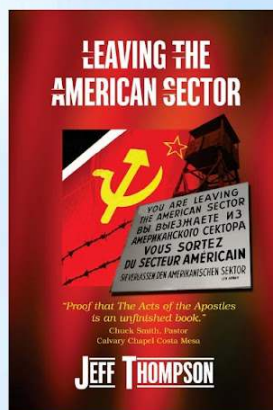


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Destroyed tanks and rockets on display. Daily air raids and rocket attacks remind Ukrainians that freedom isn't free.



Jeff and Paula Thompson, founders of Mercy Projects in Murrieta California, have worked in Ukraine over 30 years. Their perspective on this war will challenge and encourage you.



Jeff's book is available
at mercyprojects.org