

A Consolation Prize

(April 2025)

The learned reader is invited to write a convincing Geopolitical-philosophical Essay of less than 99,999 words, elegantly reconciling the following statements and assumptions:

1. Russia invaded Ukraine absolutely unprovoked, despite the eight year shelling of Russian speaking Ukrainian regions by the Ukrainian armies and the 14,000 dead;
2. Russia invaded Ukraine absolutely unprovoked, despite NATO's avowed design to position nuclear missiles on the Russian border, 450 km from the Kremlin;
3. NATO and the United States had absolutely no desire to defeat Russia strategically;
4. NATO and the United States had absolutely no scheme to grab Russia's vast mineral resources;
5. Now that its proxy in Ukraine is nearing defeat in a war the United States managed for over three years, the United States Government is compelling its routed and by now destitute substitute with a million dead to surrender the entirety of its mineral resources to the United States, for eternity;
6. Or perhaps could the surrender of all mineral resources between the Vanquished be seen as a Consolation Prize for the mightier and least vulnerable of the two?