

Misunderstanding Donald Trump

PM Petr Fiala said in his [address](#) to the [nation](#) on Mon. that the international order is undergoing its biggest change since the fall of Communism in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Donald Trump has decided to completely transform American foreign policy, he said. "The speed, the vehemence and the rhetoric are certainly surprising," he said, "but the U.S. shift away from focusing on Europe shouldn't surprise us. It's been happening for at least a decade, and I myself have repeatedly pointed this out."

Despite his stated foresight in this respect, Fiala was tightly linked to the administration of Joe Biden and has had some difficulty finding his way in the new environment. He has kept a level head, though, and has avoided making comments that would exclude having a good relationship with the Trump White House.

The same can't be said of Pres. Petr Pavel. He hasn't retracted his reference to Trump as a "truly repulsive human being," and he used a gangster term at the [Munich Security Conference](#) to refer to Trump's recent actions: "Most of these things were a cold shower or a shakedown, which helps us to get some more self-awareness, I mean European awareness, and we realized that we can do a lot on our own, with or without our American allies." The [Guardian](#), the [New York Times](#) and others have also used the word "[shakedown](#)" to describe Trump's policies, but it's much different when it's a president and an ally speaking this way.

Even more insistent on insulting Trump is Pavel's foreign-policy and arms-industry adviser, Petr Kolář. He told [Czech Radio on Sun.](#) that Trump is a "narcissistic egomaniac who can't stand any kind of resistance and basically doesn't like people if they don't agree with him and don't flatter him, and he needs to take them down." Trump and his entourage quite visibly have the tendencies of what could be compared to certain features of corporate fascism, Kolář said.

In terms of Trump's approach to Ukraine, Kolář said that it makes him want to vomit. Trump is flushing down the toilet everything the U.S. did to rebuild Europe after WWII, Kolář said, and there's nothing we can do about it. We have to accept it and can only concentrate on what we can do with our allies

in Europe, he said. He told [Právo](#) that the circumstances will probably force Ukraine to accept a ceasefire and that a coalition of the willing should be sent to enforce it.

It's high time to stop worrying about what's going on in the minds of Trump

Trump has adopted this second approach. His crazy statements are merely a distraction that make it difficult for people like Pavel and Kolář to understand that the Trump administration is by no means only Trump and Musk. They represent a shift in direction that was methodically planned.


Various resolutions at the United Nations also serve as a distraction. It actually makes little difference what the [General Assembly](#) says about Ukraine. Far more important is the action of the Security Council, because it remains the highest-level international authority under the existing world order.

After three years of lack of accord about Ukraine, the [Security Council](#) voted 10-0 this week, with five abstentions, to adopt a resolution submitted by the U.S. Under the resolution, the Security Council "implores a swift end to the conflict and further urges a lasting peace between Ukraine and the Russian Federation."

The U.K., as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, made a [statement](#) about how "there can be no equivalence between Russia and Ukraine in how this Council refers to this war," and that, "If we are to find a path to sustainable peace, the Council must be clear on the war's origins." Yet the U.K. abstained in the vote and allowed the resolution to pass. "We regret that our proposals making these points clear were not taken on board, and as such we could not support this resolution. But we share the ambition to find a lasting end to this war, supported by robust security arrangements that ensure Ukraine never again has to face Russia's attack."

The two permanent members of the Security Council that are ostensibly in the Ukrainian camp, the U.K. and France, cleared the way for Trump and Putin to reach a deal. London and Paris could have vetoed the resolution but didn't. In this important respect, the world order hasn't been disrupted by Trump or anyone else. The world order is operating just as it has since the U.N. was founded. Someone might not like the turn that events are taking, but that's an entirely different issue.

Those who can't look past Trump's behavior are missing the point of what is happening. Trump and his entourage are merely the executors of the agreed global changes that are now taking place.

United Nations		S/RES/2774 (2025)
	Security Council	
	Distr.: General 24 February 2025	
Resolution 2774 (2025)		
Adopted by the Security Council at its 9866th meeting, on 24 February 2025		
<i>The Security Council,</i>		
Mourning the tragic loss of life throughout the Russian Federation-Ukraine conflict,		
Reiterating that the principal purpose of the United Nations, as expressed in the Charter of the United Nations, is to maintain international peace and security and to peacefully settle disputes,		
1. <i>Implores</i> a swift end to the conflict and further urges a lasting peace between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.		

and Elon Musk, Kolář said, because we aren't able to understand it. It goes beyond our current way of thinking, he said, and the challenge now for Europeans and the rest of the democratic West is to start behaving as defenders of our values, our citizens and our countries, so that we don't become the easy prey of autocrats and tyrants. The world order is being disrupted, he said.

He, like many others, attributes this disruption in the world order to the maniacal ideas of Trump, Musk and a few others in Trump's entourage, but one part of the Republican Party has in fact been working on a new approach to the war in Ukraine for years. The Heritage Foundation's [Project 2025](#) wrote in 2023 on [Pages 181-182 of its Mandate for Leadership](#) that there are two main schools of conservative thought about the war in Ukraine.

One argues for continued U.S. involvement in Ukraine, including military aid, economic aid, and the presence of NATO and U.S. troops, if necessary. The end goal of the conflict, under this approach, must be the "defeat of Vladimir Putin and a return to pre-invasion border lines."

The other approach denies that support for Ukraine is in the U.S. national security interest and says that U.S. involvement shouldn't continue. "This viewpoint desires a swift end to the conflict through a negotiated settlement between Ukraine and Russia," the document states.