

TRUMP'S BETRAYAL

TIMELINE OF U.S. AID TO UKRAINE

The U.S. has a long record of bipartisan commitment to investing in Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and prosperity. That commitment deepened in 2014 after Russia's ongoing illegal occupation of Crimea and its ongoing territorial aggression in eastern Ukraine.

In the five years since Russia's gross violations of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Congress has authorized approximately \$1.5 billion in security assistance to Ukraine, annually renewing its aid in statute. Congress has also passed a suite of additional legislation to deepen engagement between the U.S. and Ukraine.

This July, President Trump withheld congressionally authorized security assistance to Ukraine, which he had reason to believe would be an effective form of leverage. In 2018, Ukraine decided to cease investigations on Paul Manafort to avoid jeopardizing the finalization of a sale of 210 Javelins—the same weaponry that Ukrainian president Zelensky asked for in his July 25 call with President Trump, who responded by immediately requesting that Zelensky do him a "favor." An additional arms sale of this same weaponry was approved in October 2019.

The bipartisan backlash over Trump's withholding of security assistance forced its release in September, shortly before a whistleblower complaint surfaced linking the withholding of aid to Trump's pressuring Ukraine to investigate Vice President Biden and his family.

RECENT HISTORY OF U.S. AID TO UKRAINE

U.S. and Ukraine deepen relations (2008): Following the Bucharest Declaration, in which NATO committed to ultimately admit Ukraine as a member state, the Bush administration signed the [U.S.-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership](#) to intensify U.S. engagement with Ukraine across the defense, economics, and cultural spheres, as well as through NATO engagement.

U.S. increases aid to Ukraine post-Russian invasion (2014): The Obama administration [progressively increased](#) its annual overall aid allocation to over \$300 million, in addition to the \$1 billion loan guarantee, in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine earlier that year.

U.S. passes the European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) in the [FY2015 NDAA](#) (December 2014): Congress authorized \$1 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds for an increased U.S. military presence in Europe. Designed to reassure allies of U.S. commitment to their territorial integrity, ERI funded joint military exercises, increased troop presence, training, and rebuilding eroding infrastructure. A minimum of \$75 million was allocated specifically for "programs, activities, and assistance to support the Government of Ukraine." These ongoing commitments were made in subsequent NDAs under the European Deterrence Initiative.

President Obama signs the Ukraine Freedom Support Act (December 2014): The act [committed](#) the U.S. to assist Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to deter the Russian government from further destabilizing the country and region. The act specifically authorized the provision of defense articles to Ukraine, the enactment of a broad range of sanctions, and a commitment to continue providing non-security assistance to Ukraine.

Congress passes the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative in FY2016 NDAA (2015): The Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative passes as part of the [FY2016 NDAA](#) and authorizes \$300 million in security assistance to Ukraine. The provision is renewed in the following year's NDAA, with a commitment to raise the aid allocation to \$350 million the following year. These aid provisions followed numerous congressional statements of support for Ukraine. In 2015, Congress passed resolutions condemning Russia's annexation of Crimea, condemning its aggression in eastern Ukraine, and signaling its support of increased aid to Ukraine.

Ukraine, U.S. and NATO host joint military exercises (September 2017): The U.S., Ukraine and a dozen NATO allies join an unprecedented in scope annual Rapid Trident [joint exercise](#) off the coast of Ukraine, conducted in parallel to a Russian military exercise in the region.

U.S. approves \$41.5 million commercial sale of lethal defensive weapons to Ukraine (December 2017): In what was widely considered a shift both from the Obama administration's policy as well as the [Trump campaign's](#) prior position, President Trump [approves](#) the small-scale sale of lethal defensive weapons to Ukraine on the recommendation of his advisors.

U.S. announced \$47 million in large scale lethal arms sales to Ukraine (March 2018): The U.S. commits to [sell](#) 210 Javelin anti-tank missiles and over 30 launching units for \$47 million to Ukraine, a significant increase in the lethality of assistance provided. Russia decried the sale.

Ukraine ends cooperation with the Mueller investigation for fear of retribution from Trump administration officials regarding ongoing arms sales (April 2018): After the approval of an arms sale of 210 Javelins to Ukraine, but before the sale had been finalized, the Ukrainian government put [on ice](#) four cases investigating Paul Manafort's criminal activities in Ukraine for fear that failing to do so during the then-ongoing Mueller investigation might jeopardize the sale of Javelins to Ukraine. Volodymyr Arieiev, a member of Parliament and ally of then-President Poroshenko, stated: "in every possible way, we will avoid irritating the top [US] officials. We shouldn't spoil relations with the [Trump] administration."

Congress extends the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (August 2018): Congress again extends the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative in the [FY019 NDAA](#), but reduces assistance to \$250 million, with the condition that \$50 million go towards lethal weaponry. The provision continued the [uninterrupted](#) provision of this security assistance since 2015.

NATO and Ukraine participate in joint military exercises (July 2019): Ukraine, the U.S., a dozen NATO allies and a few other countries participate in a [joint exercise](#) in the Black Sea.

President Trump withholds provision of \$250 million in security assistance to Ukraine (July 2019): While exact details continue to unfold, it [appears](#) that President Trump directed his acting Chief of Staff, Mick Mulvaney, to hold back \$250 million in security assistance to Ukraine authorized through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative in the FY2019 NDAA. The decision was communicated on July 18, one week before President Trump was scheduled to have a phone call with Ukrainian President Zelensky. Senior national security officials appeared uninformed as to why the aid was withheld or why no meeting took place to discuss it. President Trump's decision to withhold security assistance also took Ukrainian senior officials by "[total surprise](#)" and came without any prior warning of concerns over the assistance's use.

President Trump releases \$391 million of security assistance and State Department aid after bipartisan backlash (September 2019): the Trump administration made \$250 million in previously-withheld security assistance funding [available](#). The administration also announced that the State Department would move forward with granting an additional \$141 million in additional assistance, primarily in the form of foreign military financing.

U.S. enters final stages of \$39 million large scale defensive weapons arms sale to Ukraine (October 2019): The State Department and Congress [reportedly](#) informally approve the sale of 150 Javelin anti-tank missiles and two launching units for \$39 million. The proposed sale is separate from \$250 million in assistance previously withheld by President Trump, and followed shortly after that aid's release and the subsequent launch of an impeachment inquiry.