

# President of Poland Andrzej Duda: “Kiev Isn’t Doing the West Any Favors”, Its Counteroffensive Has Failed

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*Two of Kiev’s top propaganda narratives nowadays are that it’s selflessly sacrificing itself for the sake of the West by fighting Russia instead of surrendering and that its [ongoing counteroffensive](#) is succeeding in pushing that country’s forces out of Ukraine’s pre-2014 borders. The first largely remains above official criticism or skepticism since those who dare to doubt it risk being “canceled”, but the second has suddenly begun to be debunked by the Mainstream Media as proven by the following articles:*

- NBC News: “[Is Ukraine’s counteroffensive failing? Kyiv and its supporters worry about losing control of the narrative](#)”
- CNN: “[Western allies receive increasingly ‘sobering’ updates on Ukraine’s counteroffensive: ‘This is the most difficult time of the war’](#)”
- CNN: “[Why a stalled Ukrainian offensive could represent a huge political problem for Zelensky in the US](#)”
- CNN: “[“We expected less resistance’: Ukrainian troops on southern front learn not to underestimate their enemy](#)”
- The Hill: “[Alarm grows as Ukraine’s counteroffensive falters](#)”
- Washington Post: “[Slow counteroffensive darkens mood in Ukraine](#)”

In the face of this rapidly shifting narrative that threatens to topple one of the pillars of Kiev’s Western-directed propaganda, Zelensky’s senior advisor Mikhail Podolyak lashed out at critics in a tweet thread [here](#) where he demanded that they “be patient and closely monitor” his side’s progress. Polish President Andrzej Duda has been doing precisely that since the [NATO-Russian proxy war](#) in Ukraine began, however, and he’s concluded that Kiev isn’t doing the West any favors and its counteroffensive failed.

He dropped both bombshells, the first of which debunked the claim that Kiev is selflessly sacrificing itself for the sake of the West and which hitherto hadn't ever been officially challenged by any Western leader before, in an [interview with the Washington Post](#)'s Marc Thiessen from 1 August that was published nine days later. The relevant excerpts will be republished below for the reader's convenience before analyzing them in the context of this conflict and evolving Polish-Ukrainian ties in particular:

"Q: At the NATO summit when President [Volodymyr] Zelensky criticized the [leaders' joint statement about Ukraine's prospective membership], there was criticism of him that he was ungrateful for all the help [given to] Ukraine. That suggests that our help to Ukraine is charity. Is our help to Ukraine charity, or is Ukraine really doing us a favor by giving its children, its lives to defend us against the Russian threat?

A: I would say it this way: I don't see it in these categories — neither that we are doing an act of charity for Ukraine, nor that Ukraine is doing charity for us...We are sending them arms. Why? Because we want to support them in defending their own territory.

...

We Poles have many reasons to supply Ukrainians with weapons. ... But the whole democratic world also knows that any aggressor who violates the borders of a democratic state in the 21st century in Europe must be stopped."

...

Q: Could Poland fight a combined arms operation without long-range weapons and without air power? Because that's what we're forcing the Ukrainians to do today. What does Ukraine need that it's not getting today?

A: Ukraine has been supplied with long-range artillery, and it is being supplied with long-range artillery to this day. ... One could go as far as to say that Ukraine now has much more modern military capabilities than Russia.

The question is: Does Ukraine have enough weapons to change the balance of the war and get the upper hand? And the answer is probably no. They probably do not have enough weapons. And we know this by the fact that they're not currently able to carry out a very decisive counteroffensive against the Russian military. To make a long story short, they need more assistance."

Casual observers might be shocked by the Polish leader's candidness, while Kiev's supporters might accuse him of "betraying" their regime after becoming the first Western leader to debunk its top two lies nowadays, but his words weren't unprovoked nor said in a vacuum. The background is that political ties between these wartime allies have tremendously worsened since late July as was documented in the following analyses:

- ["Poland & Ukraine Are Arguing Over Grain Once Again"](#)
- ["Ukraine's Ungratefulness Is Finally Starting To Perturb Poland"](#)
- ["Kiev's Prediction Of Post-Conflict Competition With Poland Bodes Ill For Bilateral Ties"](#)

In brief, each side finally began prioritizing their national interests, which resulted in public

tensions due to the absence of any pressure valve for dealing with sensitive disagreements such as those over agricultural cooperation and historical memory. Moreover, each side has self-interested political reasons in escalating rhetoric against the other: Ukraine wants to distract from its failing counteroffensive while the ruling Polish party wants to rally its nationalist base ahead of mid-October's elections.

It was against this backdrop that Duda did the previously unthinkable by telling one of the US' most influential Mainstream Media outlets that Kiev isn't doing the West any favors by fighting Russia and that its counteroffensive failed. Granted, he conveyed these two points in a "polite" way that signaled his continued support for NATO's proxy war on Russia through Ukraine, but it's still an unforgivable offense from that regime's perspective.

NBC News warned earlier this month that Kiev and its supporters are worried about losing control of the narrative, which has now come to pass after what Duda just said. He and his country are much more popular and less polarizing among average Westerners than Zelensky and Ukraine, plus nobody doubts their anti-Russian credentials due to widespread awareness of Poland's difficult history with that country. These observations mean that his words will likely have an outsized impact on reshaping the narrative.

As for the future of Polish-Ukrainian relations, it's looking dimmer by the day due to their spiraling disputes becoming self-sustaining at this stage. That's not to suggest that Warsaw will cut Kiev off from arms and other forms of support, but just that the trust which used to characterize their relations since February was finally exposed as illusory. This could complicate their [reported plans](#) to form a joint military unit and could lead to [Poland acting unilaterally in Western Ukraine](#) in the worst-case scenario.

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