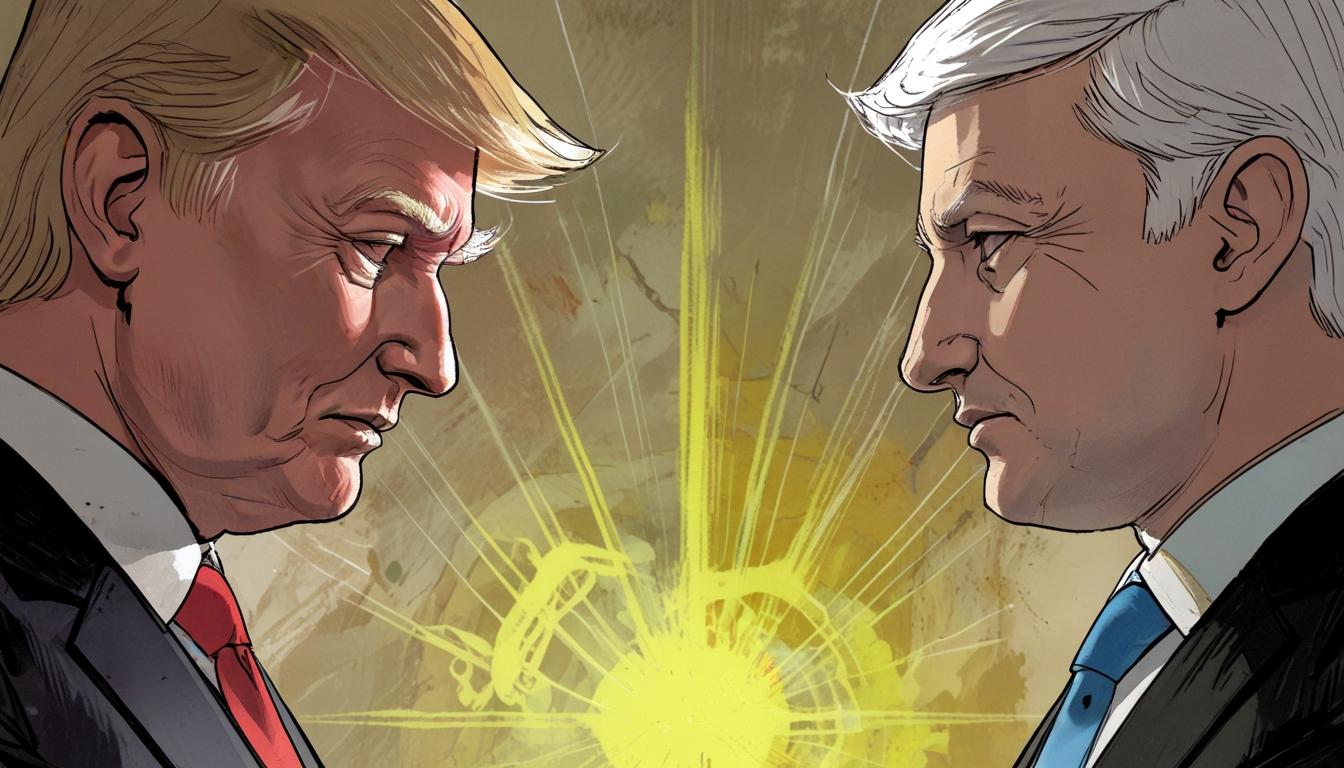
# Trump criticises Zelensky over US aid to Ukraine



In recent statements, former US President Donald Trump has levelled strong criticism against Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, describing him as 'ungrateful' for the financial support extended to Ukraine by the United States in light of Russia's invasion. During an interview with Fox News, Trump stated that Zelensky had taken "billions in American cash like candy from a baby," asserting that the amount of aid provided was around $350 billion, a figure which has been widely disputed. Actual estimates of US financial assistance to Ukraine since the onset of the conflict in February 2022 vary between $119 billion and $183 billion.

The tensions between Trump and Zelensky have intensified in recent weeks, leading to Trump pausing all US military funding for Ukraine and prompting Zelensky to issue an apology regarding the discord. Trump framed his argument by saying, "I just don't think [Zelensky is] grateful," and further elaborated on the ease with which he claims funds were acquired under President Biden's leadership.

In addition to his comments about Ukraine, Trump attempted to deflect accusations about his approach to Russia, contending that he has been exceptionally firm with the country. “Nobody has been tougher on Russia than Donald Trump and they know that,” he asserted, highlighting actions such as halting the Russian pipeline and imposing sanctions.

During the same interview, Trump acknowledged the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons, describing them as "monsters" that hold the potential to "end the world." He expressed concern regarding the vast sums of money spent on nuclear arsenals, stating, "It's just bad that you have to spend all this money on something that if it's used, it's probably the end of the world." Trump positioned the danger of nuclear war as superior to threats like climate change, asserting a belief that nuclear conflict “could happen tomorrow.”

The remarks from Trump came in the backdrop of alarming casualty figures reported by Ukraine's Armed Forces, which noted that approximately 885,130 Russian soldiers have been killed since the beginning of the invasion. In addition to personnel losses, the Russian military has suffered the destruction of significant amounts of military equipment, including over 10,000 tanks and hundreds of aircraft.

Reports indicate that Russian President Vladimir Putin’s forces are expected to face further heavy losses in the upcoming weeks, with estimates predicting that fatalities could reach near one million. As tensions continue to escalate, efforts towards peace negotiations appear stagnant, especially following intense missile strikes that recently resulted in casualties in Ukraine.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/Support-for-Ukraine/Timeline/> - This URL supports the claim about the extensive financial and military aid provided by the United States to Ukraine, including over $66.5 billion in security assistance since the beginning of the Biden administration.
* <https://usafacts.org/articles/how-much-money-has-the-us-given-ukraine-since-russias-invasion/> - This URL provides information on the total amount of aid allocated by the U.S. for Ukraine, which includes both military and economic assistance, and disputes the figure of $350 billion claimed by Trump.
* <https://www.ukraineoversight.gov/Funding/> - This URL details the comprehensive funding provided by the U.S. for Ukraine, including nearly $183 billion appropriated for Operation Atlantic Resolve and the broader Ukraine response.
* <https://www.mass.gov/guide-to-evidence/article-xi-miscellaneous> - Although not directly related to the article's content, this URL is included as it pertains to legal and evidentiary standards, which might be relevant in assessing the credibility of claims made by political figures.
* <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Report-of-the-Impeachment-Inquiry-of-Joseph-R.-Biden-Jr.-President-of-the-United-States.pdf> - This URL provides context on political tensions and investigations within the U.S., which might indirectly relate to Trump's criticisms and the broader political landscape.