Joe Biden’s Vision for America’s Relationship with Ukraine

“I’ve been inspired by [the people of Ukraine], their courage, their resilience, brave Ukrainians who never gave up hope for a future of something better, who get up and go to work every day for a democratic and united Ukraine.” Joe Biden, Kyiv, Ukraine, January 17, 2017

What Has Joe Biden Done for Ukraine?

- During the Obama-Biden Administration, the United States led the international condemnation of Russia’s invasion of Crimea and the Donbas:
  - It developed a coordinated sanctions regime with the European Union and other countries, which imposed significant costs on Russia for its aggression.
  - It spearheaded the effort to punish Russian President Vladimir Putin by isolating him diplomatically, kicking Russia out of the G8, and distancing Putin from the international community to ensure that there was “no business as usual.”
- Joe Biden was the point person for Ukraine policy, overseeing a broad U.S. effort to support Ukraine. He visited Ukraine six times, including during his final week in office. Biden spoke regularly with Ukrainian officials, and he encouraged them to keep Ukraine on the path of reform.
  - Under Biden’s leadership, the U.S. helped Ukraine defend against Russian aggression by providing training to Ukrainian soldiers, by giving Ukraine critical equipment, including counter-battery radars that protected Ukrainian soldiers against incoming fire.
  - Biden championed the Obama-Biden Administration’s initiative to help Ukraine develop a new model of economic growth driven by the private sector and based on the rule of law.
- To safeguard Ukraine from energy shortages due to a potential Russian gas cut-off, the U.S. worked to ensure that Ukraine received the gas to survive through the winter.
- Joe Biden took a strong stand against corruption in Ukraine.
  - The U.S. did not just hand over money; the U.S. worked closely with the International Monetary Fund and the European Union to condition American support on reforms to fight corruption and make Ukraine’s government work for the Ukrainian people.
  - Biden led a bipartisan effort that made the U.S. a lifeline for Ukraine when Ukraine was fighting for survival. Thanks in part to U.S. aid, Ukraine remains an independent state, even in the midst of a war with Russia.

What Will Joe Biden Do for Ukraine?

- Joe Biden understands what Donald Trump does not: that Ukraine is fighting to defend its independence and sovereignty. Ukraine’s success will contribute to a more stable and secure Europe, which is in America’s interest.
- Biden will push to end the conflict in Ukraine, and will work with our European allies to support Ukraine as it pursues the sovereign, democratic, and prosperous future it deserves.
- Joe Biden will provide military assistance to Ukraine, including lethal military equipment, to help Ukraine defend itself against Russia.
- Joe Biden will engage Ukraine’s government, business, and civic leaders to dismantle corruption and consolidate a society that enjoys the rule of law and ensures justice and economic opportunity for its citizens.

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