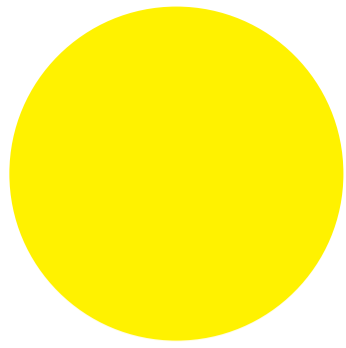


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Lesson world should learn from Ukraine crisis

By Ali Khezrian
Iranian lawmaker

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The developments in the Ukraine-US standoff over the past three years send several crucial messages to the world. Firstly, the United States no longer speaks with one voice as a single, unified entity, as its policies shift with changes in administrations. This reality has hit home even for many in Iran when some naively believed that Donald Trump's election could tilt the playing field in Iran's favor. However, as events have shown, that assumption was wide of the mark. While Trump may change course when it suits his interests, he maintains a consistent policy in situations that do not benefit him. In the case of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he has adopted a unified, overarching strategy.

Regarding Ukraine, global public opinion witnessed that Trump did not act as expected when faced with a pro-Western country like Ukraine, which he should have supported. It is common knowledge that President Zelensky and Ukraine were provoked into a large-scale war by the US and the West, and thus, they should have received American support. However, at the critical moment when America was supposed to show solidarity, Trump casually stepped aside, making a deal with Russia and sidelining Ukraine. This sends a clear message to regional countries that relying on extra-regional powers for support in regional matters and pursuing their growth can lead to abandonment during crucial times.

Beyond this, there is an even more significant geopolitical shift taking shape—the growing rift between the US and its European allies. It seems that Europe will be the next loser after Ukraine. In numerous negotiations with Iran and other nations, Europeans often indicated their willingness to resolve issues, suggesting that if matters were settled with the US, they would cooperate in other areas. In practice, they portrayed themselves as followers of American foreign policy and international decisions. However, this subservience to American global policies is now facing a serious challenge, forcing Europeans to decide whether they will continue to blindly follow US approaches in other emerging issues.

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Cracks appear in Pezeshkian's 'national consensus'

By Gholamreza Mansouri
Political science expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Abdolnaser Hemmati, Iran's minister of economy, was impeached by the parliament on Sunday after just six months in office. Observers believe that the impeachment was a political move rather than a technical one or one driven by national interests. Opposition lawmakers stated that the main reason for the impeachment was a sharp drop in the value of the national currency against the dollar, but experts blame the depreciation on US sanctions and restrictions on oil and natural gas exports. They believe that such an issue was out of the hands of the minister of economy. Meanwhile, the count from the impeachment vote has raised a new debate in the political arena, including one that hints at a betrayal of President Masoud Pezeshkian's motto of "national consensus and unity" by the opposition. At the beginning of his term in August, Pezeshkian

announced the start of a new era of cooperation between all political parties under the flag of Iran and the Islamic Republic. He invited all parties to introduce potential experts to join the government and help it, regardless of their political orientation. The opposition was also asked to come up with proposals to help run the country. Moreover, cabinet members were chosen from very various factions. That is why all Pezeshkian's picks were able to win confidence vote from the parliament without any obstacles.

However, soon after, the critics started attacking Pezeshkian's government. They first condemned the presence of Mohammad Javad Zarif as vice president for strategic affairs and vowed to take action against him, while knowing the importance of Zarif's presence in the government. The pressure became so high that he was just forced to resign at the suggestion of the judiciary chief on the very same day Hemmati was ousted.

Second, the opposition supported anti-government protests, though small in size, in Tabriz and also in

front of the parliament in Tehran. They tried to rally the public against the same president who had shared power with them. Although Pezeshkian was eager to bridge the differences and utilize the capabilities of all political factions to restore Iran's position in the world, unfortunately, it was the political behavior of the opposition that prevented his goals to realize. In countries where political groupings are not clear and political parties do not act according to standards, experts believe that slogans like unity are ultimately doomed to failure just like one-sided love is.

Although it is still too soon to judge the failure or success of Pezeshkian's discourse at the moment, it seems that the president is going through a new chapter in his government's relationship with the opposition. The discourse of national unity is now visibly showing cracks due to the opposition's moves although the government seems to be determined to keep up it. However, if the opposition continues to throw wrenches, chances of success for the slogan become increasingly slim.



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