

UNDERSTANDING WHY SUPPORTING UKRAINE MATTERS

The defense of Ukraine is, at its core, a defense of democracy. When Russia launched its invasion in 2022, it was not only attacking a neighboring country—it was challenging the very principle that nations have the right to choose their own leaders, chart their own path, and live under systems of government rooted in the consent of the governed.

Ukraine has chosen democracy. Its people have gone to the polls, endured hardships, and even staged mass demonstrations to affirm their commitment to accountable leadership and the rule of law. Russia's war is an attempt to undo that choice by force. Supporting Ukraine means standing firmly on the side of democratic self-determination.

For Americans, this matters because democracy is never guaranteed. History has shown that authoritarianism spreads when it goes unchecked. If Russia succeeds in dismantling Ukraine's democracy, it sends a message to the world that free governments are fragile, temporary, and easily cast aside. But when the United States and its allies support Ukraine, we demonstrate that democracies are resilient, united, and willing to defend one another.

This support also reflects back on us at home. Democracy is not defined only by our elections or institutions within our borders. It is also defined by how we act abroad. When we stand with Ukraine, we affirm that democracy is worth defending everywhere, not just when it is convenient. We affirm that borders and treaties matter, and that governments chosen by their people cannot simply be erased by force.

Supporting Ukraine is not just a foreign policy stance—it is a democratic stance. It says to the world that free nations will stand together, that the rule of law applies internationally as well as domestically, and that unity among democracies is stronger than the aggression of any single authoritarian regime.

At home and abroad, democracy grows stronger when it is defended. By backing Ukraine, we are not only protecting another nation's sovereignty—we are reinforcing the very principles that keep our own democracy alive.

