

Trump ends bromance with ‘crazy’ Putin

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Feeling the heat: "He's (Putin) sending rockets into cities and killing people, and I don't like it at all," complained Trump on Sunday.

Is Russia winning the war? The US leader has hit out at Russian president Vladimir Putin. Will it change anything in Ukraine?

What's happening?

The nights in **Ukraine** are deadly. For several nights in a row, **Russia** has launched huge drone and **missile** attacks across the country. Dozens of people have been killed.

The American leader **Donald Trump** and Russia's Vladimir Putin have shown signs of a warm relationship.

But even Trump seems shocked by the latest attacks on Ukraine. He wrote on **social media**: "I've always had a very good relationship with **Vladimir Putin** of Russia, but something has happened to him. He has gone absolutely CRAZY!"

Find out more

In response, a Russian **spokesperson** said Trump faced "emotional overload".

The war has now been going on for more than three years. It began in February 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine.

Trump promised to end the war on "day one" when he returned to power in January. Since then, he has criticised Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelensky.

The American leader wants to make deals with Russia when the war ends. But now Trump seems unhappy with Putin too, believing that his demands for the war to end are too high.

Will this change anything? Trump's moods change. He may soon take more friendly calls with Putin. And Russia has bought new ammunition and drones from North Korea and Iran. Some say it may be too soon for Ukrainians to celebrate.

Is Russia winning the war?

Some say

Yes! Russia is edging ahead of Ukraine in the war. There is no sign that Trump is changing his long-term plans to provide more support for Ukraine. The bigger country will win.

Others think

No! The more Putin angers world leaders, the more they will step up to help Ukraine. But for now, it seems like there is no end in sight for this war. There is no clear way for either side to win.

Some people say

"Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding."

Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955), German-born theoretical physicist

What do you think?

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - How do you think people in Ukraine feel when they go to sleep at night?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: How long can both sides keep fighting? Will they run out of weapons and soldiers?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Imagine that you are Trump's close personal assistant. Which world leaders would you advise him to be friendly to?

5. Express

What do others believe? - Can Donald Trump end the war in Ukraine? Discuss as a class.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Make a factfile about Ukraine. The news about Ukraine is focused on war. What else is there to know about the country?

Glossary

Ukraine - A country in Eastern Europe. It was invaded by Russia in February 2022.

Russia - The largest country in the world by area. It has a population of 144 million people.

Missile - An object (as a stone, arrow, artillery shell, bullet, or rocket) that is thrown, shot, or launched usually so as to strike something at a distance.

Donald Trump - An American politician, media personality, and businessman serving as the 47th president of the United States since January 2025. A member of the Republican Party, he previously served as the 45th president from 2017 to 2021.

Social media - Social media is defined by websites, apps and social games that connect people to each other through the sharing of pictures, thoughts, ideas, articles, and other content.

Vladimir Putin - Russia's ruler since 2000. He is a strong opponent of the West.

Spokesperson - Someone who speaks on behalf of a group or individual, often to the media.