

# The Case for Freedom and Humanity

2022 Western Democratic States Take Seats in the Theatre of War to Watch the Live Performance of Ukraine's Defence of Freedom on Behalf of Humanity.

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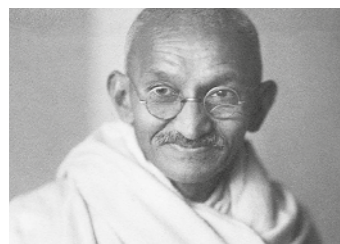
# »»» The Voices of Freedom

## A Selection of Quotes from the Voices of Freedom Throughout the Ages



*"There is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind."*  
- Virginia Woolf

*"Human rights are not a privilege conferred by government. They are every human being's entitlement by his humanity."*  
- Mother Teresa



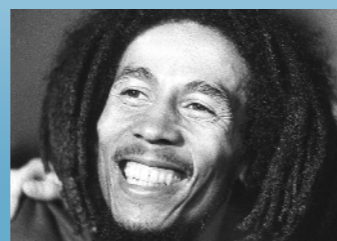
*"Freedom is never dear at any price. It is the breath of life. What would a man not pay for living?"*  
- Mahatma Gandhi

*"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive"*  
- 14th Dalai Lama



*"I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves."*  
- Harriet Tubman

*"Better die fighting for freedom than be a prisoner all the days of your life."*  
- Bob Marley



*"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."*  
- Martin Luther King Jr.



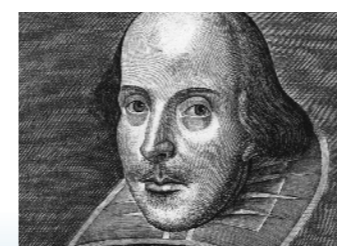
*"If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."*  
- George Orwell

*"If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."*  
- George Washington



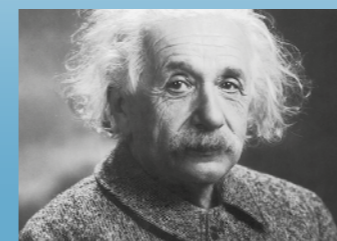
*"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."*  
- Bishop Desmond Tutu

*"Let me be a free man, free to travel, free to work, free to trade where I choose, free to choose my own teachers, free to follow the religion of my fathers, free to talk, think and act for myself and I will obey every law or submit to the penalty."*  
- Chief Joseph



*"Having my freedom, boast of nothing else."*  
- William Shakespeare

*"Let freedom reign. The sun never set on so glorious a human achievement."*  
- Nelson Mandela



*"Everything that is really great, and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom."*  
- Albert Einstein

# »»» The Case for Freedom and Humanity

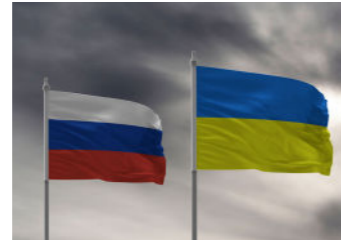
**Question: At what point does Excalibur and drawing the sword of the righteous transcend appeasement?**

## Freedom (Noun)

[uncountable, countable] **freedom (of something)** the right to do or say what you want without anyone stopping you; **freedom of speech/thought/expression/worship** a threat to **press/academic, etc.** freedom rights and freedoms guaranteed by the constitution.  
- Oxford Dictionary

## Humanity (Noun)

[uncountable] the state of being a person rather than a god, an animal, or a machine: the quality of being kind to people and animals by making sure that they do not suffer more than is necessary; the quality of being humane.  
- Oxford Dictionary



**The legacy of World War Two** Freedom transcends state boundaries, it transcends cross-state treaties. The European Union (1949 Council of Europe); 1957 European Economic Community; 1993 European Union) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO, 1949) were established because of the last world war to protect freedom. Specifically, NATO was created by the United States, the UK, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. Notably NATO was the first peacetime military alliance the United States entered into outside of the Western Hemisphere. The EU was originally created

with the aim of ending the frequent and bloody wars between neighbours, which culminated in the Second World War.

On the EU's website, it states in its history 'visionary leaders inspired the creation of the European Union we live in today. Without their energy and motivation, we would not be living in the sphere of peace and stability that we take for granted.' Considering the Ukrainian crisis, it needs updating, demonstrating how we have underestimated the frailty of peace (in Europe). This leads us to question how aligned the EU in 2022 is in its response to this crisis and its founding principles when 10 Western

European countries created the Council of Europe to promote democracy and protect human rights and the rule of law. This was reinforced with the 1953 European Convention on Human Rights. Similarly, how closely aligned is NATO's response to its founding

principles: by signing the North Atlantic Treaty, parties were "determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of the peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law."



The voice of freedom



The voice of tyranny

*"Hitler showed the evil that could be done by the art of rhetoric. Churchill showed how it could help to save humanity. It has been said that the difference between Hitler's speeches and Churchill's speeches was that Hitler made you think he could do anything; Churchill made you think you could do anything."*

- Boris Johnson, *The Churchill Factor: How One Man Made History*

Almost 80 years later, 2022, and the democratic and sovereign European state of the Ukraine is buckling under the onslaught of a Russian invasion. Western response has been contained by the letters, words, and clauses within the treaties, as opposed to what some believe to upholding the founding principles that were set out so gravely in the post-war years of the 1940s and 1950s. In this context, the response of NATO and the EU are not arguably in full adherence to these principles, instead imposing sanctions, offering reassuring words of support and encouragement, and armaments, albeit from a Ukrainian perspective these steps are not delivering upon their aim to stop the war and defend freedom (and neither most believe they will do, even with the passage of time). Kevin Connolly (BBC News) summarised the effectiveness of these actions as being a 'rather decadent view - that the only weapon the West would ever need is economic sanctions - is out of fashion now. You can't fight tanks with banks.'

These sanctions have been authorised individually and collectively by nation member states of NATO, the EU and beyond. They do so whilst standing to the rear of the battlefield and bearing witness to the war before them which is being fought by the Ukrainian people to protect freedom and democracy and rights to self-determination, and in so doing the liberty of all free nation states. They watch from a distance as the Ukraine, their young democratic sibling, not old enough, not sufficiently proven after 30 years of sovereign and independent rule to be found within the protocols or membership of the EU or NATO, take up the sword to protect freedom on their behalf.

What is freedom? It is complex, and it must be redefined and defended anew by each generation, as it is evolutionary in its journey. Moreover, many believe the value of freedom can only be understood and appreciated by those who have a sense of the past and a highly developed understanding of human

nature. All too often, people who live in freedom tend to ignore its fragility and take it for granted. Evidence to this point has become startlingly clear since Russia crossed the border into the Ukraine (in February 2022).

Where direct military support is limited by treaties and agreements, what level of human suffering and how threatened does freedom have to be to transcend these protocols? The arguments against doing so are well made and understood: the possibility of escalation, of contagion and the war spreading across Europe or even the horrific possibility of nuclear arms being used, but there must be a defining moment when humanity and what it stands for transcends all. At this point morality and courage rise above the fear of action and override the diplomacy of inaction. History tells us time and time again the longer the moment of inaction endures the longer it takes to meet threat and tyranny and extinguish it. Freedom in this context is the aspirational doctrine linked intricately to humanity.

What is the point of humanity? Humanity means caring for and helping others whenever and wherever possible. Humanity means helping others at times when they need that help the most, humanity means forgetting our selfish interests at times when others need our

help. Humanity means extending unconditional love to each living being on Earth. Humanity transcends all, it is unalienable and so therefore, is the call to defend it.

There is some irony that the worldwide renowned comedian of the first half of the 20th century, Charlie Chaplin, a fellow comedian to President Zelensky, portrayed the view that freedom and democracy transcends boundaries in his final speech in the film *The Great Dictator*.

“Dictators free themselves but they enslave the people! Now let us fight to fulfil that promise! Let us fight to free the world - to do away with national barriers - to do away with greed, with hate and intolerance. Let us fight for a world of reason, a world where science and progress will lead to all men’s happiness. Soldiers! in the name of democracy, let us all unite!”

Chaplin spent many months drafting and re-writing the speech for the end of the film, a call for peace from the barber who has been mistaken for Hynkel. At the time many people criticised the speech, and thought it was superfluous to the film. Others found it uplifting. Regrettably Chaplin’s words are proven as relevant today as they were in 1940.

Look to history and to those that led the democratic free world through war and times when the possibility of war was ever present, and have witnessed the brutality of battle, seen towns and cities bombed, civilian deaths by the 100s and 1000s and bore witness to inhumanity and you can understand why there is a commonality in their views on freedom, its importance, and the need to protect it. As time goes by their words become less persuasive, less timely, but they remain relevant and echo down the years, and we should never be closed to the lessons of the past.

President Dwight Eisenhower asserted, “History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or timid”, determining that courage in leadership across the democratic world and the governments appointed to protect it, is required at the point of crisis, but is an absolute necessity always. It echoed Winston Churchill when he said, “Civilisation will not last, freedom will not survive, peace will not be kept, unless a very large majority of mankind unite together to defend them and show themselves possessed of a constabulary power before which barbaric and atavistic forces will stand in awe.”

Winston Churchill stated “If you will not fight for right when you can easily win without bloodshed; if you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not too costly; you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may be even a worse fate, you may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves.” In his later years when reflecting on his life: “For the first 25 years of my life, I wanted freedom. For the next 25 years, I wanted order. For the next 25 years, I realized that order is freedom.”



*“Let us fight for a world of reason, a world where science and progress will lead to all men’s happiness. Soldiers! in the name of democracy, let us all unite!”*  
- Charlie Chaplin

## Freedom and the Cold War

Such thoughts on freedom have not been limited to those that led their countries through the brutality of war. For much of the second half of the 20th century, Western leaders were pre-occupied with the ever-present fear of war, the Cold War (the West versus the Soviet Union), not war itself.

The beacon of freedom during this period was Berlin. At the end of World War II, the main Allied powers—the United States, France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union—divided Germany into two zones. The Soviet Union occupied East Germany and installed a rigidly controlled communist state. The other three Allies shared the occupation of West Germany and helped rebuild the country as a capitalist democracy. The city of Berlin, located 200 miles inside East Germany, was also divided. Half of the city—West Berlin—was part of West Germany. This island of freedom and the wall built by the Soviets that separated it, became

symbolic of the struggle between the West and the East.

*“Berlin is the testicles of the West. When I want the West to scream, I squeeze on Berlin.” Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader said in 1963 to which President Kennedy’s speech in Western Berlin became a battle cry for freedom. “There are many people in the world who really don’t understand, or say they don’t, what is the great issue between the free world and the Communist world. Let them come to Berlin. There are some who say that communism is the wave of the future. Let them come to Berlin. And there are some who say in Europe and elsewhere we can work with the Communists. Let them come to Berlin. And there are even a few who say that it is true that communism is an evil system, but it permits us to make economic progress. Lass’ sie nach Berlin kommen – Let them come to Berlin.”*

- **John F. Kennedy, Berlin 1963**



*“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of liberty.”*

- **President John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Speech 20th January 1961**

The leadership of the free world post Second World War and after Kennedy is arguably symbolised by the extraordinary partnership forged between US President Ronald Reagan and UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. This partnership was a tour de force in diplomacy, in purpose and strength, where their bond

was based upon the depth of their conviction that freedom was the immovable foundation stone of humanity and must be defended without thought or contemplation, and that the free must not buckle or turn in the face of autocracy, oppression or despotism.

*“The choice facing the nation is between two totally different ways of life. And what a prize we must fight for: no less than the chance to banish from our land the dark, divisive clouds of Marxist socialism and bring together men and women from all walks of life who share a belief in freedom.”*

- **Margaret Thatcher, 1983**



*“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States when men were free.”*

- **Ronald Reagan, October 27th 1964, Republican National Convention**



Reagan’s Freedom Speech is perhaps his most significant, as it not only shed light on the uncertainty of freedom but served as inspiration for Americans and members of the free world for generations to come and was delivered years before he would become President. It captured ideas and ideals he espoused throughout his time in public office and after. In this speech he sought to unify the American people around the shared common goal of pursuing freedom, emphasising that it was not guaranteed. He pointed to the danger of complacency, and that freedom was at risk if we did not remain vigilant. This “idea has survived for generations and serves as a clarion call to not lose sight of the value of freedom and the risks of it dissipating from American society” (reagan.com).

Of Margaret Thatcher, when asked, Reagan responded “Margaret Thatcher – this great lady has not just served her country well. She has served the free world well.”

In a remarkable speech at the United Nations in December 1988, Mikhail Gorbachev discarded every major tenet of Marxism-Leninism. Calling for the ‘de ideologization’ of international relations, he declared that the people in every country must have freedom to choose for themselves the kind of system they wished to live in.

The metamorphosis could not have occurred had not a Soviet leader with a very different mindset from any of his predecessors come to power, and had he not used the great authority of his office with political finesse to transform Soviet foreign policy, while simultaneously embracing liberalization and partial democratization at home.



*“In the name of communism, we abandoned basic human values. So, when I came to power in Russia, I started to restore those values; values of ‘openness’ and freedom”*

- **Mikhail Gorbachev**

Arguably since and because of Kennedy and Reagan, the United States and its presidents have remained consistent to the principle of defending freedom, although the extent of how they have balanced this with diplomacy and appeasement has varied. Throughout the late 20th century the alliance partners and allies of the United States looked west to these presidents for reconfirmation of their commitment to protect the free world, specifically from the East. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, however, and Gorbachev's drawing down of Russia's sphere of influence, the West looked inward and misjudged this moment to be the end of the Russian threat, as opposed

to it being put to rest. How the West positioned and celebrated the end of the Soviet Union, as if Russia was a vanquished and defeated state, had echoes of how Germany was treated post World War One. Notably President George H. Bush warned of celebrating a victory, instinctively conscious of this echo, but for Europeans it was impossible at that moment to look to the horizon. It was a significant turning point in history, their history and the fight for liberty and freedom across their continent. Retrospectively we can see how it impacted the 'vanquished' and how this fostered resentment for proud Russians that would simmer for years to come.

*"Let every nation know whether it wishes us well or ill that we will pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose and foe to assure the survival and success of liberty."*

**- President John F. Kennedy**



*"A freedom that only asks what is in it for me, a freedom without commitment to others, a freedom without love or charity or duty of patriotism, is unworthy of our founding ideals, and those who died in their defense"*

**- President Barack Obama**

## Echoes of the Past

*"Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."*

**- Winston Churchill**

Tomorrow's historians will write upon this moment that it was decisive in the fight for freedom. Like those etched in history before them that led at the time of war, the leadership of the free world in 2022 will be held accountable for their actions, assessed as to whether their courage transcended the expectations placed upon them to defend freedom in the name of humanity.

Today's historians can hear the voices of yesteryear, as a pattern of geo-political history repeats itself and unfolds into a copy of the past, and the echoes from not so long ago sound: compare Warsaw 1944 and German military operations to Kyiv 2022 and the Russian invasion:

\* *General Tadeusz Komorowski, better known by the name Bór-Komorowski was a Polish military leader. He was appointed commander in chief a day before the capitulation of the Warsaw Uprising and following World War II, 32nd Prime Minister of Poland, 3rd Polish government-in-exile in London*

*"Warsaw is not waiting for empty words of praise, for expressions of recognition, not for assurances of sympathy. Warsaw is waiting ....Warsaw is waiting....for ammunition and weapons."*

**- General Kazimierz Sosnkowski**



The agreement on cessation of hostilities in Warsaw was signed at 9:00 pm, 2 October 1944, marking an end to all military operations in Warsaw. This followed 63 days of the most brutal and bloody fighting. Until 7:30 pm that day General Bor's\* radio station had been broadcasting messages to the allies asking for "immediate assistance". The broadcast was monitored by Polish receiving stations in London and was barely audible. It said, "Hello, Warsaw speaking...We are still fighting,

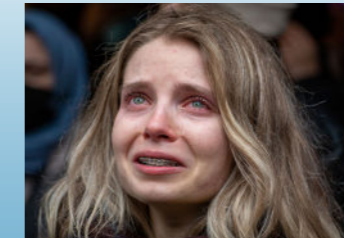
Warsaw....Warsaw is not yet defeated...This town of one million people is being wiped out....We have given more than we could.... Give us immediate assistance!! This assistance is due to us!!....We are today the conscience of the world...We....have confidence and are still waiting for your help. We were called "the inspiration of the fighting nations and the inspiration of the world....We, as a nation, have a right to live. We demand that right!!....."



Warsaw 1944



Kharkiv, Ukraine 2022



The Polish people have a deep rooted understanding of what living under Russian oppression and autocracy means. It is not surprising therefore they have opened their borders as if the Ukrainian people were their own to give them sanctuary.

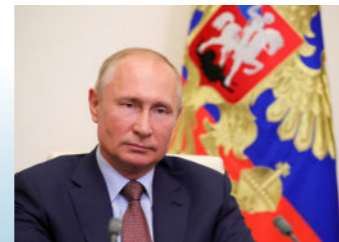
## The Tumbling Wall and the Sleeping Bear

The Second World War, like the First, would become the war to end all wars. The Berlin Wall coming down ended the Cold War and for 30 years the European nations divested and stripped down spending on defence, believing the Eastern threat had been neutralised and placed into history. In response the British Army in 1990 was 308,000, in 2022 it is 82,000, with a governmental commitment pre-Ukraine crisis to reduce to 75,000; France has reduced from 550,000 to 112,000, Russia from 2.8 million to 1.35 million, but it has up-skilled and improved its capability on and above what it was in comparison to 1990, and the West watched knowing this rearmament was happening. Western Europe in 2022 is ill-equipped and ill-prepared to defend itself and once again turns west to the United States for their umbrella commitment.

If Russia did extend military operations and Europe found itself at war without the US and its support, then Europe would find itself fighting for its survival on the streets of its villages, towns and cities, just as the Ukrainians are doing today. Prophetically, Emmanuel Macron, the French president, had warned European countries that they can no longer rely on America to defend NATO allies. "What we are currently experiencing is the brain death of NATO," Mr Macron declared in a blunt interview with *The Economist* in 2019. Europe stands on "the edge of a precipice", he said, and needed to start thinking of itself strategically as a geopolitical power; otherwise "we will no longer be in control of our destiny." It has come to pass, just as you could argue, is the decision of Britain to decouple itself from the EU and its collective defence.



*The Yalta Conference took place in the Crimea from February 4–11, 1945, during World War Two. The Ukraine and Russia in conflict in February 2022 has been born from Russian expansionism just as the Yalta Conference was supposed to set the lines of its containment.*



Americans indeed may be tempted to view the war in Ukraine as an unfortunate, but far away, crisis. US economists who know about global trade, however, understand that the world is too connected for the United States to go unaffected. President Biden's State of the Union address has become a rallying cry. "Freedom will always triumph over tyranny," he said. Putin had most likely calculated that Biden was a weak link, and certainly he is no Kennedy or a Reagan, but the tone and content of his speech was significant. The US on several occasions in the last 10 days has reconfirmed its commitment to NATO and is also clear it does not want NATO to drift by design of accident into a conflict with Russia, even if the moral imperative exists to do so. What is becoming clear is the crisis is in part of our own making, some saying it reckless that we have found ourselves in a position of lack of preparedness due to carrying the burden of 30 years of decreasing defence expenditure. In doing so it has left freedom and humanity vulnerable and exposed on its Eastern flank.

But Putin has also underestimated the resolve and common purpose of the EU. Ursula von der Leyen (President of the European Commission) has been robust and has had clarity of purpose in her and the EU's response. The former German politician has been the principal force behind the EU's decision, for the first time in its history, to finance and purchase weapons for a nation under attack, a commitment that includes ammunition and fighter jets.

In Germany the measured appeasement of Angela Merkel towards Russia has been overturned in no uncertain terms overnight, with Germany's recently appointed Chancellor Olaf Scholz, showing an unquestionable resolve to deal with Putin which far exceeds his predecessor. He has overturned decades of post-Cold War German foreign policy, noted for its caution and nervousness towards Putin.

Berlin has ended its policy of not sending weapons to active war zones by sending anti-tank and anti-aircraft systems to Ukraine. Economically it has halted the Nord Stream 2 Baltic Sea gas pipeline project and withdrawn its opposition to blocking Russia from the SWIFT international payments system. Perhaps most astonishing is the commitment to spend (at least) 2% of its GDP on defence moving forward.

These are three points of resistance that Putin appears to have miscalculated, his actions prompting a polar reaction to those he most likely expected.

The German philosopher Georg Hegel famously said, "The only thing that we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history." As we are often told, history repeats itself and, on this point, we can reflect upon today. Writing in the *New York Times*, March 5th, 2022, the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, "it is not future historians but the people of Ukraine who will be our judge".

The UK prime minister has an additional leadership challenge to the one being presented on the international stage. It is also the UK people he will find himself answering to on the handling of the Ukrainian crisis, as his popularity across the electorate and within his own party has been diminished significantly in the last two years. There is a growing cross-party movement that see Johnson as lacking in moral fibre and integrity, some even openly stating he is morally bankrupt. These hardened opinions have been fuelled by a succession of scandals that all find their way back to 10 Downing Street, London, and the prime ministerial home of Johnson. Additionally, and amidst this crisis it has come to light that Johnson and his Conservative Party have/had deep rooted links with the Russian oligarch community, and that they have benefited from dirty Russian money.

Johnson has an opportunity to reset the dial, to draw a line in the political sand. He is an avid fan of Winston Churchill and the author of *The Churchill Factor* How one man changed history. In it he writes “Churchill knew instinctively what was wrong with communism—that it repressed liberty; that it replaced individual discretion with state control; that it entailed the curtailment of democracy, and therefore that it was tyrannous.” The problem being that whilst Johnson may see himself in a Churchillian light, most do not, and the last 24 months have made this perception gap wider. Helen Lewis wrote as such in *The Atlantic*, January 2022. It then held no reference to the Ukraine’s pending jeopardy, although six weeks later her words and by further accident, the words of David Davis MP in the UK parliament, appear prophetic of the leadership challenge facing Johnson: “In the Name of God, Go” David Davis, “Britain’s prime minister sees himself as Winston Churchill’s heir. But what if he is remembered as another Neville Chamberlain instead?” Helen Lewis.

“In the name of God, go!” If you wanted to choose a quotation to wound Boris Johnson - a man who wrote a biography of Winston Churchill as a coded advertisement for his own virtues—then this would be it. When Johnson’s fellow Conservative David Davis stood up in Parliament and said these words, he must have intended them to be a fatal blow. Davis was not comparing the prime minister to his hero Churchill. He was comparing him to Neville Chamberlain, Churchill’s weak, appeasing predecessor.

The quotation comes from a 1940 debate on Britain’s conduct in the dispiriting first months of the Second World War, as Britain failed

to defend Norway from a German invasion. The Conservative Leo Amery compared Chamberlain’s attitude toward Adolf Hitler to that of a lion hunter caught sleeping by the lion. “That is, in brief, the story of our initiative over Norway,” Amery said. Then he built to a conclusion that quoted Oliver Cromwell, who overthrew and executed King Charles I. “This is what Cromwell said to the Long Parliament when he thought it was no longer fit to conduct the affairs of the nation: ‘You have sat too long here for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go.’”

Johnson has a respite, the country will put to one side the questions of his leadership for now, but he needs to rise to the occasion and take his seat at the international table. To do so he will have to galvanise his leadership team, define their purpose, and communicate unwavering support for the principles of freedom and the UK’s right to self-determination and to support humanity. One of his team, the UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace warned Mr Putin not to “test” the UK. In an interview with the *Sunday Telegraph* on Sunday 6th March, 2022, Mr Wallace said: “History is littered with authoritarian leaders underestimating the wider West and the United Kingdom. He clearly underestimated the international community.” He added: “If we stick together and refuse to be intimidated then I believe he will fail.” Western democracy and freedom cannot be based upon a belief he (Putin) must fail, it must be based upon an iron will and commitment to do whatever necessary to ensure Russia does fail.

## The Cross Roads of Freedom and Tyranny

If the West is to stand by its vaunted and promoted principles that it will defend freedom, and that it will protect humanity, then the moment is not far from us when the atrocities being inflicted on the innocent and the images that flood into our living rooms via the daily news from the Ukraine will make inaction inhumane. This will be the moment the civilised free world must ask itself ‘how long can we stand by and allow outrage, slaughter, to be conducted on European sovereign soil?’ Many feel this point has already passed and that the measured non-combative approach adopted by the EU and NATO to date, with sanctions and hiding beyond the protocols and clauses of treaties has been a desertion, an abandonment from their founding principles and that history will find their leadership at this moment guilty of neglect, negligence, and lacking courage. It is an extraordinarily challenging crossroads the Western leadership have found themselves,

where an unequivocal statement of intent was needed by the United States to harmonise the voice of freedom. To this end Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the surprising unity that US and European allies have shown in response, has given the US President a chance to speak about the issue in a visceral way to a global audience.

“In the battle between democracy and autocracy, democracies are rising to the moment, and the world is clearly choosing the side of peace and security,” Biden said at his State of the Union address “This is a real test. It’s going to take time. So let us continue to draw inspiration from the iron will of the Ukrainian people.” He asked lawmakers crowding the House chamber to stand and salute the Ukrainians as he began his speech. They stood and cheered.



*The president declared that he and all members of Congress, whatever their political differences, are joined “With an unwavering resolve that freedom will always triumph over tyranny”.*  
- President Biden, State of the Union Address

Biden highlighted the bravery of Ukrainian defenders and a newly reinvigorated Western alliance that has worked to rearm the Ukrainian military and cripple Russia’s economy through sanctions. He acknowledged costs to the American economy, as well, but warned ominously that without consequences, Russian President Vladimir Putin’s aggression wouldn’t be contained to Ukraine.

“Throughout our history, we’ve learned this lesson – when dictators do not pay a price for their aggression, they cause more chaos,” Biden said. “They keep moving. And the costs and threats to America and the world keep rising.”

And meanwhile at the front line, the Ukrainians are fighting with the will power and belief of a nation united in the defence of liberty and their freedom, with an increasing acceptance and acknowledgement by the Western political elite, that it is our freedom, our collective liberty they are fighting for, dying for, in defying the rule of tyranny. As the rhetoric of diplomacy and the sanctions of hope start their long journey to meaningful impact, Kyiv is waiting ....Kyiv is waiting....







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