

# Ex-Ambassador REVEALS The TRUTH on Russia & Ukraine. Europe Always Knew!

The diplomats always knew what the US was up to with Ukraine, Eastern Europe, the coups, and the intrigues. This was and is well-known in diplomatic circles, especially in Europe. They just never told us because national politics would forbid them from letting anyone know. That's the verdict of Ambassador José Antonio Zorrilla, one of Spain's former top-diplomats. How utterly depressing. Ambassador Zorrilla joined the Spanish Diplomatic Service in 1973, becoming Consul General to Milano, Shanghai, and Moscow and finally Spain's Ambassador to Georgia in 2011. Ambassador Zorrilla is also a passionate filmmaker and script writer, as well as a keen analyst of international relations. Hence, today we want to talk about Spain, the future of Europe, and diplomacy in the multipolar world. Ambassador Zorrilla, welcome. Ambassador Zorrilla's (Spanish-language) YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@euroStrategos>

## #M3

I have a secret for you. I have a secret. What you and I are discussing here so openly, and it looks like Russian propaganda, is very much extended in the diplomatic community. Because we are professionals. We are pros. We have nothing to do with politics. We are at the service of politics. We all know very well what happened in Istanbul. We all know that they were preparing a coup. The Americans were preparing a coup for about 10 years. We know who received the money. We know who was behind the coup. We know what Yanukovich wanted to do. We know everything absolutely. And among us, free from constraints, we speak like I speak with you. All is false, Pascal. All is false.

## #M2

Hello everybody, this is Pascal Lottaz from Neutrality Studies, and today I'm talking to Ambassador José A. Zorrilla. Ambassador Zorrilla joined the Spanish Diplomatic Service in 1973, becoming Consul General to Milan, Shanghai, and Moscow, and finally Spain's Ambassador to Georgia in 2011. Ambassador Zorrilla is also a passionate filmmaker and scriptwriter, as well as a keen analyst of international relations. Hence, today we want to talk about Spain, the future of Europe, and diplomacy in a multipolar world. Ambassador Zorrilla, welcome.

## #M3

Hello, Pascal. Good morning. Thank you very much for inviting me to your program.

## #M2

Well, thank you very much for saying yes to me writing you an email. I would like to know more about Spain. But first, I really wonder what you think of the current situation where we are finally, after three years, seeing the return of diplomacy to a really horrible situation. I mean, especially Ukraine, the war in Eastern Europe. For the longest time, there has been an absolute refusal from the West, and especially from the US, from the Biden administration, to even pick up the phone and have a call with their Russian counterparts. And now all of this is happening. Are we seeing the return of diplomacy to world politics?

### **#M3**

Well, to world politics, I don't know, but definitely to the Ukraine scenario, no doubt. And it is a welcome initiative. It's a very good idea, and it should have never been abandoned. It's difficult to believe. Remember, in the days of yore, when the Soviet Union existed, and it was an existential threat to the West—it was indeed an existential threat—the ambassador Chernomyrdin, who represented his country for a very long time in Washington, had a place reserved for parking at the State Department. Today, not even a bank account. You know, the embassy of Russia in Spain, for instance, does not have a bank account due to sanctions. This is unheard of. And I'm delighted to see that finally the two warring factions have decided to meet in Saudi Arabia. But anyway, you are going to discuss, talk, which is very good instead of, you know, just killing each other on the battlefield by proxy or non-proxy. Yeah.

### **#M2**

It's very good. You know, much of the discussion that came out of Washington and Brussels for the past three years has been that, oh no, NATO is not at war with Russia. We are just supporting the victim of aggression. And therefore, then saying that they have no say, they cannot push any kind of negotiations. Do you agree that that was the height of dishonesty?

### **#M3**

Pascal, this is a blatant lie. This is a lie. In 1990 or 1991, as you want, when the Soviet Union collapsed, the United States had a choice. One was the choice offered by Germany. Germany presented itself with a map. You can find the map drawn in the book by Mary Sarotte, *Not One Inch*. It's there, drawn. And the security of Eurasia went from Brittany in France to Kyrgyzstan in the Far East. So it was comprehensive, inclusive. And the alternative was the American one with NATO. The Americans rejected flatly the German notion because they thought that it was, in inverted commas, toothless. So it had to be, yes, toothless. There has to be a witch. There had to be a witch. And the witch was NATO. There had to be a witch. And all this came from the old doctrine of English imperialism, Mackinder.

Never the union between Germany and Russia. That's it. Second, following the advice of the Rand Corporation and Wolfowitz, instead of creating a collective security, they tried to enter the whole country that the Soviet Union left and thus finally conquer the world, to which they were destined by manifest destiny, which is the basis of their policy since the beginning of the 19th century. Well, the result is for everybody to see, you know, unending wars, crimes, blood, capital, and three trillion. Three trillion is a year of deficit. In short, an unsustainable policy. And the end, of course, has come with Donald Trump. Now, the idea that we have a war but we don't have a war is hypocritical. For years, from 1990 to 2014, the coup of Maidan, the United States funded and financed all possible NGOs and institutions.

We saw the preparation for the coup that finally came in 2014 with the Maidan. It's false. It's utterly false that Yanukovich was a Russian bogeyman. He was not. Surely, you have seen more than once a piano concert. There is a left hand and there is a right hand. What was the purpose, the strategic purpose of Yanukovich? He knew that the East was pro-Russian and the West was not pro-Russian. The idea was to make the two of them sound harmonious. Now, that was a no-no for the United States. They wanted a united Ukraine under the sway of Kiev.

Of course, definitely welded the United States of America. Now, for anybody knowing even superficially the history of Ukraine, it was impossible that the eastern part of the country would obey the orders from an elite that considers their forefathers and the founders of the homeland the Nazis, Stepan Bandera, Roman Shukhevych, Konovalts, etc., and Stetsko. Impossible. Even, even... Kissinger said it. You have the article. If you are interested in this, you are a professional. Henry Kissinger, in the Washington Post, 5 March 2014, published an article and said this will lead to territorial splits and civil war. Now, the United States wanted the war to go on because this will bleed Russia, which I don't know by what reason they consider to be a danger, you know.

Other than, you know, it's a very big country. It has 12 different time zones. Apart from that, it's not a danger to anybody, you know. Not that I know. Then there was, you know, this is not mentioned at all, but it is true. And the sources of all I'm going to say right now are Victoria Nuland, Oleksii Arestovych, who was Zelensky's right hand, and David Arakhamia, another of the big shots of Ukraine, of the new Ukraine. And they said and repeated that a peace deal was signed with initials between Russia and Ukraine in Istanbul. And what happened? Well, it happened that they went to Washington and Washington said, how come you signed a peace? What's this?

And the others, they're very innocent. The poor Ukrainians were very innocent. And they said, well, Putin doesn't want any territory, you know. He has no territorial ambitions. The only thing he wants is that we don't join NATO. And then Biden said, no, no, but this is the object of everything. This is the goal. No NATO, no peace. There's war, and we will give you all the necessary support, and you will end up winning. Not only did they do that, they went to Georgia, and they tried to convince them to open a second front. Georgia wisely said no. Now, to say that they were attacked without a cause by the Russians is, quite frankly, incomprehensible.

But the most incomprehensible of all is that everybody in the West has joined in, you know, in this kind of lie. So everybody agrees that Ukraine was a normal country, didn't do anything bad, nothing happened, and then a vampire of the steppes, a cynic, Dracula, invaded Ukraine. That's not true. A journalist asked the director of security, "Sorry, would we accept the militarization of our frontiers?" And Salima said, "Of course not. We would intervene decisively." So what we do not accept, Russia has to accept. Why? Obviously, as I said before, because we are different.

We have been chosen by God to extend republicanism and democracy the world over. So we are different. Furthermore, the Solomon Islands lie 9,300 kilometers away from the coast of the United States. The Solomon Islands said, we would like to open a Chinese base. And the Department of State, two days afterward, said, never. Considering all these arguments, to say that Putin invaded for no reason is simply unbelievable. The extraordinary thing is that finally Trump, the new administration, is beginning to say exactly, Pascal, what I'm telling you. So you are listening to Trump.

## **#M2**

No, we really, I mean, we had a battle of narratives, right? And people like us who were saying this is the height of irresponsibility, stop this provocation and stop the incredible escalation of this conflict, we were decried as Putin puppets and we were decried as pro-Russian and pro-Kremlin when all we wanted was to stop the fighting and come to some sort of agreement. What I don't understand, I mean, I do understand why the Biden administration did that.

I do understand why people like Victoria Nuland and Antony Blinken, in their mindset, have a neoconservative mindset of "we have to control the world, and nothing less than total domination is enough." I understand how this makes sense for them. What I do not comprehend is the Europeans. How could they go along? And you were an active diplomat in the years before. I mean, what was the consensus or what was the view of the diplomatic corps of the Europeans? Because I know they meet, right? You meet among each other. What was the view on Ukraine and on Russia? Was this a slow progression toward this stupid narrative? Or was it all of a sudden, and everybody was silent?

## **#M3**

You ask a very difficult question. And if you were older, I would reply in Latin, because there is a very good beginning in Latin on all this. I don't know. The very same Germany that offered the map of Eurasia a comprehensive security, the very same Germany that said, no, Ukraine and Georgia should not be part of NATO in 2008, created this incredible, I don't know how to call it, hoax, that is Minsk, to fool Russia, which is incredible. I mean, they created Minsk with the idea of giving time to Ukraine to arm. Now, the philosophy of the European Union is peace. They were giving time to Ukraine to arm and go to war. Now, you ask me a question that I simply can't answer. I don't know why. Why this sudden reversal of fortune?

Why this sudden turnabout? I don't understand. I don't know. But I have to say that my peers in Europe, and above all, the guys at the top, haven't the slightest idea of strategy. They know nothing. They are a bunch of ignoramuses. I insist, total ignorance. And now they have put the fate of the United Europe, so to speak, in inverted commas, in the hands of people who hate Russia, like the Baltic countries and Poland. Now, let's go to Strategy 101. What is the principle of strategy? Interest. To defend the interest of your country. Now, what is the main purpose of the Baltics and Poland? To hate Russia. Now, if you base your strategy upon interest, once your interests are fulfilled, carried out, there are two... it finishes. Comes to an end.

But if you hate, there is no way to satisfy your hate. It's like bullying. I don't know if you know the illness that fills some people with an unending appetite—bulimia. Now, when you eat a lot, when you eat too much, you are not trying to satisfy your appetite. You are trying to satisfy your anxiety. And anxiety cannot be fulfilled or satisfied by food. Here, it is the same. The Baltics and Poland will never, ever be satisfied with our policy towards Russia because they hate Russia. It's as simple as that. They hate. Therefore, they are not strategic countries. They are not conceived as a strategic entity, and therefore they are unable to drive the European Union to any serious or good rational conclusions. That's the problem. No, no.

## **#M2**

I was wondering for a while about this term "Russophobia," which has been around for a while, suggesting that the Europeans are Russophobic and therefore pursue these policies. This is, to me, partially wrong because phobia implies fear. And there seems to be no fear. If there was fear of Russia, then you wouldn't drive such self-defeating policies that potentially get you blown up by the thing you fear, right? So do you think that this ideology of not fear of Russia but hate of Russia has kind of become... It must have been there latently all the time, but now there was a moment when this could be lived out again by the entirety of Western Europe.

Is this kind of a... Is this a hidden complex of the Europeans toward the Russians? Because for the last 250 years, the Europeans have been trying to conquer Russia, and they failed every single time. What is it that creates this? I mean, Napoleon, Germany once, Hitler, all the time. And the Russians are saying, like, guys, we don't feel secure next to you. And then the Europeans, I mean, our media makes us believe that Russia and Putin are the delusional ones. I mean, the last 200 years, I don't understand how the Europeans can be so blind toward our own history with the Russians.

## **#M3**

Well, you know, it has taken me a lot of time to reach these conclusions, which I offer you tentatively. But Russia is very big. If you want to rule the world, you have to conquer Russia. This was Napoleon's philosophy, and this is the United States' philosophy. We want to rule the world. How can we rule the world if the center of Eurasia is not conquered? It's impossible. We have to conquer the world. Period. That's it. It's clear. And, you know, there is something that is rarely

mentioned because the Brits are convinced that they are the best in the world. It is true that they have their own critics, you know, eminent Victorians, etc. But at the end of the day, they think that, you know, they were always right. Now, let me tell you something that is rarely mentioned.

After Napoleon comes one of the most, I would say, sinister and sad moments in the history of the West. Russia, a Christian country, was about to conquer Turkey. And then, Istanbul—no, Constantinople—would have been Christian again. England prevented that with the Crimean War. If today we cannot pray in Santa Sofia, if today the bells do not ring in this city, if it is not the Constantinople of yore, it is due to the Crimean War. And the Brits are very proud of this because if you go to London, you will see all the statues of the heroes, in inverted commas, of Crimea up there in the mall. The Opium War, again, is different. But the portraits of the guys who committed this genocide are inside Parliament.

The paintings, the portraits of the guys who did this. But let's go back to Russia. If England had adopted a Western thought, normal Western thought, when they saw that Russia was about to conquer Turkey—yes, the Roman, in fact, not Turkey, the Ottoman Empire—if they had reacted to this in a Christian, normal way, they would have allowed the Russians to conquer Constantinople and turn it back into a Christian city. And do not tell me that they didn't know it. Because after the First World War, when they were enemies of Turkey, they outsourced the conquest of Constantinople to Greece. And Greece failed. So they knew from day one what they were doing. No question. This is the first step. This is the first, say, chapter. Napoleon, England, and then again the Second World War.

There is something rarely mentioned, but Truman said, between inverted commas, let's say, after the war, 20 million dead is not enough. Truman, Harry Truman. Twenty million dead is not enough to enfeeble Russia. It's unbelievable, but true. And when the Soviet Union collapsed, Zhirinovsky said, keep an eye especially on Russia, because Russia could, of course, become powerful again. And we have the testimony, I don't know if you know it, of Jeffrey Sachs. Jeffrey Sachs helped Poland. And the White House phoned him and said, Jeff, great job. Congratulations. Okay. Now, Jeffrey Sachs goes to Moscow and does something very similar. And they receive a telephone call. Jeff, what the hell are you doing? It's a very similar plan to Poland. And they say, yes, but Poland is a friend. Russia is not.

## **#M2**

Yeah, he tells this story many times over.

## **#M3**

Don't forget it. They were always in the crosshairs. Always, always in the crosshairs. Because they have 12 different time zones. If you do not control these 12 time zones, you cannot control the world. That's a fact. They are an object of desire.

## **#M2**

Do you blame the European approach mainly on the political leadership? Or was it, let me say, from your experience with your European peers at the time in the '90s, 2000s, early 2010s, the diplomats, the kind of professional diplomats—not the appointees like the US does it, but professional diplomats who enter from, like, third secretary and then work their way up, right? Yeah. They have a good connection with each other and they share—they're kind of an epistemic community, right? Across countries. Was this vision of Russia shared, or back in the day, was this much more nuanced? Was Russia part of the European diplomatic core, or was there always a division?

## **#M3**

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## **#M2**

You know, I noticed that a lot because diplomats are very, very good observers. They are often not able to say these things publicly, but they observe it and they know it. But then, because you are the servants of the politicians, right, you have to bend your will according to the politicians. But is this known actually among the diplomats?

## **#M3**

Well, as I tell you, I became slightly, only a bit, famous in Spain because, you know, I said, if I were an ambassador on active service, I wouldn't be able to say what I say now. That's the truth. The same happens with the military. Don't think for a moment that the military are a bunch of idiots. No, no, no, no, no. They're very clever, and they know very well what is going on. In fact, a personal story: I have a very good relationship with a military establishment. And one day, we were having lunch at the staff college. So the conversation, you know, went this way. Everybody was very polite. Nothing of interest was mentioned, you know. After the lunch, one of the attendees, one of the guests, came with me, and we strolled a bit in the streets of Madrid. And just like that, he said to me, frontally, "Ambassador, everybody says that Russia is our enemy."

Do we have to be part of this world at the price of such a blatant lie? Go and figure. So we all know. We all know. But if you say what I'm saying now and you are about to become a general, you may

forget about becoming a general. If you are a two-star general and you want to be a three-star general, forget about saying this. You can't. And with the ambassadors, it's the same. Russia is bad, period. And even if they perfectly well know that this is not the case. Absolutely. So these are two layers, two different layers, truth and not truth. This is something that, quite frankly, upsets me a lot because we are living in a bubble of lies. And it's something that is very difficult for me to accept. Leaving aside the fact that people once insulted me and told me that I received money from Putin in a daily publication of Spain, of import, not digital, of something, paper.

## **#M2**

I mean, this is just blatant smearing, just smearing and trash-talking people who do not agree. It's also part of the opinion-controlling mechanism, right, of trying to bully others into submission. It's a very, very mean approach. But it works. The thing is, what we need to recognize is it works. It works as a tool in order to make sure that you have the majority of the population behind you in order to go along and implement policies that are so stupid that they might get the European continent pulverized.

I mean, if this thing had gone another way and nuclear warheads had started to fly, we Europeans would be dead, maybe together with the Russians, but we would be dead. And we were willing to do that, just in the same way as NATO has found a way to fight a proxy war with a foreign army against their strategic enemy. So our job is to explain how that is possible and figure out mechanisms to prevent it in the future because these people are psychopaths. Do you have anything that you can add to how to prevent this or what it was that went so horribly wrong if the intelligentsia actually understood what was happening, but the intelligentsia is not the ones guiding the ship?

## **#M3**

That's it. Well, you have very close to you in Wellington, New Zealand, in the East, a professor, Van Jackson. And he claims that what Biden was doing was a kind of military Keynesianism. So, as you know, Keynes said that the way to keep the kettle boiling was to spend a lot of public money on public works. Biden said, not in public works, but in wars and in the military, and in the military complex. Very good idea. Now, how does anybody buy all this? Very simple. Money. Money. USAID, all the media in the world receive money from them.

CNN, New York Times, Washington Post, everybody. They flood the world with money. And everybody, in the end, believes that, well, Ukraine is a normal country, innocent, you know. And it was attacked by this monster that happens to be Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin. Now, they have conveniently forgotten that, you know, the guys at the helm in Ukraine are people who consider themselves heirs to Bandera, Sukhevyyts, Stetsko. They killed 1.5 million Jews. There is a book on this, a bestseller. It's called Bloodlands. It was written by Timothy Snyder. It's very well known by everybody.



How can they name a stadium with the name of Roman Shukhevych, a guy who is in all the encyclopedias of the Holocaust, a guy who destroyed the ghetto of Ternopil? How come? How is it possible? How is it possible that they hoist the banners of the Blut und Boden, red and black banners? The very same flags that were waving in the air when they killed the people, that they killed, the horrible pogrom. You can watch it. Anybody can watch it. It's on YouTube, you know, this program. The flags at the city council, these very same flags were flying there. It's obscene, Pascal. It's obscene. I can't accept it, you know.

## **#M2**

It's very hard to even deal with it on an intellectual level. Can I ask you about your own country and about Spain? Because the countries that were a lot in the media about the Ukraine war were France, Britain, Germany, even Poland, and the Baltics. But I haven't heard anything about Spain. So what was Spain's approach? Did it just tag along, or was there any kind of meaningful opposition?

## **#M3**

We followed suit. Americans say that it's our enemy. We apply the rules. That's it. Period. Now, what they think at home when they have breakfast with their wives, that's a different story. That's different. But definitely, we follow suit like everybody else. You know, the United States has decided that Putin is bad, so everybody says Putin is bad. Now, the question is the opposite. Now, the incredible thing, you know, is that there is a principle in international law, the succession of states.

So what Trump is doing now should take into account the fact that before him, another administration did something else, but he is heir to these initiatives and strategies. But this is not the case. When Trump comes and says, all right, well, not only do I not agree with this, but I consider Ukraine complicit in this horrible war, which is true, was triggered by my own country. But without your help, Ukraine, the war wouldn't have existed. Therefore, you are going to pay me for all the money that Biden gave you. Yeah, I think this is the first time in history.

## **#M2**

I don't know. I feel just so incredibly, incredibly sorry for both Ukraine and Russia. I mean, this was an unnecessary civil war. And Spain went through an unnecessary civil war, and it was horrible for Spain. It was terrible, and it caused a lot of hurt for decades. And it's going to be the same here. And all of this for a big chess game because some people think that this will be somehow beneficial for their careers. It's so hard to fathom.

## **#M3**

It's clear that in the question of Ukraine, the war came because the United States wanted to enlarge NATO, and they wanted Ukraine to be part of NATO. This is the origin of everything. Because Putin

was very clear: I don't want territories. The only thing I want is that you do not join NATO, period. And then the United States said, you have to join NATO, go to war. Now, if you ask me, do you think joining NATO for a country like Ukraine should be cause for a criminal, brutal war? And now we know, thanks to Time—Time is, you know, the periodical, very famous periodical, Father Drinan Lutzer, a long time ago—we know that Biden never believed that victory was possible.

## **#M2**

It's even more of a crime. It's even just war for war's sake. And the conversion of a state that worked, I mean, a status that worked. Because when Ukraine, I mean, when the Soviet Union broke apart, Ukraine was put into a special category to deal with because the West understood that Ukraine is so special, right? So you need to have special arrangements in order to have talking places to exchange, I mean, diplomatically. And all of this was clear. And then it was turned around bit by bit.

## **#M2**

Do you think that there will be trust again? How would you, if you were in charge of rebuilding trust between Europe and Russia, go about it? Because by now, I do think that the relationship is so deeply poisoned. How do we live together on this continent that we share?

## **#M3**

Well, Pascal, the situation is as follows: geography is geography. It's not going to change. Therefore, we have to become friends with Russia again, period. Now, if everything was triggered, organized, financed, and funded by the United States, and they have found a way to speak to Russia with more reason and more ground, we, poor European countries, can go to Moscow to mend fences. It's not that difficult. You go there and start mending fences. Okay, we didn't mean it, you know. I'm so sorry. We suppress visas for you, to begin with, and very slowly, in a couple of years, we will be friends again. Things probably will never be the same for a long time, say 10 years or something, but nothing lasts forever. Remember Napoleon, and then they became very good friends with France. They signed the famous alliance between France and the Russian Empire.

That was not the cause of the First World War, but anyway, one of the reasons for the Great War. Even if Napoleon had attacked Russia, nothing is everlasting. On Facebook, after years of Russia not being mentioned, lovely ladies begin to appear and say, do you know how to say in Russian, hello? Brilliant. And if you want to be more formal, it's... You know, overnight. Overnight. So that gives you an idea, you know. It's inevitable. They are close to us. They have 12 time zones. We have to be friends. That's all. Now, how can the Russians receive Madame Callas? Madame Callas, which is our PESC, you know, foreign policy woman, said, well, if Putin loses the war, you know, it will be good

because Russia will become, you know, a lot of small countries and it will be, you know, better for everybody. Now, if you were the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, would you receive this person? No.

## **#M2**

No, this would just be unthinkable.

## **#M3**

Unthinkable? How can a minister of foreign affairs say this about your neighbor, you know, a neighbor with 12 different time zones, defending the territorial split of these guys through military means?

## **#M2**

It is utter ignorance. It is utter ignorance. But I have one more question, because you were in Tbilisi in 2011, and that was after the short war between Russia and Georgia. And it was right at a time when Saakashvili lost power, and then the Georgian Dream came into power, and you had this shift. And Georgia was kind of an early version or could have been an early version of Ukraine with a much bigger war, right? But it calmed down. The Georgian population, now for the last eight years—more than eight years, sorry, it's now been 12 years—have been very aware that you cannot make an enemy of Russia without suffering a lot, right?

So for pragmatic reasons, they decided not to vote into power again the very forces that would turn Georgia into another enemy of Russia, right? And they still have their problems. They still want their regions back. They still don't have diplomatic representations in each other's countries, but they are not willing to make Russia an enemy. This is the return of realism, I would say, to a population. Do you think that the rest of Europe can also return to a more sane approach and a sane way of thinking about their neighbors and not split everything into good versus evil, which it never was to begin with?

## **#M3**

Absolutely. Look at Romania. They have seen what happens to a country when they decide to go full steam ahead against Russia. Destruction follows. Ukraine is, well, destroyed for the next 100 years. So Romania definitely takes stock. And Georgia has very recently said, we were offered to open a second front. We said, no, we are right. Ukraine is destroyed. We were right. What has to be criticized and blamed is the European Union, because if Georgia does not condemn Russia and sanction Russia, it will not become part of the European Union, in which 83% of the Georgians would like to be. We are acting as a watchdog. I am absolutely against it, because I know the Georgians. All of them want to be part of the European Union.

And the European Union has said, all right, condemn Russia, sanction Russia. And they cannot do it. They cannot do it. When Saakashvili was brought to power by a coup—call it the way it is, a coup—the rate of interest in Georgia jumped to 25%. You tell me, what kind of economy can work with a rate of interest of 25%? Well, NGOs funded by the USA or NGOs funded by the National Endowment for Democracy. Apart from that, nothing to do. And the countries were isolated because the interface with the world was Russia. If Russia cuts the links, then they're lost. They can't. I mean, a minimum of realism makes it impossible to be 100% pro-American. They have to keep a balance.

After all, the principle of good neighborliness is critical in international relations. Good neighborliness is totally ignored by the United States because all the coups by the United States are taking place precisely on the borders of Russia. This is a blasphemy in terms of international relations. It's a blasphemy. You can't do that. Yes, and there were several other attempts in Belarus and Kazakhstan that failed or that got... In Armenia, in Yugoslavia at the beginning, in Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan has produced a terrible, you know, constant fight, ethnic fight, constant ethnic clashes between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks. This is definitely unacceptable. Unacceptable. Do you think that... I hope that finally Trump puts an end to all this.

## **#M2**

Yeah, that would be very, very welcome. But the Europeans or the people in power in Europe, the leadership in several countries, not all of them, but in several of them, plus the European Union, I mean, the majority of them, not all, but the majority of people in the European Union belong to a very special group of people, of thinking, again, of an epistemic community. And they have been tying their luck and their entire political career so closely to the United States that now that the United States is kind of going away, and not only going away, but backstabbing them by doing something with who they believed was the enemy, what do you think this will do to these people who are still in power?

They still have the possibility to wreck politics on our continent. What do you think they will do? Because until the next generation comes into power, we will at least need to spend another 15 to 20 years. Unfortunately, unless these people are massively swept away by popular elections, they're going to stick around, and they're going to try to get revenge. What do you think will happen?

## **#M3**

Well, only it's impossible. I mean, look, one has to speak to Poland gently because, after all, they disappeared four times. They suffered a lot. But one has to explain gently, with sensitivity, to our Polish friends: Look, you are spending a lot of money to fund your hatred of Russia. But be careful, because in order to be accepted into the high table, you have to be sponsored by one of the seniors. No senior, no matter how many millions you spend, you are nothing. And your champion, which was the United States, has disappeared. So all the money that you have spent on weapons is equal to nothing. Without the United States, nothing. What to say of the United Kingdom? Well, Starmer

makes me think of a butler between jobs. Because the United States has disappeared. It's a butler, but the Duke is over. So it serves nobody. As to France, well, he's a dying president.

He's about to leave. Now, how about the others? You have precisely pinpointed the question. What are we going to do with these incredible, you know, ignoramuses? Well, quite frankly, I don't know. But, you know, for them, the sense of shame has to be terrible. They have spent the best part of, say, 10 years saying, oh, how wonderful, you know, the clothes that cover the emperor. Gold, silver, gems, precious stones. And then the satrap says, why do you say that my clothes are wonderful? Can you see that I'm naked? This is the situation. What can they do now? They are totally and completely out of favor and out of reality. Now, what can happen now is for everybody to ponder. It's impossible to know. I do not have good vibes. I don't trust very much all these guys. So I'm convinced that they won't do what is good for the common good. But they will try to do what is good for their posterity.

## **#M2**

Oh, well, this is going to be a riddle for me for quite a while, how we managed to get ourselves into this mess. Because the 1990s were so hopeful, weren't they? They were hopeful from all sides. Yes, yes. Even from the Russians.

## **#M3**

You know, I had a very rigid Catholic life, education, upbringing, you know, in the days of Franco, so I tend to see things as a temptation. So the Soviet Union collapses, and Germany, with the wings of an angel, comes and says, look, this is paradise. All we have to do is accept the bad guys into the realm. Let's do it. But then there is Mephisto, you know, whispering in the ear of the United States: Go for the whole hog. The world will be yours. You deserve it. God chose you. You are the chosen, the chosen people. Wreck these damn musics. Tell them how to live in freedom, in democracy, and conquer the world. And then the United States fell into the temptation and started a road to destruction, which has cost an unending number of victims, money, capital, blood, whatever.

## **#M2**

Maybe this is the way to look at it. Maybe at least then it makes sense with a story of temptation and failure because we poor mortals just can't resist. If the cookie looks too delicious, we just can't resist.

## **#M3**

Very well, very well, very well. Temptation and failure. That's it.

## **#M2**

The fallen angel. The fallen angel. The fallen angel from across the pond. Ambassador José A. Zorrilla, thank you very much for these explanations. Is there a place where people who listen to this can go and read from you? Do you publish somewhere on a regular basis?

**#M3**

I have my own channel on YouTube, but it is in Spanish and it's not subtitled at the moment. And right now I'm going to publish a very, very interesting interview with someone who is conservative and who was an advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs under Yanukovych. And that will be subtitled.

**#M2**

Please do send it to me, and I will also distribute it via the comments to my audience so they can find it.

**#M3**

You have to tell me what your email is. Give me an email.

**#M2**

I'll send you my email in a moment so we can stay in touch there. Ambassador Zorrilla, thank you very much for your time today.

**#M3**

Thanks to you, Pascal. It was very nice to be able to express my thoughts with such absolute freedom. Thank you very much.

**#M2**

Thank you.