



The Future of Europe: Peace or War?

Jesus Christ: “You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come”. Matthew 24:6 [NIV]

Many Christians in Europe today are asking themselves what kind of times they are living in. Disasters, wars, armament and fear are increasingly dominating people's lives. Christians must not allow themselves to be infected by fear, but can be lights of hope in the darkness. An important calling for Christians in these times is prayer (Revelations 8:3-4).

War in Europe

On 24 February 2022, Vladimir Putin ordered his army to invade Ukraine (a sovereign and democratic state). The fact that war had returned to Europe came as a shock to many. Day after day, we Europeans saw disturbing images of missile attacks, street fighting, bombed-out cities, masses of refugees and heard reports of war crimes. This classic ‘conventional war’ was accompanied by “hybrid warfare” such as cyber-attacks, damage of infrastructure and the targeted dissemination of misinformation. Cyberspace is the most important field of action for hybrid warfare, e.g. paralysing administrations, endangering critical infrastructure and driving polarisation in pluralistic democracies.

European reactions

Within a few weeks, the war in Ukraine led to a massive geopolitical upheaval. NATO regained its *raison d'être*, which it had lost since the end of the Cold War, and gained new members. Finland and Sweden abandoned their decades-long neutrality. The European Union ‘rearmed’ itself in every respect. Even Germany felt compelled to abandon its pacifist stance and realign its security policy. The war in Ukraine has highlighted Europe's political and military weaknesses. With the return of war to Europe, however, the EU seems to be refocusing on solidarity in order to work together on sanctions against Russia, support for Ukraine and the reception of war refugees. European unity was birthed after the Second World War out of a desire to ensure that war would never again originate on this continent. Leading European politicians therefore had to learn to deal with the experience of war on their own continent, which was new to Europe.



Baltic States and Poland

European countries bordering Russia, such as Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland, face particular challenges in this regard. These countries share the experience of oppression by the USSR, which makes them some of Ukraine's most committed supporters. Measured by its size, Estonia is one of the most generous donors, providing tank and air defence systems, among other things. Poland doubled the strength of its army before 2022, and by 2024 it had more tanks than France, Germany and the United Kingdom combined. Poland is also the most important transit route for the EU for the delivery of fighter jets, tanks and ammunition to Ukraine. However, the war in Ukraine also shows that the fighting is not only taking place on land, but also in the air (drones), at sea and on the internet. This also raises the question of whether the Baltic countries and Poland should keep their military resources available for further support to Ukraine or for a possible Russian attack on their own countries.

At the end of 2025, Europe faces crucial questions: can it further support Ukraine militarily and financially without the United States and will the US-backed peace plan lead to a ceasefire?

War or Peace in Europe: God's Perspective for the Future?

- There can be no peace without a change of hearts. Let us pray that the people of Europe turn to God and receive the gift of conversion.
- Pray for God's wisdom for European politicians in dealing with this war situation and that the war in the Ukraine will not spread to a wider conflict between Europe and Russia.
- God is always working in deeper ways than we understand, and He works in times of war as well as in times of peace. Please pray that He will bring this war to an end in a way that leads, not just to peace like it was before, but to great spiritual revival for all of us in Europe, from Russia to Portugal.

Dear prayer friends in Europe,

The greatest miracle is that God became human! We are faced with a society in Europe that is largely indifferent or even hostile to Christianity. It is precisely in such a world that God becomes human. God does not abandon a world that has turned against him. He does not turn away from a world that thinks it no longer needs him. We celebrate Jesus' coming into this world as a human being during the Christmas season.

The editorial team wishes you a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Wolfgang, Christiane, Nick, Csaba, Ian and Jill

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