

## Tim Snyder on Ukraine, Russia and Putin

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A number of comments have appeared on this blog, some from long-standing commentators, that offer utterly bizarre apologies for the behaviour of Putin on Ukraine.

Let's be clear, I am no lover of the government in Ukraine. It is deeply flawed. I am also well aware of the far-right in Ukraine. Nor, come to that, do I think Ukraine should be in NATO and the refusal to rule that out makes no sense and should have been offered to Putin, because we should not want a country like Ukraine in NATO.

But to pretend that Putin is in any way innocent is not just bizarre; it is stupid, wrong and frankly indicative of a mindset I do not want to be associated with this blog.

Russia is a profoundly corrupt, fascist kleptocracy and no apology for its actions can be offered here by anyone who wants to keep commenting here. That is a first and final warning, and I really do not care how many comments you have made to date: that is the rule and I will be applying it.

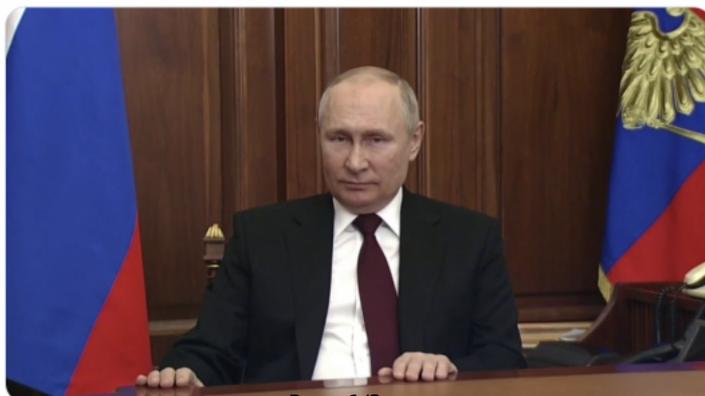
And if you want to know why I will refer to a real expert on this, Prof Tim Snyder. He has been talking about Ukraine:



The Last Word ✓  
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Yale University professor [@TimothyDSnyder](#) joins [@Lawrence](#) to discuss why Vladimir Putin's statements on Ukraine could precede "atrocious actions" and what a Russian invasion of Ukraine could really mean for Putin. [on.msnbc.com/35mwi30](https://on.msnbc.com/35mwi30)



Page 1/2

This [interview is well worth watching](#).

And then note this tweet by Snyder:



Then read the blog he links in that, [here](#).

Then stop posting nonsense please, because I will not tolerate it. The situation is too serious for that.