

Video: US Congress Welcomes an Actual Fascist as Nazi Violence Rages in Ukraine

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Global Research, July 03, 2018

[Grayzone Project](#) 2 July 2018

Region: [Europe](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

I asked the Washington hosts of Andriy Parubiy, the speaker of Ukraine's parliament and founder of two neo-Nazi parties, why they were legitimizing an open fascist at the heart of the extremism plaguing his country.

While racist violence raged through Ukraine, punctuated by a [wave of attacks](#) on Roma encampments by the [state-funded](#) C14 neo-Nazi militia, Congress played host to an actual Ukrainian fascist. He was Andriy Parubiy, and besides being the [proud founder](#) of two Nazi-like parties — the Social-National Party and the Patriot of Ukraine — he was the speaker of Ukraine's parliament.

During a [meeting](#) hosted by the American Foreign Policy Society inside the Senate, I seized the chance to ask Parubiy's hosts why they were welcoming a figure who was so central to the extremism overtaking Ukrainian society. I also put the question to [Michael Carpenter](#), a former Pentagon official who helped deepen the US relationship with post-coup Ukraine during the Obama administration.

The responses I received reflected a semi-official policy of denying the very existence of Ukraine's far-right plague in order to turn the heat up on Moscow.

The Ukrainian lawmaker appeared on a panel alongside fellow speakers of Eastern European parliaments eager to join the US-NATO crusade against Russia in exchange for handsome aid packages. At the top of the agenda was stopping the Nord Stream 2 pipeline between Russia and Germany, a project viewed in Washington as an existential threat to US economic leverage over Europe.

Earlier in the day, Parubiy held private discussions with the Republican Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan and enjoyed what Under Secretary of State for Arms Control Andrea Thomson described as an ["excellent meeting"](#) with a "proactive" leader.

Parubiy's first meeting with Ryan, which Ben Norton [covered](#) for the Grayzone last June, was also treated as business as usual, without a single protest or critical word from the Beltway press.

Watch my exchange in the [video report](#) below, which I co-produced with Thomas Hedges.

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Max Blumenthal is an award-winning journalist and the author of books including best-selling [Republican Gomorrah: Inside the Movement That Shattered the Party](#), [Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel](#), [The Fifty One Day War: Ruin and Resistance in Gaza](#), and [The Management of Savagery](#), which will be published later this year by Verso. He has also produced numerous print articles for an array of publications, many video reports and several documentaries including [Je Ne Suis Pas Charlie](#) and the forthcoming [Killing Gaza](#). Blumenthal founded the Grayzone Project in 2015 to shine a journalistic light on America's state of perpetual war and its dangerous domestic repercussions.

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