



## Heated Exchange Between Gaetz & Pentagon Chief On Russia, China: “I’m Embarrassed By Your Leadership!”

### Description

USA: Fireworks erupted during a Tuesday hearing over America’s Ukraine response before the House Armed Services Committee, where US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin sought to defend the Biden administration’s response.

Things were fairly low-key until it was Florida Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz’s turn to question Austin. Gaetz went through a litany of Pentagon failures and **“so many blown calls”** – including inaccurately assessing Russian military capability. Austin shot back: **“Has it occurred to you that Russia has not overrun Ukraine because of what we’ve done?”** And our allies have done? Have you ever even thought about that?” Watch the fiery exchange unfold:

Heated exchange between [@RepMattGaetz](#) and [@SecDef](#) Austin.

Secretary Austin: “This is the most capable, the most capable combat critical force in the world...the fact that you are embarrassed by your country—”

Rep. Matt Gaetz: “No. I am embarrassed by your leadership!” [pic.twitter.com/U3H1S99GTv](https://pic.twitter.com/U3H1S99GTv)

— CSPAN (@cspan) [April 5, 2022](#)

“You guys told us that Russia couldn’t lose, you told us that the Taliban couldn’t immediately win. So I guess I’m wondering: **what in the \$773 billion that you’re requesting today is gonna help you make assessments that are accurate in the face of so many blown calls,**” Gaetz said.

They then clashed over hypersonics and the US “being behind” and with China gaining a major edge. At that point to two spoke over each other.

Austin argued back that robust US action in supporting its Ukrainian ally has actually thwarted Moscow's aim at a swift victory. He also charged that Gaetz is "embarrassed" by his country, to which the Republican rep said back: **"No. I am embarrassed by your leadership!"**

"I am not embarrassed by my country. **I wish we were not losing to China,**" as the two tangled and spoke loudly over each other.

That's when Gaetz recalled: "You guys said that Russia would overrun Ukraine in 36 days..." He added: "You totally blew those calls."

Elsewhere in his testimony, Austin hailed that the US had provided Ukraine with one billion dollars in aid ahead of the Russian invasion...

[@SecDef](#): Even before Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion, we provided Ukraine with \$1 billion worth of weapons and gear through presidential drawdown authority. Now, we are delivering on another \$1 billion pledged by [@POTUS](#) Biden. [pic.twitter.com/2IKJDQG8if](https://pic.twitter.com/2IKJDQG8if)

— Department of Defense ?? (@DeptofDefense) [April 5, 2022](#)

The Pentagon chief further said an additional billion dollars in "security assistance" is being rushed and on the way.

by Tyler Durden

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