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(Google translation from Arabic)

Many observers did not expect Russian President Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine, despite the American and British warnings in particular in this regard, which led some to say that Washington was deliberately provoking Putin to drag him into a trap similar to Afghanistan, which drained many of the resources of the former Soviet Union and was one of the main reasons for its downfall and collapse at the end of 1991.

There is no doubt that the current Soviet leadership, led by Putin, did not hide this from it, especially for what is known from it for studying the causes of the collapse of the former Soviet Union, as well as the lessons learned from its previous experience in Afghanistan, (which it seems that the United States did not learn from when it, in turn, intervened which was clarified in the Russian military intervention in Georgia in August 2008 in support of the secession of the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and then during the annexation of the "Ukrainian" Crimea in March 2014 and the indirect intervention in support of the separatists in what is known as the republics of Luhansk and Donetsk in the Donbas region within the territory Ukrainian.

However, things were different this time, and the form of Russian intervention differed from its predecessors in Georgia and the Crimea to a form of comprehensive invasion of the Ukrainian lands from the north of Belarus, in the east of Russia itself, and finally from the south of the Crimea with amphibious landings on the Ukrainian shores near the port of Mariupol on the coast of the Sea of Azov and what to expect around the port of Odessa on the Black Sea. Accordingly, the only borders that were spared from the Russian invasion were the Ukrainian borders in the west with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, all of which are NATO countries, as well as Moldova. The map is revealing and the intentions have become clear and consistent with the declared Russian demands to disarm Ukraine and turn it into a neutral state, as well as purge the country of neo-Nazi elements, which means changing the current Ukrainian political leadership led by Zelensky and replacing it with a new one that is more acceptable to Moscow.

The current events have exceeded Moscow's previous demands to recognize the annexation of Crimea to Russia or to return to the Minsk I Agreement of 2014 and the Minsk II Agreement of 2015, which was previously presented by French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz during their visit to Moscow and their meeting with President Putin in the first half of last February, in an attempt to mitigate the severity of the crisis and not escalate it.

Which Putin considered a evasion from the western side in dealing with the broader Russian demands, which include three main points: The first is to stop the expansion of "NATO" to the east. The second is the alliance's refusal to deploy striking weapon systems on the Russian borders, and the third and final is the return of NATO's military capabilities and infrastructure in Europe to the status of 1997 when the founding document was signed between Russia and NATO, and in a manner that responds to Russian security concerns by making arrangements A new security in Eastern Europe.

The decision to go to war was after Moscow had run out of patience, especially with the Russian reading of the entire world scene, especially the situation of the United States. There is no doubt that Moscow was closely following the American withdrawal from Afghanistan and the American statements regarding the importance of focusing on confronting China, which was understood from the Russian side that the American interest had been distributed or dispersed between Moscow and Beijing. This is in addition to

the sharp divisions in the American internal arena that prevented a strong and unified stance from the Republican and Democratic parties in Congress regarding the Russian threats at that time as well, not to mention the position of some Republican Party leaders, led by former President Doland Trump, from understanding the Russian demands and admiring the person of the President Putin, in a precedent not known before.

In addition to the above, the European division over how to deal with Russia, especially from the two largest powers in the European Union, Germany and France. In this regard, he also mentions the position of Hungary and Slovakia, which clearly supported the strengthening of relations with the Kremlin before the Russian invasion.

For these reasons, on the one hand, and on the other hand, the close relations with China, which were clearly evident in the joint statement issued by Putin's visit to China on February 4, on the occasion of the opening of the Winter Olympics, which spoke of "unlimited friendship" between the Chinese and Russian sides, which observers described as It represents a new era in the relationship between the two countries that amounts to an alliance between these two countries.

Therefore, the Russian reading was of the importance of seizing the opportunity of the divisions in the West with what is supposed to be Chinese support, to impose Russian demands by force, especially since US President John Biden has emphasized more than once, and also for internal reasons, that the United States of America will not send a single soldier to defend about Ukraine.

The question now is, where does the Russian intervention or invasion of Ukraine and the Western reaction stand?

Witness, based on the previous facts, is that Putin has resolved to move forward in achieving his goals, no matter what the cost may be, and consider Ukraine a first step towards re-engineering or changing the security and strategic equation in Europe. This means that the Russian forces will not stand up to any Ukrainian resistance, even if the military operations extend for a longer period of time than planned, or if some operations falter here or there as a result of logistical or other problems. Putin may be satisfied with the siege of Kyiv without entering or storming it, with the aim of overthrowing the current Ukrainian government led by Volodymyr Zelensky.

In the event that this goal is not achieved, it is inevitable to storm the city and penetrate inside the Ukrainian lands to the Dnieper River, which divides the country from north to south, and to control all the lands east of this river. In an additional scenario, the Russian forces are advancing along the Ukrainian coast on the Sea of Azov to the east

The Russians advanced along the Ukrainian coast on the Sea of Azov, east of the Crimea, then west on the Black Sea, to reach Transnistria, which is separated from the Republic of Moldova and where official Russian forces are present, depriving Ukraine of any outlet on the Black Sea, especially the famous port of Odessa. This scenario achieves the restoration of what Putin sees from the historical land of Russia and the annexation of the Russian-speaking regions in the east and south, leaving the northwestern part adjacent to the Polish and Ukrainian-speaking borders and outside the historical land of Russia.

This, and it is clear that the West has decided to confront Russia on the economic and technological fronts without entering into a military confrontation with it, leaving this matter to the struggle of the Ukrainian people in the face of the upcoming Russian occupation and with the aim of repeating the Afghanistan scenario, but this time on European soil.

Some estimates go that Western economic sanctions by removing most Russian banks from the swift system and other sanctions (not here to enumerate them) will cause the Russian economy to shrink by 5% to 10%, and some estimates even reach 20%. But what is more important than this economic war is working to deprive Russia of Western technology by imposing a technological blockade on it that is more severe, harsh and tighter than the economic blockade. This was explained by the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen that Russian civil aviation relies on Western technology for three quarters of its fleet, and that the oil extraction industry, especially in offshore fields, depends on Western technology. And that these Western sanctions, in the manner in which they were set, will deprive Russia of reaping the benefits of the revenues it exports from oil and gas. This came before the American announcement to stop importing Russian oil and gas, and what is expected of more Western sanctions, with the aim of disabling and crippling the Russian economy.

Accordingly, it is difficult to predict the course of events during the next short period, and when the Russian-Ukrainian war will end, after two, three, a month or more, and most importantly where the Russian forces will stand, on the Dnieper River, or later or even earlier.

One of the American think tanks "Scowcroft Center" and some researchers in the "Atlantic Council" put forward the "miracle" scenario among many other scenarios, which goes to the failure of the Russian invasion and its failure to achieve its goals and its halting at the current battle lines or shortly thereafter. But it is more likely that this war will continue for a period to come, as some see that the Russian forces are deliberately advancing slowly to give enough time for the residents of the cities to flee from them before besieging them and then storming them, in order to avoid more civilian casualties.

Whatever the case, the development of events and their succession up to the moment of writing this article, from President Putin's declaration of nuclear readiness, the intention of the United States and the European Union to impose more sanctions, or the announcement of Poland's intention to provide Ukraine with its own MiG-29 fighters, is all true.

We are still at the beginning of the war, not near the end.