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The US is making a serious effort to find a negotiated solution to the Russo-Ukraine War for the first time since 2022. Donald Trump's administration is committed to a solution, but has tempered its expectations, acknowledging that finding one won't be easy. The process has begun, with formal negotiations set to start soon. The Trump administration believes that if both sides don't engage, they'll face economic costs that will deter them from backing out. This shift in dynamics encourages both sides to present themselves as reasonable and willing to compromise, but it's unclear what compromises are possible given the deep-seated differences between Russia and Ukraine. Been confirmed as we have heard more from the Trump team. Before explaining why this approach suits Ukrainians but not Russians, I'll first set out what we know. This may make it difficult to get early movement that Trump seeks, so the president will have to decide how he responds to a conflict that's turning out to be less tractable than expected. ### Sir Lawrence Freedman Sir Lawrence Freedman, born in 1948, is a British academic, historian, and author specializing in foreign policy, international relations, and strategy. He has been described as the "dean of British strategic studies" and was a member of the Iraq Inquiry. Freedman holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford and is an Emeritus Professor of War Studies at King's College London. Freedman's military career is highlighted through his notable awards and publications. He has won the Arthur Ross Prize for his work on Kennedy's Wars, which covers major crises of the early 1960s over Berlin, Cuba, and Vietnam. Additionally, he published a book on deterrence in 2004. His books, including "A Choice of Enemies: America Confronts the Middle East" and "Strategy: A History," have received several prestigious awards, such as the Lionel Gelber Prize and the W J McKenzie Book Prize. Freedman has been recognized with various honors for his contributions to defence policy, including being elected a Fellow of the British Academy and receiving the Chesney Gold Medal from the Royal United Services Institute. Lawrence Freedman is a renowned British academic who has made significant contributions to the field of strategy and international relations. He has published several influential books, including "Strategy: A History", "The Future of War: A History", and "Ukraine and the Art of Strategy". His work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Gold Medal for Sir Lawrence and the First Annual George G. Bell Strategic Leadership Award. Freedman is currently a professor at King's College London and holds various fellowships, including one from the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford. Lawrence D. Freedman is a renowned expert in war studies, having spent decades teaching at King's College London from 1992 to 2014, with a brief stint as Vice Principal from 2003 to 2013. He has written extensively on the subject, including books like "Command: The Politics of Military Operations From Korea to Ukraine" and "The Future of War: A History". Additionally, Freedman is a Foreign Affairs book reviewer, offering his expertise in evaluating recent works on military, scientific, and technological matters for their publications.

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