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In the World after the War”**

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**EXPERIENCE OF RESISTANCE AS GROUNDS FOR SOLIDARITY:
HERTA MÜLLER WRITING IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE’S FIGHT
AGAINST RUSSIAN NEOIMPERIAL AGGRESSION**

Starting from her earliest works, Herta Müller has spoken out against oppression and totalitarian rule, as well as criticized oppressive relations at the personal level and inside family. She is a consistent critic of oppressive relations at various levels, not afraid to criticize the totalitarian forces. In her latest work, she extends her criticism to Vladimir Putin’s regime and Russia’s aggressive war of conquest in Ukraine. Drawing from her own experiences under the dictatorial regime of Nicolae Ceaușescu, Müller stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, unequivocally condemning Putin’s oppressive ideology and Russia’s belligerent actions. Müller recognizes the danger of totalitarianism that Putin’s regime presents not only to Ukraine but also to other neighboring Eastern European nations.

This paper considers Müller’s recent interviews, public speeches and writing, highlighting her vocal opposition to Putin’s neoimperial ambitions, totalitarianism, security forces rule, and reactionary ideology. Her fervent support for Ukraine’s fight against Russian aggression is driven by personal experience of how the powers that be and especially security forces of totalitarian states curtail freedoms in societies that they aim to subjugate. Müller supports Ukraine’s resistance to Russia because she recognizes that Putin’s regime opposes and seeks to subvert and destroy liberal democracies not only in Ukraine, but also in Eastern Europe.

By drawing parallels between totalitarianism in Ceaușescu’s Romania and Putin’s Russia, Müller positions herself to challenge the oppressive ideology that currently threatens to destroy Ukraine and challenge liberal democracy in Eastern Europe. Her texts provide insights into oppression in education, family life, personal relations, work, and art, and her complex understanding of the multi-faceted issue of oppression empower Herta Müller to champion freedom and resistance against social subjugation and illiberal state policies.

Through her poignant critique, Müller reveals the need for solidarity with people who are threatened by oppressive forces across the world, urging readers to confront and resist the multifarious manifestations of totalitarianism and oppression.