

War in Ukraine War Basics

Overview

War in Ukraine

- The **War in Ukraine** is an ongoing conflict between **Russia** and **Ukraine** (see maps on Page 2)
 - Began when Russia unlawfully **annexed Crimea** in 2014, violating Ukrainian sovereignty
 - Continued as Russia fomented **civil-war in the Donbas region** of Ukraine
 - Escalated into war via the **Russian Invasion of Ukraine** in 2022, in violation of international law
 - Met with unexpected **Ukrainian resistance** that successfully prevented a swift Russian victory
 - Has settled into a **stalemate**; neither side appears able to quickly achieve a strategic military victory

War Statistics

- A **3 year war** with **1.5 M** military casualties and **43 K** civilian casualties

	RUSSIA				UKRAINE			
Military Comparison 2024	• Manpower	69,400,000	• Armor	176,159	• Manpower	22,800,000	• Armor	23,887
	• Active Military	1,320,000	• Artillery	17,629	• Active Military	900,000	• Artillery	2,708
	• Reserve	2,000,000	• Aircraft	9,069	• Reserve	1,200,000	• Aircraft	686
	• Paramilitary	250,000	• Navy	781	• Paramilitary	100,000	• Navy	104
Causalities 2022-2025	• Russia Military:	750,000	• Ukrainian Military	480,000				
	• Wagner Group:	62,000	• Ukrainian Civilians	42,500				
	• North Korea:	3,000						
	• Civilians	500						

Cost to Support the War in Ukraine

- The War in Ukraine that has cost the West **\$247 B**, shared between the U.S. & Europe

Source: Trebesch et al. (2023) "The Ukraine Support Tracker" Kiel WP

Interests in Ukraine

- Opposing interests in Ukraine are affected by the new Trump Administration

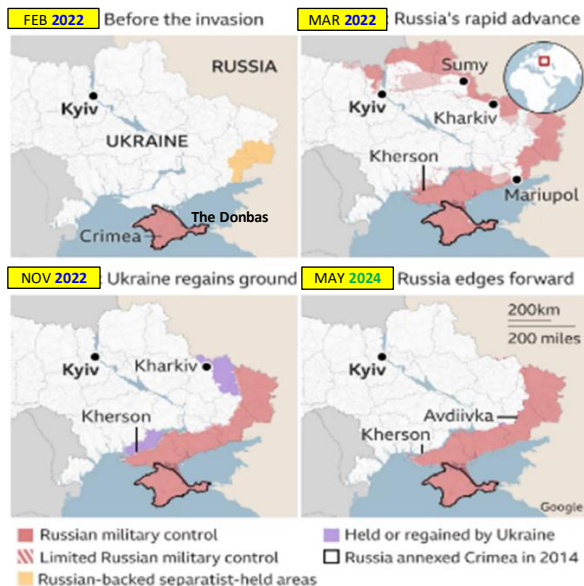
	UKRAINE'S INTERESTS	RUSSIA'S INTERESTS	NATO'S INTERESTS	TRUMP'S INTERESTS
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defend Ukrainian sovereignty Achieve political independence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain influence over Ukrainian politics End Western political sanctions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a sovereign and independent Ukraine Protect Europe from future Russian aggression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept Russian influence over Ukrainian politics Swap Ukrainian political freedom for a quick peace
Territorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore Ukraine's pre-2014 borders Regain control of territory annexed by Russia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep control over territory annexed by Ukraine Maintain a land corridor from Russia to Crimea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the restoration of Ukraine's pre-2014 borders Deter future aggression by upholding international law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give territorial concessions to Russia for a quick peace Sees Ukraine's pre-2014 borders as 'unrealistic'
Military	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain security guarantees including the possibility of future NATO membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent Ukraine from joining NATO Obtain guarantees against NATO expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow Ukraine to join NATO Ensure peace and security in Eastern Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce U.S. support for Ukraine – transfer to EU Sees NATO membership for Ukraine as 'unrealistic'
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebuild Ukraine's war-torn economy Integrate with the European Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain economic influence in Ukraine End Western economic sanctions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure economic stability in Europe Integrate Ukraine into Western markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure benefits in exchange for any economic aid Obtain access to Ukrainian natural resources
Victory in Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regain control of territory occupied by Russia Obtain accountability for aggression and war crimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure territory seized from Ukraine Restore Russia within the international community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a stable and secure Europe Deterrence against future Russian aggression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a quick end to war via concessions to Russia Reallocate U.S. resources to other global challenges

Video Overviews

- Video Overviews:** 15 minutes of objective YouTube videos on the **Russo-Ukrainian War**
 - War in Ukraine Overview <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NFI7yB7EW8> (4:08)
 - Russia's attack on Ukraine <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVu8Qbxf1JE> (8:48)

Timeline of Events	
Timeline of the History of Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A timeline showing the history of Ukraine and its relationship with Russia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 800s Borderland: The land between Europe & Russia is known as 'the borderland' (<i>krajina</i>) ○ 882 Kyivan Rus: A medieval state that included both Ukraine & Russia had its capital in Kyiv ○ 1240 Mongolian Invasion: Mongols destroyed Kyiv, leading to centuries of foreign rule in Ukraine ○ 1300s Polish-Lithuania: Western Ukraine came under Polish-Lithuanian influence and control ○ 1700s Russian Empire: Ukraine was absorbed into the Russian Empire, with diminished autonomy ○ 1922 Soviet Union: Ukraine became a republic in the Soviet Union, with limited independence ○ 1954 Control of Crimea: The Soviet Union transferred control of Crimea from Russia to Ukraine ○ 1991 Ukrainian Independence: Ukraine became independent after the fall of the Soviet Union ○ 1994 Budapest Memorandum: Ukraine denuclearized (with Russia/U.S./U.K. security assurances) ○ Partnership for Peace: A NATO program tried to build cooperation between the West & East ○ 2004 Orange Revolution: Ukrainian protest led to a new election after pro-Russian meddling ○ 2014 Revolution of Dignity: Ukrainian protest ousted the pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich
Timeline of the Build-up to War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A timeline showing the build-up to War in Ukraine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2014 Russia Annexed Crimea: Russia violated Ukraine's sovereignty by annexing Crimea ○ War in the Donbas: Russia violated Ukraine's sovereignty by fomenting war in the Donbas ○ 2015 Minsk Peace Agreements: All sides agreed to peace in the Donbas (but fighting continued) ○ 2016 Hybrid Warfare: Russia continued to create unrest in eastern Ukraine ○ 2017 U.S. Support: The U.S. supported Ukraine with offensive weapons like the Javelin missile ○ 2018 Kerch Strait Incident: Russia captured Ukrainian naval vessels, escalating tensions ○ Church Split: The Orthodox Church of Ukraine separated from the Russian Orthodox Church ○ 2019 Volodymyr Zelensky: Was elected President of Ukraine to seek economic reforms ○ 2020 Hybrid Warfare: Russia escalated disinformation campaigns in Ukraine and Western nations ○ 2021 Russian Demands: Russia demanded Ukraine's submission with 100,000 troops on border
Timeline of the War in Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A timeline that shows the War in Ukraine (also see the maps below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2022 Russian Invasion: Russia invaded Ukraine, in violation of international law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Russia unilaterally annexed the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions ▪ Ukraine repelled the Russian invasion, forcing Russia to retreat from northern Ukraine ▪ Western nations imposed severe sanctions on Russia, crippling its economy ○ 2023 Ukrainian Counteroffensive: Ukraine counterattacked and retook territory at a high cost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wagner Group Rebellion: Russian mercenaries mutinied against Russian leadership ○ 2024 Stalemate and War Weariness: Neither side made significant breakthroughs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Russian Offensives: Russia wore down Ukraine and made minor gains at a huge cost ▪ Ukraine Offensive: Ukraine initiated a surprise offensive, seizing territory within Russia ▪ North Korea sent military personnel to Russia to assist in repelling Ukraine's offensive ○ 2025 Donald Trump became president and signaled a shift in U.S. policy

How Military Control of Ukraine has Changed



Current State

The war is a strategic stalemate, with Russia slowly gaining costly tactical victories in the East

