

PUTIN'S ADVENTURE IN UKRAINE

OR

XX DAYS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

PRELUDE

ACTION & REACTION

AFTERMATH

PRELUDE

UKRAINE



- WHERE IS IT? WHAT IS ITS HISTORY? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PUTIN?

RUSSIA



- CURRENT PLACE AMONG NATIONS & PUTIN'S LEADERSHIP

UNITED STATES



- APPEARANCE OF WEAKNESS & INDICISION

NATO AND EUROPEAN UNION



- MILITARY "RELAXATION" AFTER THE COLD WAR

PRELUDE

WHERE IS UKRAINE?

- Dead center between NATO countries and Russia!
- 44 million people on 233,000 sq miles
- 800 miles wide, facing West into the weak center of NATO
- facing East into the “soft underbelly” of Russia.
- Either a “buffer” or an attack route!

PRELUDE

WHAT IS ITS HISTORY?

- Consolidated into the Russian Empire in 18th Century,
- Founding member of Soviet Union in 1922
- Independent after 1991 ...
- “partner” with NATO in 1994 and member of the EU

PRELUDE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PUTIN?

- Ukraine threw out his stooge in 2014 and became democratic and capitalist
- “Dangerous **example** for Russian states!”
 - ❖ Potential member of NATO and EU.
- Russian goal of 2015 “Minsk Accords” was to subvert Kyiv government by reattaching two separatist territories with veto power, but Kyiv demurred

ACTION

February 19th

Munich Security Conference:

- President Zelenskyy meets Vice President Harris and asks to meet with Putin
 - Zelenskyy: “Security of our world is brittle and obsolete.”
 - Harris: “Russia will see economic measures that will be swift and severe!”
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- 150,000 Russian troops collect outside Ukrainian border !

ACTION

February 19th

- Pro-Russian Ukrainian declares “immediate threat from aggressor Ukraine” and evacuates civilians to Russia
- President Biden “convinced that Putin has decided to invade Ukraine”
- Putin conducts nuclear weapons drills and fleet exercises in Black Sea

ACTION

February 21st

- Putin's speech: "Ukraine is historical accident. US developing Ukraine into theater of military operations."
- Putin recognizes two separatist regions as "independent" and deploys troops to occupy them, claiming that Ukraine was about to attack,
- US prohibits investments, etc. in the regions and evacuates US diplomats from Ukraine.

ACTION

February 21st

- Kyiv requests urgent UN Security Council meeting
- EU declares Putin's action "blatant violation of international law" [Violation of Ukrainian sovereignty (UN Charter)]
- French president visits Putin (first of several western leaders) – describes him as "talking in circles, rewriting history – rigid, isolated, in an ideological and security-minded drift."

ACTION

February 24th

- Russia attacks!
- Putin acts “to protect people subject to abuse, genocide by Kyiv to demilitarize and de-nazify Ukraine”
- Kyiv declares state of emergency and mobilizes reserves
- Russia moves forces from border with China and deploys forces into Belorussia on Ukraine’s northern border

ACTION

February 24th

- BUT

PUTIN DOES NOT HAVE “STALIN’S ARMY”

- Russian soldiers realize they are not fighting Nazi invaders
- Russian logistic support collapses

ACTION

February 24th

- The attack stalls!
- Russians cremate their dead – no body bags return to Russia
- Russians resort to bombing civilians & destroying towns and villages

■ Areas occupied by Russian forces — Major front ▶ Current advance ➡ Previous advance



Military comparison

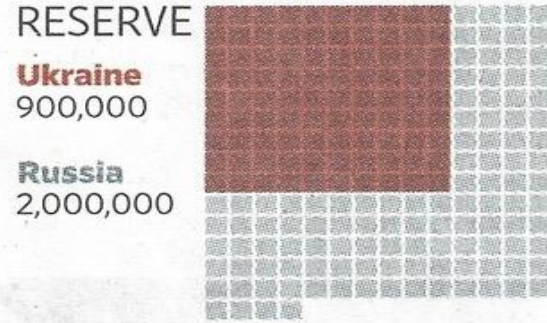
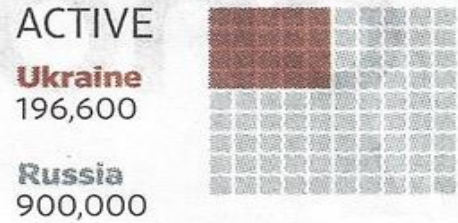
Ukraine Russia

Since the invasion, Ukraine has received military aid from many countries, including the vast majority of NATO member states. It has received antitank and antiaircraft weaponry from countries including the U.S.

Defense budget, 2021




Military personnel ■ = 10,000



Main battle tanks

Ukraine 987 **Russia** At least 3,417

Armored and tracked vehicles, armed with a turret-mounted gun of at least 100mm caliber and with a combat weight of between 35 and 75 metric tonnes.


 = 200 tanks



Attack helicopters

Ukraine 35 **Russia** At least 407

Helicopters designed with air-to-surface weapons


 = 35 helicopters

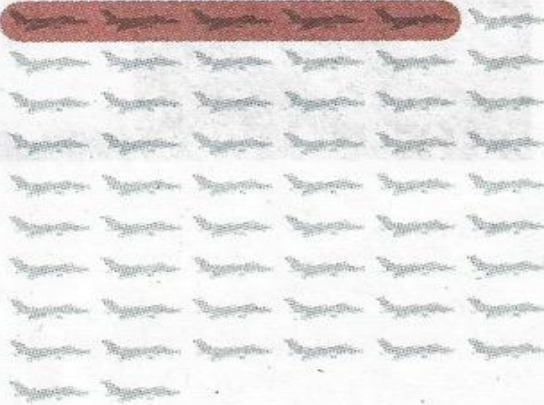


Aircraft

Ukraine 128 **Russia** 1,391

Various aircraft including fighters, bombers and transport planes

 = 25 aircraft



*Russia's official defense budget excludes other defense-related expenditures included under other budget lines, for example, pensions. The figure presented here was calculated to be comparable with the NATO definition of defense expenditure.

Note: Based on information prior to the invasion of Ukraine. Numbers reflect combat-capable machinery. Icons are symbolic, not representative of specific types. Russian military equipment is for the Army, Navy and Air Force, excludes the Border Guard Service and the National Guard.

Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies Military Balance

MILITARY COMPARISON

UKRAINE

VS

RUSSIA

REACTION

- Ukrainian army and civilian morale surprisingly strong
- Constant flow of modern weapons into Ukraine
- 141 nations at UN condemn Putin's attack
- US, UK and EU establish united front (almost) in imposing sanctions

REACTION

- Russian exports denied almost everywhere (Germany and China excepted)
- Foreign-based companies close business in Russia
 - McDonalds, Starbucks, etc.
- Russian banking system isolated from almost all banks and financial markets

AND

MORE THAN 2 MILLION UKRANIANS FLEE AS REFUGEES

AFTERMATH

- Ukraine lost to Russia (impossible to occupy even if defeated)
- Consolidation of a militarily powerful NATO
- Disruption of World Economy (Ukraine was #1 – or #2 or #3 – in food and ore exports, and Russia was #3 or #4 in fossile fuel exports)

AFTERMATH

- Reparations, restitution and rebuilding of Ukraine – who will pay?
- Millions of displaced Ukrainians – where will they resettle?
- War crimes trials

AND

THE LESSON FOR CHINA

