
What is “Africa Corps” & Southeast Asians Fighting in the Russia–Ukraine War

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa_Corps_\(Russia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa_Corps_(Russia))

Source: <https://indiasworld.in/russia-in-south-asia-striving-to-expand-its-footprint/>

Source: <https://www.himalmag.com/newsletters/footnotes-southasia-deaths-russia-ukraine>

Russia is actively strengthening its alliance with various African nations, focusing on security, military collaboration, and mining to counter Western influence and promote a multipolar world.

Moscow has signed military deals with over 40 African nations and maintains strong ties with countries like Mali, Burkina Faso, and South Africa, often providing security services in exchange for resources.

Key Areas of Russia–Africa Cooperation:

- **Security and Military:** Russia acts as a key security partner in regions facing instability, with Wagner Group (**now Africa Corps**) personnel operating in several countries to support regimes.
- **Military Agreements:** Russia has inked military cooperation agreements with over 43 countries, often providing weapons and training, particularly to those shifting away from Western partnerships.
- **Mining and Energy:** Moscow is deepening its presence in Africa’s energy and mining sectors (e.g., gold in Burkina Faso and nuclear deals) to secure resources and build economic ties.
- **Diplomatic Alliances:** Russia aligns with countries that have historical ties to the Soviet Union (e.g., Angola, Mozambique) and operates within the BRICS framework, which includes South Africa, to challenge Western economic influence.

Key Regional Alliances:

- **Sahel Region:** Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger (Alliance of Sahel States) have engaged in closer ties with Russia after pulling away from Western, specifically French, influence.
- **Southern Africa:** South Africa remains a key partner, maintaining historical ties and economic links through BRICS.

Russia’s strategy is to be a disruptive power in Africa, filling security vacuums and providing regimes with military support without the democratic conditions often imposed by Western nations.

Russia is strengthening ties with South Asia to offset Western sanctions, relying on energy, defense, and agricultural trade, particularly with India, which imports significant amounts of Russian oil.

While maintaining historic partnerships, Russia faces challenges from shifting alliances, as countries navigate relationships with both Moscow and the United States.

Key Aspects of Russia–South Asia Relations:

- **Energy and Trade:** Following 2022, India became a major buyer of discounted Russian crude. Russia is also a major supplier of fertilizers and grain to the region.
- **Defense Ties:** Russia remains a key, though challenged, defense partner, particularly due to its Soviet-era legacy in the region, offering an alternative to Western systems.
- **Strategic Balancing:** South Asian countries, particularly India, are navigating complex relationships, balancing strong economic ties with Russia against security partnerships with the U.S.
- **Regional Re-emergence:** Russia is actively expanding its footprint in South Asia as part of its “pivot to the East,” strengthening ties through organizations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS.
- **Human Cost:** The war in Russia–Ukraine War has seen participation from South Asians, with reports indicating that hundreds are fighting for Russia, according to a Himal Southasian report.

Despite these efforts, Russia’s economic influence in the region remains lower than that of China or the United States.

***These are the primary territories which have targeted the “Western World:”
American citizens, support your country.***