

Territorial warfare and “mafia war.”

Russia, Mexico, Palestine

There is an important connection to organized crime and oligarchic networks in Ukraine's post-Soviet history, but the Russia-Ukraine war itself is generally understood as a **geopolitical, territorial, national, and military conflict**.

The basic progression

1. Soviet Union collapses — 1991

Ukraine becomes an independent country. Russia and Ukraine remain deeply connected economically, culturally, and politically, but Ukraine increasingly tries to establish itself as an independent sovereign state. ([Council on Foreign Relations](#))

2. The 1990s — oligarchs, criminal networks, and competition for territory/resources

This is where your **organized-crime/mafia idea has some relevance**.

After the Soviet collapse, Ukraine experienced intense competition over privatized industries and state resources. Carnegie describes the 1990s as a period of an oligarchic “turf war,” involving regional clans, politicians, officials, businesses, media organizations, courts, and even groups involved in criminal corporate raiding. ([Carnegie Endowment](#))

So there really was a **territorial/power-network dimension** inside Ukraine during this period. But these oligarchic conflicts should not be treated as the direct cause of Russia's later invasion.

3. 2013–2014 — the political crisis becomes a territorial conflict

President Viktor Yanukovych abandoned a planned agreement bringing Ukraine closer economically to the European Union. Large protests followed, known as Euromaidan. Yanukovych eventually fled to Russia in February 2014. ([Council on Foreign Relations](#))

Russia then moved militarily.

4. Crimea — March 2014

Russian forces seized Crimea, and Russia subsequently annexed the peninsula. This was a major territorial seizure: **Russia took control of territory internationally recognized as part of Ukraine**. ([Council on Foreign Relations](#))

5. Donbas — 2014

Armed separatist movements emerged in Donetsk and Luhansk. Russia supported the separatists, and fighting began between Ukrainian government forces and Russian-backed separatist forces. The conflict continued for approximately eight years before the 2022 invasion. ([Council on Foreign Relations](#))

6. 2022 — territorial war becomes full-scale invasion

In February 2022, Russia launched a massive invasion from several directions, including from Russia, Belarus, and Crimea. Russia attempted to seize Kyiv and overthrow the Ukrainian government, while also expanding its territorial control in southern and eastern Ukraine. ([Council on Foreign Relations](#))

So where does “mafia” fit?

Concept	Role in the story
Post-Soviet organized crime	Significant in the development of Ukraine's 1990s political/economic environment
Oligarchic clans	Very significant; regional economic and political networks competed for resources and government influence
Territorial control	Central to the Russia-Ukraine war
Ethnic/language divisions	Contributed to political tensions, particularly in eastern and southern Ukraine
Russian geopolitical influence	Central
NATO/EU orientation	Major source of Russian-Ukrainian geopolitical tension
Crimea	Direct territorial seizure by Russia in 2014
Donbas	Armed territorial conflict beginning in 2014
2022 invasion	Full-scale Russian attempt to impose military and territorial control

“Pipeline” from organized networks → political power → territorial control → armed conflict

Post-Soviet Ukraine developed powerful regional oligarchic and political networks, some of which had connections to criminal practices and competed for control of economic resources and government institutions. These internal struggles existed alongside a much larger geopolitical struggle over Ukraine's sovereignty, orientation toward Russia or Europe, and ultimately control of Ukrainian territory. The territorial conflict became an armed war in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea and supported separatist forces in Donbas, and it escalated into a full-scale Russian invasion in 2022. ([Council on Foreign Relations](#))

Organized-crime “turf warfare” versus state-level territorial warfare. There are interesting parallels between the two.

Organized-crime/mafia violence, territorial warfare and competing sovereignty claims.

The Israel–Palestine conflict developed over a much longer period than the Russia–Ukraine war, and its roots involve **competing national movements, territorial claims, imperial rule, migration, displacement, religion, war, and control of land.**

A simplified “territorial conflict” pathway looks like:

Ottoman rule → British Mandate → competing Jewish and Arab national movements → immigration and demographic change → competing claims to the same territory → 1947 UN partition proposal → 1948 war and displacement → Israeli control/Palestinian displacement → 1967 war and Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem → Palestinian armed organizations and Israeli military/security responses → continuing territorial and political conflict

There **are also organized armed groups** involved, including Hamas and various Palestinian militant organizations, as well as Israeli paramilitary organizations historically.

Russia–Ukraine

Collapse of USSR
 New national sovereignty
 Political/economic power networks
 Competing geopolitical alignments
 Competing claims over territory
 Crimea seized by Russia in 2014
 Donbas armed conflict
 Russia's 2022 invasion
 Sovereignty and territorial control

Israel–Palestine

Collapse of Ottoman Empire / British Mandate period
 Competing Jewish and Palestinian national movements
 Political, military, and communal organizations
 Competing international and regional alliances
 Competing claims over territory
 Territory became contested through successive wars and occupations
 Israeli-Palestinian armed conflict
 Repeated wars and military operations
 Sovereignty, territorial control, security, and self-determination

The **strongest common denominator is territorial and political power.**

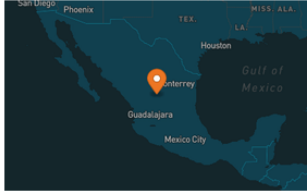
What is interesting about the “Modern Derangement Party,” is that they often recognize Palestine, but rarely recognize America.

Source: <https://nij.ojp.gov/library/publications/organized-crime-ukraine-challenge-and-response>

Source: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/russia-ukraine-and-organized-crime-and-illicit-economies-in-2024>

Source: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/rpt/latin-america-caribbean/mexico/106-generals-labyrinth-crime-and-military-mexico>

Crime + political power + territorial influence become intertwined: *Leads to war.*



Related Tags

MEXICO

What's new? Mexicans elect a new president on 2 June after a campaign scarred by criminal violence. Official murder rates have fallen slightly under outgoing President Andres Manuel López Obrador, but his ambitions of pacifying the country have not been met and more troops are deployed to fight crime than ever before.

Why does it matter? Some areas suffer from fierce clashes despite military deployments while in other places commanders have forged an uneasy co-existence with crime groups. Feuds between criminal organisations show no sign of abating, fuelling violence, while evidence suggests that illegal outfits now have more social control, state allies and economic

might.

What should be done? The new government should ratchet back the military's role in law enforcement to tasks requiring armed force, within limits defined by the constitution. Severing criminal links to the state, strengthening coordination between security bodies and concentrating resources in the most violent areas will be crucial for effective civilian-led law enforcement.

Organized crime and mafia/cartel territory violence central to war.

Modern Derangement Party (Anti-American Holocaust, 4GW & Modern Genocide):

“Abolish ICE, Police, BPD, Prisons!” No Friend to US, Mexico or anywhere else for that matter.