

# Conflict Update Day 393

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

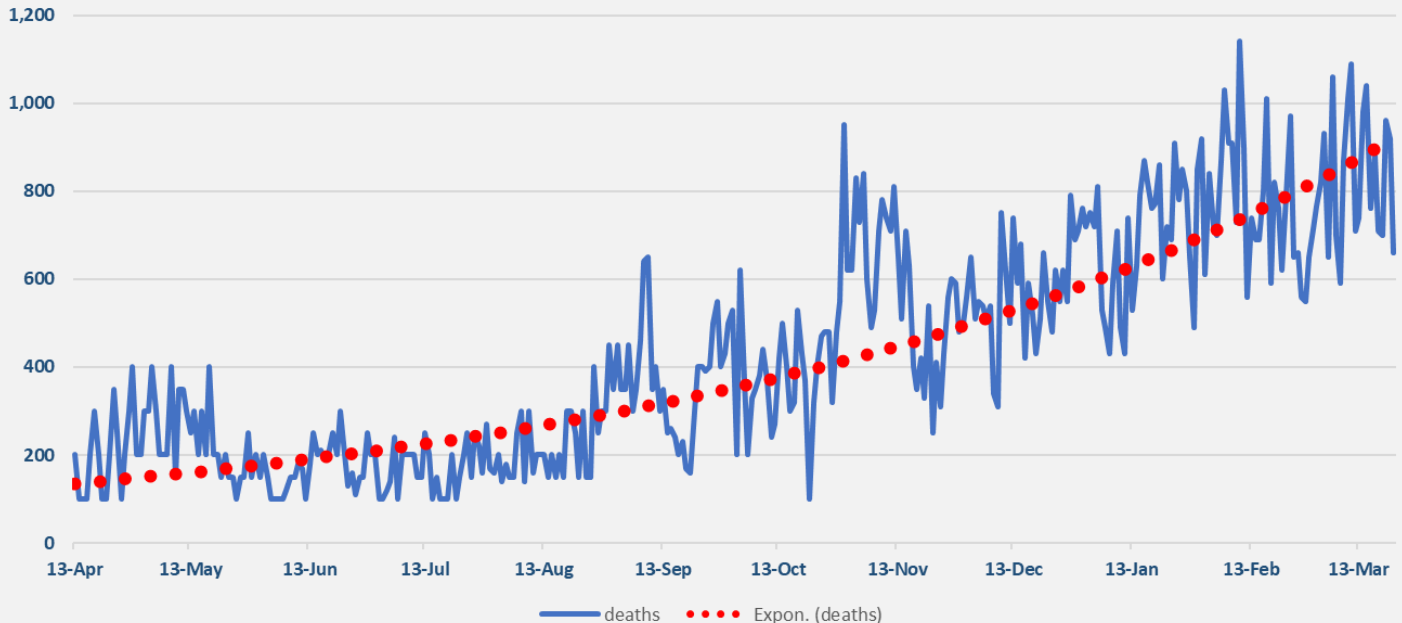
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## Conflict Assessment

**Russian losses** – **168,150** (+660) soldiers killed, 3,570 (+13) enemy tanks, 6,898 (+11) armored combat vehicles, 2,608 (+19) artillery systems, 511 (2) MLRS systems, 273 (+1) air defense systems, 305 (+0) warplanes, 290 (+0) helicopters, 2,203 (+20) UAVs of the operational-tactical level, 909 (+0) cruise missiles, 18 (+0) warships/cutters, 5,452 (+18) trucks and tankers, 4 Iskander Missile Launchers (+0), 239 fuel bowsers (+0) and 273 (+3) units of equipment.

## Death Toll

Russian troop deaths by day



## Key Events

**Russian drone and missile attacks** - At least 8 people were killed and 7 injured in a series of Russian drone attacks on 2 dormitories and a college in the town of Rzhyschiv, 64 km (40 miles) south of Kyiv, emergency services said.

One person was killed and 25 wounded in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia after a Russian missile slammed into an apartment building, Ukrainian officials have said. Two of the injured were children.

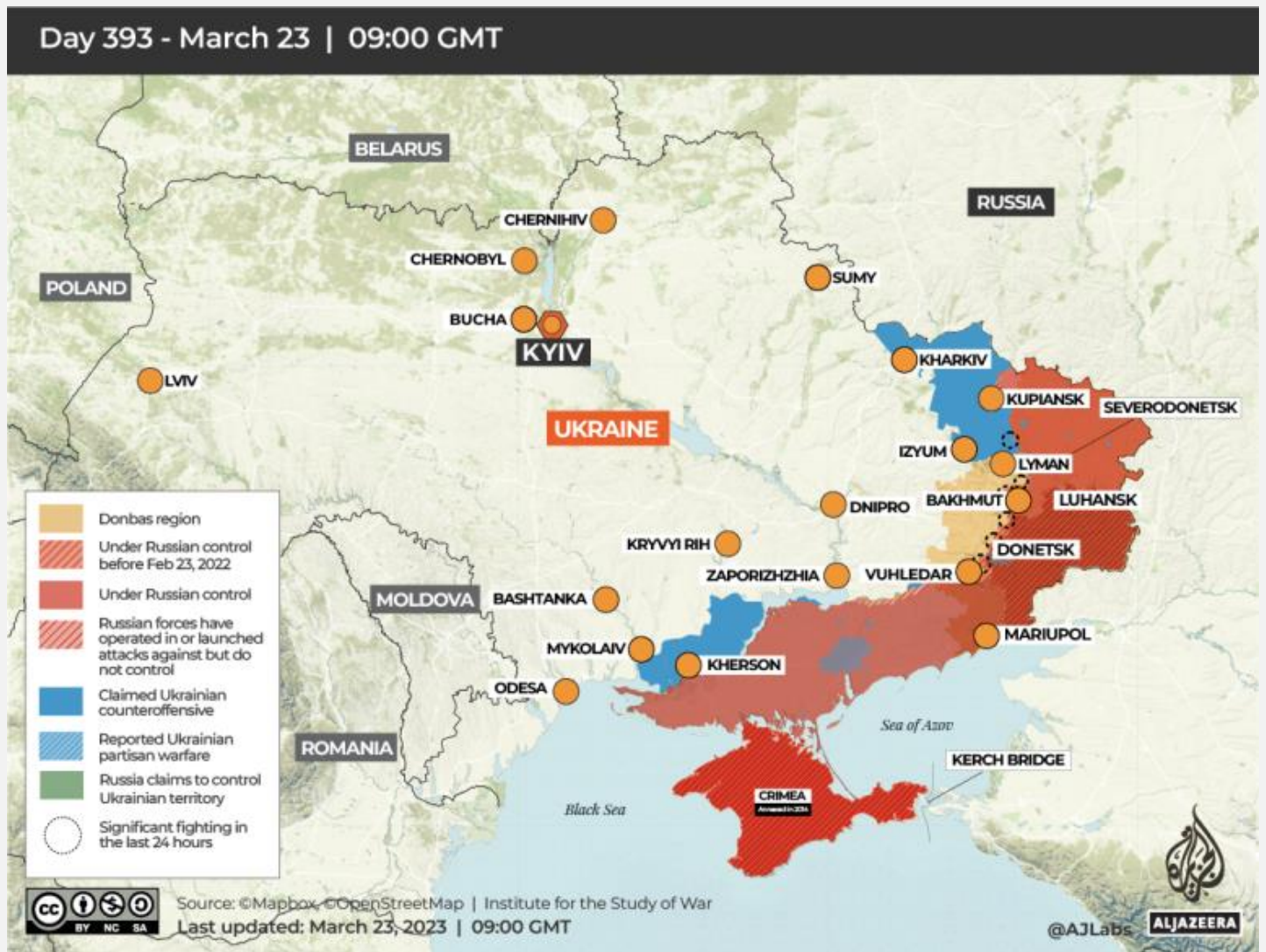
**Russian warship struck in Sevastopol?** – Internet reports came through last night showing a large Russian warship in the port of Sevastopol being struck by a remote drone torpedo boat. Other drone boats were shown in camera footage (taken from port cameras) being struck by defensive Russian fire.

The video shows the vessel being struck in the aft section with a huge detonation evident. All port access, including ferry traffic, was immediately halted and anti-submarine barriers at the port entrance were enforced. Russia has stated that they successfully repelled the attack, but this doesn't erase the video footage of their vessel being struck.

**Update** The video to the right is from occupied Crimea last night, showing Russian air defenses being activated at incoming unknown aircraft and watercraft. This was followed by explosions in Sevastopol and in the harbour.

Shown is the large explosion referred to above.

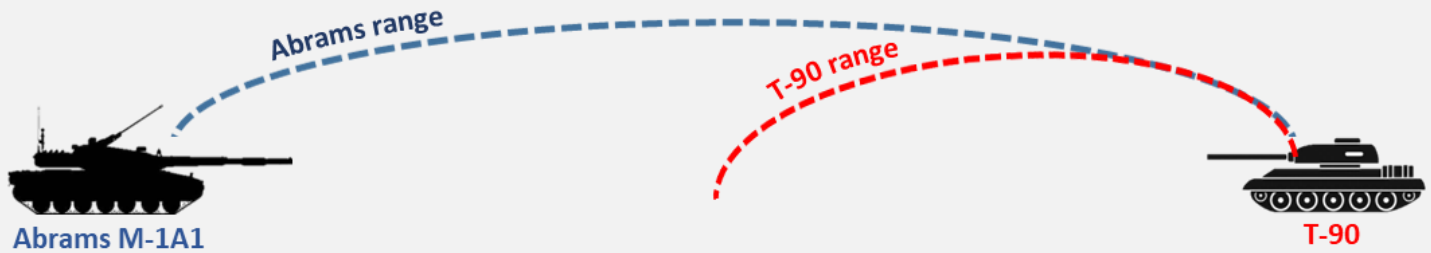
Further reports emanating from Sevastopol all refer to a large and other smaller explosions coming from the port area. These are being picked up across multiple networks and are similar in content throughout.



**Russia plans to produce 1,500 battle tanks later this year as part of the invasion of Ukraine** - Former Russian president and current deputy chairman of the country's Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev, said earlier today Russia plans to produce another 1,500 tanks later this year to confront Ukrainian forces in the framework of the invasion of the territory. "Our enemies think that our industry will choke, that we will spend everything and run out of resources," he asserted before stressing that "this year alone 1,500 tanks will be produced," Interfax news agency reported.

In this sense, he regretted that the international community is "trying to reduce the imports of materials" and pointed out that "they keep pointing out that Russia is running out of weapons", something he rejected.

**Russian tank ranges** – We reported yesterday that Abrams tanks destined for Ukraine, even though the older version in order to expedite delivery, can “see” far ahead and identify targets for directed artillery assault. The M-1A1 FEP’s FTL calculates the GPS coordinates of a target as far away as 8,000 meters.



Russian tanks are now at distinct disadvantage as the T90, considered one of the world’s Top 10 tanks, can only “see” 4,000 meters and whilst their new Armata tank is also 8,000 meters, matching the Abrams, is not available for service.

**Russia’s weapons game in Ukraine hits a dismal new low** - Russia has taken Soviet-era tanks from the 1940s and 1950s out of storage for its war in Ukraine in the latest sign that the invasion is floundering, according to researchers from the Conflict Intelligence Team.

**US Navy rejects China claim that warship ‘illegally’ entered part of South China Sea** - China’s military said guided-missile destroyer USS Milius intruded into China’s territorial waters near the contested Paracel Islands

The US has denied Chinese claims that a US destroyer was driven out from waters around the contested Paracel Islands after it “illegally” entered the area in the South China Sea.

In a statement on Thursday, the Chinese military said the guided-missile destroyer USS Milius illegally intruded into China’s territorial waters, without the approval of the government, undermining peace and stability in the busy waterway.

The United States Navy, however, declared this to be false.

“The USS Milius is conducting routine operations in the South China Sea and was not expelled. The United States will continue to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows,” a statement from the US Navy 7th Fleet said.



The Paracel Islands are a disputed archipelago spread across about 7 square km in the South China Sea. China has de facto control of the islands and has built installations and outposts, but Taiwan and Vietnam also claim ownership.

**UN nuclear agency’s chief said that the situation at Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia power plant “remains perilous”** after a Russian missile strike this month disconnected the plant from the grid. Europe’s largest nuclear power plant needs a reliable electricity supply to operate pumps that circulate water to cool reactors and pools holding nuclear fuel.

**Bakhmut** - Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi, commander of Ukrainian ground forces, said: “Russia does not give up hope of taking Bakhmut at any cost, despite the losses in manpower and equipment.” He added that Russia was losing “considerable strength” and that “very soon we will take advantage of this opportunity, as we once did near Kyiv, Kharkiv, Balakliia and Kupiansk”, all areas that Ukraine has previously liberated from Russian occupation.

**Russia’s shadow army threatens to dump dead bodies on ‘dirtbag’ officials** - When the mayor of a small town in Russia’s Krasnodar Krai told the notorious Wagner Group over the weekend that he didn’t want the area to become the new dumping ground for dead mercenaries, he apparently thought he had a say in the matter.

He didn’t. And Yevgeny Prigozhin, the cutthroat founder of the group, would soon make that frighteningly clear—with threats to dump dead bodies on his doorstep instead.

Prigozhin’s fighters backed their boss up, releasing a video of themselves armed to the teeth in the Donbas and threatening to come home to kill.

“You just wait, degenerates, for us to have to come and deal with you. Because you f-----s are doing more harm than the Ukrainian army, than the Nazis. Because you are the Nazis, the f-----g administration of Goryachy Klyuch,” one of the masked fighters warned.

In perhaps the starkest illustration yet of Prigozhin’s growing power, the burial went ahead just as he’d wanted, under the barrel of guns wielded by more masked Wagner fighters.

But hundreds of local pensioners, veterans, and out-of-towners also attended the burial of eight Wagner recruits killed in Ukraine. Some of them apparently heeded Prigozhin’s public call to pay their respects and defy local authorities.

## Comments, Updates, Developments and Reports

**Defeating Putin now is the only way to stop third world war** - It’s becoming increasingly clear that, should Ukraine be defeated, Poland will almost certainly go to war with Russia. This escalation would unleash a tide of bloodshed throughout Europe, which makes it imperative that Moscow’s imperial ambitions are thwarted now, in Ukraine, before it’s too late.

As we reported in an earlier Update this week, Poland’s ambassador to France, Jan Emeryk Rościszewski, told a local French broadcaster that, “Either Ukraine defends its independence today, or we have to enter this conflict.” His comments led to a flurry of speculation over whether Poland’s direct participation in the war is imminent.

Shortly afterwards, the Polish Embassy in France released a statement condemning the “sensational” claim that Warsaw was planning to enter the fray anytime soon. The embassy clarified that the ambassador’s statement was “only a warning of the consequences that a defeat of Ukraine could have — the possibility of Russia attacking or drawing into the war more central European countries, such as the Baltic states and Poland.”

Though the statement was meant to temper fears of an escalation, it only reinforced how easily things could spiral out of control.

Some in the West believe that it’s no big deal if Ukraine is defeated. Last week, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is expected to run for president, dismissed the conflict as just a bilateral “territorial dispute.” He alleged that getting involved in Ukraine is not a “vital national interest” for his country.

For Russia’s eastern European neighbours, who understand Moscow’s ambitions better than anyone else, it’s evident that Russian tanks will not stop at Kyiv and that a Ukrainian defeat will lead to a continental war. Polish leaders spent over a decade warning allies that Moscow, if given the chance, will seek to re-establish its old empire and re-subjugate its neighbours.

When Russia invaded Georgia in 2008, Poland's then-president, Lech Kaczyński, gave a speech warning, "Today Georgia, tomorrow Ukraine, the day after tomorrow, the Baltic states and later, perhaps, time will come for my country, Poland."

However, Poland's warnings were ignored. After Putin launched a proxy war in eastern Ukraine in 2014, the Baltic states joined Poland in urging for a stronger defensive stance against Russia. Ultimately, they were told that they were being "alarmist."

At the time, European leaders seemingly thought that Russia's neighbours had been so traumatized by Soviet occupation that they could not objectively assess Moscow's foreign policy. However, the eastern Europeans were ultimately proven right, leading to a recent re-evaluation of their geopolitical expertise.

Last September, for example, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said, "One lesson from this war is we should have listened to those who know Putin. They have been telling us for years that Putin would not stop."

It's easy to laud a prediction after it's been proven true. The more important task is to listen to eastern European states that are, at this very moment, warning about the danger Russia poses going forward. These countries clearly believe that Ukraine is the first of several dominoes that could fall, and it's vital that we believe them.

Having seen the cost of inaction, both Poland and the Baltic states are now showing extraordinary leadership on regional defence. Collectively, their military aid, relative to the size of their economies, has been unparalleled. Poland's lobbying has also been integral to unlocking international donations of tanks and potentially even fighter jets.

**Comment** – Pre-WWII the West followed similar pacifist policies regarding Hitler's comparable and parallel run into surrounding countries as is currently underway by Putin. There would be "Peace in our time" according to these folk – only to be proven horribly, horribly wrong. 80 Million times proven wrong.

Post-WWII again the West played with "easy" terms, giving up Poland, the trigger for WWII in earnest, and the rest was history. They appeased a Russia intent on surrounding itself with buffer zones and here are some of these folk once again appeasing Putin.

Either they are absolutely ignorant nationalists or there is some deeper association with Putin that we have yet to put our fingers on and determine. I have my suspicions.

**South Africa's looming ICC conundrum** – South Africa is a member of the ICC and has ratified the Rome Status, which means the country is obliged to cooperate with the court's demand to arrest Putin, but it puts South Africa in a difficult position as it has publicly advocated for stronger ties with Moscow.

With the 15th BRICS summit planned to be hosted by South Africa in Durban late August 2023, Ramaphosa is going to need to be pretty nimble as to how he handles this diplomatic conundrum. The world will be watching closely.

**Blinken dismisses Xi-Putin ties as 'marriage of convenience'** - US Secretary of State Blinken has dismissed deepening ties between China and Russia as a "marriage of convenience."

Blinken made the comments yesterday after Xi Jinping and Putin were filmed saying warm goodbyes at the end of two days of closely-watched meetings in Moscow.

"In part as a result of having this very different worldview than we do, they have a marriage of convenience," Blinken told the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "I'm not sure if it's conviction."

Blinken said Russia is "very much the junior partner" in the relationship and noted that China had so far declined to provide weapons to Moscow for its war in Ukraine.

"As we speak today, we have not seen them cross that line," Blinken said.

Blinken said that although China hoped to replace the US-led international order with its own “illiberal” vision, Russia did not appear to have a coherent ideology apart from “world disorder.”

**Comment** – I like that statement regarding “world disorder” – Including it shows China and Russia pursuing their “new global bi-polar world disorder.”

**Canada is extending a support programme meant to help Ukrainians** and their immediate families to become temporary residents and more easily apply for work or study permits, the Canadian immigration has said.

**North Koreans volunteer in droves to fight "evil U.S. imperialists"** - North Korea’s Rodong Sinmun newspaper stated that official tallies revealed 800,000 North Koreans enlisted in the Korean People’s Army on March 17th.

## Containment

**Estonian prime minister, Kaja Kallas**, on Thursday spoke against any weakening of sanctions against Russia under a deal to export Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea, and called for the G7 to tighten its oil cap to further squeeze Russia’s revenue.

“We know that Russia is earning less from the oil. We see the economic sanctions, including the oil price cap, are having an effect on the Russian economy and their ability to fuel the war machine,” Reuters reports her saying on arriving to talks among the EU’s 27 national leaders in Brussels on Thursday and Friday.

“We should continue with that,” she said, adding that Estonia would agree to raise the cap again should oil prices rise. She spoke against any weakening of sanctions against Russia as sought by Moscow in the grain deal talks. “We shouldn’t weaken the sanctions,” she said.

**US moving advanced aircraft to Asia, Europe from Middle East** - The United States plans to deploy ageing A-10 attack planes to the Middle East as a replacement for more advanced combat aircraft that will be shifted to the Pacific and Europe as tensions with China and Russia intensify, a news report says.



The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday the move, scheduled for April, is part of a broader plan that also calls for retaining modest naval and ground forces in the Middle East region, according to American officials.

The news report said some US officials have criticized the plan to switch out the advanced fighter aircraft for the older A-10 jets, saying it could weaken American military power in the Middle East. The air force’s A-10 close air support attack plane is known as “the tank killer”.

“The imperative is to get the most suitable aircraft to the Pacific for the higher threat challenges,” Larry Stutzriem, a retired Air Force major general, was quoted as saying. “The A-10 is still relevant to the mission CENTCOM flies over the Middle East.”

The US government has been strengthening an arc of military alliances in the Asia Pacific to better counter China, including in any future confrontation over Taiwan.

**Comment** – Minds with far better access than you and I know something we don’t, regarding future threats and conflict potential.

There have been a number of movements in and around the European theater of late, with troops and equipment re-stationing closer to Ukrainian borders.

## Sanctions

**How a 'Gold Mafia' is looting Southern Africa, washing dirty cash** - An investigation by Al Jazeera has revealed some of Southern Africa's largest gold-smuggling operations, exposing how these gangs help criminals around the world launder billions of dollars while aiding governments in circumventing international sanctions.

Billions of dollars' worth of gold is smuggled every month from Zimbabwe to Dubai, allowing criminals to whitewash dirty money through a web of shell companies, fake invoices and paid-off officials.

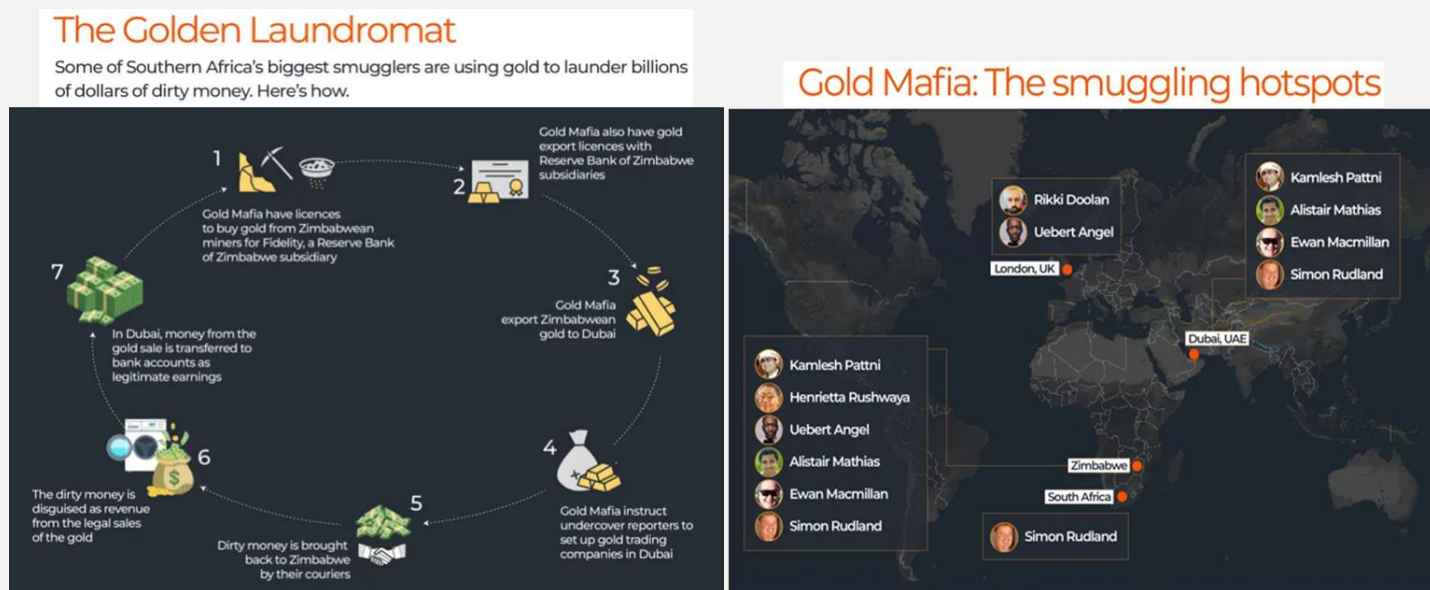
It shows how Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government is systematically using gold smugglers to get around the chokehold of Western sanctions imposed on the country. The money laundering and gold-smuggling schemes involve one of Zimbabwe's most influential diplomats, and go all the way up to the president and his circle.

Posing as criminals from China looking to launder over \$100mn, Al Jazeera's undercover reporters managed to gain access to these smugglers and gangs.

Zimbabwe is a key player in these operations. Gold accounts for almost half — over \$2bn — of the country's exports. But the nation faces a strict international sanctions regime, and even though its gold trade is not in itself banned by the West, the broader strictures against Zimbabwe make it harder to export the precious metal through official channels.

However, using a web of companies and patronage from some of Zimbabwe's most powerful individuals, smugglers have turned those constraints on trade into an opportunity to launder billions of dollars and help the government in Harare get around some of the consequences of sanctions.

The process is as simple as it is cunning: Criminals from around the world with large volumes of unaccounted cash can give that money to the Zimbabwe government, directly or through smugglers. The Zimbabwe government desperately needs US dollars since Zimbabwe's own currency has little international value following years of hyperinflation.



In exchange, launderers get clean, legitimate cash — from the sale of Zimbabwean gold — transferred to their bank accounts.

Al Jazeera obtained details of how Simon Rudland, one of Zimbabwe's richest men, launders money through both Zimbabwean and South African companies. Rudland is the owner of Gold Leaf Tobacco, one of southern Africa's biggest cigarette brands, especially on South Africa's black market.

**Comment** — An ideal way for Russian oligarchs to launder their ill-gotten gains.

**Russia's 'iPhone killer' sells under 1,000 smartphones in first year** - Russia's AYYA T1 smartphone brand has sold fewer than 1,000 units since it came to market over a year ago, the Vedomosti business daily reported earlier today, citing unnamed sources close to retailers.



Only 905 AYYA T1 devices have been purchased since retail chains began selling them in October 2021, just 18% of the 5,000 AYYA T1 smartphones produced to date for the Russian market.

Developed by a subsidiary of Russia's Rostec defense industry conglomerate, Smartecosystem, and assembled in China, the AYYA T1 had been seen by Russian officials as a potential replacement for the iPhone following Apple's decision to suspend its sales to Russia in response to the invasion of Ukraine last year.

Reacting to the low take up among Russian consumers, Denis Kuskov, CEO of the Telecom Daily research agency, compared the 905 units sold to a "statistical error" in the context of the 24.5 million smartphones bought in Russia last year.

## Putin & Russia

**Putin should be under no illusion – Xi is not Russia's knight in shining armor** - The three-day visit of Xi Jinping to Russia was packed with action: a crepe and quail meal, photo ops and ceremonial signings. Pomp and circumstance aside, Xi's visit to Russia did not live up to Putin's hopes and expectations. As it turns out, the obvious similarities between the two leaders – their autocratic hold on power and their tenuous relationship with the west – do not directly translate into common interests and goals. Xi came and went, making no firm commitments and leaving Putin and his cronies agape with disappointment.

Russian hopes for this visit could not have been any higher. Russia looks to China, the only major power that has not condemned the invasion of Ukraine, as its economic bondsman, a potential weapons supplier and a "peace" advocate.

From the first days of the invasion, Russian intellectuals and opinion leaders have prominently featured China as a key player that would help Russia win the war. China would jump in to substitute the lost western exports, provide Russia with much needed military equipment and supplies, and help negotiate peace on Russia's terms. What was always missing from these accounts, however, is China's motivation.

Putin's reality is that, despite much rhetoric of a mutually beneficial relationship and shared goals, Russia has very little to offer China. The restructuring of western energy imports leaves China among the few willing buyers of Russian oil and gas, which allows China to dictate the terms of trade. The market opportunities Russia has to offer, meanwhile, dwarf in comparison to the European and US markets. Russia is asking a lot from China, but it is China that has all the leverage in this relationship.

Despite the poetics, Russia's invasion of Ukraine offers China little insight into the west's military strategy for defending Taiwan, a long-term western protegee that China claims as its own territory. Ukraine and Taiwan couldn't be less similar in their topography: Ukraine is largely open plains, and shares a long land border with its attacker, whereas attacking Taiwan would require amphibious manoeuvres and a water landing.

Beyond the geographical differences, Ukraine and Taiwan have qualitatively different security relationships with the west and the US. Biden's reiterated assurances that the US will not directly intervene to support Ukraine, before and during the invasion, are in stark contrast with his rather unequivocal commitment to defending Taiwan.

**Comment** – China attempting to invade or capture Taiwan is what I term a D<sup>2</sup> conundrum for Beijing. D<sup>2</sup> standing for **D**-Day or **D**unkirk for Chinese forces. I believe China will experience the latter **D**.



The much emphasized point regarding Russia and China's "shared interests" is equally flawed. It is true that, like Russia, China has long resented US hegemony and the so-called liberal rules-based international order. Both countries, under their current leaderships, have been vying for a greater say in global economic and security decision-making. Putin, however, mistakes this similarity in foreign policy goals for policy alignment.

Wanting the same thing only induces cooperation if working together maximizes the chance of attaining the desired outcome for both parties. The reality, however, is that China has no interest or incentive to help Russia, especially if it can pawn Russia to get a better deal for itself. Both leaders yearn for a multipolar world, but ensuring that Russia gets the proverbial seat at the table is not Xi's concern.

Xi's visit to Russia actually had very little to do with Russia. Instead, the visit was a signal to the west. Aggravated by US military presence in the South China Sea and wary of US restrictions on semiconductor and other hi-tech imports to China, Xi is looking to use its ties to Russia for leverage.

By flirting with Putin, Xi is hoping to induce the west to cut back on its military excursions into China's back yard. By scheduling his arrival days after the ICC's indictment of Putin as a war criminal, Xi is throwing the gauntlet to the west and its legal institutions. The implicit threat of deepening ties with the Russian leader is intended to induce concessions. Threats, however, only work when there is a probability that the sender will follow through.

Xi is not negotiating with the west from a position of strength. China's economy is still reeling from three years of the zero-Covid policy and a real-estate crisis. It is vastly dependent on US and European trade, with the US dollar and the euro making up substantial parts of Chinese monetary reserves. Xi is not fool enough to believe Putin's assurances of the resilience of the Russian economy. Why else is Russia so desperately begging him for a lifeline?

Having closely watched the devastating effects of sanctions on his northern neighbour over the past year, Xi is well aware that his country is not ready to pay the economic price of openly challenging the west. In the absence of a popular mandate, economic growth is the only sure political survival strategy for non-democratic leaders, and Xi is not about to jeopardize his own security to help out Putin.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine precipitated a growing realization in the west that it may be time to loosen its economic dependence on repressive regimes. The time for low-cost electronics and fast fashion may be coming to an end, as western consumers want higher quality, responsibly sourced goods and western companies are able to find other cheaper manufacturing locations. Xi's feigned rapprochement with Russia is an attempt to reverse these changes and to negotiate more favourable terms for himself.

The west should not take the bait. China may not like the new post-Covid economic realities, but it still much prefers the status quo to further economic decoupling. Contrary to Putin's false expectations, Xi has no plan of doing anyone's bidding but his own. He will gladly take Russia's oil discounts and let Putin build the Power of Siberia 2 pipeline at Russia's expense. He will happily fill the void in the Russian market and offer Russian consumers a taste of fast fashion, low-cost electronics and even Chinese automobiles. He will squeeze Russia for all it is worth, but when the time and opportunity presents itself he will have no qualms selling out his newly made friend and partner.

Xi is not Putin's knight in shining armour, or even his friend. Putin has no friends. The visit was all talk and no substance. But, still, let them eat crepes.

*Article by Olga Chyzh in The Guardian earlier today.*

**Relations with west worse than ever, says Moscow** – Dmitry Medvedev, deputy secretary of Russia's Putin-chaired Security Council, is quoted earlier as saying that any attempt to arrest the Russian president would amount to a declaration of war.

According to the AP, he told reporters in Russia that Moscow's relations with the west have hit an all-time low. Asked whether the threat of a nuclear conflict has eased, he said:

*"No, it hasn't decreased, it has grown. Every day when they provide Ukraine with foreign weapons brings the nuclear apocalypse closer."*

Medvedev also denounced the ICC's decision to issue an arrest warrant for Putin as legally null and void, claiming the move added to a "colossal negative potential" in the already bitterly strained ties.

*"Our relations with the west are already worse than they have ever been in history."*

Medvedev challenged Ukraine's sovereignty in comments that could reflect Moscow's plans to extend its gains.

*"Honestly speaking, Ukraine is part of Russia. But, due to geopolitical reasons and the course of history, we had tolerated that we were living in separate quarters and had been forced to acknowledge those invented borders for a long time."*

The AP reports that, since Putin sent troops into Ukraine, Medvedev has emerged as one of the most hawkish Russian officials, with observers interpreting his position as an apparent attempt to curry favour with Putin.

**'Like a slap in the face' How the ICC's arrest warrant for Putin left Russia's top officials shaken** - Earlier this week, Meduza reported on how the International Criminal Court's decision to issue an arrest warrant against Vladimir Putin caught the Kremlin off guard — not least because the order threatens his ability to travel abroad, which was supposed to be a linchpin of his 2024 presidential campaign.

Now, the independent outlet Verstka, citing sources of its own, has published a more detailed account of the confusion that reigned among Russia's top officials in the hours after The Hague's announcement. In English, Meduza is publishing an abridged version of that report.

### **'The last straw'**

For most of the day, March 17 was an ordinary workday in the offices of the Kremlin and the Russian parliament, according to Verstka. Then the ICC announced it had issued arrest warrants for Putin and Lvova-Belova. According to a source close to the Kremlin, the news spread "like wildfire" among the country's top officials, Verstka reported.

"[The information] immediately spread through all of the [Putin administration officials'] informal chat groups," and "at first, nobody even knew how to react," the source told Verstka. "Emotions were running high, and [there were] a lot of profanities. You got the feeling that [the West] had crossed a line, that it was like a slap in the face to all of us."

According to the source, an unusually long amount of time passed — about an hour and a half — before officials received any instructions about how to respond publicly to the news. "Some people rushed to give public comments, but the majority [of politicians and officials] kept silent. You could even call it shock," said the source. It was only after Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova called the arrest warrant "legally void" that it became clear to other officials what tone their public statements should take.

Despite aggressive and defiant comments from Russian officials like Security Council Deputy Chair Dmitry Medvedev, Chechnya Governor Ramzan Kadyrov, and State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin, many lawmakers were privately unsettled by the announcement.

In interviews with Verstka, two sources from Russia's parliament mentioned Nazi leaders Heinrich Himmler and Joseph Goebbels, who were recognized as international criminals alongside Adolf Hitler. One of the sources also brought up former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi. "This is a kind of blow to us [the Russian government]," he explained. "On one hand, it makes us rally around him. On the other, it's like we're truly in global isolation."

## Where are people fleeing to?

According to the United Nations refugee agency, there have been 19.7 million border crossings out of Ukraine since the Russian invasion began in February 2022. Many people have sought refuge in neighboring countries.

The latest data show 10,311,901 border crossings into Poland, 2,121,569 to Romania, 2,852,395 to Russia, 2,384,203 to Hungary, 1,252,162 to Slovakia, 791,054 to Moldova and 16,705 into Belarus. Most of those displaced have been women and children. Men aged 18 to 60 have been asked to remain in Ukraine to fight.

### RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

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The UN says there have been more than **19.7 million** border crossings out of Ukraine since Russia invaded the country on February 24, 2022.

