

Conflict Update Day 381

March 11th, 2023

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Conflict Assessment

Russian losses – 158,000 (+1,010) soldiers killed, 3,458 (+10) enemy tanks, 6,762 (+20) armored combat vehicles, 2,483 (+8) artillery systems, 493 (2) MLRS systems, 257 (+1) air defense systems, 304 (+0) warplanes, 289 (+0) helicopters, 2,108 (+1) UAVs of the operational-tactical level, 907 (+0) cruise missiles, 18 (+0) warships/cutters, 5,344 (+7) trucks and tankers, 4 Iskander Missile Launchers (+0), 239 fuel bowsers (+0) and 242 (+2) units of equipment.

Key Takeaways

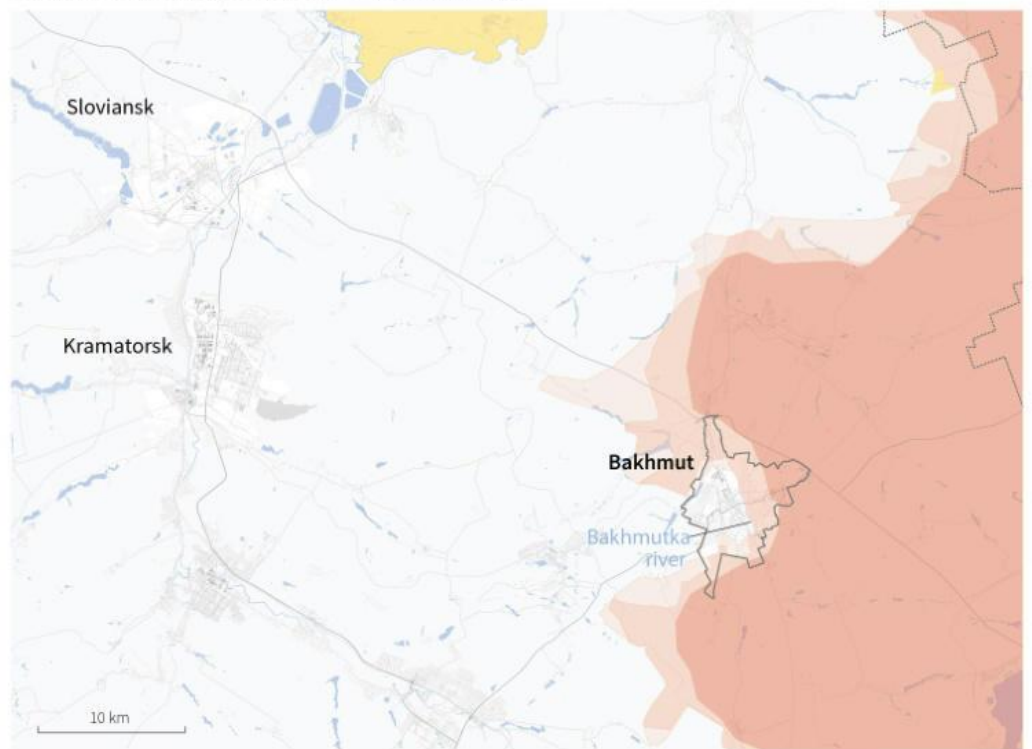
Ukraine says Bakhmut battle grinding down Russia's best units - Ukraine has decided to fight on in the ruined city of Bakhmut – shown here - because the battle is pinning down Russia's best units in advance of a planned spring counteroffensive, an aide to President Zelenskyy has said.

The comments by Mykhailo Podolyak on Friday were the latest signal of a shift by Kyiv this week to continue the defence of the small eastern city, where Moscow is trying to secure its first major victory in more than half a year.

Comment – Our Updates have for months been highlighting this exact element of why Ukraine continues to resist Russian efforts in Bakhmut.

Not of strategic import, the city, together with other Donbas locations such as Vuhledar, have all served Ukraine's greater interest in tying down elite Kremlin forces, depleting their numbers and destroying enemy supply lines.

Ukraine: the battle for Bakhmut



Position of military forces, as of March 9, 2000 GMT

- Assessed Russian controlled
- Area of Russian operations or attacks
- Claimed Russian controlled
- Areas recaptured and counteroffensives claimed by Ukrainians
- Reported Ukrainian partisan warfare

Source: Institute for the Study of War and AEI's Critical Threats Project

Map data: OSM



AFP

Further north around Svatove and Kreminna Kyiv has been deploying the same tactics, except Ukrainian success against these two locations expose critical Russian rail supply lines, across which they move heavy equipment, munition supplies and troop rotations and mobilizations.

Some military experts have questioned the sense of the continued fight for Bakhmut and many commentators have decried the effort Kyiv has invested in the Bakhmut area, but now are beginning to see the logic and thought behind their successful presence.

Yes, Wagner troops may have entered eastern Bakhmut suburbs, but once Spring arrives and the Ukrainian offensive kicks into gear, it will be of little import, with armored assaults elsewhere being of greater strategic direction.

General Russian Kremlin-friendly blogger focus has similarly highlighted that their troops will not be able to withstand a dry period Ukrainian counteroffensive in the Bakhmut area.

Russia suffered more than 500 killed and wounded in one day at Bakhmut - More than 500 Russian troops were killed or wounded in a recent 24-hour period during the battle for Bakhmut, a Ukrainian military spokesman said earlier today.

"Over the course of the fighting, 221 enemies were killed and 314 sustained injuries of various degrees," he told the national parliament's television channel.

Expert warns Russia won't hold Bakhmut after the winter thaw – Igor Girkin has taken to his Russian blogger channel to disagree with other Russian commentators regarding the perilous Kremlin situation in Bakhmut.

He stated that he doesn't see Russian forces holding on to any part of the city once the Spring thaw starts.

Prigozhin says he's been 'cut off' by Putin - Yevgeny Prigozhin (pictured in following article), head of the private Russian army Wagner Group, says he and his fighters have been pleading for more ammunition, but they have been "cut off" by Putin. This is arising out of his continuing and public statements and criticisms against Putin, his aides and Kremlin Command staff.

In a message posted on his Telegram channel, Prigozhin claimed he had been blocked by the Kremlin due to his public appeals for his Wagner troops to be provided with more ammunition.

Comment – If I were Prigozhin, I wouldn't climb any stairs or enter buildings higher than two stories.

Fire reported at Russian propaganda channel in Moscow. A fire broke out on March 11 at the Moscow office of Spas, a church-funded propaganda TV channel, Russian state news agency TASS reported.

Carl Gustaf is a real supergun killing Putin's tanks in Ukraine - Although the Gustaf is pretty pricey at around \$20,000 each, the U.S. Army spent more than \$87 million last year on the formidable dual rifle-rocket launcher.

Ukrainian forces also value the edge the Gustaf provides to their defensive efforts against Russian invaders. While the Gustaf has not gained as much notoriety as other popular weapons used in Ukraine, including the Javelin missile and NLAW, the advanced rifle should not be discounted.

The anti-tank launcher has been able to take out one of Moscow's revered T-90M main battle tanks, according to Ukraine's Ministry of Defense. Other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member states have caught on to the effectiveness of the Gustaf.

Recently, the Lithuanian Defense Material Agency purchased nearly \$17 million worth of ammunition from Saab, right after Estonia and Latvia signed the Carl Gustaf Framework Agreement.

Prigozhin reveals recruitment drive due to Bakhmut - Yevgeny Prigozhin (pictured) says he has opened recruitment centres in 42 Russian cities to replenish ranks due to losses in Bakhmut.

Mercenary force boss Yevgeny Prigozhin said centres in 42 Russian cities as he seeks to in fighting for the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut.

In an upbeat audio message on Friday, forward but gave no indication of the ammunition supplies from the remained a concern.

“In spite of the colossal forces, we will go forward,” he that are thrown at us at every step,



his Wagner private army has opened recruitment replenish the army's ranks after heavy losses

Prigozhin said new fighters were coming numbers involved. He also said Russian army had improved but

resistance of the Ukrainian armed said. “Despite the sticks in the wheels we will overcome this together.”

Wagner forces taking 'tactical pause' in Bakhmut—ISW - The Wagner Group appear to be taking a "tactical pause" in their months-long offensive to capture the city of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine, according to ISW.

The Wagner Group's offensive operation in eastern Bakhmut "appears to have entered a temporary tactical pause" and "it remains unclear if Wagner fighters will retain their operational preponderance in future Russian offensives in the city," the Institute for the Study of War, based in Washington, yesterday noted in its daily assessment of the conflict.

Comment – “Taking a pause” may be putting it mildly. Wagner soldiers are dying by the thousands, they have limited stocks of ammunition because Ukraine is systematically disrupting their supply lines, their commander is reportedly banned from the Kremlin and they are desperately trying to recruit more soldiers. Appears more to me like military disaster followed by an enforced regrouping effort.

Mutiny on the high lands – There are increasing reports of mutiny in Russian regimental ranks in the areas around Bakhmut and Vuhledar over the past few weeks.

Small wonder given the Kremlin propensity of sending in thousands upon thousands of young recruits to almost certain death in their pursuit of grinding down Ukrainian opposition and defenses.

Ukrainian soldiers report that Russian brigade units continue to rush into battle, climbing over the bodies of fallen comrades, whilst knowing full well they face certain death.

There are now reports coming in that these assailants appear to be on drugs of some kind, explaining in some small way their onward rushes. Germany did the same thing to their troops during the push into France in the early part of WWII, issuing stimulant drugs to keep them awake, fearless and ready to advance.

The worrying thing from a Kremlin perspective though is that more and more of these uprisings are going public via Russian social media and bloggers.

Extract from Russian media site Verstka (Google translation)– “The mobilized sharply increased the number of complaints about their position at the front. For a month, military personnel from 16 regions recorded video messages about poor preparation, lack of equipment and meat assaults.”

“Since the beginning of February, video messages of mobilized Russians began to appear massively on the network.”

Ukraine almost done assembling new assault brigades. According to Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko, 28,000 volunteers have already applied to join new assault brigades, also known as the Offensive Guard. The forces are now collecting reservists.

Containment

Media reports say Finland is open to providing fighter jets to Ukraine - Media in Finland have reported that Prime Minister Sanna Marin is prepared to discuss providing U.S.-made fighter jets to Ukraine. Marin, who visited Kyiv yesterday, said Helsinki plans to purchase 64 modern F-35A fighters to replace 62 Hornet fighters.

The Hornets could be provided to Ukraine, she has said, although she noted that discussions are at a preliminary stage.

For months, Ukraine has been seeking modern fighter aircraft from its allies. During talks in Paris on February 8, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on France and Germany to provide jets “as soon as possible” as Ukraine fends off a Russian offensive in the eastern Donetsk region.

A-10 Warthog: destined for retirement—or war in Ukraine? – Why Won’t the A-10 Warthog Ever Go Away? Following years of debate, Congress has finally approved a U.S. Air Force plan to begin the retirement process for its fleet of A-10 Thunderbolts. Since these formidable ground-attack airframes represent the only aircraft flown by the U.S. military designed specifically for close air support, Congress has been reluctant to approve their decommissioning.

The Thunderbolts were instrumental assets to America’s counterinsurgency efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq for nearly two decades. However, since the U.S. no longer has large units of ground forces deployed in those theaters, the need for the Thunderbolts’ extended use is dwindling.

Regardless of the A-10’s eventual retirement timeline, the plane will always retain its legendary status.

Designed as a World War II-era bomber, the Warthog has been dubbed the ‘titanium bathtub.’



The nickname stems from titanium reinforced armor all around the cockpit to protect the crew from ground fire when they perform strafing runs against adversarial targets.

The twin-turbofan, subsonic aircraft was developed by Fairchild Republic for the U.S. Air Force in the early 1970’s and ultimately entered service in 1976.

The aircraft can hover near battle areas for extended periods of time, at low air-speeds and low altitudes, making it an asset for ground troop protection.

The protection the A-10 enjoys from its “titanium bathtub” allows crew members to survive direct hits from high explosive projectiles and armor-piercing rounds at very close ranges.

Over the years, the A-10 has undergone a few major facelifts, including the incorporation of improved fire control systems, electronic countermeasures and cockpit displays.

Armed to the teeth with weaponry, the A-10 has an impressive rate of fire. The hydraulically-driven GAU-8/A Avenger Gatling-gun can fire at a rate of 4,200 rounds per minute under the nose of the airframe.

Even Ukraine wants a fleet of A-10s to aid its defensive efforts

The A-10's excellent track record in combat operations has contributed to Congress's reluctance to send the aging fleet to retirement. Thunderbolts have served with distinction in deployments ranging from the Gulf War, Bosnia and Herzegovina to Afghanistan and Iraq.

In fact, the A-10's powerful history has placed the airframe at the top of Ukraine's wish list – at least for a time – for defending against the ongoing Russian invasion.

Comment – My favorite US airplane, which I used to watch in Omaha NE.

Poland to transfer 'limited' number of MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine - Poland will transfer a limited number of MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine, according to Paweł Szrot, the head of the Polish president's office.

"As far as I know, it will not be a large number of aircraft," Szrot said, as quoted by the Polish Press Agency. "The number will certainly not correspond to the number of (transferred) tanks."

However, Szrot added that the transfer of tanks would be part of an international coalition so that Ukraine could "feel" this support.

Slovakia's Defense Minister Jaroslav Nad also confirmed on March 9 that his country was prepared to send MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine in a joint effort with Poland.

Nad told the Associated Press on March 1 that his country was considering transferring 10 of its 11 Soviet-era MiG-29 fighter jets, with the last one going to a museum.

Comment – The US is planning to equip the MiG-29 with US air-to-air missiles.

EU could top up fund for Ukraine arms purchases by 3.5 billion euros - official - The EU could soon top up the fund used for purchasing weapons for Ukraine by 3.5 billion euros (\$3.7 billion), a senior EU official said on Friday.

Under a plan drawn up by foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, EU states would get financial incentives worth 1 billion euros (\$1.06 billion) to send more of their artillery rounds to Kyiv while another 1 billion euros would fund joint procurement of new shells.

"If there is a deal on this 2-billion-euro package, resources under the EPF will be exhausted," the EU official said, referring to the European Peace Facility (EPF) used to fund arms for Kyiv.

Anti-Russia Guerrillas in Belarus Take on 'Two-Headed Enemy' - After Russia invaded Ukraine, guerrillas from Belarus began carrying out acts of sabotage on their country's railways.

After Russia invaded Ukraine, guerrillas from Belarus carried out acts of sabotage on their country's railways, including blowing up track equipment to paralyze the rails that Russian forces used to get troops and weapons into Ukraine.

In the most recent act they attacked a Russian warplane parked just outside the Belarusian capital.

"Belarusians will not allow Russians free use of our territory for the war with Ukraine, and we want to force them to leave," Anton, a retired Belarusian serviceman who joined a group of saboteurs, told The AP in a phone interview.

"The Russians must understand on whose side Belarusians are actually fighting," he said, speaking on the condition that his last name be withheld for security reasons.

More than a year after Russia used the territory of its neighbor and ally to invade Ukraine, Belarus continues to host Russian troops, as well as warplanes, missiles and other weapons. The Belarusian opposition condemns the

cooperation, and a guerrilla movement sprang up to disrupt the Kremlin's operations, both on the ground and online. Meanwhile, Belarus' authoritarian government is trying to crack down on saboteurs with threats of the death penalty and long prison terms.

Activists say rail attacks forced the Russian military to abandon the use of trains to send troops and materiel to Ukraine.

The retired serviceman is a member of the Association of Security Forces of Belarus, or BYPOL, a guerrilla group founded amid mass political protests in Belarus in 2020. Its core is composed of former military members.

Another group of guerrillas operates in cyberspace. Their coordinator, Yuliana Shametavets, said some 70 Belarusian IT specialists are hacking into Russian government databases and attacking websites of Russian and Belarusian state institutions.

"The future of Belarus depends directly on the military success of Ukraine," Shametavets said. "We're trying to contribute to Ukraine's victory as best we can."

Last month, the cyber-guerrillas reported hacking a subsidiary of Russia's state media watchdog, Roskomnadzor. They said they were able to penetrate the subsidiary's inner network, download more than two terabytes of documents and emails, and share data showing how Russian authorities censor information about the war in Ukraine.

They also hacked into Belarus' state database containing information about border crossings and are now preparing a report on Ukrainian citizens who were recruited by Russia and went to meet with their handlers in Belarus.

Comment – We have previously and in multiple issues reported and commented on Belarusian pro-Ukraine partisan disruption. The majority of the Belarusian military establishment are vehemently opposed to any invasion of Ukraine involving their home forces on behalf of and/or in support of the Russian Federation.

Comments, Updates, Developments and Reports

Russian submarines off U.S. east coast spark cold war comparisons - The growing presence of Russian submarines off the coast of the US sparked Cold War comparisons from military observers and a retired NATO admiral.

The Russian military has undergone a sweeping modernization drive after it was forced to abandon many new ships following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Its navy now commands one of the most diverse submarine fleets in the world, with an estimated 58 vessels, some capable of carrying ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads, which Moscow considers key to its strategic deterrent.

Putin set on expanding Russia's underwater capabilities. Over the past several years, Moscow has been producing a series of submarines that have the capability to reach the most critical targets in the U.S. or continental Europe.

The level of Russian submarine deployment is similar to what was seen in the Cold War, in terms of numbers, Admiral Manfred Nielson, who was Germany's highest-ranking NATO admiral before he retired in September 2019, said.

"I personally believe that Russia never changes its behavior because they are operating, of course, an impressive submarine fleet and showing that they can be represented all over the world," Nielson told Newsweek.

"So now maybe there are some investigations that they are currently operating more off the United States Coast. I can't see any difference between the Cold War and today's activities."

World War III? It's close, Orbán claims - The likelihood of the war in Ukraine turning into a global conflict is growing, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán (pictured) said Friday morning.

Speaking on state-owned Kossuth Rádió, Hungary's leader criticized Western capitals and accused Ukraine's allies of promoting a conflict due to economic interests.

"The world has never been so close," Orbán
"The likelihood of this is increasing day by

The Hungarian prime minister also said —
could send troops to help Ukraine, which is
Putin's full-scale invasion.

"We are very close, in my opinion, for it to
allied — the soldiers of countries allied with

Orbán, who has nurtured a close relationship
has come under fire both at home and
promoting a Russian-style narrative



said to "a local war" turning into "a world war."
day," he added.

without providing proof — that Kyiv's partners
battling against Russian President Vladimir

be put on the table as serious proposal for
Ukraine — to also cross the border," he said.

with the Kremlin over the past decade,
abroad over the past year for
on the war.

Comment – Still aligned to Moscow in a smaller fashion, and as part of the EU, Hungary continues to pursue its own direction. Orbán, although sometimes swimming against EU and NATO narrative tides, often makes statements and expresses points of view that deserve closer attention.

Putin & Russia

Putin now concerned about his own safety, former ambassador says - Former U.S. ambassador to Russia John Sullivan said Friday that Putin is concerned about his own safety as his lifestyle is being impacted by his ongoing war in Ukraine.

Sullivan said that Putin's lifestyle has in fact been impacted by his full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which is limiting his movements for safety reasons.

"From what we have seen, his lifestyle has been affected in the following sense," Sullivan said. "He can't travel by air anywhere close to southwestern Russia in getting to Sochi, for example, one of his most favorite places to go. He can't travel there by air. He's now traveling more by train. He's concerned about his own safety. As for the economic impacts, if the question is more about supporting his lavish lifestyle, I don't think that's much of a concern as concerns about his own safety."

A Russian investigative news website called The Project recently reported, citing unnamed officials, that Putin is living with his girlfriend, former Olympic gymnast Alina Kabaeva, in a villa at an estate he owns on Lake Valdai, which is located 400 kilometers northwest of Moscow and spans across 13,000 square feet, according to WION News. Children have also been spotted near the premises.

Russian girl, 13, sent to orphanage over anti-war drawing - 80,000 people have signed a petition demanding the 13-year-old be released back into her father's care.

A Russian girl has been shut away in a grim state orphanage after she drew a 'No to War' picture with the words 'Glory to Ukraine'.

Masha Moskalyova was removed from her single parent father Alexei Moskalyov, 54, following a terrifying inquisition by Vladimir Putin's FSB counterintelligence service – and is allowed no contact with the outside world.

The move by the authorities has provoked outrage with an 80,000-signature petition demanding she is allowed home.

It demands the authorities “immediately release” the girl to her father who is “morally crushed” by the child being removed from his care.

Russian politicians and Z-channels demand to kill the leaders of Ukraine and recognize the country as a “terrorist state” in response to the “hostage-taking” in the Bryansk region - Information about the hostage-taking by the "Ukrainian DRG" in the border village of Sushany, Bryansk region, caused a strong reaction from the "patriotic" media and parliamentarians.

Information about the hostage-taking by the "Ukrainian DRG" in the border village of Sushany, Bryansk region, caused a strong reaction from the "patriotic" media and parliamentarians.

State Duma deputy from the SZRP Mikhail Delyagin said that "the only normal response" to this incident would be the "immediate destruction of Zelenskyy and Zaluzhny." He demanded that Ukraine be recognized as a terrorist state and that any supplies be closed for it, including the “notorious diesel fuel”, which was allegedly supplied by Lukoil structures to the Armed Forces of Ukraine after the start of the war. “However, as the impotent men explained to me, they cannot recognize even the Ukrainian Gestapo as terrorist, because it is a state authority,” Delyagin wrote.

Russian “military correspondents” made similar demands. One, a member of the presidential HRC, Alexander Kots, compared the “Ukrainian DRG” with the detachments of the Chechen terrorist Shamil Basayev, “this vermin that we cleared out by the middle of the ‘tenths’”. “The commanders of the Armed Forces of Ukraine at all levels, including the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, are responsible for what is happening. And they should not sleep peacefully,” he said.

*Extraction from independent Russian media site **Verstka** and translated with Google Translate.*

Putin dealt double blow as two of his closest allies turn on him - Turkey and Hungary, whose leaders had been among the few in Europe to keep an open door to Moscow after the beginning of its illegal invasion of Ukraine, seem to be turning their backs on Russia.



This month, the Turkish government, which mediated peace talks between Kyiv and Moscow last year, abruptly halted the transit of sanctioned goods to Russia, after having received several warnings from the European Union and the United States about these products helping Russia's war effort in Ukraine.

This week, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán announced his country will reassess its relationship with Russia. Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine last February and the following sanctions imposed by the EU, Orbán has kept an ambivalent stance towards Moscow.

Orbán and his government were slow to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and repeatedly opposed EU sanctions against Moscow and financial aid to Kyiv. As an energy crisis unfolded across Europe last year, Orbán consistently blamed higher costs on the sanctions imposed on Russia, calling for the EU to put an end to the measures.

This latest apparent change of direction for Turkey's Erdogan and Hungary's Orbán shows that, as the war drags on for longer than anyone would have expected at its start, even Putin's closest allies in Europe are being forced to reconsider what's more convenient, strategically, for their countries.

While Turkey kept a good balance last year between keeping its ties with Russia without completely angering Europe and the U.S., this position now seems increasingly untenable. Turkey's defiant resistance to the punitive measures

imposed by the U.S. and the EU on Russia threatened to cost the country's companies and banks to be punished for contravening sanctions, as Brian Nelson, the U.S. Treasury Department's top sanctions official, made clear during meetings in Ankara and Istanbul last month.

Orbán too has until now played both sides, avoiding being straight-out anti-Ukrainian to keep enjoying the benefits of its EU and NATO membership while refusing to stop developing its ties with Moscow and abandoning its Russia-friendly stance.

But Orbán, talking about the need to reassess Hungary's relationship with Russia during an economic forum in Budapest on Thursday, didn't suggest cutting ties with Moscow completely.

Mass backstabbing spree over Putin's war sweeps Russia - Russian citizens are ratting each other out to authorities in droves for anti-war comments made in bars, beauty salons, and grocery stores in roughly a dozen cities across the country, according to a new report from the independent Russian news outlet Vrestka.

Many of those jailed after being reported by other citizens were charged under Article 20.3.3 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation, a new law signed by Putin last year criminalizing "public actions aimed at discrediting" Russian Armed Forces.

One Russian man from Bryansk, Mikhail Kolokolnikov, was reportedly fined and jailed for two days after a stranger called authorities on him for saying the phrase "Glory to Ukraine" at a bar on Jan. 15. In an interview with Vrestka, Kolokolniko said that two officers stormed the bar shortly after he said the phrase to another man, demanding to know, "Who said 'Glory to Ukraine' here?"

Nation of 37 million in Putin's firing line: 'Enemy for centuries'

Poland is calling for US troops to be permanently based on its soil as it carries out a 'pivot' role in arming the fight against Russia.

Staring down the barrel of Putin's war machine as it facilitates Europe's response to the crisis in Ukraine, Poland is beefing up its military hardware in case it's also attacked by Russia.

Sharing a border with Ukraine, it knows full well what could be in store if its neighbour falls to Russia.

"We know Russia well," Polish diplomat Adrian Kubicki told VICE News this week. "It's been our enemy for centuries.

The country has become the key transfer point for western weapons to the battlefield as it marshals Europe's response, builds up its own arsenal and calls for US troops to be permanently based on its soil.



Pictured above are vehicles being offloaded in Poland en route to Ukraine.

Also pictured right is the central square in Warsaw's "New Town," completely rebuilt to original plans after the Nazis levelled the city in the late stages of WWII – while Russian forces waited outside the city to allow the Germans to complete their destruction.

It brings back memories of years ago when I enjoyed lunch in the many restaurants in the plaza during my various trips to the country.

Comment – In my many conversations with Poles, particularly those from WWII, I found one very strong constant.

They hate the Germans for invading and occupying them in September 1939, but they absolutely and intensely despise Russia.



Poland is 'pivotal' in fight against Russian aggression

Poland's involvement in the ongoing conflict has been "fundamentally important" as Ukraine continues to gain access to NATO supplies via the country as well as being "pivotal" for the exfiltration of refugees.

A loss for Ukraine would be a loss for an expert in International Security & Intelligence Studies at the Australian National University.

"Allowing Ukraine to fall to Russia would be to invite further adventurism that would potentially and most likely threaten the independence and integrity of Poland," he told Yahoo News Australia.

Pictured are Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal and Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki shaking hands next to the first Leopard 2 tanks delivered from Poland last month.



Poland, says Professor John Blaxland,

Ukraine matters

Firstly, any future narrative must emphasize the principles of the UN Charter and security for all countries. Global rules — such as territorial integrity, respect for internationally recognized borders, non-interference in the domestic affairs of another state, and the non-use of force — matter. It is about respecting each other as countries with equal rights under international law.

The international community has evolved to resolve disputes through political, diplomatic or legal means, not through war. It is for the safety and security of each and every country that the international system should not allow such a war. The current global order could be adjusted to promote greater equality and fair rules.

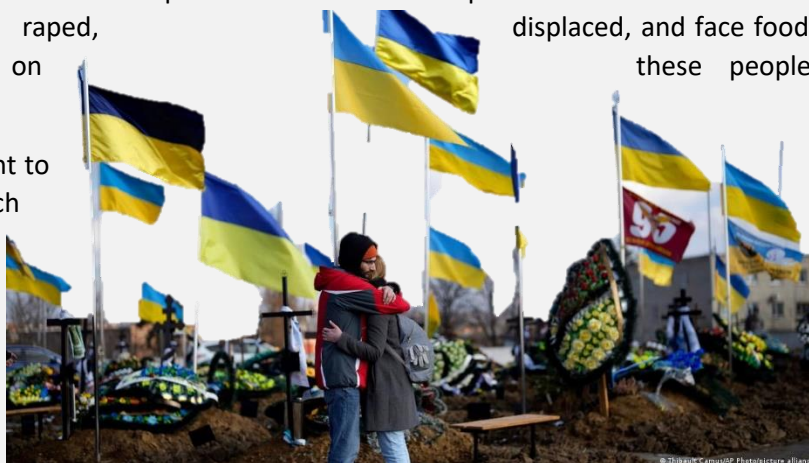
Secondly, this is not about the US or the West, but about Ukraine. Ukraine matters. Many countries have chosen to distance themselves from the US-led support coalition or do not want to take sides in a conflict between the US and Europe, as well as between Russia and China, either because they do not want to get caught in the middle, or because of their own national interests and historical experiences, including with European countries.

This is about Ukraine, a country that in 1994 gave up its nuclear arsenal and put its security in the hands of the international community; a country that, like many others, wanted to follow its own path, but was invaded and saw its citizens killed in horrific acts.

This is not about taking political sides, but about supporting the ability of a country to be free to choose its own destiny. This focus on the freedom of choice should resonate in many countries that fought for their independence.

Thirdly, human security matters. People matter. The most important fact remains that many civilians are suffering, have been killed, raped, displaced, and face food and health insecurity. The world needs to focus on these people and what they have suffered.

In a world where we fight to problems, which large parts of the allow the situation to ultimate recipients of Europeans, Russians, but humans all over



eliminate these kinds of unfortunately still exist in world, we must not deteriorate. The security are not the West or the East, the world.

If any other political countries from taking a stand, this is the ultimate argument: We must take a stand for the sake of humanity and peace.

Extract from an article by Radu Magdin, a global Romanian analyst, consultant and former prime ministerial adviser in Romania and Moldova in German-based DV of yesterday.