

THE UKRAINE WAR

Putin's Propaganda about Ukraine

IS PUTIN'S PROPAGANDA ABOUT UKRAINE COMPLETELY FALSE?



Putin does not want Ukraine to be independent

Source 1: Extract from 'Russia's Putin opens wallet to Ukraine, offers \$15B in bonds', Associated Press, published on Canadian news website CBC.ca, 17th December 2013



Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday opened his wallet in the battle with the European Union over Ukraine's future, saying Moscow will buy \$15 billion worth of Ukrainian government bonds and sharply cut the price of natural gas for its economically struggling neighbour.

The announcements came after Putin held talks in Moscow with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, who is facing massive protests at home for his decision to shelve a pact with the EU in favor of closer ties with Moscow. Russia's bailout package angered protesters, who immediately accused Yanukovich of selling out the country to the Kremlin and pressed demands for his ouster.

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Source 2: Podcast by American public broadcasting channel NPR discussing the aftermath of the Maidan revolution and the downfall of Yanukovych, 2022

NOEL KING, HOST: Oliver Bullough is a journalist who writes a lot about financial crime. For many years, he worked in Eastern Europe. And in 2014, he was in Ukraine, and Ukraine was in bad shape.

OLIVER BULLOUGH: Ukraine was a basket case. You know, it was in a mess. The roads were falling apart. The government was terrible. You had to pay bribes to get anything done. The children couldn't get the medicines they needed. I mean, it was awful.

KING: It was awful. But it was also interesting. Oliver is fascinated by the countries that make up the former Soviet Union, like Ukraine. Since the end of the Cold War, Ukraine has always sort of had one foot in Europe and one foot in Russia. And then in 2013-2014, Ukraine's president, a man named Viktor Yanukovych, decided to move both feet toward Russia. His government suspended a plan to sign this trade deal with the European Union, which would ideally have brought open markets and transparency. He said, no, we want more trade with Russia and its oligarchs and corruption.

BULLOUGH: This sort of small group of intellectuals were furious. You know, and they went and protested. And the protests continued. And then the government responded in a very heavy-handed way. So more people protested. And it just snowballed and snowballed until eventually it became this sort of expression of rage. The president just had to run away. Basically, he more-or-less went away in the clothes he was wearing.

KING: He did bring his hand luggage. But when Yanukovych got on his helicopter and bounced to Russia, everyone, including Oliver, was able to get this rare window into how he'd been living because his houses were just left open - left there for anyone to see. So Oliver goes to Yanukovych's palace on the outskirts of Kiev.

BULLOUGH: I walk up to this fence. It's an ordinary green fence - a very tall green fence but unremarkable. You know, it could be around a municipal dump or something. And then I walked through this gateway, and it was like I'd entered a wonderland. I'd been in this ordinary Ukrainian suburb, where there's potholes in the roads, and the tower blocks are rundown. And, you know, the buses are thirdhand from Hungary. And suddenly through this gate in the fence, I've entered an entirely other universe where everything is brilliant. So there's a golf course. There's a kind of enclosure for shooting animals. You know, wild boars would be brought out and shot there. There was a kind of Spanish galleon built on the side of the river.

KING: Like a pirate ship?

BULLOUGH: Yeah, like a pirate ship - that sort of thing. He didn't have an actual pirate flag, but that's what it looked like. And then there was this palace - a log cabin but five stories high. The amounts of money that have been spent on this place - it was absolutely extraordinary. Yanukovych had gone away in his helicopter and just headed off and left it behind. And it was magical in a kind of almost hallucinatory way - like being in a dream. And the joy of this kind of post-revolutionary time is there was no one to stop you doing this. If you were curious, then you just carried on. And you just looked and poked around. And once I'd been in his palace, I kind of got the bug. And I'd go and look in other places.

KING: Those other places were also in Ukraine. And so Oliver starts travelling around and looking. And along the way, he goes from marveling at what he's seeing to being really, really angry. Ukrainians are poor. The country is a mess. And that is what's on his mind when Oliver and his friend Anton walk into Yanukovych's hunting lodge.

BULLOUGH: Everything was exactly how he'd left it - you know, the heated massage table. There was a sauna, a plunge pool. Everything - the lawns were perfectly mowed. It was absolutely surreal.

KING: Even the bathrooms were ridiculous.

BULLOUGH: In the bathroom, opposite the toilet at sitting-down height was a really big television. So obviously, you know, if he'd been in bed watching a TV show and then needed to go to the loo, he'd nip across and just be able to continue watching it in the toilet. And never seen anything like this before. That was the moment that made me really realize how appalling this man had been. And I said to Anton, how did you not stop him? And Anton, who is a polite guy but, you know, a passionate person, he said - exploded at me really. And he said, we didn't know. We couldn't have known because - he just said look. If you look it up - look it up. This palace, it isn't even in Ukraine. Look it up. It's in England. And I was like, what on earth do you mean? And he's like, look it up. Look it up. So I went, and I did look it up in the land registry. And, you know, the area of land was owned by a Ukrainian company. And that Ukrainian company was owned by a British company. And British company was owned by another British company. And that British company was owned by a foundation in Liechtenstein.

The West wants to lure Ukraine away from Russia

Source 3: Protesters fighting policemen during the Maidan Revolution, 18 February 2014



The West wants to lure Ukraine away from Russia

Source 4: Extract from an article published in the American left-wing political magazine, Jacobin, 7th February 2022

But righteous though their cause may have been, the movement's critics had a point, too...Whatever one thinks of the Maidan protests, the increasing violence of those involved was key to their ultimate victory. In response to a brutal police crackdown, protesters began fighting with chains, sticks, stones, petrol bombs, even a bulldozer — and, eventually, firearms, all culminating in what was effectively an armed battle in February, which left thirteen police officers and nearly fifty protesters dead. The police “could no longer defend themselves’ from protesters’ attacks,” writes political scientist Sergiy Kudelia, causing them to retreat, and precipitating Yanukovich’s exit.

...outside Kyiv...members of the far-right Svoboda party — whose leader once complained Ukraine was run by a “Muscovite-Jewish mafia” and which includes a politician who admires Joseph Goebbels — were the most active agents in the protests.

Putin is just the latest in a long line of foreign rulers who want to take Ukraine

Source 5: A political cartoon titled "World Peace in Ukraine" from 1919. It shows Ukrainians surrounded by a Bolshevik (to the north, man with hat and red star), a Russian White Army soldier (to the east, with Russian eagle flag), and to the west a Polish soldier, a Hungarian (in pink uniform) and two Romanian soldiers



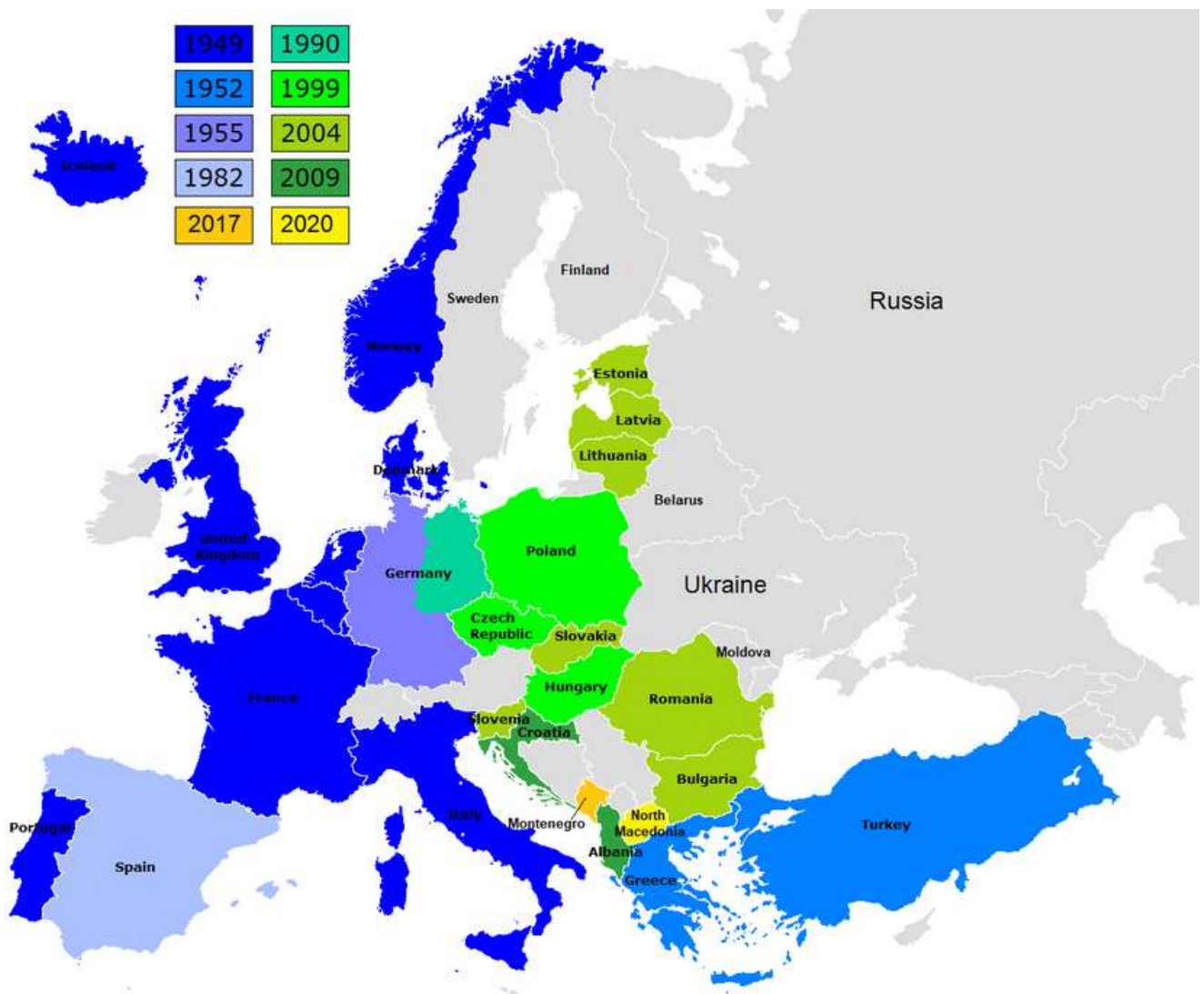
Putin is just the latest in a long line of foreign rulers who want to take Ukraine

Source 6: Extract from “The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives”, published in 1997 by American diplomat Zbigniew Brzezinski

Ukraine, a new and important space on the Eurasian chessboard, is a geopolitical pivot because its very existence as an independent country helps to transform Russia. Without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be a Eurasian empire. Russia without Ukraine can still strive for imperial status, but it would then become a predominantly Asian imperial state...However, if Moscow regains control over Ukraine, with its 52 million people and major resources as well as its access to the Black Sea, Russia automatically again regains the wherewithal to become a powerful imperial state, spanning Europe and Asia.

The West is expanding its empire by moving NATO closer and closer to Russia

Source 7: Map of NATO expansion year by year



The West is expanding its empire by moving NATO closer and closer to Russia

Source 8: Comments by American diplomat George Keenan, published in the New York Times on 5th February 1997 and 2nd May 1998

“expanding NATO would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-cold-war era. Such a decision may be expected to inflame the nationalistic, anti-Western and militaristic tendencies in Russian opinion; to have an adverse effect on the development of Russian democracy; to restore the atmosphere of the cold war to East-West relations.”

“There was no reason for this whatsoever. No one was threatening anybody else... Don't people understand? Our differences in the cold war were with the Soviet Communist regime. And now we are turning our backs on the very people who mounted the greatest bloodless revolution in history to remove that Soviet regime.”

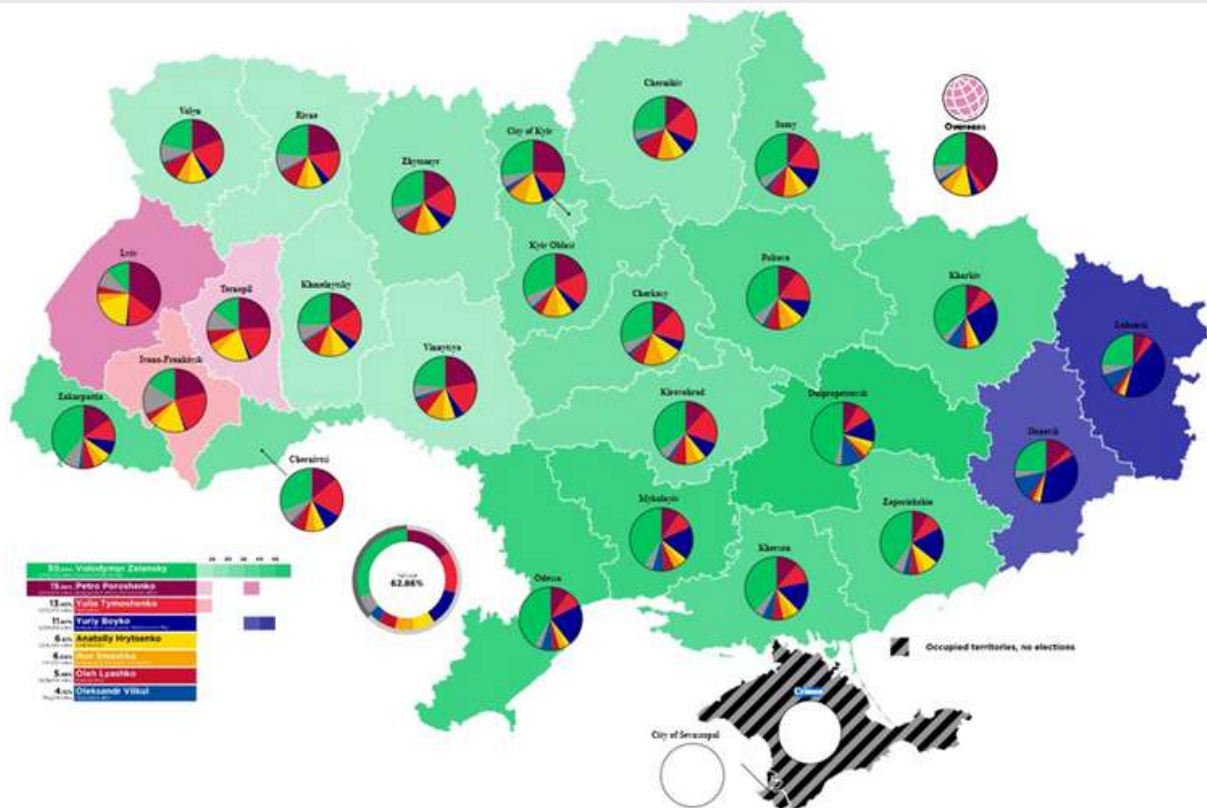
Ukraine is a united, liberal, European country

Source 9: Extract from 'For Russian speakers in Ukraine, a candidate talking their language', from French news website France24, 16 April 2019

In his startling run to become Ukraine's next president, comedian Volodymyr Zelensky has enjoyed a key advantage over his rivals: strong support from the country's Russian-speaking regions...A native Russian speaker himself from the central city of Kryvyi Rig, Zelensky appears on track to deal an upset defeat to incumbent Petro Poroshenko in Sunday's second round of voting...That has set him apart from Poroshenko, who has used patriotic slogans and mocked Zelensky's spoken Ukrainian...

Ukraine is a united, liberal, European country

Source 10: Map of the results of the first round of voting in the 2019 presidential election in Ukraine. Areas where Zelenskyy won a majority are shown in green



Ukraine is an artificial creation

Source 11: Map showing the when different parts of modern Ukraine were added to Ukrainian territory

Territories annexed to Ukraine...



Ukraine is an artificial creation

Source 12: Map of the 2010 election results in Ukraine that accompanied an article from National Geographic titled 'How History, Geography Help Explain Ukraine's Political Crisis', 31 January 2014

support more Western-leaning politicians. The east tends to be more Russian-speaking and Orthodox, with parts of the west more Ukrainian-speaking and with heavier Catholic influences.

Ukraine's east-west divide

Ukrainians voted their regional identities in the 2010 elections, with the east staunchly supporting the pro-Russian winner for the presidency, Viktor Yanukovich.



Ukraine fights because it suffered under Russian rule in the USSR

Source 13: Passers-by no longer pay attention to the corpses of starved peasants on a street in Kharkiv, Ukraine, 1933



Ukraine fights because it suffered under Russian rule in the USSR

Source 14: Extracts from 'Vasyl Stus Persecuted poet', published in academic journal Index on Censorship, 1977

Vasyl Semyonovich Stus is a noted poet and translator who first fell victim to official wrath twelve years ago, in 1965, when he took part in a meeting in Kiev to protest against the suppression of Ukrainian literature and culture. As a result of that gesture, Stus was forced to abandon his doctorate, his poems were banned, and in 1966 he was sacked from his post at the State Historical Archives in Kiev. Stus found a job on a building site, but was dismissed for 'working outside his profession'. He continued to protest publicly against the persecution of

other writers, including his fellow-Ukrainian Valentyn Moroz, who was arrested in 1970. Two years later Stus was himself arrested and charged with 'the distribution of false ideas harmful to the Soviet order'. In September 1972 he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and three years' exile.

Ukraine is a fascist state

Source 15: A statue of the Ukrainian Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera, erected in the Western Ukrainian city of Ternopil in 2008



Ukraine is a fascist state

Source 16: Extract from 'Mapping Militant Organizations. "Azov Movement." Stanford University, 2022

The Azov Movement is a far-right nationalist network of military, paramilitary, and political organizations based in Ukraine. The paramilitary Azov Battalion component formed in 2014 before integrating into the Ukrainian National Guard as a Special Purposes Regiment...It is notable for its recruitment of far-right foreign fighters from the U.S., Russia, and Europe, as well as extensive transnational ties with other far-right organizations...In 2005, Andriy Biletsky recreated the Kharkiv-based Patriot of Ukraine (PU) to champion white nationalist, anti-immigrant, extreme-right ideas in Ukraine...in 2010, Biletsky claimed it was Ukraine's national mission to "lead the white races of the world in a final crusade...against semite-led untermenschen (subhumans)...In March 2014, following the annexation of Crimea, the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense encouraged volunteer military units to mobilize a resistance campaign against Russian-backed separatists in Donbas...Biletsky and several other PU members formed the Azov Battalion in response to this call.

Ukraine has cultural ties with all its neighbours, not just Russia

Source 17: Extract from 'Ukrainian and Russian: how similar are the two languages?' by Neil Bermel, Professor of Russian and Slavonic Studies, University of Sheffield, published on the online academic website The Conversation, 7 March 2022

As Russian and Ukrainian diverged from each other relatively recently (less than a millennium ago), they still share a lot of basic and core vocabulary – but not enough to be considered dialects of a single language.

One frequently cited figure is that Ukrainian and Russian share about 62% of their vocabulary. This is about the same amount of shared vocabulary that English has with Dutch, according to the same calculations.

She foresaw global developments and rewrote British politics accordingly

Source 18: Map showing that Ukraine has several minorities in addition to Russians, taken from a Ukrainian geography textbook



Russian and Ukrainian history is one

Source 19: Monument to Vladimir the Great, located in Borovitskaya Square in central Moscow. He was Prince of Novgorod, Grand Prince of Kiev, and ruler of Kievan Rus' (an early state centred on Kiev that many Russians see as the first Russian state) from 980 to 1015



Russian and Ukrainian history is one

Source 20: Extract from the diary of Ukrainian scientist Mikhail Usyk as the Red Army's liberation of the city of Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine grew near, 1943

...The fascists are facing their final hour. Our hearts are filled with joy... Our own people are close. We are waiting impatiently for them, the liberators...