

Xersonesus

An Historical and Critical Encyclopedia of the Ukraine War

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seppie coi piselli alla romana

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A

Artemovsk (Donbas) village • See Bakhmut-Artemovsk.

Artillery (weapon) • In a phrase coined by the gravedigger of the revolution, Joseph Stalin, artillery is the god of war. The god of war, however, is now but only a vital component in an evolving array of combined arms in eastern Europe. In the beginning of the Ukraine war the media focused almost exclusively on parity. The number of Russian artillery guns, calibre, the number of munitions, the type of munitions, or the way in which the Russians accurately targeted Ukrainian targets demonstrated the advantage Russia weaned over its opponent. In nearly every category, the Russians managed to demonstrate a noticeable superiority, a superiority not merely in quantity but in quality. The range of Russian calibres for artillery, for instance, far exceeded that of the Ukrainians. Confined to the 155mm M777 howitzers, the Ukrainians could not exercise fire control over battle areas in the way the Russians did.

In the beginning of the Ukraine war, primarily before the great Ukrainian offensive in Kharkiv, launched on September 6th but largely until the end of Ukraine's 'Spring' counteroffensive in 2023, artillery played a dominant role on the battlefield. Ukraine's failed 'Spring' counteroffensive witnessed confirmed Russia's seizure of the strategic initiative after the fall of Bakhmut-Artemovsk on May 23rd, 2023. In the winter of 2023 the Ukraine war underwent a major transformation in the deployment of drones. Ukraine began to mass produce First Person View (FPV) drones to strengthen its defense of the Donbas in the face of

continued Russian advances. Necessity is the mother of invention but the transformation could have come soon enough for Ukraine's defense of Avdiivka, a major turning point in the Ukraine war after the fall of Bakhmut-Artemovsk for Russian tactics (i.e., tunneling and FAB bombing with "glide kits") and Ukraine's deficiencies in artillery. Ukraine's FPV drones began to play a dominant role on the battlefield, overtaking but by no means substituting for the role artillery played in the beginning of the war. The first Ukrainian brigades with dedicated, trained, expert drone pilots began to take shape.

Avdiivka (Donbas) village • Ukraine's defense of Avdiivka, a major turning point in the Ukraine war after the fall of Bakhmut-Artemovsk for Russian tactics (i.e., tunneling and FAB bombing with "glide kits") and Ukraine's deficiencies in artillery and its deployment of FPV drones, collapsed on January 17th, 2024.

Axe, David () • One of the more committed journalists of the Ukraine war, whose coverage of the Donbas, especially in the Avdiivka direction from 2023 to the present, eclipsed others. Published primarily in Forbes, these articles are an important source of information. At a time when the majority of news from the frontlines comes almost exclusively from 'milibloggers,' Axe's analyses shed light on rarely mentioned or hardly examined aspects of the Ukraine war.

Forbes, whose annual lists of America's four hundred richest Americans constituted one of the Socialist Equality Party's the primary staples of propaganda in the years preceding the 2008 subprime mortgage crisis, the nine years after the party's

¹The SEP's launch preceded the Federal Bureau of Investigation's launch of a Federal Intrusion Detection Network, or FIDNET, modeled after a famous program from Linux's suite of open source security software called Snort, a network intrusion detection system (NIDS). Mentioned in the article published on August 10th, 1999, under the title "White House plan for FBI Internet spying," FIDNET is one of the earliest precursors to the drag-net surveillance Edward Snowden

launch of the World Socialist Web-site in 1998¹ under the pretense of a Marxian renaissance.² These early articles³ stand in stark contrast with the present stream of current headlines. It would seem that as opposed to those ten years of doldrums, history's acceleration required expanded coverage, prompting the SEP to abandon its annual review of Forbes' lists.

Axe's affinity for the representation of events from the Ukraine war in his articles with a relative approximation towards facts, however tainted by his ambition for a Ukrainian victory, became a source of unease at the editorial board. Questions like the following likely flashed through Forbes's editorial board: What if an intelligent

reader could see through the transparent attempt to portray Ukraine's armed forces in the most positive light imaginable? Might they be able to read between the lines? Wouldn't it be apropos? It would only be a matter of time before Forbes, whose aim is to articulate the interest of a wealthy elite, would clash with Axe's propensity for factually based reporting on the highly politicized Ukraine war. Forbes, the famous magazine celebrating the top one percent of the nation-state's richest people annually, decided to fire Axe, terminating his coverage before the end of the Ukraine war, the outcome of which has been to deprive posterity of one its auspicious eyes.

B

Bakhmut-Artemovsk () • The city whose fall sounded a death knell for the Ukrainian strategic initiative. Spellt **Бахмут — Артёмівськ** in Ukrainian but — **Бахмут — Артемовск** in Russian, the city's history is unique.

Bombing (bomb · ing) Gerund • Bombing has thus far been ineffective from the beginning of the Ukraine war. It alone has not accomplished a single strategic objective for any of the warring parties.

The New York Times is one of the

exposed in his leak of secret documents from the National Security Agency (NSA). Originally exposed in an article published on July 28th, 1999, by the New York Times under the title, "The U.S. Drawing Plan That Will Monitor Computer Systems," FIDNET is a part of the pre-history to the U.S. conspiracy to deprive citizens of life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness through the technological obliteration of the founding father's Bill of Rights, especially the Fourth Amendment. Although the early SEP article makes no mention of the U.S. Constitution, the legal critique, so famous now, would only become more provocative as the U.S. conspiracy strengthened its execution.

²In an article published on October 31st, 1998 under the title, "International school examines the century's central problems of history, politics and culture," the International Committee of the Fourth International emphasized how a "central premise guiding the school was that a renaissance of Marxism is fundamental to the development of a perspective that can answer the burning issues of the day—growing social inequality, deepening economic crises, the decline in the cultural level of society and the prevailing political paralysis of the workers movement."

³The first appears to be ["Gap between rich and poor is wider than ever," June 23, 1998] but many more follow: ["The Forbes 200 list: billions for the privileged few," June 30, 1999], ["Forbes 400 list of richest Americans: snapshot of a financial oligarchy," September 24th, 2004], ["Forbes reports bonanza for world's billionaires," May 9th, 2005], ["The very rich in America: 'The kind of money you cannot comprehend,' April 19, 2006], ["Forbes publishes list of 400 richest Americans," October 6, 2006], ["The filthy rich: Forbes lists America's top 400 for 2007," November 27th, 2007], ["America's 'Fortunate 400' control vast wealth," March 7th, 2008].

⁴["How to Choke Iraq," NYT, December 7th, 1990.]

⁵["Bombing Iraq Isn't Enough," NYT, January 30th, 1998.]

⁶["American Bombs Make Iraq Stronger," NYT, December 20th, 1998.]

⁷["Bomb North Korea, Before It's Too Late," NYT, April 12th, 2013.]

⁸["Bomb Syria, Even if It is Illegal," NYT, August 27th, 2013.]

⁹["To Stop Iran's Bomb, Bomb Iran," NYT, March 26th, 2015.]

most fervent advocates of bombing.⁴
⁵ ⁶ ⁷ ⁸ ⁹ With its well known history of advocating for bombing, the New York Times' publication of an ar-

ticle condemning Russia's own bombing campaign during the latter end of 2022 contrasts sharply with its own history of opinion.

C

CIA (Abbreviation) Noun •

It is often claimed in print that the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) predicted the beginning of the Ukraine war. It is true. The CIA forecast Russia's full-scale invasion less than two weeks in advance.¹⁰ In the publications in Ukrainian, Hebrew, Russian, or English, the majority of the accompanying images are pulled directly from an article published seven years ahead of its time. On Mar 9, 2015, Stratfor published its famous article, "Gaming a Russian Offensive." The scenarios the CIA discusses in its forecast are replications of those from Stratfor's article. The arrows in these sets of images follow those in Stratfor's article.

It is interesting how these new images spiral outward from a common source almost like a Fibonacci sequence, adding more arrows with the fractionalization of the original scenarios. In one of the articles published by *Українська правда*, the newspaper reports on February 12th how "Росія має 9 маршрутів сєргнення до України, танки можуть сягнути Києва за 2 доби - розвідка США". A few of these nine routes, as impracti-

cal as the aforementioned fractionalization, could not have been farther from the truth, as the Russia massed scores of Russian troops on the highways into the Donbas, where the majority of the fighting raged for years before Russia launched its full-scale invasion. These three additional scenarios exceed Stratfor's original six.

Cocaine (drug) Noun • Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation elected by more than 87.8 percent of the vote in Russia's last election in 2024 for a new six year term, becoming Russia's longest-serving leader for more than 200 years, famously declared his preference to work with those whose «Нос в кокаине!» than «с умными» in an interview with Димитрий Константинович Киселев for «России 1» and РИА Новости on March 13th, 2024. The reference is in regard to negotiating an end to the Ukraine war.

Putin claimed that intelligent politicians had by that time started to change strategies for relating to Russia, explaining that these people are dangerous because they want to throw «всякие свои хотелки под видом морковки» (i.e., ulterior motives un-

¹⁰It is hard to imagine a time before the Kyiv Independent, the newspaper the Wall Street Journal tapped to cover the Ukraine war with the immediacy the U.S.-led NATO alliance demands for its rolling propaganda. *Українська правда*, however, is one of the few Ukrainian newspapers whose history of publication precedes the struggle for Ukraine. It is thus a newspaper preceding the Kyiv Independent's coverage on the Ukraine war. It published the majority of the articles covering the CIA's predictions. In one of these articles, the headline describes the attack to be within days: "Байден вважає, що Путін може напасти на Україну в найближчі дні – The Guardian," *Українська правда*, 11 лютого 2022. The first of these is reporting on The Guardian. It is a reference to the The Guardian's article published on February 11th under the title, "US warns of 'distinct possibility' Russia will invade Ukraine within days." Reporting on Der Spiegel revealed the date: ["ЦРУ назвало імовірну дату нападу Росії на Україну – Spiegel," *Українська правда*, 11 Лютого 2022]. A reference to the Der Spiegel's article published on February 11th under the title, "CIA rechnet mit russischem Angriff kommende Woche," the so-called імовірна дата could not have been vague in German. Another published a day after these read: ["Головні новини п'ятниці та ночі: ймовірний напад Росії, санкції РНБО, *Українська правда*, 12 Лютого 2022"].

der the guise of proposals for a negotiated settlement).¹¹ It is therefore to be determined whether the start of serious negotiations for the end of the

Ukraine war should start not with a peace proposal but with a mirror, razor or lines of cocaine, is it not?

D

Delta (Title) Software • Seldom mentioned in the media, Delta is a battlefield management system preceding the U.S. Army's phased release of its own Large Language Models for AI. Announced by Col. Jonathan Harvey from the U.S. Army on October 18th, 2025, the "sufficient, joint weapon target pairing Large Language Model (LLM)" is scheduled to run inside of the "kill chain," a model advancing from a simple exercise to a "fully devolved reasoning model." The most likely set of data is based on multiple projects running simultaneously in the field of artillery. One of these relates to completing the updates to NATO's firing tables, military artillery data sheets used for calculating trajectories, for the first time since the Cold War.¹² Another is likely the collocation of manuals on targeting, tactics, techniques or procedures¹³ for field artillery in combination with the aforementioned firing tables. In the face of the revolution the U.S. Army's phased release of its own Large Language Models is expected to achieve for combat management systems, Delta is now a legacy.

In the first year of the Ukraine war, a Russian affiliated hacker by name of «Джокер» managed to gain access to a Ukrainian commander's laptop with Delta on or around November 1st, 2022.¹⁴ Described as a system for controlling Ukrainian troops, the system allegedly contains details

about Ukrainian troops. At the time of the Джокер's announcement, Delta sounded like an unparalleled Ukrainian advantage in software development for the technology of warfare. In video footage from the article, however, Delta is an interactive map with real time updates. While the video footage is only one glimpse at the program, an interactive map could be hardly anything more than a 'novelty' by the New Year. A trend quickly emerged. The interactive map became a staple among journalists. The Ukrainian 'milblogger', DeepState, associated with Ukraine's intelligence services, championed updates to the "Map of the war in Ukraine," gaining recognition among the world's largest media companies. Military Summary, associated with Russia, is the first channel in the history of warfare to offer daily updates on the frontlines from the beginning of the Ukraine war. These 'mappers' overthrew the interactive maps with news, transforming war coverage forever.

The Department of Defense (Title) Phrase • In recognition of the role warfare plays in policy, the Trump administration reversed years of intellectually debased stagnation in the U.S. Armed Forces' bureaucracy with the elimination of the Department of Defense for the return of the Department of War during the Ukraine war.

Donbas () •

¹¹ ["Путин рассказал о предпочтении работать с теми, у кого «нос в кокаине», " Газета.ру, 13 марта 2024].

¹² ["NATO to make fresh push for common arms standards," Reuters October 16th, 2024]

¹³ [<https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP07S00452R000300820008-6.pdf>]

¹⁴ ["Безсонов заявил, что хакер из ДНР взломал систему управления войсками ВСУ DELTA," *Известия*, 1 ноября 2022], ["Хакер Джокер рассказал подробности о взломе системы управления войсками ВСУ," *Известия*, 1 ноября 2022]

E

Electricity () •

F

FAB () • See "glide kits" (i.e., Унифицированный модуль плани-

рования и коррекции (УМПК)).

G

Gantz, David M. () • A detailed, thorough, insightful military historian of the eastern front, Gantz is one of the U.S. Army's untapped resources America's intelligence never managed to consult prior to the transformation of Julia Nuland's successful 2014 Maidan coup d'etat into a full-scale provocation. Gantz's book, Operation Barbarossa: Hitler's Invasion of Russia 1941 provides a detailed historical account of the failed German offensive launched on June 22, 1941 against the Soviet Union.

gold () •

In a historic rise unlike any previous period of time, gold's significance against the backdrop of the Ukraine war has emphasized the role currencies play in the struggle for the great powers to become the only superpower. On February 1st, 2022, a troy ounce of gold cost 1797.91 dollars. On October 17th, 2025, the price for a troy ounce of gold surpassed 4,378.69 dollars, the highest in the precious metal's history. Sanctions, more than any other factors, has played the greatest role in the rise of gold.

H

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J

June 23rd, 2023 () • In one of the greatest psychological operations in the history of the Western world, Vladimir Putin staged a coup d'etat with Evgeny Prigozhin, the head of Russia's Private Military Corporation,

Wagner, an elite special force staffed by experienced, well trained, career military men with a long history, most especially in the Middle East and Africa.

K

Kupiansk () •

L

Light () • In one of the future developments of the Ukraine war, fiber optic drones, which are less susceptible to Directed Energy Weapons, High Powered Microwaves, or Electro-Magnetic Pulses, are expected to undergo a further transformation with the incorporation of light into the various components responsible for its flight. These components, mostly on-board electronics which are currently subject to disruption from a DEW, EMP or HPM, are expected to be de-

signed with light.

Light offers notable advantages not merely beyond immunity to these types of weapons. In terms of its ability to program realities in mathematics, light is capable of being configured to exhibit the properties theorized in group theory. For instance, passing light through a clear lens can serve as the unit; black lens as null; various other lenses as functions.

Lituania () •

M

Mad Max () • In an article published on April 6th, 2024 under the title, "Ukraine's 'Mad Max' Trawls Swamps and Minefields for Shells," the Wall Street Journal explained how Ukraine's ammunition shortage became so acute that an Ukrainian soldier, who hunts for Russian shells, became an important supplier for some units.

Manstein, Erich von, the 2nd Conquerer of Sevastopol () • Since neither a Roman nor an Ottoman commander captured the Cimmeria before Prince Grigory Aleksan-

drovich Potemkin-Tauricheski, Erich von Manstein, the Nazi general, became the 2nd Conquerer of Sevastopol after the city fell on July 4th, 1942. History, however, may call the general the first conquerer, since Manstein is the first to conquer the city, established by Catherine the Great, after its Russification into a naval fortress to assert her Empire's control over the Black Sea.

Manstein conquered the Cimmeria with his personal dedication to one of the underlying principles of Blitzkrieg. He observed how the battle, which

¹⁵During World War II, the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Service initiated a series of reports on the Axis' powers. Among these reports is one dedicated to The German Armored Army. The author expounds on the core tactical doctrine of German armor, explaining how "both from a tactical as well as from a strategical point of view, the selection of the maneuver to be carried out must always be inspired by the desire to disconcert the enemy command through its very boldness and rapidity. If necessary, 'what seems most improbable must be accomplished at the improbable place,' as remarked an officer of the staff of the 1st Armored Division in justification of the maneuver at Sedan." The author continues, stating: "By spectacular and even horrible combat methods, one must annihilate any will to resist on the part of the enemy. The fury of the 'Stukas,' the whizzing of their bombs, the din of their machine guns, the onrush of the tanks, the thunder of their march and of their fire, the spurt of the flames from the flame throwers, the explosion of melanin charges, everything must be brought into play to affect the morale of the combatant and give him the impression of an 'apocalyptic' scene." Published on August

had raged for the better part of a year, began to tip the scales in the Nazi's favor.¹⁵ At precisely the moment when the scales began to weigh more heavily on the Nazis's side than the Soviets', Manstein commanded elements of his 11th Army to make the improbable possible with a cross-channel raid on Severnaya Bay where the Soviets estimated the chances for a suc-

cessful attack to be highly improbable. In a reverberation of Manstein's sense for the appropriate place at the most opportune time like his modification of Fall Gelb's plan to pass through the Ardennes on May 10th, 1940, Manstein's correct appreciation for Napoleon's advice to maneuver according to circumstance prevailed.¹⁶

N

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O

Oil () •

P

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Q

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R

rats () • Responsible for the malfunctioning French Ceasar 155mm mobilized artillery, rats eat the delicious corn wiring.

ligerents have achieved a distinct advantage from strategically bombing railways.

railways () • Neither of the bel-

Russia (Russ · ia) Noun • Russia is one of the belligerents in the Ukraine

10th, 1942, Special Series № 2 is one of the U.S. Army's first explications of the Nazi's lightening warfare.

¹⁶It stands to mention that one of the unmentioned principles of Blitzkrieg is harmony. In the Special Series № 2, the author emphasizes how "it would be an error to compare one weapon with another. Far from encouraging rivalry among the various weapons, the new organization has developed their harmonious association, and utilizes the motor to give them previously unrealized possibilities of speed. Armored weapons (light or heavy), infantry, artillery, engineers, signal communications, not to mention the air forces-all these arms contribute to the common aim: overcoming the adversary by an irresistible assault, followed by a complete destruction."

Over the years, Sevastopol witnessed fewer conquerors than Jerusalem, the famous center of the world.

war. In comparison to Ukraine, Russia's history of war in the area from the Black to the Baltic seas is exten-

sive.

raw materials, critical minerals or rare earths () •

S

Sanctions (Sanct · ions) Noun •

Sanctions, imposed on Russia after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of the Ukraine on February 24th, 2022, failed to produce the effect the U.S.-led NATO alliance sought. In the immediate aftermath of its imposition of sanctions, hundreds of thousands of Western businesses profiting from Russia's domestic market withdrew, causing billions of dollars in losses. Russia continued to sell oil. At the time, the price of oil skyrocketed. Russia earned no fewer than 93 billion Euros from profits on oil exports alone.¹⁷

Shahed (Sha · hed) Noun •

Russia launched its first Shahed, one of the most important evolving weapons in the Ukraine war, in the immediate aftermath of its defeat in the face of the great Ukrainian offensive in Kharkiv launched on September 6th, 2022.

Debate rages around the modifications, versions, or models of Shaheds involved in legendary attacks, which Russian or Iranian factory produced them, the country of origin responsible for, or the actual nature, underlying engineering, or specification of the most distinguished parts, components or kits.

'Spring' Counteroffensive () •

The most peculiar aspect of Ukraine's 'Spring' counteroffensive, which well-known Ukrainian commanders call 'idiotic,' is just how well telegraphed its military objective became before its launch. The New York Times, well before the Jack Teixeira leaks, published article after article, detailing the 'Spring' counteroffensive's military objective, telegraphing to the Russians not only the upcoming of-

fensive but its aim. In an article published in the New York Times on March 8th, 2023, for instance, where the authors claim "Bakhmut is [the] Mercenary Group's 'Last Stand' in Ukraine, the authors say the "campaign will likely focus on the southern region of Zaporizhzhia, where Ukraine is building up forces, [as] Col. Roman Kostenko, a member of Ukraine's Parliament who is serving in the country's military, told Ukrainian television on Monday." In another article published on March 13th, 2023 by the New York Times under the title, "Kyiv Seeking to Evacuate a Town It Controls," the logic, the authors write, is to capture "territory around Melitopol," so that "Ukrainian forces [may] sever a Russian line of control from the Crimean Peninsula to the Donbas region." On March 14th, 2023, the New York Times in an article entitled, "Russian Attacks Yield Little but Casualties in Wide Arc of Ukraine's East," repeats: "the Ukrainians, anticipating a big influx of Western weaponry and fresh troops in the coming weeks and months, are widely expected to mount a counteroffensive." The article continues: "Analysts, Ukrainian officials, and even Russian commenters have suggested that it would come on the southwestern part of the front, with the Ukrainians [attempting] a push east from Kherson and south from Zaporizhzhia toward the city of Melitopol, hoping to sever the land bridge the Russians have seized that links the Crimean Peninsula to the eastern Donbas region." Ukraine's singular goal, we are told in another article published on March 21st, 2023 with the title, "Little Time on the Bat-

¹⁷ "סנקציות? רוסיה מכרה מאז הפלישה לאוקראינה נפט בשווי 93 מיליארד יורו. רק גרמניה קנתה נפט רוסים ב-12 מיליארד יורו." [

tlefield to Dwell on Notions of Peace Talks,” is to bide time until Kyiv’s troops retake the initiative in the war. The “moment,” the authors explain, “remains unknown outside the close circle of the Ukrainian military high command.” It would seem that within the span of less than two weeks in March, 2023 the New York Times exposed the Ukraine’s battle plans in their entirety well outside the close circle of Ukrainian military high command. Given the amount of time from March to June, four months, the New York Times likely accomplished more for the exposition of Ukraine’s battle plans than Russian intelligence itself.

Finally launched in June, the ‘Spring’ counteroffensive started in summer. It lasted until November 2023 when multiple Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) brigades failed to penetrate the Russian Surovikin line along the Orikhiv-Tokmak Axis in Zaporizhzhia Oblast. Although the Ukrainian brigades advanced approximately 20km at the cost of 518 vehicles, including 91 tanks and 24 engineering vehicles, the Ukrainians never managed to breach Russia’s first line of defense on the Surovikin line.¹⁸

Stones () • At the height of Ukraine’s crisis in artillery, a German speaking commentator, who sympathized with Ukraine’s lack of munitions, declared how the Ukrainians would sooner start throwing stones than fire artillery shells at the rate the U.S.-led NATO alliance insisted European and Western nations contribute to the country’s stocks. Marc Thys, pensionierter Generalleutnant und früher der stellvertretende Chef der belgischen Armee, made the statement in an interview to Bayerischer Rundfunk (BR) on February 3rd, 2024, just a few weeks before the third anniversary of the Ukraine war on February 24, 2024.

Coming on the heel of the fall of

Avdiivka, one of Russia’s long-sought targets in Ukraine’s collapsing manifest of a defense belt in the Donbas, on January 17th, 2024, the commentators describe Ukraine’s munitions not in terms of numbers but time. Published on February 29th, 2024, five days after the third anniversary of the Ukraine war, the video Ukraine-Krieg: Gehen dem Westen die Waffen aus? Describes how “Die ukrainischen Truppen verschiessen jeden Tag Unmengen a Munition an der Front. Deutschland hat jetzt erst ein Flugabwehrsystem vom Typ geliefert und Artilleriemunition: 10,000 Schuss. Das reicht für zwei Tage. Denn die Ukraine bräuchte zwei bis 2, 4 Millionen Artilleriegranaten - pro Jahr. Das sind Schätzungen.” These measurements, which are based on Ukraine’s rate of fire for a particular weapon system, symbolize how artillery is not a matter of stones, throwing, or throwing stones but time.

Surovikin, Sergey () • Sergey Surovikin, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Aerospace Forces from 2017 until he was reportedly sacked by Vladimir Putin, oversaw the battle of Bakhmut-Artemovsk from the withdrawal of Russia’s armed forces from Kherson to the east bank of the Dnipro to the construction of the most famous Surovikin line, stretching from Belarus, a contractor for Russia’s defense industry specialized in repair, maintenance, and restoration¹⁹, to the Dnipro delta. Appointed to the overall command of the Donbas theater immediately after Ukraine’s great 2022 Kharkiv counteroffensive launched on September 6th, 2022, Surovikin began construction of the complex network of defenses immediately. In its concluding remarks on an analysis of the Surovikin lines, the Center for Strategic and International Studies stated: “Russia has constructed some of the most extensive

¹⁸“On One Key Eastern Battlefield, The Russians Are Losing 14 Vehicles For Every One The Ukrainians Lose,” Forbes, 14 November 2023]

¹⁹ המערך הצבאי של בלו רוסיה הפך לעורף הלוגיסטי של הצבא הרוסי הנלחם באוקראינה. משפץ מטוסים, טנקים, מערכות כ"מ ומכ"ם שנפגעו] במלחה. תיק דבקה, אוג 22, 2022

systems of military defensive works seen anywhere in the world for many decades.”²⁰ Composed of layers of defenses such as minefields, dragon’s teeth²¹, anti-tank ditches, trenches, pill boxes, and other barriers designed specifically to entrap the incoming Ukrainian ‘Spring’ counteroffensive, the construction of the Surovikin lines relayed heavily a Russian advantage in equipment. The Russian BTM-3, a high speed, tracked, trench-digging vehicle based on a heavy artillery prime-mover chassis, digs trenches several feet deep. It is capable of digging 800 meters of man-sized trench in one hour in 3rd gear. The minimum radius is 25 meters. The Russian BTM-3, whose implementation in the construction of the Surovikin line exceeds all other equipment, is unparalleled; few, if any other nations, have vehicles such as these.

A Russified response to warfare on the eastern front, the Surovikin line recalls the networks of fortifications the Russians utilized throughout the more than three centuries of warfare for protecting the road to Moscow. A series of ten redoubts, defensive earthworks, designed to trap the Swedes in marshes during the battle of Pultova in 1709 is the first. The great redoubt at Borodino constructed under the auspices of one of Russia’s most colorful generals, Mikhail Kutuzov, whose famous ability to defeat enemies, especially the Turks, in retreat cemented his preeminence in annals of Western warfare, upset Napoleon Bonaparte’s bid to compel the Russians to capitulate in 1812. The earthworks one of Leon Trotsky’s subordinates, Georgy Zhukov²², one of the greatest Russian and Soviet military leaders of all time, built to prepare the Russian victory against the

Nazis at Kursk on July 5th, 1943. Surovikin’s construction of a major defensive network of earthworks thus places his generalship firmly and thoroughly within the line of the great Russian generals of the 18th, 19th, and 20th century. It is no wonder that Vladimir Putin sacked Surovikin, for Surovikin’s preeminence unquestionably rivals all others in Russia right now, including Sergei Shoigu, Valery Gerasimov, and any other member of the Russian **ставка**, not to mention any politicians.

Switchblade () • The American Switchblade-300, Dead-on-Arrival on the Ukrainian battlefield, is an example of the Western belief in its superior firepower. Essential kit for America’s special forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Switchblade-300 demonstrated its obsolescence in a way reflective of the times. As opposed to other types of weapons, a drone’s effect is in its destruction; hence a drone’s ability to disrupt, damage, or destroy a target must outweigh not only this but its own cost by an order of magnitude many times greater. The Switchblade-300, whose production facilities are overseas, costs many times more than an average FPV drone but without an immunity to Russia’s electronic warfare. In an article published on October 23rd, 2025, Viktor Dolgopiatov, who heads Burevii, a design bureau pioneering [an] emergent class of [weapons], the “average ground drone (UGV) in Ukraine, for example, has a life expectancy of just one week.”²³ With a lifespan far shorter than expected for the Switchblade-300, the weapon suddenly became obsolete.

The rapid evolution of drone warfare prompted the U.S. Army to take note of its obsolescence. In February

²⁰[“Ukraine’s Offensive Operations: Shifting the Offense-Defense Balance,” CSIS, June 2nd, 2023.]

²¹[أسنان التين تكتيك روسي “قديم” لصد الهجوم الأوكراني المضاد، العربية، : ٢٩ يوليو ٢٠٢٣]

²²The Great Commanders (2003), an award winning expert portrait of six men, places Zhukov after Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Horatio Nelson, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Ulysses S Grant.

²³[“Western drones are underwhelming on the Ukrainian battlefield,” The Economist]

2022, the U.S. Army issued its first notice, requesting sources to supply Switchblade 300s, perhaps indicating a desire to strike a balance in a cost benefit ratio. In November 2022 the Army issued its second notice, submitting a Request for Information (RFI) on loitering munitions, directly referencing the conflict in Ukraine, which “has clearly demonstrated the ability of unmanned systems at increasingly lower echelons of employment,” especially for “[delivering] lethal effects.”

In contrast with the Shahed, whose versions, modifications or models are studied in detail by both sides, the United States has not developed a loitering munition with a degree of intensity comparable to the Russo-Iranian project’s emphasis on iteration.

Syria (Syr · ia) Noun • The collapse of Syria’s Assad regime, a fifty year old dynasty, is a result of the Ukraine war.

T

Time (Ti · me) Noun •

It is to be determined which of the most prized possessions in warfare, time or space, the belligerents seek or exploit at any given phase of the Ukraine war. Neither, both of which most analysts measure by clock

or ruler, are a matter of minutes, seconds, hours, days, weeks, months, or years or inches, feet, yards, or miles but of a more profound concept as germane to war as weapons.

() •

U

Undergrowth () • During Ukraine’s ‘Spring’ counteroffensive, which neither happened in ‘Spring’ nor amounted to an offensive,’ the premier British intelligence service, the cream of the crop from Oxford, Cambridge, King’s College London, and Sandhurst, issued an alarming report, accounting for the Ukraine’s mounting difficulties in overcoming the massive undergrowth characterizing the length of the line, the great Russian general, Surovikin, constructed during the battle of Bakhmut-Artemovsk.

Published by her majesty’s Defense Intelligence on August 3rd, 2023, the intelligence updated manifested three bullet points. The first stated:

”[undergrowth] regrowing across the battlefields of southern Ukraine is likely one factor contributing to the generally slow progress of combat in the area.” The second stated: “[the] predominately arable land in the combat zone has now been left fallow for 18 months, with the return of weeds and shrubs accelerating under the warm, damp summer conditions. The extra cover helps camouflage Russian defensive positions and makes defensive mine fields harder to clear.” The third stated “Although undergrowth can also provide cover for small stealthy infantry assaults, the net effect has been to make it harder for either side to make advances.”

Z

Zaslon-M radar () • With the R-37M missile at their disposal, Russian MiG-31BM equipped with Zaslon-M radar have been able to fire at Ukrainian aircraft from very far considerable distances, without entering any of the areas in which the Ukrainian anti-aircraft defenses are operating since the beginning of the Ukraine war.

Nonetheless, the Zaslon-M radar, equipped on MiG-31BM interceptors, demonstrates how dependent the modern Russian war machine continues to rely upon an almost unrivaled treasure chest of discoveries, inventions or ideas the Soviet Union bequeathed its usurpers upon collapse.

Zhukov, Gregory () •