

# Xersonesus

An Historical and Critical Encyclopedia of the Ukraine War

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*seppie coi piselli alla romana*

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## A

**Artillery** (ar·til·ler·y) *Noun* • 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 the beginning of the Ukraine war, primarily before the great Ukrainian offensive in Kharkiv, launched on September 6th, 2022 but prepared weeks in advance, until the end of Ukraine's 'Spring' counteroffensi-

ve 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 witnessed a major transformation in the deployment of drones. Ukraine began to mass produce First Person View drones to strengthen its defense of the Donbas in the face of continued Russian advances. Necessity is the mother of invention. 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.

## B

**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 warri-

ng parties.

The *New York Times* is one of the most fervent advocates of bombing.<sup>1 2 3 4 5 6</sup>

## 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.<sup>7</sup> In the publications in Ukrainian, Hebrew, Russi-

an, 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

<sup>1</sup>"How to Choke Iraq," *NYT*, December 7th, 1990.

<sup>2</sup>"Bombing Iraq Isn't Enough," *NYT*, January 30th, 1998.

<sup>3</sup>"American Bombs Make Iraq Stronger," *NYT*, December 20th, 1998.

<sup>4</sup>"Bomb North Korea, Before It's Too Late," *NYT*, April 12th, 2013.

<sup>5</sup>"Bomb Syria, Even if It is Illegal," *NYT*, August 27th, 2013.

<sup>6</sup>"To Stop Iran's Bomb, Bomb Iran," *NYT*, March 26th, 2015.

<sup>7</sup>"Байден вважає, що Путін може нападати на Україну в найближчі дні – The Guardian," *Українська правда*, 11 лютого 2022, 22:08

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.

## D

**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.

## R

**Russia** (Russ-ia) *Noun* • Russia is one of the belligerents in the Ukraine war. In comparison to

Ukraine, Russia's history of war in the area from the Black to the Baltic seas is extensive.

## S

**Sanctions** (Sanct-ions) *Noun* • The collapse of Syria's Assad regime, a fifty year old dynasty, is a result of the Ukraine war.

**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 modifi-

cations, 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.

**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, ti-

me or space, the belligerents seek or exploit at any given phase of the Ukraine war.