

Claim

Claim: "Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy started the 2022 war in Ukraine with Russia."

Actions

```
web_search("Volodymyr Zelenskyy Russia war 2022")  
web_search("causes of 2022 Russia Ukraine war")
```

Evidence

Evidence from **web_search**

The Sky News article discusses the war in Ukraine, mentioning meetings between Donald Trump's envoy and Vladimir Putin, a call between Trump and Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and Zelenskyy's visit to troops in the Sumy region. The article also mentions the war began in 2022. (<https://news.sky.com/story/ukraine-war-latest-russia-rape-putin-zelenskyy-12541713>)

An Al Jazeera article from February 20, 2025, discusses the claim that Ukraine started the war with Russia, mentioning Donald Trump's statement that Zelenskyy "started" the war. The article states that Russian forces launched an invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022.



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(<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/2/20/fact-check-did-ukraine-start-its-war-with-russia-as-trump-claims>)

Evidence from web_search

The Britannica article (<https://www.britannica.com/event/2022-Russian-invasion-of-Ukraine>) states that the full-scale invasion began on February 24, 2022, but the war between the two countries began in February 2014. The article mentions a Russian military buildup along the border with Ukraine between October and November 2021, and that on February

21, 2022, Putin recognized the independence of the self-proclaimed people's republics of Donetsk and Luhansk. The article includes images of the war



The article from cirsd.org (<https://www.cirsd.org/en/horizons/horizons-summer-2022-issue-no.21/the-causes-and-consequences-of-the-ukraine-war>) discusses the causes of the 2022

Ukraine war, mentioning that Putin invaded Ukraine on February 24th, 2022. It also mentions the US and its allies' efforts to bring Ukraine into NATO, which Russia saw as a threat. The Wikipedia article (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_invasion_of_Ukraine) states that the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on February 24, 2022, escalating a conflict that started in 2014. The invasion followed Russia's build-up of troops near Ukraine's borders and demands to the West, including a ban on Ukraine joining NATO. The article also mentions the annexation of Crimea in 2014 [image:i](#).

Elaboration

The evidence indicates that the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia began on February 24, 2022. While the claim suggests Zelenskyy started the war, the provided sources do not support this. Instead, they point to Russia's actions, such as the invasion and military buildup, as the instigating factors. Some sources mention the conflict's origins in 2014, with Russia's annexation of Crimea.

The evidence also mentions that the US and its allies' efforts to bring Ukraine into NATO were seen as a threat by Russia. However, the claim that Zelenskyy started the war is not supported by the provided evidence.

To verify the claim, more information is needed about Zelenskyy's actions and decisions leading up to the 2022 invasion and how they might have contributed to the conflict.

Final Judgement

The evidence indicates that the 2022 war was initiated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While the claim suggests Zelenskyy started the war, the provided sources do not support this. The sources point to Russia's actions as the instigating factors.

The claim is demonstrably false as it is disproven by evidence from multiple and reliable sources. The evidence indicates that Russia initiated the 2022 war. `false`

Verdict: FALSE

Justification

The claim that Volodymyr Zelenskyy started the 2022 war in Ukraine is demonstrably false. Multiple sources, including a Britannica article (<https://www.britannica.com/event/2022-Russian-invasion-of-Ukraine>) and an Al Jazeera article (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/2/20/fact-check-did-ukraine-start-its-war-with-russia-as-trump-claims>), indicate that the full-scale invasion was initiated by Russia on February 24, 2022, and that the conflict has its origins in 2014.