# Claim

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

# **Actions**

image\_search("Volodymyr Zelenskyy Russia war 2022")

## **Evidence**

### Evidence from image\_search

The PBS article discusses Zelenskyy and the war in Ukraine (



). Al Jazeera published an article on March 22, 2022, about Zelenskyy renewing an offer of talks with Putin (



The NBC News article contains an image of Volodymyr Zelenskyy (



# **Elaboration**

The evidence includes images of Zelenskyy and mentions articles about the war in Ukraine and offers of talks with Putin. However, the evidence does not provide any information about who started the war.

More information is needed to verify the claim.

### **Actions**

image\_search("timeline of 2022 Russia Ukraine war")
image\_search("causes of 2022 Russia Ukraine war")

### **Evidence**

### Evidence from image\_search

Al Jazeera published a timeline of the Russia-Ukraine war, showing the flow of people fleeing Ukraine after the Russian invasion (

### RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

# Where are people fleeing to?

The UN says more than 5.6 million people, mostly women and children, have fled Ukraine since Russia invaded. Most have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.



). The DW article provides a timeline of the Ukraine crisis, starting in November 2013 and ending with Russia attacking Ukraine on February 24, 2022 (

#### Timeline of the Ukraine crisis

# November 2013 - • February 2014

Euromaidan: Large, mainly peaceful, public protests push for closer Ukrainian ties to the West.

#### February - March 2014

Russia annexes Ukraine's Crimean peninsula.

#### June - August 2014 •

The Ukrainian army pushes back separatists in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk.

### February 2015 •

A new ceasefire is reached, though fragile and sporadically violated by all sides, it largely holds until today.

#### September 2020

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirms NATO membership as a strategic national goal.

#### June 2021

A US-Russia meeting in Geneva fails to bring the Ukraine crisis to an end.

#### December 2021 •

Russia increases the number of troops near the Ukrainian border to some 100,000.

#### February 2, 2022 •

The US sends additional troops to eastern European NATO members.

#### February 21, 2022 •

Russia recognizes the independence of separatist regions Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine. Moscow orders its troops to enter the breakaway regions.

#### February 2014

Violent crackdown on Euromaidan protesters. Ukrainian President Yanukovych flees to Russia. Change of power in Kyiv.

#### March - May 2014

Pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine call for the creation of self-proclaimed "people's republics" in Donetsk and Luhansk.

#### September 2014

A ceasefire is negotiated in the Belarusian capital of Minsk. It holds only for a few days.

#### **June 2017**

The Ukrainian parliament votes for the goal of joining NATO.

#### March - April 2021

The Kremlin sends Russian troops near the border to Ukraine.

#### **December 2021**

Russia demands security guarantees, including NATO denying membership to Ukraine.

## January - February 2022

Several meetings between top Western and Russian diplomats fail to ease tensions over the Ukraine crisis.

#### February 10, 2022

Russia and Belarus hold joint maneuvers near the Ukrainian border.

#### February 24, 2022

Russia attacks Ukraine.

# Ukraine makes gains in eastern counteroffensive

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said his military had made major, rapid advances against Russian forces in the past week, taking back dozens of towns in regions in the south and east that Russia has declared annexed. In the east, Ukrainian forces have been expanding an offensive after capturing the main Russian bastion in the north of Donetsk, the town of Lyman.



Sources: Institute for the Study of War with American Enterprise Institute's Critical Threats Project; Natural Earth; OpenStreetMap A. Bhandari | Reuters, 5/10/2022 ).

### **Elaboration**

The DW article provides a timeline of the Ukraine crisis, indicating that Russia attacked Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The evidence does not support the claim that Zelenskyy started the war.

### **Final Judgement**

The evidence includes timelines and articles about the Russia-Ukraine war, including the date of the Russian invasion. The evidence does not support the claim that Zelenskyy started the war.

The claim is demonstrably false because the evidence indicates that Russia initiated the war. false

#### Verdict: FALSE

#### Justification

The claim is demonstrably false. Evidence, including a timeline from <u>DW</u>, indicates that Russia initiated the war on February 24, 2022, not Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.