

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 Russia Ukraine war 2022")
```

Evidence

Evidence from web_search

The Wikipedia article on Volodymyr Zelenskyy (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volodymyr_Zelenskyy) details his career and role as President of Ukraine during the Russo-Ukrainian War, which began on February 24, 2022, when Putin announced a "special military operation" in Donbas. Sky News (<https://news.sky.com/story/ukraine-war-latest-russia-rape-putin-zelenskyy-12541713>) also reports on the ongoing war, mentioning its start in 2022.

An Al Jazeera article (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/2/20/fact-check-did-ukraine-start-its-war-with-russia-as-trump-claims>) discusses claims that Ukraine started the war, referencing Donald Trump's statements and the historical context, including Russia's invasion in February 2022.  The article highlights that Russia initiated the invasion.

Evidence from web_search

The war between Russia and Ukraine began in 2014 with Russia's annexation of Crimea and the war in Donbas, according to [Britannica](#) and [Wikipedia](#). The full-scale invasion by Russia began on February 24, 2022, as stated by [Britannica](#) and [Wikipedia](#). [CIRSD](#) mentions that Putin invaded Ukraine on February 24th, 2022.

The article from [Britannica](#) mentions that in the early hours of February 24, 2022, Zelensky addressed the Russian people, pleading for peace but vowing to defend Ukraine.





Elaboration

The evidence indicates that the 2022 war was initiated by Russia. Multiple sources, including Britannica (<https://www.britannica.com/event/2022-Russian-invasion-of-Ukraine>), and CIRSD (<https://www.cirsd.org/en/horizons/horizons-summer-2022-issue-no.21/the-causes-and-consequences-of-the-ukraine-war>) state that Russia began the full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022.

Zelenskyy, as the President of Ukraine, was in a position of defense. He addressed the Russian people, pleading for peace, but vowing to defend Ukraine.

Therefore, the claim that Zelenskyy started the war is not supported by the evidence.

Final Judgement

The evidence from multiple sources, including Britannica and CIRSD, indicates that Russia initiated the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Zelenskyy, as the Ukrainian President, was responding to the invasion.

false

Verdict: FALSE

Justification

The claim that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy started the 2022 war in Ukraine is false. Multiple sources, including [Britannica](#) and [CIRSD](#), confirm that Russia initiated the full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, while Zelenskyy was in a defensive position.