

# White House Worries Russia's Momentum Is Changing Trajectory of Ukraine War

Multiple factors are helping Russia's military advance, including a delay in American weaponry and Moscow's technological innovations on the battlefield.

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By **David E. Sanger, Julian E. Barnes and Kim Barker**

Reporting from Washington

May 14, 2024

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Just 18 months ago, White House and Pentagon officials debated whether Russia's forces in Ukraine might collapse and be pushed out of the country entirely.

Now, after months of slow Russian ground advances and technological leaps in countering American-provided arms, the Biden administration is increasingly concerned that President Vladimir V. Putin is gathering enough momentum to change the trajectory of the war, and perhaps reverse his once-bleak prospects.

In recent days, Moscow's troops have opened a new push near the country's second-biggest city, Kharkiv, forcing Ukraine to divert its already thinned-out troops to defend an area that it took back from Russian forces in a stunning victory in the fall of 2022.

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**David E. Sanger** covers the Biden administration and national security. He has been a Times journalist for more than four decades and has written several books on challenges to American national security. [More about David E. Sanger](#)

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