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November 2013 – April 2014: Annexation of Crimea

Key events

21 November 2013: Ukraine's President Yanukovych suspends trade and association talks with the EU, opting to revive economic ties with Russia.

Protests begin in Kyiv's Independence Square (Maidan).

6 December 2013: President Yanukovych meets Russian President Putin for talks, to lay the ground for a new "strategic partnership" between the two countries.

December 2013 – February 2014: Anti-government protests continue, with some turning violent.

21 February 2014: President Yanukovych and opposition leaders sign an EU-mediated peace pact that includes plans for presidential elections before the end of the year.

22 February 2014: Ukraine's parliament votes to impeach President Yanukovych and he flees the country.

27 February 2014: Dozens of pro-Russia gunmen seize government buildings in the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea and raise the Russian flag. The move comes a day after President Putin put Russia's military on high alert.

1 March 2014: Russia's parliament approves President Putin's request for Russian forces to be used in Ukraine.

21 March 2014: President Putin signs a law formalising Russia's takeover of Crimea from Ukraine.

21 November 2013

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych [orders the suspension of trade and association talks](#) with the European Union, opting to revive economic ties with Russia.

Several hundred Ukrainians gather in Kyiv's Independence Square (Maidan) to protest.

22 November 2013	Jailed Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko urges Ukrainians to protest against the government's decision not to sign a trade deal with the EU.
24 November 2013	An estimated 100,000 people rally in Kyiv against the government. Meanwhile, a pro-government rally attracts 10,000 people.
25 November 2013	Ukrainian police fire tear gas at demonstrators, saying they had been pelted with objects. Yulia Tymoshenko, in prison, begins a hunger strike in solidarity with the protestors.
29 November 2013	At an EU summit in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, President Yanukovich refuses to sign the association agreement.
30 November 2013	Thousands of Ukrainians stage fresh protests in Kyiv's Independence Square. 2,000 riot police are deployed around the square, but only small scuffles are reported.
1 December 2013	An estimated 300,000 people protest in Kyiv and besiege the president's office. Dozens are injured as police respond with tear gas, batons and flash grenades.
6 December 2013	President Yanukovich meets Russian President Vladimir Putin for talks in Sochi, to lay the ground for a new "strategic partnership" between the two countries.
8 December 2013	Hundreds of thousands of people rally in Kyiv, in the largest protest yet. A statue of Lenin is toppled in the city centre.
13 December 2013	President Yanukovich holds roundtable discussions with opposition leaders, but no breakthrough in the crisis is reached.