Realists tend to think the UKR WAR is a direct consequence of NATO cold war expansion and US dismissal of Russian security concern as having increased the odds of a violent reaction from Moscow. In contrast, liberals believe the pathological character of the Russian regime and it’s leader Putin caused Russia to invade. Realisits while generally supportive, seek to limit US involvement, urging caution in the face of escalatory risks. Liberals favour backing Uraine to a total military victory.

John Mearsheimer, repeatedly warned since 2014 that Russia would not accept Ukraine to the west, particualry NATO.

William Burns (ambassador), Ukraine to NATO is the brightest of red flags to Russian elite. Not just for Putin. They all see it as a direct threat to Russia.

Liberals think

Alexi Navalny also concurred that Ukraine should not be part of NATO (himself of Ukrainian heritage)