

# Malcontent News Ukraine SITREP

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Authors: David H. Obelcz, Kseniia Panteleeva, Jeff Davis

### SUMMARY – DAY 38

Ukrainian forces have full military control of Kyiv Oblast as Russian forces continue to retreat into Belarus. Retreating troops have left behind a significant amount of equipment, and multiple convoys have been attacked during the retreat. Ukrainian officials and journalists found a widening pool of evidence showing atrocities committed by retreating Russian forces.

Russian forces secured the town of Konotop to support the retreat of troops from east of Kyiv along a corridor north of Sumy. This supports our assessment that Sumy is no longer surrounded, and the land route from Poltava through Okhtyrka and the communities within artillery range have been secured.

In Mariupol, Russian and Chechen forces appear close to bisecting the city, with heavy fighting north of the Azovstal Metallurgical Factory.

The retreat of Russian forces east of Kyiv has opened up access to the city of Chernihiv, and several settlements and towns were liberated in the last 24 hours.

There was scattered fighting in the Kherson region, with little change in the situation. Russian troops violently cracked down on protesters in Enderhodar, including firing live ammunition into the crowd. There are reports of casualties.

In the Donbas, Russian forces and supporting militias fought along the entire line of conflict, with battles in nine towns. The Ukrainian General Staff reports that all attacks were repelled, and Russian and Russia-backed militias

suffered heavy casualties. Fighting for Popasna was heavy, with the city barraged by artillery and airstrikes. An entire Russian Battalion Tactical Group was destroyed.

Russian forces consolidated their position in Izyum and did not engage in fighting.

Today, there was less rain with unseasonably cold weather on tap for April 3 and 4.

**ASSESSMENT:** In the Kyiv region, Russian forces have suffered heavy critical equipment and ammunition losses. However, many troops appear to have been able to evacuate. An undetermined number of Russian and Chechen forces are now fully encircled northwest of Kyiv. The widespread use of landmines by retreating troops and units screening the retreat slowed Ukrainian operations.

Russian troops reassigned to the Donbas are not being resupplied or consolidated, resulting in minimal impact on the strategic situation. The Russian military and Russia-backed militias of the LNR and DNR will continue to suffer significant losses if they deploy combat ineffective BTGs piecemeal to the line of conflict.

The Russian military cannot surround or capture any city in Ukraine with a population of over 250,000 people, except Mariupol.

Without pausing to reconstitute combat ineffective BTGs, we do not see the additional troops moving into Eastern Ukraine making a material difference in the Donbas.

## CHERNIHIV REGION

Ukrainian forces liberated the town of Horodnia, less than 30 kilometers from the Russian border, northeast of Chernihiv.<sup>1</sup> Retreating Russian troops blew up the bridge over the Chybryzh River and abandoned equipment.<sup>2</sup> This picture is weather confirmed – it snowed overnight in the region.

Russian troops suffered heavy losses in the southwest corner of the Oblast as they retreated through Novyi Bykiv.<sup>3</sup> Losses included a 9S36M low altitude acquisition

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<sup>1</sup> <https://twitter.com/MrKovalenko/status/1510223428078419974>

<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/vivolibrefeliz/status/1510347378318057479>

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1510247155864326146>

engagement radar that supports the state-of-the-art Buk-M3 air defense system.<sup>4</sup> The equipment was destroyed.

In the settlement of Shestovytsya southwest of Chernihiv, Russian forces were decimated as they attempted to retreat from the area on March 31 and April.<sup>5</sup> The capture of Shestovytsya broke the encirclement of the city.

**ASSESSMENT:** Chernihiv is no longer encircled, and the humanitarian situation has improved significantly. Russian forces maintain a presence northwest of the city and remain in artillery range of civilian areas.

## **KHARKIV & SUMY REGION**

Russian forces shelled civilian areas of Kharkiv on Saturday, striking Saltivka and Pyatykhaty in the eastern suburbs and Derhachi, a suburb in the northwest. Otherwise, there was no other activity around the city.

Russian state media showed videos of Russian soldiers being greeted by Ukrainian citizens and fed pies for their

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<sup>4</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1510288925872599042>

<sup>5</sup> <https://twitter.com/mhmck/status/1510008839810203655>

“liberation” approximately two weeks ago. Intercepted phone calls claimed that the troops were poisoned, resulting in several deaths. There is a report that two soldiers were killed in the incident, and another 28 were hospitalized.<sup>6</sup>

Russian forces consolidated their positions in Izyum today and did not launch additional offensives. The city will likely be used as a staging area to move southeast and attempt to link with Russia, Chechen, LNR, DNR, and Wagner Group PMC in the Donbas.

It is reported that the dam at Oskol Reservoir was intentionally destroyed by Ukrainian forces, flooding parts of Izyum and swelling the Siverskyi Donets River.<sup>7</sup>

North of Sumy, Russian forces operate from the captured Konotop Airbase, approximately 55 kilometers west of the Russian border. Retreating troops are moving along two corridors through Bilophilya on a southern route and Novoslobids'ke to the north.

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<sup>6</sup> [News Reader Online](#)

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/PrateekRoutray/status/1510364175125520388>

Russian forces withdrew from Nedryhailiv on March 30 - 31.<sup>8</sup> The city was facing an insurgency on March 27, with civilians throwing Molotov cocktails at Russian convoys.<sup>9</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Russian forces south of Sumy to Poltava are blocked from retreating through that corridor. The Ukrainian presence in Trostyanets and Okytyrka likely extends 20 to 25 kilometers to the east, pushing Russian artillery out of range along the corridor.

## **KHERSON & MYKOLAIV REGION**

There wasn't any significant military action around Kherson.

There wasn't any significant military action around Mykolaiv.

The death toll from the missile strike on the Mykolaiv government administration building on March 29 increased to 36.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> [https://t.me/Romny\\_news\\_RDA/974](https://t.me/Romny_news_RDA/974)

<sup>9</sup> <https://twitter.com/Caucasuswar/status/1497612893327704069>

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1510309029280628745>

**ASSESSMENT:** We continue to believe the Ukrainian General Staff does not have much interest in liberating the city of Kherson. With the disappearances of mayors and journalists and a violent crackdown on protests in Enerhodar, we are gravely concerned about the humanitarian condition of the Oblast.

## **DONBAS REGION**

NASA FIRMS data suggests that Russian forces in the western half of Mariupol and Chechen forces in the eastern half are attempting to bisect the city. There appears to be heavy fighting north of the Avostal Metallurgical Factory. The city is obscured by heavy cloud cover.





There is conflicting information about the attempt by the Red Cross to evacuate civilians from Mariupol.<sup>11</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Given the evidence of intense fighting in the center of Mariupol, we believe it is unlikely an evacuation has occurred today. The resistance has held the city for 32 days. If the city is bisected, we believe the city will be occupied in the next three to 14 days.

Russian, DNR, and LNR militias fought along the entire battlefield in the Donbas, attacking Severodonetsk,

<sup>11</sup> [Reuters](#)

Rubizhne, Lysychansk, Kreminna, Hirske, Popasna Berezove, and Toshkivka.<sup>12</sup>

The Ukrainian general staff reported there was no change in areas of control along the front.

There are reports that an entire BTG was destroyed in three hours of fighting near Donetsk. We were able to confirm that 23 vehicles were destroyed, which would render a BTG combat ineffective.<sup>13</sup> (viewer discretion advised)

Drone video showed heavy fighting in Popasna, with multiple city blocks on fire.<sup>14</sup>

## **BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION**

There weren't any significant military operations in the region.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://twitter.com/AlexandruC4/status/1510214849476931591>

<sup>13</sup> <https://twitter.com/LtTimMcMillan/status/1510329811700432899>

<sup>14</sup> [https://twitter.com/Mil\\_Observer/status/1510358026720477184](https://twitter.com/Mil_Observer/status/1510358026720477184)

The Ukrainian General Staff reported that Russia was mobilizing the peacekeeping forces in Transnistria for deployment into Ukraine.<sup>15</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** We believe the possibility of military action from Transnistria into Ukraine is extremely low. The occupation force is roughly the size of two BTGs, and lightly armed. It is more likely that some of the Russian troops in Transnistria are being mobilized to fight in eastern Ukraine and will be transferred via aircraft.

**ASSESSMENT:** An amphibious assault on Odesa would be audacious and disastrous for the Russian military. Russia does not have the available ground forces or air support. Most naval infantry BTGs have been deployed within Ukraine and have suffered heavy losses.

## **KYIV REGION**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has declared the Kyiv Oblast liberated.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1510158379104280580>

<sup>16</sup> <https://twitter.com/ABCWorldNews/status/1510431892759142402>

**ASSESSMENT:** An unknown number of disjointed Russian forces are now surrounded in several pockets north of Hostomel and south of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone.

Ukrainian forces have occupied Antonov Airbase after the liberation of Hostomel.<sup>17</sup> Vast amounts of Russian military hardware were destroyed during the retreat.<sup>18</sup>

Additionally, Russian forces abandoned a 1L262 Rtut-BM jammer at Antonov Airbase after the rare piece of equipment was destroyed or destroyed in place by retreating troops.<sup>19</sup> The hardware, valued at \$2 million, is meant to protect troops by interfering with shells and missiles that use proximity fuses to detonate.

On Saturday, Ukrainian Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) experts defused 640 bombs and mines in Irpin.<sup>20</sup> Officials warn that it could take at least a month to make the area safe for residents to return to see what is left of their homes.

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<sup>17</sup> <https://twitter.com/walterlekh/status/1510309004722978822>

<sup>18</sup> <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1510380615316779010>

<sup>19</sup> [@kemal\\_115 Twitter](#)

<sup>20</sup> <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1510350803818758147>

Multiple videos show numerous Russian convoys destroyed during the retreat from northwest Kyiv.<sup>21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28</sup>

Editor's Note: There may be duplicate images in the collection.

The Ukrainian flag was raised over the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant on April 2.<sup>29</sup>

There have been graphic reports of multiple war crimes and atrocities committed by Russian forces in numerous towns west of Kyiv. Information is in our War Crimes and Human Rights section.

## WEST REGION

There wasn't any significant military activity today.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://twitter.com/Anapurnaiiii/status/1510243060331991045>

<sup>22</sup> [https://twitter.com/video\\_ukraine/status/1510272695602225164](https://twitter.com/video_ukraine/status/1510272695602225164)

<sup>23</sup> <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1509941629028872197>

<sup>24</sup> <https://twitter.com/javierh02532765/status/1510285605514620930>

<sup>25</sup> <https://twitter.com/javierh02532765/status/1510288893987459072>

<sup>26</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1510286622855737359>

<sup>27</sup> [https://twitter.com/Arslon\\_Xudosi/status/1509932624999030785](https://twitter.com/Arslon_Xudosi/status/1509932624999030785)

<sup>28</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1509639135086141446>

<sup>29</sup> [https://twitter.com/nexta\\_tv/status/1510204963477151745](https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1510204963477151745)

**ASSESSMENT:** We believe there is no longer a threat of a Belarusian invasion into Western Ukraine.

## **THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS**

The United States is working with former Warsaw Pact nations to arrange a transfer of T-72 Soviet-era tanks to Ukraine.<sup>30</sup> It is reported that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy rejected an offer for M1A1 Abrams tanks after evaluation, determining they are too heavy for Ukrainian bridges.

The Pentagon would not comment on the report. In theory, if you include Hungary, between 500 and 1,000 T-72 tanks of various configurations could be transferred from the former Warsaw Pact.

Russian envoy Andrey Kelin warned that United Kingdom anti-aircraft and anti-ship weapons would be “legitimate military targets” in Ukraine.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> [Reuters](#)

<sup>31</sup> [BOL News](#)

“They aggravate the issue, making it bloodier.” Those appear to be new, high-precision weaponry.

“Naturally, if such supplies cross the Ukrainian border, our military forces will regard them as a lawful target.”

**ASSESSMENT:** There are no teeth behind this threat, given that any military hardware within Ukraine operated by Ukrainians would be a legitimate military target.

## **WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

More video and photographic information, confirmed by mainstream and independent journalists, the United Kingdom, and former United Nations officials are documenting war crimes on the European continent not seen in 25 years.

The mayor of Motyzhyn and his family were kidnapped on March 23 by Russian forces. The body of Olha Sukhenko was found in a sewer, shot in the head with signs of torture. His wife and child were found in a shallow grave in a

separate location, also shot in the head with signs of rape and torture.<sup>32</sup> (NSFW, viewer discretion is advised)

Additional bodies were found in a shallow grave in Motyzyhn. Women's bodies were stripped naked, suggesting they were raped before being executed.<sup>33</sup>

More documentation from Ukrainian officials and journalists in Bucha showed significant evidence of mass executions in the city.<sup>34 35 36 37</sup> (NSFW, viewer discretion is advised)

Ukrainian officials buried 280 bodies in a mass grave on Saturday in Bucha.<sup>38</sup> Mayor Anatoly Fedoruk reported that all the victims were shot in the head, including a 14-year old boy.

The body of Ukrainian war photographer Max Levin, who disappeared on March 13, was recovered outside Kyiv on

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<sup>32</sup> <https://twitter.com/grimcultzero/status/1510344730361671682>

<sup>33</sup> <https://twitter.com/OlenaHalushka/status/1510351319948828682>

<sup>34</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1510374639566000128>

<sup>35</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1510373506910928897>

<sup>36</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1510373704504647692>

<sup>37</sup> <https://twitter.com/mhmck/status/1510319120935440390>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/4/2/almost-300-buried-in-mass-grave-in-bucha-near-kyiv-mayor>



April 2. Levin is the eighth journalist to die during the ongoing war.<sup>39</sup>

More execution victims are being found through the area as Ukrainian troops move deeper into newly liberated regions.<sup>40</sup> (viewer discretion advised)

Carla Del Ponte, the former chief prosecutor of United Nations war crimes tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, has called for an international arrest warrant to be issued for Russian President Vladimir Putin.<sup>41</sup>

The Ukrainian government requested a formal war crimes investigation last month, and the current chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, has visited the besieged country.

Security cameras captured Russian soldiers in a post office in Belarus, having electronics and other valuable items packaged. It is believed these are looted items from Ukrainian stores and homes, being sent back to families in Russia.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> <https://twitter.com/KSergatskova/status/1510193041423929349>

<sup>40</sup> <https://twitter.com/TsybulskaLiubov/status/1510344076838715399>

<sup>41</sup> [Associated Press](#)

<sup>42</sup> [https://twitter.com/jane\\_in\\_vain/status/1510186647773663239](https://twitter.com/jane_in_vain/status/1510186647773663239)

The looting extended beyond small items, with a Russian cargo truck filled with washing machines destroyed while evacuating the Kyiv area.<sup>43</sup>

In Enerhodar, Russian forces fired live ammunition, tear gas, and possibly mortar rounds at protesters. The area has seen a growing insurgency. There are reports of casualties.<sup>44</sup>

In September 2021, the Russian Ministry of Defense adopted a technical standard for digging and maintaining mass graves amid wartime.<sup>45</sup> At the time of its publication, western intelligence believed that this would apply to nuclear, biological, or chemical warfare. The standard was formally ratified on February 1.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> <https://twitter.com/metesohtaoglu/status/1510191564445863936>

<sup>44</sup> <https://twitter.com/olgotokariuk/status/1510301441621213192>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-mass-burials-regulations/31619324.html>

<sup>46</sup> <https://twitter.com/sumlenny/status/1510207703037235208>

ГОСТ Р 42.7.01—2021



Рисунок А.3 — Операция уплотнения донного слоя грунта котлована сооружения, предназначенного для срочного захоронения трупов, усиленного модификатором свойств грунтов и минеральным вяжущим с помощью катка

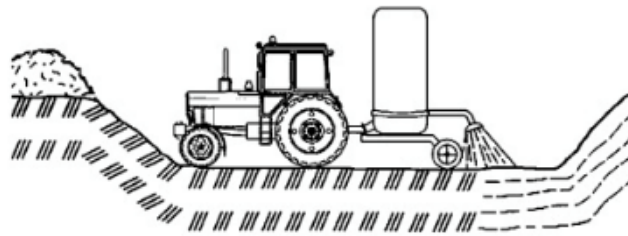


Рисунок А.4 — Операция увлажнения верхнего слоя грунта сооружения, предназначенного для срочного захоронения трупов, усиленного модификатором свойств грунтов и минеральным вяжущим с помощью поливальной машины

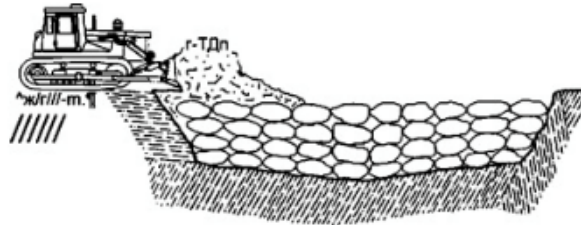
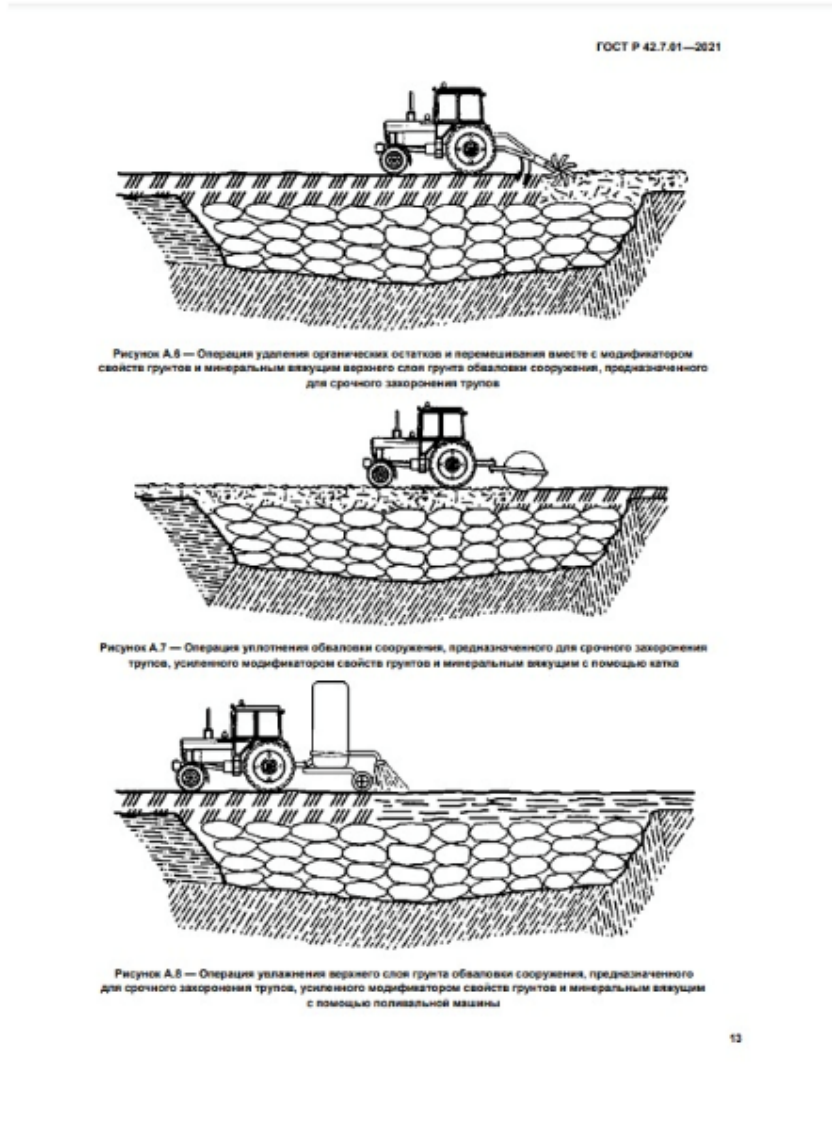


Рисунок А.5 — Засыпка котлована сооружения, содержащего трупы и радиоактивные, опасные химические вещества и биологические агенты, образующиеся при их разложении

12

Каждый шаг по обустройству братской могилы подробно расписан

Скриншот: ГОСТ Р 42.7.01—2021



Новый стандарт прописывает каждую мелочь, вплоть до обязательной трамбовки массового захоронения тяжелой техникой  
Фото: ГОСТ Р 42.7.01–2021

The graves would have up to 1,000 bodies and be administered by a unit of 16 soldiers.

## GEOPOLITICAL

The momentum for Finland to join NATO is growing. Finnish President Sauli Niinistö said opposition to membership had sunk to 16%, with 61% of Finns supportive.<sup>47</sup>

Prime Minister Sanna Marin on Saturday that any decision to join NATO must be made this spring and that it was time to reconsider its stance on military allegiances.<sup>48</sup>

## ECONOMIC

Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania are reported to have stopped receiving gas shipments from Russia, effective April 1.<sup>49</sup>

Uldis Bariss, CEO of Conexus Baltic Grid, said that the three Baltic nations were being served by gas reserves stored underground in Latvia.

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<sup>47</sup> [Euractiv News](#)

<sup>48</sup> <https://yle.fi/news/3-12388118>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.barrons.com/news/baltic-states-stop-russian-gas-imports-01648935006>

## DISINFORMATION EVALUATION

State media in Russia are widely known to be restricted to relaying information according to specific guidelines. In this case, these guidelines include the ban on the use of the word 'war,' which in Russian media is replaced with the statement 'special military operation.'



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@GazetaRu

Украина должна пройти  
процедуру денацификации, как в  
прошлом Германия — Лавров

[Translate Tweet](#)

16:29 · 02/03/2022 · [TweetDeck](#)

***“Ukraine must go through the procedure of de-Nazification, as Germany has in the past,” Lavrov***

Following channels such as [Russia Today](#), [Gazeta.ru](#), [Interfax](#), [RBC](#), and [NTV](#) reveals a starkly different depiction of reality. The alleged genocide in the Donbas region preceding the war is widely repeated, with increasing evidence is practically shoved down throats to justify their actions as self-defense (at least) and at most as the heroic 'liberation' of Ukraine. Additional sources were made to

further control the narrative, such as [Ukraina.ru](#), a subset of Russia Today, and [obyasnyaem.rf](#) (we explain.rf).

During the most gruesome attacks on Ukraine revealed to the Western world, Russian channels either remained silent, insisted on a lack of responsibility, or blatantly blamed Ukrainian organizations. Meanwhile, footage of Russian soldiers distributing humanitarian aid to occupied Ukrainian villages was shared, and claims that Ukraine was 'using civilians as a human shield' appeared in most justifications. Accusations of Russophobia have become a focal point of Russian media discussion to justify isolationist actions. Coverage of the scarce support for Russia's actions in Ukraine was amplified; no mention was made of Russian opposition to the war, neither within the country nor abroad. Russian media portrays an image of unwavering pro-Putin support to the outside world.



HTB  
@ntvru

Зеленский продолжает продвигать русофобские подходы и делает крайне противоречивые заявления — Лавров

[Translate Tweet](#)

16:11 · 02/03/2022 · [Twitter Web App](#)

**Lavrov**

*“Zelenskyy continues to promote Russophobic approaches and making highly contradictory claims” -*



Russia's MFA in Crimea liked

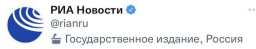
MFA Russia  
@mfa\_russia

Russia government organization

[#DebunkingFakes](#)

The NeoNazis holed up in Mariupol, infamous Azov battalion included, continue to use thousands civilians as human shields. The Drama Theatre provocation is unveiled for what it is by the many residents that escaped their clutches in Mariupol.

[#Think4Yourself](#) 🗣️



Украинские неонацисты готовят провокации с применением химвеществ, чтобы обвинить Россию, сообщили в Минобороны [ria.ru/20220319/provo...](https://ria.ru/20220319/provo...)

Translate Tweet



***“Ukrainian neo-nazis are preparing provocations with the use of chemicals to blame Russia, announces the ministry of defense.”***

Despite the apparent worsening of conditions in Russia, state media seeks to convey a position of strength. Despite obvious setbacks, the 'operation' is reported to be going entirely according to plan. Reporting is focused heavily on the impact of sanctions against Russia on the

EU and US, while bolstering the narrative that Russia will emerge from the sanctions 'economically stronger'. Issues, if admitted, are consistently blamed on the 'hypocritical' West.





***“Aleksandr Dudchak: Sanctions against Russia can rapidly improve our economy.”***



***“At American gas stations - anger, bargaining, depression. But many inhabitants of the States have already come to the final stage acceptance of the unavoidable - and have begun to steal the increasingly expensive gas. Gas is being stolen across the entire country, in huge quantities and creatively”***

***“Russia will resolve the economic issues, which are created by the West, claims Lavrov. He has called these anti-Russian sanctions a freedom tax”***

In the face of increasing censorship, getting reliable information from Russia remains somewhat possible. While several independent media channels have been banned from operating within the country, trusted journalists



continue to update through social media such as Telegram and YouTube.

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