

News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

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By: Robert Homans

The Ukraine War Ebook, “The Ukrainian People vs. The Russian Horde”

The Ukraine War Ebook, sent to those who were kind enough to support us, includes all our emails that we sent during the first week of the war. The Ebook has been very well received. Since early July, when the Ebook was released, we have added many new email recipients. For new recipients, plus existing recipients who would like to receive the Ebook, we would be happy to send you a copy in return for your support for our efforts. If you would like to support us in any amount in any currency, and receive an Ebook as our gesture of gratitude, please click on the link [HERE](#). Your support is greatly appreciated!

Bohdan Is Still on the Road

My thanks to everyone who have inquired after our health, after we have been largely silent this past week. I did send out an email last Monday, saying that much of last week we’d either be traveling or dealing with work commitments. We both have “day jobs.” We should be fully operational by this coming Wednesday.

News From the Battlefield

Mud & Fog – November is mud season in much of Ukraine. Mud gets almost all the attention from the pundits. However, it is also fog

season. In Ukraine, it is my experience fog can last for weeks at a time and make transportation more dangerous.

Kyiv is located near the “Kyiv Sea,” a large body of water that is backed up behind a major dam located north of the City. Fog is created when the air cools, but the water in the Kyiv Sea remains warm. But it’s not just Kyiv. I once drove from Kyiv to Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. It is a 7-hour drive. The visibility wasn’t much more than 800 meters the whole way. We arrived in Chisinau after the sun went down; I still don’t know how my driver found our destination.

Fog affects military operations. Drones cannot see anything, unless they’re flying close to the ground and running the risk of getting shot down. They cannot drop grenades, and they cannot give out coordinates of larger targets to HIMARS crews. Tanks and APC drivers can get lost (although GPS helps).

Stalemate?

Maybe not, if recent events along the Dnipro, the Tokmak Axis, and Avdiivka are any indication:

The Dnipro Crossings – Even though it has been going on for several weeks, last week for the first time, the American pundits are mentioning Ukraine’s crossings of the Dnipro. During this same period, we’ve been saying that the Dnipro Crossings are significant. First, they appear to be drawing off Russian troops from both the Tokmak Axis and Donbas, around Avdiivka. The pundits seem to be doing everything possible avoid reporting on developments that pricks the stalemate narrative.

This is a recent video from “[Reporting From Ukraine](#),” where he covers the Dnipro Crossings near the village of Krinky. What he doesn’t mention is that access to Krinky from the east is limited both by the forest that he does mentioned, and a small desert consisting of large sand dunes, that he doesn’t. Therefore, if the Russians want to launch a counterattack it would have to be parallel to the river, limiting the

element of surprise.

Second, as we reported earlier, apparently 40,000 Ukrainian troops are located in Kherson Oblast, on the right bank of the Dnipro. We expect that they, and their armor, will move across the river, at a time when Ukraine has sufficient anti-aircraft assets to protect them and when the lodgement on the Left Bank is large enough. As we said in previous emails, this will open up several offensive possibilities for Ukraine. It's the shortest route to Crimea; it gives Ukraine the possibility of attacking Tokmak and Melitopol from the rear.

The Tokmak Axis – According to both “[Reporting From Ukraine](#)” and the “[Latest Denys](#)” Ukraine appears to be succeeding in widening its salient, rather than deepening it and moving closer to Tokmak. This will protect the salient and set the stage for deeper movement toward Tokmak.

Avdiivka – According to Ukrainska Pravda, Russian casualties in the last 24 hours dropped significantly, to 660, from over 1,000 during the previous 2 days. Most of the recent Russian casualties have taken place around Avdiivka. The drop in Russian casualties may be explained by a drop in Russian offensive action. The latest “[Reporting From Ukraine](#)” covers Russian assaults from both the north and the south of Avdiivka.

Ukraine has an easier time than Russia, in moving troops to and from various fronts. The distances are shorter, and Russia has failed to make any dent in Ukraine's railroad network, instead focusing on targeting Ukrainian civilian infrastructure (or so it seems). When electrical supply for the railroads is affected, Ukraine has been able to use diesel locomotives.

[“Breaking Out of Positional Warfare in 2024”](#)/General Mick Ryan

Ryan supports Gen. Zaluzhny's recent analysis, especially his contention that the war has become a stalemate, and what can be done in 2024 to break out of the stalemate. Some selected quotes:

- “One of the missing elements of Western assistance to Ukraine has been an explicit strategy for support beyond expressions of ‘defending Ukraine’ and ‘in it for as long as it takes’. While these may be strategic declarations of intent and provide flexibility in decision- making for Western leaders, it has also permitted heel dragging and not following through on commitments.”
- “The West needs to commit to a new strategy that looks beyond defending Ukraine and embraces the defeat of Russia. Not only does this send a signal of resolve to Ukraine, and other NATO allies who face an aggressive Russia, it also says to Putin that he cannot wait out the West.”
- “In sending this message, Putin could make an early decision to withdraw and look bad, or be catastrophically defeated and look really bad.”
- “One of the challenges with Western assistance to Ukraine is that it has often been too slow. As President Zelensky noted during his 2023 Munich Security Conference Address. “We need speed...Speed of decisions to limit Russian potential. There is no alternative to speed. Because it is the speed that life depends on. Delay has always been and still is a mistake.” A new strategy must accept that Ukraine is capable of absorbing advanced weapon systems quickly.”
- “The Ukraine War is a war of industrial systems. One of the most significant lessons that have been learned (yet again) since the beginning of the war has been the fragility of the defence industrial capacity in Western nations.”
- “The Russia-China industrial complex is now the ***Arsenal of the Authoritarians.***”
- “Magnifying the challenge is the more transparent battlefield where the detection to destruction time is an order of magnitude shorter than in the Cold War. We had learned this lesson in the year before the Ukrainian 2023 southern counter offensive but

appeared to believe that old 20th century doctrine would still suffice. It was an intellectual failure by several institutions, and by the military profession more generally.”

- “Few nations, with the exception of those in eastern Europe and the Baltic countries, have been led by politicians who possess a talent for describing the purpose of supporting Ukraine. This is a vital skill for national leaders in an epoch where there is a deluge of online content demanding the attention of our citizens.”
- “We have faced down vicious predatory fascists and authoritarians before. It was not without great cost, but that cost is less than if we do not confront them. The time has come, as Lincoln described, for us to think anew, and act anew. Defending Ukraine, and defeating Russia, demands not just interest, but commitment.”

Truer words have rarely been written.

[Russian Abduction of Ukrainian Children](#) / “60 Minutes”

This is a segment that appeared last night, on the CBS television newsmagazine, “60 Minutes.”

The segment begins by reporting that official Ukrainian Government reports show 19,000 Ukrainian children abducted by Russia.

Unofficially, they believe that the number may be as high as 300,000.

The segment focuses on two stories, of children who have been returned to their Ukrainian families.

U.S. Presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy talks about the “sanctity of the family,” yet he opposes continued aid to a country, Ukraine, that has been plagued by Russian abductions of Ukrainian children, and he makes baseless accusations that Ukraine is persecuting Christians.

Although I doubt he will, I hope Ramaswamy takes 13 minutes out of his busy schedule to watch this segment. Ramaswamy, and other American public figures opposing continued U.S. aid to Ukraine, while at the same time supporting what they refer to as “family values,” are

all guilty of the worst kind of hypocrisy.

The segment also includes appearances by Russian Commissioner of Children's Rights, Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova, an indicted war criminal for her involvement in Russian abductions of Ukrainian children. There is a scene where Lvova-Belova is trying to bribe a Ukrainian grandmother, who has just rescued her grandson from the prospect of a forced adoption to a Russian family, to stay in Russia. It reminded me of that famous scene, before the start of the first Iraq War, when Saddam Hussein was being a friendly to a young boy by patting him on the head. At the time the boy, along with his family, was being held hostage by Saddam's government.

Lvova-Belova is a reincarnation of Heinrich Himmler in a dress, but perhaps without the Zyklon B and the ovens.

[Don't buy Gasoline From Gas Stations Selling Gas From Sunoco, Shell, or BP](#)

A recent PBS "Newshour" segment that gasoline partly refined from Russian crude oil is being imported into the us through 2 loopholes in the sanctions regime applying to Russian oil exports: Gasoline imported into the US from a refinery in India is partly derived from Russian crude; Russia is using a fleet of tankers, called the "Shadow Fleet," that don't carry Western insurance and thus are exempt from the \$60 price cap imposed by Western countries.

One of the major export terminals for Russian oil is in the region near St. Petersburg. It is hard for me to understand why Western countries bordering the Baltic Sea cannot ban the transit of Russian tankers that are part of the "Shadow Fleet" or, for that matter, why Turkey cannot do the same by closing off the Bosphorus to Russian tankers without Western insurance,

Boycotting gas stations selling gasoline produced by Shell, BP, and Sunoco would at least send a small message.

