



*And must have whiskey
Oh, you know why*

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April 26, 2022

A Recap Of The War In Ukraine - by Gonzalo Lira

Gonzalo Lira just delivered a decent recap of the war in Ukraine.

Gonzalo Lira @GonzaloLira1968 - [10:28 UTC · Apr 26, 2022](#)

Quick recap for those who haven't followed what's been going on in Ukraine but want to understand: 02/24: The Russians invaded from the south, south-east, east and north, in a lightning campaign. The Russians invaded with 190K troops—against 250K combat troops from Ukraine.

The RF put 30K troops near Kiev—nowhere near enough to capture the city—but enough to pin down some 100K AFU defenders. The RF also launched several axes of attack, with reinforcements on standby (including a famed 40km long tank column), to see where they might be needed.

Crucially—the Russian's blitz on several axes pre-empted an imminent UKRAINIAN blitzkrieg. The AFU had been about to invade the Donbas. This was the immediate motivation for Russia's invasion: To beat them to the punch and scuttle Ukraine's imminent invasion—which they did.

Also, by attacking from the north and south, the Russians disrupted weapons supply chain from NATO. Had the RF only attacked in the east to prevent the AFU invasion of Donbas, there would have been an open corridor for resupply from the West. Threatening Kiev stopped that.

So the main AFU army was left stranded in east Ukraine, with the rest of the Ukr. forces isolated and pinned down—with no easy resupply from the West. The RF then went about hitting AFU command/control and resupply links, further isolating and immobilizing Ukrainian forces.

The Russians soon nominally controlled land the size of the UK in Ukraine—but it was a tenuous control. The south of Ukraine was more fully in Russia's grip. The AFU around Kherson simply scattered. Mariupol became a clear battleground, as did the Donbas proper.

What the Russians initially wanted was to:

- Short-circuit the imminent Donbas invasion - which they did.
- Scare the Zelensky regime into negotiating a political settlement - which they failed to do.

Kiev had no intention of negotiating a ceasefire because of orders given to them from Washington: "Fight Russia to the last Ukrainian!" Also, the Neo-Nazi goons around Zelensky threatened him if he negotiated and surrendered because they are terrified of the Russians.

So Zelensky launched a massive PR and propaganda campaign, primarily to motivate AFU forces to fight to the death. Myths were created (Ghost of Kiev), false flags were carried out (Bucha, Kramatorsk) and relentless media stories were flogged relentlessly.

The Russians kept negotiating and trying to NOT destroy Ukraine infrastructure. In fact at first they were even trying to minimize AFU casualties. The evidence for this is overwhelming: The RF did not hit civilian infrastructure - water, electric, phone, transportation. They did not hit AFU barracks, command centers, government buildings, etc.

The Russians' initial priority was for a *negotiated settlement*. But by late March, they realized this was impossible.

This is why the RF withdrew from Kiev. There was no sense putting men near the city when they were not doing what they were supposed to do - putting political pressure on the Zelensky regime to negotiate. This withdrawal was claimed as a "victory" in the "Battle of Kiev"! lmao

Starting in late March, the Russians pulled back and solidified their control over the area they had captured, ceding to the AFU areas that were either pointless to or potentially too costly to control. The Ukraine propaganda machine called all these pull-backs "victories".

There was still a glimmer that the war might end in a negotiated settlement but that ended in early April. After the Istanbul talks of 3/30, the Ukraine side gingerly agreed to some compromises but within a week publicly disavowed those concessions.

That's when the Russians realized the Zelensky regime was agreement-incapable: Their Washington masters, Victoria Nuland and Anthony Blinken in particular, wouldn't allow a peace. They want this war to sap Russia dry. It is a classic proxy war and Ukraine will pay the price.

Something else the Russians realized: Sanctions. They hurt but Russia bounced back with remarkable speed. They didn't really hurt that bad. But the theft of Russia's \$300 billion in foreign reserves by the West DID hurt - badly. The Russians realized they were in a total war with the West and since their foreign reserves were lost forever (likely to be pilfered by corrupt Western politicians), the Russians now have nothing left to lose. By stealing their reserves, the West lost all power over Russia.

This has sealed Ukraine's fate: The Russians now have no incentive to give up what they have conquered. It has cost them too much in terms of men and treasure. And they know that they can't negotiate a ceasefire. The Zelensky regime will simply break it later.

Which means:

The Russians intend to conquer and permanently annex all the south and east of Ukraine. This is why their strategy on the battlefield has dramatically shifted: Now they are carrying out a slow, methodical grinding down and destruction of the AFU.

The war in the first 30 days was speed, feints, nominally capturing vast swathes of Ukraine territory, with the aim of pressuring the Zelensky regime into a negotiated settlement. But the West's total financial and political break with Russia means they have nothing to lose. And they have a lot to gain: The Donbas is mineral rich, the really productive farmlands of Ukraine are in the east and south, Kharkov is a major industrial city, the Sea of Azov has untold natural gas reserves.

And besides - the people love them. Why would the Russians now give up this hard-won prize?

And they *have* won - make no mistake. Ask any military man who is not a system pig, he'll tell you: There is no way for the AFU to retake their country. They have no armor, no

air defense, no fuel, no comms - it's over.

The great tragedy is that so many THOUSANDS of young men will die, and die NEEDLESSLY!!, in order to postpone the inevitable. These brave boys will have fought so valiantly - and died so young, so cruelly -because of the evil of the Zelensky regime.

That's the hard truth.

And in the end, this will be the map that will remain—a bitter image of Ukraine's future. Russia will pour billions into their newly acquired territory. It will prosper and flourish. But the rump-state of Ukraine will be left poor, destroyed, forgotten.

A tragedy.



[bigger](#)

I concur with the above except for two minor detail. The move on Kiev was not intended to hinder resupply to Ukrainian troops in Donbas but to 'fix' potential reinforcement around the capital. That enabled Russian troops to open the corridor from Crimea to the Russian boarder as well as to cross the Dnieper in the south and to take Kherson. Those were the most important moves for the further development of the war.

I also do not believe that Russia will 'annex' the areas it is liberating from fascist control. Once librated the people in those areas will vote on becoming independent from Ukraine and the various regions, Donbas, Luhansk, Kherson, Odessa, will form states that will become part of the Federal Republic of Novorossia.

That country will be recognized and supported by Russia and its allies.

Posted by b on April 26, 2022 at 11:23 UTC | [Permalink](#)

Comments

Decent analysis. The jury is still out on whether the Russian campaign will be overall a smashing success, a hard-fought victory, or a stalemate.

What is quite striking from my point of view is that Russia tries to be one step, or half a step ahead, of NATO, but never more. Meaning that they only take preemptive measures once NATO has made a new escalation. Eastern countries (Slovakia) provide tanks -> Russia starts destroying sub-stations. Tiraspol is under attack -> the Odessan bridge is blown off.

But Russia is never trying to be two or three steps away. They could for instance have destroyed the railway network a month ago, but chose not to. As if they only used their trump cards only when absolutely necessary. It's a kind of conservative way of doing war. Will it work, or does it only provide Ukraine and Nato successive respites, never knocking them down for good ?

The most interesting question for me would be to know how much the war is costing Russia. I remember that at the time of the Syrian conflict it was calculated that it didn't cause any extra costs for the Russian state, all was paid on the budget usually earmarked for military maneuvers.

I suspect that it's the same here and that a key driver of the Russian strategy is to ensure economic sustainability. It wouldn't surprise me to learn that since beginning of the year there has been a net positive to the Russian budget. Ukraine, on the other hand...

Posted by: Micron | Apr 26 2022 11:34 utc | [1](#)

Terrific recap, and I agree with B's emendations. However on the second point I have to wonder "Why not?" Why not annex Novorussia if it is the will of the people through a referendum as done with Crimea. The new state will have to be protected anyways especially considering the vulnerability of LNDR when in the limbo of non-recognition by Ukraine and the West.

Posted by: MikeO | Apr 26 2022 11:46 utc | [2](#)

In my opinion everything left of the river Dnipro will be Novorossia, there will not be border between Russia and Ukraine.

Posted by: evald | Apr 26 2022 11:46 utc | [3](#)

Sorry to be skeptical, but is this really Gonzalo Lira? Why make up a new account when he - prior to his kidnapping - warned against imposters on Twitter and to only trust @realgonzalolira?

Posted by: John Chemist | Apr 26 2022 11:59 utc | [4](#)

It is a mistake to see front people like Nuland or Blinken as having a say over policy, they are in those positions because they are trusted by the people with the actual power to do as they are told. Don't think that bureaucrats have more power over American policy than the people controlling the big banks, corporations, and private equity. There is an elite class in control over the government, anyone in the government who doesn't do what they want are quickly removed. Biden is their quintessential lackey which translated into his secure place in political leadership regardless of his level of buffoonery.

Posted by: Kana | Apr 26 2022 12:00 utc | [5](#)

Something that I think adds to Lira's and b's take.

https://twitter.com/Vick_top55/status/1518907088281477120

After the visit to Ukraine of the heads of the State Department and the Pentagon, CNN writes about the change in Biden's strategy for Russia. They decided that it was possible and necessary to defeat Russia on the battlefield.

Now it is believed that "military support for Ukraine could lead to serious strikes against Russia that would weaken its long-term military capabilities, which would be of strategic benefit to the United States." The supply of weapons to Ukraine, CNN sources call "an investment in the neutralization of the Russian army and navy for the next decade."

The US does not view Ukraine as anything other than one of Russia's rebellious provinces (which the US has skillfully mutinied). Therefore, the destruction of Ukraine and its transformation into the Wild Field is also pure weakening of Russia.

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"Federal Republic of Novorossia." Putin, publicly at least has shown no interest in adding the current republics to the Russian Federation - though the people there are or were being issued Russian passports and rouble currency. Possibly a relationship similar to the current Russia Belarus union state?

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Apr 26 2022 12:10 utc | [6](#)
