

News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine
December 30, 2024

By: Bohdan Chomiak & Robert Homans
Happy New Year to Everyone

From Bohdan

Hopefully the last calendar year of war is behind us.

And From Me

I agree with Bohdan's assessment. For me, this Times Radio [interview](#) with former Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov is a good place to start. Kasyanov believes that in the first 3-4 months of 2025, the war will continue as it is, with incremental Russian advances in Eastern Ukraine, and Ukraine continuing to hit Russian logistics, but increasingly using their own increasingly potent long-range drones and ballistic missiles, weakening Russia's ability to press its ground war.

In late Winter/early Spring of 2025, President Trump will conclude that Putin will not move off his stated objective of eradicating Ukraine as an independent state. Kasyanov believes that Trump will respond by doubling U.S. military and non-military support for Ukraine and, due to increased U.S. energy production prices of oil and natural gas will fall below Russia's respective costs of production. This, plus increased sanctions on diamond exports, will crimp Russia's ability to finance the war.

Trump's decision to double military and non-military aid to Ukraine, will be augmented by increased European military production, perhaps including South Korean production, especially of 155mm ammunition. The effect will

be to allow Ukraine to more than offset its disadvantage in manpower, and Ukraine will begin to drive Russia back.

Putin will then be put in a vise, between failure on the battlefield and increased pressure from Russian oligarchs and, maybe, from the Russian public. At this point, there could then be a basis for negotiations, perhaps with Putin or perhaps not.

Let's not forget Ukraine's side of the equation. With the cessation of hostilities, questions about Zelenskyy, especially his activities just before and just after the beginning of the war, now relatively dormant will begin to be raised. There is a viable political opponent, more popular in the polls than Zelenskyy, sitting in London. His name is former commanding general of the Ukrainian Army, Valery Zaluzhnyi, now Ukraine's Ambassador to the Court of St. James. There will be returning veterans, returning refugees, and internally-displaced people, all of whom will play significant political roles.

We look forward to returning to Kyiv in 2025.

The Deep State Map – Where Does it Come From?

We, along with countless others following the war, have used what is called the Deep State Map Project, that uses open-source data to follow developments in the ground war but, crucially, not the air war including Ukrainian strikes on Russian logistics, nor Ukraine's driving Russia's Black Sea Fleet out of Sevastopol allowing for resumption of Ukrainian grain exports. Without incorporating Ukraine's successes in hitting Russian logistics, marginalizing the value of Russia's possession of Crimea, and the Black Sea, it is difficult to draw a reasonable conclusion on Ukraine's successes, or lack thereof.

Over the last several days, the Deep State Map has been unavailable. It is now up again, but some say that it was taken down over Gen. Syrskiy's displeasure in how elements of Ukraine's Army have allegedly been taken into pockets by Russian forces because of a failure to order a withdrawal. This has led me to ask, admittedly belatedly, questions like who controls the Deep State Map? Are there hidden agendas. This [article](#), from "Wired"

Magazine, offers an excellent explanation. As with many other developments in Ukraine, it was started by 2 “20-somethings.”

As much as possible, the Deep State Map is like a blank slate on which groups place their own observations. One example is “[Ukraine’s Battle Against Russia in Maps & Charts](#),” from the Financial Times. Another is the daily updates called “[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#)” from the Institute for the Study of War. Both keep a positive view of Ukraine’s prospects.

Then there are commentators who may have their own agendas, such as Weeb Union and their [latest](#). He makes every Russian advance look like a breakthrough, such as neglecting to mention that Russia has been trying to take Pokrovsk for months. Also, his voice seems to be altered.

Another example is Denys, and his [latest](#). I don’t believe Denys even lives in Ukraine. He’s a former pilot for Ukrainian International Airlines, now grounded, but he says he keeps up with his flying. Earlier in the war Denys said he was moving to Europe, to give his daughter a better life. If Denys now lives in Ukraine, he’d find it hard to keep up with his flying.

The Deep State Map Project has done a good job in keeping their product as a blank slate. The same cannot be said of some of those who write on it.

12/32/2024 Sitrep

INTERNATIONAL

Monday – December 30

12:00 AM: Jimmy Carter, the 39th president of the United States, has died at the age of 100, — Washington Post.

- Carter was president of the United States from 1977 to 1981. He is remembered for the 1978 Camp David Accords, which secured peace between Israel and Egypt, as well as for his emphasis on human rights in foreign policy and strengthening relations with China.
- After his presidency, Carter became an activist, receiving the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize for his contributions to conflict resolution and human rights.

8:12 AM: Kazakhstan to hand over the “black boxes” from the AZAL plane to Brazil for decoding.

8:12 AM: South Korea to review entire air transport system after plane crash.

9:35 AM: The Ukrainian delegation will meet with the head of the new Syrian administration Ahmed al-Sharaa in the Syrian capital today, — Al Arabiya.

11:07 AM: Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga met with the new Syrian leader Ahmed al-Sharaa.

12:10 PM: Ukraine will receive more than a thousand drones from Latvia, Latvian Defense Minister Andris Spruds announced.

- Latvia, together with Great Britain, is leading the coalition of drones. Next year, Riga will allocate 20 million within the coalition for the purchase of Drones for the Ukrainian military.

12:43 PM: The United States will provide Ukraine with \$15 billion, secured by future income from frozen Russian assets.

- This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.

1:15 PM: The United States will provide Ukraine with almost \$2.5 billion in security assistance, — White House.

- The Pentagon continues to deliver hundreds of thousands of artillery shells, thousands of missiles and hundreds of armored vehicles to Ukraine.

2:32 PM: The Slovak Foreign Ministry was outraged by Zelensky's words about a "second energy front" against Ukraine:

- "We reject any nonsense about the opening of a second energy front, which President Zelensky is baselessly fantasizing about, as well as about some imaginary alliance with Putin."

- At the same time, Prime Minister Fico managed to complain to the European Commission and the European Council about Ukraine's refusal to continue the transit of Russian gas after 2024.

4:05 PM: The US is also allocating \$3.4 billion in direct budget support to Ukraine, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen announced.

5:06 PM: The US State Department reported that the \$1.25 billion aid package for Ukraine includes:

- ammunition for counter-drone systems (c-UAS);
- air defense and HIMARS ammunition;
- 155 mm and 105 mm artillery ammunition; • air-to-surface ammunition;
- Javelin anti-tank systems and Swedish AT-4 ATGMs; • TOW missiles and fragmentation grenades;
- equipment and ammunition for detonation; • communications, training, software, clothing and personal equipment;
- spare parts and auxiliary equipment, training and transport.

6:13 PM: Ukrainian delegation's visit to Syria — key details:

- Ukraine expects to restore diplomatic relations with Syria.
- More than two dozen trucks will arrive in Syria tomorrow, delivering 500 tons of Ukrainian flour.
- Ukraine is ready to share with Syria its experience in collecting evidence, investigating and working to bring war criminals to justice.
- Kyiv may resume Syrian students' studies in Ukraine.

7:33 PM: Repairs to the Estlink 2 power cable damaged in the Baltic Sea on December 25 will be long and expensive, Delfi.

- According to Kimmo Nepol, head of the division of Finnish system operator Fingrid, repairs are currently estimated to take seven months and cost tens of millions of euros.

9:24 PM: Chinese companies are trying to obtain advanced materials for chips and electronics from US suppliers before the New Year due to fears that Washington will impose more export restrictions on the sector - Nikkei Asia.

- Orders from suppliers such as DuPont, Entegris and Chemours have risen sharply since November and include a wide range of important consumables such as chemical-mechanical polishing pads, filters, special containers,

advanced lubricants and high-quality bulbs for inspection and testing, sources said.

- In addition to the restrictions already announced, the Chinese tech industry is concerned that the US may impose additional restrictions on the use of advanced materials and designs for the production of microcircuits, they added.

10:09 PM: Putin and Trump were supposed to meet today, but the meeting fell through.

- Dmitry Gordon reported this on his broadcast.
- According to him, the Russian delegation, which was in the US, did not reach an agreement with the Trump team, which is why the war did not stop. The Americans opposed the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine, as well as several other conditions.

10:21 PM: Hungary could lose more than 1 billion euros in EU cohesion funds on Tuesday, when the deadline for it to use legal remedies in its dispute with Brussels over the rule of law expires.

- Hungary will become the first EU member state to permanently lose funding under the "conditionality mechanism" introduced to protect the EU budget from breaches of the rule of law.

- In December 2022, the EU decided to suspend payments of around €6.3 billion to Hungary to protect the bloc's budget from rule of law violations that Brussels said were affecting "public procurement, the effectiveness of prosecutorial actions and the fight against corruption in Hungary."

10:29 PM: Ukraine will help restore stability in Syria after years of Russian interference, Zelensky said in an evening address.

11:59 PM: Israeli airline El Al has canceled flights to Moscow until the end of March 2025, — Times of Israel.

11:59 PM: Poland will build a road to the border with Kaliningrad in 2025 for the rapid transfer of troops, — Financial Times.

11:59 PM: Israel to introduce ETA-IL electronic entry permits for tourists starting in January, costing 25 shekels (\$7) per person, — The Jerusalem Post.

NATIONAL Monday, December 30

9:11 AM: Air Defense Forces Shoot Down 21 Drones in Kharkiv, Poltava, Chernihiv, Odesa, Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk Regions.

- Another 22 enemy drones-simulators are lost in location.

10:17 AM: The Ministry of Justice has restored the first three registers after a large-scale cyberattack. • The Unified Register of Powers of Attorney, the Inheritance Register and the Unified Register of Special Forms of Notarial Documents have been launched.

10:39 AM: Ukraine has canceled shutdown schedules for household consumers, — Ukrenergo.

- From 8:00 to 19:00, power limitation schedules for industry are being enforced today.
- And during peak consumption hours, hourly power outage schedules for household consumers may be applied.

12:37 PM: Threat of ballistic weapons use in regions where air alert has been declared.

1:11 PM: Ukrzaliznytsia has launched testing of lunches on long-distance trains.

- Passengers of the Kyiv-Chisinau, Kyiv-Rakhiv, Kyiv-Uzhgorod and Zaporizhzhia-Uzhgorod trains can already try the new menu.
- Among the dishes: Carpathian dumplings, omelet, chicken with potatoes and Crimean Tatar pilaf. The price varies from 170 to 190 hryvnias.

1:26 PM: Enemy tactical aviation activity in the northeastern direction!

- Threat of use of aerial weapons! 1:48 PM: Ukrposhta will refuse weight from January 1: the cost of delivery will depend only on the volume of the box (length × width × height).
- Two tariffs are announced: o Priority — fast delivery. o Basic — savings on delivery.
- You can use your own boxes or cheap/free packaging from Ukrposhta.

3:01 PM: From January 1, gas transportation services for domestic consumers will become more expensive by 305% due to the lack of transit, — NEURC.

- "In 2024, 85% of revenue will be from the transportation of gas originating from the Russian Federation. That is, 15% is what remains for us from domestic customers," — says Dmytro Lippa, CEO of the GTS Operator of Ukraine.
- So the tariff for natural gas transportation will increase from 124.16 to 501.97 UAH per 1,000 m³ — four times more expensive.

3:05 PM: Enemy tactical aviation activity in the northeastern direction.

3:17 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a law on the liquidation of the MSEK.

- Expert commissions will start working in cluster and above-cluster hospitals from January 1, 2025.

3:45 PM: The deputy commander of the 110th Motorized Rifle Brigade organized a scheme to receive money from soldiers who did not want to serve - he was informed of the suspicion.

- For half the salary, such men could not appear for service - some of them were periodically issued combat payments.
- The investigation is aware of at least 4 people who regularly used the scheme. Because of them alone, the losses to the state amount to more than 2.2 million UAH.
- The total number of participants in the scheme may reach dozens of people.

4:21 PM: The court hearing in the case of the commander of the 211th brigade, who is suspected of abuse of power, has begun.

- He was previously released on bail of €908 thousand, but the State Bureau of Investigation detained him again. Today, a preventive measure will be chosen.

4:39 PM: Kharkiv and Poltava regions are a missile threat. 4:43 PM: Ukraine and Russia exchanged prisoners according to the formula "150 for 150", the Russian Defense Ministry claims.

- The Ukrainian side has not commented on this information yet.

5:11 PM: 189 Ukrainians were returned from Russian captivity, Volodymyr Zelensky reports.

- Among them are defenders of Azovstal and Mariupol, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, Zmiyny Island, from different directions of the front. Soldiers, sergeants, officers.

Monday, December 30

4:43 PM: Ukraine and Russia exchanged prisoners according to the formula "150 for 150", the Russian Defense Ministry claims.

- The Ukrainian side has not commented on this information yet.

- These are National Guardsmen, including the "Azovtsy", border guards, Teroboronivtsy, soldiers of the Navy and the Armed Forces of Ukraine. As well as two civilians who were captured in Mariupol.

5:38 PM: In total, 3,956 people were returned from Russian captivity, the Coordination Headquarters reports.

- This is the 59th exchange since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion.

5:40 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyy appointed Olga Reshetylova (Kobylinska) as military ombudsman.

5:46 PM: Commander of the 211th brigade Oleg Poberezhnyuk was taken into custody on bail of 12 million UAH, — Prosecutor General's Office.

5:54 PM: Threat of use of ballistic weapons from the east. 6:07 PM: Exports of goods from Ukraine increased by 13.4% in 2024, reaching 41 billion US

dollars, while the volume of exports in physical terms increased by 28.8%, to 129.3 million tons, the press service of the Ministry of Economy.

- The main factor in the growth of exports was the stabilization of the work of Ukrainian seaports. If in 2023 54.8 million tons of goods were exported by sea, then in 2024 this figure increased to 87.2 million tons.

7:46 PM: The dollar exchange rate crossed the 42 hryvnia mark for the first time — another historic high, according to the regulator.

- The official exchange rate for December 31, 2024 is 42.039 hryvnias per dollar.

7:58 PM: Over the past week, the Russians have lost about 1,700 people killed and wounded every day, according to the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Gen. Syrsky.

8:16 PM: Zelensky signed decrees on the dismissal of the head of the Kyiv Regional Military Administration, Ruslan Kravchenko, and the head of the Poltava OVA, Filip Pronin.

8:24 PM: The Russians have hacked television and are broadcasting threats.

- The occupiers say they are going to strike with the "Oreshnik" within a few hours.

9:15 PM: To receive disability benefits, you will no longer need to go to the hospital, Health Minister Viktor Lyashko said.

- Patients will be referred for further examination only once, and the administrator will check the documents. Hospitalization will no longer be mandatory for assessment.

- Heads of the Military Medical Corps will have the right to refer servicemen for assessment, which will simplify the procedure for the military. The new rules will come into effect on January 1, 2025.

9:30 PM: Zelensky dismissed Roman Mashovets from the post of Deputy Head of the Presidential Office. 10:57 PM: 1+1 Media denied information about hacking of the broadcast.

- "We draw your attention to the fact that at present the information about hacking of the broadcast has not been confirmed - the TV channels are functioning properly. No complaints from providers or viewers have been received," the media conglomerate wrote on its website.

11:14 PM: General Staff report as of 22:00

- Verbatim: "Today, the enemy launched one missile strike on the territory of Ukraine (deployed one missile), used 674 kamikaze drones to destroy it. Carried out over 3,200 attacks on the positions of our troops and settlements."

- In the Kharkiv direction, the enemy attacked twice near Vovchansk and Lyptsy.

- In the Kupyansk direction, the enemy tried to advance to our positions near Golubivka, Stepovaya Novoselivka, Kruglyakivka and Zagryzove 16 times during the day. Six clashes are currently ongoing.

- In the Lymansk direction, the invading army attacked 19 times in the areas of Kopanki, Nadiya, Novoyehorivka, Makiivka, Ivanivka and Terni.

- In the Siversky direction, the enemy once tried to break through our defenses in the area of the settlement of Bilogorivka during the day, and was repulsed.

- In the Kramatorsk direction, the enemy's activity resulted in ten combat clashes near Chasovy Yar and Stupochok.

- In the Toretsk direction, the Russians tried to displace our units from the occupied positions near Shcherbinivka and in Toretsk, where the Defense Forces repelled three attacks. Eight combat clashes are still ongoing.

- The enemy tried to wedge into our defenses in the Pokrovsky direction 39 times. Since the beginning of the day, the occupiers in the areas of the settlements of Vozdvyzhenka, Myrolyubivka, Promin, Zelene, Dachenske, Novyi Trud, Shevchenko, Vovkove, Novoolenivka and Novoelizavetivka have been fiercely repulsed by our defenders 31 times. Eight attacks are still ongoing.

- In the Kurakhiv direction, the enemy attacked our positions near Petropavlivka, Slovianka, Shevchenko and Kurakhovo. At present, Ukrainian soldiers have repelled 13 attacks, five clashes are still ongoing.
 - In the Vremiv direction, our troops repelled enemy attacks near Yantarne, Uspenivka, Vremivka and in the direction of Konstantinopol and Novoselka - 11 attacks were repelled, five are ongoing.
 - In the Orikhiv direction, the enemy twice tried to break through in the direction of Novoandreyevka, suffered losses and retreated. • The Ukrainian Defense Forces continue to conduct operations in the Kursk region, at present, Ukrainian defenders have repelled 17 attacks by the invaders.
- 11:21 PM: 11 Azov fighters have been returned from Russian captivity, reported brigade commander Denis.

11:21 PM: 11 Azov fighters were returned from Russian captivity, reported brigade commander Denis "Redis" Prokopenko.

- "They went through extremely difficult trials that lasted almost 3 years. 86 days of defending Mariupol, heavy fighting at the limit of human capabilities, captivity, prisons, interrogations, torture. They did not give up and emerged from this hell as winners," wrote "Redis".

6:31 PM: A Ukrainian soldier, just released from Russian captivity, recites a poem by Volodymyr Sosyura "Love Ukraine".

6:49 PM: The Roshen confectionery corporation of Petro Poroshenko's family has stopped production at its Bonbonetti factory in the Hungarian capital Budapest due to unprofitability and the impossibility of expansion, Forbes Ukraine.

- As Roshen CEO Oleksandr Holovashchuk said, the factory has not been producing products since 2023.
- Some of the Bonbonetti equipment was transported to the Vinnytsia confectionery factory, some was disposed of.

MORDOR – ruZZia

Monday, December 30

12:30 AM: North Korea announced the "toughest strategy to counter the US", — Kyodo News.

- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said at a ruling party meeting that the country would take a tough stance to protect its interests and security, since the US, in his opinion, is the most reactionary state that considers anti-communism to be its unchanging state policy.

- Kim is confident that the alliance of the US, Japan and South Korea "has expanded to a nuclear military bloc for aggression".

8:05 AM: The Belarusian authorities have banned Santa Claus, English-language New Year's songs, and carols in schools, and instead recommended adhering to Russian New Year traditions.

8:12 AM: Lavrov said that the Russian Federation would lift the moratorium on the deployment of medium- and short-range missiles.

12:30 PM: In the Bryansk region of the Russian Federation, a flight was made near the Druzhba oil pipeline in the village of Mamai at night, — rosZMI.

- The pipeline was not damaged, a technical building on the territory was partially destroyed.

7:33 PM: Powerful explosions were heard in Lgov on Kurshchina, local media reported.

11:51 PM: Explosions can be heard in temporarily occupied Sevastopol, local media reported.

REGIONS

Monday, December 30

1:57 PM: "For Kyiv, as for all of Ukraine, 2024 was a difficult year... In 2024, 500 air alerts were issued in Kyiv. During which the Russian armed forces carried out almost 200 air strikes on the capital of Ukraine. In which the Russian troops used more than 1,600 means of destruction of various types against peaceful Kyiv." Details: In particular, the occupiers launched:

- more than 1,300 UAVs;
- more than 200 cruise missiles (X-101/X-59/X-69/Iskander-K/Caliber);
- 24 ballistic missiles (Iskander-M/KN-23);
- 22 Kinzhal aeroballistic missiles;
- 7 Zircon hypersonic missiles.
- During the most massive attack, the Russians used 78 weapons simultaneously, including 49 Kh-101 missiles and 10 Kinzhal aeroballistic missiles.

7:11 PM: In 2024, Kyiv experienced 500 airstrikes and almost 200 strikes by Russian troops, which led to damage to more than 550 residential buildings, according to KMVA.

- Almost 120 people were left homeless, the number of internally displaced persons increased by 11,000. Kyiv residents also experienced almost 100 days of power outages.
- At the same time, almost 21,000 children were born in Kyiv in 2024, which is a symbol of the indomitability of Ukrainians.

Sumy

Monday, December 30

5:00 AM: An airstrike in the Sumy region was declared at 4:10.

- Immediately after the explosions were reported at 4:56, the air raid alert was canceled in the region.
- However, at 4:59, the region was again alerted.

Kharkiv

Monday, December 30

2:14 PM: Kharkiv region — missile danger.

3:13 PM: As a result of Russian shelling on December 30, a woman walking down the street died in the village of Kivsharivka, Kharkiv region.

Zaporizhia

Monday, December 30

10:10 AM: As a result of another operation by Ukrainian Military Intelligence and OSUV "Tavria", the Russian headquarters in the temporarily occupied territory of Zaporizhia region was destroyed.

- Six invaders were eliminated, three more were seriously injured.

11:44 PM: A Russian Buk-M1-2 complex was destroyed in the Zaporizhia direction.

- A drone bomber of the 412th NEMESIS regiment struck the installation three times, which led to the detonation of anti-aircraft missiles.

Kherson

Monday, December 30

12:40 AM: A couple was injured in an enemy drone attack in Antonivka, Kherson region, Kherson OVA

- "At about 21:30 (December 29 - ed.) residents of Antonivka were hit by an enemy drone.
- A 62-year-old man and woman were injured as a result of the explosives dropped from the drone."
- The OVA of the Kherson region clarified that the victim was diagnosed with an explosive trauma and shrapnel wounds to the legs. His wife had a contusion and a fractured lower leg.

Vinnytsia

Monday, December 30

6:53 PM: An 8-year-old boy who suffered burns to 45% of his body surface as a result of a Russian missile strike on Vinnytsia took off his mask.

- Roman Oleksiv was in intensive care for over 100 days and underwent 27 operations during that time.
- Since then, he has worn a blue compression mask, as well as gloves and tights, which have kept the intense pain at bay.

Comparison of russian losses in 9 years and 9 months in Afghanistan to losses in russian invasion of Ukraine using Wikipedia and Ukraine Ministry of Defense Daily Bulletins. Soviet and Russian military losses not including captured equipment or damaged and destroyed equipment outside of Ukraine.

	Soviet Afghanistan	Dec 26	Dec 27	Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30
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Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 1037 days	After 1039 days	After 1039 days	After 1040 days	After 1041 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	782,510	784,200	785,390	787,940	789,550

Material Losses

Tanks	147	9,644	9,651	9,656	9,663	9,668
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	19,951	19,970	19,981	20,003	20,030
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	22,631	22,664	22,706	22,750	22,784
Cruise Missiles		3,003	3,003	3,003	3,003	3,003
Fighters Bombers	118	369	369	369	369	369
Helicopters	333	329	329	329	329	329
Drones		20,999		21,038	21,069	21,081
Air Defense Systems		1,032	1,032	1,032	1,032	1,032
Cargo/Fuel/ other transport	11,369	32,262	32,328	32,410	32,551	32,626
Naval Vessels		28 + 1 submarine	28 + 1 submarine	28 + 1 submarine	28 + 1 submarine	28 + 1 submarine
Specialized equipment		3,668	3,670	3,670	3,670	3,671

SOURCES

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