

1783: Crimea is annexed by the Russian Empire as a result of the Russo-Turkish War (1768–1774):

[https://web.archive.org/web/20220319071350/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russo-Turkish_War_\(1768%E2%80%931774\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20220319071350/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russo-Turkish_War_(1768%E2%80%931774))

1944: Lavrentiy Beria, head of Soviet state security and secret police, orders the forcible deportation of the Tatars from the Crimean peninsula in the name of Joseph Stalin, resulting in the ethnic cleansing of the region. A region that from then on became predominantly ethnically Russian.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417044322/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crimea>

1954: the Soviet Union transfers Crimea to the Ukrainian SSR from the Russian SSR. The transfer to Ukraine was made by Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev as a symbolic gesture celebrating the 300th anniversary of the 1654 Treaty of Pereyaslav.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220408132926/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1954_transfer_of_Crimea

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220413220613/https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/why-did-russia-give-away-crimea-sixty-years-ago>

1982: a group of Ultras (soccer super fanatics) of the club FC Metalist Kharkiv is formed, called "Sect 82," that later would become the Battalion Azov.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220411163812/https://hromadske.ua/posts/my-namahaiemosia-priyity-do-vlady-cherez-vybory-khoch-maiemo-vsiaki-mozhlyvosti-ia-k-azov-staie-partiiei>

February 1990: Secretary of State James Baker assures Mikhail Gorbachev that Nato would not expand even an inch further east during the reunification of Germany. A promise he knew very well he would not keep. (Very interesting read)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220419154711/https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/russia-programs/2017-12-12/nato-expansion-what-gorbachev-heard-western-leaders-early>

April 1990: The International Renaissance Foundation (IRF) a Ukrainian NGO is founded by George Soros

https://web.archive.org/web/20220406010649/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Renaissance_Foundation

20 January 1991: A referendum on sovereignty was held in the Crimean Oblast of the Ukrainian SSR. Voters were asked whether they wanted to re-establish the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of the Russian SFSR), which had been abolished in 1945. The proposal was approved by 94% of voters.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220424102015/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crimean_Autonomous_Soviet_Socialist_Republic

https://web.archive.org/web/20220424081732/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1991_Crimean_sovereignty_referendum

19-22 August 1991: Soviet coup d'état attempt (August Coup) was a failed attempt by hard-liners of the Soviet Union's Communist Party to take control of the country away from Mikhail Gorbachev, who was Soviet President and General Secretary of the Party. The coup leaders consisted of top military and civilian officials, including Vice President Gennady Yanayev, who formed the State Committee on the State of Emergency (GKChP). They were opponents of Gorbachev's reform program, angry at the loss of control over Eastern European states and fearful of the New Union Treaty (would replace the Soviet Union with a federation of autonomous republics called the Union of Sovereign States) that was about to be signed. The treaty would decentralize much of the central government's power to the 15 republics. The GKChP hard-liners dispatched KGB agents, who detained Gorbachev at his holiday estate but failed to detain the recently elected president of a newly reconstituted Russia, Boris Yeltsin, who had been both an ally and critic of Gorbachev. The GKChP was poorly organized, resisted effectively by both Yeltsin and a civilian campaign of anti-Communist protestors, mainly in Moscow. The coup collapsed in only two days and Gorbachev returned to office, while all the plotters lost office. Yeltsin became the dominant leader and Gorbachev lost much of his influence. The failed coup led to both the immediate collapse of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the dissolution of the USSR four months later.

Following the capitulation of the GKChP, popularly referred to as the "Gang of Eight", both the Supreme Court of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) and the President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev described their actions as a coup attempt.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220421145410/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1991_Soviet_coup_d%C3%A9tat_attempt

24 August 1991: As a consequence of the coup, Ukraine declares independence from the Soviet Union taking with it the only warm water port of the USSR in Sevastopol, Crimea:
https://web.archive.org/web/20220419115259/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_of_Independence_of_Ukraine

8 December 1991: Ukraine became a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The CIS encourages cooperation in economic, political and military affairs and has certain powers relating to the coordination of trade, finance, lawmaking, and security. It has also promoted cooperation on cross-border crime prevention.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220422192701/https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA360381.pdf>
https://web.archive.org/web/20220413202719/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Independent_States

7 February 1992: Ihor Kolomoyskyi (more on him later) co-founded with Hennadii Boholiubov PrivatBank and its informal Privat Group.
https://web.archive.org/web/20220422155422/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ihor_Kolomoyskyi#Privat_Group

6 May 1992: the Crimean parliament votes to declare Ukraine's conditional independence. The

decision should have been confirmed by a referendum of the peninsula's 2.5 million inhabitants that never took place.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220406233031/https://www.nytimes.com/1992/05/06/world/crimea-parliament-votes-to-back-independence-from-ukraine.html>

22 May 1992: the Russian Parliament declares that the 1954 transfer of Crimea by the Russian SSR to the Ukrainian SSR was unconstitutional and therefore invalid. That same day the Crimean parliament withdraws its conditional request for independence and suspends referendum preparations until 10 June.

<https://archive.ph/IDDWc>

23 May 1992: the Lisbon Protocol is signed:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220416094623/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lisbon_Protocol

14 August 1992: the war between Abkhazia and Georgia begins (In March 1989 Abkhazia had asked for separation from the Georgian SSR (which was approved) and a series of protests that culminated in war began):

[https://web.archive.org/web/20220404022654/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Abkhazia_\(1992%E2%80%931993\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20220404022654/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Abkhazia_(1992%E2%80%931993))

1992 - 1993: President Clinton pressures Ukraine to surrender its nuclear weapons.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220417152716/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budapest_Memorandum_on_Security_Assurances

25 April 1993: a referendum is held in Russia with the following questions:

1. Do you trust the President of the Russian Federation, B.N. Yeltsin? (60% answered yes)
2. Do you approve of the socio-economic policies conducted by the President and Government of the Russian Federation since 1992? (54% answered yes)
3. Do you consider it essential to hold early presidential elections for the Russian Federation? (51% answered no)
4. Do you consider it essential to hold early parliamentary elections for the Russian Federation? (69% answered yes)

https://web.archive.org/web/20220206021833/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1993_Russian_government_referendum

Based on the results of the referendum, Boris tries to dissolve parliament with powers he did not have; beginning the Russian constitutional crisis of 1993. which leads to the tank bombing of the Russian White House resulting in the dissolution of the assembly, communes and the Soviet regime, implementing presidential government by decree and calling for new elections:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220414042503/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1993_Russian_constitutional_crisis

September 1993: Disputes concerning gas debts from Ukraine to Russia and non-payment appeared immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union. As a result of disputes over

non-payments by Ukraine, Russia suspended natural gas exports several times between 1992 and 1994. This led to the illicit diversion of Russian natural gas exports from transit pipelines by Ukrainian companies and institutions in September 1993 and November 1994.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Disputes_of_the_1990s

3 September 1993: At a summit conference in Massandra, Crimea, Russian President Boris Yeltsin offered to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to forgive Ukrainian debts in return for control of the Black Sea Fleet and Ukraine's nuclear arsenal.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220329121105/https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/crimea-and-black-sea-fleet-russian-ukrainian-relations>

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Disputes_of_the_1990s

October 1993: The Crimean parliament established the post of President of Crimea. Tensions rose in 1994 with the election of separatist leader Yury Meshkov as Crimean president.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220425183302/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_the_Autonomous_Republic_of_Crimea

11 December 1994: the first war in Chechnya begins:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220418110351/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Chechen_War

1995: Bill Clinton's administration lobbied to bring Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into NATO.

Political officer in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow William J. Burns (future CIA director under Biden), reported to Washington that "hostility to early NATO expansion is almost universally felt across the domestic political spectrum here."

Later in 2008, Burns wrote in a memo to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice:

"Ukrainian entry into NATO is the brightest of all redlines for the Russian elite (not just Putin). In more than two and a half years of conversations with key Russian players ... I have yet to find anyone who views Ukraine in NATO as anything other than a direct challenge to Russian interests."

<https://archive.ph/dvqY3#selection-13.14575-13.15624>

<https://archive.ph/nNYOo>

17 March 1995: The parliament of Ukraine abolished the Crimean Constitution of 1992, all the laws and decrees contradicting those of Kyiv, and also removed Yuriy Meshkov, the then President of Crimea, along with the office itself. After an interim constitution, the 1998 Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea was put into effect, changing the territory's name to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220425183302/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_the_Autonomous_Republic_of_Crimea

28 June 1996: the Ukrainian constitution is passed:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220414204329/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Ukraine

28 May 1997: Ukraine and Russia reached an agreement over the Gas disputes, Nukes and Black Sea Fleet (BSF) signed by Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Briefly, the accords outline an agreement whereby:

1. The two nations split the Black Sea Fleet 50-50 with Russia to buy back some of the more modern ships with cash;
2. Russia will lease the ports in and around Sevastopol for 20 years at \$97.75 million per year. Russia would also credit Ukraine with \$526 million for the use of part of the fleet, as well as \$200 million for the 1992 transfer of Ukraine's nuclear arsenal to Russia. The payments will go toward reducing Ukraine's \$3 billion debt to Russia (most of which was owed to Russian gas supplier RAO Gazprom) ; and
3. Crimea (and the city of Sevastopol, built 214 years ago to proclaim the Russian empire's eternal dominion over the seas) is legally and territorially a sovereign part of Ukraine.

Each nation had an interest in solving the BSF issues. For Ukraine the issue was maintaining new-found independence from Russia. In seeking to reach a deal Ukraine wanted at all costs to avoid being bullied by Russia and to maintain Ukrainian sovereignty over Sevastopol and the rest of Crimea. Ukraine did not want to acquire an entire new "fleet" as it could not afford the maintenance costs for even a fraction of the ships. For Russia, the issue was in acquiring the ships and the rights to base them (preferably on sovereign Russian territory). Russia needed the remains of the BSF not for any strategic purpose but as a symbolic instrument to help it reassert power on its southern flank - vis a vis Turkey, the Caucasus, and future Caspian oil Flows. This re-projected Russian force in the black sea:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20120207070000/https://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/09/opinion/09iht-edstrauss.1.19226335.html>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220422192701/https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA360381.pdf>

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Disputes_of_the_1990s

26 June 1997: 50 prominent foreign policy experts signed an open letter to Clinton, saying, "We believe that the current U.S. led effort to expand NATO ... is a policy error of historic proportions" that would "unsettle European stability."

<https://archive.ph/gnqkv>

9 July 1997: NATO signs a long-term cooperation agreement with Ukraine, with the ultimate objective of its membership.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220417152140/https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_25457.htm

24 March 1999: under the leadership of Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, NATO intervened with an intense bombing campaign on Yugoslavia without the prior approval of the United Nations Security Council. Russia China and Israel strongly opposed the intervention. These events planted the seed of the “Kosovo Precedent” that will be used by the Putin years later.

(Ed. Note: It also worsened all things it set out to do, death toll among all concerned (including ethnic Albanians) skyrocketed following NATO intervention, and, as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) noted "the pattern of the expulsions and the vast increase in lootings, killings, rape, kidnappings and pillage once the NATO air war began on March 24")

https://web.archive.org/web/20220419023517/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO_bombing_of_Yugoslavia

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417142500/https://balkaninsight.com/2022/03/09/how-the-kosovo-precedent-shaped-putins-plan-to-invade-ukraine/>

https://web.archive.org/web/20220430174906/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosovo_War

7 May 1999: Bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade Yugoslavia, killing 3 Chinese Journalists, souring the relations with the US.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220430174906/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosovo_War#Asia

1999: In 1998, Gazprom alleged that Ukraine had illegally diverted gas meant for export to other European countries and suspended exports of oil and electricity to Ukraine in 1999. Gazprom also claimed that Ukraine's gas debt had reached \$2.8 billion.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Disputes_of_the_1990s

4 October 2001: Deputy Prime Minister Oleh Dubyna acknowledged that in 2000 alone 8–7 billion cubic meters (280–250 billion cubic feet) of Russian natural gas had been diverted from export pipelines. The debt issue was settled on 4 October 2001, by the signing of an intergovernmental agreement on Additional Measures Regarding the Provision of Transit of Russian Natural Gas on the Territory of Ukraine (the 2001 Transit Agreement).

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220422200403/https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=4073>

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Disputes_of_the_1990s

13 December 2001: George W. Bush gave Russia notice of the United States' withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, in accordance with the clause that required six months' notice before terminating the pact—the first time in recent history that the United States has withdrawn from a major international arms treaty.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220425141513/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Ballistic_Missile_Treaty

22 November 2002: An action plan was signed between NATO and Ukraine, reaffirming the commitment to establish “closer ties” and outlining a long-term plan for the implementation of “reforms” that would make that country suitable for its full integration into this organization.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220326154905/https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_19547.htm

2004: the Ukrainian Social-(Ultra)Nationalist party (Nazi party) changes its name to Svoboda:

[https://web.archive.org/web/20220406205350/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Svoboda_\(political_party\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20220406205350/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Svoboda_(political_party))

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SBo0akeDMY>

2004-2005: 80% of Russian gas exports to the European Union were made through Ukrainian territory. The gas trading system (Between Russia-Ukraine) differed substantially from the gas sale to the European Union and caused problems in the form of large-scale deliveries of relatively cheap Russian gas causing an increase of energy-intensive industries and supporting Ukraine's status as one of the world's least energy-efficient countries and largest gas importers, the accumulation of Ukrainian debts and non-payment of same, unsanctioned diversion of gas and alleged theft from the transit system, and Russian pressure on Ukraine to hand over infrastructure in return for relief of debts accumulated over natural gas transactions.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20090114195333/http://www.italy.usembassy.gov/pdf/other/RS22378.pdf>

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes

(Some more context as these are going to be important later on)

Commercial agreements and trade relations have been non-transparent and trade has been conducted via intermediaries such as Itera, EuralTransGaz, and RosUkrEnergo.

RosUkrEnergo's involvement in the Russian-Ukrainian gas trade has been controversial. There are allegations that the company is controlled by Semion Mogilevich and its beneficiaries include strategically placed officials in the Russian and Ukrainian gas industries and governmental structures related to the energy sector.

20 July 2004: (the future leader of Svoboda(Nazi)) Oleh Tyahnybok is expelled from Viktor Yushchenko's (Our Ukraine) party for making anti-Semitic remarks:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220413010826/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oleh_Tyahnybok

31 October 2004: the first round of presidential elections takes place pitting Viktor Yushchenko against Viktor Yanukovich (pro-Russia and current PM) on 21 November in the second round. On 23 November Viktor Yanukovich (pro-Russia) wins but the results are disputed by Yushchenko and international observers who claim the elections were rigged. What leads to TCDD poisoning

(Polychlorinated dibenzodioxin) of Yushchenko and the orange revolution. The Supreme Court overturned the results and called a second round of the second round of elections:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220416062147/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_Ukrainian_presidential_election

https://web.archive.org/web/20220416060052/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange_Revolution

8 December 2004: as a consequence of the 2004 presidential crisis, the Constitution is amended, weakening the powers of the President, revoking the election of the PM only as a competence of Parliament (among others):

https://web.archive.org/web/20220414204329/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Ukraine

26 December 2004: Yushchenko (poisoned) is elected president.

2005: Georgia draws plans to invade Abkhazia and South Ossetia

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220106144258/https://www.reuters.com/article/us-georgia-russia-opposition-idUSLD12378020080914>

23 January 2005: he entered as President, with the objective of strengthening the relationship with the EU and maintaining relations with Russia:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220419092447/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viktor_Yushchenko

24 January 2005: Yulia Tymoshenko takes over as PM:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220409122304/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yulia_Tymoshenko

March 2005: A serious dispute began over the price of natural gas supplied and the cost of transit. During this conflict, Russia claimed Ukraine was not paying for gas, but diverting that which was intended to be exported to the EU from the pipelines. Ukrainian officials at first denied the accusation, but later Naftogaz admitted that because of harsh winter (lower than minus 30C) some natural gas intended for other European countries was retained and used for domestic needs. Ukraine said it will still meet its contractual transit obligations.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Dispute_of_2005%E2%80%932006

May 2005: It was revealed that 7.8 billion cubic meters (280 billion cubic feet) of gas which Gazprom had deposited in Ukrainian storage reservoirs during the previous winter had not been made available to the company. It remained unclear if the gas was missing, had disappeared due to technical problems, or had been stolen.

1 January 2006: The gas dispute between Russia and Ukraine reached a high point on 1 January 2006, when Russia cut off all gas supplies passing through Ukrainian territory.

<https://archive.ph/zCLH>

<https://archive.ph/vP50>

4 January 2006: The supply was restored, after the preliminary agreement between Ukraine and Gazprom was settled. A five-year contract was signed, although with prices set for only six

months. According to the contract, the gas was sold not directly to Naftohaz, but to the intermediary Russian-Swiss company RosUkrEnergo. The price of natural gas sold by Gazprom to RosUkrEnergo rose to \$230 per 1,000 cubic metres, which, after mixing it in a proportion of one-third Russian gas to two-thirds cheaper supplies from Central Asia, was resold to Ukraine at a price of \$95 per 1,000 cubic metres. The parties also agreed to raise the tariff for transit from US\$1.09 to US\$1.60 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 km; this applied not only to the transit of Russian gas to Europe, but also Turkmen gas through Russia to Ukraine. On 11 January 2006, Presidents Vladimir Putin and Viktor Yushchenko confirmed that the conflict had been concluded.

One possible reason for this conflict is the more pro-NATO and European Union-style approach of the new "orange" government of Ukraine. Russia disagreed, stating they did not want to subsidize former Soviet republics.

<https://archive.ph/ROV6>

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Dispute_of_2005%E2%80%932006

<https://archive.ph/RGbmU>

December 2006: The Ukrainian election authority receives a petition of 3 million signatures to hold a referendum on membership of NATO and membership of the CIS ("EU" of the former USSR) neither the president nor the parliament scheduled a referendum.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220405132953/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Referendums_in_Ukraine#Referendums_on_NATO_and_Common_Economic_Space

(Ed. NOTE that according to Polls at the time the vast majority was against joining NATO)

10 February 2007: at the 43rd Munich Security Conference, Putin criticizes what he called the US Monopoly Dominance in global relations and its "almost unrestrained hyper use of force in international relations". He said the result of such mastery was that no one feels safe! Because no one can feel that international law is like a stone wall that will protect them. Of course, such a policy encourages an arms race.

Putin quoted a 1990 speech by Manfred Wörner to support his position that NATO made a binding pledge not to expand into new Eastern European countries: He said at the time that: "the fact that we are ready not to put a NATO army outside German territory gives the Soviet Union a firm guarantee of security". Where are these guarantees?

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220418021853/http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/24034>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQ58Yv6kP44>

2 April 2007: Viktor Yushchenko unsuccessfully tries to dissolve the assembly, and turned it against him:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220421011113/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viktor_Yushchenko

7 June 2007: Putin publicly opposes plans for the US missile shield in Europe and presented President George W. Bush with a counterproposal, which was turned down.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220220131958/http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/24322>

2 October 2007: New disputes began over Ukrainian gas debts. Gazprom threatened to cut off gas supplies to Ukraine because of unpaid debt of \$1.3 billion. This led to reduction of gas supplies in March 2008. During the last months of 2008, relations once again became tense when Ukraine and Russia could not agree on the debts owed by Ukraine.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Dispute_of_2007%E2%80%932008

11 December 2007: Russia suspends its participation in the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe because: Seven years have passed and only four states have ratified this document, including the Russian Federation.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220416094527/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_on_Conventional_Armed_Forces_in_Europe

5 January 2008: Gazprom warned Ukraine that it would reduce its gas supplies on 11 January if \$1.5 billion in gas debts were not paid.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Dispute_of_2007%E2%80%932008

12 February 2008: Presidents Putin and Yushchenko announced an agreement on the gas issue. Ukraine would begin paying off its debts for natural gas consumed in November–December 2007 and the price of \$179.5 would be preserved in 2008. The presidents also decided to replace RosUkrEnergo and UkrGazEnergo with two new intermediaries, creating them as joint ventures of Gazprom and Naftogaz.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Dispute_of_2007%E2%80%932008

17 February 2008: Kosovo declares independence from Serbia, which angered Putin and would create the basis for the invasion of Georgia (“The Kosovo precedent”):

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417142500/https://balkaninsight.com/2022/03/09/how-the-kosovo-precedent-shaped-putins-plan-to-invade-ukraine/>

26 February 2008: Gazprom threatened to reduce the supply of natural gas to Ukraine beginning on 3 March 2008, unless the pre-payment for 2008 was paid. The Ukrainian government said it paid for the natural gas which was consumed in 2007, but refused to pay the bill for 2008. A Gazprom spokesman claimed that the bill for 1.9 billion cubic meters of gas deliveries to Ukraine valued around \$600 million remained unpaid. Ukraine disagreed as that debt accumulated in recent months when Russia used its own gas to make up for a shortfall in less expensive Central Asian gas.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Dispute_of_2007%E2%80%932008

3 March 2008: Gazprom cut its shipments to Ukraine by 25% and an additional 25% the next day, claiming that the \$1.5 billion debt still was not paid, although Ukrainian officials stated it had indeed been paid. Gas supplies were restored on 5 March after Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller and Naftohaz CEO Oleh Dubyna agreed during negotiations by phone on a settlement.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Dispute_of_2007%E2%80%932008

6 March 2008: The Ukrainian cabinet refused to execute the gas agreements made by presidents Yushchenko and Putin. The Ukrainian cabinet did not want to pay in advance for 2008, and it opposed the creation of a Naftohaz–Gazprom venture that would sell gas in Ukraine. Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko stated that Ukraine did not need any additional joint ventures, and as of 1 March 2008, UkrGazEnergo is no longer operating in Ukraine's domestic gas market.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Dispute_of_2007%E2%80%932008

2-4 April 2008: NATO opens doors to Georgia and Ukraine, an act that Russia considers a threat to integrity.

It is decided not to offer a Membership Action Plan to the two countries so as not to antagonize Russia, something that George W. Bush tries to force.

In the end it is decided that despite not receiving MAP, they receive guarantees that they will be admitted to NATO:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220402163933/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_Bucharest_summit

<https://web.archive.org/web/20110514045318/http://www.nato.int/docu/update/2008/04-april/e0403h.html>

https://web.archive.org/web/20080410213408/http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080331/ap_on_re_eu/russia_vs_nato_1

All Ukrainian polls before AND AFTER THIS EVENT (until the annexation of Crimea) are MAJORITY against Ukraine's entry into NATO:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220421012134/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Referendums_in_Ukraine

11 April 2008: Russia threatens to invade both countries if they do not withdraw from NATO membership:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220131025542/https://www.dw.com/en/russia-talks-tough-in-response-to-natos-eastward-expansion/a-3261078>

3 June 2008: In June 2008, the Ukrainian parliament passed a law that made it impossible for Ukraine to join any military bloc.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220412072952/https://www.bbc.com/news/10229626>

22 July 2008: the EU opens the door to a possible entry from Ukraine:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220409224428/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union%E2%80%93Ukraine_Association_Agreement

1 August 2008: Georgia President, thinking he was backed by Washington, tries to put motion to his plans of invading Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Russia in response invades Georgia, reaping the rewards of the "Kosovo precedent" as Abkhazia and South Ossetia were being bombed by Georgia:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220417153900/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russo-Georgian_War
<https://web.archive.org/web/20220106144258/https://www.reuters.com/article/us-georgia-russia-opposition-idUSLD12378020080914>

3 September 2008: NATO carries out a "planned visit" to the Black Sea, cutting off access to the Black Sea as the Treaty of Montreux did not allow more than 9 warships, with a total tonnage of 15,000T, to pass through the Bosphorus channel. You also have to notify 8 days or 15 before (for countries in the black sea and countries outside respectively). This led to Russia opening a port in Syria and building on already lasting relations with Assad:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220315073751/https://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2008/p08-110e.html>
https://web.archive.org/web/20220416232618/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montreux_Convention_Regarding_the_Regime_of_the_Straits
<https://archive.ph/MI9lu>

(Ed. Note: At this point it is just a refueling port and by no means has the capacity for multiple boats)

9 October 2008: Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko tries to dissolve the assembly again:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220421011113/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viktor_Yushchenko

December 2008: Ukraine owed a debt of \$2.4 billion to Gazprom for gas already consumed, and Gazprom requested payment before the commencement of a new supply contract.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Dispute_of_2008%E2%80%932009

30 December 2008: Naftohaz paid \$1.522 billion, of the outstanding debt, but the two parties were not able to agree on the price for 2009. Negotiations between Gazprom and Naftohaz were interrupted on 31 December.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Dispute_of_2008%E2%80%932009

1 January 2009: Gas exports to Ukraine of 90 million cubic meters of natural gas per day were halted completely at 10:00 MSK. Exports intended for transshipment to the EU continued.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes#Dispute_of_2008%E2%80%932009

2 January 2009: Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Poland reported that pressure in their pipelines had dropped. Furthermore, the United Kingdom Government announced that it was preparing to enter its gas reserves after gas pressure had dropped from the continent.

4 January 2009: both RosUkrEnerg and Gazprom filed lawsuits against Ukraine and Naftohaz respectively with the Stockholm Tribunal of the Arbitration Institute.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes

5 January 2009: Kyiv's economic court banned Naftohaz from transshipping Russian natural gas in 2009. On 30 March 2010, the Stockholm tribunal ordered Naftohaz to pay RosUkrEnerg around \$200 million as a penalty for various breaches of supply, transit, and storage contracts and to return the diverted gas.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin instructed Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller to reduce natural gas exports to Europe via transshipment through Ukraine by quantities equivalent to the amounts of gas which Ukraine had allegedly diverted from the pipelines since deliveries ended on 1 January 2009.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes

7 January 2009: all Russian natural gas exports via Ukraine were halted amid accusations between the two parties. Several countries reported a major fall in supplies of Russian gas.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes

8 January 2009: Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin made accusations that RosUkrEnerg is owned by a business ally of Ukraine's president, Viktor Yushchenko (poisoned). The Ukrainian investigation into RosUkrEnerg, during Yulia Tymoshenko's first term as Prime Minister, was closed after she was fired by Yushchenko in September 2005.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes

17 January 2009: Russia held an international gas conference in Moscow. The conference did not achieve any solution to the crisis, and the negotiations continued bilaterally between Prime Ministers Putin and Tymoshenko.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes

18 January 2009: After five hours of talks, Putin and Tymoshenko reached a deal to restore gas

supplies to Europe and Ukraine. Both parties agreed that Ukraine would start paying European prices for its natural gas.

According to the EU Commission and Presidency, the Russia–Ukraine gas disputes caused irreparable and irreversible damage to customers' confidence in Russia and Ukraine, causing Russia and Ukraine to no longer be regarded as reliable partners. According to reports, due to the gas crisis Gazprom lost more than \$1.1 billion in revenue for the unsupplied gas. Ukraine also incurred losses as a result of the temporary closure of its steel and chemical industries due to the lack of gas.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412003358/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_gas_disputes

6 May 2009: EU-Canada Summit in Prague, a new effort to draw half a dozen countries away from Moscow's orbit. Initiative started by Sweden's Carl Bildt and Poland's Radek Sikorski, two of the EU's most anti-Russian and abrasive foreign ministers according to Jonathan Steele, a former eastern Europe correspondent for the Guardian.

The summit brought the EU's 27 governments together for the first time with the leaders of the post-Soviet countries of Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus to inaugurate the so-called "Eastern Partnership".

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140329173606/http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/12/solution-to-ukraine-crisi-political-not-economic>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140303231434/http://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/may/07/russia-eu-europe-partnership-deal>

25 February 2010: President Viktor Yanukovych (Pro-Russian) takes office:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220415093456/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viktor_Yanukovych

21 April 2010: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych signed an agreement in which Russia agreed to a 30 percent drop in the price of natural gas sold to Ukraine. Russia agreed to this in exchange for permission to extend Russia's lease of a major naval base in the Ukrainian Black Sea port of Sevastopol for an additional 25 years with an additional five-year renewal option (to 2042–47).

This agreement was subject to approval by both the Russian and Ukrainian parliaments. They did ratify the agreement on 27 April 2010.

Yanukovych has defended the agreement as a tool to help stabilize the state budget.

Opposition members in Ukraine described the agreement as a sell out of national interests.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220410152034/https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/apr/21/ukraine-black-sea-fleet-russia>

22 July 2010: the International Court of Justice declared that Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence was valid and did not violate international law:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417142500/https://balkaninsight.com/2022/03/09/how-the-kosovo-precedent-shaped-putins-plan-to-invade-ukraine/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220303202127/https://news.un.org/en/story/2010/07/345532-kosovos-declaration-independence-did-not-violate-international-law-un-court>

1 October 2010: the Ukrainian Constitutional Court revokes the amendments to the 2004 constitution:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220414204329/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Ukraine

2011 - 2012: Ukrainian accession to the EU is delayed by concerns about corruption (concerns over a "stark deterioration of democracy and the rule of law"), while President Yanukovich saw Ukraine joining the CIS. who could not be part of two unions at the same time:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220421014513/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union%E2%80%93Ukraine_Association_Agreement

11 May 2012: Ukraine chooses Chevron and Shell to explore the country's gas and oil reserves:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220227041221/https://www.reuters.com/article/shell-chevron-ukraine-idUSL5E8GBAE020120511>

2012: Clinton Foundation receives 8.6 million from Victor Pinchuk foundation (I didn't include all the corruption stories for Obama, Biden, and Hillary because it's whole other monster):

<https://archive.ph/1FsJt>

2012: the US uses 5 billion from the USAID fund through NGOs to try to subvert the Ukrainian elections (more details later):

<https://archive.ph/lAk1v>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2fYcHLouXY>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140628034614/http://www.ned.org/publications/annual-reports/2011-annual-report/central-and-eastern-europe/ukraine>

13 July 2012: the bilingual regional law comes into force making Ukraine a bilingual nation:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220406184137/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_policy_in_Ukraine

6 December 2012: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton fears efforts to 're-Sovietize' in Europe.

<https://archive.ph/HSHWJ>

20 November 2013: Deputy Oleg Tsaryov warns the parliament that the US is trying to subvert Ukrainian Democracy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9hOI8TuBUM>

21 November 2013: the Ukrainian parliament rejects 6 proposals to release and treat Yulia Tymoshenko (one of the EU-imposed rules for accession) and a Ukrainian government decree of law suspends preparations to sign the agreement with the EU and proposes a triple

exchange commission between the EU, Ukraine and Russia that would solve the exchange problems between the 3. The then prime minister, Yuriy Boyko, also warned of the damage that an association with the EU would represent for the Ukrainian economy.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220410001145/https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/11/21/ukraine-drops-eu-plans-and-looks-to-russia/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220410001354/https://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/176144.html>

That same day, the Euromaidan protests began, which the east of the country greatly disliked:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220413220551/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euromaidan>

Ed. Note: The country is (AT THIS TIME) divided between pro-EU and pro-Russia with pro-Russia being the majority

25 November 2013: anti-maidan protests by pro-Russians begin:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220325182839/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Maidan>

28 November 2013: At the EU summit, Viktor Yanukovich did not sign any association agreement, suggesting a trilateral agreement, involving Ukraine, Russia and the European Union. This proposal was rejected outright by the European Union. Thousands of protesters were announced in Maidan Square; others occupied the Kiev mayor's office. Opposition politicians began to accuse Viktor Yanukovich of "treason".

<https://archive.ph/5Ds6o>

29 November 2013: US Vice President Joe Biden warns Viktor Yanukovich against violent crackdown. Protesters presented their demands, one of which was the immediate resignation of Viktor Yanukovich.

<https://archive.ph/tFKCT>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220413220551/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euromaidan#Demands>

December 2013: Ukraine has tried to find out a way to cooperate with both the EU and the Eurasian Union to which the EU has repeatedly said no.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140329173606/http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/12/solution-to-ukraine-crisi-political-not-economic>

10 December 2013: Victoria Nuland (US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs) has a meeting with Ukrainian opposition leaders Oleh Tyahnybok(Svoboda(NAZI)), Arseniy Yatsenyuk(Fatherland), and Vitaliy Klitschko(UDAR):

https://web.archive.org/web/20220416060656/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arseniy_Yatsenyuk

https://web.archive.org/web/20220421130135/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vitaliy_Klitschko

14 December 2013: US Senator John McCain meets with the same leaders:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417071614/https://www.businessinsider.com/john-mccain-meets-oleh-tyahnybok-in-ukraine-2013-12>

18 December 2013: Russia offers Ukraine a \$15 Billion aid package along with reduced gas prices.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140329031032/http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/17/ukraine-russia-leaders-talks-kremlin-loan-deal>

January 2014: Euromaidan Press an Internet-based English newspaper by contributors from Ukraine, sponsored by reader contributions and the International Renaissance Foundation (NGO by Soros).

https://web.archive.org/web/20220423080551/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euromaidan_Press
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSAArjOBf_c

22 January 2014: The first deaths occurred on Unity Day, during riots on Hrushevskoho Street in Kyiv, where 3 Euromaidan activists were shot dead.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220403125426/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_killed_during_the_Revolution_of_Dignity

4 February 2014: Victoria Nuland (US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs) caught up with Ukrainian Ambassador Pyatt planning to make Arseniy Yatsenyuk Prime Minister (puppet). And saying "Fuck the EU":

https://web.archive.org/web/20220421183503/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_Nuland
<https://web.archive.org/web/20220420125615/https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26079957>

<https://youtu.be/WV9J6sxCs5k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSxaa-67yGM>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL_GShyGv3o

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220413050214/https://www.cato.org/commentary/americas-ukraine-hypocrisy>

18 February 2014: 22 people get killed kickstarting the Revolution of Dignity:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220416115954/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolution_of_Dignity

https://web.archive.org/web/20220403125426/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_killed_during_the_Revolution_of_Dignity

19 February 2014: Obama threatens Ukraine with sanctions if it tries to put down the violence in Kiev with military force.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140625075642/https://thehill.com/policy/international/198732-Obama-threatens-consequences-for-ukraine-violence>

20 February 2014: 53 people get killed, many by snipers (look up 5 March 2014). Unidentified snipers target both police and protesters in Kiev. The event is seized upon by those who oppose Yanukovich, and responsibility is attributed to the Ukrainian government, prior to any investigation. An academic investigation concluded that the massacre was a false flag operation, which was planned and carried out with a goal to overthrow the government and seizure of power.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220403125426/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_killed_during_the_Revolution_of_Dignity

(3 deaths) <https://web.archive.org/web/20210903065348/http://maidan.situplatform.com/>

Analysis: (remaining deaths and academic paper)

https://web.archive.org/web/20220428121407/https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ivan-Katchanovski/publication/266855828_The_Snipers%27_Massacre_on_the_Maidan_in_Ukraine/links/5a83a7f7a6fdcc6f3eb295a5/The-Snipers-Massacre-on-the-Maidan-in-Ukraine.pdf?origin=publication_detail

Pro-Maidan shooter admits to sniping several of the people killed or wounded on 20 February:

<https://archive.ph/ve4so>

21 February 2014: Yanukovich, together with the opposition, signed the agreement to end the political crisis and the constitution returned to the 2004 revision and promised presidential elections 10 months later. The agreement is read in Maidan Square and is not well received. As such, several MPS from Yanukovich's party resigned. Yanukovich's life and family are threatened, the convoy he's in gets shot at by automatic weapons forcing him to flee the country. That same day his house and office are invaded:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170225200651/https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/features-russian-39049755>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/ukraine-crisis-car-idINDEEA1L04620140222>

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412014503/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agreement_on_settlement_of_political_crisis_in_Ukraine

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220402152216/https://euromaidanpress.com/2016/02/19/a-timeline-of-the-euromaidan-revolution/>

22 February 2014: Parliament, with powers it did not have and without majority, votes to remove Yanukovich as president.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220418003857/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impeachment_in_Ukraine

https://web.archive.org/web/20140430232150/http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/david-morrison/ukraine-william-hague_b_4933177.html

23 February 2014: the parliament decides to revoke the bilingual law, making Ukrainian the only language, which triggered major counter-protests in pro-Russian regions (Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkov, Lugansk and Donetsk):

https://web.archive.org/web/20220406184137/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_policy_in_Ukraine#Attempted_repeal_of_the_law

27 February 2014: Arseniy Yatsenyuk (the guy chosen by Victoria Nuland) is chosen as PM by the Ukrainian parliament, taking power the next day. That same day (27th (or 23rd depending on the source)) Putin recognized the strategic danger to the Sevastopol naval base from regime change. Russian soldiers without insignia invade Crimea capturing strategic points and the Crimean Parliament:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220417000725/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annexation_of_Crimea_by_the_Russian_Federation

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220414130218/https://consortiumnews.com/2015/07/13/the-messages-that-nuland-made/>

2 March 2014: the US lends \$1 Billion to Ukraine and offers \$343 Million in aid. Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov appointed Ihor Kolomoyskyi Governor of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. Putin described Kolomoyskyi as a "unique crook," and said that the citizens of Dnipropetrovsk were not happy with his appointment as Governor of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220422155422/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ihor_Kolomoyskyi

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417001731/https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/21/fact-sheet-us-assistance-ukraine>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220322033133/https://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2014/03/why-is-the-u-s-sending-1-billion-to-ukraine>

5 March 2014: a call between EU foreign policy chief Cathy Ashton and Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet was leaked to the public in which it reveals that the shooters in Kiev were actually from the new coalition government and that Western diplomats knew about it and covered it up.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417225403/https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/05/ukraine-bugged-call-catherine-ashton-urmas-paet>

<https://soundcloud.com/stormcloudsgathering/estonian-foreign-minister-1>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20141024235346/http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2573923/Estonian-Foreign-Ministry-confirms-authenticity-leaked-phone-call-discussing-Kiev-snipers-shot-protesters-possibly-hired-Ukraines-new-leaders.html>

7 March 2014: the US is caught taking part of Ukraine's gold reserves. Later, Valeria Hontareva admits that Ukraine only has 1% of the 42.3 tons of gold. (42.3T = 8% of the world's gold)

https://web.archive.org/web/20141122021319/http://iskra-news.info/news/segodnja_nochju_iz_borispolja_v_ssha_startoval_samoljot_s_zolotym_zapasom_ukrainy/2014-03-07-9122

<https://web.archive.org/web/20141118184013/https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2014-11-18/ukraine-admits-its-gold-gone>

<https://web.archive.org/web/201411202>

15 March 2014: The Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian parliament) voted to dissolve the parliament of Crimea.

<https://archive.ph/oB0jB>

<https://archive.ph/bAWDZ>

16 March 2014: an unofficial referendum is held in Crimea. The referendum refers to the “Kosovo precedent” and asks:

1. Do you support the reunification of Crimea with Russia with all rights as a federal subject of the Russian Federation? (96.77% yes)

2. Do you support the restoration of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea in 1992 and the status of Crimea as part of Ukraine? (2.51% yes)

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412070857/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Crimean_status_referendum (same source for points below)

17 March 2014: the Crimean parliament asks the Russian Federation "to admit the Republic of Crimea as a new subject with republic status". On the same day, Putin issued a decree formally recognizing Crimea as an independent state.

18 March 2014: the Russian and Crimean leaderships sign the Treaty of Accession of the Republic of Crimea to Russia, which was ratified by the Russian Federal Assembly on 21 March.

27 March 2014: Every month, the owner of the Privat group, the governor of the Dnepropetrovsk region, Igor Kolomoisky, spends about \$10 million from his fortune on the salary of 3,000 volunteer fighters.

March 2014: During the initial phases of the War in Donbas, the Ukrainian Armed Forces suffered a number of defeats and setbacks against the separatists, as they were ill-prepared, ill-equipped, lacking in professionalism, morale, fighting spirit and with severe incompetence in the high command. As a reaction, many willing civilians created militias and paramilitary groups to fight the separatists on their own initiative, known as the "Volunteer Battalions".

https://web.archive.org/web/20220502130941/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azov_Battalion
<https://web.archive.org/web/20220401025942/https://newrepublic.com/article/117710/ukraines-army-small-sovietized-underfunded-and-poorly-trained>

According to a British Home Office report, in the March/April 2014 recall of reservists, 70 percent did not show up for the first session, 80 percent for the second, 90 percent for the third, and 95 percent for the fourth.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220428190210/https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/1008261/download>

It is worth noting that since inheriting the second largest army in Europe from USSR in 1991, Ukraine has systemically mismanaged it, the new government couldn't afford to keep up such a large force, and began rapidly cutting costs. Since then, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has been consistently downsizing to a force of about 120,000. When Russia invaded Crimea, Ukraine was still in the process of downsizing, and had plans to further decrease its forces to 100,000 by 2017. Ukrainians were also trained to see Russians as friends and allies. Allegedly the army was undermined by the corruption of its cadres and no longer enjoyed the

support of the population. Young Ukrainians refused to go and fight in the Donbass and preferred emigration. To compensate for the lack of soldiers, the Ukrainian government resorted to paramilitary militias.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417225025/https://www.thepostil.com/the-military-situation-in-the-ukraine/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20210421215854/https://newrepublic.com/article/117710/ukraines-army-small-sovietized-underfunded-and-poorly-trained>

mid-March 2014: Burisma (Ukrainian gas company) hires Hunter Biden (son of Joe Biden):

https://web.archive.org/web/20220407151524/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunter_Biden#Burisma_Holdings

12 April 2014: CIA Director Brennan secretly visits Ukraine.

<https://archive.ph/Kf5ub>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140430231414/https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/apr/30/russia-ukraine-war-kyiv-conflict>

13 April 2014: Minister of Internal Affairs Arsen Avakov issued a decree authorizing the creation of new paramilitary forces of up to 12,000 people.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20160304212811/http://arena.in.ua/politka/186488-Diya-uregulirovaniya-situaciy-na-YUgo-Vostoke-MVD-sozdaet-specpodrazdeleniya-po-ohrane-obshestvennogo-poryadka.html>

26 April 2014: Ukraine cuts off the water supply to Crimea:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412013127/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Crimean_Canal

<https://web.archive.org/web/20171205111442/https://tass.com/world/729666>

April 2014: As governor, Ihor Kolomoyskyi was reportedly offering a bounty for the capture of Russian-backed militants and incentives for the turning in of weapons. On 22 April, deputy head of the National Defense Staff of the Dnipropetrovsk region Mikhail Lysenko revealed that Kolomoyskyi paid \$10,000 for the arrest of 8 Russian saboteurs. On 3 June 2014, Kolomoyskyi offered a \$500,000 reward for the delivery of Oleg Tsaryov, a leader of the separatists, to the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine.

Kolomoyskyi is also believed to have spent \$10 million to create the Dnipro Battalion, and to have provided funds for the Aidar, Azov, and Donbas volunteer battalions.

17 April 2014: Russian President Vladimir Putin, after denying it, confirmed the presence of the Russian military in the annexation of Crimea.

[https://web.archive.org/web/20220416152325/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_green_men_\(Russia-Ukrainian_War\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20220416152325/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_green_men_(Russia-Ukrainian_War))

20 April 2014: White House declares a new Cold War on Russia.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140501055807/http://www.thenation.com/article/179579/cold-war-against-russia-without-debate>

2 May 2014: Clashes between pro-Maidan and anti-Maidan demonstrators erupted in the southern Ukrainian city of Odessa in 2014, in reaction to Euromaidan. The clashes culminated in pro-Ukrainian militants setting fire to a Trade Unions House where pro-Russian militants were forced inside.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220423060733/https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2014_Odessa_clashes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4dJRnl-X8Q>

11 May 2014: Donbass (Donetsk and Luhansk) hold referendums on self-determination (being an autonomous region), which were not recognized by any country and were held against Putin's recommendation:

Donetsk:

* "Do you support the Act of State Self-rule of the Donetsk People's Republic?" (yes 89.07%)

Luhansk:

* "Do you support the declaration of state independence of the Luhansk People's Republic?" (yes 96.2%)

https://web.archive.org/web/20220416211826/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Donbas_status_referendums

6 June 2014: the Normandy Format (Format Normandie / Normandy contact group) was created. Includes:

Germany, Russia, Ukraine and France.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220322004110/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normandy_format

5 September 2014: the first Minsk Protocol is signed. The agreement provided for a ceasefire, exchange of prisoners, distribution of humanitarian aid and withdrawal of heavy weapons. However, Russia also imposed conditions: dialogue, local elections and the adoption of a law on the special status of the two regions. (Ed. Note that at this time both breakaway Republics do not want independence but to have their own autonomy within Ukraine).

https://web.archive.org/web/20220417152906/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minsk_agreements#Minsk_Protocol

19 September 2014: a follow-up memorandum of the protocol was signed due to constant violation by both parties. The memo added the following points:

- * Ban fighter planes from flying over the safe zone
- * Take all foreign mercenaries out of the conflict zone
- * Ban offensive operations

- * Place heavy artillery 15km on either side of the contact line creating a 30km “buffer zone”
- * Delegating the OSCE to monitor the implementation of the protocol

https://web.archive.org/web/20220417152906/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minsk_agreements#Follow-up_memoirandum
<https://www.osce.org/>

6 October 2014: For the first time since 2000, Russia has more nuclear warheads available to launch than the US.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20150227080150/http://rt.com/news/193604-russia-nuclear-capacity-start/>

14 October 2014: The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine is created, created at the request of the IMF and successor to the National Anti-Corruption Committee (which was a failure) one of the rules imposed by the Obama administration on the loan of billions and delivery of 458 million. The department shares information with the FBI:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220409221303/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Anti-Corruption_Bureau_of_Ukraine

2 November 2014: Donetsk and Luhansk hold elections, Europe and the US note that they do not recognize it, but Kiev points out that it is in the agreement:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220406183243/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Donbas_general_elections

14 January 2015 - 20 February 2015: the Battle of Debaltseve in Donetsk, lost by Ukraine. Led to signing the Minsk II protocol.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220412005637/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Debaltseve

25 March 2015: Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko signed a decree dismissing Kolomoyskyi from the post of Dnipropetrovsk RSA Head, saying "Dnipropetrovsk region must remain a bastion of Ukraine in the East and protect peace". Kolomoyskyi was replaced by Valentyn Reznichenko. This followed a struggle with Poroshenko for control of the state-owned oil pipeline operator. After Poroshenko's dismissal of Oleksandr Lazorko, who was a protege of Kolomoyskyi, as a chief executive of UkrTransNafta, Kolomoyskyi dispatched his private security guards to seize control of the company's headquarters and expel the new government-appointed management. While Lazorko was in charge the state-owned pipelines had been delivering oil to an Kolomoisky-owned refinery in preference to competitors.

In a further move against Kolomoyskyi, Poroshenko replaced Kolomoisky's long-time business partner Ihor Palytsa as governor of the neighboring Odessa region with the former Georgian president, Mikheil Saakashvili (YES the one from 2008). That appointment triggered a dramatic and public war of words between Kolomyskyi and Saakashvili. Saakashvili told journalists Kolomoisky was a “gangster” and “smuggler.” Kolomotskyi told them Saakashvili was “a dog without a muzzle” and “a snotty-nosed addict.”

Kolomoyskyi responded that the only difference between Poroshenko and Yanukovich is “a good education, good English and lack of a criminal record.” Everything else is the same: “It’s the same blood, the same flesh reincarnated. If Yanukovich was a lumpen dictator, Poroshenko is the educated usurper, slave to his absolute power, craven to absolute power.”

https://web.archive.org/web/20220422155422/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ihor_Kolomoyskyi#Conflict_with_President_Poroshenko

30 Nov 2015: Russia bans Soros and Soros NGO’s, saying it posed a threat to both state security and the Russian constitution.

1 December 2015: a court in Kiev asks prosecutors to launch a lawsuit against the National Bank of Ukraine and Valeriya Gontareva in relation to the missing gold:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170302010645/http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2014-12-02/its-gold-vaporized-furious-ukraine-turns-its-central-bankers>

December 2015: Vice President Biden “warns” Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko that if he does not remove Attorney General Viktor Shokin (who was investigating Burisma), the Obama administration would remove loan guarantees to Ukraine. (admitted in public)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220324205632/https://www.wsj.com/articles/timeline-of-trump-ukraine-bidens-story-11569095501>
<https://archive.ph/U7PyH>

December 2016: Ihor Kolomoiskyi and his business partner Gennadiy Bogolyubov were accused of defrauding Ukraine’s largest bank PrivatBank of billions of dollars through large unsecured loans to shareholders. Between mid-2015 and mid-2016, the bank had handed out over US\$1 billion in loans to firms owned by seven top managers and two subordinates of Kolomoiskyi.

In December 2016, declaring that Kolomoiskyi’s bank was severely undercapitalized and a threat to the country’s financial system, the Ukrainian government nationalized the lender, then the largest in Ukraine. A \$5.6 billion bailout was financed with IMF funds. In 2018, the now nationalized PrivatBank brought a lawsuit against Kolomoiskyi and Bogolyubov in the High Court in London and secured a worldwide freeze on their assets.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220422155422/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ihor_Kolomoyskyi#Privat_Group

18 December 2016: Ukraine nationalizes PrivatBank of the Privat Group controlled by the oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky (and his partners Hennadiy Boholyubov and Oleksiy Martynov) 100%. Spending over UAH 155 billion (~5 billion euros) to increase its capitalization:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20210121015348/https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-economy/2676385-kolomoisky-i-do-not-need-privatbank-give-me-2-billion-capital-back.html>
https://web.archive.org/web/20220308015816/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privat_Group

18 June 2017: NATO holds drills in Polish-Lithuanian border, between Russia and Belarus.
<https://archive.ph/PRwAJ>

11 October 2017: Russia destroys last Chemical weapons. The US is still to destroy theirs.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20181012111928/https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2017/10/opcw-marks-completion-destruction-russian-chemical-weapons-stockpile>
<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417031942/https://www.armscontrol.org/events/2021-09/us-chemical-weapons-stockpile-elimination-progress-update>

February 2018: the National Academy of the Ukrainian Army (NAA) becomes home to CENTURIA (an ultra nationalist and traditional group “against Brussels politicians and bureaucrats”) with links to AZOV:
<https://web.archive.org/web/20220418140734/https://www.illiberalism.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/IERES-Papers-no-11-September-2021-FINAL.pdf>

19 May 2018: Ukraine withdraws from CIS
<https://web.archive.org/web/20220310171533/https://www.unian.info/politics/10123172-poroshenko-signs-decree-on-final-termination-of-ukraine-s-participation-in-cis-statutory-bodies.html>

20 October 2018: the US withdraws from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Due to the continued growth of China's missile forces, US President Donald Trump announced that he would pull the US out of the treaty due to alleged Russian non-compliance.
https://web.archive.org/web/20220413215930/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intermediate-Range_Nuclear_Forces_Treaty

25 October 2018: the Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has not seen Russian involvement on the ground in Donbass (“Hug stated that OSCE had not seen direct evidence of Russian involvement in eastern Ukraine”):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20220415195309/https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/10/25/counting-the-dead-in-europes-forgotten-war-ukraine-conflict-donbass-osce/>

And later on December 3, 2021 the US intelligence services map does not report troops in Donbass <https://archive.ph/mDfOe>

(Ed. Note: This does not mean that the Russians were not providing weapons. To which the OSCE reports that at night on several unmarked dirt roads they saw escorts.)

27 October 2018: The chief Ukrainian military prosecutor, Anatoly Matios, stated that Ukraine had lost 2,700 men in the Donbass: 891 from illnesses, 318 from road accidents, 177 from other accidents, 175 from poisonings (alcohol, drugs), 172 from careless handling of weapons, 101 from breaches of security regulations, 228 from murders and 615 from suicides.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20220409205459/https://vesti.ua/strana/309880-nazvany-neboevye-poteri-vsu-na-donbasse>

7 February 2019: the Ukrainian parliament amends the constitution in order to join NATO and the EU:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220407005754/https://www.unian.info/politics/10437570-ukraine-s-parliament-backs-changes-to-constitution-confirming-ukraine-s-path-toward-eu-nato.html>

February 2019: Pentagon experts on transnational threats have been in Ukraine. They hold consultations for the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) on the organization of sabotage in the Russian direction. So, on the initiative of American intelligence, a sabotage and reconnaissance department has already been created in the SBU, the main task of which will be to organize operations in other countries.

The Americans themselves recruit candidates for this top-secret unit. Since mid-2019, instructors of the US CIA have been conducting sabotage training of employees of the diving special department and the 6th Directorate of the SBU Special Operations Center. At the expense of American funds, a training ground for the training of snipers and divers of the Ukrainian special services near Svetlovodsk is being equipped.

In addition to the United States, MI6 British foreign intelligence officers also take part in the training of the Ukrainian military. In Ochakov, operations are being worked out, which in the future can be carried out in the Azov, Black Seas and in the Crimea.

<https://archive.ph/MzDPM>

April 2019: A Ukrainian court ruled that the nationalization of PrivatBank was illegal. Ukraine's central bank said it would not be possible to reverse the nationalization and that it would appeal the decision. Ihor Kolomoisky stated that he has no interest in taking back control of the bank but sought \$2 Billion in compensation for losses he insists were incurred during the nationalization.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220422155422/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ihor_Kolomoyskyi#Privat_Group

20 May 2019: Volodymyr Zelensky becomes President of Ukraine:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220421191410/https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Volodymyr_Zelenskyy&oldid=1069326855

14 September 2020: President Zelensky approves the new National Security Strategy, which includes a partnership with NATO.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220409041447/https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/russia-as-aggressor-nato-as-objective-ukraines-new-national-security-strategy/>

2 February 2021: Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy, without due powers or a court order, shut down three popular opposition news channels, employing more than a thousand journalists and support staff.

Zelenskyy has gotten around this by retroactively annulling the appointment of the head of the Constitutional Court, and ignoring the Supreme Court's decision to reinstate him. The entire judicial system is now paralyzed and can no longer serve as an effective check on executive

rule.

The United States supported this act of political censorship as a “defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

<https://archive.ph/12n0j>

24 March 2021: Volodymyr Zelensky issues a decree for the recapture of Crimea and begins to send his troops to the south of the country. At the same time, several NATO exercises were carried out between the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea, accompanied by a significant increase in reconnaissance flights along the Russian border. In response, Russia carried out several exercises to test the operational readiness of its troops (ZAPAD21) and to show that it was following the evolution of the situation.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220415200815/https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/1172021-37533>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220415200819/https://www.president.gov.ua/news/prezident-zatverddiv-strategiyu-deokupaciyi-ta-reintegraciyi-67321>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220415195313/https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/us-uk-surge-surveillance-flights-over-ukraine-and-black-sea>

27 March 2021: President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky canceled the 2013 decrees on the appointment of Oleksandr Tupitsky and Oleksandr Kasminin as judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine. The corresponding decree "On Certain Issues of Ensuring the National Security of Ukraine" was signed on March 27, according to the website of the head of state.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220214182819/https://vesti.ua/strana/ukaz-zelenskogo-kasatelno-tupitskogo-nekonstitutsionnyj-yuristy>

16 April 2021: Kyiv's ambassador to Germany warned Kyiv may be forced to acquire nuclear weapons to safeguard the country's security if NATO does not accede to its membership demand.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220421063312/https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/16/ukraine-may-seek-nuclear-weapons-if-left-out-of-nato-diplomat>

14 June 2021: NATO leaders reiterate the decision taken at the 2008 Bucharest Summit that Ukraine would become a member of the Alliance with Accession Plan of Action (MAP) as an integral part of the process and Ukraine's right to determine its own future and foreign policy:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220415234803/https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_185000.htm

22 June 2021: The embassies of the United States and other Western countries continue to demand that the Ukrainian authorities transfer control over the appointment of judges and heads of anti-corruption agencies to them. Western embassies and politicians have repeatedly published relevant statements that look like ultimatums. In this they are supported by numerous activists and organizations in Ukraine, which are also often funded from the West.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20210622082239/https://strana.ua/articles/analysis/339766-kak-sud-ebnaja-vlast-ukrainy-perekhodit-pod-kontrol-zapada.html>

After Zelenskyy's deputy chief of staff, Oleg Tatarov, complained publicly this amounted to external administration, he abruptly found himself suspended from office and under indictment.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220128074019/https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2020/12/5/7275975/>

23 June 2021: Britain agrees to create and supply new naval bases in the Black Sea.

<https://archive.ph/3zawe>

7 July 2021: Ukraine conducts Naval exercises in the occupation of Crimea with NATO:

https://web.archive.org/web/20211003073754/https://www.voanews.com/a/europe_black-sea-drills-showcase-nato-ukraine-defense-ties/6208102.html

14 July 2021: The Supreme Court declared illegal Zelensky's decree to cancel the appointment of Alexander Tupitsky as a judge of the Constitutional Court. The court also decided that Zelensky's actions regarding Tupitsky were illegal.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220423085756/https://racurs.ua/n157416-verhovnyy-sud-podderjal-isk-tupickogo-protiv-zelenskogo.html?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fzen.yandex.com%2F%3Ffromzen%3Dabro

21 August 2021: Zelenskyy shut down the country's most popular opposition news site *Strana.ua*, whose reporters have broken some of the country's most notorious scandals. These include: "Vagnergate" the plot by Ukrainian security forces to convince Belarus president Alexander Lukashenko that Russia was organizing a coup against him, subsequently leaked to Russia; the Rotterdam plus scandal, in which coal from eastern Ukraine was bought at the cost of transporting it from Holland, which defrauded Ukrainian consumers of more than \$1.5 billion over three years; the diversion of Covid-19 relief funding; and the apparent diversion of a Ukrainian government plane intended for Ukrainians fleeing from Afghanistan for the personal use of wealthy Afghans.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220312224456/https://europeanjournalists.org/blog/2021/08/26/ukraine-president-bans-opposition-media-strana-ua-and-sanctions-editor-in-chief/>
<https://archive.ph/12n0j>

22 September 2021: Zelensky's right-hand man Sergiy Shefir is the target of an attack that leaves him unharmed but injures his driver:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220415135905/https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/22/shots-fired-car-carrying-ukraine-president-volodymyr-zelenskiy-top-aide>

3 October 2021: Zelensky appears in the Pandora Papers:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417181207/https://www.occrp.org/en/the-pandora-papers/pandora-papers-reveal-offshore-holdings-of-ukrainian-president-and-his-inner-circle>

31 October 2021: Ukraine violates Minsk II again, an event that is only reported by the North American Press but not by the EU, and no one condemns the attack:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220415134208/https://nationalinterest.org/feature/ukraine%E2%80%99s-recent-drone-strike-reignites-tensions-donbass-195709>

10 November 2021: the US reports Russian troop movements near the border with Ukraine. At 28, Ukraine reports an estimated 92,000 Russian troops

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220409130237/https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/soldiers-separatists-sanctions-a-timeline-of-the-russia-ukraine-crisis-2782377>

3 December 2021: U.S. intelligence map published by the Washington Post does not show Russian troops in the Donbass.

<https://archive.ph/mDfOe>

6 December 2021: At least ten NATO military facilities are located in Ukraine, since April, there are about 4 thousand US troops and about 8.3 thousand troops from other countries of the North Atlantic Alliance.

<https://archive.ph/MzDPM>

7 December 2021: President Biden warns Russia of strong sanctions if Russia attacks Ukraine.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417214012/https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/01/19/remarks-by-president-biden-in-press-conference-6/>

(Ed. Note the following dates are all from the same source:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220409130237/https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/soldiers-separatists-sanctions-a-timeline-of-the-russia-ukraine-crisis-2782377>)

17 December 2021: Putin makes a proposal to NATO to limit activities in Eastern Europe and ban Ukraine from joining NATO, which is rejected

7 January 2022: Washington rejected the three fundamental security demands that Russia presented last November: no new NATO members, particularly Ukraine; no U.S. strategic weapons on Russia's border; and a return to the pan-European security framework adopted by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the late 1990s. This framework would have amounted to a mutual recognition of the interlocking nature of the security of all European nations, including Russia, and a pledge not to undermine the current balance of interests through NATO expansion.

<https://archive.ph/3zawe>

<https://archive.ph/woOvb>

17 January 2022: Russian troops arrive in ally Belarus for military training.

19 January 2022: the US gives Ukraine \$200 Million in military aid. That same day, Biden says at a press conference: "And so, I think what you're going to see is that Russia will be held

accountable if it invades. And it depends on what it does. It's one thing if it's a minor incursion and then we end up having a fight about what to do and not do, et cetera." Many criticized it for leaving the door open to Russia for an invasion.

24 January 2022: NATO puts troops on standby.

25 January 2022: Russian military exercises with 6000 troops and 60 fighter jets take place near Crimea.

2 February 2022: (see 5 September 2014) Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba explicitly rejected a federal Ukraine with regional cultural protections for the Russian-speaking population. Kuleba's statement permanently closed the door to a special status for Lugansk and Donetsk as a way of ending the conflict.

<https://archive.ph/1C4Zs>

<https://archive.ph/3zawe>

7 February 2022: Biden vows to end NordStream 2 (if Russia invades). Emmanuel Macron during his visit to Moscow reaffirms to Vladimir Putin his commitment to the Minsk Accords, a commitment he would repeat after his meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky the next day.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220425062622/https://www.france24.com/en/video/20220208-biden-vows-to-end-nord-stream-2-pipeline-if-russia-invades-ukraine>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHDAYz7g4u4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InrDN7jYVOs>

10 February 2022: Russia and Belarus begin 10 days of military maneuvers.

11 February 2022: The meeting of political advisors of the leaders of the "Normandy format" ends in Berlin, after nine hours of session, without any concrete result: the Ukrainians refuse to apply the Minsk Accords, apparently under pressure from the United States. Vladimir Putin notes that Macron had made empty promises and that the West was not ready to enforce the agreements, as it had not done for eight years.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220415200850/https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/normandy-format-talks-in-berlin-end-without-tangible-results/2499568>

15 February 2022: German foreign minister Annalena Baerbock declared Germany will not block Ukrainian NATO-membership any longer. Ukrainian preparations in the contact zone continue. The Russian parliament is alarmed and asks Vladimir Putin to recognize the republics' (Donetsk and Luhansk) independence, which he refuses to do.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220317054644/https://www.dw.com/en/russian-duma-asks-putin-to-recognize-ukrainian-regions-as-independent/a-60783596>

17 February 2022: President Joe Biden announces that Russia would attack Ukraine in the coming days. Since the day prior, artillery bombardment of the population of Donbass has

increased dramatically, as daily reports from OSCE observers show. Neither the EU, nor NATO, nor any Western government reacts or intervenes. It will be said later that this is Russian disinformation.

Vladimir Putin is faced with a difficult choice: help Donbass militarily and create an international problem, or stand by and watch the Russian-speaking people of Donbass be massacred.

(16 Feb)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220314021522/https://www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/512326>

(17 Feb)

https://web.archive.org/web/20220413232930/https://www.osce.org/files/2022-02-17%20Daily%20Report_ENG.pdf?itok=21446

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220421200940/https://imgur.com/FZedaG8>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417225025/https://www.thepostil.com/the-military-situation-in-the-ukraine/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220405070348/https://www.cbsnews.com/news/russia-ukraine-news-shelling-donbas-buildup-latest-us-invasion-pretext-blinken-lavrov/>

Article saying it's Russian disinformation:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220417102704/https://www.dw.com/en/fact-check-russia-falsely-blames-ukraine-for-starting-war/a-60999948>

19 February 2022: Ukraine President Zelensky says that Ukraine will go back to having nuclear weapons like they did before 1994 unless the US lives to the guarantees of protection made in the Budapest Memo.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220421010115/https://kyivindependent.com/national/zelenskys-fu-ll-speech-at-munich-security-conference/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220407224214/https://www.nextbigfuture.com/2022/02/ukraine-president-says-they-will-get-nuclear-weapons-unless-us-protects-them.html>

21 February 2022: Putin makes a speech explaining the current situation.

If he decided to intervene, Putin could invoke the international obligation of "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P). But he knew that whatever its nature or scale, the intervention would unleash a storm of sanctions.

So whether Russian intervention was limited to the Donbass or went further to pressure the West for Ukraine's status, the price to pay would be the same. That's what he explained in his speech.

That same day, he agreed to the request of the Russian lower assembly and recognized the independence of the two Donbass republics, reaping the rewards of the "Kosovo precedent", and at the same time signed treaties of friendship and assistance with them.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220416232842/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Responsibility_to_protect

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220418154806/http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/67828>

23 February 2022: the two Republics ask Russia for military assistance.

24 February 2022: Vladimir Putin invokes Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which provides for mutual military assistance within the framework of a defensive alliance. Invades Ukraine.

27 February 2022: Ukraine agrees to enter talks with Russia.

The European Union voted a budget of 450 million euros to supply arms to the Ukraine. “For the first time ever, the EU will finance the purchase and delivery of weapons and other equipment to a country that is under attack” Said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Putin orders “deterrence forces of the Russian army into a special mode of combat service”, justifying “the top officials of leading NATO countries allow themselves to make aggressive statements with regards to our country”. (Ed. Note: He never mentions nuclear bombs as western media says, however deterrent forces DO include nuclear weapons)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220227151701/https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/27/putin-puts-russias-nuclear-deterrent-forces-on-alert>

<https://archive.ph/tijCK>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bej61P8YaXo>

Very interesting reads:

<https://archive.ph/3zawe>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220419154711/https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/russia-programs/2017-12-12/nato-expansion-what-gorbachev-heard-western-leaders-early>

<https://archive.ph/nNYOo>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-zelenskiy-kolomoyskiy/29888017.html>