

Russo-Ukrainian War 2022-2023

Ukrainian total defeat foreseeable!

Independent situational analysis: December 4, 2023

SUMMARY: Ukraine will lose the war. Ukraine will never again be able to take the strategic initiative and regain all of its former territory. Russia will win the war and dictate the terms of peace!

RUSSIAN OFFENSIVES – ATTRITION AND ANNIHILATION OF UKRAINIAN FORCES!

Ukraine's counter-offensive 2023 is a defeat with extremely high losses! The war is now dominated by Russian offensives. In Luhansk and Donetsk, Russia is gradually gaining ground. Zelensky now have ordered to go on the defensive but not to give up terrain and build deep defences with fortified lines.

The Russian strategy is focused on the attrition and annihilation of the Ukrainian fighting forces and secondly on the gain of terrain, with the aim of thereby winning over Ukraine. In support, the Russian defence is based on two concepts. 1) Dispersed manoeuvre defence (Romanchuk, Shigin), air strikes and artillery engagement in depth, defensive interceptions, attrition, counter-attacks and transition to large-scale offensive. 2) Heavily fortified defence lines (Surovikin) and extensive use of mines.

With the new directives, the Ukrainian defence becomes more stationary. The Russian concepts allows greater operational freedom. Non-stationary versus stationary defence presents an advantage.

In total, Russia has 400,000 soldiers at the front and Ukraine has 300,000 soldiers. The Russian ground forces (army, VDV, marines) now consist of 1.2 million soldiers (contracted, conscripts) at various levels of combat training, which provides the opportunity to rotate soldiers to the front and a large reserve. Russia called-up 147,000 conscripts in March and 130,000 in September. During 2023, over 450,000 people have signed up for military contracts, which gradually become combat-ready in fighting units. The other branches make up about 300,000, bringing the total strength to 1.5 million.

Average age of Ukraine's soldiers over 40 years. Ukraine's demographic situation and a weak economy make it difficult to mobilize. Militarily untrained teenagers and women now need to be recruited to fight at the front! US/NATO cannot deliver materials that matches Russia's force build-up and endurance. ALL types of materials, the Russians have more of, are equal or better.

On Luhansk front stands Russian forces with the 1st Tank Army, the 20th Combined Arms Army (CAA), 25th CAA, 41th CAA and 2nd Army Corps (AC, LPR) with approximately 120,000 soldiers. On Donetsk front 1st AC (DPR) with ~60,000 soldiers, on South-Donetsk front 5th CAA with ~60,000, on Zaporizhia front 58th CAA with ~90,000 and on Kherson front 49th CAA and 22nd AC with ~60,000 soldiers.

Russia's integrated air and missile defence system (IAMD) has shot down a large number of fighters, cruise missiles and ATACMS. The Russian IAMD includes the very long-range hypersonic air-to-air missile R-37M (Mig-31BM, Su-35, Su-57) and S-400 (40N6, 9M96) with support of external target information (A-50, Mig-31BM). Fifty F16 fighter jets do not create air supremacy against Russia.

Russia has significantly developed its capability for combat. Drones of various types have been equipped with IR and night vision capabilities for round-the-clock combat. For example, swarming attacks with a very large number of FPV drones can replace regular infantry attacks. A new type of warfare is being developed with Ukraine as a test range.

Ukraine forces		Russian forces	
Personnel	500,000	Personnel	1,500,000
KIA (dead)	70,000	KIA	70,000
WIA (wounded)	150,000	WIA	180,000

KIA and WIA are approximations dated August 18, 2023. New York Times then stated total losses of nearly 500,000.

Ukrainian losses may now be over 120,000 since June 4, 2023. Breakdown Ukrainian losses: Kypriansk 11%, Krasny Liman 15%, Donetsk 37%, South-Donetsk 18%, Zaporizhia 11% and Kherson 8%. Most intensively in Donetsk.

Dispersed Manoeuvre Defence concept:

- Defensive ↔ Counter-attack ↔ Offensive
 - Attrition of enemy to assault ends
 - Decentralized NON-STATIONARY small units
 - Operational freedom to organize independent counter-attacks
 - Reconnaissance and strike fire complexes
 - New technologies (robotics, drones etc.)
 - Transparent battlefield → Dispersion provides better protection
- Three line sections in total depth 50-100 km:
1. COVER, infantry, artillery, ISTAR
 2. MAIN, artillery, infantry, mechanized
 3. REACTION, mechanized RESERVES for counter-attack, long-range artillery

Russian offensives. A first step with offensives for encirclement and annihilation of the Ukrainian army in the east? A second major step during 2024 to occupy Ukraine east of Dnieper and Odessa or defeat all of Ukraine for integration in Russia?

Russian reconnaissance units are in Ukraine for battlefield preparation.

Russia conducts extensive devastating airstrikes, missile and artillery strikes supporting counter-attacks and in preparation for offensives.



Map: Wikipedia Russian-Ukraine war

FORTIFIED LINES

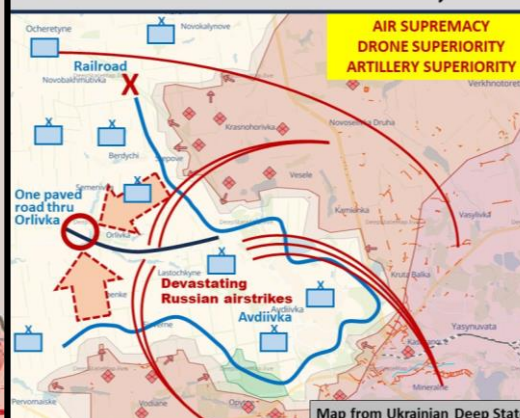
DEFENSIVE - OFFENSIVE

Sevastopol

Ukrainian attacks on Crimea lead to a need for Russia to also occupy Odessa!

Russia is conducting technical development where the defence systems are adapted to new experiences and conditions. This applies, for example, to integrated distributed combat systems with C5ISTAR and weapons systems in all domains (system of systems).

Battle of Avdiivka – December 4, 2023



Battle of Avdiivka (Donetsk): Russian besiege of Avdiivka, gradually gaining one position after another.

Paved roads and the railway to Avdiivka are now blocked by Russian artillery and troops. Ukraine is having difficulty getting supplies thru and a retreat out of Avdiivka could be difficult.

Russian 1st Army Corps with 10 DPR+RF brigades equivalent (40,000 soldiers).

- 1 Kupyansk
- 2 Robotyne, Verbove
- 3 Staromaiorske, Urozhaine
- 4 Bakhmut
- 5 Kherson
- 6 Avdiivka

Russian defence industry is war-organized and produces around the clock. US and EU sanctions have no decisive impact. Russia has access to critical components. BRICS support.