

## MILESTONES THAT MATTER

### THE ROAD TO RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE

#### TIMELINE

#### 2014

**21 November 2013:** Anti-government protests begin in Kyiv against the Yanukovych Government's disregard of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, in favour of closer ties to Russia & the Eurasian Economic Union.

**27 February 2014:** Maidan protests intensify, forcing Yanukovych to accept an interim Government and flee Ukraine. Russia invades and ultimately, annexes the Crimean peninsula.

**6 March:** The US authorises "**sanctions** on individuals and entities responsible for violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for stealing the assets of the Ukrainian people."

**15 March:** The UN Security Council fails to adopt a draft resolution urging countries not to recognise the results of Russia's referendum in Crimea; Russia vetoes; China abstains.

**16 March:** Crimea holds a **referendum** on the status of the region; the Parliament declares the independence of the Republic of Crimea.

**17 March:** The EU introduces first set of restrictive measures against 21 Russian and Ukrainian officials "for actions threatening Ukraine's territorial integrity."

**24 March:** The G8 bans Russia.

**27 March:** The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution that the Crimean referendum "has no validity," and that the parties should immediately pursue a peaceful resolution of the situation.

**12 May:** The EU agrees a new set of sanctions.

**4 June:** G7 countries agree to impose sanctions "on individuals and entities who have actively supported or implemented the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and who are threatening the peace, security and stability of Ukraine."

**23 June:** The EU bans imports of goods from Crimea and Sevastopol.

**17 July:** Malaysia Airlines **Flight MH17** is hit by a missile operated by pro-Russian rebels while flying over eastern Ukraine. All 298 passengers on board are killed; Russia denies involvement but Bellingcat evidence tracks the missile's movements from Russia to the launch site.

**5 September:** Representatives from Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany meet in Belarus to attempt to negotiate an end to the violence, under a fragile ceasefire. They sign the first Minsk agreement calling for an OSCE-monitored ceasefire; an exchange of prisoners; the withdrawal of 'armed formations, military equipment and fighters and mercenaries' from Ukraine; the establishment of an OSCE-monitored 'security zone' along the border; and an economic reconstruction programme for Donbas.

The cease-fire soon breaks, and fighting continues into the new year.

**12 September:** Further EU economic sanctions are imposed on Russia, including a ban on exports of dual use goods and technology for military use

**28 November:** The EU strengthens sanctions against separatists in Eastern Ukraine, includes asset freezes and travel bans on 132 people and 28 entities

## 2015-2020

**12 February 2015:** Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany sign [Minsk II agreement](#).

**23 December 2015:** Russia attacks Kyiv's power grid which causes a major blackout.

**2016-2017:** Fighting in the Donbas continues; Russia launches a series of cyberattacks against Ukraine

**6 January 2017:** The US Director of National Intelligence publishes an intelligence community [assessment](#) confirming the Russian State campaign to influence the 2016 US presidential election in Trump's favour. The report warns that Russia will learn lessons to undermine other election processes around the world.

**30 January 2017:** The UK Parliament's Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee (DCMS) launches investigation into the impact of state-sponsored disinformation especially in the digital sphere.

**27 June 2017:** A large-scale Russian assault affects key Ukrainian infrastructure, including the National Bank of Ukraine and the country's electrical grid.

**11 July 2017:** The European Council adopts **EU-Ukraine Association Agreement** which opens markets for the free trade of goods and services, and visa-free travel to the EU for Ukrainians.

**4 March 2018:** Former Russian intelligence officer and double agent Sergei Skripa, and his daughter are poisoned in Salisbury, England.

**22 April 2019:** Comedian and actor Volodymyr Zelenskyy is overwhelmingly elected Ukrainian President

**14 February 2019:** In their [final report](#), the UK's DCMS concludes there was clear Russian interference, disinformation campaigns and data manipulation in UK elections including in the EU referendum. They call for more investigations; UK Government denies any material impact and that the interference was successful.

**18 April 2019:** US Special Counsel Robert **Mueller** concludes in his [report](#) that Russia interfered in the 2016 elections through two operations: a social media campaign, and hacking by Russian intelligence of DNC documents, then published by Wikileaks. Despite evidence of links between the Russian Govt and Trump campaign, the inquiry did not establish a [coordinated](#) conspiracy of interference. However, 35 people and 3 companies were charged in relation to the inquiry, including Trump's former campaign chief Paul Manafort and National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

**19 June 2019:** Dutch prosecutors charge 4 individuals including 3 Russians and 1 Ukrainian for the downing of flight MH17.

**21 July 2020:** The **UK Parliament Intelligence and Security Committee** [report](#) concludes: "Russia is a formidable adversary with the capability, capacity and intent to harm the national interests of the UK and allies." The report calls for more tools and a statutory framework to tackle the range of Russian threats.

**18 August 2020:** The **US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence** [report](#) concludes that the "Russian intelligence services' assault on the integrity of the 2016 US electoral process, and Trump and his associates' participation in and enabling of this Russian activity, **represents one of the single most grave counterintelligence threats to American national security in the modern era.**"

## 2021

**Spring:** Russia begins massing troops near Ukraine's borders for so-called 'training exercises'.

**16 March:** US National Intelligence Council publishes a [report](#) stating that Putin authorised extensive efforts to weaken Biden's 2020 election campaign.

**12 July:** Putin publishes a long [article](#) arguing that Ukraine and Russia are one people. He laments the 'decline' of Ukraine and its 'anti-Russian' elements and justifies the occupation of Donbas and Crimea.

**November:** The US reports unusual Russian troop movements and build-up of 100,000 forces at Ukraine's border

**7 December:** Biden warns Putin of "strong economic and other measures" if Russia attacks Ukraine

**17 December:** Russian Foreign Ministry issues an [8-point list of security demands](#) contained in draft US-Russia and NATO-Russia agreements

## 2022

**24 January:** NATO puts its forces on standby and reinforces E. Europe with more ships and fighter jets.

**26 January:** The US and NATO Allies formally [reject](#) Putin's demands.

**4 February:** China and Russia [publish a joint statement](#), declaring a "no limits partnership."

**21 February:** Putin delivers a TV address affirming that Ukraine is a fundamental part of Russian history, and the Kiev government is a puppet regime controlled by the West. He orders Russian troops into Luhansk and Donetsk, formally recognising them as independent states.

**22 February:** Germany halts the Nord Stream 2 Baltic Sea gas pipeline.

**22 February:** The Russian Parliament authorises Putin to use military force.

**24 February:** Russia launches a full-scale assault on Ukraine.

**24 February:** The US and allies impose broad [sanctions](#) on Russia's financial institutions, companies, high-tech imports and individuals. Belarus is also sanctioned. The European Council [condemns](#) the 'unprovoked aggression' and UK [blocks Russian access](#) to its banking sector and financial markets.

**2 March:** UN General Assembly [adopts a resolution](#) demanding that Russia immediately end its military operations in Ukraine, 90 vote in favour, 5 against and 35 abstain.

**8 March:** [US bans](#) all imports of Russian oil, liquefied natural gas and coal, while the UK announced it would phase out Russian oil imports by the end of 2022.

**10-11 March:** EU leaders adopt the [Versailles Declaration](#) which outlines how the EU can bolster defence capabilities, reduce energy dependencies, and build a more robust economic base.

**24 March:** A trio of G7, EU and NATO summits take place in Brussels

**5 April:** Under its [fifth package of sanctions](#), the EU agrees to "broader and sharper measures" including a ban on Russian coal.

**7 April:** UN General Assembly [adopts a resolution](#) calling for Russia to be suspended from the Human Rights Council, 93 countries vote in favour, 24 against, 58 abstain.

**16 May:** [Second EU-US Trade and Technology Council](#) convenes in Paris, where ministers agree to maintain sanctions on Russia, uphold trade and technology rules, deepen information exchange, resolve disagreements on tariffs and establish a Trade and Labour Dialogue.

**18 May: Finland** and **Sweden** submit formal applications to join NATO.

**22-26 May:** The World Economic Forum meeting in Davos includes a focus on Ukraine, with discussions on sanctions, Cold War 2.0, and the future of globalisation.

**3 June:** EU adopts a 6th package of sanctions to include oil, except for pipeline deliveries.

**23-24 June:** The European Council grants **Ukraine** and **Moldova** candidate status for accession to the EU, but Georgia is not included.

**29-30 June:** The NATO Summit convenes leaders in Madrid to discuss Ukraine and other security concerns, and endorse the new Strategic Concept.

**26-28 June:** G7 Heads of State meet in the Bavarian Alps, at the climax of the German Presidency.

**21 July:** The European Council strengthens existing economic sanctions under its “maintenance and alignment” package. The proposal introduces a ban on gold, and sanctions more individuals and entities.

**2 August:** The first of several ships carrying grain leaves Odesa safely, under a deal agreed by Ukraine and Russia, brokered by the UN and Turkey.

**18 August:** The UN Secretary General, Turkish leader and Ukrainian President meet in Lviv to call for the demilitarisation of the area around the **Zaporizhzhia** nuclear plant in south Ukraine, amid safety fears.