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Putin: "We will not repeat the mistake of 1939 with the Nazis"

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This type of attack is consistent with the Russian military strategic doctrine, developed in the 30s of the twentieth century, of [war in depth](#): after the initial rupture, staggered blocs maintain the offensive from the depth of the rear with increasing power. The entire strategic operation thus becomes the decisive battle, in several converging scenarios, until the adversary is annihilated.

A doctrine that only large countries can afford, with an extensive rearguard and resources to add as the operation progresses.



Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine

In this case, Vladimir Putin's stated goal is to oust the government of Vladimir Zelensky, which he called a Nazi-fascist "junta" that seized power after the 2014 coup, following protests in Kiev's Maidan Square.

Since then, Nazi groups have been organizing and growing under the protection of the Government, which not only claim characters such as Stepan Bandera, a collaborator of the German invaders, but also include military battalions, heavily armed, integrated into the country's defense forces.



El mandatario insistió en que, aparte de erradicar todo aquello, no se propone ocupar ni anexar el territorio de Ucrania.

The Russian president was blunt in his speech, which was not by chance issued simultaneously with the extraordinary meeting of the United Nations Security Council in New York, convened by Ukraine: faced with an "existential" danger, Russia would not make the mistake of the Soviet Union in 1939, of trying to appease the aggressor through concessions.

THE MOLOTOV-RIBBENTROP
PACT Putin was referring to the [so-called "Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact", a non-](#)

[aggression](#) agreement signed by the USSR and Germany that was struck on June 22, 1941 with the massive Nazi attack on the Soviet Union, and which surprised the ill-prepared armed forces, largely thanks to the purges of the military hierarchy by the Soviet leader of the time, Stalin.



Stalin and Ribbentrop shake hands after the signing of the pact in the Moscow Kremlin in
1939

As in all modern conflicts, Russian attacks claim to be "surgical" and with little "collateral damage," the euphemism that identifies civilian casualties.

A presenter of the Qatari international network Al-Jazeera asked his correspondent in Kiev with surprise why in the Ukrainian capital there had been no alteration of normal life in these weeks of growing tension.

The answer was that the Ukrainians, deep down, believed that the much-vaunted attack would not finally happen, that with the United States and NATO on their side, the Russians were not going to dare. That is probably what the rulers and military leaders also thought.



So much so, that the first images of the sunrise in Kiev show a city with the normal traffic jam, while the alarm sirens sound.

In New York, Foreign Minister Kuleba did not reiterate the iron disposition of his people to resist heroically, but threw the ball to the Western masters: he demanded that Russia exit the international SWIFT payment mechanism, more military aid and more sanctions.

What reflected on Wednesday night the disjointed face of Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba at the UN: perplexity. I couldn't believe it.



And in large part, the operative art is precisely about doing what the adversary does not expect: understanding its logic and using it to one's advantage. That requires gigantic masking of all kinds, which in the Russian military forces is an art: the "[maskirovka](#)".

By recognizing the self-proclaimed people's republics of the Donbass region, Russia practically repeated what it had done in Crimea in 2015, something that seemed so logical and yet still surprised Western leaders, who apparently fail to think beyond their wishes.



Pro-Russian activists react in a street as fireworks erupt in the sky, after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree recognizing as independent entities two Russian-backed separatist regions in eastern Ukraine, in the separatist-controlled city of Donetsk, on Feb. 21, 2022. REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko

As that was not enough to stop Ukrainian attacks on the rebel-eastern region, nor to dissuade Ukrainian leaders from rethinking their ideas of joining nato's anti-Russian coalition, came this offensive that – despite the fact that they themselves announced it – took Western diplomats by surprise.

Such horror was also evident in the attitudes of the ambassadors of the United States, Britain, Germany and France, who had made speeches about the imminence of an attack, but had no text prepared to react if that happened. The news caught them when they were already going to retire and they had to return to improvise sentences and announce resolutions.

To make matters worse, the rotating Presidency of the Council corresponds in February to Russia, so to condemn that country they had to ask the Russian ambassador, Vasily Nebenzia, for the floor, who maintained the diplomatic forms, and when there were no more speakers left, he closed the session, but not before saying: "Russia is not attacking the Ukrainian people, but to the ruling regime."



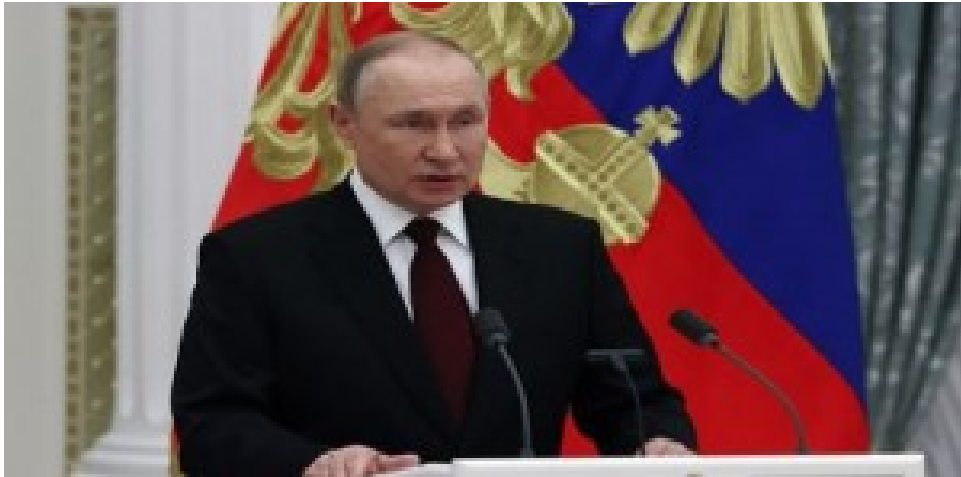
Vasily Nebenzia, Russia's ambassador to the UN: "Russia is not attacking the Ukrainian people, but the ruling regime."

This sentence, when questioned by journalists, generated a spasm of fury to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Kuleba, who instead of responding, told the reporter that she was crazy, and then retired amurrado.

Several Western analysts estimated that Putin is underestimating the resilience and patriotism of the Ukrainian people. Others, who also underestimate the effect of the new sanctions announced by the United States and the European Union, which join those it has faced since 2014.

The first signs of what is to come were the 10 percent drop of the Moscow stock market to open on Thursday, and the rise in the price of benchmark Brent oil to more than \$100.

In his message to the Russian people, Vladimir Putin appealed to patriotism, because what is at stake is the very existence of Russia, which "cannot coexist with the constant blackmail of a hostile neighbor associated with NATO." If Ukraine enters NATO, nuclear missiles on the border would be five minutes from Moscow and threaten 80 percent of the population.



According to Putin, Russia was left with no choice but to protect or surrender, and he also appealed to the patriotism of Ukrainians, reminding them that their parents and grandparents fought heroically within the framework of the USSR to defeat the German invader.

As has always been seen, the immense flock of parrots in the international and local media – and their journalists and analysts – care about none of the above, if they know it at all, because they do not pass beyond the voice of the master: the fault of everything is, of course, the ogre Putin.

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