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The reasons and details of the Ukrainian war

Western ministers who seek to sink the Russian economy and make the Russian people suffer, or who even call for Putin's assassination, show that our leaders are no better than the ones we hate.



Jacques Baud, former colonel of the Swiss General Staff, former member of strategic intelligence and specialist in the countries of Eastern Europe, former expert of the UN and NATO, offers us the most detailed, almost exhaustive analysis of the war in Ukraine and the reasons that have motivated it.



On the march towards war

For years, from Mali to Afghanistan, I have worked for peace and risked my life for it. So it's not about justifying the war, but about understanding what has led us to it. I note that the "experts" who take turns on television sets analyze the situation based on dubious information, which most of the time are hypotheses that have become facts, so that we cannot understand what is happening. This is how panics are created.

The problem is not so much who is right in this conflict, but how our leaders make decisions.

Let's try to look for the roots of the conflict. It starts with those who for the past eight years have been talking about "separatists" or "independentists" in Donbass. This is not true. The referendums carried out by the two self-proclaimed republics of Donetsk and Luhansk in May 2014 were not "independence" referendums (независимость), as some unscrupulous journalists have claimed, but referendums on "self-determination" or "autonomy" (самостоятельность). The term "pro-Russian" suggests that Russia was part of the conflict, which is not true, having been more honest to use the term "Russophile." Moreover, these referendums were held against Vladimir Putin's advice.

In fact, these republics did not intend to secede from Ukraine, but to have an autonomous status that would guarantee them the use of the Russian language as an official language. The first legislative act of the new government resulting from the overthrow of President Yanukovich was the abolition, on 23 February 2014, of the Kivalov-Kolesnichenko law of 2012, which made Russian an official language. It is as if some coup plotters decided that French and Italian ceased to be official languages in Switzerland.

Esta decisión provocó una tormenta entre la población de habla rusa. El resultado fue una feroz represión contra las regiones de habla rusa (Odesa, Dnepropetrovsk, Járkov, Lugansk y Donetsk) que comenzó en febrero de 2014 y que condujo a una militarización de la situación y a algunas masacres (en Odesa y Mariupol, las más importantes). A finales del verano de 2014, sólo quedaban las autoproclamadas repúblicas de Donetsk y Lugansk.

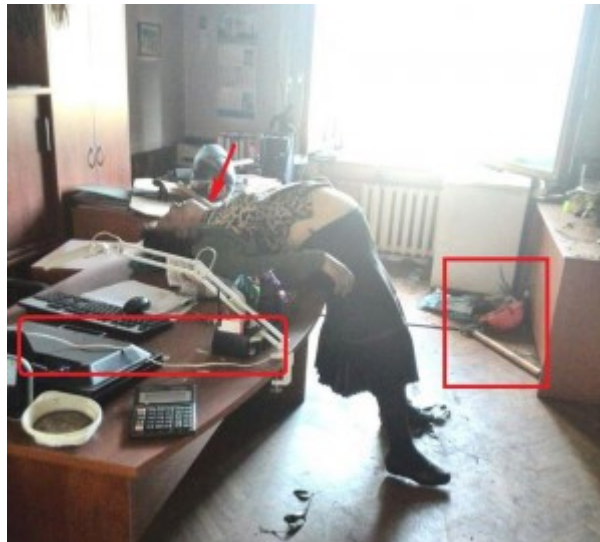


Image of the crimes perpetrated by Ukrainian neo-Nazis. Dozens of people were killed at the Odessa House of Trade Unions and more than 100 people were disappeared by Ukrainian neo-Nazis on 2 May 2014. Dozens of people were beaten to death, others burned alive, others threw themselves out of windows seeking to escape the fire and were finished wounded, beaten, in front of a mob poisoned by racism and anti-communism. The pregnant woman in the photograph was hanged with the telephone cable by Ukrainian neo-Nazis.

At this stage, the Ukrainian general staffs were too rigid and clung to a doctrinaire approach to the art of operations, being unable to impose themselves on the enemy. An examination of the course of the 2014-2016 fighting in Donbass shows that the Ukrainian General Staff systematically and mechanically applied the same operational patterns. However, the war waged by the autonomists was very similar to the one we observe in the Sahel: very mobile operations carried out with light means. With a more flexible and less doctrinaire approach, the rebels were able to take advantage of the inertia of Ukrainian forces to "catch" them repeatedly.

In 2014, as THE HEAD OF NATO'S FIGHT AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS, WE ARE TRYING TO DETECT RUSSIAN ARMS DELIVERIES TO

THE REBELS TO SEE IF Moscow IS INVOLVED. The information we received then comes almost entirely from Polish intelligence and does not "fit" with the information coming from the OSCE: despite some rather crude accusations, there are no deliveries of arms and military equipment from Russia.

The rebels are armed thanks to the defections to the rebel side of Russian-speaking Ukrainian units. While ukrainian failures continue, tank, artillery and anti-aircraft battalions swell the ranks of the autonomists. This is what pushed the Ukrainians to sign the Minsk Agreements.

But just after signing the Minsk 1 Accords, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko launched a massive anti-terrorist operation (АТО/Антитерористична операція) against Donbass. *Bis repetita placent*: badly advised by NATO officials, the Ukrainians suffered a crushing defeat in Debaltsevo that forced them to sign the Minsk 2...

It is essential to remember here that the Minsk 1 (September 2014) and Minsk 2 (February 2015) Agreements did not provide for the separation or independence of the republics, but for their autonomy within the framework of Ukraine. Those who have read the Agreements (there are very, very, very few) will notice that it is written in their entirety that the status of the republics was to be negotiated between Kiev and the representatives of the republics, for an internal solution within Ukraine.

That is why, since 2014, Russia has consistently demanded its implementation, while refusing to participate in the negotiations, as it is an internal matter of Ukraine. On the other hand, the West – with France at the helm – systematically tried to replace the Minsk Agreements with the "Normandy format", which put Russians and Ukrainians face to face. However, let us remember that there were never Russian troops in Donbass before February 23-24, 2022. Moreover, OSCE observers have never observed the slightest trace of Russian units operating in Donbass.

The Ukrainian army was in a deplorable state. In October 2018, after four years of war, Ukraine's chief military prosecutor, Anatoly Matios, said Ukraine had lost 2,700 men in Donbass.

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry then turned to NATO for help in making its armed forces more "attractive." Having already worked on similar projects within the United Nations, NATO asked me to participate in a program to restore the image of the Ukrainian armed forces. But it was a long-term process and the Ukrainians wanted to move quickly.

So, to compensate for the lack of soldiers, the Ukrainian government turned to paramilitary militias. They are mainly made up of foreign mercenaries, often far-right militants. In 2020, they make up about 40% of Ukrainian forces and number about 102,000 men, according to Reuters. They are armed, funded and trained by the United States, Britain, Canada and France. There are more than 19 nationalities, including Switzerland.

Thus, Western countries have clearly created and supported far-right Ukrainian militias. In October 2021, the *Jerusalem Post* sounded the alarm by denouncing the Centuria project. These militias have been operating in Donbass since 2014, with western support. Although the term "Nazi" can be disputed, the fact is that these militias are violent, convey a nauseating ideology, and are virulently anti-Semitic. Their anti-Semitism is more cultural than political, so the term "Nazi" is not really appropriate. Their hatred of the Jew has its origin in the great famines of the 20s and 30s in Ukraine, resulting from the confiscation of crops by Stalin to finance the modernization of the Red Army. This genocide — known in Ukraine as the Holodomor — was carried out by the NKVD (the forerunner of the KGB), whose leadership was composed mainly of Jews. That is why today Ukrainian extremists are calling on Israel to apologize for the crimes of communism, as the *Jerusalem Post* points out. We are therefore far from a "rewriting of history" by Vladimir Putin.

These militias, coming from the far-right groups that led the Euromaidan revolution in 2014, are made up of fanatical and brutal individuals. The best known is the Azov Regiment, whose emblem is reminiscent of the Reich's 2nd SS Panzer Division, revered in Ukraine for having liberated Kharkov from the Soviets in 1943, before carrying out the Oradour-sur-Glane massacre in 1944 in France.

Among the famous figures of the Azov Regiment was the opposition Roman Protassevich, who was arrested in 2021 by the Belarusian authorities in connection with the RyanAir FR4978 affair.

But then we must prove that President Lukashenko is a scoundrel and Protassevich a democracy-loving "journalist". However, a rather uplifting investigation by an American NGO in 2020 revealed Protassevitch's far-right militant activities. The Western conspiracy movement was then set in motion and the unscrupulous media "prepared" his biography. Finally, in January 2022, the ICAO report is published showing that, despite some

procedural errors, Belarus acted in accordance with the current rules and that the MiG-29 took off 15 minutes after the RyanAir pilot decided to land in Minsk. So there is no Belarusian plot and even less with Putin.

The term "Nazi" or "neo-Nazi" given to Ukrainian paramilitaries is considered Russian propaganda. Maybe; but this is not the view of *the Times of Israel*, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, or the West Point Academy Counterterrorism Center. But it's still questionable, because in 2014 *Newsweek* magazine seemed to associate them more with... the Islamic State. Choose your option.



Thus, the West supports and continues to arm the militias that are guilty of numerous crimes against the civilian population since 2014: rape, torture and massacres. But while the Swiss government has rushed to adopt sanctions against Russia, it has adopted none against Ukraine, which has been massacring its own population since 2014.

The War

Since November 2021, the Americans constantly threaten that there will be a Russian invasion of Ukraine. But Ukrainians don't seem to agree. Why not?

«Volodymyr Zelensky issued a decree for the reconquest of Crimea»

You have to go back to March 24, 2021. On that day, Volodymyr Zelensky issued a decree for the reconquest of Crimea and began to deploy his forces in the south of the country. At the same time, several NATO exercises were conducted between the Black Sea and the

Baltic Sea, accompanied by a significant increase in reconnaissance flights along the Russian border. Russia then conducted a series of exercises to test the operational readiness of its troops and demonstrate that it was controlling the situation.

In violation of the Minsk Agreements, Ukraine is conducting air operations in Donbass using drones, including at least one attack on a fuel depot in Donetsk in October 2021. The American press points this out, but not the Europeans, and no one condemns these violations.

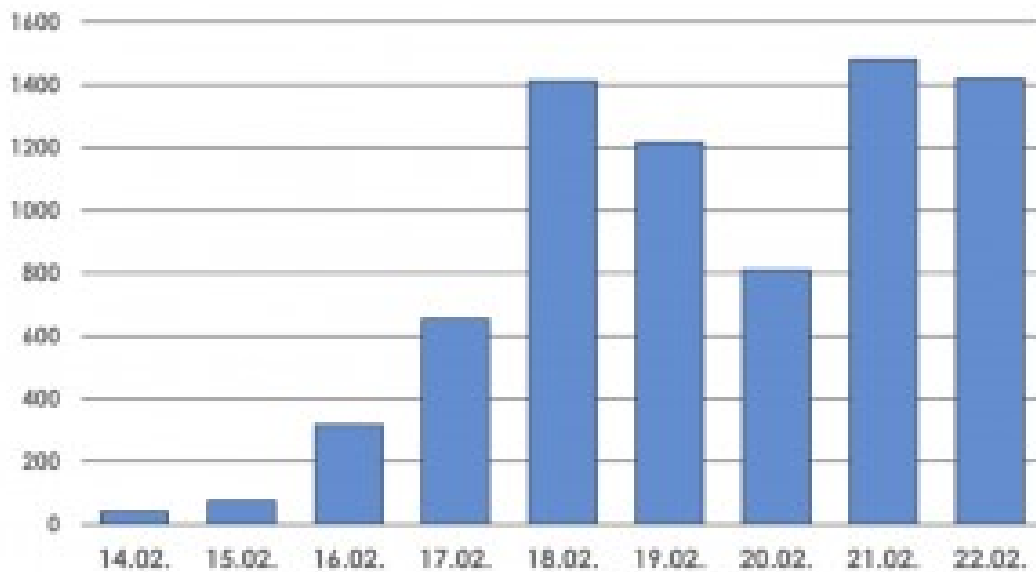
In February 2022, events accelerate. On February 7, during his visit to Moscow, Emmanuel Macron reaffirmed to Vladimir Putin his commitment to the Minsk Agreements, a commitment he repeated at the end of his meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky the next day. But on February 11, in Berlin, after 9 hours of work, the meeting of the political advisers of the leaders of the "Normandy format" ended without any concrete result: the Ukrainians still refused to implement the Minsk Agreements, apparently under pressure from the United States. Vladimir Putin points out that Macron has made empty promises and that the West is unwilling to enforce the agreements, as it has done for eight years.

Ukrainian preparations in the contact zone continue. The Russian Parliament is alarmed and on February 15 asks Vladimir Putin to recognize the independence of the republics, to which he refuses.

On February 17, President Joe Biden announces that Russia will attack Ukraine in the coming days. How do you know? But since the 16th, artillery shelling on the villages of Donbass has increased dramatically, as the daily reports of OSCE observers show. Naturally, neither the media, nor the European Union, nor NATO, nor any Western government reacted or intervened. Later it will be said that this is Russian disinformation. In fact, it seems that the EU and some countries have deliberately kept the massacre of the population of Donbass a secret, knowing that it would provoke Russian intervention.

At the same time, there are reports of sabotage in Donbass. On January 18, Donbass fighters intercepted saboteurs equipped with Western and Polish material intended to create chemical incidents in Gorlivka. They could be CIA mercenaries, led or "advised" by Americans and composed of Ukrainian or European fighters, to carry out sabotage actions in the Donbass republics.

Nombre d'explosions enregistrées au Donbass (14-22 février 2022)



L'augmentation massive des tirs contre la population du Donbass dès le 16 février indique aux Russes qu'une offensive majeure est imminente. C'est ce qui conduit Vladimir Poutine à reconnaître l'indépendance des Républiques et à envisager une intervention dans le cadre de l'article 51 de la Charte des Nations Unies.

[Source: OSCE SMM Daily Reports]

The massive increase in fire against the population of Dombas from February 16 indicates to the Russians that a major offensive is imminent. This is what led Vladimir Putin to recognize the independence of the republics and to envisage an intervention within the framework of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. Source: OSCE SMM Daily Reports.



Ceasefire violations observed by SMM 19-20 February 2022

In fact, as early as February 16, Joe Biden knew that the Ukrainians had begun bombing the civilian population of Donbass, which put Vladimir Putin before a difficult choice: militarily help Donbass and create an international problem or stand idly by and watch the Russian-speaking population of Donbass be crushed.

If he decides to intervene, Vladimir Putin may invoke the international obligation of the "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P). But he knows that whatever its nature or scale, intervention will trigger a barrage of sanctions. Therefore, whether his intervention is limited to Donbass or goes further to pressure the West for Ukraine's status, the price to pay will be the same. This is what he explained in his speech on February 21.

On that day he acceded to the Duma's request and recognized the independence of the two Donbass republics and, at the same time, signed treaties of friendship and assistance with them.

Ukrainian artillery shelling on the town of Donbass continued and on 23 February the two republics requested Russian military aid. On February 24, Vladimir Putin invoked Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which provides for mutual military assistance within the framework of a defensive alliance.

In order for the Russian intervention to be totally illegal in the eyes of public opinion, the fact that the war actually began on February 16 is deliberately concealed. The Ukrainian army was preparing to attack Donbass as early as 2021, as some Russian and European intelligence services well knew... Jurists will judge.

In his February 24 speech, Vladimir Putin declared the two goals of his operation: "demilitarize" and "denazify" Ukraine. It is therefore not a question of seizing Ukraine, or even, presumably, of occupying it and, of course, not of destroying it.

From there, our visibility into the course of the operation is limited: the Russians have excellent security of operations (OPSEC) and the details of their planning are not known. But quickly, the course of the operation allows us to understand how the strategic objectives were translated at the operational level.

Demilitarization:

- . the destruction on the ground of the ukrainian air force, air defence systems and reconnaissance means;
- . the neutralization of command and intelligence structures (C3I), as well as the main logistics routes deep inside the territory;
- . the encirclement of the bulk of the ukrainian army concentrated in the southeast of the country.

Denazification :

- . the destruction or neutralization of volunteer battalions operating in the cities of Odessa, Kharkov and Mariupol, as well as in various facilities in the territory.

Demilitarization

The Russian offensive was carried out in a very "classical" way. Initially — as the Israelis had done in 1967 — with the destruction of the air forces on the ground in the first few hours. Then, we witnessed a simultaneous progression on several axes according to the principle of "flowing water": we advanced everywhere where resistance was weak and left the cities (very voracious in troops) for later. In the north, the Chernobyl plant was immediately occupied to prevent acts of sabotage. Of course, there are no images of Ukrainian and Russian soldiers guarding the plant together...

The idea that Russia is trying to take Kiev, the capital, to eliminate Zelensky, typically comes from the West: it's what they did in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and what they wanted to do in Syria with the help of the Islamic State. But Vladimir Putin never intended to overthrow or overthrow Zelensky. Instead, Russia tries to keep him in power by pressuring him to negotiate by surrounding Kiev. Until now it had refused to implement the Minsk Agreements, but now the Russians want to get neutrality from Ukraine.

Many Western commentators were surprised that the Russians continued to seek a negotiated solution while conducting military operations. The explanation lies in the Russian strategic conception since Soviet times. For the West, war begins when politics ends. But the Russian approach follows a Clausewitzian inspiration: war is the continuity of politics and can be passed fluently from one to another, even during combat. This creates pressure on the adversary and pushes him to negotiate.

"In six days, the Russians took a territory as large as the United Kingdom"

Desde el punto de vista operativo, la ofensiva rusa fue un ejemplo en su género: en seis días, los rusos tomaron un territorio tan grande como el Reino Unido, con una velocidad de avance superior a la que había logrado la Wehrmacht en 1940.

El grueso del ejército ucraniano se desplegó en el sur del país para preparar una gran operación contra Donbass. Por ello, las fuerzas rusas pudieron rodearla desde principios de marzo en el «caldero» entre Slavyansk, Kramatorsk y Severodonetsk, con un empuje desde el este a través de Járkov y otro desde el sur de Crimea. Las tropas de las repúblicas de Donetsk (DPR) y Lugansk (LPR) complementan a las fuerzas rusas con un empuje desde el este.

En este momento, las fuerzas rusas están estrechando poco a poco su control, pero ya no están bajo la presión del tiempo. Su objetivo de desmilitarización está casi completo y las fuerzas ucranianas restantes ya no tienen una estructura de mando operativa y estratégica.

La «ralentización» que nuestros «expertos» atribuyen a la mala logística es sólo la consecuencia de haber conseguido sus objetivos. Rusia no parece querer emprender una ocupación de todo el territorio ucraniano. De hecho, parece que Rusia pretende limitar su avance a la frontera lingüística del país.

Los bombardeos contra civiles

Nuestros medios de comunicación hablan de bombardeos indiscriminados contra la población civil, especialmente en Járkov, y se emiten imágenes dantescas en bucle. Sin embargo, Gonzalo Lira, un hispanoamericano que vive allí, nos presenta una ciudad tranquila el 10 de marzo y el 11 de marzo. Por supuesto, es una gran ciudad y no se puede ver todo, pero esto parece indicar que no estamos en la guerra total que nos sirven continuamente en nuestras pantallas.

En cuanto a las repúblicas de Donbass, han «liberado» sus propios territorios y están luchando en la ciudad de Mariupol.

Desnazificación

En ciudades como Kharkov, Mariupol y Odessa, la defensa la llevan a cabo milicias paramilitares. Saben que el objetivo de la «desnazificación» se dirige principalmente a ellos.

Para un atacante en una zona urbanizada, los civiles son un problema. Por ello, Rusia pretende crear corredores humanitarios para vaciar las ciudades de civiles y dejar sólo a las milicias para que luchen más fácilmente.

Conversely, these militias try to keep civilians in the cities to deter the Russian army from engaging in combat. That is why they are reluctant to launch these corridors and do everything possible to make Russian efforts useless: they can use the civilian population as "human shields". Videos showing civilians trying to leave Mariupol and being beaten by fighters of the Azov regiment are, of course, carefully censored in the country.

On Facebook, the Azov group was considered in the same category as the Islamic State and subject to the platform's "policy on dangerous individuals and organizations." Therefore, it was forbidden to glorify it and the "posts" that favored it were systematically prohibited. But on Feb. 24, Facebook changed its policy and allowed pro-militia posts. In the same spirit, in March, the platform authorized calls for the assassination of Russian soldiers and leaders in former Eastern European countries. So much for the values that inspire our leaders, as we will see.

Our media propagates a romantic image of popular resistance. It is this image that led the European Union to finance the distribution of weapons to the civilian population. This is a criminal act. In my capacity as head of peacekeeping doctrine at the UN, I worked on the

issue of the protection of civilians. We found that violence against civilians took place in very specific contexts. In particular, when there is an abundance of weapons and no command structures.

These command structures are the essence of armies: their function is to channel the use of force towards a target. By arming citizens randomly, as is currently the case, the EU turns them into combatants, with the consequent effect of making them potential targets. Moreover, without command, without operational objectives, the distribution of weapons inevitably leads to settling of scores, banditry and actions that are more deadly than effective. War becomes an emotional affair. Force becomes violence. This is what happened in Tawarga (Libya) from 11 to 13 August 2011, where 30,000 black Africans were massacred with parachute weapons (illegally) by France. In addition, the British Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (RUSI) sees no added value in these arms deliveries.

Moreover, by delivering weapons to a country at war, one risks being considered a belligerent. The March 13, 2022 Russian attacks on the Mykolayev airbase follow Russian warnings that arms shipments would be treated as hostile targets.

Maryupol Maternity Hospital

It is important to understand in advance that it is not the Ukrainian army that defends Mariupol, but the Azov militia, composed of foreign mercenaries.

In its summary of the situation on March 7, 2022, the Russian UN mission in New York states that "residents report that the Ukrainian armed forces have expelled staff from the No. 1 birth hospital in the city of Mariupol and have set up a firing post within the premises."

On 8 March, the independent Russian media outlet Lenta.ru published the testimony of civilians from Mariupol who claimed that the maternity hospital had been taken over by militias from the Azov regiment and that they had expelled the civilian occupants at gunpoint. This confirms the statements of the Russian ambassador a few hours earlier.

The Mariupol hospital occupies a dominant position, perfectly suited for the installation of anti-tank weapons and for observation. On March 9, Russian forces attacked the building. According to CNN, 17 people were injured, but the footage does not show any casualties at the premises and there is no evidence that the victims mentioned are related to this attack. There is talk of children, but in reality there is nothing. This may be true, but it may

not be... This does not prevent EU leaders from considering it a war crime... Which allows Zelensky to ask for a no-fly zone over Ukraine...

Actually, we don't know exactly what happened. But the sequence of events tends to confirm that Russian forces attacked a position of the Azov regiment and that the maternity was then free of civilians.

The problem is that the paramilitary militias that defend the cities are encouraged by the international community not to respect the customs of war. It seems that Ukrainians have reproduced the scenario of the Kuwait City maternity of 1990, which was fully staged by Hill & Knowlton for 10.7 million dollars to convince the UN Security Council to intervene in Iraq for Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

Western politicians have accepted civilian attacks in Donbass for eight years, without adopting any sanctions against the Ukrainian government. We have long since entered a dynamic in which Western politicians have agreed to sacrifice international law to their goal of weakening Russia.

Conclusions

As a former intelligence professional, the first thing that strikes me is the total absence of Western intelligence services in depicting the situation over the past year. In Switzerland, the services have been criticised for failing to provide a correct picture of the situation. In fact, it seems that across the Western world services have been overwhelmed by politicians. The problem is that it is the politicians who decide: the best intelligence service in the world is useless if the decision-maker does not listen. That is what has happened in this crisis.

However, while some intelligence services had a very accurate and rational picture of the situation, others clearly had the same image as that propagated by our media. In this crisis, the services of the countries of the 'new Europe' played an important role. The problem is that, from experience, I have found that they are extremely bad at analysis: doctrinaire, they lack the intellectual and political independence to evaluate a situation with military "quality". It is better to have them as enemies than as friends.

Secondly, it seems that in some European countries politicians have deliberately ignored their services in order to respond ideologically to the situation. That is why this crisis has been irrational from the beginning. It should be noted that all the documents that were

presented to the public during this crisis were presented by politicians on the basis of commercial sources...

Some Western politicians clearly wanted there to be a conflict. In the United States, the attack scenarios presented by Anthony Blinken to the Security Council were the work of a Tiger Team working for him: he did exactly the same thing as Donald Rumsfeld in 2002, which was to "overlook" the CIA and other intelligence agencies that were much less firm on Iraqi chemical weapons.

The dramatic events we are witnessing today have causes we knew about, but refuse to see:

- Strategically, the expansion of NATO (which we have not dealt with here);
- politically, the Western refusal to implement the Minsk Agreements
- and operationally, the continuous and repeated attacks against the civilian populations of Donbass during the last years and the dramatic increase at the end of February 2022.

In other words, we can naturally deplore and condemn the Russian attack. But WE (i.e. the US, France and the EU in the lead) have created the conditions for a conflict to break out. We show compassion for the Ukrainian people and the two million refugees. That's ok. But if we had had a modicum of compassion for the same number of refugees from the Ukrainian populations of Donbass massacred by their own government and accumulated in Russia for eight years, probably none of this would have happened.

Victimes civiles dans le Donbass (2018-2021)

	Sur le territoire des Républiques auto-proclamées	Sur le territoire contrôlé par le gouvernement	Dans le « no man's land »	Total	Evolution par rapport à l'année précédente
2018	128	27	7	162	-41.9%
2019	85	18	2	105	-35.2%
2020	61	9	0	70	-33.3%
2021	36	8	0	44	-37.1%
Total	310	62	9	381	
%	81.4	16.3	2.3	100.0	

Comme on le constate, plus 80% des victimes du Donbass proviennent des tirs de l'armée ukrainienne. Durant des années, les Occidentaux sont restés silencieux devant le massacre d'Ukrainiens russophones par le gouvernement de Kiev, sans jamais tenter de prendre influence sur Kiev. C'est ce silence qui a contraint la Russie à agir.

[Source : « Conflict-related civilian casualties in Ukraine », United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, Haut-commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme, 31 décembre 2021 (mis à jour 27 janvier 2022)]

Civilian casualties in the Dombás (2018-2021)

As you can see, more than 80% of the victims of Dombás come from ukrainian army fire. For years Westerners remained silent in the face of the massacre of Russian-speaking Ukrainians by the Kiev government, never attempting to take influence over Kiev. It is the silence that forced Russia to act

Whether the term "genocide" applies to the abuses suffered by the people of Donbass is an open question. The term is usually reserved for larger cases (Holocaust, etc.), but the definition of the Genocide Convention is probably broad enough to apply it. The jurists will appreciate it.

It is clear that this conflict has led us to hysteria. Sanctions seem to have become the preferred tool of our foreign policy. If we had insisted that Ukraine comply with the Minsk Agreements, which we had negotiated and supported, none of this would have happened. Vladimir Putin's condemnation is also ours. There is no point in complaining afterwards: we should have acted sooner. But neither Emmanuel Macron (as guarantor and member of the UN Security Council), nor Olaf Scholz, nor Volodymyr Zelensky have respected their commitments. In the end, the real defeat is that of those who have no word.

The European Union was unable to promote the implementation of the Minsk agreements; on the contrary, it did not react when Ukraine bombed its own population in Donbass. If he had, Vladimir Putin would not have needed to react. Absent from the diplomatic phase, the EU distinguished itself by fuelling the conflict. On February 27, the Ukrainian

government agreed to start negotiations with Russia. But a few hours later, the European Union voted on a budget of 450 million euros to supply weapons to Ukraine, adding fuel to the fire. From there, the Ukrainians believe they don't need to come to an agreement. The resistance of the Azov militias in Mariupol will even cause an increase of 500 million euros in weapons.

Moderate Ukrainian leaders killed by Ukrainians

In Ukraine, with the approval of Western countries, the supporters of a negotiation are eliminated. This is the case of Denis Kireyev, one of the Ukrainian negotiators, killed on March 5 by the Ukrainian secret service (SBU) for being too favorable to Russia and being considered a traitor. The same fate befell Dmitry Demyanenko, former deputy head of the SBU's main directorate for Kiev and its region, who was assassinated on March 10 for being too favorable to a deal with Russia: he was shot by the Mirotvorets ("Peacemaker") militia. This militia is associated with the website Mirotvorets, which draws up a list of the "enemies of Ukraine", with their personal data, addresses and telephone numbers, in order to harass or even eliminate them; a practice that is punishable in many countries, but not in Ukraine. The UN and some European countries demanded its closure, but the Rada refused.

In the end, the price will be high, but Vladimir Putin will probably achieve the goals he had set for himself. Its ties with Beijing have solidified. China emerges as a mediator in the conflict, while Switzerland enters the list of enemies of Russia. The Americans have to ask Venezuela and Iran for oil to get out of the energy quagmire in which they have gotten into: Juan Guaidó definitely leaves the scene and the United States has to painfully back down on the sanctions imposed on its enemies.

Western ministers who seek to sink the Russian economy and make the Russian people suffer, or who even call for Putin's assassination, demonstrate (even if they have partially reversed the form of their words, but not the substance!) that our leaders are no better than the ones we hate.

[Jacques Baud](#) March 16, 2022

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