

Putin's September Speech Factchecked



PUTIN

FACTCHECK

ON MOBILISATION

- "In order to protect our motherland, its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to ensure the safety of our people and people in the liberated territories, I consider it necessary to support the proposal of the defence ministry and the General Staff to conduct a partial mobilisation in the Russian Federation."
- "We are talking about partial mobilisation. That is, only citizens who are currently in the reserves and, above all, those who have served in the armed forces, have military skills and relevant experience. Only they will be subject to conscription."
- "Russians are enthusiastic and ready to serve Russia."

ON THE WESTERN 'THREAT'

- "Today our armed forces are operating across a front line that exceeds 1,000 km, opposing not only neo-Nazi formations but the entire military machine of the collective West."
- "In its aggressive anti-Russian policy, the West has crossed every line."
- "The purpose of this West is to weaken, divide and ultimately destroy our country. They are already saying that in 1991 they were able to break up the Soviet Union, and now the time has come for Russia itself that it should disintegrate. And they have been planning it for a long time [...] the West is not interested in a peaceful solution and making compromises; they just want to break all negotiations."

- The Kremlin's entire conflict has been based on a [disregard for territorial integrity](#) and the [denial](#) of the very concept of an historically independent and sovereign Ukraine (despite consistent [evidence](#) to the contrary).
- Prior leaked messages and [diaries](#) of Russian soldiers from the initial invasion have demonstrated that many Reservists and recruits were unaware they were going to Ukraine. Similarly, there is evidence of focused recruitment in [Russia's Eastern Oblasts](#), Ukraine's occupied territories and [Russian prisons](#). Meanwhile, while 300,000 is an intended target, the actual number is secret. Based on this track record and [current estimations of Russian casualties](#), it is highly likely that the Kremlin's recruitment net will go far beyond the 300,000 reservists called up.
- All anti-war demonstrations and free reporting on the conflict since February 24th has been [suppressed](#) (sometimes violently), preventing any alternative to pro-war narratives. Meanwhile, the announcement has coincided with a [sell out of plane tickets](#) to visa-free countries in Russia and a surge in online queries of "[how to break one's arm](#)".
- As highlighted in Albany's [previous Ukraine Update](#), far-right parties in Ukraine have traditionally performed dismally, while Russian proxy forces and Kremlin aligned ideologues have traditionally had [ties](#) to Neo-Nazi movements.
- The Kremlin has a long track record of violating international norms and the rule of law: [murdering dissidents](#) (sometimes using [CBRN weapons](#)), violating the UN Charter and [aiding and abetting](#), and [engaging](#) in war crimes and [crimes against humanity](#).
- The West has continually sort to engage Russia: encouraging economic investment and establishing the [NATO-Russia Council](#). Right up to Russia's invasion, there were last minute attempts to [negotiate](#) with Russia and create a diplomatic solution (which continues today). Throughout these negotiations, Russia insisted it had [no intention of invading Ukraine](#).

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ON NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL

- "Nuclear blackmail has also been used. We are talking not only about the shelling of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant – encouraged by the West – which threatens to cause a nuclear catastrophe but also about statements from senior representatives of NATO countries about the possibility and permissibility of using weapons of mass destruction against Russia: nuclear weapons."
- "Those who try to blackmail us with nuclear weapons should know that the weathervane can turn and point towards them."

- It is Russia that has [weponised Zaporizhzhia](#) as a military base and an artillery station to shelter its forces while it shells Ukrainian positions and has risked nuclear meltdown multiple times. It has [rejected](#) all calls for the zone to be demilitarised.
- So far it is Russian media and officials who have frequently threatened the West and Ukraine with nuclear annihilation; including via [radioactive tidal wave](#) and possible "[accidents](#)" at European nuclear powerplants.

ON 'REFERENDUMS'

- "Parliaments in the People's Republics of the Donbas as well as the civil-military administrations in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions have decided to hold referendums on the future of the territories and have appealed to Russia to support such a step. We will do everything to ensure safe conditions to hold the referendums so that people can express their will. We will support the decision on their future, which will be made by the majority of residents in the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson."

- Any such referendums would be illegal under international law (as the locations are under occupation). These referendums would mirror Russia's annexation of [Crimea](#) in 2014; which was proceeded by coercive threats, a mass exodus of those afraid of living under Russian occupation, roundups of opposition and an opaque counting system. [Russia Today's Editor in Chief](#) has gloated about exactly this scenario as a way of "untying Russia's hands". The results have already been ['predicted'](#).

WHAT NEXT IN THE INFORMATION WAR?

- Multiple analysts have opined that the Kremlin's current measures can be discerned as motivated by [panic](#) and "a sense of unraveling". As a consequence, NATO General Secretary Jens Stoltenburg has [warned](#) it is highly likely the Kremlin will seek to increase its hybrid warfare measures against the West to undermine its support for Ukraine.
- It is almost certain that covert and overt information operations will be at the forefront of this campaign; focusing on the cost of living crisis and exacerbating political division in the West while simultaneously depicting itself as an anti-colonial hero and shifting blame for global food insecurity to undermine relations between the West and the Global South.
- Pre-bunking is key to blunting the traction of these narratives. So follow the link to learn more about the Kremlin's developing narratives:

[The Kremlin's Developing Disinformation Narratives \(1\)](#)

[The Kremlin's Developing Disinformation Narratives \(2\)](#)