

Humanitarian aspect:

As of the morning of August 23, 2022, more than 1,097 Ukrainian children are victims of full-scale armed aggression by the Russian Federation, Prosecutor General's Office reports. **The official number of children who have died has grown to 374, and the number of those who have been wounded stayed the same at 723.** However, the data is not conclusive since data collection continues in the areas of active hostilities, the temporarily occupied areas, and liberated territories.

2,328 educational institutions were damaged due to bombing and shelling by the armed forces of the Russian Federation. Of them, 289 were completely destroyed.

More than 1,000 Ukrainian children were taken from captured Mariupol to Russia and illegally adopted there. Another 300 are temporarily held in specialized institutions. Such figures were revealed in the Krasnodar (Russia) Department for Family and Childhood Affairs. Ukrainian children were taken to Tyumen, Irkutsk, Kemerovo and the Altai Territory [of Russia]. For each of them, the Russian authorities promise to pay material aid.

In **Dnipropetrovsk Oblast** the Russians shelled the Kryvy Rih district (1 person died, 1 was wounded) and the Nikopol district (2 women were injured). The shellings damaged houses, power lines, gas and water lines.

On the morning of August 23, the Russians shelled Dnipro. The mayor of Dnipro, Boris Filatov, confirmed the missile attack and rocket fragments falling on private houses in the city.

In the morning, the enemy hit a private house in **Kharkiv**. During the past 24 hours, the enemy shelled populated areas of the Chuhuyiv and Izyum districts of the Kharkiv Oblast. Civil enterprise buildings were damaged, and forest strips and grass burned.

In **Zaporizhzhya Oblast** over the past day, the Russian occupiers shelled civilian infrastructure in Hulyaipole, Orikhiv, and Olhivske.

Occupied territories

Ukraine has not yet received from the Russian Federation lists of the wounded and killed Ukrainian POWs in Olenivka on July 29, 2022. After the [Russian] terrorist attack in Olenivka, Ukraine sent requests to the Russian Federation about the number of victims, but did not receive an official response, said Dmitry Lubinets, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Ukrainian Parliament.

"We turned to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which should receive any information from the Russian Federation. There is no answer. There is an answer that Russia does not provide them with any information either," he said.

Ukraine called on international organizations and states to take immediate measures to **prevent the show-trial of the defenders of Mariupol**. Any trial of POWs will be a crime against the fundamental norms and principles of international law. Every war criminal involved in this process - from the perpetrators in Mariupol to the organizers in the Kremlin - will bear the strictest responsibility, no matter how long it takes, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said.

Energoatom reported in the morning that 2 more [Russian] armored personnel carriers and 6 special trucks had been delivered to **Zaporizhzhya NPP**. The number of military equipment has grown to more than 40 units. The contingent of the Russian military at the station has also been increased.

During the day, the Russian military was shelling the ash dumps of the Zaporizhzhya thermal power plant, raising clouds of radioactive dust, in order to accuse Ukraine of strikes on the nuclear power plant. As a result of strikes on ash dumps, clouds of dust rise, which the wind carries around the surroundings, the Main Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine's MOD reported. "Monitoring of the radiation background, which is carried out near the nuclear power plant, indicates an increase in the level of radiation. The [Russian] occupiers are trying to present these data as the results of mythical "shelling by the Armed Forces of Ukraine," the message says.

Operational situation:

It is the 181st day of the strategic air and ground offensive operation of the Russian Armed Forces against Ukraine (in the official terminology of the Russian Federation – "operation to protect Donbas"). The enemy is concentrating its efforts on establishing full control over the territories of the Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts, maintaining the temporarily captured areas of the Kherson Oblast and parts of the Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhya, and Mykolaiv Oblasts, creating favorable conditions for resuming their offensives in certain directions, and blocking Ukraine's maritime communications in the Black Sea.

The enemy continues to carry out air and missile strikes on military and civilian objects in Ukraine.

The enemy continues to deploy separate units of the Western Military District in the Russian border areas of the Bryansk and Kursk regions to demonstrate the forward presence and to constrain the Ukrainian Defence units' actions. The enemy shelled from the barrel artillery Senkivka and Mykolaivka in the Chernihiv Oblast and Katerynivka and Oboda in the Sumy Oblast.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus units continue to strengthen the protection of the section of the Belarusian-Ukrainian border in the Brest and Gomel regions. The threat of Russian missile launches and air strikes from the territory and airspace of the Republic of Belarus persists. In the border areas, the enemy is actively using EW means.

Ukrainian aviation continues to carry out about a dozen airstrikes per day (almost exclusively in the Kherson region), and the Russian Air Force - up to 60-70 (mainly in the Kharkiv and Kherson regions). Ukrainian strikes with AGM-88 HARM anti-radar missiles from MiG-29 aircraft are much more effective.

The morale and psychological state of the personnel of the invasion forces remain low.

The so-called LPR will begin "general mobilization" on September 1, as announced by the "head" of the so-called LPR, Pasichnyk. In the first stage of mobilization, the leadership of the so-called LPR will mobilize citizens of Ukraine who have received Russian passports and meet military requirements; in the second stage will mobilize the rest of the male population aged 18 to 65. In the previous February mobilization, the so-called LPR banned the departure of men from the territory of the occupied Luhansk region and transferred the economy to the military regime. Such mobilization development indicates the inability of the so-called LPR to form and motivate sufficient forces to continue hostilities in the Donetsk Oblast through recruitment or covert mobilization. Earlier, the Military Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine's MOD reported that Russian troops plan to call up 8,000 people from the occupied territories to Ukraine.

Kharkiv direction

- *Zolochiv-Balakleya section: approximate length of combat line - 147 km, number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 10-12, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 13.3 km;*
- *Deployed enemy BTGs: 26th, 153rd and 197th tank regiments, 245th motorized rifle regiment of the 47th tank division, 6th and 239th tank regiments, 228th motorized rifle regiment of the 90th tank division, 1st motorized rifle regiment, 1st tank regiment of the 2nd motorized rifle division, 25th and 138th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 6th Combined Arms Army, 27th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Tank Army, 275th and 280th motorized rifle regiments, 11th tank regiment of the 18th motorized rifle division of the 11 Army Corps, 7th motorized rifle regiment of the 11th Army Corps, 80th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 14th Army Corps, 2nd and 45th separate SOF brigades of the Airborne Forces, 1st Army Corps of so-called DPR, PMCs*

The enemy conducts hostilities to maintain previously occupied areas and frontiers, tries to improve its tactical position, and replenishes the losses of personnel and military equipment.

The enemy shelled the areas of Odnorobivka, Sosnivka, Tsupivka, Nove, Zamulivka, Dokuchaevske, Pytomnyk, Stary Saltiv, Velyka Rohan, Ivashki, Udy, Bazaliivka, Slobozhanske, Duvanka, Peremoha, Velyki Prokhody, Ruska Lozova, Lebyazhe, Mospanove, Husarivka, Ruski Tyshki. They carried out airstrikes near Pytomnyk, Stary Saltiv, Verkhnyi Saltiv, Mospanove, Husarivka and used UAVs for reconnaissance and adjusting artillery fire.

Kramatorsk direction

- *Balakleya - Siversk section: approximate length of the combat line - 184 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 17-20, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 9.6 km;*

- *252nd and 752nd motorized rifle regiments of the 3rd motorized rifle division, 1st, 13th and 12th tank regiments, 423rd motorized rifle regiment of the 4th tank division, 201st military base, 15th, 21st, 30th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 2nd Combined Arms Army, 35th, 55th and 74th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 41st Combined Arms Army, 3rd and 14th separate SOF brigades, 2nd and 4th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 2nd Army Corps, 7th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Army Corps, PMC*

The enemy shelled the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces near Nortsivka, Krasnopillia, Dolyna, Mazanivka, Nova Dmytrivka, Chepil, Bohorodychne, Kurulka, Hryhorivka, Rozdolivka, Bilenke, Spirne, Siversk, Zakitne, Pereizne, Verkhnyokamyanske and Pryshyb. They carried out airstrikes near Bohorodychne. The Russian troops attacked Krasnopillia, but were repulsed. In the Izyum area, the enemy operates mainly in small reconnaissance groups.

Due to the lack of ballistic missiles, the enemy attacks Kharkiv mainly with S-300 anti-aircraft missiles.

Donetsk direction

- *Siversk - Maryinka section: approximate length of the combat line - 235 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 13-15, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 17 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 68th and 163rd tank regiments, 102nd and 103rd motorized rifle regiments of the 150 motorized rifle division, 80th tank regiment of the 90th tank division, 35th, 55th and 74th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 41st Combined Arms Army, 31st separate airborne assault brigade, 61st separate marines brigade of the Joint Strategic Command "Northern Fleet", 336th separate marines brigade, 24th separate SOF brigade, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 15th, and 100th separate motorized rifle brigades, 9th and 11th separate motorized rifle regiment of the 1st Army Corps of the so-called DNR, 6th motorized rifle regiment of the 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LNR, PMCs*

The Russian forces shelled near Bakhmut, Mayorsk, Soledar, Zaitseve, Shumy, Kodema, Kostyantynivka, Bakhmutske, Pidgorodne, Yakovlivka, Vesela Dolyna, Bilohorivka, Vodyane, Novobakhmutivka, Krasnohorivka, Opytne, Nevelske, Avdiivka, Oleksandropol, Maryinka, Pervomaiske and Pisky. They carried out airstrikes on the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces in the area of Soledar, Maryinka, Nevelske and Krasnohorivka, and missile strikes in the areas of Soledar and Kostyantynivka.

The enemy tried to conduct a reconnaissance attack in the area of Zaitseve, but was repulsed. Russian forces attacked near Krasnohorivka, Pervomaiske, Nevelske, Soledar, and Kodema, suffered losses in all directions and were forced to retreat. In Bakhmut, there are battles for almost every house. The Ukrainian Armed Forces have increased their artillery in the area to such an extent that Russian Armed Forces units have serious problems trying to cross the flat and open terrain to approach Ukrainian positions.

The enemy managed to break into the outskirts of Zaitseve and take control of Pisky. Russian troops are trying to advance in the direction of Nevelske.

Ukrainian artillery destroyed the headquarters of the separatist formation and an ammunition warehouse in the east of Donetsk. Despite the enemy's widespread use of incendiary weapons, Ukrainian units control Maryinka.

4-5 enemy BTGs from the composition of the 1st Army Corps, reinforced by two assault groups of the PMC "Wagner" (up to a battalion) and separate units of the 150th motorized rifle division (up to 2 tank companies) in the section from Krasnohorivka to Novomykhailivka constantly attack in different areas at advanced positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces.

One enemy tactical group is trying to break through Krasnohorivka and the dumps of the Avdiiv coke-chemical plant to Stepove and Orlivka. The other one, having reached the Pisky-Opytne line, is rushing to Vodyane-Tonenka. The primary purpose of these attacks is to force the Ukrainian tactical group, which is defending in the Avdiivka defense district, to withdraw under the threat of encirclement and blockade.

Up to five enemy rifle battalions of the mobilization reserve, including both the 1st and 2nd Army Corps, are concentrated in the Donetsk region to support these actions.

Zaporizhzhya direction

- *Maryinka – Vasylivka section: approximate length of the line of combat - 200 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 17, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 11.7 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 36th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 29th Combined Arms Army, 38th and 64th separate motorized rifle brigades, 69th separate cover brigade of the 35th Combined Arms Army, 5th separate tank brigade, 37 separate motorized rifle brigade of the 36th Combined Arms Army, 135th, 429th, 503rd and 693rd motorized rifle regiments of the 19th motorized rifle division of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 70th, 71st and 291st motorized rifle regiments of the 42nd motorized rifle division of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 136th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 58 Combined Arms Army, 46th and 49th machine gun artillery regiments of the 18th machine gun artillery division of the 68th Army Corps, 39th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 68th Army Corps, 83th separate airborne assault brigade, 40th and 155th separate marines brigades, 22nd separate SOF brigade, 1st Army Corps of the so-called DPR, and 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR, PMCs*

The enemy fire was recorded near Zaliznychne, Orikhiv, Chervone, Burlatske, Zelene Pole, Stepove, Novopavlivka, Novoandriivka, Hulyaipole, Shevchenkove, Charivne, Novosilka, Vremivka, Vilne Pole, Mala Tokmachka, Poltavka, Dorozhnyanka, Pavlivka, Prechystivka, Vuhledar, Novomykhailivka, Elizavetivka and Novoukrainka. The enemy carried out airstrikes in the areas of Malynivka, Olhivske, Zaliznychne, Novopil, and unsuccessfully attacked near Vremivka, Velika Novosilka, Novomykhailivka, and Zolota Nyva.

Ukrainian Defense forces firmly hold the Zolota Nyva-Pavlivka frontier, despite the intense enemy pressure. The direction is strengthened by reserves.

Russian troops attacked Zelendolsk with "Uragan" surface-to-air missiles and shelled Nikopol and other villages and towns in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

Kherson direction

- *Vasylivka–Nova Zburiivka and Stanislav section: approximate length of the battle line - 252 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 27, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 9.3 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 114th, 143rd and 394th motorized rifle regiments, 218th tank regiment of the 127th motorized rifle division of the 5th Combined Arms Army, 57th and 60th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 5th Combined Arms Army, 135th, 503rd and 693rd motorized rifle regiments of the 19th motorized rifle division, 70th, 71st and 291st motorized rifle regiments of the 42nd motorized rifle division, 51st and 137th parachute airborne regiments of the 106th parachute airborne division, 7th military base of the 49th Combined Arms Army, 16th and 346th separate SOF brigades*

Ukrainian forces struck both road bridges over the Dnipro River in the Kherson region on August 21-22, rendering both unfit for heavy [enemy] vehicles. The Antoniv road bridge was struck when a Russian convoy was transporting ammunition across the bridge. Now, Russian troops use pontoon bridges and barges near Kherson to transport materiel across the Dnipro River.

Kherson-Berislav bridgehead

- *Velyka Lepetivka – Oleksandrivka section: approximate length of the battle line – 250 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces – 22, the average width of the combat area of one BTG – 11.8 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 108th Air assault regiment, 171st separate airborne assault brigade of the 7th Air assault division, 4th military base of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 429th motorized rifle regiment of the 19th motorized rifle division, 33rd and 255th motorized rifle regiments of the 20th motorized rifle division, 34th and 205th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 49th Combined Arms Army, 224th, 237th and 239th Air assault regiments of the 76th Air assault division, 217th and 331 Air assault regiments of the 98th Air assault division, 126th separate coastal defense brigade, 127th separate ranger brigade, 11th separate airborne assault brigade, 10th separate SOF brigade, PMC*

The enemy focused its primary efforts on holding the occupied positions and preventing the advance of the Ukrainian Defense Forces units. It replenishes losses. The Russian forces shelled from tanks and artillery of various types in the areas of Parutyne, Lymany, Lozove, Shevchenkove, Myrne, Ukrainka, Kyselivka, Potemkine, Shyrokye, Ivanivka, Osokorivka, Dobryanka, Pryshyb, Kvitneve, Velike Artakove, Mykolayiv, Andriivka, Posad-Pokrovske, Stepova Dolyna, Tavriyske, Bila Krynytsia, Partyzanske, Luch, Tokareve, Kamiane, Novovorontsovka, Polyana, Novooleksandrivka and Lyubomirivka, carried out airstrikes near Trudolyubivka, Potemkine, Andriivka, Olhyne, and missile strikes - on Mykolaiv and Zatoka. The enemy conducted aerial reconnaissance with UAVs.

The Russian forces started active offensive actions in the directions of Pravdyne - Tavriyske and Olekasandrivka - Tavriyske. The main purpose of these attacks is to push Ukrainian troops away from the Stanislav-Kherson road in the Shiroka Balka-Bilozerka section. According to preliminary data, at least two BTGs from the 127th motorized rifle division of the 5th Combined Arms Army, reinforced by separate units of the 126th separate coastal defence brigade of the 22nd Army Corps, are participating in the attacks. The enemy also tried to counterattack from the direction of Zeleny Gai – Blahodatne and Kiselyvka – Blahodatne (Posad-Pokrovske district) with the 22nd Army Corps forces, with the support of the BTG from the 64th separate mechanized rifle brigade of the 35th Combined Arms Army.

The Russian attack on Blahodatne caused heavy losses to the Ukrainian artillery, and as a result, the enemy captured Blahodatne.

Azov-Black Sea Maritime Operational Area:

The forces of the Russian Black Sea Fleet continue to project force on the coast and the continental part of Ukraine and control the northwestern part of the Black Sea. The ultimate goal is to deprive Ukraine of access to the sea and connect unrecognized Transnistria with the Russian Federation by land through the coast of the Black and Azov seas.

There are currently 15 Russian warships and boats in the Black Sea. "Admiral Essen", two Buyan-M type corvettes and one project 636.3 submarine are at sea. They carry up to 28 Kalibr missiles ready to launch.

Most large amphibious ships are in the ports of Novorossiysk and Sevastopol for replenishment and scheduled maintenance. There are no signs of preparation for an amphibious assault on the southern coast of Ukraine.

There are 2 Russian ships and several boats on patrol in the Sea of Azov.

A fire continues on one of the affected drilling platforms in the open sea (west of Cape Tarkhankut, Crimea).

Russian aviation continues to fly from the Crimean airfields of Belbek and Hvardiyske over the northwestern part of the Black Sea. Over the past day, 10 aircraft from the Crimean Air Grouping of the Russian Federation were involved.

Today, August 23, several explosions occurred in temporarily occupied Sevastopol. Local Telegram channels write that it was "anti-aircraft fire," and the so-called "governor" Mikhail Razvozhaev claims that a drone was allegedly shot down over the sea.

According to available data, after several incidents involving explosions at military and civilian infrastructure facilities in the temporarily occupied Crimea, the command of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation is taking measures to minimize losses in manpower, weapons and military equipment. In particular, they consider redeploying from 30 to 50% of the aviation fleet

of aircraft and helicopters to airfields of the Russian Federation, dispersing helicopters on helipads in occupied parts of Ukraine (per the need to support the enemy's ground forces) and withdrawing ships to the base in Novorossiysk. According to preliminary assessments of the command of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, the main factor in the unsuccessful [Crimea's] air defense response is the insufficient qualification level of junior commanders. Currently, joint groups of FSB representatives and the investigative committee are conducting official investigations in all regions of air defense units' operations in Crimea.

Operational losses of the enemy from 24.02 to 23.08

Personnel - almost 45,550 people (+150);
Tanks – 1,921 (+2);
Armored combat vehicles – 4,238 (+8);
Artillery systems – 1,033 (+1);
Multiple rocket launchers (MLRS) - 266 (0);
Anti-aircraft warfare systems - 146 (+1);
Vehicles and fuel tanks – 3,150 (+1);
Aircraft - 234 (0);
Helicopters – 198 (0);
UAV operational and tactical level - 817 (+2);
Intercepted cruise missiles - 196 (+2);
Boats / ships - 15 (0).

Ukraine, general news

August 23 is the Day of the National Flag of Ukraine. The first ceremonial raising of the yellow-and-blue Ukrainian flag in modern times took place on July 24 1990, at the flagstaff of the Kyiv City Council, one-and-a-half years before the flag was officially adopted as the National flag of the Ukrainian state.

The second summit of the Crimean Platform took place today. President Zelensky stated that the return of Crimea to Ukraine would be the most significant anti-war move in Europe. He also noted that Russia launched 750 missiles from occupied Crimea in the last six months. During the meeting, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg assured the Alliance would continue to support Ukraine and predicted a difficult winter.

Presidents Volodymyr Zelenskyi and Andrzej Duda opened the Alley of Courage near the Verkhovna Rada building in Kyiv. The names of international supporters of Ukraine will be placed on this Alley.

The US Embassy called on its citizens to leave Ukraine due to the threat of missile strikes on Ukraine's Independence Day.

The President of Ukraine signed a law obliging developers to design and build bomb shelters in new buildings. According to the law, new houses with at least 50 residents will be designed with

mandatory inclusive shelters. New buildings would not be put into operation [receive urban certification] if there is no bomb shelter or are built in violation of the requirements.

Ukraine spends 40% of all budget expenditures on defense, the Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said: "Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, state budget expenditures have amounted to almost UAH 1 trillion. Of these, more than UAH 420 billion have been spent on the defense and security of our country. UAH 288 billion for military salaries, UAH 135 billion for the purchase and repair of military equipment, purchase of ammunition and defense products."

Denys Shmyhal believes that Ukraine will manage to comply with everything necessary to meet the criteria for EU membership and join the EU by the end of 2024.

Forbes magazine compiled its traditional "30 under 30 [y.o]" list of young Ukrainians who will rebuild the country. "The list of 30 in 2022 is not like the previous ones: two candidates - Roman Ratushny and Oleksandr Kukurba - died during the compilation of the list. Four nominees are in Russian captivity. The war does not look at the date of birth and takes away the young, often the best," the preface reads. This year's list included: Major Serhiy Volynskyi (Volyna), pilot Andriy Gerus, press officer of the Azov regiment Dmytro Kozatskyi (Orest), paramedic of the Hospitaliers medical battalion Maryna Polishchuk (Ptashka), head of Ukraine's largest "military" fund "Return Alive" Taras Chmut.

International diplomatic aspect

"Today marks 83 years since the signing of the Treaty of Non-Aggression between Germany and the USSR," the Russian Foreign Ministry tweeted in an attempt to revise history in an "alternative facts" manner. Russians pretend there is nothing wrong with Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact because other nations signed non-aggression agreements with Nazi Germany. However, Russian propagandists omitted the most crucial distinction between the Soviet Pact and those of other countries, which is the secret protocol that envisaged the division of Europe between the two totalitarian powers. The Pact was a turning point in history that ignited the engine of a global [world war 2] war.

Those events of 1939 are important for three reasons. Firstly, the Soviet Union wasn't condemned for being an ally of Nazi Germany, which started the Second World war. Neither was condemned the communist ideology that took the lives of more Soviet people than were murdered by the Nazis. In Soviet and Russian mythology, the war started not with the invasion of Poland (September 17, 1939), the annexation of Estonia (September 24, 1939 – August 6, 1940) or the invasion of Finland (November 30, 1939). But the so-called Great Patriotic War [Soviet interpretation of WW2] started on June 22, 1941, when Nazi Germany turned against its ally – the Soviet Union. This perverse reading of history provided the current political regime to distance from past crimes and incorporate bits of Soviet ideas and, foremost, glorification of the Soviet past into the eclectic ideology of Putin's regime.

Secondly, derived from that impunity, Moscow revised history and turned the Second World war theme into an ideological weapon against its neighbours, more than others – against Ukraine.

Claiming that Moscow has “never” attacked anyone but always was made to “defend” itself, and it was the USSR which “defeated” Nazism with “a bit” of help from the West, which was never a crucial factor, Moscow painted Ukraine as a modern-day Nazi/fascist state. The Soviet and Russian propaganda built a political archetype by nurturing the fight against Nazism as a heroic achievement of exclusively Russian people. This archetype was easily employed against Ukraine. It also explains the sharp reaction of the Kremlin and indoctrinated Russians living in the Baltic states on the taking off Soviet-era monuments that were symbols of Moscow’s dominance over the former colonies.

Finally, Nazi Germany and the communist Soviet Union, as great powers of that day, tore apart countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Though modern Germany has nothing to do with its Nazi predecessor, there is still a view that the nations in-between should subjugate their interest to way more critical relations between Berlin and Moscow. Arguably, the Partnership for Modernisation between the EU and Russia was initiated and pushed by Germany and was focused on great power relations that ignored the interest of the CEE. The framework was launched after Russia’s aggression against Georgia, which occurred regardless of Germany’s intention to appease Russia’s aggression craving by blocking Georgia and Ukraine’s NATO membership bid. Angela Merkel feels no regret for her decision at the 2008 NATO Bucharest summit. Olaf Scholz confessed that he had assured Putin not to allow Ukraine’s membership in NATO in the forthcoming decades before the all-out Russian invasion of Ukraine. So, the German approach has failed to prevent Russia’s aggression against its neighbours twice, but allegedly hasn’t changed the German position at all.

Canada announced 3.85 million CAD in assistance for Ukraine through the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program. The Netherlands is expected to announce €80 assistance, and Sweden will follow suit. In addition, the Slovak Republic donates to Ukraine thirty IFV BMP-1, which will be replenished with fifteen Leopard 2A4 by Germany.

Russia, relevant news

The FSB is expected to organize a series of terrorist attacks in Russian cities with mass casualties among civilians, Secretary of the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council, Oleksiy Danilov, said. Danilov believes the reason for this is the decrease in support for the war in the Russian Federation and Kremlin’s need for public mobilization [support].

One-third of Russians could not answer the question of what represents Russia. According to the Russian media, 27% of citizens polled by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center do not know which symbols represent their homeland. 12% believe the symbols are the coat of arms, flag and anthem, and 7% - Putin, nature, Baikal and birches.

Russian media reports that the IMAX company, which left the Russian Federation in early June, has imposed a direct ban on the use of its format. The restriction applies to all films, including Russian.

The Storytel audiobook service is leaving Russia.

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