



UKRAINE WAR ASSESSMENT

Tactical

- Expect Russia to continue to pound Ukrainian cities. More the resistance, more the pounding.
- After a while many residential areas, many government buildings, schools, and commercial spaces would end up being rubble.
- The outgunned Ukrainian army would want to make the war as bloody as it can for the Russian army and will keep raising the cost of war. A vast array of western anti-armour, air defence and small arms will be handy.
- Expect Ukrainian forces to rely on enhancing fortifications, retain urban fight, set up small teams in various buildings, dig trenches, set up snipers and use molotovs.
- Russian forces will enhance siege tactics, will continue to flatten the cities, keep hitting military targets and choke down supplies.
- Expect Ukrainians to keep the Russian forces engaged in secondary cities and towns to allow for more time for shoring up defences in Kyiv.
- The Ukrainian strategy is to make stretch the Russian advance and make it costly for them in terms of armour, food, supplies and fuel. They will favor armed ambushes.
- The Russian advances have been swifter in smaller towns like Mariupol, Berdyansk, Melitopol and Kherson. The western towns are next.

Strategic

- As companies and countries begin to search for alternate energy sources, the energy prices and the supply chain are likely to remain unstable. Where do the UAE and Saudi Arabia stand? Will they help cushion the price rise or realign their interests? Will the Europeans remain a divided house on Russian energy supplies?
- The widespread and extensive sanctions against Russia reflect broad Western support for Ukraine and an emerging world order, but this will heighten risk for multinationals who are still operating in Russia. And what about the assets of those who have closed operations in Russia? What does this conflict mean for globalisation?
- Where does China stand will be key – will it help Russia circumvent SWIFT and sanctions or gain from Americans going soft in south China sea? Is President Xi the key to a truce? What notes is China taking from this conflict?
- What does the Russian invasion of Ukraine mean for deterrence, nuclear arms race, conventional weapon systems? Should Ukraine have retained the nuclear option?



- Do alliances really guarantee security? Should smaller states, non-EU members and former Soviet Union states look towards NATO membership for their security?
- What kind of international system should come into being that is not structurally defunct and one that assures states of security from big powers? And what happens to other pressing priorities like climate change?
- What the 'red line'? Will it be any deliberate or accidental attack on a NATO member? Or will it be any use of chem-bioweapons? What kind of war crimes will mean crossing the 'red line'?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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