



PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

February 26, 2022

Putin Announces 'Special Military Operation for De-Militarization and De-Nazification of Ukraine'

February 24, 2022 **breitbart.com** reported: "Russian President Vladimir Putin declared war on Ukraine in a surprise television announcement at roughly 6:00 a.m. Moscow time, 10:00 p.m. Eastern. The Russian dictator described the unprovoked attack as a 'special military operation for the de-Militarization and de-Nazification of Ukraine.'"



'I've made the decision to conduct a special military operation,' Putin said. 'Our analysis has concluded that our confrontation with these forces [in Ukraine] was inevitable.'

'This is the red line that I have spoken of many times. They have crossed it,' he said, accusing the Ukrainians of 'genocide' for attacking the two new 'independent republics' he unilaterally conjured into existence on Monday...

'A couple of words for those who would be tempted to intervene. Russia will respond immediately and you will have consequences that you never have had before in your history,' he warned.

'As for the military sphere, modern Russia, even after the collapse of the USSR and the loss of a significant part of its nuclear potential, is today one of the most powerful nuclear powers. And moreover, it has certain advantages in a number of the latest types of weapons. In this regard, no one should have any doubt that a direct attack on Russia will lead to defeat and dire consequences for a potential aggressor,' he said, making it clear that he was threatening nuclear retaliation against the U.S. and NATO if they interfere with his attack on Ukraine..."

Analysis: How war in Ukraine increases Iran's threat to Israel

February 24, 2022 **jpost.com** reported: "Reports on Thursday morning showed Russian attacks across Ukraine, including against key airports and military sites. Air raid sirens were heard in western Ukraine and in Lviv where some countries – including Israel – have relocated their embassies. The message that Russia's unprovoked attack has for the world is clear: Other countries can do the same.

In the Middle East, Iran understands that the Russian operation gives it a blank check to continue attacking countries throughout the region. This has repercussions potentially for Israel. Israel has always behaved as if it will have to face Iran alone, but the conflict in Ukraine is yet another message for the Middle East.

While Israel-Iran tensions have gone on for decades, the question is whether the Russian war in Ukraine will open a Pandora's Box of similar invasions and wars.

There is a chance that the war in Ukraine and the US focus on Ukraine could lead Iran to believe it can exploit this chaotic time to encourage its proxies to attack Israel. Hezbollah has been threatening Israel and increasingly stockpiling missiles and drones. Iran could benefit from the Ukraine crisis through either getting a reduction in nuclear sanctions or empowering its proxies..."

Taipei condemns Russia over Ukraine; China says different issue to Taiwan

February 23, 2022 **sinodaily.com** reported: "Taiwan's president on Wednesday condemned Russia for ordering troops into rebel-held regions in Ukraine, and claimed the crisis was being used to hurt morale on the island, which has long been under the threat of a Chinese invasion.

Self-ruled democratic Taiwan has watched the Ukraine situation closely, as China claims sovereignty over the island and has vowed to seize it one day — by force if necessary.

Beijing has ramped up military, diplomatic and economic pressure on Taiwan since President Tsai Ing-wen came to power in 2016, as she rejects the stance that the island is Chinese territory.

'Our government condemns Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty... and urges all parties to continue to resolve the disputes through peaceful and rational means,' Tsai said.

She described Taiwan and Ukraine as ‘fundamentally different in terms of geostrategy, geographical environment, and the importance of international supply chains,’ referring to the island’s status as a major plank in the global economy, especially semiconductors.

‘However, in the face of external forces attempting to manipulate the situation in Ukraine and affect the morale in Taiwan’s society, all government units must be more vigilant against cognitive warfare.’

Taiwan’s defense ministry said last year that China has launched a disinformation campaign aimed at seizing the island ‘without a fight’...

Putin’s argument for dominating Ukraine foreshadows aggression against NATO

February 22, 2022 [washingtonexaminer.com](http://www.washingtonexaminer.com) reported: Russian President Vladimir Putin’s justification for seizing additional territory from Ukraine signals his long-term desire to subjugate other Central and Eastern European countries, including current members of NATO, according to U.S. and European officials.

“The reasoning that Putin has presented, when he published his demands to NATO and to the United States earlier this year, this reasoning is signaling that his ambition goes way beyond Ukraine,” Germany’s Reinhard Bütikofer, a senior member of the European Parliament, told the *Washington Examiner*. “His ambition includes the zeal to establish security dominance of Russia over all of the countries that used to belong to the Soviet bloc.”

Russian military forces have entered Ukraine with the announced goal of partitioning the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine after years of fighting between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists reinforced by Russian troops. That operation is far more limited than any hypothetical assault against a NATO ally, as Bütikofer hastened to acknowledge.

However, Putin couched the announcement in a lengthy historical argument that portrayed the formation of states that used to be part of the Russian empire before the rise and fall of the Soviet Union as an offense against “the historical destiny of Russia and its peoples” that flowed from Bolshevik revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin’s putative acquiescence to “nationalists within the country” after the First World War.” ...”

Putin pledges to carve up Ukraine as EU mulls sanctions

February 22, 2022 euobserver.com reported: “Russian president Vladimir Putin pledged to sign an order recognizing the Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics (DPR and LPR) in a TV address on Monday (21 February), escalating a crisis that could lead to the biggest war in Europe since 1945.

Putin made the announcement in a rambling and belligerent speech about history in which he claimed Ukraine was not a real country, but one ‘created’ by Russia in the 1920s on ‘ancient Russian lands.’

‘So, you [Ukraine] want de-communisation?’ Putin asked. ‘That suits us. But let’s not stop half way. We are prepared to show you what real de-communisation looks like,’ he said in what appeared to be a direct and hostile threat in light of the more than 150,000 soldiers already massed on Ukraine’s borders.

He also took a swipe at NATO, claiming that the Western alliance was an ‘aggressor’ that was ‘commanding’ Ukrainian troops. Earlier in the day, Putin had warned the French and German leaders that he was going ahead with recognition of the republics...”

Israel’s ‘Protective Dome’ system successfully tested on naval vessel

February 21, 2022 jpost.com reported: “The ‘Protective Dome’ system, a naval defense system based on the Iron Dome, was successfully tested for the first time on the Saar-6 corvette, INS Magen, the Defense Ministry announced...”

The Navy, the Defense Ministry’s Israel’s Missile Defense Organization (IMDO) in the Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure (Maf’at), Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries completed a series of interception tests with the ‘Protective Dome’ system against a variety of threats.

The threats tested included rockets, cruise missiles and UAVs. The system will be integrated into the national system for air defense and is another tire in the multi-layered system, alongside the Arrow and David’s Sling systems...”



Ukraine