



SSEES experts on developments in the Russia-Ukraine war

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Expert Briefing

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BACKGROUND

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February has already resulted in large-scale destruction and suffering. It has also profoundly shaken knowledge in the subjects studied at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies: from politics and society to languages and culture, and from economics and business to history. An [online panel](#) discussion was held by the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) on 28 March, bringing together a panel of experts to help make sense of what is happening. This briefing document includes the key point made by each panellist.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Dr Ben Noble | Associate Professor of Russian Politics | UCL School of Slavonic & East European Studies | Email: benjamin.noble@ucl.ac.uk

Putin successfully dictated talking points on his skewed view of Ukrainian history to western journalists, but his distortions of the past are roundly mocked in Ukraine itself; Zelensky has so far, with a few hiccups, managed his own memory politics effectively and with restraint.

Dr Uilleam Blacker

Associate Professor in the Comparative Culture of Russia and Eastern Europe

The threat of Ukraine's EU integration to Russia's political economy model is an alternative, geo-economic explanation of Russia's aggressive behaviour to its neighbour since 2013.

Dr David Dalton

Recent PhD candidate

Putin invaded Ukraine on 24 February because he saw time was against him: Ukraine was building up its military, with Western support, and Lukashenka's increased dependence on Putin meant that Belarus was for the first time available as a base for attacking Kyiv.

Dr Pete Duncan

Honorary Associate Professor

One month from the Russian invasion on Ukraine, we are observing an unprecedented number of refugees and internally displaced people, and also an unprecedented response from the EU as a whole through the Temporary Protection Directive.

Dr Agnieszka Kubal

Lecturer in Sociology

The success of Ukrainian resistance has a lot to do with the strength of Ukrainian civil society, as local groups have functioned as important security providers, supporting the army, residents of Russian-occupied cities, and internally displaced people.

Bohdana Kurylo

PhD candidate

President Putin's war in Ukraine follows a culmination of different logics from Russia's previous military campaigns in Chechnya, Syria, and Ukraine in 2014, and is currently focused on a war of attrition alongside ongoing diplomatic negotiations with Ukraine.

Dr Aglaya Snetkov

Lecturer in the International Politics of Russia

Having Vladimir Medinsky lead the Russian team in the current talks with Ukraine tells us much about the felt threat in the Kremlin from the contrasting approach in Ukraine to history, politics, and language.

Ursula Woolley

PhD candidate

At the Polish-Ukrainian border, we are seeing increasing numbers of people returning to Ukraine, unable to find sustainable accommodation and work in Europe.

Ada Wordsworth

SSEES alumna and MPhil student at the University of Oxford