

This Week's Developments

March 6 - 12, 2022

- Israeli leader on mission to broker peace for Ukraine
- Putin says sanctions are like a declaration of war
- 'Barbaric' Vladimir Putin rains down terror
- African fighters prepare to join Russian troops
- Iranian nuclear talks clouded by Russian demands
- 'Serious escalation': N. Korea testing intercontinental missile
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Israeli leader Naftali Bennett takes on mission to broker peace for Ukraine

The Times, March 11, 2022



EVENT

Ever since he flew in secret to Moscow on the Sabbath, interrupting the Jewish day of rest for crisis talks with President Putin, Naftali Bennett has been busy. Relatively inexperienced on the world stage, the Israeli prime minister's three-hour meeting in Moscow a week ago saw him become an unlikely mediator for peace in Ukraine. Since then, he has led a round of frantic diplomacy between Putin, President Zelensky of Ukraine and allies in Europe. The Times has learned that Bennett, 49, who replaced Binyamin Netanyahu as prime minister in June last year, embarked on his diplomatic mission after talks with Olaf Scholz, as Putin would not take the German chancellor's calls once Berlin joined sanctions against Russia. Bennett has kept quiet about what was said in Moscow, while his officials are lowering expectations. They say that the prime minister of Israel cannot impose conditions on either side but could "create a trusted channel for dialogue which can help either side to climb down".

COMMENT

Israel is at the epicentre of the turmoil in national relationships over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Israel has very close relations with Ukraine and with the US. But due to Russia now having bases in Syria, Israel has also developed relations with Russia. The two nations have a very delicate (almost a tightrope) alliance where Russia "allows" – one might say "turns a blind eye" to Israel's attacks on Iranian positions in Syria. This is not likely to work out well for Israel. The Bible says that Russia will invade Israel for a spoil. This must take place after the Ukraine war has finished. Russia is unlikely to fight 2 wars at the same time. Israel is at the centre of these negotiations but we know Israel will one day be the centre of the conflict. Ukraine is a stepping stone to that happening.

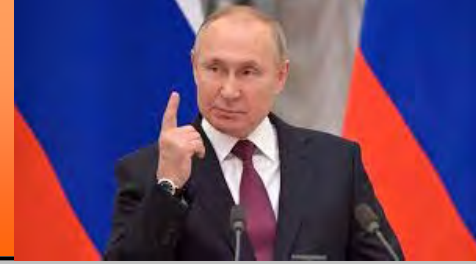
BIBLE QUOTE

Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. This is what the LORD says: "Do not act like the other nations, who try to read their future in the stars. Do not be afraid of their predictions, even though other nations are terrified by them.

(Jeremiah 2:1-2 NLT)

Putin says sanctions over Ukraine are like a declaration of war

BBC, March 7, 2022



EVENT Russian President Vladimir Putin has described sanctions imposed by Western nations over his invasion of Ukraine as "akin to a declaration of war". Since the start of Russia's invasion 10 days ago, the West has imposed a raft of sanctions on Russia, including the freezing of Mr Putin's foreign assets and the exclusion of a number of Russian banks from the Swift international payments system. In addition, many multinational firms have ceased operations in Russia, On Saturday, Zara, Paypal and Samsung became the latest global brands to suspend trading there. The economic measures have already caused the rouble to plunge in value and forced the Russian central bank to double interest rates.

COMMENT Within days Russia has become a pariah nation and it is hard to see it ever recover from the Ukraine conflict. There is no way back for Putin to be accepted again on the world stage. One by one major global businesses are cutting ties with Russia. Even if the businesses want to remain open there is now huge pressure from shareholders for them to pull out. "Companies do not want to be associated with the Russian regime and what's happening in Ukraine," one analyst said. Their Russian business may be profitable, but "the rest of the world is more important" when it comes to reputational risk. The meltdown of the Russian economy is going to create enormous pressure on Putin. Either he backs down or he ups the ante and becomes even more aggressive. The Bible says that he will invade Israel to take a spoil. On that basis we can deduce that Putin will not back down but instead look to "steal" wealth / goods / spoil from the Middle East. Ukraine could be the catalyst for Gog looking south to Israel's wealth....

BIBLE QUOTE You [Gog / Putin] will say, "I will invade a land of unwallled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars. I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations,"
(Ezekiel 38:10-11 NIV)

'Barbaric' Vladimir Putin rains down terror

The Telegraph, March 7, 2022



EVENT

Boris Johnson has condemned Vladimir Putin as “barbaric” after civilians attempting to flee the invasion of Ukraine were killed by Russian shells. Families escaping from their homes with suitcases and pets were “bombed” with shells as they attempted to leave the city of Irpin, outside Kyiv. One family of four, including two young children, were among those reportedly killed in the attacks, after they were pictured laying bloodied in the street as Ukrainian soldiers attempted to save them. In two other cities, Russian forces again broke ceasefire agreements by attacking humanitarian corridors in two other Ukrainian cities. A barrage of Russian missiles destroyed a civilian airport in Vinnytsia on Sunday, said Volodymyr Zelensky, the Ukrainian president. He pointed out that the area in central Ukraine was some distance from the Russian and Belarussian borders and has so far escaped heavy attack.

COMMENT

Putin clearly underestimated the resistance in Ukraine. The war he has launched is not going to plan. This does not mean Putin will fail. He will not fail. He will just turn to more terror. Russia has already confirmed its use of thermobaric vacuum bombs in Ukraine. These weapons are not illegal but they are devastating – they create massive blasts and pressure waves. Yesterday the White House said that Russia could be planning a chemical or biological weapon attack in Ukraine. Western officials have said the same. They believe much worse is to come and Russia could use non-conventional weapons. The Bible says that Gog /Putin causes “shocking destruction.” Also it says that he will “destroy powerful leaders”. We also read that he “worships the god of forces.” We also read that he is “fierce.” All this leads us to conclude he will resort to whatever it takes to succeed – regardless of human suffering, death or wider consequences.

BIBLE QUOTE

when rebels have become completely wicked, a fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does.

(Daniel 8:23-24 NIV)

African fighters prepare to join Russian troops

The Times, March 11, 2022



EVENT

Fighters in the Central African Republic have pledged allegiance to the Kremlin and said they are preparing to enter the war in Ukraine. A group of ten heavily armed soldiers appeared in a video saying they would soon be joining their “Russian brothers” on the front line to bring “peace and order”. **President Putin has also given the green light to bring in thousands of “volunteers” from the Middle East.** At a meeting this morning, Sergei Shoigu, the Russian defence minister, said there were 16,000 “volunteers” in the Middle East who were ready to come to fight with Russian-backed forces in the breakaway Donbas region of eastern Ukraine. “If you see that there are these people who want of their own accord, not for money, to come to help the people living in Donbas, **then we need to give them what they want and help them get to the conflict zone,**” Shoigu said.

COMMENT

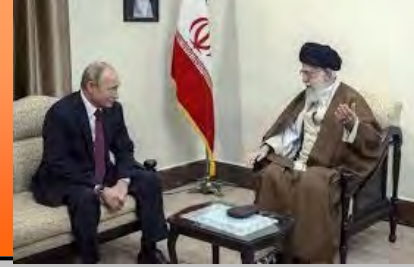
When Russia does invade Israel at some point in the future we are told that they are not alone in doing so. **Russia has allies that it protects or “guards”.** Those allies that join forces with Russia are Iran, Turkey, Sudan and Libya. We don’t believe that Western Europe is allied to Russia when it invades Israel. **Western Europe is to become a resurrected Holy Roman Empire at some point which stands against Christ** and the saints in a **separate conflict** AFTER Christ has returned. Magog in Ezekiel 38 is not Germany. And Gomer in the same chapter is not France. Magog is the area of the ancient Scythians which covers southern Russia and Ukraine. Josephus said Gomer founded those whom the Greeks called the Galatians. Gomer therefore is Turkey.

BIBLE QUOTE

Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee. Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and **be thou a guard [protection] unto them.** Notice **Gog protects Gomer.** This cannot be Europe – there is no way back for Putin to protect the EU! (Ezekiel 38:4)

Iranian nuclear talks clouded by Russian demands

Reuters, March 7, 2022



EVENT

Talks to revive Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers were mired in uncertainty on Sunday following Russia's demands for a U.S. guarantee that the sanctions it faces over the Ukraine conflict will not hurt its trade with Tehran. Moscow threw the potential spanner in the works on Saturday, just as months of indirect talks between Tehran and Washington in Vienna appeared to be headed for an agreement, with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov saying the Western sanctions over Ukraine had become a stumbling block for the nuclear deal. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken sought to dispel talk of such obstacles on Sunday when he said that the sanctions imposed on Russia over Ukraine had nothing to do with a potential nuclear deal with Iran. Henry Rome, Iran analyst at consultancy Eurasia group, said reviving the nuclear pact without Russia was "tricky but probably doable, at least in the near term". "If Russia continues to obstruct the talks, I think the other parties and Iran will have no choice but to think creatively about ways to get the deal done without Moscow's involvement," Rome told Reuters.

COMMENT

The consequences of Putin's war over Ukraine has wider ramifications for "peace" around the world. One impact is over the delicate negotiations vis-à-vis the Iran nuclear deal that Russia is a key part of. Russia has changed its own demands when it comes to these negotiations – insisting that it must be able to trade with Iran despite sanctions it might have imposed on it by the West over Ukraine. We see here Russia acting in its own interests but also in the interests of Iran – acting as a protector of Iran. Isaiah 21 says that there will be a treacherous deal. Iran is specifically mentioned as rising up and besieging.. But we also read the the "spoiler will spoil". A reference to Russia...

BIBLE QUOTE

A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. Go up, O Elam: besiege, O Media; all the sighing thereof have I made to cease. Elam/Media = Iran The spoiler could be reference to Russia. Before Russia descends to Israel there is an inner ring war around Israel that Iran is behind... (Isaiah 21:2)

'Serious escalation': US believes North Korea testing intercontinental missile

The Guardian, March 10, 2022



EVENT

The US believes North Korea is testing a new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) in what the Biden administration called a “serious escalation” that would trigger more sanctions. Pyongyang conducted two recent missile launches which it said were ultimately intended for putting satellites into space. After scrutinizing them, however, US intelligence has assessed that the real intention was to test parts of the new ICBM. “Based on analysis of these launches, the United States government has concluded that these launches involved a new ICBM system that the DPRK is developing,” John Kirby, the Pentagon spokesman, said. “This is a serious escalation by the DPRK.” US forces have stepped up their monitoring and intelligence collection in the region, and new sanctions are to be introduced on Friday aimed at further restricting North Korea’s access to advanced technology that it could use in its weapons programmes.

COMMENT

Putin standing up to the West is encouraging other autocratic dictators in the East. It is no coincidence that Pyongyang has decided to start testing missiles again. China is also watching events in Ukraine as they decide whether to invade Taiwan. China has been surprised at the level of sanctions against Russia and is waiting to see if cracks appear in the alliance. Bill Burns, director of the CIA, said “I would not underestimate President Xi and the Chinese leadership’s determination with regard to Taiwan.” It is possible to see conflict developing around the world. Ukraine could be the spark that ignites and leads to the “time of trouble such as never was.” Nations have long prepared for war and we may see different conflicts - but all will one day be centred on Jerusalem.

BIBLE QUOTE

For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

(Zechariah 14:2)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

DebkaFile Review (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence) **TV-7 Israel News** **Watchman Newscast**

2022-03-12 **Russia's latest warning to the West- Russia to target Western arms supply** - World English News - 4.51 min - YouTube

2022-03-11 **EU leaders announce intention to collectively rearm in face of Putin threat** - European Union - The Guardian

2022-03-11 **Russia's Air Force 'missing in action'** - Gravitas - 4.49 - YouTube

2022-03-11 **Putin Calls Middle East Fighters to JOIN Russia; Iran TARGETS Fmr Trump Official** - Watchman - 11.09 min - YouTube

2022-03-09 **Xi Jinping delivers his strongest statement on Russia-Ukraine conflict** - International News - WION - 2.54 - YouTube

2022-03-09 **Saudi Arabia, UAE ignore phone calls from Biden** - Gravitas - 5.16 - YouTube

2022-03-09 **Iran Targets Israel for REVENGE Over Syria Strike; UAE & Saudis REFUSE Biden Call** - Watchman - 12.58 - YouTube

2022-03-05 Israeli PM meets Putin in Moscow, then speaks with Zelenskiy by phone - Reuters

2022-03-04 Ukraine War - Are we heading towards World War III - Gravitas - 9.23 min - YouTube

2022-03-03 Ukraine invasion - Has Russia lost China's support - Gravitas- 4.31 min - YouTube

2022-03-03 After Russia & Ukraine - NEW Iran Nuclear Deal Next Global Crisis - Watchman Newscast - 9.51 min - YouTube

2022-03-01 Russia's Economy is in crisis - Here's why - Gravitas - 5.17 min - YouTube

2022-03-01 How Israel is THREATENED by Russia's Ukraine Invasion - Watchman Newscast - 9.47 min - YouTube

2022-02-28 Putin shunned by world as his hopes of quick victory evaporate - Vladimir Putin - The Guardian

2022-02-25 Sanctioning Vladimir Putin and Russia's billionaire oligarchs - CBC - 6.37 min - YouTube

2022-02-25 Russia SLAMS Israel's Control of the Golan Heights; Trouble Ahead - Watchman Newscast - 10.01 min - YouTube

2022-02-24 Russia INVADES Ukraine; More Wars on Horizon - Watchman Newscast - 9.04 min - YouTube

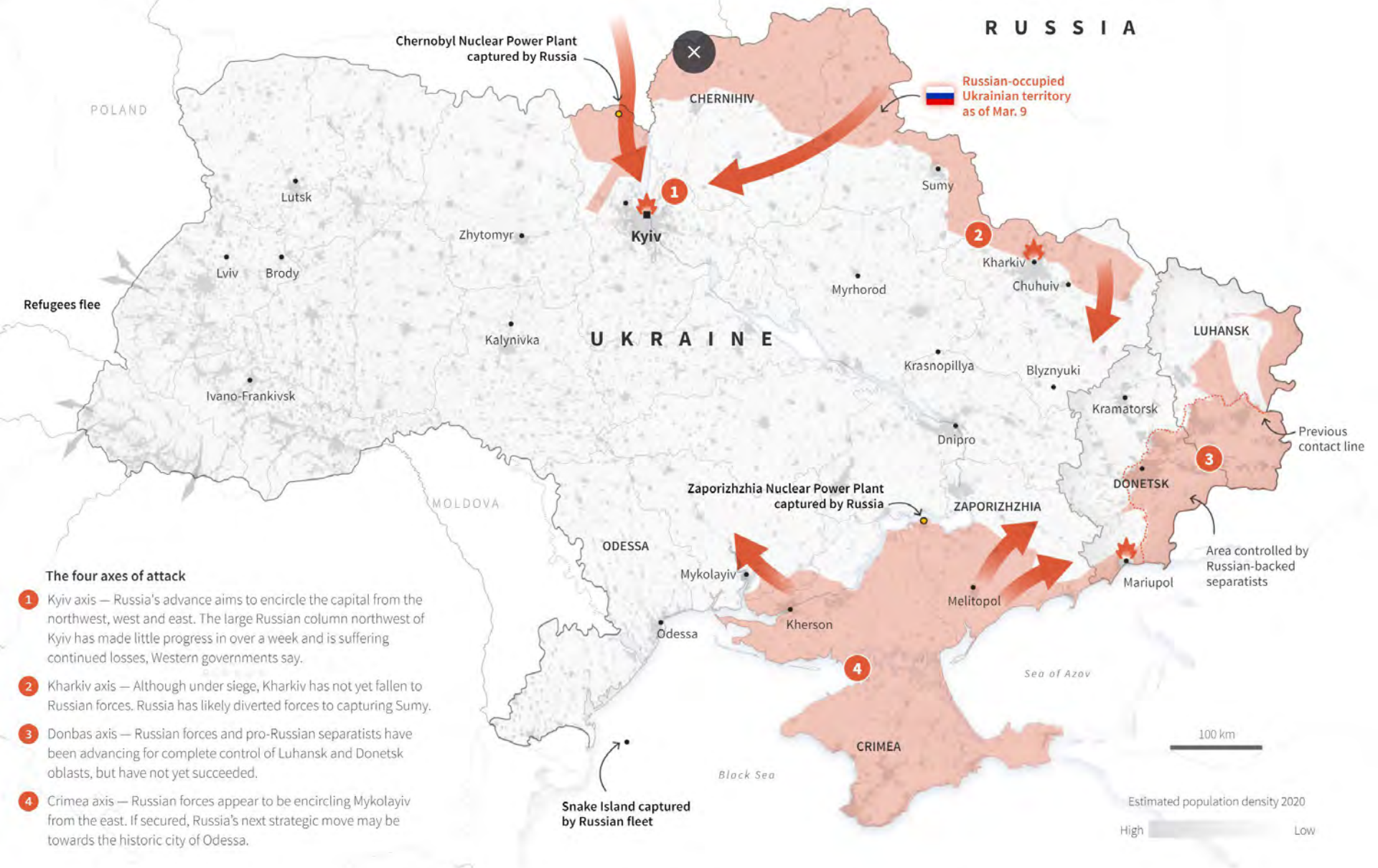
2022-02-23 Israeli Strategic Analyst Breaks Down Russia's Move Into Ukraine - Watchman Newscast - 15.14 min - YouTube



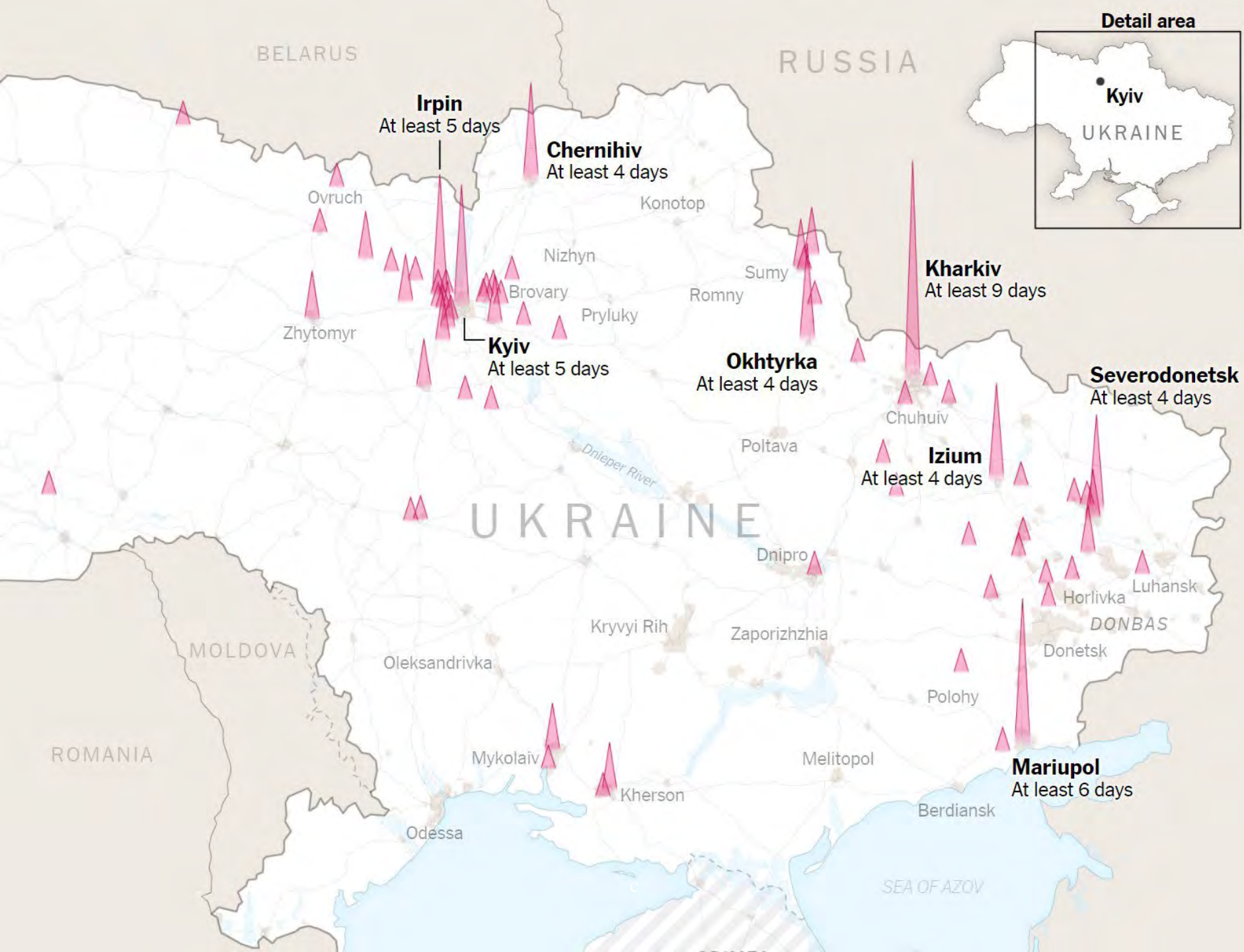
The four axes of attack

- 1** Kyiv axis — Russia's main advance on the capital - a huge armoured column, stretching for miles along the road to Kyiv - has been largely frozen in place for days, Western governments say, but shelling has continued in the capital.
- 2** Kharkiv axis — Although under siege, Kharkiv has not yet fallen to Russian forces.
- 3** Mariupol axis — The southeastern port city of Mariupol remains under Ukrainian control but it has been encircled by Russian forces and subjected to intense strikes that knocked out civilian infrastructure and trapped residents.
- 4** Kherson axis — Russia's defence ministry said on March 2 that it had taken the port town of Kherson. It could use it as part of a strategy for potentially moving to Mykolaiv and then onto Odessa.





Note: The Crimean peninsula was annexed by Russia in 2014, but the region is not internationally recognised as part of Russia.



Detail area



Kyiv

UKRAINE

BELARUS

RUSSIA

Irpin

At least 5 days

Chernihiv

At least 4 days

Ovruch

Konotop

Nizhyn

Sumy

Kharkiv

At least 9 days

Zhytomyr

Kyiv

At least 5 days

Okhtyrka

At least 4 days

Severodonetsk

At least 4 days

Dnieper River

UKRAINE

Izium

At least 4 days

Poltava

Chuhuiv

Dnipro

Horlivka

Luhansk

DONBAS

Donetsk

MOLDOVA

Kryvyi Rih

Zaporizhzhia

Polohy

ROMANIA

Mykolaiv

Kherson

Melitopol

Mariupol

At least 6 days

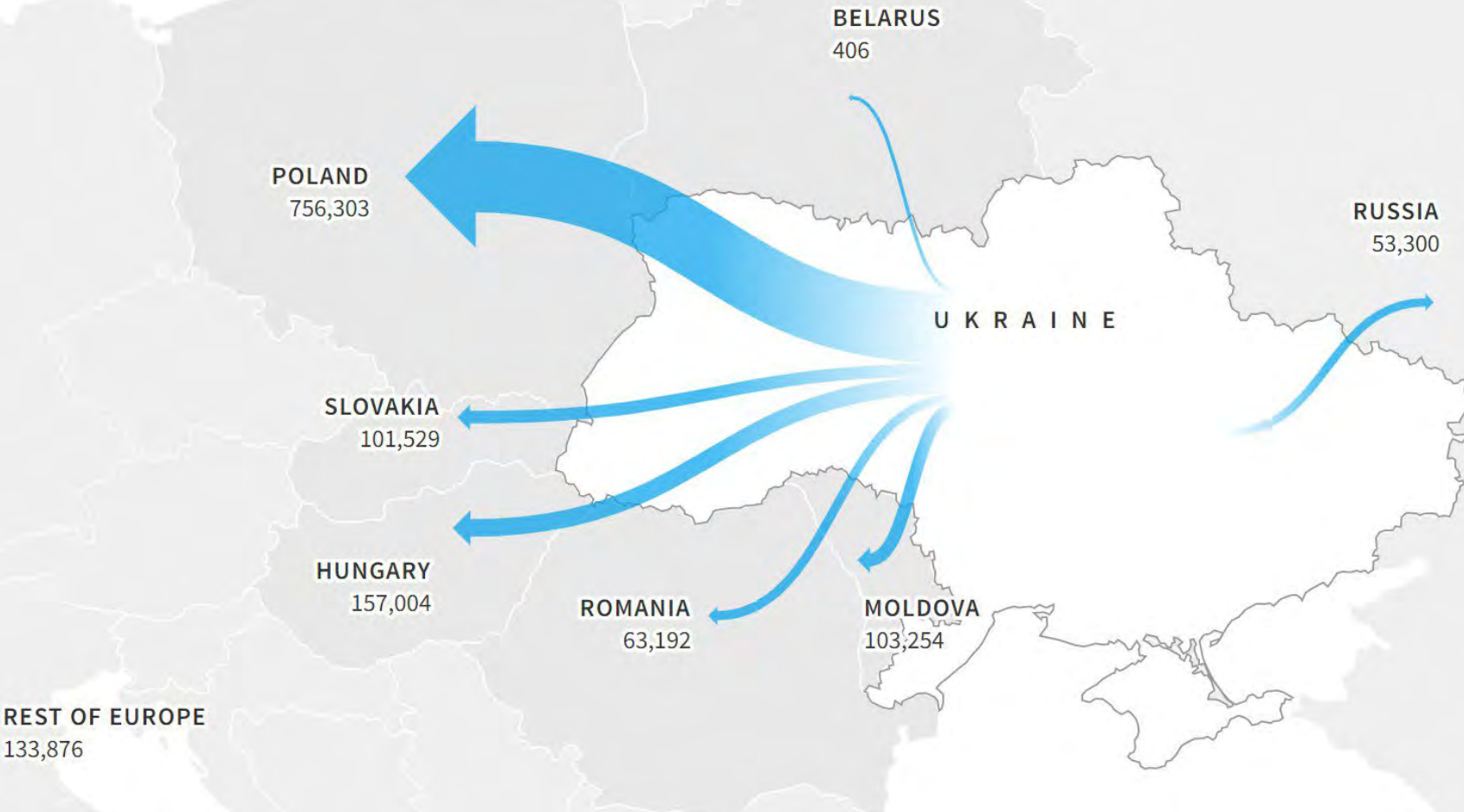
Oleksandrivka

Odessa

Berdiansk

SEA OF AZOV

March 6 - 1.3 million refugees



March 12 - 2.6 million refugees



Companies pulling out of Russia



GRAPHIC: KIM MOGG

Apple