

EUROPE IS AT WAR WITH RUSSIA.

The Ukraine is firing around 400 drones into Russia and the seas that surround it each day or night. Each long-range drone costs on average \$60,000. That works out at \$24 million per day. Over a year that adds up to over \$9 billion. In addition, Ukraine is using 9,000 smaller and shorter range drones per day on the front line. The cheapest costs \$400. Using this figure the daily cost is \$3.6 million and the annual cost another £1.4 billion a year adding to a total of \$10.4 billion.

This volume and value of drones is beyond the capacity of Ukraine to produce. They may use Chinese components, but it is likely that many of the drones, especially the long-range ones, are made in Europe. For concealment and transport they may have their wings disassembled with final preparation for flight in Ukraine, but they are effectively European.

Furthermore, the targeting, routes and communications between the drones and their operators is all Western. It is European, British and US reconnaissance planes, it is US satellites which are locating targets, plotting routes around Russian defences and it is Musk's Starlinks satellites that are responsible for connectivity. Thus, in every way the drones launched against Russia should have *Made in NATO* emblazoned on their sides.

One of the oldest rules of propaganda is to accuse your enemy of your own crimes. Thus, the narrative is spun that Russia intends to invade Europe when in fact it is Europe which has invaded Russia not so much with boots on the ground but certainly in terms of aerial combatants. It is the same in that other theatre of war – the Gulf. Here we have the clash of civilisations narrative, whereby Islam is going to take over Christianity when in fact it has been western Imperialism that has been invading, occupying, economically raping and pillaging the Muslim world for over two centuries. I made this point in an earlier article published in the [Left Lane Media](#).

For the first time since the war broke out the West is hurting Russia economically. Since May the focus has been attacks on oil refineries, energy hubs and export facilities within Russia and the Crimea. Despite layered Russian defences, saturation attacks have partially overwhelmed these defences doing some damage to these facilities. These vulnerable targets have been chosen because the drones themselves carry small warheads relying on fire and secondary explosions to maximise damage.

And damage has been done. In certain regions there is a shortage of gasoline and diesel. Queues outside filling stations, especially in Crimea where rationing is now in place, have grown. Diesel is critical because not only does it power trucks and cars, but also tractors and combine harvesters. Russia, especially in the north is approaching harvesting time. Thus, a shortage of diesel not only drives up the cost of driving, but it will also drive up the price of food should the harvest be impacted. Another flammable target struck recently has been ecommerce warehouses belonging to Wildberries the Amazon equivalent in Russia. Claiming Wildberries was helping the Russian war effort deflected from the real purpose, to bring the war to the Russian consumer by interrupting their next day delivery.

Over the last month, probably because Ukraine was now armed with new specialised drones, the overland attacks have moved to over-the-sea attacks. Ukraine has been attacking tankers and other ships including grain ships in the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea with some effect. For a couple of weeks shipping in these seas has been halted. However, with fewer reports of ships hit recently it appears that Russia has organised a solution to these attacks although this cannot be confirmed.

Attacking Russian oil tankers has always been a key target for US imperialism. Washington knows this will hurt Russia economically while giving the US greater control over global production and shipment of oil benefitting its own producers and strengthening the Dollar. The Russian economy is in recession [with growth in 2026 projected to be flat](#). [The budget is stressed](#) with receipts growing by 0.3% and expenditures by 17% mainly due to war expenditure. Although inflation has fallen substantially since last year, it started to tick up again to 6% in June. This elevated inflation rate has influenced the Central Bank's lending rate. While it is down from over 21% last year it is still crippling high at over 17%. Rumours that [Elvira Nabiullina](#) the governor of Russia's Central Bank intends to raise interest rates has led to tensions between her and Putin. At her [most recent press conference](#) she sought to calm the markets. One thing is clear; the oligarchs are getting restless now that they are not making as much money as they once did from the war and import substitution. This can be seen in the fall of the stock market in Moscow courtesy of [TradingEconomics](#).



Paradoxically, this is in sharp contrast to Wall Street because the country winning a major war is seeing its shares tumble while the country losing the war is seeing its share prices soar. But wait, history has a way of catching up to the unwary.

In response to these Ukrainian attacks which began in May, Russia has upgraded its retaliation. This is no longer a special military operation but total war. Russia's response has not only been influenced by intent but also by capability. In March Russia began launching its alternative Starlink system called *Rassvet*. Flying at a higher altitude of 800 km each satellite gives has a bigger terrestrial footprint. This has allowed Russia to improve the performance of its long-range drones with devastating effect.

It is systematically wiping out Ukraine's infrastructure. What was regional is now national. Filling stations have been obliterated, as well as thousands of trucks and hundreds of locomotives. In addition, Odessa has now been isolated, cut off from the world and from Ukraine. What Ukraine could do only partially; Russia is doing completely. And for the first time, defenceless Kyiv is being hammered including the City Centre something the Russians avoided doing before.

With the war no longer located on the frontlines there is political fallout in both countries. Putin's approval and trust ratings have sagged with the former falling below 70% for the first time. Elections are due this autumn in Russia. Polls still show [United Russia](#) holding at around 50% of the expected vote so the threat to Putin's hold on power is still some way off. However, it does mean that Putin's wiggle room is reduced which means stepping up the war and ending it sooner.

Another change is that meetings with Trump, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner are now off the table. Belatedly, the Russian government has recognised these meetings were not designed to bring peace but to prevent Russia escalating the war. They have weakened Russia in so far as they have delayed all-out war with promises of further talks. Had Putin embarked on all-out war earlier, the Russian economy would be better protected by now, and the ability of the West, who after all, have three centuries of intrigue behind them, would have had less opportunities to expand the drone war.

In this sense, Putin has once more been outsmarted by the West. But whereas there is more political consensus and canvassing on the way forward in Moscow, compared to Washington, there is opposition to the war. Whereas Russian men in their majority favour war and escalation, Russian women on the other hand in their majority favour negotiations in successive polls, clearly a case of testosterone and cortisol vs oestrogen and oxytocin.

Turning to Kyiv. Oleksandr Syrskyi, the army chief has finally been ousted. Unpopular with the public who see him as a butcher but popular with his officers, Syrskyi's clash with the recently sacked Defence Minister Mykhailo Fedorov posed a significant problem for Zelensky not only over the direction of the war but because of public reaction to the clash. Unusually large protests broke out in the cities calling for the return of the defence minister and the sacking of Syrski, protests too large for Zelensky to ignore forcing him to reverse his decisions.

The public dislike the ruthlessness of Syrskyi. This ranges from the brutal kidnapping of men off the streets by army recruiters, to orders not to retreat which showed harrowing pictures of starving soldiers trapped in Russian cauldrons, to unnecessary counter-offensives expensive in men. On the other hand, Fedorov's promotion of drone warfare into Russia has been popular because Ukrainians see for the first time a degree of pain on the other side and a distraction from the continuous defeats of the Ukrainian army on the front line.

In addition, Kyiv is now defenceless. What was left of its anti-missile batteries had been located around Kyiv and even these no longer have usable interceptors. Zelensky's begging for interceptors on his trips around Europe has seen him return empty handed. Massive attacks have been launched against Kyiv only equalled by the attacks on Odessa. The centre of Kyiv has been attacked for the first time and there are reports of showing damage to the entrance of one of the subway stations where Ukrainians were sheltering.

With Russian forces approaching the outskirts of Kramatorsk, Sloviansk, Sumy and Kharkiv, with Ukrainian infrastructure in Eastern Ukraine in ruins, with the drone war in Russia turning in favour of Russia as its air defences are reorganised and new means of defence put in place such as the new [Kalashnikov](#) shotgun missiles and [30 mm programmable shells](#) enabling a single helicopter to down 25 drones in two days. Reports of drone damage in Russia is now getting sparser and sparser which could have been one of the reasons why Zelensky sacked Fedorov.

With two months of optimum weather left, the war in Ukraine is coming to a head. Should the fall of the above four cities take place within this time frame, this would represent a severe material and psychological blow from which Kyiv could not recover. The result will be a more active role for NATO in this war to shore up Kyiv. Russia knows this and has prepared for it.

In the meantime, while Europe finds tens of billions of Euros to fight this war the seas around it are over five degrees Celsius hotter than normal driving up air temperatures faster than over any other

continent, now averaging three degrees above base line. A hundred thousand Europeans and Brits could die as the fourth heatwave this summer hits with temperatures above forty-five degrees Celsius in several cities. This is a particular kind of madness - capitalist madness - this is a particular dereliction of duty - putting profits before the public. We are facing a double destruction never experienced before, not only from war but from the weather. Something must give, and we must make sure it is the capitalist class and their increasingly destructive system. We need to forcibly let them know we are not willing to sweat in the old way, in the factories and in our homes in our schools in our hospitals in our care homes.

Brian Green, 23rd July 2026.