

Stanislav Krapivnik: Putin Brings Back General Armageddon to End the War

Stanislav Krapivnik is a former U.S. Army officer from Donbas, who moved from the US to Russia 15 years ago. Follow Prof. Glenn Diesen: Substack: <https://glennndiesen.substack.com/> X/Twitter: https://x.com/Glenn_Diesen Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/glenndiesen> Support the research by Prof. Glenn Diesen: PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/glenndiesen> Buy me a Coffee: buymeacoffee.com/gdieseng Go Fund Me: <https://gofund.me/09ea012f> Buy Diesen merchandise: <https://diesen-shop.fourthwall.com/en-nok> Books by Prof. Glenn Diesen: <https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B09FPQ4MDL>

#Glenn

Welcome back. We're joined today by Stanislav Krapivnik, a former U.S. Army officer who now resides in Russia. I'm not sure if "defected" is a reasonable argument or a word here, but nonetheless, I always appreciate the perspective of both experience from the U.S. Army as well as from Russia. What I really wanted to ask you today was about Putin. He brought back General Surovkin, also known as General Armageddon, because he's quite heavy-handed and he has his own views in terms of how this war should be put to an end. How do you assess the significance of this?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

I think Surovkin was moved out of the position he was in previously for two reasons. One, he did what needed to be done in Kherson, even though I would have preferred to create a Stalingrad for the Ukrainians, but okay. And a lot of officers did, but I guess it needed to be done, and that stigma still hung there from that. And two, because he was actually relatively close to Prigozhin. I'm not saying he supported him, Prigozhin and what Prigozhin did. Prigozhin did his little mutiny, an attempt to get on the throne by saving the emperor. There's plenty of instances in history like that. I'm going to go save the top guy from these evil ministers and accidentally stumble on the throne myself.

So when that fell apart, I think—it's hard to say, because I'm not directly inside there, so far anyway. It's hard to say exactly what happened. But he was never—he wasn't relieved of duty. He was moved to Africa, and Africa Corps, which is no longer Wagner as an independent company, but as part of the Russian military, Africa Corps. And that's where they helped create these revolutions that drove the French Empire finally out of those portions of Africa, though the French Empire is still in Africa—the neo-colonial empire—but it's still the same French Empire, and stopped the French-American-Ukrainian counter-assault when they launched the Salafi jihadis into Mali and into Niger.

And we see this, by the way, these revolutions expanding now without Russian help, because we saw Madagascar get rid of the French. In fact, the last oil tanker that was really—last grabbed oil tanker, one of the last ones—it was confiscated by a joint British-French task force. That was a tanker that was owned by Madagascar and had the Madagascar flag, bringing in oil. So the French are trying to get revenge on the fact that they were escorted to the edge of the country and tossed in the sea, and told to go back home to France. So he's got a good reputation. And this is the point where the bridges need to—they don't have to come down per se. What they need to do is be unusable, and that's two different things.

Because as we've seen, one of the drones, one of the—I'm not sure whether the Geran-4 or Geran-5 drones, and the Geran-5 is not a drone. It's a cheap cruise missile that the Americans are trying to copy. I'll get to that in a second. So this drone, when it struck the roadway of the northern Kiev bridge, it punched all the way through. You can see the sea from the hole—the sea, well, the river, Dnieper, underneath. So it made a hole that's about a meter wide. So right off the bat, obviously that lane is no longer usable until it gets repaired. And you can continue punching these bridges like that on a regular basis. Do enough damage and nothing, even though the bridge structure is still there.

And the reason I'm saying that is these bridges, particularly the older bridges, were built by the Soviet Union with the intent of surviving a nuclear strike. And to say Kyiv or to Kherson, the bridge would still be up in some amount of form. So taking them down, I mean, anything can be destroyed. Let's just put that. There's no such thing as an indestructible object. If you put enough time, material, and firepower—explosive power—behind that, you can destroy just about anything. But the point is, is it worth it? Well, you don't have to bring the bridges down if you can just destroy the drive surface on there and keep traffic from happening. And that's now what he's doing.

Now, the reason the British are now in focus is because the Russian government has allowed them to now be in focus. As somebody that helped plan operations on a corps level and was trained with it to understand how to do that properly, one of the first things you do when you're doing operations on a theater level or higher is you look at logistics. Logistics—your own logistics, of course, you have to plan that—and you look at the possible logistics and routes for your enemy. If you have the best army in the world, but it doesn't have bullets, doesn't have food, and doesn't have fuel, you just got a bunch of angry men and not much more.

So from a military standpoint of view, the moment the Ukrainians walked away from signing the contracts, every bridge in the Dnieper should have come down or been so damaged it couldn't be used. The fact that for the last four years that didn't happen is strictly because it was a political decision. And that political decision has finally been reversed. So, yes, the bridges are now prime targets. The Ukrainians already have massive issues with logistics and fuel because of the fuel—the diesel shortage in the EU, which feeds the Ukrainian war machine with diesel. So for those of you farmers out there in the EU that can't afford the diesel to bring your crops in, go thank Zelensky.

He's very grateful to you. Really, he is. He'll even buy your farmland for pennies on the dollar, I'm sorry.

Maybe on the dime, too. So at this point, those bridges have to be targeted, massively targeted, destroyed. And the whole conflict has gone to a different level that wasn't happening. I mean, look, you had street parties in Kiev up to about July, right? Of this year, of this year, they're having open-air street parties. That's how much they were afraid while drones are coming down to Moscow. And finally, they just kept pushing it. And Russia did what it could have done, but didn't want to do. The political side didn't want to do. And that's counter-escalate and escalate past. And Russia has done that. And now there's no more street parties in Ukraine. So, in fact, there's no lights in Kiev. The bridges are mostly out. The septic systems, water systems are out.

And people are fleeing out of the city, which is what the Russian military wants. It wants to get the same thing in Sumy, same thing in Kharkov. The desire is to get the civilians out of the way. About two years ago, Zelensky, maybe he was coming off of a cocaine high, he blurted out to a journalist. One of the journalists asked him, "Why aren't we getting all the civilians out of the war zone?" He said, "Well, then the Russian army will advance a lot faster." Well, yes. Do we understand what we just admitted to? The Western media, of course, just ran right by that statement. I don't know if they even broadcast that statement in the West, but it was caught up in the East. It's like, yeah, that's just an admission that you're using your own citizens as human shields.

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But you mentioned the bridges and how the higher level of planning entails, or strategy entails, looking at the logistics. And, well, this seems to be the key thing that Russia is hitting, you know, besides the manpower and military equipment: the energy, the bridges, railroads, the trains themselves, the gas stations, refineries. I mean, how do you interpret the wider strategy here, though? And where are the key breaking points? I mean, how do we assess to what extent this strategy is progressing if the goal is to essentially go after all the logistics and to shut down the country?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, again, because Ukraine is not a small country. Population-wise, it's shrunk down quite a bit. It's around 20 million people, half of whom are pensioners. Quite a few of the pensioners will wind up on the front lines, and quite a few have already been drafted out, 60-something, 70-year-old men tossed out there to die on the front lines. It takes a while, but the effects are seen. First of all, by destroying these bridges, or damaging them enough, you're ready to get to the point where moving men and material to the front becomes very difficult. Even getting these guys that they're kidnapping in the west, in central Ukraine, getting them into eastern portions of the front line becomes a difficult issue.

And one thing, when you can just put them on a bus and drive that bus across a bridge, it takes you two minutes to get across. It's a whole different thing when you either have to take them by pontoon bridges, and you have to set those up. And yes, those are being set up. And yes, those are being hunted down by Russian drones or by Russian aviation and by Russian satellites. Or you have to put them on a barge and move that barge across the river. So the whole logistics becomes much more difficult. You just can't put a column of tanks together, or a column of trucks, rather, and drive that column into the east. Things become much more difficult.

So we're going to see that effect. We've already been seeing the effect on shortages of diesel in Ukraine. But that wasn't because of the bridges. That's because all of Europe is now short on diesel. But now I think we're going to start to see a lot more difficulties in the months upcoming, and also difficulties for the population to be more apt to leave. One of the things that, by the way, when Ukraine started—well, Ukraine, let's not call it Ukraine—when NATO started going after Russian warehousing infrastructure, NATO has destroyed about 3.5 million, close to 4 million square meters of Russian warehousing infrastructure.

And while that may sound a lot, just understand, on average, for the last four, five, six years, Russia has been building about 5 million square meters of warehousing space every year. I just got some stuff. I just got some creatine from Wildberries about a week ago. I got creatine from Wildberries. It took two days from the order to get it. Because what Wildberries did, you know, for Western propaganda, whoever the target of the propaganda, for the propaganda to work, the target has to be a static imbecile that can't do anything to countermand whatever is being done against them.

But the reality is, is companies like Wildberries, Ozon, Yandex, what they did very quickly is they started to abandon the big warehouses and they went back to a dispersed small warehouse structure, which they had originally before they started consolidating these giant warehouses. So, A, good luck finding all these warehouses. B, even if you hit one, you don't do that much damage because they're much, much smaller. True, it's a little more overhead, but that's part of it. Conversely, by Budanov's own admission, Russia has destroyed 90% of warehousing space in Kyiv, and about somewhere around the 60% mark for the rest of Ukraine. And that, by the way, goes also for groceries.

That's why it's a 3,000 hryvnia fine for taking any photos of empty grocery stores or empty grocery store shelves. So at this point, again, this is all creating the conditions where people cannot survive in these cities, and they will self-export out of these cities. And it's already happening. There's a very large wave heading into western Ukraine. And by the way, you can also see rental prices in Kyiv have collapsed. Kyiv actually grew during the war because Kyiv was one of the animal preserves for the male species. What I mean by that is, for most of this conflict until the beginning of this year, men weren't actively press-ganged in Kyiv and a couple other key cities like that. They were in villages and small towns.

So a lot of men ran into places like Kyiv. They rented apartments and they just lived in Kyiv, waiting for the war to end. And of course, that reserve status was there only temporary. And then once they needed more manpower and had scoured the countryside, they went after the people in the cities. Now the people in the cities are actively running out of those cities. So that's going to make, hopefully for these press gangs, it's going to make their jobs a bit harder, at least for a while. So that's what we're seeing, and that is the desired effect. The desired effect is that Kharkov doesn't have civilians, Sumy doesn't have civilians, Kramatorsk doesn't have civilians. Because then combat becomes much, much easier. If it moves, it's an enemy. Destroy it.

#Glenn

Well, Klitschko, the mayor of Kyiv, was making the point that they're going into, I think he called it, survival mode. That is, we have to preserve energy. And he recommended that people start leaving the city. And you do see some of the footage of the traffic exiting the city. So they are leaving. But of course, if the bridges all come down, then it might be very difficult to leave the city as well. That is, it will be cut in two. I guess they have metro lines. You know, they have other options.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

No, the metro line is a two-story bridge that comes across the river. Oh, really? Yes. There is no—I thought they had one under, but I looked it up. No, there's a two-story bridge, one in each direction for the rail lines, but it's a rail bridge across the Dnieper. Now, I mean, do remember that two-thirds of Kyiv is on the west side of the Dnieper River, just to begin with that. And I'm sure if people want out, there'll be some kind of barge shuttles across the river. And right now, there is another way out. They can drive across the dam north of Kyiv. And by the way, you know about the prophecy on Kyiv? No. So there's an Orthodox prophecy that Kyiv will be consumed by the waters when Kyiv becomes a place of evil and Satanism, when it goes away from God.

Well, one thing, we've seen what's happening in Kyiv right now, where churches are being confiscated and turned into LGBT clubs, yoga centers, and just anything like that. Priests are being murdered, sent off to the front lines to be killed off. And the flooding—there's a giant water reservoir just north of Kyiv. If that dam is ever destroyed, which, by the way, has a road on top of it, so there is a route out, if that dam is ever destroyed, most of Kyiv is going to go underwater. So maybe that's what the prophecies are talking about. We'll live and see how that develops. But yeah, there really is a prophecy on that. Kyiv will be submerged. They're not necessarily saying that it's going to stay submerged, but it will be submerged.

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But when the logistics go down, obviously, it reduces the combat ability of the Ukrainian armed forces. But it also has an economic impact, and also societal and political stability. How do you see

the internal chaos within Ukraine growing? Because for a while, you had all these corruption scandals, and it looked as if all the people close to Zelensky seemed to be going down. It seemed something was brewing, and it seemed to have calmed down. How do you interpret this political instability within the country?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

I would never say it's calmed down. Sometimes they back off and they wait for a better opportunity. That doesn't mean it's calmed down. It just means that there's a lull in the internal fighting. One of the things that this may cause is the Kyiv regime to have to leave Kyiv and become the Lviv regime, which places them right beside the Poles, where the Poles... Well, outside of the Polish government, like Tusk and other creatures of the night of von der Leyen and her creatures of the night.

#Glenn

The average Pole really does not like Ukrainians.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

You know, surprise, surprise. But this is a point at which, what happens to Kyiv? Well, here's something that everybody's forgotten. You remember the coverage in the early days of this conflict, where the Russian military was outside of Kyiv? The Russian military was never meant to take Kyiv. You're not going to take a city of two and a half million people sprawling on two sides of a major river with 50,000 troops. It's just not going to happen unless you just drive in there and everybody's unarmed. I mean, any kind of serious consideration at that point—there's about 120,000 Ukrainian troops in and around Kyiv. It was an impossibility. But their job was never to take Kyiv.

Their job was to make an appearance of getting ready to take Kyiv so that Zelensky kept a very large chunk of his military sitting in Kyiv to defend Kyiv just in case. Having said that, during that early period, people have forgotten the videos of the Zelensky regime just popping open crates of AKs, handing them out to anybody who wanted to get in line: an assault rifle, some grenades, magazines of ammunition. And nobody was signing for this. Hey, Joe Snuffy off the street, want an AK? Here, have a couple grenades while you're at it, too. Well, maybe a few mortars? This is literally because of this panic that hit them the first weeks. They gave out somewhere close to at least a half a million weapons, maybe more.

In the city, nobody knows who has them, but they're there. That's A. B, they did try to collect them back. They got a few, but most people that took those weapons were handing them back to the Ukrainian regime. So they've got an armed population. Whose side, what portion of the population is on, God only knows. And C, there is a Russian underground partisan movement inside of Kyiv. They

started activating when the Russian military was around Kyiv. When the Russian military pulled back as that sign of good intent, they went fully underground because of that. But they are still there, and they're armed. So what's going to happen to Kyiv? I think chaos is going to happen to Kyiv.

First of all, a large portion of Kyiv is empty, or is going to be empty, especially when the government flees. It's going to be the biggest siren signal to anybody that's still sticking around that it's time to get the hell out. So I think the city is going to be at least half deserted, if not mostly deserted. Plenty of gangs with weapon systems, plenty of mob bosses, plenty of other political factions. I'm thinking something close to the lines of *Escape from New York*, if you remember that movie. Oh, from the late '80s? Yes. They made a second one, *Escape from L.A.*, but it was never as good as *Escape from New York*. So, yeah, the first one was much better. Snake Plissken.

#Glenn

That's the guy, Snake Plissken.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Went in there to get the President of America. I don't remember... There was a black guy that was playing the president. I don't remember who the actor was. I'd have to look it up. So, yeah, Snake Plissken goes into New York, which is a big criminal prison, open-air prison. Everybody's armed. So, yeah, I think Kyiv is going to turn into something like that. Paris may turn into something like that sooner than Kyiv, but it already is. But, yeah, I think that's the situation. And after that, it's anybody's guess how that's going to be. But the problem with Kyiv, too, for the Ukrainians, as it turns out, those are the major logistics bridges, interestingly enough. More important than the bridges in Yekaterinburg and more important than the bridges that have been—two of the three bridges that have been damaged in Zaporozhye.

#Glenn

So...

#Stanislav Krapivnik

It's going to be a very interesting moment, I think, by the time winter kicks in and the pain really starts amping up.

#Glenn

But, you know, obviously this will put another shock through Ukraine, a little bit like the naval blockade. That also has been a massive shock. But let's say the Ukrainians are able to, you know, roll with the punches or adjust. You know, they've been able to hold on for four and a half years

now. Let's say they're able to do a bit more, or, you know, what if they—or alternatively, they're not? Let's say possibly things begin to fall a bit apart. Again, you hear a bit from the rhetoric across NATO countries that desperation is definitely beginning to set in. What do you think the, not just Europeans, but the Americans as well, might do? Because, you know, despite all this talk about diplomacy and peace from Washington, they're still very much fighting this war against Russia.

So do you think some could be tempted to go and, you know, set up camp in Odessa? Do you think they could put some pressure on Kaliningrad? I mean, I asked Lavrov about Kaliningrad last week, well, you know, how Russia might respond to this. And, you know, he said he was baffled by the extent to which NATO was willing to threaten Kaliningrad, suggesting that Russia would respond without any restraints. And again, one shouldn't take everything at face value, but this appears to be one step too far. But again, the sentiment across NATO is, we have to do something if things fall apart. So what do you think that something might be?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, I don't think that NATO—first of all, I don't think Russia will use nuclear weapons. It doesn't need to. That's one. I guess that's the extent of the good news for the Europeans. And the good news ends at that, because Russia doesn't need to. From a strategic point of view, Kaliningrad is critical for any NATO-Russian war, for a simple reason: because Kaliningrad, with its Iskander missiles, sits astride the main logistics hubs for Poland and central and eastern Germany. Plus, its anti-aircraft systems can engage, can track targets. The S-400 can track targets up to about 550 kilometers out, which is central Germany, and it can engage targets at 360-plus kilometers, which is still in Germany.

So basically, anything that starts lifting off, you can start engaging it while it's still lifting off at that point, as soon as your radar ping comes back. And when it's locked in with a satellite system, that makes it that much easier to locate targets and engage them, service them, as we call that in the military. You want to service your target. That's a nice way of saying, "I want to kill you. I'm going to service you as a target. I'm going to shoot you and throw grenades at you and maybe tank rounds. I'm servicing you." That's the reality of it. So NATO, in any major escalation, any major conflict, NATO would absolutely have to take Kaliningrad. Now, having said that, Kaliningrad is a fortress.

It was a fortress from its very beginning when it was founded as Königsberg by the Eastern Teutonic Knights. There were different—there were Livonian Knights and there were Teutonic Knights, both Crusaders. And that was mostly for the Prussian population. The Prussians were a—they weren't German. The original Prussians were a mix of Slavic and Ugric, and they were exterminated by the called Prussians. Anyways, so enough of that little bit of history lesson. Kaliningrad is a fortress. There is a Russian airborne division. Plus, you've got to figure most of the men have had some amount of military training, civilian men, and will be fighting tooth and nail.

Now, having said that, if you listen to what all of these scenarios from the West are sounding like, even the scenarios where they had that miniseries in the U.K. where they were playing—the politicians were playing politicians. Imagine that. And the war starts with Kaliningrad. They all seem to be playing at this concept that Russia is just going to sit on its hands and go, "Oh, gosh darn it, guys, really? Kaliningrad? Oh, you know, we're writing a few very strongly worded letters about this. You know, stop that, please." No, the moment any nation starts this in Kaliningrad, or NATO in general, guess what?

The Baltics are now in play. And what I mean by "in play" is the Baltics are now going to be crushed as the Russian military drives to relieve the siege of Kaliningrad from the east. And the Suwałki Gap is from Belarus to Kaliningrad, is, I think, about 70 or 80 kilometers in length. I need to look up the exact length. That's where, by the way, by treaty, you have rail links and automobile links. At least they used to have the automobile links, but they do have the rail links. And the last time Lithuanians were threatening to cut it, they were told in no uncertain terms it will be opened.

The rest of NATO came in and said, you know, step off. Just step off. Of course, NATO wasn't screaming, "We're going to be at war with Russia next year," at that point. And they're all talking about, of course, doing a sea blockade. Well, as far as that sea blockade goes, Russia will, quote, run the blockade because the blockade is in neutral waters. Russian ships will go through. If they're boarded or attacked, whatever NATO forces do that will be exterminated. The last time the brave Estonians tried to do something of that sort, as soon as the Russian Su-35 showed up, the Estonians stuck their tails as tight as they could up their arse collectively and ran back home. And that was the end of that attempt to board a Russian ship.

You have to be a new level of stupid to try to do something in that area, the Bay of Finland, the North Sea areas, and those areas, because that is, realistically speaking, from a military standpoint, that's a Russian lake. Between Kaliningrad and the Kaliningrad Military District, it's suicide to go out there in the waters trying to grab a Russian ship. Between naval assets, surface and subsurface, and aviation and missiles, there's zero survivability for NATO if they try to do anything like that. But we'll see. I mean, we're talking rational thoughts here. We're dealing with mouth-breathing, knuckle-dragging imbeciles that are called the EU leadership. So they're capable of anything.

The other two options that they keep playing at is a no-fly zone over Ukraine, which would be an instant conflict zone between Russian and NATO aviation and anti-aircraft systems. And while NATO outguns, if you count all combat aircraft, and I'm talking about all combat aircraft that's listed as combat-capable, all of NATO, that's including all the U.S. Air Force stripped from all over the world, of course. Nobody talks about that. That would mean quite literally stripping the U.S. military from everywhere. All NATO outguns Russia two to one on aviation. Russia has about 1,200 combat planes of different makes and models. Most of them are up to date, but the Russian pilots are much more experienced, doing many rotations in Syria to get everybody with experience, and then, of course, the Ukrainian conflict.

But nobody talks about the fact that Russia has that entire region under anti-aircraft systems, ranging from the S-200s up to the S-550s. And the S-550s are designed to be able to take out first-generation hypersonic missiles. They've been tested, they've passed testing, but they've never used in combat against hypersonic missiles, because nobody else from the West has them. America supposedly has them, but we've never seen them used outside of test sites. So how much do they have? We don't know. But that's the reality on that. The other one, the option that's been bandied around, is sending in troops officially under NATO banners. There's been a lot of dead NATO troops already, I mean, over 10,000 Poles. But they were all, quote, mercenaries.

Now, if they come in under a French flag or a British flag, and they've been told, look, that's a declaration of war from that country. We will target them, and then we're going to go after the country itself. Will that happen? Well, we'll live and see. Maybe we won't live and see. But if they do it, we'll live and see. But there's a very big chance. And when the Russian military says—when the Russian political leadership, let me rephrase that, says it's not going to be like Ukraine, don't even think it. It's going to be all out. And Ukraine, for Russians, is a civil war. And the people there are considered Russians. So we are going slow. You know, if it's the British or the French or the Poles, there's going to be no consideration. These are our people.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

And there's not going to be this slow movement on the battlefield.