Stanislav Krapivnik: Ukraine's Last Fortified Line Has Been Breached

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://glenndiesen.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, everyone. Today is Saturday, November 7th, 2026, and we are joined by Stanislav Krapivnik, a former U.S. Army officer from Donbass. Good to see you again.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

It's always fun and always a pleasure to be here, and thank you for having me.

#Glenn

So we've been seeing this incremental escalation over the past four and a half years in this war. And as we continue up this escalation ladder, all sides in the conflict, be it Ukraine, Russia, or NATO, keep doubling down. They are prepared to take more risks, and we see the diplomatic pathways wither away. Well, we have now ended up, I think, in a very dangerous situation. That is, you know, when great powers or even large powers are faced with these all-or-nothing outcomes, it's identified as the worst strategic situation one can be in, in terms of the proclivity to go to war. And we do see that something big appears to be happening now, both on the front line and far behind the front lines as well. It looks as if there's something big collapsing or cracking within Ukraine, and we've reached the point where the European leaders seem to be thinking that they must decide.

That is, either humiliating concessions that threaten the entire NATO-centric post-Cold War security architecture, or an all-out war with a battle-hardened Russia, which is also armed to the teeth with Oreshniks and nuclear weapons. So it's a dangerous time ahead. And I thought a good place to start might be the actual crack we might be seeing, because you've argued that Ukraine's last fortified defensive line in Donbass has been breached with the fall of this city. And I was wondering, how important is this city, and what is happening now?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, there's still an island of Soviet fortifications. That's the Sloviansk–Kramatorsk–Druzhkivka agglomeration. But the thing about it, too, is that it's isolated. It's the northeast corner of this old fortification line that's now been breached. Yes, it's important. Honestly, in a lot of ways, it's more politically important than strategically, because it's isolated, or it's becoming more and more isolated. And around Dobropillia, we're starting to see what looks like a move to go around it and cut it off from the rear. Dobropillia is not part of the fortification line. It never was. That's why it fell so fast.

There weren't enough fortifications around it, and there weren't that many fortifications in the city. They were all pretty hastily put up. Dobropillia was the deep logistics rear of this fortification line. The fact that the Russian army surrounded it and took it out tells you they're not in the fortification lines anymore. They've passed through this thick layer of fortifications that stretched about 60 kilometers deep and probably about 200 kilometers long. They're done. They're gone. And the Ukrainians, whatever they want to say, are no longer in control. And now their main forward logistics hub is gone. So at this point, you know, I wish you had a map up here. It's so much easier with maps. I love maps.

All military officers, if they don't love maps when they start, love maps by the time they're done. Maps are great. If you go west-southwest from there, Russia can move toward a deep encirclement of Zaporozhye City, cutting off its two remaining main roads that come in from the north and the northeast. If they go directly east, they're heading directly toward Dnipropetrovsk. If they go straight north, they're heading toward Kharkov. If they go northeast, they're doing a deep envelopment around that tri-city agglomeration. And it seems right now they're moving more north-northeast, toward Kharkov from the south, to cut off Kharkov from the south and east and cut off the Ukrainian area there.

And the problem with the Ukrainians is they don't have the troops to surround this big an area and try to stop the Russian offensive in every direction, or any direction it chooses. And the problem for them on top of that, if you look at the maps, is that it's all open fields with some tree lines and isolated villages. There are no lines where you can set up a defensive position. Well, first of all, it's actually been a relatively dry autumn. My mind's already looking forward to spring. It's been a very dry autumn. I mean, up here in October, it must have rained maybe five days.

Right now, we have had a week of rain and snow. Down there, it's been just as dry, so you haven't had the mud. You can still get across the fields. But the problem is that everything west of those three cities—the Slavyansk, Kramatorsk, Druzhkovka agglomeration—has been under threat for a long time from Russian aviation, rocket artillery, and longer-range FPV drones. But now, with this movement from the south, from Dobropolye northwards, you're getting tube artillery in there too that can strike into the deeper rear, where anyone may be trying to support those three cities. So the Ukrainians have a lot of problems, obviously, at the moment.

They simply do not have the manpower. Even if this wet season has started late, the fog is still going to be coming. And it's normally five to six, seven months of on-and-off fog. I mean, it's not continuous fog, but you can count on fog almost daily, and really, really heavy fog maybe once every two, three, four days, when it lasts well into the middle of the day or later, and it's just a fog bank. And that's when the Russian army advances a lot more easily because there are no drones. You're in a drone-free environment, and GPS or the Russian GLONASS allows you to see which way you're going, fog or no fog.

So weather conditions in this case, even with the mud, still favor the attacker. Because the mud isn't that bad if you're on foot, unless the areas you're crossing have been churned up by vehicles. So if you're using three- or four-man attack squads, working your way up to the enemy position in the fog and rain, or in wet snow or heavy snow or wind, you know one good thing: drones aren't flying. And you know another good thing: the Ukrainian infantry, usually the guys garrisoning the front-line positions, are the guys who have been pulled off the streets. They have low motivation and zero training.

They're usually neither A, in any condition to stand and fight, because a lot of them are also not fed much, nor B, motivated to stand and fight. And once the drones are out of the way, getting up to these positions and taking them out becomes a lot easier, especially for well-fed, well-trained, motivated infantry, and especially with that kind of opponent sitting across from you who's counting on drones to keep you away. So for the Ukrainians, there's nothing good coming out of this. There's simply nothing good. Pavlograd, I think, is the next city over. Let me see. It's the last city of any size before Dnipropetrovsk. One second, I'll pull up my map, and I'll tell you for sure.

#Glenn

One second.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Dnipropetrovsk, which is 840 kilometers away from Moscow. So, yep, Pavlograd. And Pavlograd is about 30 kilometers east of Dnipropetrovsk, probably even less than 30. And right now, the Russian army is less than 30 kilometers from Pavlograd. On a straight-line course, there are about five or six villages that you'd have to take. And they're all pretty spread out and isolated enough from each other, with a lot of fields in between. Actually, if you really zoom in, there are more villages than that, but they're tiny.

And they're not part of a defensive line. So that's the problem for the Ukrainians. And Russia has full artillery support, both tube and rocket artillery, and air supremacy. This isn't just superiority. This is total supremacy. For the Ukrainians to try to dig in in open fields or along tree lines in these fields,

it's going to be suicide, because it makes them that much easier to find and destroy well before the Russian infantry arrives. So that's the situation right now in those areas. Now, the Ukrainians are throwing everything they have into the Orekhov pocket. They lost the pocket in northeast Kharkov.

There were 600 square kilometers that were liberated—or occupied, I guess, if you look at it from their side—and about 5,000 dead Ukrainian troops at the end of the day. That's why it took a bit longer to clear it, because I thought it was going to be about 2,000, and it turned out to be 5,000 there. And right now, around Krasnoye Liman, Russian forces are rolling back the Ukrainians. The territories that the Ukrainians had recaptured are now being captured back. Well, the Azov boys had had enough, and they took off. It's much more fun to beat up on Ukrainians in Azov torture houses than to stand up to the Russian army and get killed. So that's the situation right now.

#Glenn

But if we look further north, though, at the attacks on Kiev—I mean, the Russians putting this naval blockade around Odessa and the rest of the coastline created a very difficult situation. But now, with the knocking out of bridges, especially going after Kiev, it looks like the entire area east of the Dnieper could essentially become an island, with the Ukrainians unable to enter or exit. How do you read the Russian strategy there, though? What's in the plans for Kiev? I mean, I know, you know, the Kremlin isn't calling you and telling you their plans, but how are you reading the situation there?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

This should have been done four years ago, and it wasn't done simply because there were political decisions that stopped it. Look, when you start planning military operations at theater level—and, like I said, I was in corps G3 operations—you know, these are the things you do. At corps level, you're not looking at where the enemy is dug in. That's something that the division and brigade commanders are going to be worrying about. You're worrying about the big game, the deep game, if you want to put it that way. You're not worried about the enemy troops already on the ground. Like I said, your division, brigade, and battalion commanders are going to be working on a plan for how to isolate and destroy the enemy directly in front of them.

What are you looking at? Number one, you're looking at logistics. You're looking at depots, rail yards, fuel storage areas. You're looking at bridges, tunnels, key points of terrain that the enemy needs to keep his troops supplied. Because the fact is, you can have the best army in the world, but if you ain't got any fuel, you ain't got any food, and you ain't got any bullets, you've got a bunch of very angry men who are milling around and becoming less effective on a daily basis. That's the reality of warfare. As Napoleon said, an army marches on its gut. But there's another reality, too. You see, the West already lost from day one. And it's the same as the West losing in Iran. You could almost say day one.

For the simple reason that any protracted war is, number one, won by your manufacturing or logistics base. You need to be able to manufacture the weapons you need and, through logistics—transportation logistics—bring those weapons to the areas where they are needed, plus all the other supplies an army needs. A modern army has a list that's a mile long. It's a couple of kilometers' worth of Santa's list of everything we want. That's a modern military force. In the old days, they pretty much carried everything with them. And you still had to have provisions. Most of the provisions were usually food. Here, it's everything from fuel and oil to spare parts, and so on and so on. Welcome to the modern mechanized military.

Even if it's de-mechanized, you still have a very long list, even for modern infantry. So, having said that, the question is: can you produce? Can you deliver? And the West cannot. Before this big war starts, even without any superweapons like a Russian ICBM crashing down, unless we go nuclear, the West has already lost. The West has lost. It's just a matter of how many Westerners are going to die before the governments collapse, or the military turns on them, or something else happens. And they've lost because they cannot produce the equipment and ammunition needed to sustain their own military forces in the field for more than a very short period of time. Look at artillery. Russia produces more artillery shells in one month than all of NATO produces in half a year.

Russia is producing main battle tanks. Before you say, "Oh, the tank's dead," the tank is not dead. Welcome to couch warriors and commanders. The tank is not dead. Active defensive systems on tanks are being produced in increasing numbers. Now, the Arena system—basically small Claymore mines that get tossed out at incoming rockets, missiles, and RPGs—has also been tested and used successfully against drones. So where it used to take four drones to take out a tank, it's now taking 20 to 30 drones to take out a tank, which is a whole different level of logistics for the people trying to do that, including the number of teams you need. So all of a sudden, you're starting to edge back toward mobility, at least limited mobility.

Russia has been producing, just so you understand, well over 1,000 battle tanks a year for the last three years. Let's compare that to NATO. That's about 30 years of current NATO production. Quite literally, Russia right now is producing in one year what would take all of NATO, at today's rate of production, 30 years to match. Maybe even 50 years. It depends on how you look at it. Because Russia, by the way, is also upgrading old T-72s with a new engine and a new turret to T-90 Proryvs. The chassis is still a T-72 chassis, just with a different engine block, a modern turret, and more modern controls for the driver. But the question is: how long can NATO fight?

Look at it realistically. Yes, these people running NATO are idiots. Yes, these people running NATO don't understand logistics. They don't understand manufacturing. She understands gynecology without ever having practiced it. She understands that infantry fighting vehicles should be widened to allow women who are eight or nine months pregnant to charge into combat. This is the level of

Ursula von der Kaiser, who's running the whole Fourth Reich right now. This is the level of stupidity among the people running things. I don't see too many military commanders saying no to her either. So what can you say about the military commanders?

We've seen the quality of modern U.S. and Western generals. They're the ones running the Ukrainian war. The counteroffensive in Robotyne is a prime example. You know, there were Ukrainian POWs who were interviewed, and they said, "You know, we asked our instructors—in this case, German instructors—what do we do when we run into a minefield?" You know what they were told? "Go around it. Go around." Yeah, but when that minefield stretches for about 600 kilometers, the German mind—the modern German mind—can't comprehend that, because there's such a provincial de-intellectualization of the officer corps. They're amateurs. They're video game addicts.

They're amateurs. They don't know what real warfare is. And you can see that from these NATO maneuvers, where they practice the exact same crap they've been practicing for the last 50 or 60 years—really, since World War II ended—which is a modified version of World War II warfare. Four years of drone warfare, and they haven't learned anything, which is good for the Russian side, of course. Absolutely. But it's amazing to watch these people who cannot comprehend this. They cannot comprehend attrition warfare. They're out of their depth with anything beyond the very basics of maneuver warfare that they were taught. They're unable to adapt. They're unable to comprehend.

And the way you train is the way you fight. Train hard, fight easy. Train easy, fight hard. And those are not just sayings. That's reality. And you're just watching this, and you go, "Jeez, wow." The new version of the Nazis is much worse. It's a shadow of the old version of the Nazis. It's a pathetic shadow of the old version of the Nazis. But that's the reality. So these people are speeding off to a war where they're going to be a speed bump. Sure, Russia will lose troops, absolutely. There will be casualties. Sure, it will take time because we're looking at big distances to get to Berlin and Paris. But is NATO done? Yes, it is. And on a modern battlefield, especially in Europe, you can't set up major manufacturing.

During the war, the Germans could do that. Even if they were being bombed by the West, they'd put a lot of stuff underground. They already had a large manufacturing base to begin with. The modern Germans do not, and they cannot do that. And they're now being threatened by something called an Oreshnik, among other things. There are Zircons. There are Kinzhals—supersonic missiles that can reach out and touch them very quickly and have high penetration capabilities. And you've got an Oreshnik that will take you out underground. You know, if it's shot from the deep interior of Russia, it'll be at Rheinmetall in 25 minutes.

I mean, that's the reality of it. So even equipment they'd have to get from someplace like the United States, which is not going to fight for them. All their war fantasies are built upon the U.S. sacrificing hundreds of thousands, if not a million-plus lives, for their benefit. It's not going to happen. It will never happen. No American president would survive a thousand dead right now, let alone the 2.5

million the Ukrainians have suffered. It's not going to happen. It's a fantasy. It's a pipe dream. And the light they see at the end of the tunnel is the Russian military. It's a train coming their way. But they don't seem to get that.

#Glenn

Regarding what happened in Rabotina on the Zaporozhye front, to the Ukrainians' credit, or in their defense, what was interesting in an article in The Washington Post was that the military leaders of Ukraine had approached the Americans and said that this was a disaster. It was a suicide mission: "We're meeting a wall of Russian resistance along the defensive line." And the message they got was, "Just do it." And, yeah, in a war of attrition, they lost so many men, so much equipment. It is quite remarkable. You know, even with this published in The Washington Post, they still uphold this idea that they have to support their freedom, that they have to choose what they want. But they weren't even allowed to choose their own strategy for the counteroffensive.

But there was an interesting article that came out, I think it was in the Financial Times. It was making the point that by 2027, all of Ukraine's critical infrastructure could be shut down. And, you know, it's a reference to the shift from targeting refineries and large infrastructure. Now we're seeing Russia focusing on everything from locomotives to gas stations, bridges, warehouses, etc. Again, smaller targets, but essentially hitting all of them. So how do you see this? Taking a step back and looking at the wider picture, what are the priorities, and what are they aiming to achieve?

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, you will notice that the people screaming “war to the end” the loudest are either in western Ukraine, where they haven't really been touched, or—and this is the vast majority—the hyper-nationalists of Ukraine who live as far away from Ukraine as humanly possible. I know several people like this. Sydney, Australia, is one example. I've actually got a niece out there, and she's married to one of these super-nationalists. They're living as far away as possible from Ukraine. I know several people in the U.S. who are like that. And you look at them like, yeah. So these people, of course, are for war because “we're going to win,” because “I'm not the one that's going to have to go die.”

And I'm not the one living in a collapsed economic and infrastructural order. In the long run, what do we see? We see a continued collapse. It's only going to accelerate with the upcoming winter, even if it's a relatively mild winter. A mild winter in Ukraine is still a cold winter for most of Europe. I mean, look, you know, when you look at winter in a place like Paris, where the average temperature is somewhere between 0 and plus 10 degrees Celsius, to Russians, that's not a winter. That's kind of like, you know, that's a nice day. Plus 10? Hey, the sun's out. What can you say? I'll put a light jacket on today.

But that's the reality of it. So in Ukraine, in places like Kharkov, the temperature will still drop to minus 15, minus 10. And if there's no heating in the pipes, pipes burst, everything bursts. It creates

major infrastructural headaches. Never mind getting fuel or food into these areas. So the civilians are flocking out, and we've seen this with 40-kilometer-long lines on the Polish border that were videotaped two or three weeks ago. And this is actually what Russia wants. They want those people out of there. They want the civilians off the battlefield, or the future battlefield.

It's horrible for the Ukrainian military and the government because, you know, if you lose the civilians, the Russian military moves a lot faster because they no longer have to worry about civilian casualties and getting civilians out of the war zone. So for the Ukrainians, this is a disaster on top of that. But they're going to continue this fight. And you're absolutely right about the Western generals—the American generals in this case—who planned Rabotino. There are two things to consider about the fact that they planned Rabotino. One, they're not worried about facing a court-martial for screwing the hell up, because Ukrainians are meat. They're biomaterial. They're not real people.

If you had to worry about real people, like, say, American soldiers dying en masse like that—85,000 killed in action to take 120 square kilometers. For people who don't get that, that's 12 kilometers by 10 kilometers. It's 120 square kilometers. That's nothing. By the way, they barely, barely got to the first of three lines, and they never penetrated that line. So most of their mass casualties were in the gray zone ahead of the first line, where you have an extended zone to start engaging the enemy so you wear them down before they ever get to your first line of defense. These generals planned this, when the outcome should have been obvious to anybody with minimal competence. I mean, I was never a general, obviously.

One or two newspapers actually mentioned that I was a general once. Thank you for the promotion, but no. I got up to the rank of major and turned it down. So, yeah, I guess if I'd extended my contract for another three years, I would have been a field-grade officer. But, you know, I was a captain, promotable. But I'd gone through the training and things like that, so I had to plan things. So you look at it: in an operation like that, A, they lacked air dominance or even air parity. If you lack air dominance or air parity, you have to at least have enough anti-aircraft systems to keep the enemy's aviation at bay. They lacked enough artillery—not just artillery for moving in, but for counter-battery fire. They lacked enough engineers. They lacked things like smoke.

Because when you come up with an operation like this, what are obstacles for? You know, an obstacle is not going to stop a tank army. It's not going to stop anybody for very long. It'll slow them down. Basically, you know, if you've got minefields, you can clear them with things like MICLICs or engineers coming in to clear a lane through a minefield. You have dragon's teeth. That's great. You throw a chain around them, and you start pulling them out of the way with a tank. A tank will pull a dragon's tooth anywhere it wants. And so, if all you're doing is building obstacles, you're looking at a delaying tactic at best. The enemy is going to take a couple of hours, or maybe an hour, depending on what you have in there, to get through it.

The reason you do that is to slow the enemy down while he's clearing the mines, and then attack him while he's out in the open. Artillery, aviation, anti-tank hunter-killer teams—anything you've got in that area—you overwatch those obstacles with fire, and you lay down suppressive and destructive fire on the enemy that's in that area. That's how things are done. So what does the attacker have to do? He has to, A, smoke that area so he isolates himself from the enemy that's hunkered down, so they can't see him. B, he has to put so much artillery down on their heads that they're not going to put their heads up because they're afraid of getting their heads blown off while he's clearing the obstacles.

He has to suppress their firing positions. He has to smoke the area. He has to have enough of his own engineers to clear lanes as fast as possible, because you're bottlenecked. You've got to clear a lane to get those vehicles out and through. You're not going to clear the whole field. You don't need to. This is what you've got to do, but you've got to have those assets in place. So you have to have enough artillery, including counter-battery artillery, so that when his artillery is firing, you can suppress it. They didn't have any of this. Any one-star general who doesn't understand this—how much ass did you kiss to become a general?

#Glenn

Because obviously, you're not competent.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

And obviously, the American generals who are planning this are absolutely incompetent morons. I mean, when a captain promotable can tell you how this is supposed to be run, and you couldn't do this, then, my dear Mr. General, you're a nitwit who should never have been promoted past lieutenant. And, yeah, they just threw these guys to their deaths, absolutely. And they kept doing it, kept doing it, kept doing it. And these guys were not even nearly prepared enough to do these kinds of things. There's nothing more difficult than a breaching operation under fire. You take elite units, and you count on a minimum casualty rate of 35%.

That's the minimum casualty rate. It can go up to maybe 70% or 80% to get a breach so the following units can pass through and continue the assault. Whoever's doing the breach usually isn't capable of combat after the breach. They're done. They have to be reconsolidated, reorganized, and reinforced. But that's the reality of it. So these guys are just thrown away, sent to the slaughter. It was an amazing thing to watch. I mean, just over and over and over, doing the same thing with the same lack of resources. So every time, you've got even fewer resources, and these guys are just dying off on these battlefields, on these minefields. I'll give you an example. There was a company that rode into a minefield. Okay, what do you do if you hit a minefield?

How do you know you hit a minefield? Somebody blows up. Oh, shit, we're in a minefield. Everybody stops. Everybody backs up down the same tracks they came in on. Obviously, you didn't trip any mines on those tracks. Because you've got to get through that minefield, the next tank drives up to the tank that's now burning—or whatever vehicle just blew up and is burning. The crew is more than likely dead anyway. The next tank turns its turret around so the gun tube is in the back and starts pushing that vehicle forward. That becomes a plow, tripping whatever other mines are in the area—blowing up, blowing up, blowing up—and getting them out. And if that second tank gets hit and is incapacitated, the next tank starts pushing them forward.

That's how you push your way through a minefield under fire. But you have to have enough suppressive fire to at least minimize the fire that's coming in from the enemy. What do we see with these guys? This should be in every single class on what not to do. They scattered. They scattered, and they all drove into the minefield even further, and then kaboom, kaboom, kaboom, kaboom, kaboom, and the entire company's burning. And you're looking at this like, what happened? Well, they panicked. They're not trained people, because you cannot take somebody who was an architect or a delivery guy yesterday and toss them in a tank, and now you're a tank commander. See, we've given you like two weeks of training. What else do you need? You don't make a tank commander. You grow a tank commander.

You don't make an officer. You grow an officer. I mean, you can slap an officer's rank on anybody, but it doesn't make them an officer. Or you can slap a sergeant's rank on anybody, but it doesn't make them a sergeant. Not a real one. And these guys all panic. And you just watch an entire company go kaboom, one at a time. And they're trying to drive faster as they spread out across this wide field. It's like, holy crap. I mean, obviously, these guys have no clue what they're doing. And the moment something went wrong, they all panicked. It's a typical thing for people who aren't prepared. And they can't think straight because their brain just dropped down somewhere around their arse. And there's nothing up there but a vacuum, and they aren't thinking.

And they're just going on scared animal instinct. And that's what you get to watch. So, yeah, that was a disaster. And it's been a disaster ever since. I mean, from the Russian side, I'm glad it was a disaster. Don't get me wrong. I don't want them to win, obviously. But from a professional side, you're watching this going, "Holy mother. Whatever general planned this should be put up against a wall or thrown into a penal battalion and sent off as an infantry grunt on a suicide mission, because that's what he deserves." And those are American generals. So what can you say? Now these guys and the British generals are playing at Snake Island. You know how many hundreds of special forces Ukraine lost trying to take Snake Island?

And at the end of the day, the Russian forces left Snake Island. Why? Because the Ukrainians pulled up enough artillery, long-range artillery, that could range the island. Of course, the Ukrainians can't land on the island because the Russians can range that island. And the island doesn't mean anything. That's the interesting part. Hundreds of people died over that island, which means

absolutely nothing at the end of the day. That's the British playing with Ukrainian lives. Again, to them, they're biomatter. They don't care. They're not their people. And that's the attitude. It's a racist, anti-Slavic, anti-this, anti-that attitude that these people have. But they came in with it.

#Glenn

Sorry, I probably went off on a tangent. Well, if you look behind the front lines, though, it's obviously a big challenge that winter is coming now. And the mayor of Kiev, Klitschko, has kind of made the point that, you know, they're using a sea of generators to keep the water, the sewage, and all these things going. But it's not possible to keep the capital going on generators alone. And again, the energy situation is getting worse. There's concern, of course, about the bridges being struck.

At some point, they're probably going to actually go down, or at least not be usable. So I just wonder, what do you expect to see this winter? Because this is going to be the worst. I mean, this is what Ukrainians are now recognizing as well. This will be the worst winter of the entire war. And indeed, that's kind of part of the—call it peace talks or a diplomatic approach from the Europeans as well. They have to find a way of keeping the Ukraine war going through the winter because, you know, during springtime, they can make the whole thing more sustainable again.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, they're most likely not going to take the bridges out, for a simple reason: it would be very hard for us in the U.S. to try to take one of these bridges out. The main bridges were all built by Soviet engineers to withstand a nuclear blast. I'm being serious when I say that. That's why, if you saw what happened in Kherson, none of those bridges went down until Russian sappers blew them when the Russian military pulled back to the other side of the Dnieper River. The U.S. had been firing various HIMARS missiles and ATACMS missiles out of HIMARS, along with various other ordnance that was coming down on the bridges. But what you do is make the bridges unusable. The frame is still there, but the surface has been so damaged that you can't drive heavy equipment across it.

Sure, you can still set up pontoon bridges, which Russian drones are constantly searching for, along with satellite imagery. You can use barges. But earlier, you could get a convoy across one of these bridges in two minutes. Going across a pontoon bridge, that convoy is going to take you two hours. Using a barge, it might take you half a day, going back and forth, to get a convoy across. So your logistics become infinitely more difficult. Now, running anything off generators—you're right, they can't do that on a long-term basis for a simple reason: Europe is out of diesel, if we haven't noticed that. Europe is having very big problems with diesel, and all that Ukrainian diesel is coming from the Europeans, from the EU.

The EU has got very big diesel problems. And that's a lot of diesel to run a lot of generators to keep a city of 2.5 million running. Granted, probably half the people have already left, but even keeping a

million and a half people going takes a lot. From what I see, the eastern third of Kiev is going to empty out. Basically, they'll be cut off from all services because, with the bridges damaged, getting that much diesel across to run generators on that side of the river is going to be just that much more difficult. And if it's a cold enough winter, batteries get discharged relatively quickly. So you start running into all kinds of problems. So I think the eastern third of Kiev is going to be abandoned, just out of logistical necessity. And they'll concentrate on the western two-thirds of Kiev.

How well are they going to be able to stay? You know, the hunger hasn't even hit. By the way, hunger hasn't started hitting the European Union yet. This is something nobody's talking about. I'm talking about it all the time because the legacy of Donald Trump and the Americans is going to be... And by the way, don't think the Democrats are going to change anything. Mamdani is a prime example. Mamdani is a Sunni liberal social democrat who is the mayor of New York. And he got asked, "Now that the Democrats have won a sweeping victory, are you going to make peace with Iran?" And you know what his answer was? "Well, you know, we've got these other policies we need to pursue." Hint, hint, nudge, nudge.

The war will continue because we want to earn now. It's not just you Republican bastards who are earning. We Democrat bastards want to earn too. And it's the same thing with the hearings on AI and all that. It's just a matter of getting your lobbyists to get us money. So this war is going to continue. And the problem is hunger. I'm talking just about the European Union. I'm not even talking about what's going to happen in Ukraine. The warehousing is destroyed. A lot of the food crops have been destroyed or are rotting out in the fields because, by the way, tractors need diesel. So if you want to gather the grain, you kind of need diesel.

Oh, you could do it by hand, obviously, but there's a very limited amount you can do by hand with a scythe compared to what you can do with a harvester. For obvious reasons, industrial farming kind of needs industry. So, in Europe itself, if you look at the European crop yields this year, potatoes are down 30%, and wheat's down about 20% from normal levels. Last year, the EU imported almost 17 million tons of wheat. This year, wheat crops in the European Union are down 20%. How much more does it need to import? But the problem is it can't import it. It can't get it out of Ukraine. A lot of it's rotting in the fields.

What's been harvested, you can't get out of the ports. The locomotives are destroyed. I mean, you could do it by truck, but there's very little you could move by truck. Plus, trucks run on diesel. We go right back to that issue again. On top of that, Europe is going to have other issues, because guess who else is going to go hungry? Africa is going to go hungry. What happens when people go hungry? They go to war. What happens when wars and famines break out? They generate refugees. And where are those refugees going to go? They're going to go straight north because that's the happy land that has lots to eat. Except the happy land up north, Borrell's garden, is going to be starving.

At least the lower classes are going to be starving too. So what do you do? Now, how do you support the Ukrainians? The Ukrainians are fleeing further, so you're getting a few more million refugees heading westwards. And this is going to have a cascading effect. I mean, the only way you can kind of hold on to power in this case is martial law. And for that, you need a war. So I think the Western leadership may not have a winter to wait before they decide to go to war. They may have to do it a lot sooner or lose power—and not electrical power, but the temporal power that they have over people in Europe, or in the EU.

#Glenn

No, there are no fun times ahead. Again, we didn't get to talk about how the European leaders will react as well. I mean, I think the worst is often when you listen to the British. I mean, you see this, you know, in mainstream media, talking about what we would do if Russia occupied Britain. It's like, why? Under what scenario would Russia try to conquer Britain? I mean, there's no intention or capability to do that. I think they just get themselves all, you know, riled up. They just keep living in their own bubble, repeating this kind of crazy stuff. And after a while, it starts to seem normal, I guess. But...

#Stanislav Krapivnik

You know, Glenn, I get the feeling at least some of them really want Russia to occupy England. "Oh, Russians have a lot of money, and they have a lot of food. They'll feed us." Well, no, thanks. We have no intention of feeding you because we're not going to occupy you, and we're not going to fix you. You screwed yourself up. Fix yourself. There's nobody coming to save the EU. Just nobody. And we'll have to see what happens with Poland, by the way. I think the EU is trying to tighten up its rear right now. And more likely, out of these demonstrations and riots that are happening in Western Europe, we're going to get martial law and a ban on a lot of the opposition parties. But in Poland, keep your eye on the 11th. The 11th! Because the 11th is the date that Tusk was given by Nawrocki to resign, dismiss the government, and call new elections.

Which he won't do, of course. So at that point, either we see the military go in and remove Tusk, because the military has thrown its lot behind the president, while the special police, the anti-terror police and all that have thrown their lot behind Tusk, or Nawrocki backs down, and he's out, and his party's out. The regular police have said, "We're neutral, and we're out of this." So we'll see. There are German soldiers right now in Poland for exercises. But, you know, going from exercises to military operations is just a matter of issuing live rounds. So we'll see. But on the 11th, so in four days, things are going to get very, very interesting. So I think they're both looking at an existential crisis within Poland, both sides of this. But things may be getting much more interesting much more quickly.

#Glenn

Yeah, you can interpret the word “interesting” in many ways there.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

Well, as the Chinese say, “May you live in interesting times.” That's a curse, by the way. Yeah.

#Glenn

Thanks again for bringing me down on a Saturday. Well, I wish you a good weekend.

#Stanislav Krapivnik

I wish you a good weekend, too. I just have to laugh at some of the idiocies. It makes it a little bit easier.