

# Mood in Russia TURNING. New War Reality (& Bears) | Stanislav Krapivnik

Stanislav Krapivnik returns to discuss his recent Donbass trip, including the destroyed school in Starobelsk, drone strikes on civilians, and why he sees them as terror tactics. He and Pascal cover Ukraine's war aims, US and NATO roles, failed diplomacy, Russia's military build-up, possible strikes on NATO targets, Finland's nuclear move, and fears of a wider European war. Links: YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@mrslavikman> X / Twitter: <https://x.com/STANISKRAPIVNIK> Telegram English: <https://t.me/staswasthereenglish2> Telegram Russian: <https://t.me/stastydaibratno> Neutrality Studies substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Merch: <https://neutralitystudies.com/shop> Donation: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Timestamps: 00:00:00 Donbas school strike report 00:08:20 Targeting civilians and terror claims 00:19:01 Diplomacy, trust, and Trump 00:26:23 Russia prepares for wider war 00:35:23 Retaliation and war aims 00:45:51 NATO control and war cohesion

## #Pascal

Welcome back, everybody. Today again with Stanislav Krapivnik, our friend and colleague from Russia, who's updating us on everything that's happening over there. Stas, welcome back.

## #Stanislav Krapivnik

Welcome back. Well, my day—I got back yesterday from the Donbass. It wasn't quite as exciting as going into the woods in Japan with the bear attacks.

## #Pascal

We were just on your program, and we talked about the fact that Japan has an insane number of bear attacks—238 in 2023—and 13 fatalities that year. And Japan wins against Russia, right? You guys only have four fatalities.

## #Stanislav Krapivnik

And that's up. That was, you know, two years ago it was one. Yes, last year it was three. Or the year before last was three. Two years ago was one. Last year was four. And I have to divulge a secret to you. It's the bear cavalry—the untrained bears, you know.

## #Pascal

Yeah. And ladies and gentlemen, you can see we're so desperate with the situation in Europe that we'd rather talk about bears and woods than about what actually matters. But that's what we're going to switch to right now because, again, I would like to talk to you about what you've learned from the Donbass. You were there. You uploaded videos on your channel, Mr. Slavic Man, Stas Krapivnik, on YouTube. Everybody, look it up. You put videos there, among others, of the school that got bombed where 21 kids in Lugansk died, right? Can you tell us a little bit about your impression at the moment of the Donbass?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

I mean, this was in Starobelsk. Starobelsk is a town. It's not a city. It's a town of maybe like 40,000, 50,000 people, which I guess in medieval times would have been a major city. But these days, that's just a town. And this was a college for future teachers. And just, I mean, it's a small college, right? So you've got the administrative/classroom building, which is an old czarist-era building. And there's a—I'll come back to that, by the way, emphasizing that point. And next door is the dormitory. I think it was just a girls' dormitory. There are some other buildings in that area, too. But first of all, what you saw was just those two buildings. The reality is they took out—first of all, these buildings are in an area of the town.

They're surrounded by residential buildings. They took out an entire block with these drones. Across the street, perpendicular to these two buildings, is a five-story building, which was the arts center for the local schools. The building's destroyed. I mean, it took a direct hit. Had nothing to do with the college. There was nobody there, thankfully, at night in that building. Beside it is a private house that took a direct hit. Across from the dormitory is another house that took a direct hit. So they were just taking everything out around it too. There are two craters from these drones. One of those craters, where they got the engine parts out of—pulled it out of the ground and the remains of the drone—it's over two meters deep and about four meters wide.

They're packing about 250 kilos of explosives on these drones. And these are big drones. These aren't the little anti-personnel drones that you see—the quadrotor drones, FPV drones. These are airplane drones. Some of these drones give up version length. These are big drones. They get to be the size of a small—some of them will actually, not in this case, but some of the ones that they get tossed toward Russia—no, toward Moscow and other deeper areas of Russia, they get up to the size of small Cessna planes. Just to understand the size of these. Yeah, the explosive wave was so strong, and the direct hits on the Imperial building—that was the administrative/classroom building.

In part of the video, you see where I'm standing and looking at the wall. The wall thickness is about two-thirds of a meter of bricks. These are not what you call modern bricks. Modern bricks are crap, mass-produced crap from primarily clay. The old bricks would last for just about ever because in every brick, the standard was you add in an egg yolk into the mix. Egg yolks act like superglue on the bricks. You'll have bricks that are 500 years under sun and water, and they look almost brand new. I mean, it takes a lot of chickens, obviously, for anything that size for mass production. But

yeah, it makes super bricks. They're more expensive. You just need the yolk, right? So you use the egg white and mix it. Right, right.

## **#Pascal**

Anyhow, let's continue. Sorry.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

You have mountains of rain if you're making a whole building. I mean, they used to build castle walls that way, right? So this building is, I mean, the walls are cracked. The floors, the concrete flooring between levels, are sunk in from the hit. But the interesting thing is, just as something I put up too, we saw this video of supposedly Moscow hitting the Lavra, the upper Lavra, which is a cathedral. And what people pointed out, I pointed out also, if you look at it—now, if there was a missile strike on the Lavra, Russia would never strike it. It's been desecrated every which way they can. They've made discotheques out of it that show. They probably had orgies. I don't know. I mean, they've done everything under the sun to desecrate the Lavra since they took it from the church.

But the interesting thing is, it's a settlement on fire, blowing up. There are pictures that came out during the day. Somebody in the back was taking pictures as the filming crew was setting their equipment up. And in the middle of the night, the guy was sitting there videotaping the fire on the Lavra. So obviously, it was a setup job. They knew it was going to hit. But the windows—if you look at the windows—not only is the glass in the panes, not only the panes in the windows, but the glass is in the panes on the Lavra. So there's no explosion. And what I was pointing out, if you look at the panes in these walls that are two-thirds of a meter thick, the panes are ripped out.

And that was from the explosion that was outside, and that explosion was a good 10 meters away, where it missed the building and hit the ground and just dug a big hole into the ground with explosive force. And the panes are ripped out of the windows, still hanging there at angles. You know, the glass has obviously gone out of it too. That's the explosive wave. I mean, they were carrying massive explosives. So, 21 killed—18 girls, 3 boys—40 injured. But, you know, a lot of those injured are invalids for life. Yeah. This isn't the, "Hey, do you need some stitches, or can we cover up that bruise?" No, these people, their lives have been destroyed. And they're lucky that it's only 21 killed. If you look at that building, I mean, the building's demolished.

## **#Pascal**

Part of the building had to quite literally fall in on itself. As murder. Hey, just a very quick note: the best way to support this channel is by signing up for my free Substack. You can also help with a paid subscription there, or you can get some of our new merch on [neutralitystudies.com](http://neutralitystudies.com). Links below. See you there. What is the analysis of why this target was chosen, or whether it was a mistake or something? Because there's obviously no military reason behind that. And on the other hand—and

we have to talk about this—there might be now this strategy of the West to actually provoke Russia into something much more that Russia tried to avoid for the longest time, right? And what is it, according to what the current wisdom says in Russia?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Oh, this was strict terrorism. Ukraine is losing on the battlefield up and down the entire line, a thousand kilometers at the front. I mean, I just don't understand how the West is reacting or how much truth it's telling you. You know, about three weeks ago, the Ukrainians started waxing romantically about how they may have to leave and abandon Miragrad or Dimitrov. Yeah, seven months ago, they were surrounded and wiped out in Miragrad. They're just now talking about, "We may have to leave it." I mean, this is the reality, the, quote, bare reality they live in. This is strict terrorism. Look, even if you ignore the fact that there were recon drones flying overhead for half a day before the strike, during the daylight hours—16 drones flying—this is not an accidental missile that went in the wrong direction. This is 16 drones that hit that set of buildings. So, five buildings, 16 drones.

## **#Pascal**

But why that targeting? Because even from a Ukrainian perspective, it's like... you're basically hitting a school building filled with people who you claim are your own, right? You're claiming those are Ukrainians. That's the claim in Lugansk, right? I mean, if you want to do this terrorism, why is it there? Why is it not in, you know, pre-2022 Russia? Oh, it's there too.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Well, I'll tell you what, you know, this is what they're claiming. But if you listen to the various videos floating around of various Ukrainian politicians speaking before 2022, I'll tell you, these are roaches we have to stamp. These are rats we have to destroy. They want the land. They just don't want the people there. They want the resources. They don't want the people that these resources belong to. They consider us—consider they themselves are mostly Russians by ethnicity—mentally degenerate. That's obvious enough because no mentally non-degenerate person would ever do this.

Look, you can look up lots of videos from the late 2010s leading up to the special military operation. They were having parties, cutting cakes that looked like Russian babies with little Russian flags. "It's a baby, look, we're eating little babies." The Satanism was incredible. That just perfectly permeated society. Whether they were actually sitting at an altar of Satan or just believing in an atheistic Satanism where they support the exact same thing—some believe in an entity called Satan—it's still Satanism. The attacks on everything that would be normal in a society.

I mean, if somebody brings out a cake shaped like a baby, and people are thrilled because it's got a little Russian flag on it—I mean, there were videos of them putting out cakes in the shape of a

Russian soldier's leg with a piece of uniform on top of it that came off a dead Russian soldier. They upload these videos. Azov was committing human sacrifices, burning people on crosses, burying people up to their heads and chopping their heads off. And they're videotaping this. They are the ones that put these videos up on their channels as recruitment videos. I mean, the insanity is very, very heavy in that area. So they flat out said, you know, these aren't real people. We don't need these. It's hatred and racism on that level.

## **#Pascal**

I have no problem believing that there are people who act like that. But when we talk about this military level—because 16 drones and whatnot—I mean, this is a very large coordinated affair, right, among a lot of people on the ground. And the only question to me is, if it is intentional, then what is the political intention behind it? If it is unintentional, then why would they mistake a school building for, like, a military compound? Both things would tell us something about the state of affairs in political Ukraine. But yeah, I just wonder how to best make sense of these very horrible attacks, because the other attacks are kind of easier to read. The attack on St. Petersburg during the forum is easy to read—what it is supposed to do. The attacks on these petroleum stations and whatnot are easy to read. That one is hard to read. So I wonder what it tells us on the political level about the strategy in Ukraine.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

When you take out a bus going at night through a city, kill eight people on it, injure another eleven. You take out a bus going to a Belarusian school children's football team, killing a pregnant woman, putting two other adults in the hospital, four children. I mean, just understand the ages. One of the witnesses, one of the locals, said, we just switched the cartoons on. That's the ages of the children over there. When you hit houses, apartment buildings, specifically targeting them—lots of videos coming out. One of my wife's friends had a video that their next-door apartment was hit, and you can see the drones just flying straight into the middle of that apartment building. It doesn't clip it. It doesn't go out of control. It's very directly flying into it.

Yesterday, the Ukrainians murdered near Moscow, took out a two-story single-family home, murdered a six-month-old baby, ripped the legs off the mother, who later died, by the way, from massive brain injuries also, and the father lost a leg. And by the way, from that young family, when a father gets a prosthetic leg, what do you think he's going to do? He's going to go fight. He's going to go fight. He's going to go get revenge on the West for what they did. These drones, by the way—the drones that took out Starobelsk—were all made in Italy. So let the Italians swallow that, that they're baby murderers. Well, maybe they weren't babies. They were teenagers. The oldest one was 21. A couple of 21-year-olds, and the youngest were 17, 16, 17. That's what they're doing.

## **#Pascal**

That's where their money is going. Is your conclusion that we are in a phase of basically Ukraine and the West, NATO, using terrorism in order to provoke Russia? Is that what we are in? Because that... Help me, when did that start? We've had this war going on for over four years, but these kinds of attacks on civilians inside Russia, inside pre-2022 Russia, are relatively new, aren't they? When did it start?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

In 2022. It's the capability of striking deeper that's new. Ukraine, HIMARS missiles, which, by the way, I said from the very beginning, those are American military, active-duty military firing those HIMARS missiles on those HIMARS transports. It's Americans from the very beginning to the very end—from the manufacturer of the missile, delivering the missile to the HIMARS platform, to selecting targets, to firing the missiles, to guiding those missiles into target—it's all Americans. 100%. And thank the New York Times because they confirmed everything I said. I mean, even the Russian media, they looked at me sideways when I said that.

Like, it's Americans. America is murdering Russian civilians. That's the baseline. The American military is murdering Russian civilians. And the New York Times confirmed it. I don't remember the exact day the article came out. It was late December 2024. In fact, they even went as far as to tell you that the attacks with missiles were not something the Ukrainians asked for. It was something the American generals in charge of all this asked for—the attacks with missiles. And they've been hitting hospitals, they've been hitting schools, they've been hitting everything across the board with them. The capability is the only difference—how far can they hit?

With these drones, they hit on something that's better suited to try to hit deeper in. Though Russia, it's an endless race. So this week, at least, the Ukrainians haven't had much success. Almost everything's been shot down. Very little is getting through for the resources that are going into these drones. Well, the Ukrainians—I mean, the West. Trump and his administration are fully involved. I mean, let's not forget it was Trump who was encouraging Zelensky to strike into Moscow a year ago, last May. I mean, not last May—May of last year. While he's talking about, you know, we want to end this war, we want to do this, Trump's encouraging him. He's been egging it on. He's as two-faced as it gets.

He is a worse enemy than Biden was, because Biden was just a wall. Okay, Biden's asleep, probably, most of the time. Blinken was a wall that didn't want to negotiate. So, okay, that's an enemy you can deal with. And this guy is an enemy that keeps talking about, "Hey, let's work around this," while trying to stab you in the back at every opportunity. Just like—well, look at what happened with Iran. You know, we got an MOU, so instantly we're trying to get things through Oman to get around this. And then, oh, we're starting to get the Kurds in Iraq to invade into Iran. I mean, you can't trust these people.

## **#Pascal**

This kind of duplicitous game, using diplomacy as camouflage for military preparation—I mean, we've had a lot of examples of that, including the Minsk agreements, including a lot of other diplomatic efforts that look diplomatic on the outside but are actually made in support of finally getting to the military solution that you want. It's one of the reasons why people in Russia, including the top leadership, argue that the United States is grievously incapable. So why do you think it is that Vladimir Putin, for instance, and the top leadership still tried to cling to the Anchorage process and the spirit of Anchorage? What do you think the calculation there was? Because if somebody understands the duplicitous nature of that Washington diplomacy, then it should be the Russian leadership.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

You know, the problem is, if you're a diplomat and Putin is a lawyer—and lawyers use diplomacy, if you think about it on a constant basis—you have a tendency to think more in that frame than, say, a military man who would go for more of a military solution. I would probably go more for a military—no, not probably, I would go for a military solution, particularly because I also know who we're dealing with in the West, in their mental state. The problem with the West, I'll tell you—by the way, in Russia, to finish answering that question—the diplomats like Lavrov have given up on all of that.

I mean, they know that diplomacy is pointless with these people. These people are—and not just them, the Europeans in general. Look, there are very few Europeans you can talk to or negotiate with. Orban was one of them, not because he was a Russophobe—I mean, a Russophile—but because he was a Hungary-phile. And as he said, we've done this war thing twice with Russia. We're not doing it a third time. Thank you, but no. He's been replaced. We'll see how Magyar reacts when it's time to ante up a few million Hungarians to the slaughter. Things get very, very serious at that point.

I'm quite enjoying the turnabout between the Poles and Ukrainians because the Polish people, by the way, hate it. They understand what's going on. The elites are absolutely sold. They don't represent the values or the interests of the Polish population at all. I mean, from the word at all. So at this point, what the West doesn't seem to understand is, when they get desperate enough and they really want to negotiate, there's going to be nobody there to negotiate with because nobody will ever believe them. And if they want to surrender or come to some terms before full war breaks out, it's probably too late by now. Who would trust anybody in the Western leadership?

## **#Pascal**

Nobody in their sane minds. I mean, you know, one thing is trust. The other thing is, like, setting something up so that it becomes very viable. I think that's the only way to go about it. And actually, that's what the MOU with the Iranians is supposed to do on the Iranian side, right? It's supposed to be a roadmap that has very viable steps that the Iranians can look at and say, like, either it was

fulfilled or it wasn't. If it was, then we're going to go a step further. If it wasn't, then, well, that's it. The thing is dead in the water. So you cannot actually design any kind of process built around trust. That has to be thoroughly understood. So anything that comes out of this must necessarily include verification steps in order to get to the next level, right? But at the moment, when it comes to Russia and Ukraine, there's nothing on the horizon, right? With Iran, at least there is a process somehow, as large as it may be. But with Russia, currently there's nothing. It's all blocked.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

But, Pascal, even with the process, look, they started negotiations on this process with the Iranians. Vance went over. They started a process, and Trump basically starts the war back up. It gets to a point where even a process can't go forward because the people on the other side are that insane, that untrustworthy, that treasonous, and, by the way, lacking control and impulse. Right? When their impulse is, oh, wait, maybe we can just get one little more bite in, they can't control themselves. You know, Robert Barnes, I'm friends with him, I had a good interview with him, and he knows Vance directly. He's got his sources in the White House, on top of that in the administration. He said, you know, Vance is basically a squirrel in a wheel, running around endlessly trying to keep—he said, Trump's gone. Mentally, he's gone. Trump.

## **#Pascal**

Okay, yes.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

And Vance is the only thing keeping Trump's deranged demand for access to nuclear weapons in check. And somebody said no. Yeah, the military said no. So apparently, you know, again, this is not videotaped—well, maybe it is somewhere—but this is coming from people who were there who passed it on. So again, I cannot verify this 100 percent, but I trust the other sources I'm getting this from. I said, you know, of Trump, this is before the ceasefire. So even back then, a month and a half ago, two months ago, Trump was demanding the codes to launch the missiles because he wanted to nuke Iran. And General McKeon said no. And apparently, they had a screaming match with each other in the Oval Office. And he and the military said, no, we're not committing this war crime.

## **#Pascal**

I'm relieved to hear that, highly worried to hear that, utterly believable, on the other hand, completely insane. But again, where does this leave us? Where does this leave Russia? I mean, I am, and we talked before on your channel, I am so worried that the Europeans are trying to make an agreement a self-fulfilling prophecy, an inevitability, right, that they inevitably now are trying to make sure that at some point Russia will have to strike NATO territory so that they can claim Article

5, and that you then have a new Europeanization of the Ukraine war, which to me would be an absolute worst-case scenario. But I know that there's a lot of sick people in Brussels, in Washington, and in Kyiv, right, I mean, Kyiv I understand the most.

For them, that's the only thing that can potentially still save their butts. But for everybody else, it's an absolutely insane proposal. And for the last four years, we saw how NATO actually wanted to keep the Ukraine war inside Ukraine, right? That was the whole thing. Again, a Ukrainian missile kills two Polish farmers in Poland. Zelensky screams Article 5, and NATO shuts him up immediately because they didn't want that, right? But it seems that this is now different and that they are preparing for a real fight with Russia. And it seems to me that the Russians are starting to believe the Europeans when they say they want, or they will have, a war, right? So what is it inside Russia and among your colleagues, among your sources, what you're hearing of how Russia is now digesting all of this?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Well, let me put it this way. Russian manufacturing is producing about 1,200 main battle tanks a year now. Brand new. I'm not talking about refurbished T-72s with new turrets. Those are going in too. You don't see them on the battlefield, do you? Those are being prepped for the big war. A lot of the Russian munitions aren't going to the Ukrainian battlefield. They're being prepped for the big war. And Russia is not a military economy yet. It's about 7% of GDP. I mean, a fully militarized economy, you're looking at between 30% to 40% of GDP. It's going to be a very different place once that starts. So, you know, what are we looking at? Russia's preparing.

And it's massively preparing. When the investment—or not investment, let me phrase that—the recruitment potential for people with any kind of military service experience, from your call-up guys to people who served multiple years and made careers of it, from one extreme to the other, including combat veterans, there's about 32 million people. So you can't put that many people under arms because you don't have enough equipment to equip that many people. But that's the service potential without going into people without any military background, period. So, yes, that's a huge potential. It's 32 million people. Now, Russia could quite quickly put 1 to 2 million under arms additionally.

And if it's a full-scale war, you're not going to give them massive training because, yeah, you don't have time for that. The point is, Europe can't. Europe, with four times the population of Russia, probably doesn't have 32 million people with military experience. Let's see if we're going to talk realistically that they could pull up—never mind. Well, I guess, you know, some of the immigrants they've imported from some of the African and Middle Eastern countries have more confidence. But realistically speaking, Europe can't do that. Russia's preparing. They heard the European message, and the view is there will be war. Okay, fine, there will be war. Russia is preparing for a massive conventional war.

## **#Pascal**

But that's an absolutely horrific scenario because the war inside Ukraine was already horrible enough. And because this is—it's trench warfare basically, or like drone-slash-trench warfare. It's like—as opposed to sea warfare or so. We are looking at a World War I type of situation. I don't think so.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

There's a degree here, a difference. This is not a military—okay, let me phrase that. This is not a war. This is a special military operation. There's a reason I'm saying this. The Russian military is still very limited in what they're allowed to do. Quite literally, the Russian military can put up a division's worth of White Swans, which are heavy strategic bombers, and turn a section of the front several kilometers deep into a lunar hellscape. They can do that, which would make advancing a lot easier, but that's called total war. Russia could turn Kiev into another Gaza. Russia could turn almost any city in Europe into another Gaza. Russia is now, by the way, manufacturing—I'll just say this—there are over 25, and the number is quite a bit higher, of Russian bombers being put in line and serviced every single month. So you could take out the entire infrastructure of an average European country in a day.

## **#Pascal**

I mean, it's a horrific scenario. It is. On the other hand, I hear from European sources—and I have no reason to doubt their sincerity—that the Europeans too are still keeping... NATO also still keeps weapons back for the big fight. This would be absolutely... It would be an absolutely devastating war if it comes to that. I mean, and you're right to point out that it wouldn't look like a large-scale version of what we have seen in the Donbass for the last four years. It would be fought differently and with, to use another horrible euphemism, the gloves off, right? Yes. Donbass will look like a cushioned version of what awaits the entirety of Europe, including Russia, right? So any sane leader should actually see their duty as trying to prevent that. But if you look at what Finland just did this week, allowing now the stationing of nuclear weapons—I mean, in Russia, that must have been big news over there in Moscow, wasn't it?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Well, it wasn't big news because everybody was expecting that to happen. But what Finland can expect, in a worst-case scenario for Finland, is that that base will get a nuclear strike, a nuclear first strike. And not just that base, but every single European base that houses American nuclear weapons will get a nuclear strike if there's any threat from the Americans, or it looks like a threat to start using them, because you just can't take chances. But even without a nuclear strike, a Reshnik would wipe out whatever facilities you have out there.

You get nuclear contamination. But the point that the Europeans seem to miss, particularly the northern Europeans—and they need to be paying attention to that a lot more—you start talking to Finns. Finns are the prime category here. They're so brainwashed, the majority of Finns, it's ridiculous. They're like little children when you're talking to them. "Oh, I'm going to be the super sniper killing hundreds of Russian soldiers as they charge into my garden."

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

No, no, you're not. The way this war will be fought with Finland is the border will be closed, the bases will be destroyed by standoff missiles, and then the Russian military starts working on the cities. It doesn't have to bomb apartment buildings. You take out the ports, you take out the electric power plants, you take out the sewage, you take out the heat, whatever centralized heating they have, you get the gas facilities, and the old Russian saying, *Zimanya Zagarami*—winter is not beyond the mountains—comes into play.

Finland has a population about three times bigger than non-technologically structured Finland can support, which means if everybody has to go chop wood to survive and not freeze to death in the winter, most people are going to freeze to death in the winter. They don't have the houses for it. They don't have the facilities for it. The modern apartment cannot be heated by wood. They don't have wood stoves. You can't even install them for the most part. So this would be the Russian point with Finland: why charge in there? We take out the infrastructure and let the winter take care of the population—starvation and winter.

Finland imports a lot of its food. This is the same thing for all the cold countries. I mean, look, if it comes down to a total war—understand what total war means, non-nuclear total war—those underground gas storage facilities in Germany, gone. The gas, liquefied gas ports, gone. Rheinmetall, of course, is going to be gone. Most of your electric power stations, gone. That's the first strike, to take that out. Or maybe the first strike may be to take out the leadership. Because Russia's full— that's it. We're going to go after the European leaders and their families. Before we start going after people, we're going to take the leaders out. They're the ones that want war, after all.

## **#Pascal**

Do you think Russia now is going to take some of that playbook from the West and say, like, no, decapitation strikes? Sure. Why not? The West started it. They probably also tried it with Vladimir Putin in Valdai. So why not us? Why not Oreshnik, Brussels, right? Oh, yeah, yeah. Do you think that's now on the cards?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Absolutely. I don't think it'll jump directly into it, but it'll be a ladder of escalation. When the full war starts, I would not advise being in the European Parliament buildings or NATO headquarters. I'd advise running as far away from those as you can because those are number one. I'm not quite sure which one would be the number one target and which one would be the number two target. You'd take out the leadership. There you go. You put in a Russian, it'll take out any bunkers underneath those.

## **#Pascal**

Russia threatened retaliation for what you just described earlier in the Donbass, that school for teachers, and threatened or said it advises all the European diplomats to leave, or all diplomats to leave Kiev, in order to avoid damage to them, right? And that they would retaliate against decision-making centers in Kiev. That strike hasn't happened yet. Why do you think that is?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Well, it has. Multiple strikes have happened. They did say, Russia did say, and it came from the parliament, they weren't going to take out the military—I mean, I'm sorry, the civilian leadership. You know, I have my questions on that because a lot of people say, oh, you know, if you just take out one of these guys, another one will take his place. No, that's not the type of government you're dealing with. That's the type of government that happens in Russia. That's the type of government that obviously happens in Iran. That's the type of government you have in China. You take out the leadership, the next guy in rank stands up.

You take him out, the next guy in rank stands up. You don't have that with Zelensky because there is no ideology in that government other than "How much can I get out of this? How much can I sell the last Ukrainian baby for—organs, pedophiles, or a grenade strapped to its hand and pushed toward the Russian soldiers?" That's the people you're dealing with. You're dealing with a cannibal elite that's there to make money as long as they're making money. They start getting whacked—or rather, as the church puts it, presented to Jesus, or presented—they leave because they're there to feed off Ukraine.

They're not there to die of old age in Ukraine. They're not there to rebuild Ukraine. They're there to make money. And as long as they're making money hand over fist, they're going to stick around. But the moment that starts getting very dangerous, they're going to take what they've already stolen—and it's usually in some Western bank—and they're going to get the hell out. Should they be tracked down and brought to justice? Absolutely. Beyond a doubt, these people are the worst of humanity. It's like the guy in Monaco. Well, I guess he survived. His wife lost her legs. He's a Ukrainian businessman.

## **#Pascal**

The guy owns half the scam centers in Ukraine.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

They're not just scamming Russians, but they're also very effective at scamming Europeans and Americans. He's pulling in \$2 billion a year in profit. He just didn't want to share with Zelensky. I mean, these guys are the worst scum of humanity. Some are scamming grandmothers out of their savings. Others are sending their grandsons off to die and making money off it.

## **#Pascal**

This is not exactly the peak of humanity.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

This is the worst of the worst.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, but the problem is that under the special military operation, under this limited type of warfare that Russia chose to implement for strategic reasons, that thing won't go away, right? And what do you think it is, in terms of strategy, why the current leadership still sticks to its guns—almost literally—saying like, no, we're going to do this methodically in the Donbass, the way we've been doing it for a while. And Vladimir Putin actually said, like, this is going to come to a conclusion relatively soon, so that he expects that this wave of moving forward, maybe even to the Dnieper, will at some point succeed. And from there, you do then what exactly?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Well, the Dnieper is already transformed. As the war progresses, war goals change. Let's begin with this. Ukraine was warned every time that the next serious negotiations, the deal, is going to just get worse. And now, as Putin said, it's not just Donbass. First of all, it was Donbass and autonomy for Donbass, federalization. Then it was, when the Donbass was recognized separately, just an independent Donbass. And that was an independent Donbass inside Russia, plus now Kherson and Zaporizhia. Now, all of Novorossiia—but Novorossiia is Kharkov, Sumy, and on down to Odessa, just shy of Kiev. And Yevgenia Petrovska would be involved in that Donbass too.

So what's next? Well, you talk to the Poles and you ask them, do you want to take the West? It was your land for a long time. Originally, it was all Russian lands. Galicia was Russian land up to about the 1400s. Well, fine, whatever. That was a long time ago. But the Poles, so far, they want it, but they don't want to deal with the Ukrainians. But they're being led to obviously understand they will deal with the Ukrainians, because the Ukrainians want—they want a third of Poland. And it's hard to

ignore. You know, suddenly Novorossiia realized, oh, wait a minute. And Melnyk, well, now that's one Nazi too far. You know, Bandera, Shukhevych, yeah, they butchered 300,000 Poles.

But, oh, wait, well, Melnyk, that's just too much Nazism for us. We're going to take back the White Eagle Award. You know, Zelensky kneeling at Melnyk's grave after he was returned from Luxembourg, I believe. That Nazi bastard got to live the rest of his life dripping in the blood of innocent people. Well, then again, Bandera was finally terminated in Munich, where he lived for another 15 years after the war—a murderous Nazi criminal walking around absolutely freely. People knew who he was. So, you know, that goes so much for Western idealism and democracy and all that crap—all the stuff told to little children and foreigners. The reality doesn't quite go there.

But, you know, Azov published—now that Azov is no longer a battalion or brigade, but now it's a corps, which is three divisions, a normal corps. True, they're all undermanned. But they've published their corps flag with Greater Ukraine on it that just happens to have a third of Poland attached to it. And now, you know, Zelensky told Nuland, go to hell, we'll decide who our heroes are. You don't get a word in this, which basically under normal circumstances would at least destroy any diplomatic relations. And then several of his commanders just flat out said, keep pushing and Ukrainians will be killing your people. You'll have Ukrainian drones. You're not enough for this.

And this was all over last week. So Ukrainians are a rabid dog. I mean, that's what they are. And you cannot be friends with a rabid dog. It's going to bite everybody. Let's just walk down the short list of countries Ukraine has attacked outside of its fight with Russia. Let's see, it murdered a couple of Poles with a missile trying to get Poland in. It's attacked the refineries in Hungary. It attacked refineries in Romania. It attacked refineries in Slovakia. Never mind the money it was filtering in for the race, the Hungarian elections that was going through from Brussels through Ukraine over to Magas, if the reports are even halfway true. It's an attempted genocide in Constanța, Romania.

Those four drones—I mean, Mikhail Lutska, who's head of the PPR party, former member of parliament—and several members of parliament have come out and said it straight out: this wasn't an accident. Four drones—two were headed for the oil storage facilities and two were headed for the nitrate storage facilities at the port. You remember Beirut? I'm pretty sure it was the Israelis that blew that up. But because they were in there, we're going to have the only working port, and everybody's going to have to go through us stage. This was after Netanyahu came out in the UN and had that map with the lines and all that needs to go through Israel.

And then the main combustion spot just blows up from the nitrate. If you remember that explosion, that would have been in Constanța. The only thing that saved people's lives there, basically from wiping out half the city to try to drag Ukraine into—I mean, NATO into—a broader war, was the anti-oil spill buoys that they set up in port. And those drones got stuck. And a lot of people came out and videotaped those drones, which are absolutely—let's also be honest—they're British drones that the Ukrainians use. The Ukrainians aren't building these drones. They may be slapping them together, getting them disassembled, but they're British.

## **#Pascal**

Well, they videotaped those drones.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

And Ukraine, oh, we lost control of them. So give us 15 minutes, we'll detonate them. So you lost control of them, but you can still detonate them on command. And yes, the port of Kostov was saved, and the city too. Let's see, Ukraine attacked the Greeks, sank a ship of the Greeks. Ukraine has attacked Azerbaijan, which is supplying them 120-millimeter rounds, killed five seamen, including the captain of one of the ships. And they're laughing about it. Ukraine attacked Turkey multiple times. Luckily, Turkey has a leader that's willing to put a piece of his spine in every chair he can find, because his butt can't quite get on all of them. And in the end, he's shown himself to be spineless, no matter what Erdogan says. Even though the Turkish fueler has been hit. Multiple foreign ships have been hit in Turkish waters. And Ukraine even sank a Turkish cutter, a military cutter. Ukraine, you start looking around, Ukraine has hit pretty much everybody. Luckily for Ukraine, they're all spineless.

## **#Pascal**

The thing is, it's part and parcel of the entire strategy, right? Of the NATO strategy of how to fight this war. You also have to switch off a couple of capabilities of your own allies, and the ones who can sing the loudest tune here are the Germans with their Nord Stream, right? It's like this war has been very handy for NATO on several sides of, again, shepherding everybody under the same tent. And I talked to Turkish journalists, and one of them told me, look, these bases, these NATO bases outside, next to Turkey, and also everything in Cyprus, we precisely understand that they threaten us too and keep us in line.

So, you know, NATO is a tool not only for fighting against Russia, but also for keeping your own, like, sheep in line, inside the herd, right? It serves multiple purposes. The thing is, at this point, what I worry about is that we are already beyond the point of no return, where this big war against Russia might already have been decided a while ago, and now we're in the execution phase, in the early part of the execution phase. Is that a worry that you share, or am I taking it too far?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Well, I think you're absolutely right. The thing is, NATO is going to be a very interesting organization when the actual shooting starts. Because, one, let's just go through NATO really quickly. America is not going to fight. America is going to be neutral and selling weapons to the Europeans. So that's the industry that's going to be supporting the Europeans. Germans cannot produce tanks in any kind

of volume. Russia is producing 1,200 new battle tanks. Germany produced, I think, eight new tanks over the last year and a half. They don't have the capability. They don't have the gas. They don't have the steel.

They don't have the coal. But the U.S. has over 5,000 tanks that are Abrams and Abrams A1s, the first two generations. And the first generation, they started renovating to the second generation, changing the main gun to 120 and putting multi-layered armor on it instead of just steel. Why would you do that if these are old tanks? Why would you keep 5,000 old tanks unless you're planning on selling them somewhere really quickly? So the U.S. is not going to fight, but it's going to make a lot of money off of it. The Turks are not going to fight. They have no reason to get in this fight. The Greeks will have a revolution.

Before they have to fight, the Bulgarians are basically already having a revolution. They changed governments. There are crowds in the streets right now ripping down Ukrainian flags. They're not going to fight. Even the Croatians, as bloodthirsty as they can sometimes get—yeah, that's all great. We'll sell weapons for innocent soldiers. Ain't no way in hell we're going to go fight. The Romanians are a toss-up because if we follow the elections, obviously the majority of the Romanians do not want this war to happen. They don't want to fight. I mean, Gheorghescu had 68% of the vote, for God's sake.

## **#Pascal**

Yeah, yeah, but... but, you know, again, if you then pull off what they're trying to do, which is try to get Russia to attack first, right, then you're going to have what you told me in the beginning in reverse. You're going to have this rally-around-the-flag effect inside Europe, and you might actually get enough people dumb enough to sign up for this and actually go to inflict serious hurt on Russia, until and unless the Russians do it in a way that scares the hell out of everybody else. But that is the Karaganov way. And Karaganov, of course, proposes it with tactical nukes. And that's an absolutely horrific scenario. But I do believe, from the discussions we are having with other Russian colleagues, that apparently the thinking is now seriously going in this direction, isn't it?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Just something to consider. Russia doesn't really have tactical nukes. The tactical nukes he's talking about aren't 5 or 10, 15-kiloton weapons. What is labeled as a tactical nuke in Russia is a 75-kiloton nuclear warhead. Two Hiroshimas—that's a tactical nuke. That's a city buster for most places. That's Rotterdam gone, as a tactical nuke. So if these are used, if it goes to tactical nukes to take out American nuclear stockpiles in Europe, you know, that's not a little bomb. Plus the fallout, which will cover most of Europe. Europe is a— I mean, let's be honest, Europe is a cage full of hamsters. The fallout will cover most of the peninsula in one direction. I think there's enough that you don't have to hit the cities for it to fall out on the cities and make a lot of problems.

Not to mention poisoning most of the agricultural land for at least the next 10, anywhere from 10 to 100 years. Look, Chernobyl—when Chernobyl blew, that cloud reached Scotland, and the Scottish shepherds were told for 10 years, basically, they weren't allowed to go up in the mountains with their herds because it took that long for the radiation to wash out of the ecosystem. Some of it might still be there. A low dose of radiation will kill you. In fact, you know, it's questionable how much it kills you, if nothing else. My uncle—two of my uncles—died of stomach cancer. One died at 84, the other one died at 78. Now, granted, the one that died at 78—they were brothers, by the way—the one that died at 78, it went into remission for a while.

It came back. But here's the interesting thing. They were both military engineers, construction engineers. The one that died in 1984, they were near a Russian or a Soviet nuclear site, and they were stationed there, and they made a garden. What they didn't realize is the soil they used was radioactive, and they all ate the plants from the garden—the tomatoes and so on. But that was when he was in his 30s. He died in '84. Yeah, he got contaminated. But he died at 84 years of age. So would he have died anyway from that cancer? I don't know. The other one was working directly in construction, radioactive. He got enough radiation from the construction work. But he died at 79. So again, you know, how much does it affect? I don't know. Yeah, yeah. What we know from...

## **#Pascal**

It's not fun. What we actually know from Chernobyl for sure is that it doesn't affect everybody equally, but it definitely pushes up the number of deaths from leukemia and what's hot. Right. Statistically speaking, it's a horrible scenario. But certain individuals, just like chain smokers—somebody might make it to 88 chain-smoking, and another one's gone at 42, right? Yeah.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

What I'm saying is about the fallout. Now, if you're near ground zero, yeah, you're going to get zapped with massive dosages. And you're better off dying fast in the blast than surviving, because it's not much of a survival. But, you know, fallout falling on cities is still going to have a big effect, at least psychologically.

## **#Pascal**

It's not good.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

We don't know that.

## **#Pascal**

The question to me is, is Russia really actually now contemplating this, or is the idea still to just absorb as Iran absorbed and plow on with the primary strategy?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Well, from the military point, of course, the military is contemplating this. It's their duty. It's their job to contemplate and plan this out. I mean, let's not be unrealistic about it. Are the politicians? A good chunk of politicians are. I think with the rest, Russia can do it without going directly into nuclear. And it's still pretty horrific, realistically speaking. The rally around the flag, I think, is going to be very dependent on how it's done. If you go after the leadership, you know, if you go after leadership in, say, Germany, or take out the Rheinmetall plant, or something of the sort, you will get a certain amount of rally. The Germans may rally.

I doubt that these Germans will. They actually were denazified and have sanity on their side. West Germans were never denazified; they just had the Nazi symbols removed. A lot of the second- and third-tier Nazis were right back in the government and got promotions while we were at it. But the question is, would everybody in Europe rally around the flag? The Greeks wouldn't. The Bulgarians wouldn't. Most would say, yeah, the Germans had it coming. The hatred between the different nations in Europe is huge. The only two things that are keeping them in line right now are an elite that's absolutely not representative of the people and the threat of Russia.

And even then, the second part is not exactly a very strong glue, if you want to call it that. So I think a lot of these countries, particularly, I highly doubt the Spanish and the Portuguese are going to go full-on, "let's go have a war." They may talk about it to some degree, but no. So really what you're going to have is these core northern European states—Germany, France, and then we'll see with France even—the UK, if it's not in a full civil war by that point, the Norwegians, the Scandinavian countries, and the Baltics. And that's going to be your core warmongering.

Poland is in flux, I think, right now, if we really look at it realistically. Because the Polish people know what's next door. They hate the Banderites. They despise them. And the Polish government, at least under Noworodz, seems to be kind of waking up, or maybe they even knew, but they were looking for the opportunity to start moving. Poland, by the way, just said, you know, scrap the deal about the MiG-29s. We're not giving them over. Did they? Yes, they did. So, you know, you're going to have the heroes you want. Well, you can have them without our MiG-29s. And that's a hit on the Ukrainian war machine.

## **#Pascal**

Well, that's a positive note.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Yes, it is. It is.

## **#Pascal**

My friend, I think we should grab the opportunity and end on a positive note of somebody not giving military tools, because I want to go and eat fake Italian food now. So do you agree, or is there something we really need to add right now?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

No, no, no. I agree. I'll say this: while I was in Donbass, I saw the ultimate fast food place, Pizza Burger Walk.

## **#Pascal**

Pizza Burger Walk.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Yeah, you can get your pizza, your burger, and a wok. So you've got the American, the German, and the Chinese. They're just all up there. Well, that's just human.

## **#Pascal**

Why only have one of the things? Why not all of them? So this is the way to go and to live life. Everybody, if you want to follow Stas, then go and find him on his YouTube channel, Mr. Slavic Man—Slavic with a K, right? Yep, yep. Find him also on his X and your Telegram channel. Where do they find you? What are the two places to find you?

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

On Telegram, you can look up Stas Was There — that's the English one — and Stas Today is the Russian one. I'm also on Substack.

## **#Pascal**

I will put the links in the description box below. Stas Krapivnik, thank you so much for your time today.

## **#Stanislav Krapivnik**

Thank you.

