

Death of a Warmonger, Drone & Energy War ESCALATION | Stas Krapivnik

Stas Krapivnik returns to discuss reports surrounding Lindsay Graham, energy pressure from the Iran conflict, and fuel shortages in Russia and Ukraine. He shares observations from Moscow, looks at refinery strikes and drone attacks, and argues that both sides are changing their tactics. The discussion also covers frontline logistics, arms production, anti-drone tools, the risks of wider war, and future security threats. Links: Stanislav Krapivnik YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@MrSlavikman> Stanislav Krapivnik on X: <https://x.com/STANISKRAPIVNIK> Neutrality Studies substack: <https://pascallottaz.substack.com> Merch: <https://neutralitystudies.com/shop> Donation: <https://neutralitystudies.com/donate> Timestamps: 00:00:00 Introduction and energy tensions 00:13:16 Russia's refineries and drone defenses 00:20:47 Deep strikes and Russia's fuel supply 00:29:06 Fuel stations and Ukraine's front lines 00:40:08 Energy war and Ukraine's logistics 00:45:41 The future of drone warfare

#Pascal

Welcome back, everybody, to Neutrality Studies today for an update with the one and only Stas Krapivnik.

#Stas Krapivnik

Stas, welcome back. Welcome back, welcome back. It's a sad day, and it's a happy day.

#Pascal

It's a sad day and it's a happy day. Maybe let's start with the sad news first, because just about two or three hours ago, we all learned that beloved Lindsey Graham, senator of South Carolina, just died. Stas, can you give us a couple of words? And, you know, we talked for just a second. I mean, no bad things about the dead, which is why we're going to talk about all the bad things he did in life. Can you get us started on that?

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, the church teaches it's always a tragedy when somebody dies. It wouldn't have been as much of a tragedy if he had come to God and been a peaceful man and promoted world peace. Instead, he made a hell of a lot of money off of people dying and promoted every single friggin' war he could get his little grubby hands on. And I don't think that's bad-mouthing his soul. Well, his dead soul. The living soul was pretty rotten. And that's where we're at. I think the world breathed a little bit

freer today. And Washington, from what I understand, from what I've been reading, is in shock and disarray because he was the main pusher.

You know, for the American tax peasant, I think they need to take a nice deep breath, because that psychopath, the last thing he was working on was trying to get the U.S. to sanction banks that buy or trade Russian oil and gas. And while two-thirds of Russian oil and gas is going to China or India, and they're not going to stop, the other third, which is about 2.5 to 3 million barrels, is going on the world market one way or the other. Now, considering Iran's back on, and it looks like Iran's already said, "Look, this is it. We're going to start striking all the infrastructure in the area because we're sick and tired of this."

If you're an ally with the U.S., you're going to suffer. That's what the Iranian Revolutionary Guard said. "We're just going to start striking all the oil infrastructure for real, to destroy it." So we're looking at about 15 million barrels that are off the market right now, and they're trying to put another 3 to 4 million barrels off the market. And the U.S. imports 8 million barrels of oil and oil products per day, and the EU is screwed beyond belief at this point. So this guy being gone, maybe, you know, I mean, it's still going to be an economic hell to pay, but just maybe a little less than what this guy was promoting.

#Pascal

I mean, he was one of the sponsors of the Graham-Blumenthal kind of bone-crushing sanctions, as our friend and colleague Alex Christoforou, who keeps telling us through his channel for the last one, one and a half years, right, that they are trying to get anyone punished who buys any kind of Russian oil. And the Americans apparently still think this is some sort of good idea, especially when you have a global crunch and oil prices are shooting through the roof. And yeah, interestingly enough, now that guy is dead. And his family, of course, put out the information that it was a short and sudden illness that took him out.

#Stas Krapivnik

Yeah, heart attack. That's pretty short and sudden.

#Pascal

Well, yeah. There are already people out there who have this idea that it might have been the Russians. Who else? Who else could it have been? Stas?

#Stas Krapivnik

No offense, but it was either little girls or little boys he was diddling, and probably a lot of coke from Zelensky's stash. He just got back from Ukraine. I mean, this is the guy who, last winter—or maybe

it was last fall—went to Ukraine for three days, stayed at the Radisson in the penthouse. I mean, I'm sure it's not the cheapest hotel room in Ukraine. And then he put in an expense report for three days. Three. One, two, three. Where's my other phone? Yeah, that one. \$800,000. Jeez. How much are the escorts? How much is the coke? I mean, my God, \$800,000. You're spending \$260,000 a day? What are you doing? Supposedly for meetings. Like, who are you meeting? What are you meeting? That's incredible. And he put that as an expense. Fine if that was out of his own pocket, at least. I mean, he's a multimillionaire, right, out of all the war lobbies he's sponsored. But no, he put his expense report in for the public to compensate him on.

#Pascal

And Graham is such a fantastic example of everything that's going wrong with this kind of "best democracy in the world," right? Of how the bribes then buy you the votes, and those get you the influence, and you get some contracts for the weapons lobby, which then flies you to Ukraine, which buys you the coke and whatnot. I mean, there's no transparency when it comes to these people, is there?

#Stas Krapivnik

Oh, yeah. Well, let's not forget, Ukraine is also the epicenter of weapon smuggling, drug smuggling, and child smuggling. Organs, pedophiles, and just whatever else. I mean, Ukraine is the pit of evil at this point. Everything that's the worst of humanity. I mean, look, Ukraine legalized organ harvesting and selling organs. Now, just so the people who don't quite understand this—because a lot of people don't—you do not, I repeat, you do not get organs from a dead body. The moment the heart stops beating, necrosis sets in because the blood stops flowing, the oxygen stops going to the cells of the organs, the organs start to die. You get organs from living bodies.

Whether or not the person's in a comatose state, vegetative state, or still has a head attached to them, the body has to be alive. It has to be on a ventilator at least. Blood has to be flowing. Otherwise, the organs die. The lungs have to be breathing. They made \$4 billion in taxes. And believe you me, some of the videos I've seen, some of these carnal houses that were overrun by Russian forces before the evidence could be destroyed—you don't want to see them. You know, I'm mentally deranged anyway, like every military person is to some degree. For the average person who isn't, I mean, this is worse than any horror movie Hollywood comes out with.

Just believe me. And these black organ doctors, they should just be wiped out. No trial, because you're never going to get them to a trial. But the things that they do. And if it was only to adult men—you know, mostly half their victims are Ukrainian soldiers. You get a leg wound, you go in, and there ain't that much left of you afterwards. But no, they took the local villagers, the kids, everything. These people are not human beings that do this. I don't know how else. If they are human beings, then that means humanity could go so much lower than you think it can when you see these things.

#Pascal

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. Links below. See you there. These are all the horrible things for which we need a lot of commissions and fact-finding and so on once everything is done and over with. But we're still in the middle of it. And right now, one of the main things I wanted to talk to you about today is, you know, the Ukrainians apparently got good results at blowing up Russian refineries.

So they're able to somehow blow up Russian refineries 2,500 kilometers from the border. What is the situation right now in Russia, in Moscow, and so on, since you're on the ground? The West is reporting that there are shortages everywhere and long lines at the—uh, at the pump. I mean, we do have reports from your, um, deputy ministers of energy who are saying that the situation is difficult. So what is it like in Moscow now? Um, it's—well, it's...

#Stas Krapivnik

I mean, compared to what it's normally like, yeah, I guess you could call it difficult. I was coming in and out of Moscow this morning. You know, filled up. I had to ask if there was any fuel because there was only one car standing there fueling up. And they said, oh yeah, we've got what you want. Of course, the prices went up. And the prices are different at different stations. So some, I think, are starting to price gouge, which you're always going to get. Others are keeping more or less honest prices. Prices did go up because of this. Yeah, filled up. Depending on the station you go to, some are 20 liters, 30 liters max. Some let you get as much as you need. Most won't let you fill up any containers, just because there was hoarding. And, you know, I've seen guys pulling up in an SUV and there's like five big canisters in the back.

Well, some are just in panic mode. Some are maybe long-distance driving. I mean, I drove a week and a half ago. I came back from going all the way down through the Donbas. We went down through there—Starobelsk, Lugansk, Donetsk, those areas—and then back up into Rostov and then back up. It was about 2,500 kilometers round trip. You know, yeah, this morning I filled up—well, put 20 liters in. That station was allowing that at a time. I mean, you could go make a big circle, come back around, go, "I'm back, you know, I'm a new customer," and get another 20 liters. Let's check off the box—it's a different person or a different purchase. But I didn't have time for that. But 20 liters was all I needed to top off. And I topped off my other car two or three days ago. Also didn't have a problem.

Coming past that gas station, there was a line of maybe 20 cars in length. And then I was like, yeah, I guess I'll stay in line. But when I was done, I was driving back the other way—no line. Popped right in. I was like, oh, that's cool. It's hit or miss like that. But to say that there's a collapse, you would never tell that by the traffic. I can send you some videos of traffic—it's crazy. It's lighter

because it's tourist season. Well, it's lighter because it's summer season, and you figure about a third of Moscow and every other major city in Russia is somewhere in the south right now. So, you know, I'll be heading down towards Sochi or some other areas, and everybody can guess where, because I'm like, it's exactly where I'm heading. Maybe Sochi, maybe Abkhazia, maybe Georgia, somewhere around there.

#Pascal

There's a line.

#Stas Krapivnik

Oh, there's wine everywhere down there. Interestingly enough, by the way, before all of this started—I'm talking about the actual SMO in this case, not everything else—Italy was buying a very large chunk of its wine material, its grapes, from Russia.

#Pascal

Did they?

#Stas Krapivnik

Yeah. The entire south in Russia is now grape country. And it used to be that way before. Gorbachev started fighting alcoholism. So that nitwit, if you're going to fight alcoholism, you up the price on the alcohol, and you probably fight the hard stuff. But no, he went after the grapes. And there are videos of him, these promotional ones—he's on a tractor. This is 1990, 1989—he's on a tractor, and they're taking out 300-year-old grapevines. Horrible. The farmer and other people are saying, kill me now. They're idiots.

#Pascal

But how big is the irony if you're fighting alcoholism and take out 300-year-old grapevines, and then your successor is our friend... Yeltsin. Yeltsin. Yeltsin.

#Stas Krapivnik

Thank you. The problem with vodka—vodka is made out of grains. I guess you can't burn all the grain fields; you'd probably starve the people too. So what can we do? And beer is made out of hops and wheat. And mead is made out of honey. So let's go after the wine.

#Pascal

Anyhow, back to the topic. What do you make of this situation? So we see now how the Russians are taking out all of these gasoline stations that are leading up to the Donbass, right? Very systematically, methodically, in order to prepare, obviously, for the bigger, larger military operation that's going to come or that's on the way. At the same time, the Ukrainians are trying to take out the entire production capacity of Russia, and uh, so where are we at in this energy war?

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, first of all, they can't take out the entire capacity of Russia. The reason they got some of these first—again, what did they get? The vast, vast, vast majority of the time, what they're getting is the fuel storage facilities. They're getting the big tanks that have either oil or product, and not the refinery. I mean, anybody who's never been to a refinery, go drive by a refinery. Go find a refinery on a map and go drive by a refinery. You're talking 10, 15 kilometers in length—that's a refinery. You're talking hundreds of kilometers of pipes, all under pressure, all with valves at the ends of them, all computerized.

You hit these pipes, pressure drops, computer switches off. You don't have a big flame because there's nothing going to it anymore. Right. You don't get the pretty picture for the Western media, that big explosion. Now, you hit one of these storage facilities, big giant drums, basically. Nobody puts them out. There's no point. They cut off all the valves leading in and out of them and just let them burn out, and then replace them. Sometimes there's a little bit more damage. And then also, there are different lines in any refinery. There are different lines that are manufacturing E92, E95, E100, or diesel.

It starts off maybe with the same feedstock, but then it splits out and goes into different lines because you have different chemical additives at the end of it. You get to a certain level of the cracking process, and then you start going, you know, which octane do we want, and then what additions. And there are multiple lines going in parallel because they're usually producing different blends. America is much worse at it because every state has its own blend, particularly summer blends. So that's why American petrol gets that much more interest, because they're doing short runs for one state and then for another state. It's a mess. Russia has a pretty unified blend, like most countries in the world.

So there's—which would make sense, because the longer you run, make a single run, the bigger you run, the cheaper it is per unit, as opposed to having to retool and reclean and then run somebody else's shorter runs. So these refineries, they get fixed, they get back up, and they keep running. Believe it or not, the main reason a lot of this is getting through, to be honest, is the cheapskates in a lot of these oil and gas companies—the penny pinchers that didn't put up the nettings. I mean, for something like this, you can put up metal nets—well, basically chain-link fencing. You can put it up over a good chunk of the refineries, or at least the storage areas.

You can put basically a dome of chain-link fencing over it. That would help defend it. But they are now—they've gotten permission—and they are now organizing their own security forces at these refineries with machine guns, with medium and light machine guns. And that's what the Russian army, by the way, has done. When you get down to the Donbas, Thiel, who's a war criminal, his terrorist drones, those Hornets that the U.S. gave—the way they run is, first 80% of the charge, they're looking for military targets. Last 20% of the charge, they're just looking for something to hit, which usually means civilians. And they've killed quite a few civilians. I was warned where to go and where not to go. We can go up toward the front lines, period, because that's by foot only at the moment, or with a military escort.

Civilian cars don't get escorted. There's just not enough. But the option that Russia did, the Russian military did, was they went Mad Max. They turned everything into a technical instead of just Toyota pickups. "Technicals" are a term for Toyota pickups. It's almost always Toyota—they're just the right size. And they turn them into gun mounts, you know, machine guns, anti-tank guns, missile launchers, all kinds of things. They get very creative. And you see this throughout Africa. This is where it became a big thing—in Africa. And it spread to the Middle East and other areas. And don't tell me Toyota doesn't know what the hell is going on with their vehicles. They're making money hand over fist. All of a sudden, somebody puts in an order for 300 white Toyota pickups of the same type, and they're in Chad.

Chad, by the way, used these very effectively in a fight with Libya, taking out Libyan tanks during a sandstorm. They brought in their technicals, and they had anti-tank missiles on them—one guy sitting in the back aiming and shooting, another guy driving—and they did a pretty good job. They became famous back in the late '70s, early '80s. So Russia went down the same route, and they've taken basically every car with a hatchback, taken the hatchback out, put a gun mount in there, put a light machine gun on it with a guy standing behind it, and they're escorting all the trucks. And the light machine guns are very good at taking out these drones—a very efficient solution for these lighter, airplane-type drones.

#Pascal

Yeah, so, I mean, we're back at the point where Russia and Ukraine—actually, both of them—need to devise strategies to use low tech to take out medium tech, like drones out of the air and so on.

#Stas Krapivnik

And apparently, like... it gets better. On that note, it gets better, because enter stage right: Geran-4 drones—Russian drones that now carry anti-aircraft missiles on them.

#Pascal

What?

#Stas Krapivnik

Yes. And the Ukrainians already lost a helicopter to it. The necrolog had the four pilots that were lost. So, Ukraine—one of the ways you take out drones is you put a helicopter up and you start shooting them down with the door gunners, the two machine guns, one on each side. Well, this Geran-4 drone fired an anti-aircraft missile at the Ukrainian helicopter, and that went on to its target.

#Pascal

Jeez. I mean, okay.

#Stas Krapivnik

It gets him. Have you seen the Iskander ballistic missiles that have flares on them? No. Oh, yeah, yeah. It's a hell of a sight. Somebody videotaped—it was a Ukrainian videotape—one flying overhead, and I guess Ukrainian anti-aircraft systems were locking on. It just starts shooting flares.

#Pascal

Just like an airplane.

#Stas Krapivnik

You now have ballistic missiles with flares on them. Yeah, heat traps, you know, to... Technology is fine.

#Pascal

Long story short, we're seeing how these technological—you can call them innovations, you can call them regressions, whatever it is—new forms of fighting are actually causing harm on both sides. The thing that is so insanely dangerous to me is that we know the Ukrainians couldn't do all of that without the targeting and whatnot from NATO and from the Europeans, 2,500 kilometers behind the front lines. This kind of targeting—do we yet know what that was? Because there's chatter out there that it might have been another kind of, not inside job, but a job executed from the inside—attacking that refinery, starting from a point like a little bit of a spiderweb kind of thing, like starting drones from inside Russia. Do we know how the Ukrainians did that one?

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, there are two categories here. Some of those drones—because you've got to understand, the drones that are launching that deep are airplane-type drones. They get up to four meters in length. They have a little two-banger. Why? They have a two-banger engine on them, so, you know, two-

piston. I mean, they're loud as hell. I had one shot down about 500 meters from me, and it was crazy. Grab your ears, because I'm going to make the sound that I was listening to. And I'm standing there for like two, three minutes—where the hell is it? And then kaboom, about half a kilometer away from me. I'm like, wow, it sounds like it's on top of you. It's so frigging loud. And it was actually louder than that. Um...

#Pascal

Your microphone was auto-dialing down, so we didn't hear you.

#Stas Krapivnik

Okay, okay. Yeah, it was actually loud on that. And you're standing there like, Christ, where is it? And it's still half a kilometer away from you. I started hearing it loud like that a kilometer from me, and it got smacked down half a kilometer from me. Wow. The American drones, I'll give them that—they're much quieter. I'm not saying that, but they're much quieter. These European drones, because they're European-made, are very, very loud. Like I said, very cheap, two-banger engine. But it keeps it afloat. It's a relatively light aircraft, so it's packed full of fuel and explosives. The thing is, the further it flies, the less explosives, the more fuel.

So technically, it could get that far. Whether it could get through all the... I mean, Russia's giant. Let's just begin with that. And yes, America is absolutely one of the warring parties, and it's providing the corridors to go in. And you can always usually find some corridor, however remote. Most of these drones don't make it because they'll either hit trees, power lines, or get shot down in the process. Some do make it. When they make it that far, they don't have much of an explosive charge on them, just because everything goes to fuel. So at the end, that's a pinprick. It's a pinprick that gets fixed, and Russia goes on. Plus, Russia has a backup fuel producer.

It's called India. And this is where it gets even more interesting, because India was refining fuel from Russian oil and selling it to, I guess, liberated molecules of energy to the Europeans and the Americans. And Russia bought 400,000 tons of fuel from India and shipped it right back. And if the Indians didn't sell it, they wouldn't get any more oil. So, of course, they're going to sell it. And all the Europeans started laughing about it. This was done about seven or eight days ago, and the Europeans were laughing about it. Ha, ha, ha. Yeah, but there's one little problem with the ha, ha. That's 400,000 tons of fuel that's not going to Europe now.

#Pascal

Yep.

#Stas Krapivnik

So Europe, which has basically hung itself—the non-Russian Europe, the other 58%—basically hung itself from a piano wire and is desperate to get any kind of fuel. India is one of its major fuel suppliers now. And that's 400,000 tons that, in another week, are not going to show up at port. They're going the other direction. And that's also fuel that, by the way, goes to Ukraine.

#Pascal

It's just dumb policy. It's very dumb policy while at the same time escalating with Iran, thinking that, you know, third time, fourth time lucky. And the Iranians, like just now—I mean, just today—announced, "OK, fine, no more traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, because that's our main leverage. And we're going to show the world that we can do it." And the world—I mean, mainly we're going to show the Americans that. And we're going to put stress on the global fuel supply again, and fertilizer supply, and so on. Fine.

Apparently, the Americans didn't understand that yet. However, all of these compounds now, which doesn't mean, though, that it makes it any easier on Russia. So the West is still banking on the fact that, you know, tomorrow the line is going to be so long—four, five, six cars at the pump—that the one in car number six is going to get out and walk to the Kremlin and take Putin and throw him right out, right? That's still the idea of what's going to happen. I mean, can you tell us how likely such a scenario is at the moment? About as likely as me becoming the Pope.

#Stas Krapivnik

Your Holiness. And I'm not even Roman Catholic—I'm Orthodox, so the chances are even less.

#Pascal

But it's so dumb. It's so self-defeating. But still, at this point, I have problems believing that they believe it themselves. But if they tell you time and time again, at some point, you need to believe that that's what they believe.

#Stas Krapivnik

I don't want to touch on the destruction of the fueling stations in Ukraine because there's a different reason for that. There's actually a different reason why it started anyway. Actually, I can't say how the lines are outside of Moscow. When I leave in another week, I'll be able to see what they look like. I mean, I know what they looked like a week and a half ago. A week and a half ago, it was hit or miss. In the cities, it wasn't bad. Some price gouging, but it wasn't bad. You know, in Voronezh, I just drove right in, fueled up, and in Lugansk, I filled right up. Donetsk was bad, and I was warned, so I didn't fuel up. I used a canister. I just poured in from a canister.

Rostov, it was a little harder, but that's because Rostov is, you know, all the traffic heading to the beaches and everything else goes through Rostov. So there's a hell of a lot more cars right now filling up—not just the locals, but massive traffic coming in. On the interstates, it was hit or miss. On the paid interstate, maybe one in four had fuel because a lot of mom-and-pops, they can't buy it because they buy it from the big guys, and the big guys are feeding themselves right now. Plus, the further you are away from a major city, the longer it takes to get a truck out there, so the less often they get out there because they've got plenty of demand inside the cities. So there's that.

But I still filled up. On the way back, I decided I'd get off the paid interstate and go down by the feeder road, the feeder interstate, the free one. There are a lot more gas stations there. And, you know, one petrol station, for example—this is, I think, a prime example of human nature, too. I was down about a third of a tank, so I was like, yeah, I'll fill it up just in case. And I pulled up, drove by one station—had maybe 20, 30 cars waiting. I'm like, I'm not that desperate. Drove two kilometers, the next station's empty. There are like two cars, because everybody piles up on that one and nobody's looking at— you know, it's human nature. So it's hit or miss, absolutely hit or miss.

#Pascal

Do you think it can create actual political trouble the way that it's going right now? On the other hand, you know, the government is actually admitting that there is a problem, and they are saying, like, we are working on fixing it. So they are not actually downplaying or, like, negating it. They're saying, like, we're working on fixing it. What do you think the fix will be?

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, the fix is going to be to continue getting the stations back up, continue bringing in fuel now from India, from Russian oil, and continue as it is. Now, there are machine gun trucks everywhere in the south around these stations, around the petrol stations everywhere. They're popping up more and more often, and mass production of drone, anti-drone systems. Particularly in this case, there is the Panther, the Panzer. It's got four missiles on each one and an autocannon. And you put multiple ones out there. I've seen them outside of Moscow. You see them. Because in Moscow, except on key government buildings, you don't see anti-aircraft systems inside the city. They want to stop this outside the city.

They don't want to use the Russian population as human shields, as opposed to the other side, which does that actively. You know, the day before the NATO summit started, Ukraine wanted to have another one of these big bangs on Moscow. They had something to show for it, which is the reality that they just lost Kostyantynivka and basically lost Krasny Liman. So they launched 420 drones on Moscow. Thirty-six of them got to Moscow Oblast. You should be able to appreciate it—Moscow Oblast is the size of Switzerland. And that's one of the smallest provinces in Russia. These old principality provinces, they're all relatively small; the further you go, the bigger they get.

And those 36, none of them got to Moscow. They were all shot down from multiple layers and guys on Mad Max, you know, technicals and things like that. So, yes, that's the reaction. Machine guns are cheap, cheaper than the drones, and they're reusable. The reason Russia started taking out the petrol stations—first of all, Kharkov and Sumy—and now they're expanding, and they've destroyed all of them systematically, one by one. They just started working them over. Just in Sumy and Kharkov, there were something like 600 stations that were destroyed. They're hitting them, not to minimize civilian casualties, but they're hitting them. And they're hitting them with Iskander missiles.

So, you know, there's no shooting them down because Ukraine doesn't have the capacity to do that. Why they're doing it is because Ukraine switched tactics. So the Ukrainians started using Gazelle trucks, which are these light cargo trucks. You know, they're really like five-tonners. And they have a big—well, depending on the model, these all had a big box in the back of them, and they were all carrying about two drones each, right? So first of all, they drive up as close as they could to the line of contact, and they pop them off. Or you would say shoot and scoot. In this case, it's launch and scoot. By the time they're out, that truck is hightailing it somewhere.

And you use several hundred of these trucks. You launch hundreds of drones. The trucks are parked in garages or in underground parking, which makes it hard to find them. But their weak point was that they're all refueling at these fuel stations. If you can't find the trucks, you can at least starve them. Additionally, depending on which drone they're launching, if they're short-range drones, they're charging up on a generator, and that's running off diesel or gasoline. If they're not, you still have to fuel them up with—again, they're a two-banger moped engine running off gasoline—so you have to have a lot of gasoline to launch them. And if there are no fueling stations...

#Pascal

Your interpretation is that Russia taking out the petrol stations in Ukraine is actually not so much about slowing down the Ukrainian regular military forces, but rather a response to these drone attacks, to make it harder for the drones to actually come close to the line of contact.

#Stas Krapivnik

That was initially. Now what we're seeing is it's expanding. They're expanding it. And it should have been something that was done early on, at least with drones. But now that that's done, now they're moving into Kyiv. They're moving into western Donetsk—that's still in Ukrainian hands—and they're moving into Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia city. And here's a kicker that's a game changer also, in that we've got this last line of fortified cities. Now, let's repeat that: last line. What does that mean? Behind those cities are open fields and small, unfortified villages. There's no line of defense. What have we had before that?

We've had this very thick agglomeration of towns and villages, towns and villages in what was central and eastern Donetsk oblast and Luhansk oblast, going down the Donbas, the base of the Don

River, which is where you get all the huge amounts of iron and coal. So there's a lot of agglomeration just centered in that area. So every time Russia took a town or a city, what happened is Ukrainians moved back 10 kilometers into the next one and the next one and the next one, except there are no more next ones. This is it. So now, I mean, you had this in-depth defense and you had in-depth logistics so you could move things up because you had cover from city to city, urban area to urban area. There's nothing behind this. So anybody who wants to come in has to go across a very large area of open fields and wood lines and very small villages.

#Pascal

In Western newspapers, they are very—I mean, they're like filled ad nauseam now—with this hint that, oh, by the way, open fields and so on are a big problem now for the Russians because the Ukrainian drones will take out all of these Russians. The Russians are dying like flies because of the drones that take them out. What about that?

#Stas Krapivnik

The casualties have gotten worse because of drones. I'm not going to lie about it. In these areas, there are mass drones. These are the quad drones. But the Ukrainians are losing about three to five men for every Russian soldier. The majority of Russian casualties are from drones. The majority of Ukrainian casualties are from artillery. Drones are included in those, but artillery, because Russia—A, Russia always outnumbered the Ukrainians 7 to 10 to 1 on tubes. I'm not even talking about rocket artillery. And Russia could produce more rounds of ammunition than all of Europe by a factor of about four. All of Europe plus America.

All of NATO, basically, and Japan and South Korea combined by a factor of four. And, you know, as the Church teaches, God sends you your enemies to get you to do the things you should have probably been doing anyway. So one of the things, a nice little gift that Russia got from the Americans, is—do you know what gun cotton is? Okay, so you've got gunpowder. Gunpowder has a certain amount of force behind it. Gunpowder is not normally used in artillery. Sometimes it's still used in bags of powder that are used behind an artillery shell. For the most part, what's used is called gun cotton. Gun cotton is very high-quality cotton that's soaked in liquefied gunpowder, so it's impregnated with that gunpowder.

And it gives you a lot more force, a bang for the buck, as it disintegrates while it burns, right? Two problems. One, it's cotton. And two, it's high-quality cotton, which is usually made for high-quality clothing. So right off the bat, when the Europeans tried to expand, they had a problem because the majority of the high-quality cotton was coming either from America—and America was using that for its own needs—or from China. And again, like everything, people just don't grow cotton for the hell of it. They grow it because they've got orders from the previous year to fill for the next growing

season. So right off the bat, those orders were already taken. So now you've got to compete with the clothing industry. Two, China put restrictions on dual-use cotton for the Europeans. The Europeans had instantly very big problems trying to make gun cotton to fill the shells.

Never mind, they also didn't have gas and steel. It got to such a ridiculous point that in 1924, the Industrial Union of Germany asked the German government to relieve the sanctions on Russia so they could buy Russian steel to make shells to shoot at Russians. We're not that stupid to sell them steel. The fact that they actually proposed this. And the Americans... Russia was buying its cotton. Traditionally, Russia was growing their cotton in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, which is, by the way, why the Aral Sea dried up, though it's being refreshed now, replenished. And then there were other issues after the Soviet Union fell apart between different nationalities. The Kazakhs... the Uzbeks trying to push the Kazakhs out of the Aral Sea zone, so they kept starving them of water and things like that.

But... so Russia was buying all of this oil—I mean, I'm sorry—all of this cotton now from these former Soviet republics. So in 2017, the U.S. started pressuring them to stop selling cotton to Russia, to starve it of gun cotton and materials for manufacturing shells. And Russians, being the white apes that they are, said, OK, let's think what else we can use. Oh, linen. Russian scientists worked it out with linen, and Russia grows more linen—you know, flax—than anybody else in the world. So that's why Russia doesn't have any problems. Never mind oil; it has plenty of gas and steel to make the shells, and tungsten for that shell. But Russia also has plenty of linen and manufactures its own gun cotton—I guess gun linen now—in mass quantities. So, no problems.

#Pascal

Thank the Americans. You have a very special way of destroying my Sundays, because if there was one thing I thought I would never hear, it was the word "dual-use cotton." I didn't think that would ever enter my vocabulary, but thank you very much. Dual-use cotton and dual-use linen are now part of the vocabulary. We weaponized cotton. New weaponized cotton. Wow. I mean, it's a low point of humanity. But so, long story short, you're saying that one is not in short supply, and still the industrial production of Russia is not in short supply.

So what we are looking at is that what the NATO-Ukrainian war alliance managed to do is a short-term crunch. Although one must worry, like, what if they manage to destroy more refineries? And on the other hand, the Ukrainians need to worry, what if the Russians manage to destroy more of their production facilities? I mean, at which point is the entire energy infrastructure in Ukraine going to collapse? And at which point is the Russian energy supply going to be at that point? I mean, can you give us a feeling for where we are here?

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, like I said, the Russian side is not—the Russian side, the refineries are not destroyed. Some are damaged, some are relatively lightly damaged, and they get them back up and running. I mean, they've been doing this to one degree or another for the last three years. They're just not hitting them deeper in. If you remember last summer, it was the same screens, the same thing, and they were hitting a lot of refineries and storage facilities. They were just in western Russia at that point. And at the end of the day, it didn't do anything. It caused some problems, and the problems were taken care of. Ukraine is in a much more precarious situation because, A, Ukraine doesn't really produce any fuel. Ukraine gets its fuel from—quite literally, 20% of its diesel comes from Hungary.

And thank God, in Ukraine's case, they basically succeeded in bombing the pipeline. It should have honestly been shut down, since it's counter to the Ukrainian military. But because Orban was Orban, and they wanted to keep him in good graces, that pipeline was still working. And Ukraine was, by the way, getting transit fees from the pipeline, from Russia. This is a very odd conflict. So yeah, they're getting transport fees, and they're getting 20% of their diesel out of Hungary. Well, that's shut down. And on top of that, the fuel that the Europeans or the European Union are buying from India is now going back to Russia. So that's lacking. So the European Union in general, and Ukraine in particular, are going to have very big problems.

And what Russia is doing now is, behind that Donbass line that they've taken care of, Kharkov and Sumy Oblast, just blowing up all the 600 fueling stations. And Ukraine has about 12,000 overall throughout the entire country. That's what I was told. I don't know how accurate the figure is. Now they're destroying in depth behind the line of contact. So Ukrainians are going to have much more problems even trying to get fuel up there to their last fortified line, the Drozhovka-Konstantinovka-Slovensk line. And the thing is, for those Ukrainian forces in there, getting out is already dangerous because it's open fields, but there's still greenery, some amount, and small groups could probably do it. But if they dawdle too long, and if the Sputnika comes to visit—so, you know, late September, early October—and all that turns to mud, they're not getting out.

Whoever's in there is negative. Plus, there's a Russian spike going up from Dobropillya down there. There are two Dobropillyas—one up Russian, one down there. That's moving up behind the fortified line. So you've got a pincer movement from both sides, going down from Krasny Liman and coming up from Konstantinovka. You've got a frontal assault that's now about five kilometers outside of Kramatorsk and outside of Sloviansk. They paused the frontal movement to take care of some encircled areas of Ukrainian soldiers and even out the front line. But it's still five kilometers out, five, six kilometers out. And now you've got a spike that's starting to move its way up behind them. So it's a frontal assault, a pincer movement, and a double envelopment all in one.

#Pascal

It's absolutely horrible for the poor guys caught in there, but maybe the very last thing that I want to check with you before I let you go—it's like, I've had on my channel recently Professor Volodymyr

Brovkin, and he was pitching an interesting interpretation of what is currently happening to Russia, and especially Russia's... You know, a lot of us are trying to make sense of why Russia is not reacting more forcefully. Why is it not, like, hitting Europe and whatnot? I mean, all of this is being planned over there and so on. And Brovkin actually was putting out the theory that overall Russia is learning how to deal with drones. It's like, hide your strength, bide your time. So kind of, OK, let it happen—learn how to take out the drones, learn how to deal with this stuff that the Euro-NATO-Atlantic alliance can throw at you. And if push actually does come to shove, be at your fiercest and your most prepared. Do you think that there's anything behind that interpretation?

#Stas Krapivnik

No, I mean, of course, Russia's learning how to destroy the drones. You know, warfare is a constant offense-defense movement, so it's a constant race. That's one. And Russia's playing that race just like everybody else. Two, of course, Russia is building up for the big war that apparently Europe really, really, really, really wants. Look, Russia's manufacturing between 1,200 and 1,500 new tanks every single year for the last three years—T-90 prototypes with the latest models. And they're upgrading old tanks also, like the T-72. They're changing the turret on them. And part of it itself is based—the T-90 is based off the T-72 model, just with an upgraded, different turret, but the chassis is the same.

So you don't see those tanks on a battlefield. Those are being prepared and put away for the big fight. The question right now, quite literally, for any big conventional fight, is how soon will the microwave radiation EMP weapon systems show up on the battlefield? Do you think they'll come up with EMPs? Oh, absolutely, absolutely. That's the only way to get rid of it. The problem with drones, you know, for example, lasers—lasers are a great system against a drone. Five-kilometer range, half a second, it melts right through that plastic drone. Nothing you can do about it.

#Pascal

But an EMP is going to fry everything. If an EMP can fry a hard drive that's not connected, that's not even active, it's going to just fry everything.

#Stas Krapivnik

Well, it fries in a directional area, and that's what you need. Because a laser can take out a drone, and if it takes two seconds for it to recharge and relocate to a different target, you're servicing a single target. All these weapons have served single targets. If you've got 30, 40 drones in a very wide dispersal pattern coming in at that laser station, it's done. You're never going to get them all, because having to refocus, having to recharge, and you're servicing only one target at a time, those cheap drones are going to destroy a very expensive system. You need something that's area suppression. This is area suppression. Sure, yeah, everything that's electronic in that zone that's not armored up and protected.

You know, if it's in a basement, it would probably be okay. You can put lead lining. Problem is, this lead's heavy, and you can line the crap out of that drone, but then what do you do? You know, that's a little problem right there. One of the more innovative methods of fighting drones that have come out recently is spray cans of paint. What? Really? Yeah, oh yeah, really. Easy—drone's coming at you, you start spraying in the air. I mean, this is last-line desperate, but it works. And then you get the hell out of that direction. One, it of course clogs—it covers up the camera because you get this aerosol cloud. The paint gets in on the little motors and it clogs them up. Yeah. Okay. Yeah. For the quadcopters.

Uh, so that can't save somebody, but man, that's one where you gotta have pretty good nerves. Uh, two, you gotta have the right air conditions. You know, it's not a wind that's just going to disperse it. Uh, and two, you're quite literally—this is last line of defense. A drone is 10 meters and closing, and you're kind of going, ah, shit. Uh, you know, you pull out your can and you start spraying, and it's been used and it works, but this is not an optimal solution. Your optimal solution is to take out the drone when it's about three kilometers from you, not ten meters from you or three meters from you. So you need an area effect, and that's going to be the determining factor. The drones are never going to go away. But the drones right now are the machine gun of 1914, 1915.

#Pascal

So, long story short, we have ground warfare, which is still artillery-based, but then we have drone warfare. And right now, it looks like the side that's going to do a better job at innovating and intercepting is probably going to win that one.

#Stas Krapivnik

Oh, of course. But then again, there are also production factors involved. And again, Russia can outproduce everybody, except maybe the Chinese. And once the front really starts moving, once you can break through—and Russia could—it could swallow the losses. The government hasn't made that decision yet. If you throw enough tanks and armor into the area, you'll break through, especially right now considering how thin the Ukrainian lines are. Once the front is actually rolling, you'll see a lot fewer drones because those drone operators have to get pretty close up front when they're launching their drones.

It's one thing when it's a pretty steady front. It's maybe moving 100 meters a day, maybe not. Maybe it's a breakthrough—it's 200 meters in a day. It's a pretty steady front. It's a whole different thing if it's moving 10, 15 kilometers in a day. It's a lot harder to get out there carrying 10 drones on your back, trying to launch these drones against tanks when the front's moving and there's enemy infantry and tanks all over the place. So that changes the mathematics quite a bit.

#Pascal

It does, it does. We'll see. Drone warfare is also moving very, very quickly. And the scariest thing is, of course, the kind of AI innovation where you don't need an operator anymore. But I hate that kind of Skynet future that we're approaching. And before we go there, I want to wind down our discussion because it is Sunday and you're supposed to go and have dinner, my friend. So, people who want to find you, they should go to Mr. Slavic Man—Slavic with a K. Yeah.

#Stas Krapivnik

We're all one word on YouTube, at Stanis Kripivnik. We couldn't fit the whole name in. Couldn't fit the whole name in when I was setting up for X. And yes, by the way, if anybody asks, I did use a VPN to set up X. They'd say, "Oh, it's an island. You're from Ireland." No, that's what the VPN was. It's a super technological VPN—virtual private network.

#Pascal

It's nice to go to Ireland via VPN. It's even nice to go and visit there and have a whiskey. But I will put all of your social media into the description box below. People should go and find you there. Your show always gives a lot of insights and a lot of on-the-ground information, so I recommend it to everybody. Anything to add?

#Stas Krapivnik

Only one thing, and I'm sorry, this is going to be a downer. Think of everything that's happening on the battlefield right now, and that's all going to come home when this is over because the genie right now is out of the box. There are systems made for defending point-blank that are coming online, which are these masks that have radar systems and a light machine gun to take out drones if they're coming to a target. But this is something that, as a terrorist weapon, is a nightmare.

#Pascal

Yeah.

#Stas Krapivnik

And it's not going to go away. So it's only going to... I mean, this is something any mob boss, any terrorist organization—you know, put up a drone, drop a grenade on somebody's car. This is something that we're all going to have to live with now. One thing defending somebody's...

#Pascal

Good thing the West is not propping up and supporting all of those Nazis in Western Ukraine, right? Good thing that those people will never be the bad guys and would never, ever have the idea of turning their attention to Poland and whatnot. Good thing, right?

#Stas Krapivnik

Yeah. And then we have Ballantyre that wants to do pre-crime. You've seen *Minority Report*? I did. They want to do pre-crime.

#Pascal

We have chat control now, so we're getting there in Europe. I mean, two or three more steps, give it a couple of years, and we don't even need pre-crime. We just put everybody in prison by default anyway.

#Stas Krapivnik

There are three people being sued right now. Well, I mean, sued. They're in court right now, and they're facing up to five years in jail in Germany for reposting articles from RT.

#Pascal

Right, right. And that is happening too. And we have Hussein Dogru, who is robbed of his livelihood—500 euros a month—for not committing a crime. Never committed a crime. It isn't punishable, just sanctioned because the foreign policy whizzes don't like to see the legal behavior he does. So, and that's it.

#Stas Krapivnik

And his mother is now sanctioned too. Oh yeah, his elderly mother.

#Pascal

The free world for you, everybody—the free world is as free as the people in Brussels decide they want to have it. It's like you're free to do as they say.

#Stas Krapivnik

So that's the free world of the European Union. In the old days, if you were excommunicated from your village or your church, whatever... they really wanted you to leave. You're excommunicated. Go. Go away. We don't want you here. No, no, no, no, no, no, no. You're excommunicated. We want you to stay here and starve to death in front of everybody so everybody can watch you.

#Pascal

We have that in Europe. In German, you call it Vogelfrei. It's like you're free to be killed. You're outside the law, a literal outlaw. You can be killed at any point in time. It's fine. You can starve to death. It's okay. We are always coming back to good old ideas. Steph, you always manage to screw up my Sunday evenings. Thank you.

#Stas Krapivnik

We should move this to Saturday, so we have Sunday at least to recover mentally.

#Pascal

Everybody, go and subscribe to Stas Krapivnik. Stas, thank you so much for your time today.

#Stas Krapivnik

Thank you.