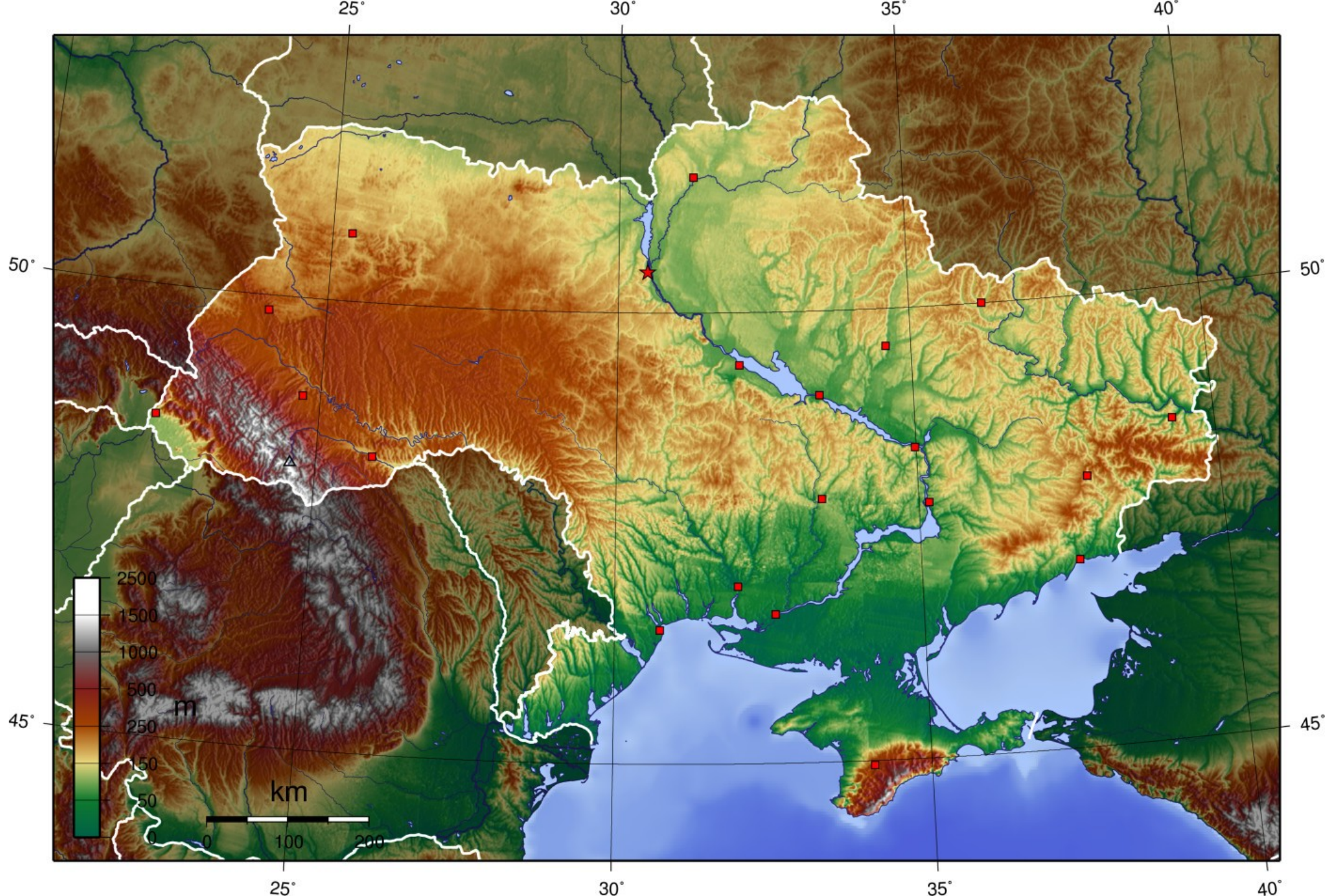


Ukraine – Update

January 18th 2023

George Gamota



Controlled by or allied to Russia



Before Feb. 24
invasion

CRIMEA

Recap

- August 24, 1991 Ukraine declares independence
- December 1, 1991 independence referendum
 - 92% overall vote for independence, including
 - 56% in Crimea voted for independence
- December 26, 1991 Break up of Soviet Union
- November 2004 - January 2005 Orange Revolution
- November 21, 2013 - February 2014 Maidan – Revolution of Dignity
 - February 27, 2014 Russia sends “Little Green Men” to take over Crimea
 - April 6, 2014 Russian backed separatists take over parts of Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts including major cities
 - War continues, 10,000 Ukrainians die fighting the separatists? Russians between 2014 & 2022.
- February 24 2022 Russians & Russian backed separatists invade Ukraine & Russia recognizes Luhansk and Donetsk as separate states.

Recap

- Political chronology
 - Constitutional Republic
 - Parliament (unicameral) – “Verkhovna Rada”
 - Seven presidents
 - Kravchuk – one 5 year term
 - Kuchma – two 5 year terms
 - Yushchenko* - one 5 year term
 - Yanukovych** - four years before deposition
 - Poroshenko - one 5 year term
 - Zelensky – serving 4th year

* Yushchenko won a rerun after Orange revolution

** Yanukovych was deposed after Revolution of Dignity

February 24th 2022 – Russia invades

- Russian pretext
 - Denazify Ukrainian government
 - Protect Russian speakers from discrimination
 - Protect Donbas separatist regions which Russia declared as “sovereign”
 - Prevent Ukraine joining NATO
 - Prevent Ukraine joining European Union
 - Reclaim “Russian” lands conquered by Peter the Great
 - Ukraine is not truly a sovereign country but created by the West
 - As a backup, Putin publishes a 5,000 word historical document as proof
 - Blames Lenin and Stalin for creating a separate country from “Little Russia”
 - Blames Khrushchev for giving Crimea to Ukraine

Videos

- The Hidden Battle that Saved Ukraine
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hh9xT9d6SJU>
- War in Ukraine with Michael Clarke
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqUI0sGYiG4>

Optional videos

- The Kherson Campaign
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxR1jmZTLew>
- The Making of Modern Ukraine – Yale University (22 lectures) online course
 - <https://online.yale.edu/courses/making-modern-ukraine>

What's Next

- Another attempt to capture Kyiv – sometime in February – March
 - If this fails, major repercussions in Russia
- Ukrainian southern counterattack – when ground is frozen
 - Liberate Melitopol
 - Cut land route to Crimea
- Ukrainian army continues push to liberate more of the Donbas
- Western support critical for next 6-9 months

Retake Melitopol

