

US Believes Ukraine Can Retake Crimea, But May Provoke Nuclear Escalation

Joe Biden Administration officials judge an offensive to retake the peninsula would cross Moscow's "red lines."

By [Kyle Anzalone](#)

Global Research, December 20, 2022

[Antiwar.com](#) 16 December 2022

Region: [Europe](#), [Russia and FSU](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

In-depth Report: [UKRAINE REPORT](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author's name.

To receive Global Research's Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

The White House believes Ukraine's military could retake the Crimean Peninsula from Russia. However, officials say the offensive may cross Moscow's "red lines" and prompt a nuclear strike.

The Biden administration has radically changed its view of Kiev's military since Russia invaded nearly ten months ago. The Ukrainians "continue to shock the world with how well they're performing on the battlefield," an unnamed official said.

The White House now assesses that the Ukrainian armed forces are capable of retaking Crimea, with [NBC News reporting](#) that statements to that effect were made to lawmakers during a Congressional hearing last month. The administration official was attempting to explain to Congress why Kiev still needs American support.

The Crimean Peninsula was a region of Ukraine before it was annexed by Russia in 2014. While a referendum of Crimean citizens [backed](#) Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision, Kiev and Washington assert the peninsula still belongs to Ukraine.

Sources reached by *NBC News* said the White House believes Putin will respond sharply to a successful Ukrainian offensive in Crimea. "Putin may react more strongly to Crimea," one official said, while a former administration staffer added "That's the red line."

The White House does not believe Ukrainian military operations in Crimea to be imminent. "A lot would have to happen militarily first" before Ukraine could begin a real offensive to retake Crimea, an official stated.

However, the Biden administration has been surprised by some of Ukraine's most advanced

military operations. Two US officials and an American defense staffer said the White House was caught off guard and frustrated after Kiev launched a series of three drone attacks strikes deep inside Russian territory.

*

Note to readers: Please click the share buttons above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

Kyle Anzalone is the opinion editor of Antiwar.com, news editor of the Libertarian Institute, and co-host of Conflicts of Interest.

The original source of this article is Antiwar.com

Copyright © Kyle Anzalone, Antiwar.com, 2022

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Kyle Anzalone](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca