

Victoria Nuland Confirms: US Supports Ukrainian Attacks on Crimea

Russia says her comments show the US is 'inciting' an escalation of the war

By [Dave DeCamp](#)

Global Research, February 21, 2023
[Antiwar.com](#) 20 February 2023

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 (desktop version)

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.

Victoria Nuland, the undersecretary of state for political affairs, [said last week that the US is "supporting" Ukrainian attacks on Crimea](#) and called Russian military installations on the peninsula "legitimate targets."

Nuland made the comments when asked about a report from *The New York Times* that was published in January and said the Biden administration was "warming" to the idea of helping Ukraine attack Russia despite the risk of escalation.

"Russia has turned Crimea into a massive military installation ... those are legitimate targets, Ukraine is hitting them, and we are supporting that," Nuland [told the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#), a Washington DC-based think tank.

Nuland also expressed support for the "demilitarization" of Crimea.

"No matter what the Ukrainians decide about Crimea in terms of where they choose to fight, etcetera, Ukraine is not going to be safe unless Crimea is at a minimum — at a minimum — demilitarized," she said.

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova slammed Nuland's comments, [saying she was inciting an escalation of the war](#).

"Now the American warmongers have gone even further: they are inciting the Kiev regime to further escalate, to bring the war to the territory of our country. Just like that, with direct strikes," Zakharova said.

Nuland's comments came a day after Secretary of State Antony Blinken acknowledged [that a Ukrainian attempt at retaking Crimea would be a "red line"](#) for Russian President Vladimir

Putin and would risk a major response from Moscow. US support for such operations would increase the risk of provoking Moscow and heighten the chances of a direct clash between NATO and Russia.

Putin has shown that he will significantly escalate the war over attacks on Crimea. Russia did not start large-scale missile strikes on Ukraine's energy infrastructure until after the truck bombing of the Kerch Bridge, [which connects Crimea to the Russian mainland](#).

While Ukraine hasn't been in a position where it can launch an offensive against Crimea, the Biden administration has made clear throughout the conflict that it wouldn't discourage Kyiv from attacking the peninsula.

Back in the summer of 2022, when the US first provided the HIMARS rocket systems to Ukraine, the administration sought assurances that the weapons wouldn't be used to target Russian territory. When asked by Antiwar.com if that restriction applied to Crimea, [a State Department spokesperson replied, "Crimea is Ukraine."](#)

Russia has controlled Crimea since 2014, but neither the US nor Kyiv recognize the peninsula as Russian territory. The people of Crimea voted to join Russia following a [US-backed coup in Kyiv](#), which Nuland played an instrumental role in, and polling since 2014 has shown that [they are still happy with the change](#).

*

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.

Dave DeCamp is the news editor of Antiwar.com, follow him on Twitter @decampdave.

Featured image is from The Unz Review

The original source of this article is [Antiwar.com](#)

Copyright © [Dave DeCamp](#), [Antiwar.com](#), 2023

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

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Dave DeCamp](#)

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 as 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