

# Vladimir Putin Blames West for Starting War in Ukraine

## He Suspends Participation in Key Nuclear Treaty

By [Olive Enokido-Lineham](#)

Global Research, February 21, 2023

[Radio Exe](#)

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.

\*\*\*

*Vladimir Putin has blamed the West for starting the war in Ukraine and claimed Russia responded with force "in order to stop it".*

*In a speech describing his aims as the first anniversary of the conflict nears, the Russian president said Ukraine was in talks with the West about weapons before Russia invaded its neighbour on 24 February last year.*

### Putin admits 'very difficult time for Russia' - Ukraine war latest

Mr Putin also announced that Russia was suspending its participation in a key nuclear treaty with the US which limits the two sides' strategic nuclear arsenals.

"I would like to repeat, they started the war and we used force in order to stop it," he said in his state of the nation address on Tuesday.

The Russian leader said Kyiv held talks with the West about weapons supplies before the "special military operation", as Moscow calls it, began.

### 'Playing a dirty game'

"I would like to emphasise when Russia tried to find a peaceful solution they were playing with the lives of people and they were playing a dirty game," he said.

Mr Putin said Russia decided to "protect its people and history" by conducting a "special military operation step-by-step" - as he warned that Moscow will "continue to resolve the objectives that are before us".

His speech came a day after US President Joe Biden made his first visit to Ukraine since the

Russian invasion, as Washington pledged \$500m worth of military aid to Kyiv.

Mr Putin announced that Russia was suspending its participation in the New START treaty with the US, which caps the number of strategic nuclear warheads that the US and Russia can deploy.

Russia has the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world, with close to 6,000 warheads, according to experts.

Mr Putin said Russia was not fully withdrawing from the treaty and said Moscow must stand ready to resume nuclear weapons tests if the US does so.

### West 'released genie from the bottle'

The Russian president took aim at the West and said they "released the genie from the bottle" in the 10 years prior to the war, by starting others.

He claimed Western countries were painting Russia as an enemy of the state to divert attention from the corruption and socio-economic problems in their own countries.

On weapons, Mr Putin also claimed the West was "in negotiations" over the "supply of heavy military equipment and planes and anti-aircraft missile systems" before the operation began.

While Russian forces have suffered three major battlefield reversals since the war began, it still controls around one-fifth of Ukraine.

In his wide-ranging speech, the Russian president also claimed millions of people in the West are being "led to a real spiritual catastrophe", as he criticised the "Anglican Church's plan to consider the idea of a gender-neutral God".

### West 'punishment themselves with sanctions'

The Russian president accused the West of collapsing its own energy sectors by sanctioning Russian-linked companies and individuals.

"All sanctions are just a means, but the objective is to force our citizens to suffer - this is their humanistic approach," he said.

He added that they have "not been successful" and that the government has spent 3bn roubles on measures to stabilise the Russian economy.

On Monday, Mr Biden added that alongside additional military aid for Ukraine, the US would announce additional sanctions against Russian elites.

Mr Biden said the Russian president was "dead wrong" to think the West's support for Ukraine would not last as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the talks as "fruitful".

\*

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.

*Featured image is from The Cradle*

The original source of this article is [Radio Exe](#)  
Copyright © [Olive Enokido-Lineham](#), [Radio Exe](#), 2023

---

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

[\*\*Become a Member of Global Research\*\*](#)

Articles by: [Olive Enokido-  
Lineham](#)

**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](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)  
[www.globalresearch.ca](http://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](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)