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The Ukraine Security Assessment Report 2014 -
"Which are the actors in the actual Ukrainian scenario
according to Putin's political moves?"

The Crisis in Ukraine
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Country: UKRAINE

UKRAINE WAITING FOR MAY 9TH

(Updated May 5th, 2014)



Executive summary

According to open-source intelligence (OSINT), the situation in Ukraine and the subsequent Putin's choices are waiting for one day: May 9th. What makes this day important is that this day, every year, is eagerly awaited by all the Eastern European countries and Russia. It is a symbolic day, as symbolic as President Vladimir Putin's power management. This year, added to the celebration for the "Great Victory", there is the opportunity for Putin to go down in history. The Russian president's great opportunity is the conquest of the Crimea neighboring regions to Transnistria. The design of new ethnic and territorial annexation to Russia has been prepared for many years, eased by the last Ukrainian presidencies, openly sympathetic to

Moscow. The same armed forces, the special units of Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) which have been trained by Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) has all the information to control the city's infrastructure, such as maps of the government buildings, those easily conquered by pro-Russians armed groups. It is important to note that the presence of other intelligence agencies are heavily felt on the ground collecting RTI (Real Time Information) at the same time. As much as 300 or more CI operators from different agencies could be on the ground at the moment as a pre-May 9th, 2014 precaution or derogative, which can only mean playing the Cold War game all over again.

To undermine Putin's project there are nationalists, sustained by the former Ukrainian rebels who fought the war in Chechnya against the Russians and part of the Red Army veterans who fought in Afghanistan. To these some pro-Yanukovich groups must be added; mercenaries paid by the former president, coming from the ranks of former military personnel sent to Afghanistan and never really part of the Ukrainian society and therefore at the mercy of whoever pays them the most and who can guarantee a future for their families. They are people between 40 and 60 years of age, well trained (as demonstrated by the numerous video and photographic evidence available on the internet) and with a great desire for redemption. We emphasize that they do not respond to Putin but to Yanukovich. They rely on the former president, now the "guarded guest" of Russia, as he is a native of those regions. The history of Yanukovich deserves a separate mention: he is a criminal with two convictions for armed robbery suddenly canceled in conjunction with his political rise, corresponding to a possible "affiliation" to the Soviet Union and now the Russian security apparatus. He is not sympathetic to Putin, but at the moment he is the classic lesser evil. Putin, however, holds another wildcard to treat, in the event of failure of the military option with the EU and NATO: the request for presidential elections invalidation in Ukraine. In recent days, in fact, we have witnessed the withdrawal of all the presidential candidates from the South East of Ukraine. If things go badly for Russian interests, Putin could ask for the invalidation of the election because there are no pro-Russian candidates at the election.

PREAMBLE

This report is focused on some primary important factors, neglected until now, to understand the Ukrainian updated context. It answers to only one question:

Which are the actors in the actual Ukrainian scenario according to Putin's political moves?

NATIONALISM. According to the AGC sources, at Maidan Square, among the demonstrators there were about 30% of nationalists and neo-fascists from all over Ukraine. *Who were they?* The Ukrainian right movement exists since the 1930's; it has its greatest exponent - Mr. Andriyovych Stepan Bandera. His group was known as the **Ukrainian Insurgent Army** (Ukr.: *Armiya Povstanska*, UPA); UPA was formally the armed wing of the OUN (Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists). The group was closed in 1949. UPA fought with the Germans against the Russians. Bandera, born in 1909 and killed in 1959, has fought against the Poles. He proclaimed his allegiance with the Germans only to proclaim the independence of Ukraine. This man, defined by the Russians as "a fascist" (a word that in the



Ukrainian and Russian languages is considered derogatory) has always fought for a Ukraine, free and independent from Russia. After him, another important figure emerged, Yaroslav Stetsko, until 1986, the year of his death. After his death (in exile), his wife, Stetsko Slava, carried forward the movement in Ukraine. Her pupils were Victor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko.

Currently Banderites, Bandera's "spiritual" heirs, are spread over from seven to ten groups throughout the region. They want an independent and free Ukraine from both Europe and Russia. They stand for the pro-Ukrainian and not the Russian language (Note: Russian language was compulsory until the end of the 1990's in Ukraine); for a return to the origins and to traditional Cossack dress outfits, including the traditional hair cutting for men: *a long tuft and the rest of the head shaved*. The characteristic of these groups is one: every group has an armed and trained wing as their "*political father*" had taught.

The names of the most famous groups are:

- **Svoboda** ,
- **Right Party** (most numerous politically) ,
- **Right Sector Militants** (better prepared militarily), and
- **Ukraine's National Security and National Defence Committee (RNBOU)** (mostly regular Ukrainian military).



SVOBODA means Freedom. It is one of the most important neo-nationalist movements linked with other far-right groups in Europe through its membership in the Alliance of European National Movements, which includes the UK's British

National Party (BNP) and Jobbik, the neo-fascist, anti-semitic and anti- gypsy party of Hungary. The leader of Svoboda, Oleh Tyahnybok, appeared in the protests in Kiev, has a long history as an anti-semitic orator. Another relevant party figure is Yuriy Mykhalchyshyn. Today Svoboda occupies a large share of national ministries (about a quarter, including the defence). The deputy Prime Minister is a Svoboda member (the smallest and most virulent "Right Sector" holds the National Security Council chair), together with the General Prosecutor and the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, where the party has the fourth largest parliamentary group. Among his MPs is the founder of "Joseph Goebbels Political Research Centre", which defines the Holocaust as a brilliant period in the history of mankind.



RIGHT SECTOR: The leader is Artem Skoropadskyi. The movement is young and has developed after Maidan Square events. But the leader of the movement, Skoropadskyi confessed that:

*"Now we can say that the influence and popularity of the "Right Sector". The Right Sector has grown and unfortunately many people unhappy with the current political situation are trying to hide behind the name of the organization. Unfortunately, in recent years under the pretext of this "work" many armed groups and ordinary citizens defined themselves as member of the **Right Sector** but no one controls them. And, unfortunately, the Right Sector physically cannot control all citizens and small organizations that joined the popular protest. All define themselves as Right Sector. In some regions activists have seized prosecutors. But they will not seize anything. Unfortunately we are not able to control everything and we cannot leave Kiev to go seeing what they're up to outside the region. "*

ANARCHISTS: There are also anarchists who broke for an independent Ukraine, they are linked in the Ukraine Antifascist Union but they are not loved by the Russians or by the nationalists.

THE BATTLE OF THE VETERANS. According to AGC's Intelligence sources and monitoring of the Ukrainian social media, the training in the guerrilla warfare to the pro-Russian and nationalist groups is provided by the "veterans", the fighters of the war in Afghanistan and those of the war in Chechnya. While the former are regular army veterans, the latter are ex-Ukrainian fighters among the Chechens rebel groups. Generally they are men between 40 and 60 years old and as described by AGC's confidential sources "Are not perfectly balanced, not integrated into society and with only one thing in mind: war." Chechens veterans mostly wear the political

mask of Right Sector and Svoboda, whilst the Afghanistan veterans (**former Red Army regulars**) are divided between pro-Russian nationalists and armed gangs loyal to former President Viktor Fedorovych Yanukovych. According to confidential AGC sources, in Yanukovych's history, before his political career, he was condemned for armed robbery and two convictions. These were cancelled since, in prison, he became a collaborator of the KGB, and later of the FSB). According to the same sources, the former president and his Clan (all natives of the Donetsk, Zaporizhia, and Luhansk regions) are paying groups of Afghanistan veterans to create confusion and to fight against the nationalists. *Their goal is to create confusion and then make sure that the territory from Russia to Transnistria passes under the control of Russia.* To give some examples, as proof of this, the self-proclaimed governor of Slovyansk, Mr. Vyachislav Ponomaryov, is a **former Afghanistan veteran**. Moreover, in Slovyansk, **many hostages** (a fairly common practice, as the stranger is seen as a spy) **were found dead**, and the autopsy showed that they had been tortured, left to die after having opened the abdomen alive, a typical torture that Afghan women were applying to the Russian military, which they learned in that scenario.

In Maidan Square, these former combatants have shown to protect the public after pro-Russian snipers, managed by the Russian intelligence (intelligence sources, confirmed by social media, and from the Yanukovich's security chief's resignation) killed 100 people. The ex-combatants went to the streets and vowed that they would watch on every woman and child or young man, until the evacuation of the square itself.

THE RUSSIAN SECRET SERVICES

According to confidential sources, during the time before the recent events, thanks to the collaboration of the last two presidents of Ukraine, the **Moscow security apparatus had access to sensitive data**, such as those on critical infrastructure. Moreover the same apex of the Ukrainian SBU comes from the Soviet first and then Russian intelligence ranks. That's why, for the pro-Russian groups, it is so easy to enter cities and conquer every single official building. According to AGC's local sources, the pro-Russians, who have gathered in Maidan Square and have played their plans, have succeeded with the cooperation of the Russian secret services, the effective weapons, maps, and logistic support providers. Almost all pro-Russians are of the Crimea peninsula. **This region which hosts 10,000 Russian military forces in the fortress and naval base of Sevastopol**, has always welcomed the retired military and their families. Since the USSR implosion, a large number of military personnel, both naval and aviation, have



to "retire" because "not essential" to the new regime in Moscow. From Ukrainian social media, and from an opinion widely spread in the Ukrainian society, from the fall of the USSR, Vladimir Putin has never abandoned plans to recreate the Great Mother Russia, which also includes Ukraine, Belarus, and parts of Hungary and of Romania. To reach this goal, in Ukraine, Putin has always tried to find the support of local politicians just to have the control of the situation, or, if necessary, to carry out a coup, at the appropriate time. According to Intelligence sources, the arrival of Mikhail Borisovich Khodorkovsky in Ukraine, is nothing more than **a signal of Moscow**: Khodorkovsky, who was convicted twice and then "pardoned" is sent as an emissary of Putin, sent there to check the developments in the situation. In Putin's ambitions, therefore, there would be that strip of land to the South East of the country which also includes the city of Mykolaiv, home of the great shipyards, which are essential for the Russian Navy that now came **back to life** after decades of apparent death (the rebirth of the Mediterranean Russian Fleet). These shipyards should fall under the control of Mother Russia, in order to develop new plans without prying eyes. **This is precisely why the riots continue in Odessa**, Mariupol and soon will begin in the city of Berdyans'k.



The goal is to get to deal with the authorities in Kiev and with the EU and NATO and to annex these territories as well as with the Crimea.

CRIMEA

According to AGC sources and to what appears monitoring Ukrainians' and Russians' social media, Crimea, today, has become home to a large deployment of fighters jet, long-range bombers, army troops and navy ships. It would be a great FOB (Forward Advanced Base) for sorting military contingents to and from the areas "at conflict risk". The first sensitive target conquered by Russia in Crimea was in fact the airport. After this seizure, radars were blinded to allow for landing of military aircrafts. With airplanes, of course, also arms arrived.

PUTIN'S BIG DREAM AND HIS HEART'S AND MIND'S POLITICAL MOVES

The great Putin dream, politically speaking, is to seize again Kiev, as the city is the cradle of the Russian civilization. It is the place where, in the tenth century, the

Duchy of Kiev was born. Putin is reserving a plan B for the invasion if the negotiations with EU and NATO should not go ahead: the invalidation of the presidential election. All candidates coming from the South East of the country are withdrawing from the election, and this will give Putin the chance to say that these elections are not valid because they lack the representatives of the pro-Russians, and therefore they do not respect all ethnic components of Ukraine. In essence, it will tend to invalidate the election.



It has to be considered as political and relevant fact that the inhabitants of the areas of Kryvyi Rih, Donetsk, and Luhansk, are descendants of Russians, who arrived in these regions of Ukraine on "invitation" of Mother Russia after the Second World War. These Russians were going to enter into this land, sparsely populated and in which there were not enough graduate professionals because they died in the events of the war. This area needed chemical experts, metal technicians, mining engineers, etc. All these categories left the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic (RSSR), to "revive" Ukraine. These people are therefore not only politically pro-Russian, but they are descendants of Russian families. Putin knows this and has built on this basis the opportunity to win their hearts and minds relying on the "communion" of the interests of the Slavic people, as already done in the Soviet and Imperial history. The Russian security network apparatus **uses social networks, the classic television or radio, to win this battle.** In practice, a real cultural war has been declared, which moves quickly on social media. To close the circle, there are the errors of Yulia Tymoshenko. During the years when she was in power, Tymoshenko and Putin signed a gas price deal. The agreement was quite unfavourable to Ukraine. The Ukrainian president motivated the choice asserting that in this way the huge debt accumulated with Russia would be repaid. The result was that the Ukrainian chemical and steel industries went into crisis and the historic industries of Ukraine were bought by Russian entrepreneurs, linked in different ways to the central power in Moscow. These are the same people who were scared by the events of Maidan. They are "naturally" sided with Putin, and know they can rely on and by their money they subsidize the irregular troops: **"Putin's tourists" and "Putin's human shields."**

TOURISTS and HUMAN SHIELDS.

According to AGC sources and to a social and local media monitoring, in Kryvyi Rih, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kramatorsk, Slovyansk arrived "Putin's tourists": young people between ages of 18 and 40 years, invited and paid to travel to the above mentioned cities to demonstrate in favour of Russia. They are easily recognizable because they

do not know the place names as locals do. This fact has created some dramatic and violent episodes.

From this derives the Ukrainian government decision to prevent males, from 18 to 60 years old, at first to land in Ukraine, then to prohibit the passage by land vehicles. In fact, Kiev government is still trying to finalize arrangements for the bus stops at national borders.



The **"human shields"** are women and children, who live in regions/cities, above mentioned, who are paid the equivalent of 40 Euros per person to stand between the Ukrainian tanks and the pro-Russian militias. The price increases if they decide to do activities to protect the pro-Russian: as checking the arrival of the Ukrainian troops, their numbers, to take disruptive actions, etc. They are paid, in this case, up to 100 euro per day.

CYBER-WARFARE.

The Ukraine-Russian epidemic has opened a whole new can of worms for data and IPO theft. It is estimated that Russia's elite Cyber Unit from the former KGB has infiltrated most of the infrastructure of the Ukraine and have full access to Skype and almost all messages sent internally and to external European sources. Thus the **"EYE of Horus"** is certainly the key to any cyber-attack that could have huge financial implications within Ukraine and could potentially affect the US and the EU. Several banks were under cyber-attacks in the last few weeks, yet few have reported any losses, however sources indicate that huge losses have occurred in several sectors such as technology and research.

The use of cyber warfare has been long used by Russia to spy on Ukraine and this might be just the beginning of the use and manipulation of data. The procurement and securing of data in Ukraine will be of much value to other countries and it is predicted that these data sources might not be accessible to any new government elected in Ukraine if not pro-Russian based. The possibility of such cyber-attacks is eminent and ECIPS has warned that the use of the cyber weapons to gain full control of Ukraine by Russia should not be undermined at all cost.

It is expected that the cyber warfare will extend to the oil interests.

YANUKOVYCH vs PUTIN.

According to Intelligence sources and to media analysis, the two men have never been particularly linked. Putin is the son of the USSR, a man who dreams of a return to Russia's "imperial and imperialist" power, a power-hungry politician who needs to achieve his objectives, using the same traditions and symbols of the Great Mother

Russia. He is a politician who seeks a way “to stay in history”, and, for this reason, the conquest of the Crimea is not really enough.

Yanukovych is little more than a gangster, converted by the KGB to a loyal Russian operative. Among his mistakes there is the presence of well-known criminals, linked to him, in power positions, and this, according to Putin, is a grave sin, a cancer in the breast of his great dream. Now Yanukovych is Putin's “guest” in Russia, but in Ukraine there are his mercenaries who are out of control. Anyone who wants to arm themselves, for whatever reason, is enlisted by the Yanukovych clan and is paid, but once “worn the mask” they do not only follow orders but also satisfy their personal criminals desires, as evidenced by the violence unrelated to the political revolt registered by the local media and made by members of the “pro-Russian groups.” This fringe is completely out of control, and this worries Moscow, as the same Putin has admitted. Obviously, it is quite impossible that Moscow will call for help from the West and from NATO and EU, but at the moment a peacekeeping force in the area could be accepted because it could help to calm down the situation, saving Russia and Putin’s face and reputation.

Currently for Russia Yanukovych remains the legitimate president and Moscow is defending him against the attacks of the current government, which wants his return back home for trial, and not just for the facts of Maidan Square.

Now every single move is waiting for May 9th: **The Victory Day.**

Special Notes:

The names of the most famous groups are :

- Svoboda , that merged : C14 , Students Freedom
- Right Sector , that merged : Patriots of Ukraine , Tridents , National Assembly , UNA-UNSO , White Hammer , Brotherhood , Hooligans