



Here are two questions, which you Ukraine supporters will doubtless be able to answer:

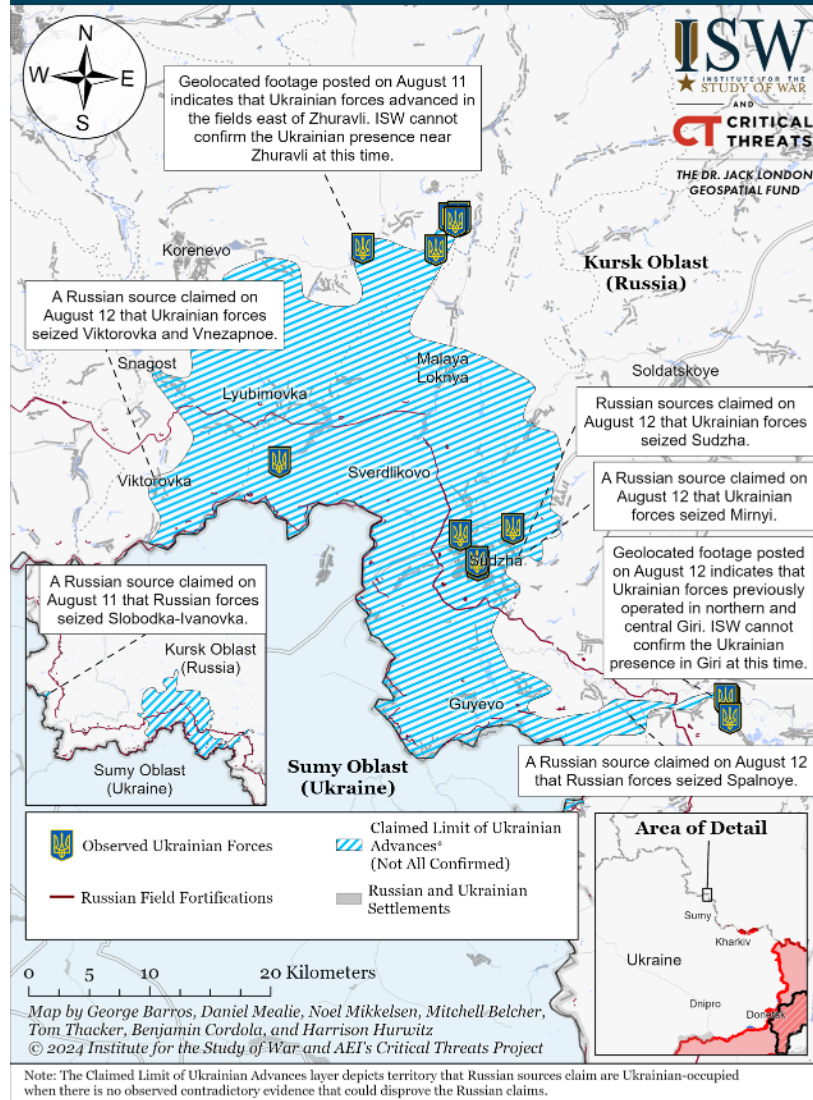
- 1) How many nuclear powers have ever been invaded?
- 2) When was Russia last invaded?

Until one week ago, the answers would have been "none" and "1941". But Ukraine's incursion into the Russian regions of Kursk and Belgorod has dramatically changed all that. After two years of helplessly watching their fellow citizens in Sumy and Kharkiv being pummeled by artillery shells, bombs and missiles from just over the border, Kyiv said enough and sent its forces across the line. Now, Ukraine is said to have taken nearly a thousand square kilometers of Russian territory and to control some 28 towns and villages. Over 130,000 Russians civilians have been evacuated from these regions, and hundreds of prisoners are reported to have been captured by Kyiv's forces. It is no exaggeration to say that this is the most surprising and imaginative Ukrainian military action since the 2022 counter-offensive that retook Kharkiv oblast. Like the Kursk attack, that action was led by General Syrsky who today is the Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Now before I get too breathless, this could all fall apart very quickly, Although Putin has three times changed the commander in charge of retaking Kursk and Belgorod, eventually Moscow will make progress. But even if Ukrainian forces are pushed back across their border, they will have accomplished some very important things, to wit:

- * They've shown that yet another of Putin's much-vaunted red lines could be crossed without any serious price being paid. This makes the 'strategic genius' appear weak and ineffectual.
- * Ukrainian morale has been massively boosted while Russia's has been damaged. I have seen several videos of Russian civilians expressing dismay that their own government could have left them so exposed.

Ukrainian Incursion into Kursk Oblast as of August 12, 2024, 3:00 PM ET



- * Russia's military competence is once more in question. The fact that there were no serious border fortifications to deter thousands of Ukrainian troops from entering is shocking.
- * It has proven to Ukraine's overly cautious supporters in Washington and Berlin that Kyiv can still fight and win. A bi-partisan delegation led by US Senators Lindsey Graham and Richard Blumenthal visited President Zelensky yesterday and called the offensive 'bold and brilliant'.

Slava Ukraini!

Chris

www.inthetrenchesukraine.org