Ukraine — war with Russia

Territory, losses, international support and diplomacy · September 18, 2026

Russia’s full-scale invasion remains a war of territorial attrition, long-range strikes and international support. September estimates put Russian control at roughly one-fifth of Ukraine, including areas occupied before February 2022. Heavy losses on both sides and attacks on civilians continue. The figures below use explicit dates because battlefield estimates, aid commitments and actual deliveries measure different things.

Sources: [1], [2], [4]

Territory and the fighting

Russia Matters’ September 16 comparison puts Russian-controlled territory at 45,199 square miles using DeepState’s September 14 map and 45,685 using ISW’s September 15 map: approximately 19–20% of Ukraine, including Crimea and earlier occupations. Net control gained since February 24, 2022 is about 28,223–29,060 square miles, roughly 12% of Ukraine.

The same trackers show net Russian gains of 58 and 27 square miles over their respective latest four-week periods. Their methods and treatment of contested areas differ. These are dated estimates of control, not recognized changes in sovereignty. The map’s Ukraine outline marks the country boundary; it is not a surveyed frontline.

Ukraine’s long-range strikes have reached Russian energy, logistics and defense targets. They impose costs but have not by themselves stopped Russia’s war effort.

Sources: [1], [2]

Military losses: estimates, not confirmed totals

CSIS’s July 1, 2026 assessment covers February 2022 through June 2026. Casualties include killed, wounded and missing; deaths are a subset and must not be added again.

Side	Total casualties	Deaths
Russia	About 1.4 million	400,000–450,000
Ukraine	525,000–625,000	125,000–150,000

These are analytical estimates with substantial uncertainty. Separately, Mediazona and BBC Russian’s named-death compilation listed 248,800 Russian deaths by September 11, 2026. That documented minimum uses a different method and reporting lag; it is not a complete battlefield death count.

Sources: [2], [3]

Civilian harm

UN monitors verified 372 civilian deaths and 2,349 injuries in Ukraine during August 2026. The January–August total was 2,222 killed and 13,058 injured. Verified figures are minimums. Long-range attacks expose civilians far from the front to danger.

Sources: [4]

Who supports Ukraine — and how

European governments provide weapons, budget support and humanitarian assistance; NATO coordinates equipment, training and logistics. Kiel’s latest cited allocation period is May–June 2026. These figures are recent allocations, not whole-war totals or confirmation that every item was delivered.

Contributor	Allocation / period	Form
EU institutions	About €11bn · May–June 2026	€4.3bn military; €6.7bn financial / humanitarian
Germany / Denmark / Netherlands	€700m / €600m / €500m · May–June 2026	Military support
United Kingdom	€1.5bn · May–June 2026	Financial / humanitarian support
Sweden / Norway	€360m / €140m · May–June 2026	Financial / humanitarian support

NATO reports more than $6bn of U.S. equipment funded by allies and partners through PURL since July 2025, with deliveries underway. U.S. supply financed by other countries is distinct from a U.S. grant. NATO allies’ €70bn commitment for 2026 is a pledge. Ukraine reported receiving a €3.3bn EU-loan tranche on September 18 for missiles and drones. Do not add these overlapping measures into a single aid total.

Sources: [5], [6], [7]

Who supports Russia — and how

North Korea provides troops, artillery ammunition, missiles and other weapons. CFR’s November 2025 review reported 14,000–15,000 troops sent since autumn 2024, principally for fighting in Russia’s Kursk region. It cited South Korea’s July 2025 estimate of more than 12 million artillery shells supplied. These are dated cumulative estimates, not fresh September 2026 delivery counts.

Iran supplied Shahed drones and production technology; Russian domestic production means not every drone now used was manufactured in Iran. Belarus provided territory and logistical access. China’s commercial and dual-use supply relationships help sustain Russia’s industrial capacity. CSIS cited roughly $250bn in China–Russia trade in 2024: that is two-way trade, not a military-aid donation. The cited record does not establish a comparable total dollar value for all assistance to Russia.

Sources: [8], [9], [10]

Negotiations and the immediate outlook

September 14 reporting described Trump’s claim of progress toward an energy-strike pause. Zelensky sought specific confirmation that Russia would comply. A proposed or claimed pause is different from an implemented, verified agreement. The reviewed reporting did not establish a general ceasefire or a settlement of territory and security guarantees.

The principal questions remain whether either side can change the military balance, whether outside support can be sustained, and whether negotiations can produce enforceable security arrangements. The military, financial and diplomatic tracks should be read together.

Sources: [11]

Summation

Russia holds substantial Ukrainian territory, but recent gains remain limited relative to the scale of losses. Ukraine depends on sustained external support while expanding strikes inside Russia. Russia draws on its own production and foreign partners. A durable settlement remains unresolved in the reporting reviewed through September 18, 2026.

Sources

[1] Russia Matters — War Report Card (September 16, 2026)

[2] CSIS — Russian Blood and Treasure (July 1, 2026)

[3] Mediazona / BBC Russian — named Russian deaths (September 11, 2026)

[4] UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission — August 2026 civilian casualties

[5] Kiel Institute — Europe leads on aid, U.S. weapons remain key (August 13, 2026)

[6] NATO — relations with Ukraine, PURL and 2026 commitments

[7] Reuters — Ukraine receives €3.3bn EU-loan tranche (September 18, 2026)

[8] CFR — North Korean support for Russia (November 25, 2025)

[9] CFR — Ukraine conflict tracker and external actors

[10] CSIS — Russia’s Grinding War in Ukraine (January 27, 2026)

[11] Reuters — Ukraine seeks specifics on halting strikes (September 14, 2026)