

Russia-Ukraine War >

Putin kept Russia and the world waiting hours for a speech that never happened.

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A Ukrainian soldier in Kupiansk, where the Ukrainian military pushed Russian forces back across the Oskil River in recent days. Nicole Tung for The New York Times



By Anton Troianovski

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It felt like a possible turning point in Moscow’s seven-month war against Ukraine: President Vladimir V. Putin, with Russia reeling from losses on the battlefield, was going to make a prime-time address to the nation.

Russian state media figures breathlessly touted the upcoming speech for several hours Tuesday. Rumors swirled that he could announce some sort of escalation of the war, as he had [threatened in a news conference last week](#).

Anton Troianovski is the Moscow bureau chief for The New York Times. He was previously Moscow bureau chief of The Washington Post and spent nine years with The Wall Street Journal in Berlin and New York. [@antontroian](#)

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- Russia’s moves on referendums have echoes of Putin’s actions in Crimea in 2014.
- Amid Russia’s battlefield losses, its proxies in Ukraine push for annexation.
- As fighting intensifies in Ukraine’s east, a frontline town is cut off from the world.
- Russian lawmakers toughen penalties for soldiers as Moscow appears to signal a possible escalation.
- In occupied Ukraine, resistance to Russian rule deepens.
- Russia’s invasion casts a shadow over the U.N. General Assembly.

Better Understand the Russia-Ukraine War

- **History:** Here’s what to know about [Russia and Ukraine’s relationship](#) and [the causes behind the conflict](#).
- **On the Ground:** Russian and Ukrainian forces are using a [bevy of weapons](#) as a deadly war of attrition [grinds on in eastern Ukraine](#).
- **Outside Pressures:** Governments, [sports organizations](#) and businesses are [taking steps to punish Russia](#). Here is [a list of companies that have pulled out of the country](#).
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