



Kharkov Battles: On the Eve of the Last Fall of Kharkov

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Updated Month Day, Year.



1. On February 16th, 2024, the *Wall Street Journal* reported in its Saturday morning newspaper that “[outgunned] Ukrainian forces have withdrawn from the beleaguered eastern city of Avdiivka.” [4] The former eastern Ukrainian city, Avdiivka, suddenly became Avdeevka, a Russian controlled territory in a wide belt of contested areas spanning the width of a series of battles for ultimate control over the geopolitically significant Kharkov direction.
2. It signified the single most important advance for Russia, since the fall of Bakhmut-Artemovsk in May, 2023. It also signified the single most important development for the overall war, since Russia’s expansion of its initial invasion on February 24th, 2022.
3. In the month following the fall of Avdiivka, Russian forces advanced well beyond the lines existing before the fall of Avdiivka. The Russian news agency, *Телеканал 360*, published an article summarizing March’s losses for the Ukrainian armed forces. In the article the authors state: “Российская армия в марте

освободила пять населенных пунктов в зоне проведения специальной военной операции: Невельске, Орловку, Тоненькое, и Красное в ДНР, а также поселок Мирное в Запорожье.” The English translates as follows: “During the month of March the Russian military liberated five villages: Nevelskoye, Gorlovka, Tonen’koye, and Krasnoye in the People’s Republic of Donetsk and Mirnoye in the Zaporizhzhia region.” These are all in the Kharkov direction.[1]

4. The Kharkov direction, whose history as a centre for the manufacture of Soviet tanks pre-dates the outbreak of World War II, stands as a gateway for advancing in either direction in Ukraine. In the east the road to

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Russian army stronger than before Ukraine conflict – EU state

Moscow’s military has more soldiers now and can quickly replenish equipment losses, a Lithuanian official believes

on.rt.com/cp5a



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Moscow is paved through
Kharkov, in the west to Kiev.

Kharkov and the Russian Military

5. The most common error of thought, especially among military commentators, is a propensity to generalize a phenomenon across time. A military, for instance, is *not* a static entity as the outcome of its battles dictates the stages of its eventual development no less so than its supporting political entity.
6. In that respect, the various stages of the Russian military's development may be marked against the salient battles of Kharkov. The eventual fall of Kharkov, as part of a Russian 'Spring' offensive, shall mark its final development. It is thus expected that the qualitative differences accumulated over time from the first Kharkov battle for Avdiivka to the latest shall emerge to coalesce at a point in the finalizing development of the Russian military.
7. During Russia's expansion of its seizure of Crimea with the invasion of Ukraine, Russia

immediately laid siege to Kharkov. The siege happened nearly four days after Russia's expanded invasion with Hebrew language news agency, *תיק דבקה*, providing early insight into the battle. On February 27th, 2022, the news agency published an article entitled, "צבא רוסיה נכנס למרכז העיר חרקוב, העיר השנייה בגודלה באוקראינה. רוסיה: הצלחנו לכתר שתי ערים בדרום אוקראינה – חרסון וברדיאנסק." The article mentions how mechanized Russian armor entered the city's center. [2]

8. The article is significant for its topic's reversal less than nine months later. On September 10th, 2022, the news agency published an article entitled, "אם הצבא האוקראיני יצליח לשים מצור על הכוחות הרוסיים ליד חארקוב זו תהייה המפלה הגדולה ביותר של צבא רוסיה מאז מלחמת העולם השנייה." The topic's reversal entailed the single largest loss for the Russian army since World War II. [3]
9. The sudden reversal of fortunes is a testament to the ancient Greek pre-Socratic philosopher's famous adage about a river in flux. Heraclitus, one of the materialists whose ideas

Aristotle synthesizes in a precursor to the Hegelian method of dialects in his famous work on *Metaphysics*, wrote that “the Sun is new every day.” In Kharkov most especially, the sun from February set before the one that rose in September.

10. The state in which Russia’s military descended following the initial seizure of the city of Kharkov to its eventual loss less than nine months later marks stages in the development of Russia’s military.
11. The stages of its development are extremely complex processes, in which a number of factors contribute to its eventual fruition, spanning from one point to another. It is impossible within an article to delimit the total number of these factors, let alone describe each one in detail. There are, however, a few salient factors, whose change of state brought about the sudden reversal in Kharkov.
12. The most salient of these is Russia’s artillery. In an article published in the immediate aftermath of Ukraine’s September victory over Kharkiv, the news agency, תיק דבקה,

published an article entitled, “ראש המודיעין הצבאי האוקראיני: מול 10 עד 15 כלי ארטילריה כבדים שישנם לצבא הרוסי לצבא האוקראיני יש כלי ארטילריה אחד! התחמושת אזלה.”

The article emphasizes that Russia’s superiority in artillery compelled the Ukrainian military to seek Western aid. Although there are certainly other factors, such as the many different aspects of combined arms warfare, strategy or maneuver in which the Russians supersede the Ukrainians, the article’s emphasis on artillery, which continued to be an issue from multiple different aspects of the overall problem, is one of the earliest.

13. The fact that National Security Council spokesman, John Kirby, for instance, attributed the ultimate cause of Ukraine’s impending defeat in Avdiivka to artillery underscores the article’s



clairvoyance. In an article published the day after the fall of Avdiivka, the *Wall Street Journal* wrote: “National Security Council spokesman John Kirby on Wednesday said a lack of shells was in large part to blame for the situation in Avdiivka.”[4]

14. An even earlier article from תיק 27ב, in which the author provides five reasons to explain why the Ukrainian military cannot win the war in Ukraine, provides a stunningly acute forecast well ahead of its time. Published on July 9th, 2022, less than six months after the beginning of Russia’s expansion of its initial invasion, the article title reads: “מומחים צבאים במערב: חמש סיבות עיקריות מדוע צבא אוקראינה אינו יכול לנצח במלחמה עם רוסיה.” Although the author mentions ‘Western’ specialists, as though Westerners are more knowledgeable about military affairs, the five reasons are the author’s. The chief reason from among the five is none other than artillery. However, the formulation the author provides is nuanced beyond the ratio of Russian to Ukrainian canons. The article states: “יכולות צבא רוסיה במלחמה אלקטרונית מונעת

מצבא אוקראינה להשמיד ולהוציא מכלל פעולה את הארטילריה הכבדה הרוסית.” The Hebrew reads as follow: “The Russian military’s ability in electronic warfare to prevent Ukraine from being able to destroy or decommission heavy Russian artillery.” The author’s second formulation, whose underlying basis also relies upon Russian artillery, is as follows: “הטילים והארטילריה הכבדה הרוסית מונעים מצבא אוקראינה לרכז כוחות מספיקים כדי לפתוח בהתקפת נגד.” These two reasons, both of which are based on artillery, indicate that the most salient role in the Ukraine war is Russia’s artillery as opposed to Ukraine’s.

15. Suffice it to say that Russia’s current engagements on the more than five axes of its advance across an extremely wide front from below the Great Bend of the Dnipro in the South to the northernmost extremes of the Donetsk basin is focused exclusively on the restoration of its forlorn primacy in Kharkov together with a demonstration of its military’s latest development.

The Last Fall of Kharkov

16. The last fall of Kharkov is expected to be the outcome of

the last battle of the Ukraine war. With Ukraine's stockpiles of munitions depleted, many of its D-20 Soviet made howitzers destroyed, as per a most recent Russian strike in the Sumy region, or decommissioned, its Caesar or M777 155mm howitzers malfunctioning or misfiring or not firing at all for "a lack of shells," as Kirby states, the Ukrainian military is expected to suffer a defeat in the battle over the last fall of Kharkov.

מלחמת העולם השנייה, תיק דבקה
09.10.2022,]

[4] - [Russia Tightens Grip on East Ukraine City, *Wall Street Journal*, February 17th, 2024]

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[1] - ["Российские войска за март освободили в зоне СВО пять населенных пунктов," Телеканал 360, 04.02.2024]

[2] - [צבא רוסיה נכנס למרכז העיר חרקוב, העיר השנייה בגודלה באוקראינה. רוסיה: הצלחנו לכתר שתי ערים בדרום אוקראינה – חרסון וברדיאנסק, תיק דבקה, 02.27.2022]

[3] - [אם הצבא האוקראיני יצליח לשים מצור] על הכוחות הרוסיים ליד **חארקיב** זו תהייה המפלה הגדולה ביותר של צבא רוסיה מאז