

# Vladimir Putin's new art of war

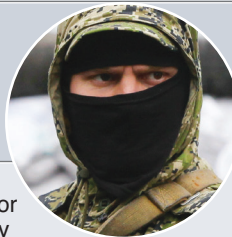
The conflict in Ukraine is described as hybrid warfare. A broad range of hostile tactics – of which traditional military force is only a part – are being choreographed to achieve political and strategic goals

**President Vladimir Putin:** Views break-up of Soviet Union as retrograde step exploited by Russia's adversaries

**Valery Gerasimov:** Chief of Russia's general staff since 2012. *"Conflict now involves the broad use of political, economic, informational, humanitarian and other non-military measures"* – 2013



**Maskirovka:** Conflict is waged by covert, deniable, masquerades, e.g. masked commandos without insignia – so-called **little green men** – and humanitarian convoys to relieve areas under siege



**Salami tactics:** Each slice of salami appears not to be worth major conflict, successive slices eventually achieve goal of regional dominance

**Tactics, Mar-Aug 2014:** Crimea annexed • Russia enters Donbas area arming Donetsk and Luhansk separatists • Russian agents act with separatists to seize administrative buildings and other facilities • Russia sends surface-to-air missile systems

**Propaganda:** Pro-Russian social media campaign • Kremlin claims that neo-Nazis are at heart of new government in Kiev • Annual budget of global news network **Russia Today** boosted to \$300 million

**Provocation:** Number of incursions by Russian military aircraft over NATO borders tripled in past year

**Rhetorical threats:** Regular reminders that Russia is rebuilding its nuclear arsenal

**Cyber espionage:** Since 2010 Ukrainian governmental computer systems infected by spyware known as **Snake**. Over 700 EU energy utilities hit by Russian malware virus, **Energetic Bear**, that allows hackers to potentially take control of power plants

