

Potential Russia-Ukraine flashpoints

A Russian military build-up near Ukraine has raised fears in Kiev and the West that Moscow might invade its neighbour

1 Sea of Azov

Source of periodic confrontation since Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. Ukraine says Moscow seeks de facto control of entire sea and impedes shipping

2 Crimea:

Russia has heavily reinforced peninsula with troops and military hardware since annexation. Most countries in world recognise Crimea and its surrounding waters as Ukrainian

3 North Crimean

Canal: Soviet-era waterway could be used as pretext for Russian military offensive in southern Ukraine – canal supplied 85% of Crimea's fresh water until Kiev blocked it in 2014

4 Donbas: Ukraine says 14,000 people have been killed in fighting between government forces and Russia-backed rebels since 2014. Moscow has accused Kiev of building up its own troops

5 Belarus: Belarusian leader **Alexander Lukashenko** has signalled that his country could side with Russia in military conflict with Ukraine, and that he recognised Crimea as Russian



- ★ Deployments of Russian military equipment
- Territory held by Russia-backed rebels