

Crimes that Putin's cabal could face

There are two kinds of crimes relating to war: the crime of aggression – resorting to war without a legal basis – and war crimes, which are associated with conducting a conflict



■ **International Criminal Court:** ICC defines war crimes as “grave breaches” of **Geneva Conventions**, international treaties which lay out humanitarian laws to be followed in wartime. **Any state can prosecute war crimes if it passes necessary legislation**



CRIME OF AGGRESSION

Liability for invasion of Ukraine attaches only to those in leadership positions

■ Vladimir Putin

While he remains head of state he is immune from criminal prosecution before courts of any other state. Immunity does not block case at ICC



WAR CRIMES

Liability can attach at any level in command chain. There are 34 criminal categories applicable in international armed conflicts

■ Defendants:

Intent and guilt is required to be proven beyond reasonable doubt



■ Sergei Lavrov

Foreign minister. Delivers Putin's messages. Russia “**did not attack Ukraine**,” he said on March 10



■ Sergei Shoigu

Defence minister. Responsible for planning and execution of Russian invasion of Ukraine



■ Valery Gerasimov

Armed forces Chief of Staff. Played key role in 2014 campaign to annex Crimea



■ Sergei Naryshkin

Foreign intelligence chief. Claimed goal was to de-Nazify Ukraine

■ **Collateral damage:** It is lawful to target military objectives, but if attackers know that collateral damage will include loss of civilian life it can rise to level of war crime

■ **Civilian objects:** It is prohibited to target so-called “civilian objects.” Targeting maternity hospital or theatre and civilians inside them would also count as war crime