

Tensions over Moldova separatist region

A series of incidents in the breakaway territory of Transnistria has raised fears that the Ukraine conflict could spread to Moldova

TRANSNISTRIA FACTFILE

- Split from Moldova in 1991-92 war, amid collapse of Soviet Union. Self-declared independent state is not recognised internationally

- Referendum in 2006 saw 97.2% vote in favour of joining Russia

- Separatist region permanently hosts estimated 1,500 Russian “peacekeeping” troops

- Population: **470,000**

- Area: **4,000 sq km**

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Apr 25-27, 2022: Transnistria officials claim series of incidents:

- Explosions hit state security HQ in Tiraspol. Separatist authorities blame Ukrainian “infiltrators”

- Blasts at Mayak radio centre damage Soviet-era masts used to broadcast Russian news

- Attack on military unit in village of Parcani, just outside Tiraspol

- Shots fired from Ukraine towards Kolbasna village, location of large Russian arms depot



Russia could use flare-up of tensions as pretext for invasion. If Russia reinforces Transnistria, it might then move on Ukraine's key port city of Odesa