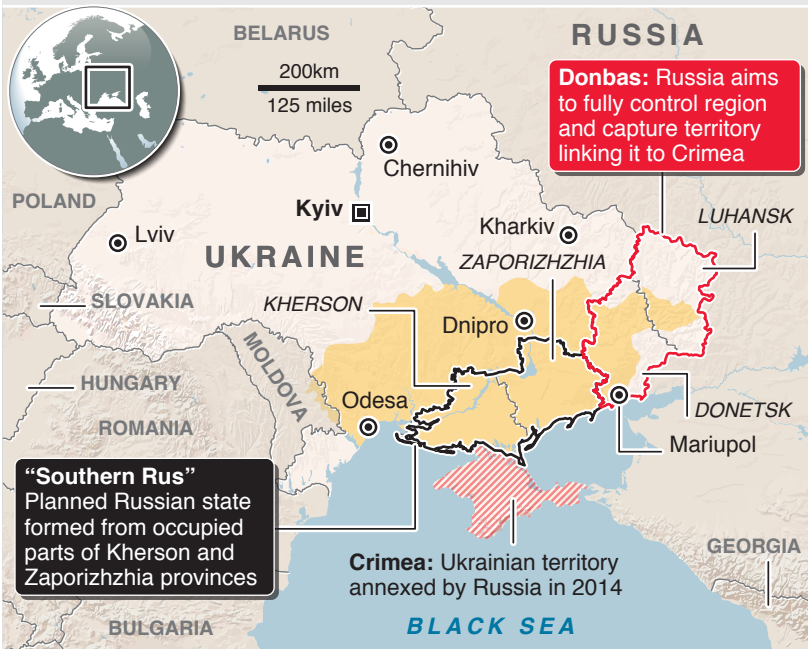


Russian options for southern Ukraine

Russia is expected to cement control over occupied areas of southern Ukraine by introducing elements of Russian statehood and reinforcing its historical claims to the region

■ **Quasi-state formation:** Option identical to Russian model imposed in occupied parts of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces, referred to by Moscow as “people’s republics”

■ **Immediate annexation:** Mirrors Russian actions in Crimea in 2014. Creation of “people’s republic” may be viewed as intermediate step before annexation



■ **“Novorossiia”** (New Russia) – historical term for section of present-day Ukraine referred to by President **Vladimir Putin** as belonging to Russia