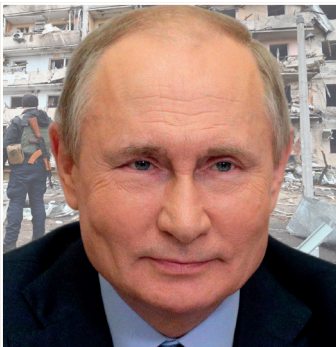


Ridicule for Putin's war hawks

The fall of Lyman in Ukraine's Donetsk region, hours after declaring it part of Russian territory, has prompted a level of finger-pointing that threatens President Vladimir Putin's hold on power

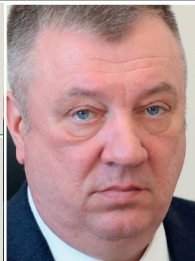


▲ **Vladimir Putin:** Public scorn of Putin's top generals within upper levels of Kremlin elite has been taboo until now



◀ **Sergei Shoigu:** Defence Minister is easy target for ultranationalists. Telegram commentator **Igor Girkin-Strelkov** has mocked Shoigu as "plywood marshal"

▶ **Andrei Gurulyov:** Lawmaker and former general said he "could not explain the surrender of Lyman," accusing military chain of command of "lying" to Putin



▶ **Alexander Lapin:** General slammed for Lyman defeat by **Ramzan Kadyrov**, Chechen dictator. Lapin ran defence from 150km away



◀ **Valery Gerasimov:** Top military commander and Chief of General Staff criticised for ignoring complaints about Lapin's conduct of campaign

■ **Yevgeny Prigozhin:** Founder of Wagner Group of mercenaries referred to top generals as "jerk-offs" who should be sent to front lines