

# War's Effect on Criminality

**Dwight Wilson**

*European Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*

✉ E-mail: [dwtracker@gmail.com](mailto:dwtracker@gmail.com)

## Abstract

This article analyzes how war affects criminal behavior by examining both historical and contemporary conflicts. It focuses on the ongoing war in Ukraine, looking at crime before, and during the conflict. The study also considers the American Civil War, the rise of outlaws in the American West, and the post-World War I crime wave in the U. S. Additionally, it looks at the collapse of the Soviet Union and the role of riots and the “War on Drugs” in shaping crime in America. The article provides insights into how war and social unrest impact criminality, offering lessons for understanding modern wars.

## Keywords

war, criminality, Ukraine, corruption, reconstruction, money, consequences

## Introduction

What effect does war have on criminality? This question was once posed by Dr. Oleg Maltsev during an international conference where I had the honor of participating. The answer seems quite simple but the more I thought about it I realized that this would be peeled back like an onion with several layers. Not being familiar with the criminal element, law enforcement, or the war actively taking place this would be difficult. To address this challenging question, one must turn to the annals of human history, a narrative densely interwoven with wars. Each of these conflicts, without exception, bore witness to criminal phenomena that warrant closer examination. Understanding the interplay between war and crime in historical contexts offers invaluable insights, as history, with its cyclical tendencies, often repeats itself.

So I decided to investigate the history of the largest war fought here in the United States, the American Civil War. How did this war affect those that fought in it, law and order and the criminals? I also wanted to deal with America's most recent wars and look at the effect it had on those that served. The aim was to draw lessons that are not only applicable to the ongoing war in Ukraine but also to other conflicts that are currently unfolding, as well as potential future ones. Additionally, this investigation will help in understanding violence as a whole and how to confront it. This is the focus of my series of books, “Dealing with Violence,” which I am currently writing and will consist of several volumes.

What can we learn to better address the challenges of the current situation and its aftermath? I also wanted to investigate what might happen in the event of a national economic collapse. Finally offer some possible future outcomes this war will have on crime in Ukraine and around the world.

In this article, I will explore several key themes relating to the interplay between war and criminality, analyzing both historical and contemporary events. The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, which began in February 2022, will serve as a focal point for examining crime before, and during war. The American Civil War provides another perspective on how societal upheaval can lead to the emergence of different criminal phenomena.

The historical battle against outlaws in the American West, particularly the efforts of groups like the Texas Rangers, will be discussed. I will explore the crime wave that followed World War I in the United States, the collapse of the Soviet Union, focusing on the surge in organized crime that accompanied this period. Finally, I will examine modern issues such as riots in America and the "War on Drugs," and the street gangs and outlaw motorcycle clubs. The issue of war crimes will not be explored in this article, as it is an area rich with varying viewpoints and ongoing debates (Maltsev & Lopatiuk, 2023), and I consider it to be a subject that merits a distinct, in-depth investigation.

## Methods

In this study, a combination of historical analysis, qualitative data analysis, and an interdisciplinary approach is employed to examine the relationship between war and criminality. The historical analysis focuses on key events, such as the American Civil War, the rise of outlaws in the American West, and the ongoing war in Ukraine. Primary and secondary historical sources, including official documents, legal records, and personal accounts, provide insights into the socio-political contexts of each conflict.

Qualitative data analysis involves the examination of media materials, such as news reports, propaganda, and public discourse, to understand the shifting narratives surrounding crime during wartime. This helps to uncover the underlying mechanisms that influence criminal behavior in times of conflict. The interdisciplinary approach integrates sociology, history, and criminology, drawing on theories of social control, deviance, and law enforcement to explain how wars disrupt societal norms and create conditions for crime.

## Results

Wars often lead to widespread corruption, especially in military procurement and resource management, while criminal groups exploit chaos for activities like drug trafficking and arms smuggling. Economic damage is significant, with destruction to infrastructure and key industries, and the mobilization of millions for military service strains the labor market. Displacement of families adds to economic hardship and social pressure.

New military technologies, such as drones, change warfare tactics, while private military companies complicate the conflict dynamics. Socially, war causes mass displacement and long-term psychological trauma, especially for veterans and civilians (Gavrilenko, 2023). Internationally, war escalates tensions, reshaping geopolitical dynamics and shifting alliances. The recovery process is long and challenging, leaving lasting impacts on the nation's future.

In general, wars profoundly affect every aspect of life. They lead to shifts in social and economic structures, with crime and corruption often rising in the wake of conflict. As lawlessness spreads, the danger to civilians increases, and security becomes a constant challenge. These changes have lasting effects, reshaping societies and economies and leaving long-term scars that can impact generations to come.

The study highlights several key trends affecting crime and security. First, technological advancements, particularly in drone usage, have led to significant changes in criminal behavior,

with drug cartels using drones for surveillance and smuggling. Law enforcement agencies have quickly adapted to this new threat, using drones for surveillance and crime prevention. The increasing use of AI in drone technology is predicted to transform warfare and criminal activities, with potential consequences for law enforcement and criminal organizations.

Furthermore, societal impacts of war, such as in Russia, reveal a troubling trend where criminals involved in violent crimes see military service as a way to avoid punishment and gain societal recognition, thereby influencing post-war criminal behavior. These findings suggest that as technology evolves, both criminal tactics and responses from law enforcement will continue to adapt rapidly.

## Discussion

The history of Ukraine begins long before 1991, when it declared independence from the Soviet Union. However, let's start from this pivotal moment. After the collapse of the USSR, Ukraine, as a newly independent nation, faced the challenge of deciding what to do with the nuclear weapons left behind from the Cold War. In 1994, the Budapest Memorandum was signed, under which Ukraine transferred all its nuclear weapons to the Russian Federation in exchange for assurances of peace between the two nations.

Ukraine has endured famines, epidemics, two world wars, a civil war, and the 1917 revolution. Its people are tough, hardworking, and innovative. The famines are particularly significant: in 1922–1923, after World War I; in 1946–1947, after World War II; and the famine of 1932–1933, known as the Holodomor. The Holodomor, a man-made famine, is viewed by some as engineered by Stalin, while others attribute it to the rapid industrialization and collectivization of agriculture. Millions perished in these tragedies. In 1922, Ukraine became a republic of the Soviet Union, officially known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

In 2014, Russia seized control of Crimea, a Ukrainian peninsula primarily home to an ethnic Russian population. It was quickly occupied by Russian troops. During the same year, Russian separatists in the Donbas (eastern Ukraine) region fought against Ukrainian troops. Over 14,000 people were killed in the next eight years. Wagner PMC (Private Military Contractor) was used by Russia to help equip, train, and work with the separatists. “Yevgeny Prigozhin stated that it was he who had founded the Wagner Group, specifically to support Russian forces — the “little green men”—in the war in Donbas, in May 2014” (Mauceri, 2023).

Over the next several years, according to the Crisis Group, “the fighting transformed into a trench war, with roughly 75,000 troops facing off along a 420-km-long frontline cutting through densely populated areas. The war ruined the area’s economy and heavy industries, forced millions to relocate, and turned the conflict zone into one of the world’s most mine-contaminated areas” (*Conflict in Ukraine’s Donbas: A Visual Explainer*, 2024). Only the war machine profits.

In February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Many thought the Ukrainian government would quickly fall, but it didn’t. The Ukrainian military has fought bravely against overwhelming odds. NATO has been quick to condemn and sanction Russia but has yet to put troops on the ground. They have instead confined themselves to limited military aid packages, training, and support for Ukrainian troops. In an article on the Crisis Group website, “They (NATO), therefore, try to balance military support to Ukraine and the risk of escalating the conflict” (*Ukraine*, 2024).

Something that doesn’t get talked about enough is the incredible job the Ukrainian logistics are doing. They are keeping the troops supplied, fixing and maintaining vehicles and armor, weapons systems, helicopters, aircraft from all across Europe, including from Russia and the United States. They are also changing warfare with the use of small drones, sea drones, and aerial weapons. This must be a training and logistics nightmare, but they are doing it. They are still in the fight.

As General Omar Bradley of the U. S. Army during World War II famously stated, “Amateurs talk strategy, professionals talk logistics.”

Russia deployed over 25,000 mercenaries from the Wagner (PMC) to spearhead the fighting in and around Bakhmut. Wagner recruited criminal prisoners to fight in Ukraine; the promise was a reduced prison sentence or released when they returned from the fighting. The ICC (International Criminal Court) and other agencies within the international and Ukrainian communities are actively investigating war crimes committed by Russia.

In an article from US News, "Global aid to Ukraine has reached a staggering 253 billion euros committed as of January 15, 2024, or about \$278 billion, according to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy" (Wolf & Davis Jr., 2024).

This number will increase as the war continues, destroying homes, villages, towns, and cities. A nation's future can be robbed from its youth as "the war machine keeps turning," from the song "War Pigs" by Black Sabbath.

## **Russia-Ukraine War**

War can be measured in lives lost, material lost, and territory lost or controlled. Some leaders are willing to sacrifice more resources than others to achieve military objectives. Most wars are fought over resources, or access to resources, which is an oversimplification of a complex issue. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is measured in the same way. However, gathering accurate numbers is difficult.

"Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that 31,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in action in the two years since Russia launched its full-scale invasion." From the same article, "Independent Russian news outlet Mediazona said on Saturday that about 75,000 Russian men died in 2022 and 2023 fighting in the war." "A United States intelligence report declassified in mid-December 2023 estimated that 315,000 Russian troops had been killed or wounded in Ukraine" ("Zelenskyy Says 31,000 Ukrainian Soldiers Killed in War With Russia," 2024). Current estimates are closer to 500,000 as of March 2024, from an independent news group I follow on Telegram. One thing I can agree with is the following statement found in Newsweek: "Nobody really knows accurate numbers" through the fog of war, said Kurt Volker, former U.S. special representative for Ukraine negotiations" (Cook, 2024).

When Russian forces failed to achieve key objectives at the initial invasion, they were forced to retreat in some areas and reconsolidate their forces. As this happened, the war ground to a static war of attrition. Massive trench lines and defensive positions were built on both sides. Heavy armor became targets for artillery, mortars, and an incredible new weapon that had shown itself on the battlefield.

## ***Changes in Warfare***

This has been a long time coming, in my opinion: drone warfare. The United States has deployed UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) around the world. Most are used for intelligence gathering; some are armed with missiles and can engage high-value targets. Special Operations have been using smaller aerial drones, like RC planes but more sophisticated, to gather real-time intelligence on an area before beginning operations. However, the quadcopter changed the ability of the drone to hover in an area, helping to direct troops, artillery, mortars, and rockets with greater accuracy. Intelligence gathering has changed.

The next advance was being able to arm small quadcopter drones to drop ordnance or target armored vehicles, but also enemy personnel. Less expensive, home-made drones, referred to as kamikaze drones, in various sizes, were put into use. Other advances have also been made: larger drones will carry smaller drones into an area to extend the operational range. They are working on drones capable of carrying injured troops off the battlefield, ground drones for resupplying front-line troops, sea drones, underwater drones. Drone warfare is here — now what? This will undoubtedly change crime behaviors.



## ***Crime Before the War***

Ukraine, before the war in the east started in 2014 and before the invasion from Russian forces in 2022, was much different than the current situation, just a few years into the war. Because of its geographical location, seaports, and airports, it has been used as a transit nation for everything from human smuggling and trafficking to importing counterfeit goods and the drug trade.

Corruption in Ukraine prior to the war was present in every aspect of life, including government, elected officials, and the justice system. These state-embedded actors were either directly involved in criminal activity or facilitating criminal markets, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and smuggling goods. “Mafia-style groups continue to wield political influence and have access to all levels of state power in Ukraine, which grants them protection and support in both their illegal and legitimate businesses” (“Global Organized Crime Index: Ukraine,” 2023).

Human trafficking is a worldwide problem. Ukrainian trafficking victims are exploited for sex work and forced labor in Ukraine, Russia, Poland, and other parts of Europe, as well as the Middle East. “Ukraine is believed to have one of the largest arms trafficking markets in Europe. While it has long been a key link in the global arms trade, Ukraine’s role intensified after the 2014 conflict in the eastern part of the country” (“Global Organized Crime Index: Ukraine,” 2023).

Cybercrimes in Ukraine: “Prior to the war, Ukraine had been used as a testing target for cyber warfare by countries such as Russia, Iran, North Korea, and China, as it had similar infrastructure to that found in Western Europe and North America, but limited resources to counter such attacks.” These types of crimes include malware and ransomware (“Global Organized Crime Index: Ukraine,” 2023).

In a report from the U. S. Embassy, western visitors and tourists to Ukraine, before the war, reported being the victims of crimes like pickpocketing, credit card and ATM fraud, as well as marriage scams. However, violent crimes, including armed robbery, drugging and robbery of unsuspecting victims, and shootings, have occurred (“Victims of Crime,” n.d.).

My research didn’t reveal anything odd about crime in a nation that has access to the Black Sea, access to Europe, and to the Middle East and Asia. I see reports like this in my own home nation, the United States: some corruption is hidden better than others, some organized crime goes unchecked, human trafficking and sex work and exploitation, drug trafficking, violence, mass shootings, and street crimes. Port cities like Miami and Houston, or border cities like El Paso and Eagle Pass, will have problems with crime. Criminals are always in a cat-and-mouse game with law enforcement. The mouse tries to figure out how to get the cheese. The cat is always changing tactics to catch the mouse.

How will the war change criminality in Ukraine? Will Ukraine suffer from mass shootings or terror attacks like other Western nations after the war? Will the Ukrainian economy crash, sending many people looking for a means to survive and rebuild, turning to crime as a way of supporting themselves and their families? What will the future hold for Ukraine?

## **Crime During the War**

The Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Ihor Klymenko, stated during an interview with Reuters amid Russia’s attack on Ukraine in Kyiv, Ukraine, March 30, 2023: “The situation with crime is completely under control in our country today.” Like many people, I am concerned about the future of Ukraine after the war and the long-term effects it will have on every aspect of life.

“As Russian forces headed towards Kyiv at the start of the war, the government urged Ukrainians to take up arms and distributed thousands of rifles and shotguns to civilian defense forces in the capital and other cities.” More than a year later, all these weapons are accounted for, as are other weapons that Ukrainians already had in their possession, Klymenko said (Harmash, 2023). Most Ukrainians were new to firearm ownership. How much training did they receive? Officials say that all the issued firearms have been turned back in and are accounted for. Really? How good was the record keeping? I have heard from some Ukrainians who are worried about

crime after the war, especially involving firearms.

When the Ukrainian government passed out weapons to citizens of defense forces to defend themselves and Ukraine from the advancing Russian military machine, I could think of no better reason for the Second Amendment in the United States Constitution. "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed" (*Bill of Rights: The 1st Ten Amendments*, n.d.). Protecting your life and your loved ones is a right granted to us by God and protected in our Bill of Rights. The United States has an estimated 400 million privately owned firearms. I will be interested to see how gun ownership is viewed after the war.

### **Cost of War**

The true cost of war is measured in the number of deaths, injuries, and missing persons, as well as the loss of material, infrastructure, resources, and financial assets. To date, no war has surpassed the cost of World War I, the so-called war to end all wars, fought from 1914 to 1918, until the outbreak of World War II in 1939. World War II resulted in over 60 million deaths, including an estimated 38 to 55 million civilian casualties, caused by military actions, disease, and famine. World War I is estimated to have caused 10 million military deaths, 7 million civilian deaths, and around 21 million wounded, with 7 million missing or imprisoned. The monetary costs of these wars, when adjusted for inflation, are staggering: World War I is estimated to have cost over 300 billion USD, and World War II, 4 trillion USD (World War I vs. World War II, n.d.).

These figures do not include the costs associated with post-war reconstruction. The scale of destruction left in the wake of these conflicts is beyond comprehension unless one has witnessed it firsthand or experienced it directly. As financial resources flow, so too does corruption. In times of desperation, criminality tends to thrive. These are the undeniable realities. War, desperation, and violence profoundly alter lives.

During my time in West Germany, I was stationed in Aschaffenburg with the 1st Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment. The local training area still held remnants from past wars. I did not fully appreciate the historical significance of the site until I met some local residents who shared that battles had occurred there. I was also shown the locations of old bomb shelters. As one traveled across Europe, the damage from past wars was evident in the fields and cities, despite widespread reconstruction. This was just over 40 years after the war ended in 1945 and the Cold War began.

"February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine in an escalation of the Russia — Ukraine War that started in 2014. The invasion became the largest attack on a European country since World War II" (Fitzgerald & Davis Jr., 2024).

War costs money. Reconstruction costs money. Nation-building, in which the United States has engaged during the Global War on Terror, costs money. Everything revolves around money. Wars are fought. Money is spent. The September 11th terrorist attacks launched the United States into war against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, with the goal of finding Bin Laden and freeing the Afghan people from the Taliban.

Brianna Ehley wrote a 2015 article for *The Fiscal Times* reporting: "scrutiny of the U.S.'s rebuilding mission in Afghanistan — raising questions about whether we're any closer to achieving a stable and sustainable country hundreds of billions of dollars (and tens of thousands of lives) later. Overall, the U.S. has poured more than \$104 billion into Afghanistan since 2002" (Ehley, 2015).

When the final US forces evacuated Afghanistan, within two weeks the Taliban had seized control of the nation once again and we left behind millions of dollars in equipment, and hundreds of people whose lives were placed in danger because of working for coalition forces. Not to mention the thousands of lives lost during the conflict.

When the final U.S. forces evacuated Afghanistan, within two weeks the Taliban had seized control of the nation once again, and we left behind millions of dollars in equipment, as well as hundreds of people whose lives were placed in danger because of their work for coalition forces. Not to mention the thousands of lives lost during the conflict.

In 2003, the United States went to war in Iraq to overthrow a dictator. Saddam Hussein had become a problem. After the initial combat operations, money began to flow into Iraq. “It has been called the largest airborne transfer of currency in the history of the world” (Javers, 2011). In a conflict zone, money is spent not only to fund the war and reconstruction, but also to pay for information and to win favor. “One contractor received a \$2 million payment in a duffel bag stuffed with shrink-wrapped bundles of currency” (“How The US Sent \$12bn in Cash to Iraq. And Watched It Vanish,” 2007).

This was doing business in a conflict zone and had become common practice for the CIA as well as the military. Accountability was one of the problems with doing business in cash. I’m not sure when war became such a cash business.

Cargo planes with pallets of shrink-wrapped money flew into both conflict zones, and I’m sure around the world as needed. Trillions of dollars were spent. One article in *The Guardian* stated, “The U. S. flew nearly \$12 billion in shrink-wrapped \$100 bills into Iraq, then distributed the cash with no proper control over who was receiving it and how it was being spent” (“How The US Sent \$12bn in Cash to Iraq. And Watched It Vanish,” 2007).

Without accountability, who knows where it went, what it was spent on, and how much was funneled into criminal enterprises. No one in government was even held accountable to the American taxpayers.

## **The American Civil War**

War and conflict gave birth to the United States. Even before the Revolutionary War, we had skirmished with the native tribes. We are a nation built on blood, sweat, and tears. War always brings about change, some good and some bad. Small conflicts like the Lincoln County War gave rise to legends like Pat Garrett and the outlaw William Bonney, known as Billy the Kid. The Mexican War and Indian Wars gave us lawmen like the Texas Rangers. The American Civil War gave rise to the notorious outlaw Jesse James. The war between the states was the bloodiest war fought here in North America.

“Pulitzer Prize-winning author James McPherson writes that “The Civil War started because of uncompromising differences between the free and slave states over the power of the national government to prohibit slavery” (*Civil War Facts*, 2011).

This divided a nation and brought about fighting between northern states and southern states. The Army of the Confederate States, southern states, attacked Union forces, northern states, in Fort Sumter in South Carolina in the spring of 1861 and the next four years of war would be fought between brothers, families, towns and states. Missouri, the state where I grew up, “sent 39 regiments to fight in the siege of Vicksburg: 17 to the Confederacy and 22 to the Union” (*Civil War Facts*, n.d.). War divided a nation.

Union forces of the north would enlist over 2 million men to fight, and the southern forces would muster just over one million. An estimated 620,000 soldiers died during the war from combat, illness, starvation, or accident. “A recent study puts the number of dead as high as 850,000” (*Civil War Facts*, 2011). The war ended in the spring of 1865.

## **Reconstruction**

War has several phases. The buildup of forces, gathering of intelligence, the invasion and domination of the enemy forces, the occupation and finally reconstruction. After the war, fences need to be mended, towns, and homes rebuilt. This period lasted roughly until 1877. The distrust, and resentment along with opportunity in the west brought many former soldiers into the territories. Those that stayed in the southern states were left dealing with newly freed slaves and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan. Confederate war veterans were eventually given United States veteran status in an attempt to heal the nation.

Where money flowed, so did the swindlers, thieves, and other criminals.

According to Wikipedia, the federal budget before the Civil War in 1860 was roughly \$63 million. After the war, the annual budget during Reconstruction exceeded \$300 million (about \$6 billion today). The cost of rebuilding after a war is enormous. Where money flows, so does criminality.

## **The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly**

### ***Texas Rangers (the Good)***

The Texas Rangers came into being as a group of men that were selected by Stephen Austin in 1823 to protect settlers coming to Texas from the Indians. They would range out in front of and around the wagons and protect the caravans. They became known as 'Rangers'. These horseback patrols used Indian fieldcraft, Mexican military and vaquero (cowboy) knowledge, and used the minutemen structure and firearms technology. "Later authors will say that a Texian ranging man could 'ride like a Mexican, trail like an Indian, shoot like a Tennessean, and fight like the devil'" (*Texas Ranger History*, n.d.).

The rough men of the Rangers would participate in the Indian Wars, the Mexican War and survive the Civil War in Texas to become a law enforcement agency and go after notorious outlaws and cattle rustlers. Bringing law and order to battle-hardened outlaws required battle-hardened lawmen.

Today the Rangers are an elite law enforcement and investigative agency within Texas. There are very few Rangers, last I heard their numbers were just over 100 to cover the entire state. The Texas Ranger Museum is in Waco, Texas and well worth visiting.

Interesting Fact: Ranger units were the first to field the Colt .36 caliber five-shot revolver in the fight against the Comanches. A few years later they fielded the improved six shot revolver made by Samuel Colt in 1847. They would change the current method of fighting from horseback to combat against the Comanche warriors.

### ***Jesse James (the Bad)***

Growing up in southwestern Missouri, it was impossible not to hear tales of the notorious outlaw Jesse James. Jesse was born in 1847 in Kearney, Missouri. At the start of the Civil War, his older brother Frank left to serve in the Confederate Army. "In the summer of 1863, the James farm was burned, and Jesse was brutally attacked by Union soldiers. Jesse tried to enlist with his brother but was turned away by William Quantrill, a leader of a Confederate guerrilla unit. However, he was allowed to join up with 'Bloody Bill' Anderson and his Bushwhackers, another guerrilla unit operating in Missouri. Eventually, both brothers fought under Quantrill's Raiders during their infamous attack on Lawrence, Kansas. Known as the Lawrence Massacre, the raid caught Union soldiers by surprise. On that day, August 21, 1863, over 160 men, women, and children lost their lives" (Biography.com Editors, 2014).

The war and killing had changed men like Jesse James. During the war, he had many violent encounters with Unionists and Jayhawkers, a militia loyal to the Union cause. "From 1860 to 1882, the James Gang was the most feared band of outlaws in American history, responsible for more than 20 bank, train, and stagecoach robberies and the murders of countless individuals who stood in their way. They stole an estimated \$200,000. They were legends in their time, popular in Missouri for actively trying to further the Confederate cause" (Biography.com Editors, 2014).

Jesse James died in April of 1882, shot in the back of the head when he turned to straighten a picture on the wall by Robert Ford, a member of the James Gang. Jesse's brother Frank would turn himself in and be acquitted at trial.



### ***Billy The Kid (the Bad)***

Born in late 1859 as Henry McCarty. He started his criminal career at a young age and was given the nickname “the Kid,” which stuck. He was first arrested for theft at 15 but escaped from the Silver City jail. This wouldn’t be the only time he’d escape from a jail. Eventually he would change his name to William H Bonney, which was easier to do in those times, new town, new name, and a new start.

In 1877, he was arrested for possessing horses belonging to John Tunstall which then hired him as a cowboy and gunman. This was common during this time; ranchers would hire gunmen to keep control over the area they used to graze cattle.

On February 18, 1878, John Tunstall was killed by a posse working for Sheriff Brady of Lincoln County. This started the Lincoln County War. Several of Tunstall’s men were appointed “special constables” by Justice of the Peace John Wilson, giving them the power to make arrests and go after the men who killed Tunstall. The “Regulators” were a deputized posse that included William Bonnie.

By July of 1878, the war would come to an end. “New Mexico Governor Samuel Axtell visits Lincoln out of concern over the mayhem and cancels Squire Wilson’s appointment as Justice of the Peace, effectively turning the Regulators into outlaws.” Billy the Kid continued life as an outlaw (*The Life and Legend of Billy the Kid*, n.d.).

July of 1881 in Fort Sumner, Sheriff Pat Garrett killed Billy the Kid. He was shot in the back and was unarmed; some say Billy never died. It all added to the legend of Billy the Kid. He was no hero, just an outlaw, created by circumstance and war.

### ***Ku Klux Klan (the Ugly)***

The Ku Klux Klan or KKK was started in 1866 just after the Civil War in Tennessee and lasted until the 1870’s. It was structured as part of the “Invisible Empire of the South”. It was started up again in 1915 and is still part of hate groups in America along with groups, like the Skinheads, Neo-Nazis, Aryan Brotherhood (prison) that support a white supremacist agenda.

The Klansmen, “Dressed in robes and sheets designed to frighten superstitious Blacks and to prevent identification by the occupying federal troops, Klansmen whipped and killed freedmen and their white supporters in nighttime raids” (The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica, 2024). I think no matter what war and no matter who wins or loses there will always be groups that will organize for any reason. After World War Two Nazi groups became Neo-Nazis. Hate will always exist in some form or fashion. Always.

### **After World War One: Prohibition (1920–1933)**

After World War I, the United States adopted the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution in late 1919, ushering in the Prohibition Era nationwide. This amendment legally prohibited the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages, aiming to protect individuals and families from the perceived scourge of “drunkenness.” Prohibition officially began in 1920 and lasted until 1933, when the Twenty-first Amendment was ratified, repealing the Eighteenth Amendment and allowing alcohol to flow freely in America once again (Peterman, n.d.).

It began in 1920 and lasted until 1933, when the Twenty-first Amendment was ratified, repealing the Eighteenth and allowing alcohol to flow freely in America once again. The American Mafia took full advantage of the situation, running underground gambling and drinking establishments. The drink of choice for many was moonshine, a clear to cloudy liquor depending on the ingredients, ranging from 40 to 80 percent proof by volume, and distributed illegally by bootleggers. This period gave rise to infamous mobsters like Al Capone, Bugsy Siegel, Lucky Luciano, Machine Gun Kelly, and Pretty Boy Floyd. It is important to note that the word “mafia” is

perceived differently by each individual. The paradox of Baudrillard is particularly well illustrated through the concept of the mafia (Maltsev, 2020). Personally, when I think of the Mafia, it's this classic roaring twenties image I envision.

At the end of Prohibition, the outlaws Bonnie and Clyde began their multi-state crime spree in 1930. Bonnie and Clyde were killed in 1934 when Texas Ranger Frank Hamer, FBI agents, and a posse of local law enforcement gunned them down in an ambush near Sailes, Louisiana.

## Social Unrest

### *Collapse of the Soviet Union*

In 1987, then-President of the United States Ronald Reagan, made his famous speech in West Berlin; "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." He was referring to Mikhail Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (History.com Editors, 2022).

I was a young soldier in 1987, serving in West Germany with the Third Infantry Division. Our mission was to be prepared to defend our NATO allies against Soviet and Eastern Block aggression. A few years later, something happened that I would have never imagined; the Berlin Wall came down. It was November of 1989 followed by the reunification of Germany. In December 1991, the red and gold hammer-and-sickle flag of the USSR was replaced by the tricolor flag of the Russian Federation. The Cold War had ended (*The Collapse of the Soviet Union*, n.d.).

However, the economies of Eastern European nations struggled. "Between 1989 and 1991, the gross national product in Soviet countries fell by 20 percent, ushering in a period of complete economic breakdown" (*Consequences of the Collapse of the Soviet Union*, n.d.). This led to widespread corruption in government and a power vacuum that was quickly filled by criminal enterprises. History is full of such examples.

I can only imagine what it must have been like to be a soldier in the service of the Soviet Union, only to change the patch on my arm to that of the Russian Federation. "Am I going to get paid?"—this is what would be going through most people's minds, even soldiers. Money means food. Money means shelter. Money means security. "Government payroll services almost completely disappeared, so ex-KGB officers, police officers, and Soviet Army soldiers flooded the mafia's ranks in search of steady employment." Enter the Russian Mafia, which we referred to in the United States as the Red Mafia. "When the Soviet government fell, the Russian mafia, which had struggled to survive during the height of communism, stepped in to fill the power void" (*Consequences of the Collapse of the Soviet Union*, n.d.).

For the next decade, the Russian mafia expanded its influence and integrated itself into various aspects of everyday life. In 1999, Vladimir Putin took office as President of the Russian Federation. The Red Mafia remains active, continuing the activities typical of criminal organizations, though its influence is no longer as powerful as it once was—similar to the diminished presence of the Italian or Sicilian mafia after World War I and II. President Putin referred to the collapse of the Soviet Union as "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century" (Myre, 2021).

In 2014, with the aid of Private Military Contractors from Wagner forces, aggression began in the eastern parts of Ukraine. Former diplomat Donald Jensen remarked, "We don't expect Russia to be Western. But you expect it to be a positive contributor to global peace and security, and I just don't see that happening" (Myre, 2021).

Most people hoped the Russian military buildup was merely a power move, a display of strength. However, the invasion of Ukraine officially began on February 24, 2022. Russian troops entered Ukraine in full force, expecting a quick and decisive victory, with plans for a three-day battle to capture the capital, Kyiv. What followed was the largest war in Europe since World War II, resulting in the greatest loss of life on the battlefield and one of the costliest wars in modern times. How will this war end? When will it end? How will it impact the citizens of Ukraine and Russia? How will it affect criminality in both nations?

## Riots in America

Protests are relatively common in the United States. Most are peaceful and localized, although some take place simultaneously in major cities across the nation and even internationally. In May of 2020, George Floyd died while in police custody, sparking another round of protests that spread nationwide (Wikipedia contributors, 2024).

Many protests have evolved into riots due to widespread looting and destruction of property. This social unrest has been primarily directed at police and the government, but private businesses have also suffered. “Arson, vandalism, and looting that occurred between May 26 and June 8 caused approximately \$1–2 billion in insured damages nationally, the highest recorded damage from civil disorder in U.S. history, surpassing the record set during the 1992 Los Angeles riots” (Wikipedia contributors, 2024). During the 1992 LA riots, store owners and community members armed themselves to protect their businesses and property.

Riots can cause major disruption to essential services. Utilities, such as trash pickup and sanitation — services people often take for granted — can be severely disrupted. The most critical disruptions, of course, are to emergency services. In an emergency, you expect to be able to get help from fire, ambulance, or police. However, these services become highly restricted in areas affected by riots due to the dangers posed to responders. Bricks, fireworks, and even gunshots. Protesters showing up with masks, goggles, and homemade riot shields are typically seeking confrontation.

Most grocery stores only keep about three days’ worth of food in stock. What happens when the lights go out? What happens when people become desperate? What happens when 911 doesn’t answer the phone? Criminals will always prey on the vulnerable and seek any advantage they can exploit. They will fill a power vacuum whenever it exists.

The economic collapses in Argentina, Venezuela, and the Soviet Union created opportunities for criminals. Black markets flourish during times of war. Long lines for bread and other basic life necessities become common. Selling toilet paper from the trunk of a car. During the pandemic, there were lines for water, hand sanitizers, and toilet paper — problems that cause the public to panic. The pandemic, without a doubt, disrupted the fabric of societies everywhere — not only in the U.S. — and examining its widespread effects on a global scale is crucial for understanding its full impact (Lepskiy, 2020).

## Unintended Consequences

### *War on Drugs*

One of several unintended consequences of the direct or indirect effects of wars and military training is not only the advancement of battlefield tactics, strategy, and technology but also how criminals and criminal organizations conduct business. For example, in 1970, the United States Congress passed the Controlled Substances Act in response to soldiers returning from the Vietnam War with substance abuse issues. The following year, President Nixon officially declared the War on Drugs (Pascual, 2021).

The CIA and special operations units were heavily involved in the drug war in Mexico, Colombia, and throughout Latin America. In the early years of the War on Drugs, the cartels were smuggling marijuana, cocaine, and heroin. Today, they import hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of methamphetamine and fentanyl into the United States. They are also responsible for human trafficking, sex trafficking, and prostitution (Williams, 2024).

The U. S. involvement led to the hunt and killing of Pablo Escobar in Colombia in 1993 during a shootout. Following this success in Colombia, during the Clinton Administration, then-Secretary of Defense William Perry visited Mexico to finalize an agreement to supply anti-drug aid and training to the Mexican military. “You were looking for general ways to engage, military to military,” a Pentagon official said. Within months, the first group of young Mexican Army officers began training in anti-drug operations at Fort Bragg, N.C. (Golden, 1997).

As a result of training Mexican Special Forces, Los Zetas (Spanish for "the Zs") were formed in 1997. Mexican soldiers left the military and joined the drug war, but on the other side. Los Zetas began as an enforcement unit for the Gulf Cartel, but in 2010, they broke away and formed their own crime syndicate. "The group was known for its violent tactics and tight organizational structure. The emergence and evolution of Los Zetas can be understood as both a symptom and a cause of the militarization of the Mexican drug wars" (Williams, 2024).

Because of the War on Drugs, the cartels have become billion-dollar criminal organizations. Corruption in Mexico extends from government officials to law enforcement and the military. In a *New York Times* article, the writer discusses recent events in Mexico: "Some of those risks have resounded in recent news reports: the jailing of army generals on charges of protecting major drug traffickers; allegations that military officers have been linked to the torture and disappearance of criminal suspects; failures of due process and proper legal procedure by soldiers stepping in for the police" (Golden, 1997).

### ***Street Gangs and Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs***

Returning World War II veterans took to the streets, riding motorcycles and forming motorcycle clubs. Later, returning Vietnam veterans were recruited and joined various MCs (Motorcycle Clubs) or formed their own. Attracted to the counterculture, some became outlaws. Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs like the Hells Angels, Banditos, Cossacks, and others grew quickly in numbers and spread nationwide.

Street gangs like the Bloods and Crips, as well as prison gangs like the Mexican Mafia and Aryan Brotherhood, send members to the military for training or to college to learn skills needed to advance their criminal empires. They even go so far as to ensure their members have no identifying tattoos or criminal records. The result is better-trained, weapons-proficient, and disciplined members — all of which pose a greater threat to law enforcement. CBS News reported that in an FBI report, the agency warned: "Military training could ultimately result in more sophisticated and deadly gangs ... as well deadly assaults on law enforcement officers" (Klatell, 2007).

Training can include combat skills, logistics, intelligence, and even emergency medical skills — skills that may not seem valuable to industry but can be extremely beneficial to criminal groups and organized crime. "The FBI points out that many gangs, especially the bikers, actively recruit members with military training and advise young members with no criminal record to join the service for weapon access and combat experience" (Johnson, 2011).

### **Future of Crime**

Predicting the future is a chance business, but in the security industry, we pay attention to everything happening locally, regionally, and even internationally. If something is happening on the other side of the world, it will eventually affect my client and my scope of work. So, we track trends. When analyzing trends, it's important to pay attention to the news and consult multiple sources. I especially rely on my network of colleagues in the industry or in similar fields. I also refer to specialists when dealing with technology. Prevention is always key. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is my personal mantra.

Every advancement in technology leads to advancements in criminal behavior and crime. One example would be the use of small commercial drones, or Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), on the battlefield. Drones are used to guide infantry through trenches and built-up urban terrain. Thermal imaging and infrared technology allow drones to be used in firefighting efforts and even active shooter responses. A bomb squad robot was used to kill an active shooter barricaded suspect responsible for killing several officers in 2016. Drones are a modern advancement, much like GPS (Global Positioning System) was for my generation. GPS is now commonplace, but when I served with the infantry in the 1980s, it wasn't. That's how important I believe drones will become.

The Mexican cartels have already started using drones as aerial surveillance platforms, but also for delivering narcotics across the border into the United States — by air, underground



(through tunnels), and underwater (via submarines). International law enforcement agencies have been quick to adapt. “They are used by law enforcement too, from heat-seeking drones spotting indoor cannabis farms in the U.K., to drones being used by police to catch street drug dealers in Kyrgyzstan, in Central Asia” (Daly, 2024). The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI have called unmanned aerial systems (UAS) one of the top national security threats to the United States (Giaritelli, 2018; *Border Patrol Reports That Cartels Are Using Drones to Guide Migrants Into US*, n.d.).

Right now, drones are controlled by human operators making decisions. However, I foresee that soon, some — if not all — drones will become more autonomous, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to complete missions. This shift will impact criminal organizations, law enforcement, and militaries worldwide. It is likely one of the most significant advancements I’ve observed. Drone warfare will eventually evolve into autonomous machine warfare. As of April 15, 2024, I read a news article stating that Ukraine is incorporating AI into a new line of drones currently in production (Barnes, 2024).

We are poised to witness rapid advancements across several technological fronts. These include the growing sophistication of artificial intelligence, digital and cyber warfare, and the integration of robotics and automation systems driven by autonomous technology. Such battlefield advancements will inevitably influence criminal tactics, including home invasions, armed robberies, carjackings, rape, and murder. The use of forensic techniques has evolved beyond fingerprints to analyzing DNA from blood, skin cells, and other bodily fluids. Surveillance cameras and detection systems will also continue to advance significantly.

A recent account from Russia highlights concerning trends in the country’s approach to criminal justice and military recruitment. Anton Gerashchenko, a former advisor to Ukraine’s Minister of Internal Affairs (2021–2023), reported: “A clear pattern has already emerged in Russia: murderers and rapists kill and are not afraid of prison, because they go straight to war and then come back with honors. A Russian Krasnoyarsk EMERCOM cadet who raped and killed a 16-year-old girl said in court he wanted to go to war to ‘redeem himself.’ “Today in the courtroom, the accused was smiling” (Gerashchenko, 2024).

## Conclusion

At the end of the war, how will all those involved, whether directly or indirectly, be affected? One of the only certainties in the universe is change. The real question is how both people and criminals will adapt, and how society as a whole will respond to those changes. This brings us to the idea of cause and effect — a continuous cycle of change, adaptation, response, and problem-solving. Alongside the inevitability of change, there are several guiding principles that I hold to be significant. These are concepts worthy of consideration.

Criminals are always learning and adapting. No one wants to get caught or go to prison, which is why tactics and techniques must continually evolve. This is what I refer to as “the game of cat and mouse.” The mouse seeks the cheese and adapts, becoming more clever to avoid capture. The cat, recognizing this, adapts its methods to catch the mouse. This ongoing exchange is the game that criminals and law enforcement constantly play.

Whenever there is a power vacuum, someone will inevitably step in to fill the void. If one criminal is removed, another will quickly take their place. This is a matter of supply and demand. The question is, why are so many drugs crossing the southern border of the United States? The answer lies in the persistent demand for these substances. If the demand ceased to exist, the suppliers would disappear as well.

Follow the money. Wherever money flows, corruption and crime tend to follow. This principle holds true regardless of the situation. By tracing the money trail, you will encounter either legal or illegal actions. Take, for example, a government representative who, despite earning a fixed income of \$180,000 per year, amasses a fortune of over \$120 million over the course of 30 years. I’ll leave that question for you to ponder.

When you are broke and hungry, you will do whatever is necessary to acquire the basics for

life: food, water, shelter. Once those are attained, many people simply want more. Some resort to force and violence, while others are better at confidence schemes, extortion, blackmail, racketeering, and dealing in counterfeit goods. Some are organized and structured.

A robust economy helps lower crime rates; however, criminal activity will always exist, even in a strong economy. Strong social structures are also important — family, education, religious institutions, and opportunity. All of these factors play a role in the outcomes of change.

I wanted to include historical examples from the American Civil War and its impact on post-war life and reconstruction. Such examples can be identified before, during, and after periods of war. I think examples can be found before, during, and after wars. Legendary outlaws, like Jesse James, Billy the Kid, even Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday could be counted. Law enforcement agencies like the Texas Rangers, or even the Pinkerton Detective Agency shaped America after war. Hate groups like the KKK sprung up. War creates unintended consequences, such as the rise of criminal organizations like Los Zetas and the Cartels, the expansion of the Russian Mafia during the collapse of the Soviet Union, or the rise of the American Mafia during the Prohibition period. Things will change — war has a profound effect on criminality.

### Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

### Funding

The author received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

### References

- Barnes, J. (2024, April 8). Ukraine developing 'unstoppable' AI-powered attack drone with Western backing. *The Telegraph*. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/ukraine-developing-unstoppable-ai-powered-attack-drone-with-western-backing/ar-BB1lhpAc>
- Bill of Rights: The 1st Ten Amendments*. (n.d.). The Bill of Rights Institute. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/bill-of-rights>
- Biography.com Editors. (2014, April 3). *Jesse James Biography*. The Biography.com Website. <https://www.biography.com/crime/jesse-james>
- Border Patrol reports that cartels are using drones to guide migrants into US*. (n.d.). AirSight. Retrieved November 23, 2024, from <https://www.air sight.com/en/news/border-patrol-reports-that-cartels-are-using-drones-to-guide-migrants-into-us>
- Civil War Facts*. (2011, August 16). American Battlefield Trust. <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/civil-war-facts>
- Civil War Facts*. (n.d.). PBS: Watch the Civil War. Retrieved November 23, 2024, from <https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-civil-war/civil-war-facts>
- Conflict in Ukraine's Donbas: A Visual Explainer*. (2024). International Crisis Group. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/content/conflict-ukraines-donbas-visual-explainer>
- Consequences of the Collapse of the Soviet Union*. (n.d.). Norwich University. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://online.norwich.edu/online/about/resource-library/consequences-collapse-soviet-union>
- Cook, E. (2024, February 23). How Russia and Ukraine's Losses Compare. *Newsweek*. <https://www.newsweek.com/russia-ukraine-losses-casualties-tanks-death-toll-anniversary-1864726>
- Daly, M. (2024, January 5). Cheap and They Don't Snitch: Drones Are the New Drug Mules. *Vice Media*. <https://www.vice.com/en/article/drug-trafficking-smugglers-using-drones/>

- Ehley, B. (2015, April 1). \$45 Billion in Tax Dollars Goes Missing in Afghanistan. *The Fiscal Times*. <https://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2015/04/01/45-Billion-Tax-Dollars-Goes-Missing-Afghanistan>
- Fitzgerald, M., & Davis Jr., E. (2024, November 18). Russia Invades Ukraine: A Timeline of the Crisis. *U. S. News & World Report*. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/slideshows/a-timeline-of-the-russia-ukraine-conflict?onepage>
- Gavrilenko, I. (2023). Psychic Transformation Amidst Battle: Understanding PTSD and Combat-Related Psychic Trauma. *Newsletter on the Results of Scholarly Work in Sociology, Criminology, Philosophy and Political Science*, 4(1), 56–65. <https://doi.org/10.61439/PSWS6072>
- Gerashchenko, A. (2024, April 18). *Russia: murderers and rapists kill and are not afraid of prison*. Twitter. [https://x.com/Gerashchenko\\_en/status/1780873842094662111?t=-zNLpXXUMW-FJ19ObHEPm8A&s=19](https://x.com/Gerashchenko_en/status/1780873842094662111?t=-zNLpXXUMW-FJ19ObHEPm8A&s=19)
- Giaritelli, A. (2018, October 13). Drones swamp US-Mexico border but federal agents powerless to stop them. *Washington Examiner*. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/1264769/drones-swamp-us-mexico-border-but-federal-agents-powerless-to-stop-them/#!>
- Global organized crime index: Ukraine. (2023). In *Global Organized Crime Index*. [https://ocindex.net/assets/downloads/2023/english/ocindex\\_profile\\_ukraine\\_2023.pdf](https://ocindex.net/assets/downloads/2023/english/ocindex_profile_ukraine_2023.pdf)
- Golden, T. (1997, December 29). DANGEROUS ALLIES: A special report.; U. S. Helps Mexico's Army Take a Big Anti-Drug Role. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/1997/12/29/world/dangerous-allies-special-report-us-helps-mexico-s-army-take-big-anti-drug-role.html>
- Harmash, O. (2023, March 31). Crime has fallen in Ukraine since war began — interior minister. *Reuters*. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/crime-has-fallen-ukraine-since-war-began-interior-minister-2023-03-31/>
- History.com Editors. (2022, January 5). *Ronald Reagan*. History. <https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/ronald-reagan>
- How the US sent \$12bn in cash to Iraq. And watched it vanish. (2007, February 8). *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2007/feb/08/usa.iraq1>
- Javers, E. (2011, October 26). The \$40 Billion Iraqi Money Trail. *CNBC*. [https://www.cnb.com/2011/10/26/The-\\$40-Billion-Iraqi-Money-Trail.html](https://www.cnb.com/2011/10/26/The-$40-Billion-Iraqi-Money-Trail.html)
- Johnson, R. (2011, October 22). The FBI Announces Gangs Have Infiltrated Every Branch Of The Military. *Business Insider*. <https://www.businessinsider.com/fbi-gang-assessment-us-military-2011-10>
- Klatell, J. (2007, July 29). Are Gang Members Using Military Training? *CBS News*. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/are-gang-members-using-military-training/>
- Lepskiy, M. (2020). Sociological Surveillance of the Pandemic: Exploring Interconnectedness, Panic, and Waves of Crisis. *Newsletter on the Results of Scholarly Work in Sociology, Criminology, Philosophy and Political Science*, 1(2), 32–47. <https://doi.org/10.61439/KFIT4800>
- Maltsev, O. (2020). *Filosofiya yuga Italii* [Philosophy of Southern Italy]. Serednyak T. <https://books.google.com.ua/books?vid=ISBN9786177822508>
- Maltsev, O., & Lopatiuk, I. (2023). War Crimes: Their Nature and Parameters. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 67(3), 358–370. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00027642221145029>
- Mauceri, J. (2023, July 7). *The Wagner Group Explained*. Yale University Press. <https://yalebooks.yale.edu/2023/07/07/the-wagner-group-explained/>
- Myre, G. (2021, December 24). How the Soviet Union's collapse explains the current Russia-Ukraine tension. *NPR*. <https://www.npr.org/2021/12/24/1066861022/how-the-soviet-unions-collapse-explains-the-current-russia-ukraine-tension>
- Pascual, I.D. (2021, June 29). *America's War on Drugs — 50 Years Later*. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. <https://civilrights.org/blog/americas-war-on-drugs-50-years-later/>
- Peterman, C. (n.d.). *Prohibition and Its Consequences*. Docs Teach. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://www.docsteach.org/activities/teacher/prohibition-and-its-consequences>
- The Collapse of the Soviet Union*. (n.d.). Office of the Historian. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1989-1992/collapse-soviet-union#:~:text=On%20December%2025%2C%201991%2C%20the,the%20newly%20independent%20Russian%20state.>
- The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. (2024, November 14). *Ku Klux Klan*. Britannika.

- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Ku-Klux-Klan>
- The Life and Legend of Billy the Kid*. (n.d.). PBS: American Experience. Retrieved November 23, 2024, from <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/billy-life-and-legend-billy-kid/>
- Ukraine*. (2024). International Crisis Group. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/europe-central-asia/eastern-europe/ukraine>
- Victims of Crime. (n.d.). In *U. S. Embassy in Ukraine*. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from <https://ua.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/victims-of-crime/#:~:text=As%20in%20all%20large%20cities,the%20U.S.%20Embassy%20in%20Kyiv>
- Wikipedia contributors. (2024, November 17). *George Floyd protests*. Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Floyd\\_protests](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Floyd_protests)
- Williams, F. (2024, November 21). *Los Zetas*. Britannika. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Los-Zetas>
- Wolf, C., & Davis Jr., E. (2024, February 23). Countries That Have Committed the Most Aid to Ukraine. *U. S. News & World Report*. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/these-countries-have-committed-the-most-aid-to-ukraine>
- World War I vs. World War II*. (n.d.). Diffeen. Retrieved November 22, 2024, from [https://www.diffeen.com/difference/World\\_War\\_I\\_vs\\_World\\_War\\_II](https://www.diffeen.com/difference/World_War_I_vs_World_War_II)
- Zelenskyy says 31,000 Ukrainian soldiers killed in war with Russia. (2024, February 25). *Aljazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/25/ukraines-umerov-says-delays-in-western-arms-deliveries-costing-lives>

### Author Biograthy

**Dwight Wilson** is a Corresponding Member of EUASU. He has spent over a decade working in the private security industry protecting high profile clients and working in high risk areas. He currently works for Valor Force as a security professional. He is an author of two books on human and wildlife tracking, *Following Tracks Vol 1 and 2*, and has contracted with several government agencies as a professional tracker and instructor. Dwight is a Guro of Filipino Martial Arts with Rister International Martial Arts for more than 20 years experience.

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons [Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International \(CC BY-NC4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) which allows reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format for non-commercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator.