



Why Putin can count on Africa for now

Description

With its mercenaries embedded and anticolonial sentiment rising, Moscow has the upper hand on the world's fastest-growing continent. Can Ukraine loosen its grip, asks Charlie Mitchell

The unconvincing United Nations Assembly vote this year to condemn President Putin's invasion of Ukraine confirmed a view long held by experts: that a new scramble for Africa was under way.

Twenty-two African nations refused to censure Russia over the war. Months later a similar group would not condemn its annexation of four Ukrainian regions.

Russia may be on the back foot militarily in Ukraine and increasingly friendless on the world stage, but it can count on plenty of support in Africa, long the playground of great powers. Over the past decade, from the Central African Republic (CAR) to Sudan, African leaders have come to prize Russia's merciless brand of hard power.

On Friday President Zelensky said that Kyiv would boost its own footprint

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by Charlie Mitchell

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