

DOI 10.36074/logos-04.07.2025.013

## MILITARY-ENERGY ECOCIDE OF UKRAINE

Vsevolod Kobrzhytskyi<sup>1</sup>

---

**1.** PhD in Economics, Professor IPA  
Professor of the Department of Management  
*Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Kyiv, UKRAINE*  
**ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0980-8308**

---

*Introduction.* The history of the development of Ukrainian-Russian relations shows that since the times of the national liberation struggle of the Ukrainian people against the Polish oppressors in the middle of the 17th century, the position of the Russian authorities, although it had the appearance of being friendly towards Ukraine and its people, was nevertheless exclusively mercantile and aimed at expanding its own possessions and obtaining political and economic preferences.

All the further development of Ukraine as part of the Russian and then Soviet empires showed, nothing fundamentally changed during this time. The same condescending attitude of the "big brother", neglect of the vital interests of the intelligent, hardworking Ukrainian people and their land, without which the empire could no longer imagine itself.

*The purpose of the study:* to identify the Ukrainian-phobic essence of Russian society in the context of the destruction of the Ukrainian people and the environment in peacetime and wartime.

*Research results.* Modern Russia, like the USSR once, hides the truth, manipulates and risks people's lives for the sake of the necessary ideological picture.

This is exactly what happened after the largest nuclear power plant disaster in history, the Chernobyl disaster. On April 26, 1986, a radioactive cloud formed by the destruction of the fourth power unit of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant (ChNPP) passed over the European part of the USSR, a significant part of Europe, as well as the eastern regions of the USA and Canada [1].

But it have been Ukrainians who were among the first to feel the consequences of the radiation leak. However, instead of informing the population about the danger and taking measures to protect people, the Soviet government tried to hide the truth, because it was not profitable for them to admit the problem

## ABSCHNITT 8.

### MILITÄRWISSENSCHAFT, NATIONALE SICHERHEIT UND SICHERHEIT DER STAATSGRENZEN

and take responsibility. Against the background of this ruthless decision, the May Day demonstration took place. Thousands of Kyiv residents, instead of evacuation, medical care, and strict protocol security measures, gathered in the centre of the capital to show “boundless love for their native communist party and its leadership.” Although the authorities were indifferent to the real pressing problems of the people, who were in a zone of mortal danger due to the radiation leak, which was especially active during the first ten days after the accident. Protecting the population from radiation danger was not a priority. The then authorities were more concerned about the image of the state and the possibility of minimizing material losses.

The leaders of the USSR, tried to preserve the illusion of order in the state. Information about the nuclear disaster was hidden for a long time and then downplayed. The whole world was at risk of terrible danger. Thus, any truth about the terrible consequences of the Chernobyl accident both inside the state and abroad, the Soviet authorities regarded as slander and an attempt to humiliate themselves.

Experiments on an operating reactor which were sanctioned by Moscow, were carried out on the territory of Ukraine, and not in Russia, where there have been much more operating nuclear power plants. After the accident the culprits were “found”. They were the director of the ChNPP V. Bryukhanov and the chief engineer M. Fomin who were sentenced to 10 years in prison and released early after technological errors were discovered in the construction of the plant. And how many people died from radiation exposure or the delayed effects of radiation sickness, how many of our fellow citizens had potential types of cancer activated, how many sick and weak children were born? There are no exact answers to these questions till today.

The Chernobyl disaster demonstrated to the whole world the fragility of the Soviet power and its irresponsible criminal attitude towards the people. It can be recognized as genocide and ecocide of the late 20th century. It became a kind of catalyst for changes in the socio-political life of the USSR, which led to its collapse [1].

After the start of full-scale aggression against Ukraine, Russian troops occupied the ChNPP without the problems and began to mindlessly manage it. Fortunately, the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) were able to liberate our northern regions from enemy occupation quite quickly and prevented further larger-scale destruction and plundering of this part of our state. The unscrupulous occupiers were also expelled from the territory of the ChNPP. The experts later realized the enormous amount of damage caused to such a dangerous facility by representatives of the “Russian world”. Unique equipment for monitoring and

## ABSCHNITT 8.

MILITÄRWISSENSCHAFT, NATIONALE SICHERHEIT UND SICHERHEIT DER  
STAATSGRENZEN

supervising the emergency plant was stolen, domestic and foreign equipment valuable for nuclear specialists was taken to Russia. The invaders have a strong attraction to outlying energy facilities, professing the occupier's rule: "if you don't steal, then destroy it." Having briefly managed the ChNPP, the Russians stayed at the Kakhovky hydroelectric power plant (KHEPP) for a long time.

Retreating under the powerful blows of the UAF from the right bank of the Dnieper, the enemies in panic behaved like thoughtless vandals. The destruction of the KHEPP dam is a war crime and an act of ecocide committed by the occupying forces of the Russia at about 2:50 a.m. on June 6, 2023. Everything indicates that the dam was mined and blown up, which led to its destruction. This will lead to serious long-term consequences for people and the environment. A powerful stream of water tore up thousands of tons of soil along with all the numerous representatives of flora and fauna. Gas stations, chemical warehouses, cattle cemeteries, and cesspools were washed away. Dirty streams of water entered the Black Sea.

According to scientists [2], due to the explosion of the KHEPP toxic elements which are industrial wastes that have accumulated over decades from emissions from industrial enterprises in Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro, Kamianske and Kryvyi Rih, have risen to the surface from the bottom of the reservoir. Another threat to the affected area is that over the years these toxic elements accumulate in plants and animal bodies, which can also enter the human body. Some local residents still use water from the lakes that remained after the explosion of the dam. Therefore, toxic elements can significantly threaten their health.

The problem of spreading all such substances due to dust storms that could rage on the dried-up reservoir could become acute. However, as of early April 2024, more than 50% of its territory was already covered by young willow forests. The moist soils of the bare bottom turned out to be an ideal environment for seed germination [3].

Such rapid overgrowth of the shallow water body eliminates the threat of toxic dust from the bottom of the former Kakhovka reservoir, where an amazing willow forest grew, spreading across the Ukrainian steppe. The new forest massif also shows signs of the formation of diverse ecosystems. Some areas are already populated not only by trees, but also by shrubs, grasses, mosses and even lichens, which indicates the rapid development of biodiversity. Despite all the challenges, young willows continue to grow actively in the space freed from water and, according to the Kholodny Institute of Botany, these trees now reach six to seven meters in height [4].

The loss of this dam was a major ecological disaster. More than 16,000 people and 80 settlements were affected. The destruction of the dam led to significant human casualties and a large-scale ecological disaster and bears all the hallmarks

## ABSCHNITT 8.

### MILITÄRWISSENSCHAFT, NATIONALE SICHERHEIT UND SICHERHEIT DER STAATSGRENZEN

of a war crime and ecocide. A huge number of domestic and wild animals and fish died in masse, primarily juvenile fish. In total, populations of more than 70 fish species were affected, including 18 listed in the Red Book [5]. The Kakhovka reservoir, with a total area of 2,155 square km, began to shrink rapidly and in October last year reached its minimum water volume and area, which at that time amounted to 193 square km. That is 9% of the original area of the reservoir.

Agricultural lands suffered significant damage, and the ecosystem of the region began to collapse. The reservoir became shallow. In a number of regions of Southern Ukraine a water supply problem immediately arose. According to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, the destruction of the dam caused the water supply to several dozen irrigation systems for fields in Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions to be stopped, covering a total area of almost 600 thousand hectares [6]. As a result, the affected territories will be irreversibly changed. In the territories located above the dam, shallowing of reservoirs and wells is observed. In some cities, water problems have begun.

The problems associated with wild animals, birds and fish are acute. A significant part of them will have to look for new habitats. Restoring the reservoir will require huge costs. Currently, both its feasibility and various restoration options are being debated. Among the different opinions on this issue, the voices of energy specialists for unconditional restoration and ecologists against restoration in the same form are most often heard. Experts from the Ukrainian Environmental Protection Group express an interesting assumption that it may turn out that for climatic and other reasons it will be more expedient to restore the natural flow of the Dnieper and re-profile the economy of southern Ukraine from arable farming to pasture livestock farming [7].

According to the calculations of the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Institute, without the restoration of the Kakhovka Dam and the reservoir, there will be too little water to effectively develop modern agriculture with deep grain processing and sale of the finished product [6].

The Resolution of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine dated 06.09.2023 No. 313 "On the Environmental Consequences of the Destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant Dam" shows the need to restore the reservoir and provides proposals for resolving the issue of the future fate of the KHPP [5].

If the war drags on and the status quo of the Kakhovka reservoir does not change, then about five percent of the reservoir area in the absence of active hostilities can be reclaimed and used in agriculture [2].

While scientists are looking for optimal ways to overcome this environmental disaster created by the Russian army, the following serious problem related to the

same Kakhovka reservoir is looming: interruptions or even cessation of the supply of the necessary amount of water to cool the reactors of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), the largest in Europe.

According to a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, “the situation in Ukraine is unprecedented. For the first time, an armed conflict is ongoing on the territory of a large nuclear facility” [8] According to Energoatom CEO Petro Kotin, the ZNPP is constantly very close to the first phase of the accident that occurred at Fukushima [9].

The occupiers have established control over the ZNPP turning it into a military base: stationing soldiers, weapons and mining the area, as well as shelling the neighboring cities of Nikopol and Marganets from its territory. At the same time, the occupants are applying various atrocities to almost all patriotic citizens of Energodar.

Currently, the ZNPP remains dependent on a single external power supply line to provide the electricity needed to cool its six reactors and spent nuclear fuel. This continues after the loss of communication with the last backup 330 kV power transmission line, which was disconnected on May 7 due to military operations at a certain distance from the ZNPP, leaving it dependent on a single 750 kV line. Before the war, the ZNPP had access to ten external power supply lines. All six reactors at the nuclear power plant have been in a "cold shutdown" state since 2024, but still require cooling water for the reactor cores.

According to IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, “the extremely fragile situation with external power supplies, as well as the problems associated with the availability of cooling water after the collapse of the Kakhovka dam two years ago, underline that nuclear safety at the ZNPP remains extremely fragile” [10].

Russia’s attempts to start up the ZNPP violate all international principles of the safe use of nuclear energy, in particular due to the lack of reliable water-cooling systems. At a meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors on June 12, a joint statement was adopted by 48 member states, according to which any restart of the ZNPP power units is possible only after its return to Ukrainian control [11].

There is a shortage of qualified personnel at the ZNPP and unqualified workers are used. A significant military contingent and weapons are constantly present at the station. Provocative shelling is carried out from its territory. And the denial of access to IAEA specialists to monitor the operation of the ZNPP in such abnormal conditions can lead to an even worse accident than it was at the ChNPP. And then not only the citizens of Ukraine, but also a significant part of Europe can suffer a serious defeat from the “peaceful atom” sent to them by the supporters of the “Russian world”.

*Conclusions:* the military aggression of Russia against Ukraine and its people with all the attacks on critical infrastructure facilities, cities and villages, where



### ABSCHNITT 8.

#### MILITÄRWISSENSCHAFT, NATIONALE SICHERHEIT UND SICHERHEIT DER STAATSGRENZEN

civilians are killed and crippled, their homes and property, hospitals and schools are destroyed, has a clearly pronounced character of genocide.

Along with it, acts of vandal ecocide are also included in the list of crimes of Russia, which emphasizes the lack of humanity of those who came to punish the Ukrainian people for their love of freedom and independence, for choosing their own path of development, which does not involve further participation in the development of the post-Soviet (Russian) empire.

#### REFERENCES:

- [1] <https://www.ukrainer.net/demonstratsiia-pislia-chaes/> accessed 26.04.2024
- [2] <https://www.dw.com/uk/kahovske-vodoshovise-znovu-z-vodou-so-ce-oznacae-dla-ziteliv-regionu4-a-69288093/a-69288093> accessed 30.05.2025
- [3] <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/kahovske-vodoshovishche-zarostaye-verbami-yak-ce-vplinulo-na-ekosistemu-300804/> accessed 20.05.2025
- [4] <https://www.unian.ua/ecology/kahovske-vodoshovishche-naukovci-pokazali-sho-stalosya-z-miscevisty-pislya-pidrivu-dambi-13007421.html> accessed 30.05.2025
- [5] <https://www.nas.gov.ua/UA/Messages/news/Pages/View.aspx?MessageID=10533> accessed 20.04.2025
- [6] <https://minagro.gov.ua> accessed 21.01.2025
- [7] <https://uncg.org.ua/experts/> accessed 21.04.2025
- [8] <https://www.iaea.org> accessed 26.05.2025
- [9] <https://unn.ua/news/zaes-postiino-duzhe-blyzko-do-pershoi-fazy-avarii-yaka-bula-na-fukusimi-kotin/> accessed 26.09.2024
- [10] <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-economy/4008706-zaporizka-aes-uze-sim-tizniv-zalezit-vid-odniei-linii-elektroperedaci-magate.html> accessed 23.06.2025
- [11] <https://tsn.ua/ato/sytuatsiia-na-zaporizkiy-aes-krytychna-shcho-vidbuvayetsia-pislia-rosiyskoho-obstrilu-2823842.html> accessed 22.06.2025