Annihilation v2: Addendum

Is Putin planning to repopulate his annexed territories with Russians?

Early in the year 2023, long after the above essay had been completed, rumours and other such 'hear-say' imprecise information are gradually becoming louder.

Much of this information is formulated as comments on videos produced by the associated press news agency (AP) here copied as they appear on the internet:

"The Russians are slowly rebuilding the shattered Ukrainian port city of Mariupol. But they are also erasing the former national identity of what was a symbol of Ukrainian defiance." (Dec. 22) (AP Video/Marshall Ritzel)

"The war is a very brutal and sad thing, but Russia is already rebuilding the city, and <u>people are already moving into completely new</u> and actually very pretty houses."

"I like how they take a video of one lady lighting a candle add a voiceover and everybody can't believe how tragic this is the reason they couldn't get even one person for a full interview is because any 'ethnic Ukrainians' whatever that means, left a half a year ago <u>only people left are Russians or pro Russians</u>."

"New apartments and other restorations will not help the families impacted by this cruelty. Ruzzia has destroyed lives, communities, and the future of many citizens -- not just bricks and mortar."

".....for the interim government established. Rebuilding Mariupol will also make it look like the Russian control over Ukrainian territory isn't enslavement but it's a propeople power coming in to do the best for the native population."

"Russia has been both demolishing and rebuilding to create a new city – a model Russian city with little trace of its Ukrainian past."

"Sky's Data & Forensics team has measured and mapped this destruction and has been monitoring its rebirth, which many former residents believe has a more sinister motive."

It would appear that the origin of these sentiments lies in a document first issued on the 29.03.2023 and later formally reported upon by the Deputy Defence Minister, Hanna Maliar, on the 26.04.2023.

According to Maliar's report: "people from poor and remote regions of Russia are being brought to Ukraine's occupied territories and provided "every possible support" from the occupation authorities, including housing, employment, and loans for developing businesses. Furthermore: "The local Ukrainians are being forcibly deported "under various pretexts" to Russia, especially those suspected of "adhering to pro-Ukrainian positions."

"In this way, the enemy seeks to destroy Ukrainian statehood and the national selfidentity of society in the temporarily-occupied Ukrainian territories," Maliar wrote."*)

That the Russians are forcibly removing local Ukrainians was reported in the 'Kyiv Independent' as long ago as April 2022:"Soon, Russian soldiers started wandering around the village, demanding that the locals give them their food. People were too afraid to disobey. Ihor was told that one of his fellow villagers refused to follow the order, yelling at the occupiers and telling them to leave the yard of his house. He got shot immediately," Ihor says." **)

There cannot be any more clear evidence that the Russian aim is the total elimination of everything and anything Ukrainian and this has been their aim right from the beginning and no amount of military strife will alter that. This is no longer and never was a question of defeat or victory. Only the total wipe-out of anything Ukrainian will count.

*) Unknown author, *Official: Russia initiates large-scale resettlement to Ukraine's occupied territories,* Kyiv Independent, 29. March 2023.

**) Schulzenko, D, *Kharkiv Oblast resident forcibly deported to Russia: 'It's not a country, it's a prison',* Kyiv Independent, 18. April 2022.