To a large extent, the current Russian-Ukrainian war may be regarded as a war about the past: most arguments of Vladimir Putin for the full-scale invasion of Ukraine were of a historical character. There are, however, interpretations that Putin used these arguments as a smokescreen to cover very pragmatic considerations. To find out which interpretation is true, one has to identify when Putin made his decision to invade Ukraine. Using various testimonies and leaks, the presentation claims that the decisions were made gradually, and at each point history mattered albeit in different ways.

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