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Attacking Crimea



Back in March, when one of the key topics was a no-fly zone over Ukraine, [U.S. Defense Secr. Lloyd Austin](#) rejected the idea flat out because it would mean having to shut down Russia's air defenses on the ground, and some of those air-defense systems are in Russia. "A no-fly zone means that you're in a conflict with Russia," he said. "So from a U.S. perspective, our position remains that we're not going to do that." Czech PM Petr Fiala said at the time that a no-fly zone would mean [going to war with Russia](#) and that Nato is a defense alliance. Such a debate is coming back because of the affirmation of the U.S. last week that it's okay for Ukraine to use weapons supplied by Washington to [attack Russian-occupied Crimea](#). The U.S. argument is that Crimea is Ukrainian territory and that any target Kyiv chooses to pursue on sovereign Ukrainian soil is by definition self-defense. Russia of course doesn't see it that way. Fiala hasn't yet commented on where his government stands on the issue.

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