
WHY THE WEST IS LOSING UKRAINE

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Vladimir Putin must be enjoying this moment.

Not only did the Russian president manage to snuff-troll the Munich Security Conference with news of the death of his main political rival, Alexei Navalny (slowly murdered by his jailers in Siberia, according to the European Unions top diplomat Josep Borrell); he also scored a well-timed battlefield success when, over the weekend, his troops finally took the town of Avdiivka in eastern Ukraine following a tactical retreat by ammunition-starved Ukrainian troops who had defended the town since 2014.

According to one participant in Munich, the mood at the gathering of Western security and diplomatic elites □ typically a chance to project unity and resolve between exclusive cocktail receptions □ was grim. There is a sense of urgency, without a sense of action, said Jan Techau, Germany director for the Eurasia Group, a think tank. Its a very strange state of affairs.

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