

Nukes

Russia's nuclear talk is itself the weapon. ... Russian propagandists want us to think that nuclear powers can never lose wars, on the logic that they could always deploy nuclear weapons to win.

This is an ahistoric fantasy.

Nuclear weapons did not bring the French victory in Algeria, nor did they preserve the British Empire. The Soviet Union lost its war in Afghanistan. America lost in Vietnam and in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

Israel failed to win in Lebanon.

Nuclear powers lose wars with some regularity.

Timothy Snyder, New York Times, May 6, 2022, on Russia's threats to use nuclear weapons to guarantee a win in its war with Ukraine