

Militia

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A militia (mil-ISH-) is a military or paramilitary force that comprises civilian members, as opposed to a professional standing army of regular, full-time military personnel. Militias may be raised in times of need to support regular troops or serve as a pool of available manpower for regular forces to draw from.

When acting independently, militias are generally unable to hold ground against regular forces. Militias commonly support regular troops by skirmishing, holding fortifications, or conducting irregular warfare, instead of undertaking offensive campaigns by themselves. However, militias may also engage in defense activities to protect a community, its territory, property, and laws. For example, naval militias may comprise fishermen and other civilians which are organized and sanctioned by a state to enforce its maritime boundaries.

Beginning in the late 20th century, some militias (in particular officially recognized and sanctioned militias of a government) act as professional forces, while still being part-time or on-call organizations. For instance, members of the part-time United States National Guard militia are considered professional soldiers, as they are trained to the same standards that their full-time, active duty counterparts are. Militias may nonetheless operate outside of a state's legal jurisdiction, taking the form of a private military force, irregular military, or guerilla forces.

In countries with conscription, the term "militia" may refer to the entire able-bodied population available, legally obliged, or who actually respond to be called to arms. In Russia and some countries of the former Soviet Union, an official reserve army composed of citizen soldiers is known as the militsiya.

American militia movement

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American militia movement is a term used by law enforcement and security analysts to refer to a number of private organizations that include paramilitary or similar elements. These groups may refer to themselves as militia, unorganized militia, and constitutional militia. While groups such as the Posse Comitatus existed as early as the 1980s, the movement gained momentum only after standoffs with government agents in the early 1990s. By the mid-1990s, such groups were active in all 50 US states, with membership estimated at between 20,000 and 60,000. The movement is most closely associated with the American right-wing. Most modern organizations calling themselves militias are illegal private paramilitary organizations that would require official sanctioning of a state government in order to be constitutional.

Bolivarian Militia of Venezuela

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The Bolivarian Militia of Venezuela is a militia branch of the National Bolivarian Armed Forces of Venezuela. Its headquarters is at the National Military Museum, Fort Montana, Caracas. The Commanding General of the National Militia is Major General Javier José Marcano Táбата, as of August 2024. The National Militia celebrates its anniversary every April 13 yearly.

Militia (disambiguation)

Look up militia in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. A militia is an army or other fighting organization of non-professional soldiers. Militia may also

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Militia may also refer to:

Militia Act

many statutes known as Militia Act, or, when proposed and before passage into law, the Militia Bill. Militia Ordinance, or Militia Bill, proposed in 1642

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Militia Ordinance, or Militia Bill, proposed in 1642 in England

The King's Sole Right over the Militia Act 1661 (13 Cha. 2 St. 1. c. 6), England

Militia Act 1662 (14 Cha. 2. c. 3), England, defining lord-lieutenants powers to raise militia

Militia Act 1745 (19 Geo. 2. c. 2), Kingdom of Great Britain

Militia Act 1757, creating a militia to defend Britain during the Seven Years' War, leading to the creation of The Poker Club in Scotland

Militia Act 1786 (26 Geo. 3. c. 107), an act of the Parliament of Great Britain

Militia Acts of 1792 (Uniform Militia Act), two acts passed by the United States Federal government

Militia Act (Ireland) 1793 (33 Geo. 3. c. 22 (I))

Militia Act 1797, to create a uniform Scottish militia

Militia Act of 1808, United States

Militia Act of 1855, Canada

Militia Act of 1862, United States

Militia Act of 1903 (Dick Act), United States

Militia Act 1802 (42 Geo. 3. c. 90), United Kingdom

Militia Act 1803 (43 Geo. 3. c. 50) Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom

Militia Act of 1845, to create the Nelson Battalion of Militia in New Zealand

Militia Act 1882, United Kingdom, amended by the Reserve Forces and Militia Act 1898

People's Militia

People's Militia may refer to: People's Militia (Burkina Faso) People's Militias (Czechoslovakia) People's Militia (Ethiopia) Russian people's militias in Ukraine

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People's Militia (Burkina Faso)

People's Militias (Czechoslovakia)

People's Militia (Ethiopia)

Russian people's militias in Ukraine, now the 1st Army Corps (DNR) and 2nd Army Corps (LNR) of Russia

Ukrainian People's Militsiya

Militia (China)

Narodnoe Opolcheniye, the people's militia of the Soviet Union

Peoples' Militia of Bulgaria, now National Police Service (Bulgaria)

People's Militia of Eritrea, part of Eritrean Defence Forces

People's Militia of Libya, part of the Armed Forces of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Militia (United States)

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The militia of the United States, as defined by the U.S. Congress, has changed over time. During colonial America, all able-bodied men of a certain age range were members of the militia, depending on each colony's rule. Individual towns formed local independent militias for their own defense. The year before the U.S. Constitution was ratified, The Federalist Papers detailed the Founding Fathers' paramount vision of the militia in 1787. The new Constitution empowered Congress to "organize, arm, and discipline" this national military force, leaving significant control in the hands of each state government.

Today, as defined by the Militia Act of 1903, the term "militia" is used to describe two classes within the United States:

Organized militia – consisting of the National Guard and Naval Militia.

Unorganized militia – comprising the reserve militia: every able-bodied man of at least 17 and under 45 years of age, who are not members of the National Guard or the Naval Militia. These are militia that are under control of the State Governors.

Congress chose to organize militias for the interests of organizing reserve military units which were not limited in deployment by the strictures of its power over the constitutional militia, which can be called forth only "to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions."

Russian separatist forces in Ukraine

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Russian separatist forces in Ukraine, primarily the People's Militias of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR), were pro-Russian paramilitaries in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine. They were under the overall control of the Russian Federation. They were also referred to as

Russian proxy forces. They were active during the war in Donbas (2014–2022), the first stage of the Russo-Ukrainian War. They then supported the Russian Armed Forces against the Ukrainian Armed Forces during the 2022 Russian invasion. In September 2022, Russia annexed the DPR and LPR, and began integrating the paramilitaries into its armed forces. They are designated as terrorist groups by the government of Ukraine.

The separatist paramilitaries were formed during the 2014 pro-Russian unrest in Ukraine. The Donbas People's Militia was formed in March 2014 by Pavel Gubarev, who proclaimed himself "People's Governor" of Donetsk Oblast, while the Army of the South-East was formed in Luhansk Oblast. The Donbas war began in April 2014 after these groups seized Ukrainian government buildings in the Donbas, leading the Ukrainian military to launch its Anti-Terrorist Operation against them.

During the Donbas war, Russian far-right groups were heavily involved in recruiting for the separatists, and many far-right activists joined them and formed volunteer units. The Russian separatists have been held responsible for war crimes, among them the shootdown of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 and the Mariupol rocket attacks, which they have denied. The militias were also responsible for illegal abductions, detention, and torture of civilians of the Donbas.

The separatist paramilitaries were supported by, and were proxies of, the Russian Armed Forces. Ukraine, the United States, and some analysts deemed them to be under the command of Russia's 8th Combined Arms Army. Although the Russian government often denied direct involvement, evidence suggested otherwise. The separatists admitted receiving weaponry and supplies from Russia, being trained there, and having thousands of Russian citizens in their ranks. By September 2015, the separatist units, at the battalion level and up, were acting under the command of Russian Army officers. In 2023, Russia acknowledged separatists who fought in the Donbas war as being eligible to receive Russian combat veteran status.

Although called "militias", shortly before the 2022 Russian invasion, the separatist republics began forced conscription of men to fight for Russia. The Donbas conscripts have been described as the "cannon fodder" of the Russian forces; by November 2022 the casualty rate of the separatist units was almost 50%, according to official separatist sources.

Minister of Militia and Defence

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From 1855 to 1906, the minister was responsible for Canadian militia units only, as the British Army was still stationed in Canada. From 1906 to 1923, the minister was in charge of the Department of Militia and Defence (Canada). After 1923, the position was merged with the Minister of the Naval Service and the Minister of Aviation into the new position of Minister of National Defence. The Minister of National Defence became responsible for the Canadian Militia, the Royal Canadian Navy and, from 1924, the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Michigan Militia

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The Michigan Militia is a paramilitary Michigan-based organization founded in 1994 by Norman Olson, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. The group was formed in response to perceived encroachments by the federal government on the rights of citizens. It is part of the wider American militia movement.

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