



This timeline outlines the major biological disinformation narratives as well as the key events and developments that were incorporated into or distorted by malign state disinformation campaigns.

The methodology employed for compiling the policy timeline on biological weapons (BW) allegation was designed to be as detailed and impartial as possible whilst acknowledging the limitations in available data and sources.

The analysis does not exhaustively cover every possible document or statement but focuses on key sources that were most relevant and available within the specified timeframe.

## SCOPE AND SEARCH PARAMETERS

To construct the timeline, we systematically searched official documents, statements, and reports available from national and international governmental archives and websites. The primary focus was on countries central to BW-related claims - either as originators or targets of disinformation - namely China, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, and the United States.

The following search terms in English were commonly used in the research process:

- “bio”
- “biological military”
- “biological weapons”
- “Georgia”
- “Lugar”
- “military biological”
- “Ukraine”
- “US”

## SOURCE BREAKDOWN

Our dataset focused on:

1. The Biological Weapons Convention
  - a. China, Russia, Ukraine and the United States

Available statements from Ukraine, Russia, China, and the US spanning the ten-year timeframe 2015-2025. These statements were examined for references to biological weapons allegations or allegations of military biological activity, especially those pertaining to Georgia, Ukraine or the United States. The search terms “bio,” “biological military,” “biological weapons,” “Georgia,” “Lugar,” “military biological,” “Ukraine,” and “US” were used to identify relevant material. The ten-year timeframe was selected because it covers the period when state-sponsored biological weapons allegations and related narratives became increasingly prominent, especially in the context of the Ukraine conflict. The 2015 start date was chosen not due to lack of earlier material (which is available in UNODA’s BWC documentation library), but because this period marks the point at

which such allegations became increasingly prominent in official discourse, particularly in relation to the Ukraine conflict.

## 2. UNGA's First Committee

Statements and reports from the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee were analysed in the 2015–2025 timeframe. The search terms “bio,” “Ukraine,” “Georgia,” “military biological,” and “Lugar” were used to identify relevant discussions, with special attention to allegations and debates related to nefarious activities and biological warfare, particularly those involving Georgia, Ukraine, and the United States.

## 3. UN Security Council Documents

Relevant documents submitted by China, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, and the United States to the UN Security Council were reviewed in the 2015–2025 timeframe. The search terms “bio,” “Ukraine,” “Georgia,” “military biological,” and “Lugar” were used to identify references to bio-labs, biological warfare allegations, and military biological activity.

## 4. OSCE (Operation for Security and Co-operation in Europe)

Documents were reviewed from 2015 onward. The search terms “bio,” “military biological,” “Georgia” and “Ukraine” were used to identify relevant statements and documentation.

## 5. Government websites

- a. Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA): The Russian MFA's official website (in English) was searched between 2015-2025 for mentions of “bio”, “biological weapons”, “military biological activities”, “disease outbreaks”, focusing on statements and documents that included references to Georgia or Ukraine.
- b. Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD): Similarly, the Russian MoD website (in English) was searched for relevant content between 2015-2025, for mentions of “bio”, “biological weapons”, “military biological activities”, “disease outbreaks”, focusing on statements and documents that included references to Georgia or Ukraine.
- c. US State Department: Documents related to the Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) and Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR), as well as other relevant materials, were reviewed from 2015-2025.
- d. Arms Control Compliance Reports: All reports in the 2015-2025 timeframe were reviewed; emphasis was placed on documents that addressed the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), particularly concerning China and Russia.
- e. Annual Threat Assessments (2015-2025): Sections on Chemical and Biological Warfare (CBW) were reviewed in the 2015-2025 timeframe, with emphasis on – China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia.
- f. Worldwide Threat Assessments (2015-2018, 2021,2024,2025): Available reports in the 2015-2025 timeframe were reviewed; emphasis was placed on the sections directly relating to Russia.
- g. US Embassy and Treasury Department Websites: Information related to US sanctions imposed on Russia concerning biological weapons or labs were reviewed.

## 6. Russian Media:

- a. RT and TASS (in English): These outlets were selected due to their status as two of the most widely accessed and influential Russian state media organisations. Their coverage provides official perspectives and narratives commonly disseminated by the Russian state. Searches were conducted between 2015-2025 using keywords; “bio”, “biological weapons”, “military biological

activities”, “disease outbreaks”, “Georgia” “Lugar”, “Ukraine” and “US”. Articles were included if they directly addressed issues related to biological weapons, laboratories, or alleged military biological activities. Duplicate reports and pieces where the keywords appeared only incidentally without substantive discussion were excluded.

- b. Other Russian media (in English): Other relevant media articles were included for additional context. This was not a comprehensive or systematic review of all Russian media coverage but rather a targeted selection of materials considered useful for understanding specific incidents and narratives.

## DATA SYNTHESIS AND TIMELINE CREATION

The documents were analysed and the information synthesised in a chronological order of key events and allegations. This approach allowed us to map the progression of BW allegations from first mentions in the mid-2010s to the more recent intensification of these claims.





The following steps were taken during the synthesis:

- Documenting the date of each relevant statement or report.
- Categorising each piece of information according to its source (e.g., Russia, Ukraine, United States etc.) and its content (e.g., allegations, official denials, statements of support).
- Cross-referencing sources to ensure consistency and to understand the context in which the allegations were made.

## LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

While the goal was to be as comprehensive as possible, there were limitations. For example, patent databases were not included in this research due to the challenges of assessing the potential threat level of the technologies described

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