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Charting the war in real time: Online maps as a means of narrating the war in Ukraine

From its beginning in 2014, the war in Ukraine has been characterized by the intense use of digital media for interpreting and narrating the war's course. One specific form of narration is the use of online maps, where the latest developments in the conflict are tracked and real and imagined borders are established. By critically examining digital affordances provided by a selection of mapping projects, such as LiveUA and Militarymaps, I will discuss the challenges and possibilities of using online maps as a form of narrating the ongoing armed conflicts using as a case study the Battle for Debaltsevo in 2015 and briefly discuss the differences between the use of online maps in 2015 and during the ongoing Russian attack on Ukraine.



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