

In Photos: Russia Marks 9 Years of Crimea Annexation Amid Full-Scale Invasion

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Nine years ago on Saturday, Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine in a move that brought widespread international backlash and sanctions. Over the past nine years, the anniversary has typically been celebrated in Russia with events that culminate in a major concert and rally where President Vladimir Putin speaks. But this year, amid the war in Ukraine, a series of small events were held across the country in lieu of the Kremlin's traditional rally in Moscow. Putin meanwhile made a surprise visit to the Crimean city of Sevastopol. Here's a look at some of the events held in Russia to mark the annexation's anniversary:



Valentin Yegorshin / TASS

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