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**The War in Ukraine**

## **Introduction**

After a year of an assault on the U.S. Capitol, horrific bloodshed in Ethiopia, a Taliban comeback in Afghanistan, Russia showdowns over Ukraine, and China over Taiwan, amid COVID-19, a climate emergency, and many other challenges facing the humankind, it’s easy to see a world careening off the tracks.

Standoffs involving major powers look increasingly dangerous. Putin taking on incursion into Ukraine. A China-U.S. clash over Taiwan is unlikely in 2022, but the Chinese and U.S. militaries increasingly bump up against each other around the island and in the South China Sea, with all the peril of entanglement that entails. If the Iran nuclear deal collapses, which now seems probable, the United States or Israel may attempt—possibly even early in 2022—to knock out Iranian nuclear facilities, likely prompting Tehran to sprint toward weaponization while lashing out across the region. One mishap or miscalculation, in other words, and interstate war could make a comeback.

As we know, on February 24, Russian President Putin announced the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine. Russian troops are shelling and destroying key infrastructure, massively shelling residential areas of Ukrainian cities and towns using artillery, multiple rocket launchers and ballistic missiles. Martial law was imposed in Ukraine and general mobilization was announced.

I've been hesitant to post anything on social media because there are no words to truly capture the senseless and tragic situation happening in Ukraine right now. Besides, words and posts are nothing compared to the strength and courage already being demonstrated by the Ukrainian people to the world. To all those who have sent messages of support and prayers, I'm deeply grateful. The past couple of weeks have been painful and nerve-wracking to watch, but I am very privileged to be safe in the USA.

My wife is in Kyiv right now taking care of my very ill 92-year-old mother-in-law. The pharmacies are mostly closed, and the city is under curfew due to Putin's missiles and sabotage forces terrorizing civilian areas. It's unclear when they will be able to obtain all the necessary medication and get other medical services such as doctor’s visits etc.

Other members of my family in Kyiv and Kharkiv, and elsewhere in Ukraine are stuck in underground bomb shelters. Thankfully, internet and electric services are still functioning normally and I'm able to check in on their safety, but that could change at any minute. Clearly, to me this is deeply personal, but others might still be wondering, why should I care about Ukraine?

Those who have been through hell, and yet still show up every day to work hard and support and protect your family. Those who ask nothing of others except the liberty to make your own choices and destiny. Those who maintain hope in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. These are the values the Ukrainian people are fighting for right now.

When I grew up in a small green neighborhood of Kyiv’s (the capital), I heard many stories by my maternal grandmother and great grandmother about the horrors and difficult times that they were facing during World War I and World War II. They used to live in an old Jewish neighborhood in the city, next door to the family of Golda Meir, famous Israeli Prime Minister. Because of war with Nazis, they needed to leave Kyiv. Upon return, they learned that their home was destroyed. They moved to the suburbs and then to another part of the city where I was born and spent my childhood. My father, native Ukrainian, also used to talk a lot about the war in the Poltava region where he grew up and experienced WW2 as a little boy.

When I was listening to all these stories, I was sad, but also happy and proud, believing that I will never face the horrors of a new war. And here I am: listening to the stories about the war that my peaceful country of Ukraine, where I was born and grew up, is facing right now again from my wife and my relatives: my sister’s and brother’s families. My wife’s mother, who lived thought the horrors of the Nazi’s invasion in much suffering now city of Mariupol, is also facing the new war again.

My sister, an MD, a lab manager at a large hospital in Kyiv (which is currently shut down) and her 2 children, a boy and a girl (the boy was about to graduate from high school this year and go to college, now all these plans are very vague, as all schools are shut down), all of them being Ukrainian citizens and residents, are on the run to cross the border over to EU as refugees (my sister specifically told me – “I do not want to come back to Soviet Union!”). They could not even take their foreign passports with them, as the passports remain in their city condo, and the bridge was blown away, so they could not get there, and went with just light luggage, and a little cache for a week or so, as the banks are closed as many institutions are (some ATMs are still open). Her husband, a cancer surgeon, and a cancer division manager, remains on duty at the hospital in Kyiv.

I would like to remind you of the fact that Ukraine gave up the possession of its nuclear weapons in order to pursue a path of peaceful collaboration with the neighboring countries. The warrantors of Ukraine’s safety after that were the US and Russia. It seems that Ukraine’s neighbor – Russia and its government - completely forgot their promises and duties! After all the efforts that humankind has put into preventing nuclear World War 3, we are facing the possibility of it happening.

The Kremlin's propaganda uses all kinds of reasons to justify the invasion of Ukraine. About protection of "L / DNR" from alleged attack of "ukrofascists". On the hypothetical NATO threat from Ukrainian soil. About "drug addicts and neo-Nazis" who took "the whole Ukrainian people" hostage. On the "denazification and demilitarization" of Ukraine and the like.

The "peaceful" efforts of the Russian military declared by the false Putin are perfectly illustrated by the bearded sentence: there will be no war, but there will be such a struggle for peace that there will be no stone left unturned. From hospitals, to schools, and kindergartens... There is no stone left unturned in what was peaceful, predictable and safe life! There is no hope that our neighbor will finally sober up after the "Day of the Defender of the Fatherland", February 23, and look around in horror: what have I done?!

It has come to the point that now in Russia the war cannot even be called a war, but only a "special operation". And in Russia, any information about the actions or losses of the military from unofficial sources is considered a "fake" and is punishable under the laws of war.

## **A fresh overview of the first columns of the world media:**

The Times Main photo: "Ukrainian forces attack the convoy", reports the destruction of the column, a photo from a drone shows a column that is attacking Kyiv. The headline The Times reports that the U.K. was the first country to impose sanctions on Abramovich, and Foreign Minister Liz Truss accused him of having "hands in blood".

The oligarch was officially banned from traveling to the UK, as well as his numerous assets were frozen and he was banned from doing business with British individuals and companies, the document said. In the first column, The Times examines the threat of Russia's use of chemical weapons. An editorial said there was "little doubt" that President Putin could make that decision. The newspaper says the deployment of chemical weapons will raise rates for the West and increase calls for a no-fly zone. A senior Chelsea source told the Times that if the club failed to function properly, it would quickly start losing money and accumulating debt.

The "medieval conditions" in which the residents of major Ukrainian cities found themselves are the focus of the Guardian's front page. The newspaper says the "continuous shelling" of the southern port city has left a "trail of complete devastation", and residents "focused solely on survival" after Russian attacks left them without electricity and water.

The Telegraph reports that the public is asking to receive tens of thousands of Ukrainian refugees with kinship ties in the UK, according to government plans to be unveiled this weekend. The document says there are plans to set up a hotline and website for volunteers following criticism of the Interior Ministry's "chaotic" deployment of refugees. Telegraph writes that the ministers will announce the creation of a hotline and a website on which the public, charities and businesses will be invited to give refugees a place to live. The Daily Telegraph reports that Russian state television broadcast calls for Putin to end the war. Experts likened the conflict to Afghanistan when an incumbent army officer explained on a Defense Ministry channel that Russian soldiers were dying in Ukraine. Caption of the main photo: "Ukrainian soldier says goodbye to his girlfriend at the train station in L’viv before a trip to Kyiv, where Russian troops are pushing." The Daily Telegraph reports that the ministers will announce the creation of a hotline and a website on which the public, charities and businesses will be invited to provide accommodation for refugees.

Half of Ukraine's economy has been shut down, and $ 100 billion (£ 76 billion) in infrastructure has been destroyed by the Russian invasion, according to the Financial Times. The newspaper says the country is also facing growing human casualties of war as violence in the southern city of Mariupol escalates on Thursday, with food shortages and mass graves in the besieged city.

The phrase "humanitarian catastrophe" has already become synonymous with the Russian Federation. The President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi said this in his video address, a Ukrinform correspondent reports. Our government officials are doing everything possible to ensure that there is fuel, food, medicine and everything on the whole territory of the country - I emphasize this - all the goods people need. Gasoline, diesel and everything else are imported," he added. As Ukrinform reported, Iryna Vereshchuk, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine, said that a number of humanitarian corridors were opening in Ukraine on Friday, March 11, in Donetsk, Zaporizhia, Kharkiv, and Kyiv regions.

## **Assistance to Ukraine**

But Ukraine is not alone in this war crisis. The US Congress has voted in favor of $ 13.6 billion in aid to Ukraine. According to Reuters, the decision was sent to the Senate, which must approve it by Friday. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi said the funds were probably only part of much more help. "We all need to do more to help Ukraine in the coming weeks and in the long run to rebuild it," she said, referring to the United States and its NATO allies.

The Democratic and Republican parties have come together in support of the decision to help Ukraine, an infrequent unity for a divided Congress, Reuters reports. "We need to put this law on the president's table as soon as possible to respond to acts of aggression," said Ken Calvert, a Republican on the Defense Subcommittee. "Failure will certainly demonstrate our weakness internationally." It will be recalled that Ukraine and Eastern European countries will receive more than $ 4 billion from this assistance to solve the problems of 2 million refugees from our country. Another $ 6.7 billion will be allocated for military assistance to Ukraine and US allies, for the deployment of US troops in the region, as well as for economic assistance and economic sanctions against Russia. Addition, 06:32. Congress also voted to ban imports of Russian oil. 414 congressmen voted in favor, 17 against (two Democrats and 15 Republicans). The law also restricts Russia's participation in the World Trade Organization and imposes sanctions on those who violate human rights.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces already have lethal weapons received as aid from Western partners. These weapons include both Soviet-style weapons, which are no longer needed by neighboring countries, and state-of-the-art weapons used in NATO. Lithuania was the first to hand over weapons to Ukraine in 2015, the latest being aid from the United Kingdom with grenade launchers. Radio Svoboda tells in detail when and which Western countries handed over lethal weapons to Ukraine.

France has provided another 100 million euros in financial and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The French Foreign Ministry says aid will be provided to citizens affected by the Russian invasion.

Mostly by a majority vote, the European Parliament approved a resolution recommending that EU members work to grant Ukraine candidate status. The European Parliament voted 637 in favor of granting Ukraine candidate status. Only 13 parliamentarians voted against.

### **How to help Ukraine? List of critical resources and platforms for donation**

We could not have imagined that this would ever happen. But now we just have to mobilize and do everything that depends on us. Of course, not everyone is ready for newsletters, interesting articles, etc. But we came with extremely important information. In this issue, we have gathered the main resources for donations that everyone who wants to help Ukraine withstand the inhuman attack of Putin's army can use. If you are looking for a way to help, any donations to the fundraisers listed below, or to other charities would be tremendously appreciated. Please continue to send your prayers and messages of support, too.

Слава Україні God bless and protect Ukraine

**Local organizations**

* [My son Erik's birthday fundraiser for United Help Ukraine](https://www.facebook.com/donate/580779753345295/2677541959048528/)
* [https://time.com/6151353/how-to-help-ukraine-people/](https://time.com/6151353/how-to-help-ukraine-people/?fbclid=IwAR0p41Pke112J9bhOrqtx8mBiV-V4LWqPvWULiVsW5ypmPSu4uAjGfHRQcU)
* <https://www.sunflowerofpeace.com/>
* [United Ukrainian American Relief Committee](https://www.uuarc.org/)
* [Nova Ukraine\*](https://novaukraine.org/)
* [Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA](https://uocofusa.org/)
* [Ukrainian Women's League of America](https://unwla.org/)
* [Ukrainian Cultural Center of New England](https://uccn.org/)
* [Ukrainian Congress of America](https://ucca.org/)
* [Ukrainian Medical Association of North America Foundation](https://www.umana.org/foundation.php)

**Ukraine-Based Organizations** ·

* [Official site of Ukraine](https://war.ukraine.ua/)
* [Special account of the National Bank to help the army](https://suspilne.media/210337-nacbank-vidkriv-specrahunok-dla-dopomogi-armii/)
* [Return Alive Foundation](https://savelife.in.ua/en/donate/)
* [Medical Battalion, working directly on the front line](https://www.facebook.com/hospitallers/)
* [Medical aid and humanitarian relief for front lines](https://www.facebook.com/donate/337101825010055/2677546575714733/)
* [RAZOM (Together)](https://razomforukraine.org/)
* [BOKTOK SOS](https://vostok-sos.org/en/)

**International Organizations** ·

* [Unicef - Ukraine](https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/en)
* [Red Cross for Ukraine](https://redcross.org.ua/en/)
* [Project Hope](https://www.projecthope.org/crisis-in-ukraine-how-to-help/02/2022/)
* [Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund](https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/ukraine-crisis-relief-fund/)
* I[nternational Medical Corps](https://internationalmedicalcorps.org/country/ukraine/)
* [International Rescue Committee](https://www.rescue.org/)
* [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](https://donate.unhcr.org/int/en/ukraine-emergency#_ga=2.96140828.1635641966.1646154903-1229375726.1646154903) (UNHCR)
* [Upwardly Global](https://www.upwardlyglobal.org/)
* [CARE](https://www.care.org/?_ga=2.5081271.548273854.1646237656-1796483910.1646237656)
* [Choose Love](https://donate.chooselove.org/campaigns/ukraine-appeal/)
* [Direct Relief](https://www.directrelief.org/)
* Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society ([HIAS](https://www.hias.org/))