Putin’s War: Ukraine, Russia and the “West”

Petia Kostadinova
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
It’s the 35th day of an 8-year war that has lasted for centuries

1. Developments in Ukraine in the last 30 years (mostly)
2. Russian aggression
3. Refugee and displaced person’s situation
4. Responses by the European Union and the United States
5. How to help
6. Questions and comments from the audience.
• Kievan Rus
• Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth
Independent Ukraine
Multi-party semi-presidential democracy
The 2004 Orange Revolution

Yushchenko 2006-2010
Yanukovych 2010-2014

Yushchenko Poisoning
Ukrainian candidate may have been fed high concentration of dioxins

By BETTE HILEMAN
December 20, 2004 | A version of this story appeared in Volume 82, Issue 51

Former First Lady of Ukraine, a Chicago Native, Urges Help for Country
Katerina Yushchenko, who served as First Lady from 2006 to 2010, said she appreciates all those who have supported Ukraine.

By Christine Favre • Published March 1, 2012 • Updated on March 1, 2012 at 10:30 pm
The Euromaidan – 2013-2014

Relations with the EU
Revolution of Dignity
Yanukovych flees
2014 annexation of Crimea
Donbas War
The war that started in 2014

flight MH17

limited sanctions

Minsk agreements
The war that started in 2014

2019 Presidential elections

Trump’s first impeachment

President Trump acquitted on both impeachment charges, avoids removal

Bart Jansen, Christal Hayes, Savannah Behrmann and Nicholas Wu USA TODAY
Published 4:00 a.m. ET Feb. 5, 2020 | Updated 6:21 p.m. ET Feb. 5, 2020
The war that started in 2014

2021 military build up

Putin’s 2021 ultimatum

‘Surprise’? invasion

Putin threatens military action if NATO rejects Russian ultimatum

DECEMBER 26, 2021
GRAYSON QUAY

Ukraine's foreign minister: Kyiv hasn't experienced anything like this since 1941 Nazi attack

In a tweet early Friday morning, Ukraine’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba decried the "horrific Russian rocket strikes on Kyiv."
The war that started in 2014

The world’s 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest army vs. the 22\textsuperscript{th}

Ukraine’s ‘surprise?’ resistance
What is the war about?
Not about NATO membership
Russia’s ‘space’ – language
Values
2018 Moscow–Constantinople schism
The true ’Europeans/Christians’

“This is not about Ukraine at all, but the world order. The current crisis is a fateful, epoch-making moment in modern history. It reflects the battle over what the world order will look like" - Sergei Lavrov, Russian Foreign Minister.
Humanitarian situation:

Bellingcat’s Grozhev to Amanpour: Russia does not attempt to avoid civilian casualties.
## News - Global

### 21 March 2022

**Almost 6.5 Million People Internally Displaced in Ukraine: IOM**

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<th>Location name</th>
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World’s reaction to the 2022 invasion
- Global condemnation
- Strong and coordinated (but not enough) sanctions
  - But what about oil and gas?
- EU security dialogue
  - Sweden and Finland ‘neutrality’
- Outpouring of public support

Sanctions against Russia have been unprecedented in speed, the scale of targets, and international cooperation.

But they are NOT comprehensive. They remain a 7/10 or 8/10 in intensity, not a 10/10.
What’s next?

- Russian retreat (or not)
  - Focus on Donbas (or not)
- ‘Negotiations’

Bellingcat can confirm that three members of the delegation attending the peace talks between Ukraine and Russia on the night of 3 to 4 March 2022 experienced symptoms consistent with poisoning with chemical weapons. One of victims was Russian entrepreneur Roman Abramovich.

Ukraine is warning its negotiators not to eat, drink or even touch anything in talks with Russia in Istanbul, following allegations that Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich and others may have been poisoned during previous talks.
What’s next?

Long game – influence over
- Media in the EU
- Far right parties in the EU and the US
- Mainstream left in the EU
How to talk about the war in Ukraine? without being ignorant

1. Name the war
   - Events in Ukraine, Crisis in Ukraine, Conflict in Ukraine
     - Russia-Ukraine war
   - ✔️ Putin, end the war!

2. Name the aggressor
   - End the war!
     - Putin, end the war!

3. Be deliberate about what you are trying to say
   - I wish for peace
     - I wish Russia stopped invading Ukraine
   - Annexation of Crimea by Russia
     - Temporary occupation of Crimea by Russia

4. Avoid using words that imply shared responsibility
   - The crisis/conflict in Ukraine
     - Russia started war/invaded Ukraine
How to help (part 1)

NGO that arranges life-saving equipment for Ukrainian soldiers: https://savelife.in.ua/en/donate

Ukrainian Women’s Veteran Movement: https://www.uwvm.org.ua/?page_id=3437&lang=en

NGO that assists internal refugees: https://unitedhelpukraine.org/

NGO that assists internal refugees, especially from Crimea: https://www.peaceinsight.org/en/organisations/crimea-sos/?location=ukraine&theme

NGO that aids traumatized children: https://voices.org.ua/en/

Foundation that assists healthcare and education in eastern Ukraine: https://razomforukraine.org/projects/zhadan/
Europe’s Gas Supply and Demand Balance