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or contact

John Robbins 281-965-6390 Jun Gai 281-498-4310

Publisher: Wea H. Lee President: Catherine Lee Editor: John Robbins

Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072 E-mail: News@scdaily.com



Inside C2

Monday, March 07 2022

NATO rejects Ukraine no-fly zone, unhappy Zelenskiy says this means more bombing

BRUSSELS, March 4 (Reuters) - NATO on Friday rejected Ukrainian calls to help it protect its skies from Russian missiles and warplanes, wary of being dragged into Moscow's war on its neighbour, but Europe promised more sanctions to punish Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy strongly criticised the decision, saying the alliance had given Russia the green light to continue its bombing campaign.

He had earlier appealed to NATO to set up a no-fly zone over Ukraine, which Russia invaded by land, sea and air on Feb. 24.

"We are not part of this conflict," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said in denying Ukraine's request.

"We have a responsibility as NATO allies to prevent this war from escalating beyond Ukraine because that would be even more dangerous, more devastating and would cause even more human suffering," he said following a NATO meeting in Brussels.

Ukraine, a former Soviet republic, wants to join the European Union and NATO, moves which Moscow says threaten its security and influence. Russia has shelled residential areas and civilian infrastructure, as well as capturing two nuclear sites. "Ours is a defensive conflict. But if confict are ready," he said.

summit, a confused summit, a summit where it was clear that not everyone considers the battle for Europe's freedom to be the number one goal," Zelenskiy said a televised address late on Friday.

"Today, the leadership of the alliance gave the green light for further bombing of Ukrainian cities and villages, having refused to set up a no-fly zone."

While the West condemned Putin, members of the 30-strong NATO are bound to defend each other in case of attack and wary of sinking into a war with nuclear-armed Russia. The EU threatened more sanctions but it was not clear what it could do

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the alliance would defend "every inch" of NATO territory and that Moscow should not doubt Washington's resolve.

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"Ours is a defensive alliance. We seek no conflict. But if conflict comes to us, we are ready," he said.

"We'll continue to raise the cost for Pres-"Today there was a NATO summit, a weak summit, a confused summit, a summit where it was clear that not everyone con-

NATO meeting of foreign ministers, in Brussels

National flags of members of the NATO are seen, on the day of a foreign ministers meeting amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, at the Alliance's headquarters in Brussels, Belgium March 4, 2022. REUTERS/Yves Herman

But the alliance - in which the United States, Britain and France are also nuclear powers - dashed Ukraine's hopes of immediate help Kyiv says could turn the tables in the war.

"We should not have NATO planes operating over Ukrainian airspace or NATO troops operating in Ukrainian territory," Stoltenberg said.

MORE DEATHS, MORE SANCTIONS

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Support for Ukraine so far has come in the form of the heaviest international economic sanctions against Russia to date, as well as arms supplies from NATO states.

On Friday, the West promised Ukraine more humanitarian aid, essential supplies and military support short of going to war.

In a day of intense diplomacy - if no obvious immediate results - the G7 countries said they would hold accountable those responsible for war crimes and refuse to recognise any Russian territorial gains.

EU countries said more punishment was coming, after the bloc already cut several Russian lenders from the SWIFT banking system, curbed trade with Moscow and targeted some of the wealth held by Russian oligarchs in the West.

The EU was looking at curbing Russia's access to the International Monetary Fund, officials said. read more

"It's Putin's war, and only Putin can end it," the top EU diplomat, Josep Borrell, said. "If someone expects that sanctions can stop the war tomorrow, they don't know what they're talking about."

Ukraine called on the West to freeze out all Russian banks. But it was not clear when and what more sanctions the EU could agree, given its reliance on Russian energy supplies, which think tank Eurointelligence said amount to \$700 million daily.

Stoltenberg said the worst was yet to come as Russia was rolling out more heavy arms.

"The days to come are likely to be worse, with more deaths, more suffering and more destruction," he said.

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LOCAL NEWS

BBC halts reporting in Russia after new law

passes

LONDON, March 4 (Reuters) - The BBC said on Friday it had stopped reporting in Russia after parliament passed a law there imposing a jail term of up to 15 years for anyone found to be intentionally spreading "fake" news.

Russian officials have said that false information has been spread by Russia's enemies such as the United States and its Western European allies in an attempt to sow discord among the Russian people.

Lawmakers passed amendments to the criminal code making the spread of "fake" information an offence punishable with fines or jail terms. They also imposed fines for anyone calling for sanctions against Russia following the invasion of Ukraine.

The Kremlin did not immediately respond to a Reuters' request for comment on the BBC move.

BBC Director General Tim Davie said the new legislation appeared to criminalise the process of independent journalism.

"It leaves us no other option than to temporarily suspend the work of all BBC News journalists and their support staff within the Russian Federation while we assess the full implications of this unwelcome development," he said in a statement.

He added that the BBC News Service in Russian would continue to operate from outside Russia. Jonathan Munro, an interim director of BBC News, said the corporation was not "pulling out" journalists from Moscow but assessing the impact of the new law.

By ordering his forces into Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin has sparked the worst crisis between Russia and the West since the end of the Cold War, battering financial and commodity markets, sending the rouble into a tailspin and triggering an economic isolation never before visited on such a large economy.

Western governments and tech platforms have also banned the Russian news network RT, with the European Union accusing it of systematic disinformation over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

MEDIA FREEDOM

Russia's Foreign Ministry says that the Western media offer a partial -



and often anti-Russian - view of the world while failing to hold their own leaders to account for corruption or devastating foreign wars like Iraq.

Western leaders including British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and former U.S. President Barack Obama have long raised concerns about the dominance of state media in Russia and say the freedoms won when the Soviet Union collapsed have been rolled back by Putin.

The new legislation was passed by parliament and will become law when Putin signs it, as he is widely expect-

ed to do. It was not clear when Putin would sign the measure.

It appeared to give the Russian state much stronger powers to crack down, by making it a criminal offence to spread fake information, with a jail term. read more

"If the fakes lead to serious consequences, then imprisonment of up to 15 years threatens," the lower house of parliament, known as the Duma in Russian, said in a statement.

Russia had earlier cut access to several foreign news organisations' websites,

including the BBC, Voice of America and Deutsche Welle, for spreading what it said was false information about its war in Ukraine.

Voice of America said in a statement that audiences in Russia deserved access to factual news content and it would continue to support tools that allow them to bypass any blocking efforts.

Deutsche Welle posted a letter to Russians on its German website, saying it regretted the decision and urged readers to bypass the internet blockade.





People board an evacuation train from Kyiv to Lviv at Kyiv central train station, March 4. REUTERS/Gleb Garanich

Editor's Choice



People board an evacuation train from Kyiv to Lviv at Kyiv central train station amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Kyiv, March 4. REUTERS/ Gleb Garanich



A child looks out from an evacuation train at Kyiv central train station, March 4. REUTERS/ Gleb Garanich



A woman says goodbye to her relatives as an evacuation train leaves from Kyiv central train station, March 4. REUTERS/ Gleb Garanich



People board an evacuation train from Kyiv to Lviv at Kyiv central train station, March 4. RE-UTERS/Gleb Garanich



People board an evacuation train at Kyiv central train, March 4. REUTERS/ Gleb Garanich

BUSINESS

Celebrating Asian American And Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Six Charts That Shed Light On Images Of Asian **Americans Held By Many**



By Connie Hanzhang Jin - NPR Writer

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins. Southern Daily Editor

of Asian descent live in the U.S., making up approximately 7% of the nation's

population. They trace their heritage to

different regions around the world, with

people of East Asian and Southeast Asian

descent making up the largest shares,

though no group makes up a majority.

More than 1.5 million Pacific Islanders,

who descend from Micronesia, Melanesia or Polynesia, live in the U.S. as well.

ASIAN AMERICANS TRACE

THEIR HERITAGE TO DIFFER-

ENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD

"Smart." "Hard-working." "Nice." Those Currently, more than 22 million people were among the adjectives that respondents offered up in a recent poll when asked to describe Asian Americans.

The poll, conducted by the nonprofit Leading Asian Americans to Unite for Change (LAAUNCH), was another all-too-familiar reminder that Asian Americans are still perceived as the "model minority."

Since the end of World War II, this myth about Asian Americans and their perceived collective success has been used as a racial wedge — to minimize the role racism plays in the struggles of other minority groups, such as Black Americans.

Characterizing Asian Americans as a model minority flattens the diverse experiences of Asian Americans into a singular, narrow narrative. And it paints a misleading picture about the community that doesn't align with current statistics

Here's a look at some common misconceptions driven by the model minority myth.

Myth: Asian Americans are a single monolithic group

NOTES

The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community

Survey Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR

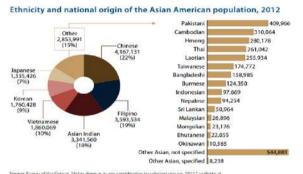
Academics and activists trace the term "Asian American" to 1968, when students at the University of California. Berkeley, founded the Asian American Political Alliance. At the time, the group sought to unite students of Japanese, Chinese and Filipino descent to fight for political and social

"Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders" (AAPI) is a term that has its roots in the 1980s and '90s, when the U.S. Census Bureau used the "Asian Pacific American" classification to group Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders together. In 1997, the bureau disaggregated the categories into "Asian" and "Pacific Islander."

Scholars and activists have critiqued both terms for masking differences in histories and needs among communities, as well as supporting the myth that Asian Americans are a monolithic group.

Within these regional groups, a huge variety of ethnicities exist within the Asian American community. People who identify their heritage as Chinese, Indian or Filipino make up the largest share.

MANY ETHNICITIES FALL UNDER THE ASIAN AMERICAN UMBRELLA



Notes

Ethnicities with fewer than 100,000 people not shown. The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian.

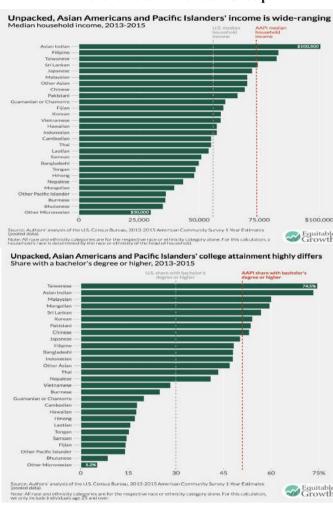
These numbers have risen rapidly in recent years. The Asian American population is the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the U.S., growing by 81% from 2000 to 2019. The Hispanic population saw the second-fastest growth, at 70%, followed by Native Hawaiians and Pacific

Islanders, at 60%. The white population grew by only 1% in that time.

Myth: Asian Americans are high earning and well educated Asian Americans have a median household income of around \$78,000 a year, which is higher than the national median of about \$66,000. However, that overall statistic obscures large differences among different Asian-origin groups.

These economic disparities are partially driven by similar disparities in education levels among Asian Americans. The highest-earning groups — Indian American and Taiwanese American households — also have the highest levels of education, while the lowest-earning groups have comparatively lower levels of education.

Key Disparities In Income And Education Among Different Asian American Groups



The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR

(Continued On Page C4)

Southern Make Today Different

(Continued From Page C3)

Six Charts That Shed Light On Images Of Asian Americans Held By Many



AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS ARE THE HIGHEST-EARNING GROUP, WITH A MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF \$127,000 A YEAR. ON THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE, BURMESE AMERICAN HOUSE-HOLDS ARE THE LOWEST-EARNING GROUP, WITH A MEDIAN HOUSE-**HOLD INCOME OF \$46,000 A YEAR.**

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

In fact, a 2018 Pew Research Center study found that Asian Americans were the most economically divided racial or ethnic group in the U.S., with Asian Americans in the top 10th of the income distribution making 10.7 times more than those in the bottom 10th.

Myth: Asian Americans immigrate to the U.S. in the "right" way

More than half of those who identify as Asian American and at least 17% of Pacific Islanders were born outside the U.S., according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Asian American community has the highest proportion of immigrants of any ethnic or racial group in the United States. Yet, Asian Americans are often overlooked in debates about immigration reform.

Asians have a wide range of reasons for immigrating to the U.S., including those coming as refugees or asylum-seekers. Out of the almost 11 million estimated undocumented immigrants in the U.S., around 1.5 million (14%) are from Asia, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

A LARGE NUMBER OF ASIANS IN 15,000 immigrants from Asia, according

AMERICA ARE UNAUTHO-**RIZED IMMIGRANTS**

Out of the top 10 most common origin countries for unauthorized immigrants in the U.S., an estimated one million people come from India, China or the Philippines.

ORIGIN	EST. NUMBER OF UNAUTHORIZED	SHARE OF TOTA
COUNTRY	IMMIGRANTS.	SHALL OF TOTA
Mexico₽	5,572,000₽	51%₽
El Salvador	750,000€	7%₽
Guatemala₽	588,000€	5%₽
India∂	469,000₽	4%∂
Honduras:	402,000∂	4%₽
China₽	394,000€	4%∂
Philippines	233,000	2%₽
Dominican Republic 191,000		2%∂
Colombia?	182,000₽	2%₽
Brazil₽	145,000₽	1%₽

NOTES Data as of 2018. Source: Migration Policy Institute Credit: Connie

Heightened immigration enforcement has also impacted Asian Americans. From 2015 to 2018, Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested about

COMMUNITY

icans Advancing Justice. The report also found that Southeast Asian immigrants were three to four times more likely to be deported for

to a report by the nonprofit Asian Amer-

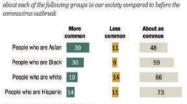
old criminal convictions compared with other immigrant groups. Out of the approximately 16,000 Southeast Asians with final removal orders in that period, more than 13,000 had removal orders that were based on old criminal convic-

Myth: Asian Americans Face Less Systemic Racism And Discrimination Since the coronavirus pandemic started, hate crimes and violence against Asian Americans have increased. In an April survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 32% of Asian American adults — a greater percentage than any other racial or ethnic group — said that they feared someone might threaten or physically attack them.

ASIAN AMERICANS AND OTHER **GROUPS REPORT NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES SINCE THE**

START OF THE PANDEMIC

About four-in-ten Americans say it is more common for people to express racist views about people who are Asian than before COVID-19



Share of respondents who say each of the following has happened to them since the coronavirus outbreak because of their race or ethnicity.

Asian American adults were interviewed in English only. Sample does

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11. Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR

not include Pacific Islanders.

In response, the House of Representatives passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act on May 18. The bill would have the Justice Department appoint a point person to expedite the review of hate crimes related to COVID-19. It would also direct resources toward making the reporting of hate crimes more accessible.

Despite increased news coverage of various attacks against Asian Americans and the upcoming legislation, the LAAUNCH survey, which was conducted between March 29 to April 14, found that 37% of white Americans were not aware of increased incidents of hate crimes.

But anti-Asian bias and discrimination are not new to the pandemic. To understand the current climate, it's important to look at historical context. In past periods of national tension, especially during times when the U.S. has been at war with Asian countries, anti-Asian racism has similarly

Myth: Asian Americans are fairly represented in leadership positions

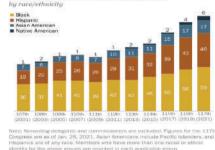
The recent LAAUNCH survey also found that almost half of Americans incorrectly believe that Asian Americans are overrepresented or fairly represented in senior positions within American companies, politics, media or other realms.

In reality, Asian Americans are underrepresented in these positions of power, holding about 3% of these positions in comparison with composing 7% of the U.S. population, a report from The New York Times found last vear.

More specifically, Asian Americans have the lowest degree of representation in political office compared with any other racial or ethnic group.

Asian Americans Are The Most Politically Underrepresented Group

as of last year Asian Americans were underrepresented relative to their population by a differential of -85%. White people were overrepresented by 46%.



Asian Americans are even underrepresented in states with a high concentration of Asian American residents, like New York and California, according to a report by the Reflective Democracy Campaign.

Especially since the start of collective activism among Asian Americans in the 1960s, Asian Americans have had a rich history of political activism and involvement. But that history has not always translated to greater representation in political leadership



One finding in the LAAUNCH survey may point to answers: 92% of Americans polled said they were comfortable with Asian Americans as doctors or friends, but only 85% said they were comfortable with an Asian American as a boss and 73% as a president of the United States.

Despite these perceptions, Asian Americans are pushing forward. Asian Americans increased their voter turnout rate by more than any other racial or ethnic group in the 2020 election and in part helped Joe Biden win Georgia. In that same year, 158 Asian Americans ran for state legislatures, the highest number since the 2018 mid-

terms. (Courtesy https://www.npr.org/)