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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



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Southern DAILY

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Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Sunday, March 20 2022|

Zelenskiy calls for peace talks with Moscow, urges Swiss to target oligarchs

LVIV/ODESSA, Ukraine, March 19 (Reuters) - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy called on Saturday for comprehensive peace talks with Moscow and also urged Switzerland to do more to crack down on Russian oligarchs who he said were helping wage war on his country with their money.

British intelligence warned that Russia, frustrated by its failure to achieve its objectives since it launched the invasion on Feb. 24, was now pursuing a strategy of attrition that could intensify the humanitarian crisis.

Russian forces have taken heavy losses and their advance has largely stalled since President Vladimir Putin launched the assault, with long columns of troops that bore down on Kyiv halted in the suburbs.

But they have laid siege to cities, blasting urban areas to rubble, and in recent days have intensified missile attacks on scattered targets in western Ukraine, away from the main battlefields.

Zelenskiy, who makes frequent impassioned appeals to foreign audiences for help for his country, told an anti-war protest in Bern that Swiss banks were where the “money of the people who unleashed this war” lay and their accounts should be frozen.
Ukrainian cities “are being destroyed on the orders of people who live in European, in beautiful Swiss towns, who enjoy property in your cities. It would really be good to strip them of this privilege,” he said in an audio address. read more

Neutral Switzerland, which is not a member of the European Union, has fully adopted EU sanctions against Russian individuals and entities, including orders to freeze their wealth in Swiss banks. read more

The EU measures are part of a wider sanctions effort by Western nations, criticised by China, aimed at squeezing Russia’s economy and starving its war machine.

In an address earlier on Saturday, Zelenskiy urged Moscow to hold peace talks now.

“I want everyone to hear me now, especially in Moscow. The time has come for a meeting, it is time to talk,” he said in a video address. “The time has come to



restore territorial integrity and justice for Ukraine. Otherwise, Russia’s losses will be such that it will take you several generations to recover.”

Britain’s Defence Attaché to the United States said British intelligence believes Russia has been taken aback by the Ukrainian resistance to its assault and has so far failed to achieve its original objectives.

“Russia has been forced to change its operational approach and is now pursuing a strategy of attrition” likely to involve the “indiscriminate use of firepower resulting in increased civilian casualties”, Air Vice-Marshal Mick Smeath said in a statement.

Putin, who calls the action a “special operation” aimed at demilitarising Ukraine and purging it of what he sees as dangerous nationalists, told a rally on Friday in Moscow that all the Kremlin’s aims would be achieved.

On Saturday, Russia said its hypersonic missiles had destroyed a large underground depot for missiles and aircraft

ammunition in the western Ivano-Frankivsk region. Hypersonic weapons can travel faster than five times the speed of sound and the Interfax agency said it was the first time Russia had used them in Ukraine. read more

A spokesperson for the Ukrainian Air Force Command confirmed the attack, but said the Ukrainian side had no information on the type of missiles used.

Even so, the Ukrainian defence ministry, in an update posted on Facebook, said “the operational situation has not changed significantly”. Troops were concentrating their efforts around the strategically important cities of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Mariupol and Mykolayiv, it said, adding that “Russian troops continue to suffer heavy losses”.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, in Kyiv Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, in Kyiv Ukrainian service members rest on the front line in the north Kyiv region The Ukrainian military command in charge of forces in two breakaway re-

gions of eastern Ukraine said they had fought off 10 attacks on Saturday, destroying a total of 28 tanks, armoured personnel carriers and armoured cars and killing more than 100 soldiers. Reuters was unable to independently corroborate the claim.

The U.N. human rights office said at least 847 civilians had been killed and 1,399 wounded in Ukraine as of Friday, with the real figure likely much higher. The Ukrainian prosecutor general’s office said 112 children were among the dead. Russia says it is not targeting civilians. read more

Kyiv authorities said on Saturday that 228 people had been killed in the capital since Russia’s invasion began, including four children.

A further 912 people have been wounded, the Kyiv city administration said in a statement.

Reuters has not been able to independently confirm casualty figures.



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Southern News Group
Corporate Office-Houston, Texas USA

11110 Bellaire Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77072
Tel: (832) 448-0190 Fax: (281) 498-2728

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

03/19/2022



Wea H. Lee
Wealee@scdaily.com

Chairman of International District Houston Texas
Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee
Southern News Group Chairman / CEO
Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas

World's Happiest Country



Finland was ranked as the world's happiest country for the fifth year in a row followed by Denmark and Iceland. They are not only economically developed, the population is not large and the national temperatures are very high.

As the old saying goes, you just can't compare person-to-person today. When we open the world map, the war in Ukraine is terrible. Climate change has caused natural disasters everywhere. The Covid-19 pandemic has slowed down, but is still attacking a lot of countries.

Health experts are asking people to take a fourth shot soon.

We really need to urge the leaders of all nations to come to the rescue of especially the U.S. and China. Unless we make the right decision, the world will continue to suffer.

Commissioner Jack Cagle Came To Visit

We were so honored that Harris County Commissioner Cagle came to visit the International District and the Southwestern District last

Tuesday. We toured the Chung Tai Center and the Tzu Chi Buddhist Temple and the Hope Clinic. Commissioner Cagle personally experienced how the new immigrants and pioneers have built this community to become a very prosperous area in the city of Houston. The Buddhist Center has become the spiritual center for our community.

To be honest, there are not many politicians like Commissioner Cagle. He spent half of the day with us and brought members of his staff to

find out what he can do for us. One of his promises is to build an Asian pagoda in the park to promote Asian culture, creativity and tourism.

We are so glad that this is the first time an elected commissioner has given us such promises. We will wait and see.

It is very important that all of us need to participate in the political process and go out and vote. This is the only way we can speak out and let our voices be heard.



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Editor's Choice



Destroyed Russian military vehicles are seen on a street in the settlement of Borodyanka, in the Kyiv region, Ukraine, March 3. REUTERS/Maksim Levin



Destroyed Russian tanks are seen in the Sumy region, Ukraine, March 7, 2022. Irina Rybakova/Press service of the Ukrainian Ground Forces



The remains of a Russian fighter aircraft are seen at a residential area in Chernihiv, Ukraine, March 5. State Emergency Service of Ukraine/via REUTERS



Ukrainian servicemen walk by a damaged vehicle, at the site of a fighting with Russian troops in Kyiv, Ukraine, February 26. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko



A view shows a destroyed Russian Army multiple rocket launcher with the letter "Z" painted on its side in Kharkiv, Ukraine, February 25. REUTERS/Maksim Levin



Ukrainian servicemen are seen next to a destroyed armored vehicle, which they said belongs to the Russian army, outside Kharkiv, February 24. REUTERS/Maksim Levin

Russia's Invasion Of Ukraine Changes The Global Order Forever

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



A Russian tank enters a region controlled by Moscow-backed rebels in eastern Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. (Photo/Nanna Heitmann—Magnum Photos)

On Wednesday, February 23, 2022, Vladimir Putin declared war on Ukraine with tanks, rockets, and a slap to the face. The optics of the President of Russia, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, announcing the invasion of a sovereign nation during an emergency meeting of its members—presided over by Russia's U.N. ambassador, no less—were stark: the ultimate repudiation of the rules-based world order that the organization embodies. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was shocked enough to call it the “saddest moment in my tenure.” Though as the bombardment of Ukrainian cities escalated alongside the testiness of exchanges inside the chamber, feelings shifted to outrage at the impotence of members’ calls for peace and dialogue. “At the exact time as we were gathered in the council seeking peace, Putin delivered a message of war in total disdain for the responsibility of this council,” said U.S. permanent representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield. “This is a grave emergency.” It would be reductive to attribute these failings simply to Putin’s belligerence. It’s been an open secret that global governing institutions have been broken for a long time, spotlighted by a series of recent crises that have received limp attention: the annexation of Crimea, the COVID-19 pandemic, the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan, popular uprising in Kazakhstan, coup d’état in Myanmar, and now, most drastic of all, invasion



People wave a huge Ukrainian national flag during an action in support of their country in Kramatorsk, Ukraine, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022. (Andriy Andriyenko—AP)

“It’s the biggest crisis since World War II, in the [heart] of Europe, and will have huge consequences,” former Mongolian President Tsakhagiin Elbegdorj told TIME on Thursday. “It will require great effort to settle this issue and update the world order.” “It seems that the old Cold War tensions never really went away,” former Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva tells TIME. “It’s almost as if we’re back to a situation of war and potential flash points around the world.” On Wednesday, the Biden Administration called out Beijing for its role underwriting this shift. “Russia and [China] also want a world order,” U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters. “But this is an order that is and would be profoundly illiberal, an order that stands in contrast to the system that countries around the world ... have built in the last seven decades.”



But partial blame must also be placed on the hubris of the U.S., which never strengthened international institutions in those 70 years when it was the only dominant power. The Bretton Woods institutions set out global economic rules around which we still operate, including the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, and others, in terms of trade, commerce, and sanctions for noncompliance. Up until recently, because of the wealth of America and the potency of developed European nations, the West largely called the shots. Today, however, Washington finds itself unable to freely exert its will as a result of Beijing’s

swelling economic and diplomatic clout. Tellingly, Chinese officials lead four of the 15 U.N. specialized agencies. In January, China was the only U.N. Security Council member to vote with Russia in a failed attempt to stop a U.S.-requested meeting regarding Moscow’s troop build-up at its border with Ukraine. Meanwhile, Russia has stunningly co-opted the language of the U.N. Charter 2(4) regarding sovereignty and territorial integrity to justify its actions. “So it’s sort of claiming the mantelpiece of international order, while fundamentally and quite dramatically undermining it,” says Leslie Vinjamuri, dean of the Queen Elizabeth II Academy for Leadership in International Affairs at Chatham House.



The difference between Beijing and Moscow, says Rana Mitter, professor of the history and politics of modern China at Oxford University, is that the former wants to influence the international order to its own benefit from within, while the latter wants to tear it up entirely: “Because of the kind of state that China wants to be, that is globalized in terms of its trading capacity but able to be as self-sufficient as possible at home, the international order actually suits it very well.”

That makes it arguably a larger challenge for the West than even the Cold War, when the West was up against a country that was in military terms a superpower, but economically weak. With China, “all of a sudden we’re looking at a country that has the economic capability to take us all on,” says Iain Duncan Smith, an MP and former leader of the U.K. Conservative Party. “That means the rule-based order can be debauched, which is what’s happening now.” Beijing supports international institutions and agreements aligned with its goals, such as the World Bank and the Paris climate pacts. But where Beijing’s interests diverge from established norms, especially human rights, it aims to corrupt those values and bring in alternative models. In fields where standards are yet to be established, like internet governance, Beijing works with Moscow and other illiberal nations to push standards that align with their interests. It can do so because those institutions in themselves are weak



The United Nations security council gathers for an emergency meeting at the request of Ukraine over the threat of a full-scale invasion by Russia, in New York City on Feb. 23, 2022. (Photo/David Dee Delgado—Getty)

Images) China’s ambivalence on Putin’s aggression against Ukraine spotlights the new normal. While calling for “dialogue and negotiation” on Thursday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi effectively gave his blessing to the invasion, telling his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, on a call that “the Chinese side understands Russia’s legitimate security concerns.” “Beijing thinks this one’s probably going to bypass China, as it is a war between two European countries,” says Mitter. “And that the role of NATO and the United States is really what’s at the heart of the dispute.”



Firefighters work on a building fire after bombings on the eastern Ukraine town of Chuhuiv on Feb. 24, 2022. (Aris Messinis—AFP/Getty Images)

It’s wrong to think of inaction as completely new, though. In truth, the exceptional moments in U.N. history have been when consensus has been reached among the P5—the officially recognized nuclear-weapons states—to stand up for the international order when one of them was involved. “It just doesn’t happen,” says Vinjamuri. “So this [kind of Ukraine situation] isn’t really out of keeping; it’s built into the structure of the U.N.”

Conclusion *Moscow’s Military Push Has Upended Post-Cold War Security, United NATO Allies And Renewed Foreign-Policy Debates*

Much will depend on whether meaningful costs are inflicted on Putin. The U.S., E.U., U.K., Australia, Canada, and Japan have unveiled sanctions on Russian banks and wealthy cronies of Putin, while Germany halted certification of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia. However, China along with other Kremlin friends can likely compensate. Bilateral trade between China and Russia rose 33.6% year-on-year to some \$140 billion in 2021. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was in Moscow on Wednesday to discuss, among other things, the \$2.5 billion Pakistan Stream gas pipeline, which Moscow wants to build between Karachi and Kasur, expressing bewilderment at arriving during “so much excitement.”



A Ukrainian service member on patrol along the Russian border on Wednesday. (Photo/

ANTONIO BRONIC/REUTERS) “The [Ukraine] situation has escalated due to pure mistrust,” he says. “Russia is uncomfortable with having NATO installed on its doorstep. Ukraine feels threatened. And the West is suspicious of Russian motives.” A meaningful discussion about the expansion of NATO and the sovereignty of Ukraine by a neutral party might have led to a more desirable outcome, he adds. “I don’t pretend it’s easy, but I can’t see that happening when it’s just being dealt with by the conflicting parties.” Russia’s military incursion deeper into Ukraine is one of those rare events that won’t merely affect the world. It will change the world. By moving further into a sovereign state to bring it under his thumb, Russian President Vladimir Putin has shattered the security architecture that has prevailed in Europe since the end of the Cold War, and no one knows what will take its place. The ability of the U.S. to do what three consecutive presidents have pledged to do—clear away other international entanglements to focus on competition with China—has been undercut again. Military expenditures will likely increase in the West. Economic globalization will be set back.



Meanwhile, fissures that have been lying just beneath the surface in American politics, separating internationalists and neo-isolationists, are becoming more visible, particularly in the Republican Party. Those are just some of the ripple effects. Like the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the onset of what could become the largest ground warfare in Europe since World War II marks such a departure from the norm that some of its consequences are impossible to know for sure, and some figure to play out in unexpected ways for years to come.

The most immediate help China can give Russia is simple relief from the sanctions imposed on Moscow, which are now set to expand and deepen. More broadly, China and Russia share a motivation to work together to build a kind of parallel international financial system apart from the dollar-denominated, American-dominated one that currently exists. Dreaming of such an outcome and achieving it are two quite different things, but the dream now might have new resonance. Still, China has other interests in its relationship with the U.S. and doesn’t seem interested in seriously breaking ties, which could limit Sino-Russian cooperation. Those competing interests might explain Beijing’s awkward reaction so far, in which it has refrained from endorsing Moscow’s move but has talked vaguely about respecting “relevant countries’ legitimate security concerns” in Ukraine. (Courtesy time.com) (Courtesy time.com)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Ukraine History Holodomor, Ukraine 1932

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



(Editor’s Note: Because we right now in 2022 are witnessing a full frontal military invasion of the country of Ukraine by Russia, research shows that the friction between these two countries has existed for several decades going back to the Joseph Stalin era in Russia. In this article, we can only provide a general overview of what has occurred in the past to try and ascertain where the ongoing conflict of today may be headed. Between 1932 and 1934, millions of Ukrainians lost their lives, while today, the combined losses of the Ukrainian people and Russian combatants is on the rise daily. We hope this article will better assist you in understanding this current conflict and how it will affect our community and the rest of the world./ John Robbins)

After the end of the First World War, Ukraine was an independent state, but in 1919 the Soviet Union “sucked” it into the community of Soviet states. The Ukrainians considered themselves a Central European country, like Poland, and not an Eastern European country like Russia. They tried to restore Ukraine’s independence. Holodomor was a man-made famine that convulsed the Soviet republic of Ukraine from 1932 to 1933, peaking in the late spring of 1933. It was part of a broader Soviet famine (1931–34) that also caused mass starvation in the grain-growing regions of Soviet Russia and Kazakhstan.



In 1932, not wanting to lose control of Europe’s main source of grain, Stalin took away the

grain-producing land from the Ukrainian peasants and also all the grain, creating an artificial famine. The goal was to “teach Ukrainians to be smart” so that they would no longer oppose Moscow. The people who produced the most grain in Europe were left without a crumb of bread.



At the entrance to the memorial park in Kyiv, there is a sculpture of an extremely thin girl with a very sad look holding a handful of wheat in her hands. Behind her back is the Candle of Remembrance. This monument commemorates the Holodomor. The peak of the Holodomor was in the spring of 1933. In Ukraine at that time, 17 people died of hunger every minute, more than 1,000 every hour, and almost 24,500 every day! People were literally starving to death in

the streets. Stalin settled Russians into the emptied Ukrainian villages. During the next census, there was a huge shortage of population. Therefore, the Soviet government annulled the census, destroyed the census documents, and the census takers were shot or sent to the gulag, in order to hide the truth. Today, 28 countries around the world present the Holodomor as genocide against Ukrainians. You couldn’t learn about in school because almost all evidence was destroyed and victims were covered up for decades. To this day mass graves are being uncovered.



The Holodomor: Total death estimates range from 3 million to 5 million. The Holodomor, also known as the Terror-Famine or the Great Famine, was a famine in Soviet Ukraine from 1932 to 1933 that killed millions of Ukrainians. Wikipedia **Number of deaths:** 3,900,000 **Start date:** 1932 **Location:** Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic **End date:** 1933



The Holodomor at that time broke the Ukrainian resistance, but it made the desire for Ukraine’s independence from Russia eternal. — Author Unknown. (Courtesy Clive Leighton and Laura Lian 2022) **Holodomor: Stalin’s Genocidal Famine Of 1932-1933 | Infographic** Holodomor (“death by hunger” in Ukrainian) refers to the starvation of at least four million Ukrainians in 1932–33 as a result of Soviet policies. The Holodomor can be seen as the culmination of an assault by the Communist Party and Soviet state on the Ukrainian peasantry, who resisted Soviet policies. This assault occurred in the context of a campaign of intimidation and arrests of Ukrainian intellectuals, writers, artists, religious leaders, and political cadres, who were seen as a threat to Soviet

ideological and state-building aspirations.



Joseph Stalin

The Ukrainian peasants were given impossible high quotas of the amount of grain to submit to the Soviet state. Special teams were sent in to search homes and confiscate all produce to the last grain. A particularly brutal law called “5 ears of grain law” was passed, following which starving Ukrainians were shot on the spot for gathering grain that remained on the field after the harvest. As a result, at least four million people starved to death in Ukraine. At the height of the Holodomor, 28,000 people were dying per day. This number does not include the ethnic Ukrainians outside the Ukrainian SSR who died, the half million people deported from Ukraine during collectivization or the thousands of religious, cultural and political leaders who were destroyed. The USSR attempted to cover up the Holodomor, and Russia continues to deny or diminish it to this very day.

HOLODOMOR: STALIN'S GENOCIDAL FAMINE OF 1932-1933
DEATH TOLL: AT LEAST 4 MILLION UKRAINIANS
Victims starved to death in Ukraine in the starvation of 1932-33 as a result of Soviet policies

1 In Berlin plus, regular Ukrainian was used and to protect the USSR from the world.

2 A famine situation of a million was not far from the truth, with the population and the number of the famine victims were not far from the truth.

3 Ukrainian peasants had a strong tradition of grain farming and the famine was a result of the famine.

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Total United Nations Losses by Region 1932-1934

Region	Losses (millions)
Ukraine	4.0
Poland	1.0
Russia	1.0
Other	1.0

Ukraine tried to keep it a secret

Ukraine tried to keep it a secret

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Russia continues to deny the Holodomor to this day

(Courtesy https://euromaidanpress.com/)

Ukraine Today 2022



“The desire for Ukraine’s independence from Russia is eternal.”
— Author Unknown