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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Europe signals unity against Russian gas payment demands

LONDON, April 1 (Reuters) - Europe vowed to stay united against Russia's demand that they pay for its gas in roubles, as the threat of an imminent supply halt eased on Friday.

European capitals have been bracing for a disruption to gas imports as Russian President Vladimir Putin seeks retaliation over Western sanctions for the Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine. Some buyers and governments were working on ways to potentially pay for gas in roubles as Moscow in recent days has raised the spectre of cutting gas supply if its payment terms are not met.

With weeks left before bills are due, governments in Europe, which relies on Russia for more than a third of its gas, are talking to energy companies about Russia's demand.

However, the European Commission said on Friday that those with contracts requiring payment in euros or dollars should stick to that.

"Agreed contracts must be respected. 97% of the relevant contracts explicitly stipulate payment in euros or dollars. Companies with such contracts should not accede to Russian demands," a European Commission spokesperson said.

"The EU will respond in a united manner to this latest attempt by Russia to circumvent our sanctions," the spokesperson said. read more

The Kremlin said on Friday it would not immediately turn off the taps to Europe as payments on deliveries due after April 1 come in the second half of this month and May.

That message, and signs Europe would take a pragmatic approach, were a relief for markets. Gas prices, which had risen on fears of disruption, fell. read more  
"If things remained like this, all in all not a lot would change," Italy's Ecology Transition Minister Roberto Cingolani told state broadcaster RAI.

On Thursday, Moscow decreed that foreign buyers of Russian gas would have to open rouble accounts in state-run Gazprombank from Friday or else risk being cut off. read more

Analysts said the rouble payment plan, which cements Gazprom's (GAZP.MM) position at the heart of Russian gas trading, was more about shielding the oil and gas company from future sanctions than depriving Europe of



fuel.

Gazprombank has been spared from the harsh sanctions imposed on other Russian banks so European gas buyers could open an account with it and let the lender buy roubles on their behalf. It would have to remain unsanctioned for trade to continue.

Although energy exports are Putin's most powerful lever against sweeping Western sanctions, his room for manoeuvre is also limited because Moscow does not have alternative markets for its gas, which is piped to Europe.

"If Putin turns off the gas, it might only be for a relatively short period of time. He needs our money and cannot reroute all the natural gas," one European gas trader said.

Gas pipelines are pictured at the Atamanskaya compressor station, facility of Gazprom's Power Of Siberia project outside the far eastern town of Svobodny. Gas pipelines are pictured at the Atamanskaya compressor station, facility of Gazprom's Power Of Siberia project outside the far eastern town of Svobodny, in Amur region, Russia November 29, 2019. REUTERS/Maxim Shemetov. Germany meanwhile said it was examining Putin's decree. An economy ministry spokesperson said private contracts were valid and that the country, which depends on Russia for 40% of its gas needs, was

paying in euros.

Berlin has already activated an emergency plan that could lead to gas rationing if supplies drop too low.

Gazprom said on Friday it was exiting its business in Germany, although it was not immediately clear how this would affect the supply of Russian gas into Europe's largest economy. read more

### PRICE PRESSURE

Putin's decision to enforce rouble payments has boosted the Russian currency, which fell to historic lows at the start of the invasion, which Moscow calls a "special military operation". The rouble has since recovered much lost ground.

European buyers are still prepared to buy gas under existing contracts while they seek clarity on Putin's demand, while Gazprom said on Friday it had started to notify clients of a requested switch of end-payment currency to roubles.

Austria's OMV (OMVV.VI) and Gazprom have had initial contact regarding paying for gas in roubles as demanded by Moscow, a spokesperson for OMV said on Friday, adding

that the company is now waiting for written information.

Denmark's Orsted (ORSTED.CO), which has a take-or-pay contract with Gazprom running until 2030, said it had received a demand from Gazprom Export to pay for gas supplies in roubles.

"We have no intention of paying in roubles. We are in close dialogue with other energy companies and the authorities regarding a common European response to Gazprom Export," it said in a statement.

Poland's dominant gas company PGNiG said it had been formally notified by Gazprom about changes to payment terms for gas supplies.

German utilities Uniper (UN01.DE), RWE (RWE.DE) and VNG all declined to comment. Italian energy group Edison, which has a contract with Gazprom for 1 bcm of gas per year which expires at the end of this year, also did not comment.

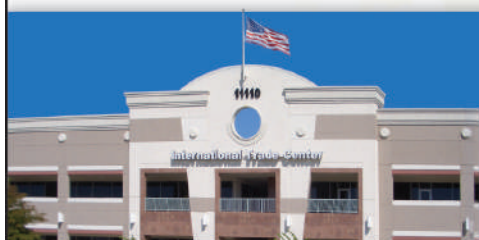


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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

04/02/2022

## Southern News Group Will Innovate Again



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With the advent of the 5G era, our newly built Houston International Studio will be the beginning of a new era for our media business.

First of all, we will start to host diplomatic roundtables with local diplomats and have instant exchanges and

talks around the world. And we will publish special news editions for various countries to celebrate their national days in our daily newspaper.

We also will invite many financial experts to host talk shows to discuss the current economies in

several regions of the world. Many local ethnic communities, such as Lebanon, Mexico and the Philippines theaters can combine the newspaper articles and TV show programming together for their readers and viewers.

Southern TV Junior Host training camp will begin

on June 5th. This year we are also preparing another talent training course, including singing, piano and violin instruction and more, and will invite the best instructors to cultivate our next generation.

International cultural and sport exchanges have been the most popular media events in the world, such as boxing and the Miss International Beauty Pageant which we are actively organizing.

There are so many ways you can watch all our shows. Just start by going to [scdaily.com](http://scdaily.com) online and search for ITalkBB. You can also go to Google and YouTube online and search for our name, STV, then go to local Channel 15.3.

We will continue to make the effort to bring you all the current updates to serve everyone.



**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



A U.S. border patrol officer grabs the shirt of a migrant trying to return to the United States, after having crossed the Rio Grande from the U.S. into Mexico to buy food, as seen from Ciudad Acuna, in Ciudad Acuna, Mexico S. REUTERS/Daniel Becerril



Nanook Gordon, from Inuvik, dances while wearing grass dance regalia during Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Toronto, Ontario, Canada



People march from Parliament Hill during Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Ottawa, Ontario, REUTERS/Blair Gable



A member of the Coastal Wolf Pack dancers performs for the crowd on Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at the former Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza near Pacific Centre shopping mall in Vancouver, British Columbia, . REUTERS/Amy Romer



Teddy bears, shoes, artwork and flowers left in memory of the Kamloops residential school victims remain on the steps of the former Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada September 30, 2021. REUTERS/Amy Romer



Children run holding flags during a candlelight vigil on Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Chiefswood Park in Ohsweken, Ontario, Canada REUTERS/Carlos Osorio



## 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

of Ukraine.



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 mantlepiece 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 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 Ukrainians 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**  
*Holodomor death by hunger in Ukraine is the intentional result of Ukrainians in 1932-33 as a result of Soviet and US*

1. In 1932, the USSR government was supposed to support the USSR's economy.  
2. The Ukrainian people were forced to feed the growing and increasing demand for grain by the Soviet government.  
3. The Ukrainian people were forced to feed the growing and increasing demand for grain by the Soviet government.  
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**Ukraine History**  
**Holodomor, Ukraine 1932**  
*Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor*

**Ukraine Today 2022**

**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