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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

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Inside C3

Major U.S. retailers limit infant formula purchases on shortage



Corp (CVS.N) and Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA.O) said on Tuesday they have limited purchases of infant formula due to a supply shortage.

The limits come after top supplier Abbott Laboratories (ABT.N) in February recalled some baby formula including Similac made at its plant in Michigan over complaints of bacterial infections in infants who consumed the products. [read more](#)

NaDCC has 4X the killing power of bleach. CVS said it last month limited in-store and online purchases of the products to three per order, while Walgreens issued a similar cap in March. Kroger (KR.N) has a limit of four products per customer and Target has had restrictions on online sales for weeks.

Abbott said on Tuesday it was "doing everything" it can to address the shortage, including prioritizing production of the products and air shipping them from its U.S. drug regulator-approved facility in Ireland.

The company is also working closely with the Food and Drug Administration to restart operations at its Michigan facility, a spokesperson said. No formula that has been

distributed has tested positive for bacteria, according to the company.

The Similac maker is the leading supplier of milk formula in the United States with a market share of about 42% in 2021, followed by British consumer goods firm Reckitt Benckiser (RKT.L) with a nearly 38% share, according to Euromonitor data.

The FDA said it is taking several steps including working with Abbott and other manufacturers to alleviate supply issues.

The agency said several infant formula manufacturers are meeting or exceeding capacity levels to meet current demand and that more infant formula was purchased in the month of April than in the month prior to the recall.

"We are doing everything in our power to ensure there is adequate product available where and when they need it," FDA Commissioner Robert Califf said in a statement.

About 40% of baby formula products were out of stock across the United States last month, said Ben Reich, the chief executive of data firm Datasembly.

CVS Health logo and stock graph are seen displayed in this illustration taken, May 3, 2022. REUTERS/Dado Ruvic/Illustration

Supply chain snags, product recalls and historic inflation have compounded the shortage, he added

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

05/10/2022



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We Will Bring The ITC Miss International Beauty Pageant To The World Stage

The ITC Miss International Beauty Pageant selection process sponsored by the International Trade Center and Southern News Group is underway.

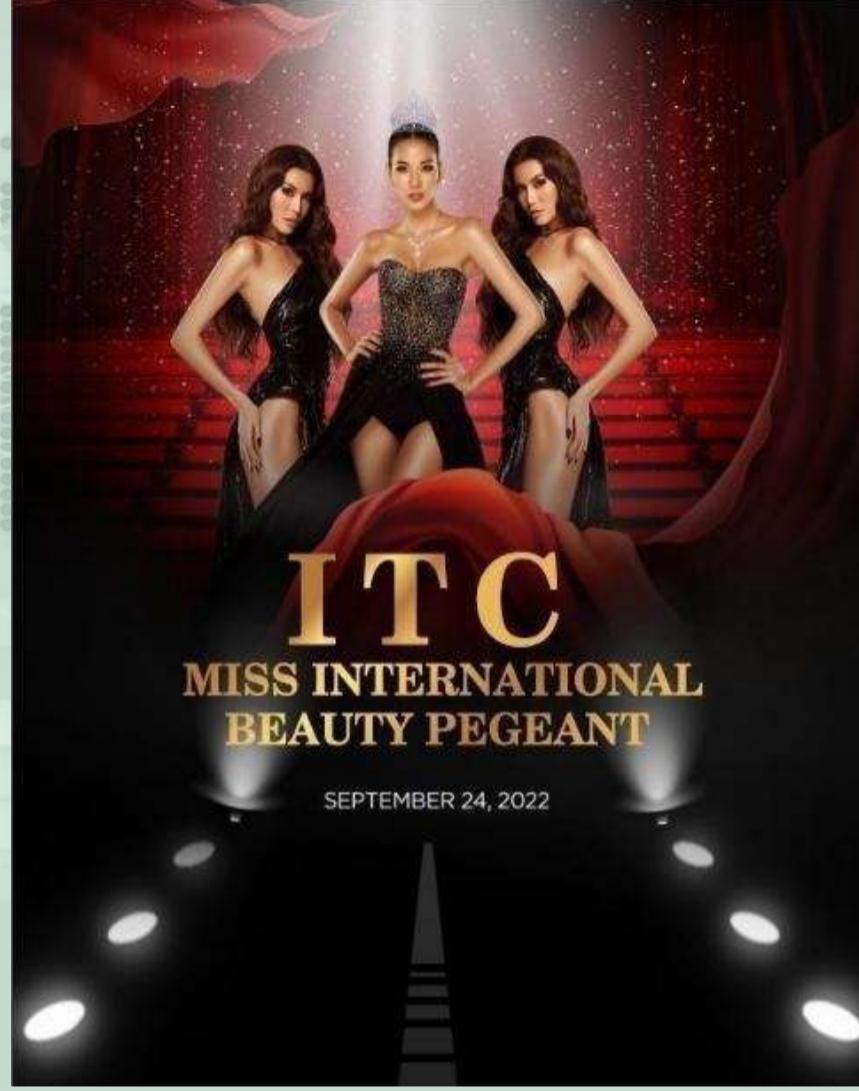
Today we held a second preparatory meeting with the Vietnamese, Indian, Chinese and Latino communities to update the event's activities.

Over the last twenty years, the International Trade Center has become a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It has hosted many large-scale international activities including The Annual Lunar New Year celebration. In 2015 we hosted the 70th Anniversary Victory of World War II at Houston's Minute Maid Park and the event attracted more than twenty-five

thousand spectators. It was the largest gathering ever for Houston's International community.

Over the years, ITC and Rice and Harvard universities have held the Texas African Summit as well as many education workshops. ITC also works with SBA's import-export bank to sponsor all kinds of seminars for small businesses. More than ten thousand participants came to the events over the last twenty years.

Today we want to move on and sponsor the ITC Miss International Beauty Pageant, not just to promote international culture, but also we want to give away scholarships to our young students.



Editor's Choice



A refugee child fleeing from Ukraine gestures when waiting for transport at Nyugati station, in Budapest, Hungary. REUTERS/Marton Monus



A view shows the area near the regional administration building, which city officials said was hit by a missile attack, in central Kharkiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Vyacheslav Madiyevskyy



People hold flares with the colors of the Ukrainian flag as Ukrainians and supporters hold an anti-war protest outside the Russian Embassy in Mexico City. REUTERS/Luis Cortes



A woman looks at empty shelves of bread after the curfew was lifted in Kyiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



A security fence surrounds the U.S. Capitol building ahead of the president's State of the Union address and concern over possible protests in Washington. REUTERS/Leah Millis

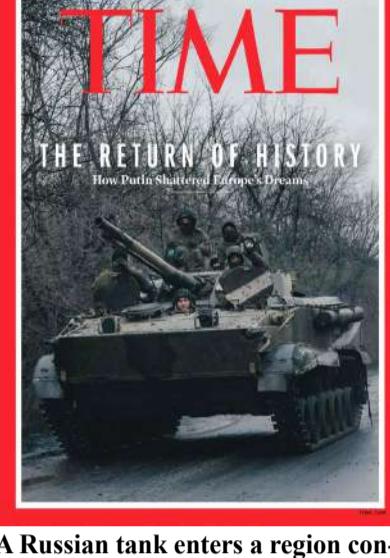


People salvage their belongings from a house damaged by an earthquake in Lumajang, East Java province, Indonesia, April 11, 2021. Antara Foto/Zabur Karuru

BUSINESS

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 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 Tsakhiagiin 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 buildup-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)

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.”

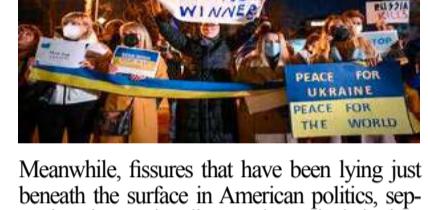


A Ukrainian service member on patrol along the Russian border on Wednesday. (Photo/

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)

COMMUNITY

Ukraine History Holodomor, Ukraine 1932

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

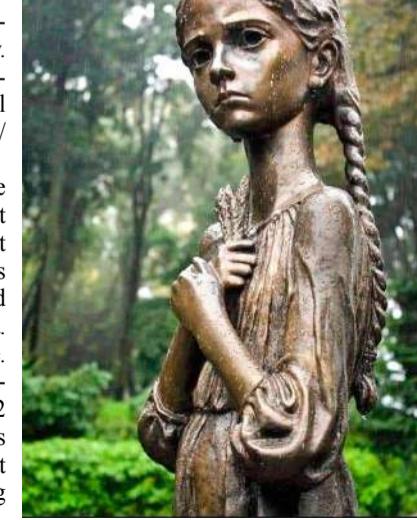


(Editor’s Note: Because we right now in 2022 are witnessing a full frontal military invasion of the country of Ukraine by Russia, research shows that the friction between these two countries has existed for several decades going back to the Joseph Stalin era in Russia. In this article, we can only provide 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.

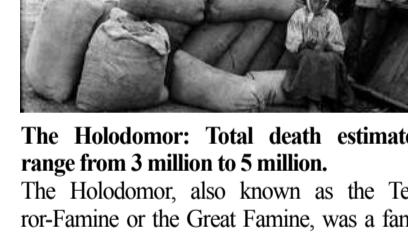


At the entrance to the memorial park in Kyiv, there is a sculpture of an extremely thin girl with a very sad look holding a handful of wheat in her hands. Behind her back is the Candle of Remembrance. This monument commemorates the Holodomor. The peak of the Holodomor was in the spring of 1933. In Ukraine 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.

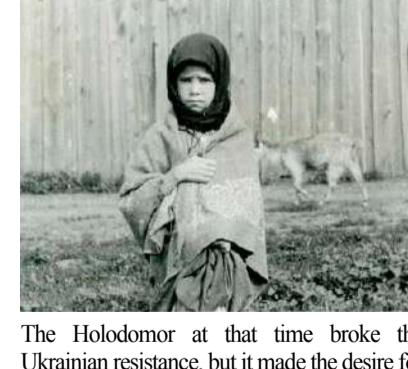
Stalin settled Russians into the emptied Ukrainian villages. During the next census, there was a huge shortage of population. Therefore, the Soviet government annulled the census, destroyed the census documents, and the census takers were shot or sent to the gulag, in order to hide the truth.

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

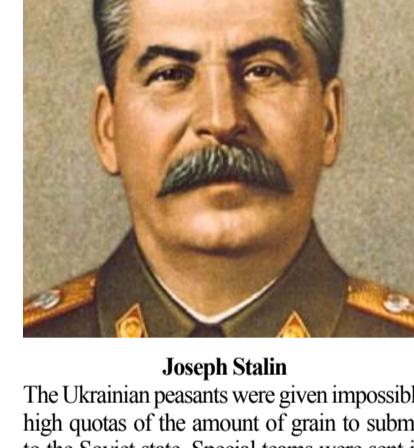


The Holodomor at that time broke the Ukrainian resistance, but it made the desire for Ukraine’s independence from Russia eternal. —Author Unknown. (Courtesy Clive Leighton and Laura Lian 2022)

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.

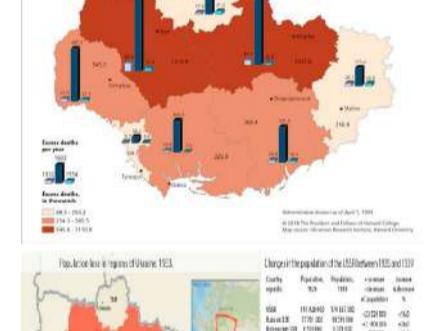


The Ukrainian peasants were given impossible high quotas of the amount of grain to submit to the Soviet state. Special teams were sent in to search homes and confiscate all produce to the last grain. A particularly brutal law called “5 ears of grain law” was passed, following which starving Ukrainians 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 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



According to the political documents in the Holodomor, nearly 10 million people died in Ukraine. This should be taken into account when reading the following text. The Holodomor is a tragic event in the history of Ukraine. Some historians believe that the Holodomor was a natural disaster, while others believe it was a man-made disaster. Some historians believe that the Holodomor was a result of the Soviet government's policies, while others believe it was a result of the Soviet government's policies.

UNHCR TRIED TO KEEP IT SECRET

News of the famine was suppressed in the Soviet Union, often referred to as the “Soviet Secret.”

INTERNATIONAL PRESS FORGOT IT UP

Malenkov denied the famine, referring to it as a “natural disaster.”

RUSSIAN HISTORY: BUT NOT SO MUCH

Stalin’s policies were responsible for the Holodomor, but the Soviet government did not admit it.

SOVIET RUSSIA: BUT THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER DENIED IT

French Prime Minister René Pleven denied the Holodomor, stating that it was a natural disaster.

GERMAN HISTORY: BUT THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER DENIED IT

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