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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Thursday , February 23 2023|

## China, Russia deepen ties as Biden rallies NA-TO’s ‘frontline’ over Ukraine

MOSCOW/WARSAW, Feb 22 (Reuters) - China pledged a deeper partnership with Russia on Wednesday as U.S. President Joe Biden reaffirmed security assurances for NATO’s “frontline” eastern members, highlighting global tensions as the anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine approaches.

However, a day after President Vladimir Putin said Moscow was suspending participation in a nuclear arms reduction treaty with Washington, his deputy foreign minister sought to calm nerves, saying the step did not make a nuclear war more likely.

Within Ukraine, schools took their classes online for the rest of the week for fear of an upsurge in Russian missile attacks a year on from Moscow’s Feb. 24 all-out assault, which failed to topple the government and has long been bogged down.

Wang Yi, the highest ranking Chinese official to visit Russia since the countries announced a “no limits” partnership weeks before the invasion, told Putin that Beijing was ready to enhance ties.

EU still has not agreed on anniversary Russia sanctions, more talks Thurs - sources Russia says it will play by nuclear treaty rules despite suspending deal with U.S. Shamima Begum, British-born woman who joined IS, loses appeal over citizenship removal Zelenskiy plans to attend July NATO summit in Vilnius - Ukraine ambassador Exclusive: Ukraine deepens Bystre Canal on Danube, aims to boost exports - deputy minister A time of crisis called for Russia and China “to continuously deepen our compre-

hensive strategic partnership”, Beijing’s top diplomat said.

Putin said he was looking forward to a visit to Moscow by Chinese President Xi Jinping and a deeper partnership.

Xi is expected to make a “peace speech” on Friday, but Kyiv says there can be no talk of peace while Russian troops are in Ukraine.

“This unprovoked and criminal Russian war against Ukraine, Europe and the democratic world must end with the cleansing of the entire Ukrainian land from Russian occupation and solid guarantees of the long-term security for our state, the whole of Europe and the entire world,” President Volodymyr Zelenskiy wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

Russia is due to begin military exercises with China in South Africa on Friday and has sent a frigate equipped with new generation hypersonic cruise missiles. A Russian officer said on Wednesday Russia would fire artillery, but not the missiles, whose speed makes them difficult to shoot down.

Russian aggression in Ukraine has changed the security situation in Europe, Polish President Andrzej Duda told the Warsaw meeting of nine eastern NATO members with Biden, who said Washington was committed to defending every inch of the alliance’s territory.

“You are the front line of our collective defence,” Biden told the summit of countries which joined the Western military alliance after being aligned with Moscow during the Cold War.



Most now count among the strongest supporters of military aid to Ukraine and in a joint declaration called for NATO’s enhanced presence on its eastern flank.

**NUCLEAR TREATY SUSPENDED**  
Putin has responded to setbacks in Ukraine with veiled threats to use nuclear weapons and suspended the nuclear arms control treaty on Tuesday, accusing Washington of turning the war into a global conflict by arming Ukraine.

Russia’s President Vladimir Putin meets with China’s top diplomat Wang Yi in Mosc  
Russia’s foreign and defence ministries said later Moscow would still continue abiding by the restrictions outlined in the pact on the number of nuclear warheads it could have deployed and the number of nuclear missile carriers. Russia’s lower house of parliament rubber-stamped the move Wednesday.

Tension over Ukraine had already halted mutual inspections of nuclear arsenals envisaged by the treaty, but Biden said that by suspending the treaty, Putin had “made a mistake”.

He underlined his support for Kyiv in a surprise visit to war-torn Ukraine on Monday and then rallied NATO allies in Poland, saying the invasion had tested the world but Washington and its allies had shown they would defend democracy.

He rejected Russia’s assertion that the West was seeking to control or destroy Russia, and accused Moscow of crimes against humanity such as targeting civilians and rape. Russia denies committing war crimes or deliberately attacking civilians.

NATO allies and other supporters have sent Ukraine tens of billions of dollars worth of arms and ammunition. Since the new year they have promised modern battle tanks, though they have yet to offer Western fighter jets sought by Kyiv.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has warned Beijing against supplying weapons to Moscow, prompting anger from China.

Britain has begun to “warm up” its production lines to replace weapons sent to Ukraine and increase production of artillery shells to try to help Kyiv push

back Russian forces, defence minister Ben Wallace said.

Speaking in southwest England where British officers are training Ukrainian crews on Challenger-2 tanks, Wallace said Challenger tanks would arrive in Ukraine in “the spring”.

**FIGHTING**  
Russia suffered three major battlefield setbacks in Ukraine last year but still holds nearly a fifth of the country. It has launched a massive offensive in recent weeks in the east, so far making only marginal gains despite some heavy losses.

Ukraine’s military said Bakhmut city, the focus of Russian advances in the eastern region of Donetsk, came under shelling, along with 20 other settlements in the area.

The governor of the neighbouring Luhansk region, Serhiy Haidai, said Ukraine had repelled intense Russian attacks around Kreminna town further north, destroying several of their tanks. Two civilians were killed in Russian shelling of the Kherson region in southern Ukraine, and two were wounded in a missile strike on the northeastern city of Kharkiv, officials said.

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

02/21/2023

## Is The Golden State Fading?

Many years ago when I was ready to leave San Francisco and go to Texas, many friends said to me, "Are you crazy? Texas is a state that is very hot like a big desert."

At that time, I was indeed hesitant, but while I thought that we came to this country to study and learn English, San Francisco was prosperous and the older generation of Chinese were the backbone of our community. When they spoke the old dialect, I could not even

understand. Finally I decide to go to Texas to explore my future. I just hide the beautiful San Francisco in the bottom of my heart.

Just last week I returned to California and me and my old friend Richard visited the tragedy site at Monterey Park where 11 people had been killed. Huge



portraits of these victims are still hanging at the scene. I also bowed and mourned. Suddenly I felt the surroundings were full of sad clouds and misery which was so very sad.

Yesterday it just took me one hour and I flew to San Francisco and landed at the same airport when I first came to America. After getting off the plane, we were traveling to the San Francisco Market Street through Stockton Bush and Pine Street. We saw many

homeless people and drunks on the street, instead of many dressed up ladies and gentlemen.

I really felt sad about this loving place and my favorite city. When I looked into the sky, it was still very beautiful and sunny weather. My feeling is that the Golden State is already fading.



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**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



A woman cries on Pope Francis hand while he greets people as he arrives for the weekly general audience at the Vatican, February 22. REUTERS/Remo Casilli



People wearing 'Gilles' masks and costumes take part in the Binche carnival, a UNESCO World Heritage event, in Binche, Belgium February 21, 2023. REUTERS/Yves Herman



A part of a rocket is seen near a building damaged by a Russian military strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in the front line city of Bakhmut, Ukraine February 21. REUTERS/Alex Babenko



A dog covered in mud is seen at one of the landslide sites after severe rainfall at Barra do Sahy, in Sao Sebastiao, Brazil, February 21. REUTERS/Amanda Perobelli



Damaged glasses lie on the ground at a bus station destroyed after a shelling, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kherson, Ukraine February 21. REUTERS/Lisi Niesner



Director Steven Spielberg waves on the red carpet as he attends a ceremony in which he is to receive the Honorary Golden Bear Award for Lifetime Achievement at the 73rd Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, February 21. REUTERS/Michele Tanussi



Opinion

Can China End The Ukraine War?

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



Key Points

Why Is China Best Placed To Help Negotiate An End To The Ukraine War? Developments at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit reflect shifting regional power dynamics and the evolving China-Russia relationship

China's balancing act affords Beijing the necessary degree of influence and impartiality to help meditate a way out of the Ukraine crisis

By Guest Writer Wang Huiyao\*

Last week, many eyes were trained on the ancient city of Samarkand for the annual meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Coming at a time of mounting global challenges and geopolitical tensions, the summit showed the importance of the SCO and China's role in promoting multilateralism, connectivity and development in Central Asia and beyond.

In Samarkand, SCO members adopted more than 40 outcome documents covering a range of fields and issued statements on pressing issues such as food security, energy security, climate change and supply chain security. New infrastructure projects were also announced, including the Mongolian section of a new Russia-China gas pipeline and a joint agreement between China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to build a transnational railroad.

Once complete, it will shorten the rail freight journey from China to Europe, which currently goes through Russia, by 900km. This new route through Central Asia had long been considered but previously did not proceed, partly because it went against Russia's strategic and economic interests.



A statue of Ukrainian poet, writer and artist Taras Shevchenko is seen in front of the destroyed Palace of Culture in the retaken city of Derhachi, in the Kharkiv region of Ukraine, on September 20. Photo: AFP

The fact that it is now going ahead reflects shifting

power dynamics in the region and the evolving China-Russia relationship. These changes were also seen in the meeting between the leaders of the two countries.

On the one hand, China and Russia underscored the strength of the bilateral relationship and pledged to support each other on issues concerning their respective core interests. Russian President Vladimir Putin described the strategic partnership between China and Russia as "solid as a mountain."

In the last few months, a series of events have drawn China and Russia closer together. China was already Russia's biggest trading partner and has become even more economically important for Moscow amid Western sanctions. In the first eight months of this year, total goods trade between China and Russia jumped 31.4 per cent year on year to US\$117.2 billion.



Chinese Troops In Training

In Samarkand, Putin expressed strong support for China, going so far as to condemn the "provocative moves by individual countries on issues concerning China's core interests." Ongoing developments, such as the progression of the Taiwan Policy Act through the US Congress, are likely to further cement China-Russia alignment on this issue.

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A Soldier Walks Past A Destroyed Russian Tank

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Victims Of War-Torn Ukraine

On the other hand, in contrast to their unified stance on Taiwan, perhaps the most notable outcome of the meeting was to put clear water between Beijing and Moscow regarding the war in Ukraine. Putin acknowledged the "balanced position" and "questions and concerns" of China on the Ukraine crisis and said he would "explain our position".

Coming from a leader not known for feeling a need to explain anything to anyone, Putin's admission of Beijing's reservations signals that, contrary to the views of some people, China is not fully aligned with Putin on Ukraine and did not conspire to support the invasion. Putting these statements together, we see that while the bilateral relationship remains strong, China has put some distance between itself and Russia on the Ukraine issue.

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Ukraine Soldiers Fire Long-Range Artillery At Enemy Troops

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Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin speak in person for first time since Russia invaded Ukraine

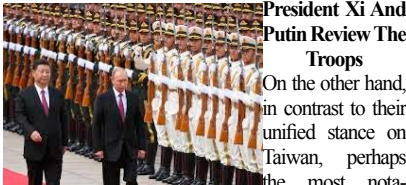


XI AND PUTIN TALK IN UZBEKISTAN

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President Xi And Putin Review The Troops

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outcome of the meeting was to put clear water between Beijing and Moscow regarding the war in Ukraine. Putin acknowledged the "balanced position" and "questions and concerns" of China on the Ukraine crisis and said he would "explain our position". (Courtesy https://www.scmp.com/)

Related

Putin Grants Russian Citizenship To Edward Snowden

Russian President Vladimir Putin has granted Russian citizenship to former American security contractor

Edward Snowden Monday, the Associated Press first reported.

Putin signed a decree Monday granting Snowden citizenship nearly two years after the National Security Administration (NSA) whistleblower petitioned for it along with his wife, citing a fear of being separated from their son in "this era of pandemics and closed borders." Snowden has not renounced his U.S. citizenship, but remains wanted by American authorities on charges of theft of government property and violation of the Espionage Act.



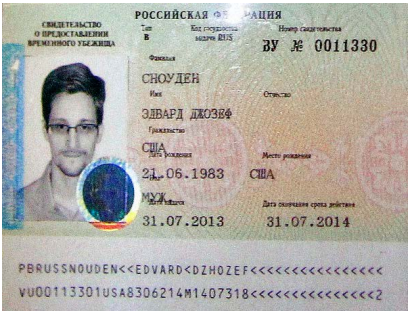
Edward Snowden

Seung Min Kim @seungminkim · Follow

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin grants Russian citizenship to former US security contractor

Edward Snowden. 11:05 AM · Sep 26, 2022

Snowden, who was granted permanent residency in Russia in 2020, was one of 75 foreign nationals granted citizenship Monday. He has lived in Russia since 2013 while evading capture by U.S. law enforcement. Snowden is wanted for allegedly leaking highly classified documents exposing several global surveillance operations involving the NSA and other government agencies in 2013. He initially fled to Hong Kong in May of 2013 before reportedly passing the documents to journalists, including Glenn Greenwald in June, before making his way to Russia later that month after the Department of State revoked his passport.



Putin initially described Snowden's fleeing to Russia as an "unwanted Christmas present" in 2013 and said he should leave the country, but Russia has repeatedly refused to extradite him to the U.S. in the years since. Numerous American politicians and activists have petitioned for Snowden to be pardoned, characterizing him as a freedom fighter who exposed government corruption and spying against its own citizens. Critics label him a traitor for leaking government secrets, including revealing sensitive information to China on American efforts to infiltrate CCP institutions. (Courtesy https://dailycaller.com/)

About The Author\*



Wang Huiyao is the founder of the Centre for China and Globalisation, a Beijing-based non-governmental think tank.

~Photo Essay Of A Human Tragedy~

Refugees Of War Are Now Our Neighbors  
Ukraine Refugees Wait In Tijuana For Permission To Enter The U.S.

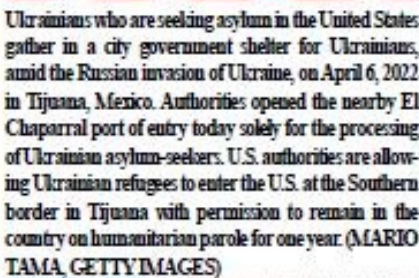
Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



The Ukrainian flag hung on the side of a building offers solace to some.



Volunteers with signs welcome Ukrainian refugees as they arrive at the Tijuana airport to help them on their journey to the United States after fleeing the war in Ukraine, in Tijuana, Baja California state, Mexico on on April 8, 2022. (PHOTO: PATRICK T. FALLON, AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES)



Two Ukrainian women sit and wait for U.S. Customs

and Border Protection to allow them to enter the U.S. at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in Tijuana, Baja California on April 5, 2022. (OMAR ORNELAS, EL PASO TIMES/USA TODAY NETWORK)



Ukrainian refugees wait to be allowed to enter the U.S. by Customs and Border Protection at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in Tijuana, Baja California on April 5, 2022. (OMAR ORNELAS, EL PASO TIMES/USA TODAY NETWORK)



U.S. Customs and Border Protection allow Ukrainian refugees to enter the U.S. at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in Tijuana, Baja California on April 5, 2022. (OMAR ORNELAS, EL PASO TIMES/USA TODAY NETWORK)



U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers take photos of Ukrainian refugees as they await to be allowed to enter the U.S. by Customs and Border Protection at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in Tijuana, Baja California on April 5, 2022. (OMAR ORNELAS, EL PASO TIMES/USA TODAY NETWORK)



U.S. Customs and Border Protection stop a Russian citizen from entering the U.S. at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in Tijuana, Baja California on April 5, 2022. (OMAR ORNELAS, EL PASO TIMES/USA TODAY NETWORK)



A volunteer (L) bids farewell to Ukrainians who are seeking asylum as they gather on a bus on their way to the El Chaparral port of entry, before entering the United States amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine, on April 6, 2022 in Tijuana, Mexico. (MARIO TAMA, GETTY IMAGES)



Ukrainians who are seeking asylum walk at the El Chaparral port of entry on their way to enter the United States, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine, on April 6, 2022 in Tijuana, Mexico. (MARIO TAMA, GETTY IMAGES)



Ukrainians who are seeking asylum in the United States gather in a city government shelter for Ukrainians, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine, on April 6, 2022 in Tijuana, Mexico. (MARIO TAMA, GETTY IMAGES)



Ukrainian refugees wait for Customs and Border Protection authorities to allow them to enter the USA at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in Tijuana, Baja California, on April 5, 2022. (OMAR ORNELAS/USA TODAY NETWORK)



U.S. Customs and Border Protection allow Ukrainian refugees to enter the U.S. at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in Tijuana, Baja California as two Russian citizens watch on April 5, 2022. (OMAR ORNELAS, EL PASO TIMES/USA TODAY NETWORK)



Elderly woman being transported by a relative.



Ukrainians families gather their belongings hoping to cross the border into the U.S.



Ukrainians wait for processing by US authorities at the Tijuana-Mexico border.



Family members offer each other comfort in the uncertain time.



A Ukrainian family contemplates the future in a new country.



A father holds his son up to see the massive group of his fellow countrymen scattered together in a foreign land.