

The 2022 War in Ukraine

Week 8

Spring 2022, Tuesdays 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Study Group Facilitators

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Questions for this week.

- Reflections?
 - What are the problems Ukraine faces, even if it wins?
 - What are the problems Russia faces, even if it wins?
 - How does NATO face up to the new world order and rules?

Weekly Theme Reminder

1. Timeline of conflict. Major events. Newspaper, journal, speeches, attacks, events.
2. Origins. Reasons for conflict. Past conflicts. Motivations for conflict. Alliances. Goals.
3. Leaders of the Nations in conflict. Military and Political figures.
4. Resources. Military strengths. Economies.
5. Military Tactics and Strategy. Use of Information and Cyber warfare
6. November through July significant events
7. Cost of conflict. Likely outcomes.
8. Reflections on the War

Contributory investigations Reminder

1. The reporters: who are the ones providing the best articles on the different aspects of the conflict? Any volunteers?
2. Food, Fertilizer, Refugees: Who is being impacted by the conflict?
3. Who benefits from the war. Individuals, organizations, countries?
4. Leaders watch. Who is on the up and down. Who are the influential leaders?
5. Evolving strategic goals. How have the strategies of Russia, Ukraine, Nato changed?
6. Evolving tactics. What tactics are being employed this week?
7. Politicians: Republican, Democratic, Russian, Ukrainian. Which politician best formalizes the issues?
8. War Crimes? Who, what and when?
9. Battle watch. Who is winning what and where?
10. Peace Talks. Agreement versus disagreements?

Agenda Week 8 (20 minutes per section)

1. Overview of week (E.g. see New York Times, Bloomberg News, BBC, Wikipedia,) Discussion of the whole.
2. Updates from contributory investigations (Slide 5.) 2 minute update on your investigation.
3. Summary of Weekly Theme. Led by Roy and Norm.
4. Reflections.
5. Discussion of the whole.

Other topics/Better organization?

1) Highlights of week

- DAVOS, Switzerland (Reuters) -Multiple threats to the global economy topped the worries of the world's well-heeled at the annual Davos think-fest on Monday, with some flagging the risk of a worldwide recession.
- The president of the European Commission on Tuesday accused Moscow of deliberately [trying to provoke a global food crisis](#) by targeting grain warehouses, ports and other critical infrastructure in its three-month war in Ukraine.
- The Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, said **Vladimir Putin was the only Russian official he was willing to meet with** to discuss how to end the war. "The president of the Russian Federation decides it all," he said in a video address to the World Economic Forum in Davos. "I cannot accept any kind of meeting with anyone coming from the Russian Federation but the president."
- Zelensky adviser says Kyiv will not agree a peace deal with Russia that involves giving up territory.
- Miners in eastern Ukraine on how a difficult job has become even more dangerous.
- Olena Zelenska opens up about the war, and President Zelensky says only talks can end the conflict.
- Only a negotiated solution will work, says Ukraine's president, as fighting intensifies in Donbas.
- Finland has refused to pay for gas in roubles but also angered Moscow by applying to join Nato. Russia cuts off gas to Finland. <https://www.reuters.com/article/ukraine-crisis-poland-russia/update-1-poland-terminates-yamal-gas-pipeline-agreement-with-russia-idUKL2N2XF0B2>
- Ukraine says the last defenders at the besieged Mariupol steelworks site have been given permission to leave.
- Russia wants to sell energy from Europe's biggest nuclear plant
- **Finland** and **Sweden** will send delegations to Ankara tomorrow to try to resolve Turkish opposition to their applications for membership of the Nato military alliance, Finland's foreign minister **Pekka Haavisto** has said.

1a) Highlights

- **‘Ashamed’ Russian diplomat resigns over Putin’s ‘aggressive war’**

In a letter circulated to colleagues in Geneva and [posted on a LinkedIn account in his name](#) as well as on Facebook, Boris Bondarev, counselor at the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, said he had left the civil service Monday.

- Russia's parliament has said it will consider allowing Russians over 40 and foreigners over 30 to sign up for the military.
- [Russia is to set up 12 new military bases](#) in the west of the country in response to Sweden and Finland's NATO bids.
- A Russian paints anti-war slogans on his shop.

1b) Overview of week Day by Day (Wikipedia)

May 18th.

- The Melitopol regional administration claimed that a Russian armored train carrying troops and ammunition overturned in the region, causing the ammunition to detonate.[\[504\]](#)
- Russian forces secured full control over Mariupol.[\[505\]](#)

May 12th.

- Russia claimed that it was using a new generation of powerful laser weapons in Ukraine to burn up drones.[\[506\]](#)

1b) Overview of week (Discussion of the whole)

May 20th.

- Russia hit the Palace of Culture building in [Lozova](#) in the Kharkiv region with missiles. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned the attack, describing it as "absolute evil" and "absolute stupidity". [\[507\]](#)[\[508\]](#)
- Russia claimed to have almost completely captured [Luhansk Oblast](#). [\[509\]](#)

1b) Overview of week (Discussion of the whole)

May 21st.

- Russia claimed that it had used sea-launched Kalibr cruise missiles to destroy a large consignment of weapons and military equipment supplied to Ukraine by the United States and Europe.
- Russia also claimed that it had struck fuel storage facilities near Odessa. It also claimed that it shot down two Ukrainian Su-25 aircraft and 14 drones.^[510]
- 700,000 soldiers defending Ukraine now, Zelenskyy says, as battles rage in the Donbas.
<https://www.euronews.com/2022/05/21/live-sievierodonetsk-shelling-brutal-and-pointless-zelenskyy-says-as-russia-continues-offe>

May 22nd.

- Ukrainian President Zelenskyy extended the country's martial law for three months through to 22 August 2022.^[511]
- Russia claimed that it hit Ukrainian forces with airstrikes and artillery in the Mykolaiv and Donbas regions, targeting command centres, troops, and ammunition depots.^[512]
- Russia's [RIA](#) news agency reported that Andrei Shevchik, the mayor of Enerhodar, who was appointed by Russia after occupying the town, was in intensive care after being injured in a blast.^[513]

1b) Overview of Week

23rd May

- [Denis Pushilin](#), the leader of the Donetsk People's Republic, said that the Ukrainian fighters who surrendered at the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol would face a trial in the separatist region. However, he did not specify what charges the fighters would face.^[514]
- Russian soldier gets life in prison in Ukraine's first war crimes trial

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/23/ukraine-russia-soldier-war-crimes-verdict/>

Unidentified assailants continued attacks against military recruitment offices in Russia on May 23, indicating growing discontent with conscription.[11]

<https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/ukraine-conflict-updates>

Russian nationalist figures are increasingly criticizing the failures of Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine and are calling for further mobilization that the Kremlin likely remains unwilling and unable to pursue in the short term.



1. Kharkiv Ukrainian counteroffensive near city making 'significant progress' according to ISW thinktank
2. Popasna Ukrainian army withdraws from embattled city after two months of fierce fighting
3. Mariupol Russian assault on Azovstal steelworks continues after last civilians evacuated
4. Crimea Satellite photos show Russia has moved armoured vehicles and missile systems to small base on peninsula
5. Odesa Explosions heard across major Black Sea port



- Held or regained by Ukraine
- ➔ Direction of Ukrainian advance
- Russian military control
- ▨ Russian advances
- ➔ Direction of Russian advance
- Russia annexed Crimea in 2014

Source: UK MoD / Institute for the Study of War (21:00 GMT 15 May)



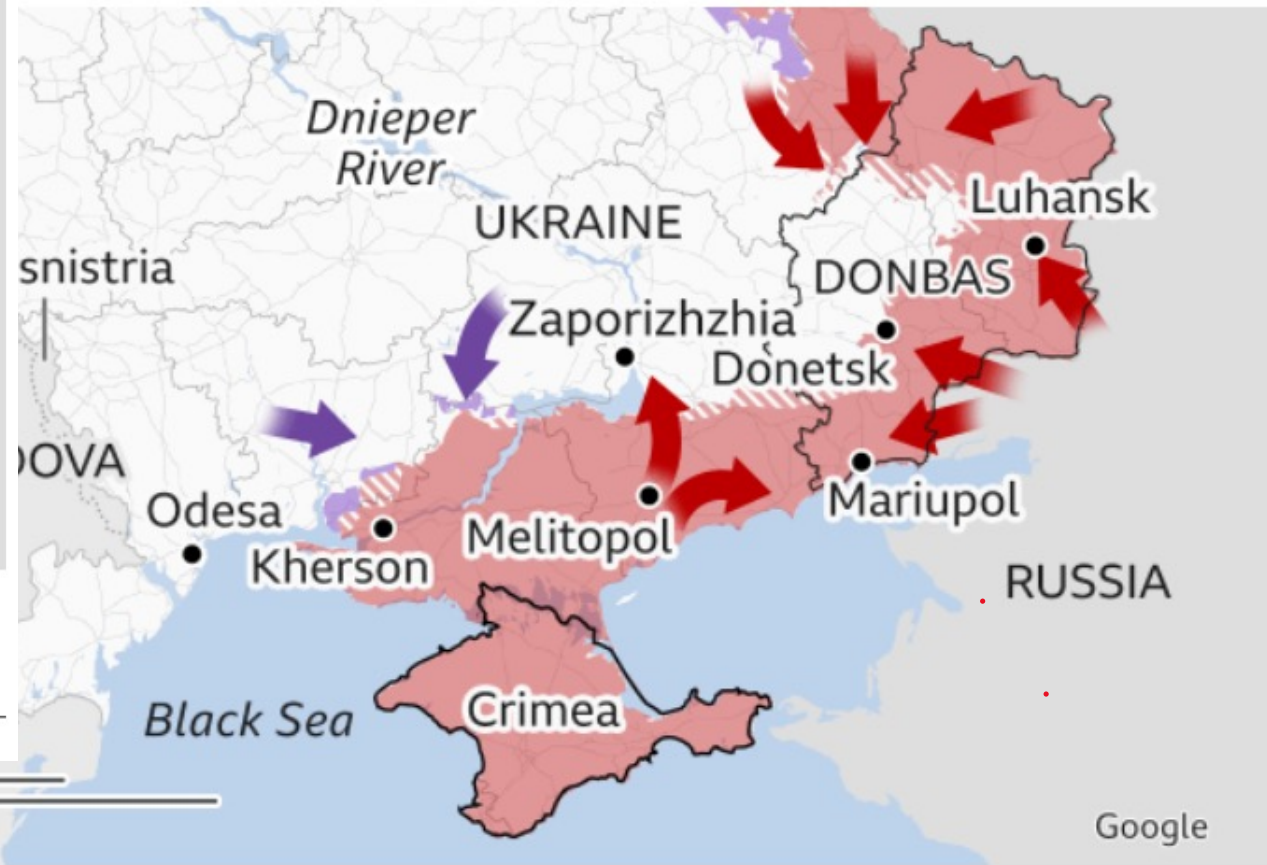
M777 Howitzers

- KYIV -- Dozens of [artillery systems supplied by the United States to Ukraine](#) were not fitted with advanced computer systems, which improve the efficiency and accuracy of the weapons, ABC News has learned.
- Three months into the war in Ukraine, the first M777s — the most lethal weapons the West has provided so far — are now deployed in combat in Ukraine's east.
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/23/world/europe/us-ukraine-howitzers.html>



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Source: UK MoD / Institute for the Study of War (21:00 GMT, 15 May) **BBC**



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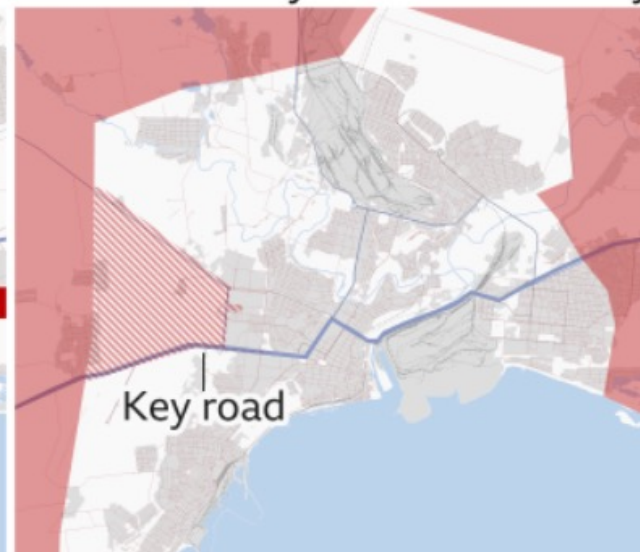
Source: UK MoD / Institute for the Study of War (21:00 GMT, 19 May) **BBC**



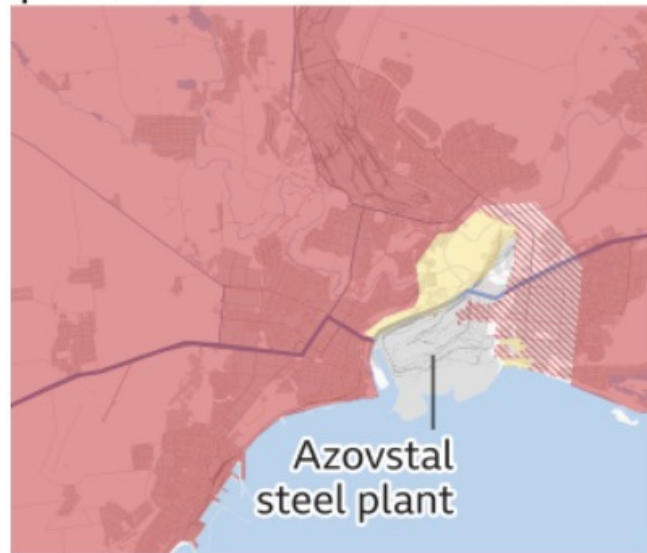
2 Mar: Russian forces advance towards port city of Mariupol



17 Mar: City surrounded and bombarded by Russian artillery



22 Apr: Russians encircle final pocket of Ukrainian resistance



17 May: Russians take control of Azovstal steel plant complex



Battles/month

Feb

- No Change

February 2022

Name	Oblast	Start date	End date	Offensive	Result
Battle of Avdiivka	Donetsk	20 February		Eastern Ukraine offensive	Ongoing
Attack on Snake Island	Odessa	24 February	25 February	Southern Ukraine offensive	Russian victory ^{[1][2]}
Battle of Antonov Airport	Kyiv	24 February	25 February	Kyiv offensive	Russian victory and subsequent withdrawal ^[3]
Capture of Chernobyl	Kyiv	24 February	24 February	Kyiv offensive	Russian victory and subsequent withdrawal ^[4]
Battle of Kharkiv	Kharkiv	24 February	14 May	Northeastern Ukraine offensive	Ukrainian victory ^[5]
Battle of Kherson	Kherson	24 February	2 March	Southern Ukraine offensive	Russian victory and ongoing occupation ^[6]
Battle of Konotop	Sumy	24 February	25 February	Northeastern Ukraine offensive	Russian victory and subsequent withdrawal ^{[7][8]}
Battle of Okhtyrka	Sumy	24 February	26 March	Northeastern Ukraine offensive	Ukrainian victory ^[9]
Battle of Sumy	Sumy	24 February	4 April	Northeastern Ukraine offensive	Ukrainian victory
Battle of Trostianets	Sumy	24 February	26 March	Northeastern Ukraine offensive	Ukrainian victory ^[10]
Siege of Chernihiv	Chernihiv	24 February	4 April	Northeastern Ukraine offensive	Ukrainian victory
Siege of Mariupol	Donetsk	24 February	20 May	Eastern Ukraine offensive	Russian victory ^[11]
Battle of Ivankiv	Kyiv	25 February	27 February	Kyiv offensive	Russian victory and subsequent withdrawal ^[12]
Battle of Kyiv	Kyiv City	25 February	31 March	Kyiv offensive	Ukrainian victory ^[13]
Battle of Hostomel	Kyiv	25 February	1 April	Kyiv offensive	Ukrainian victory ^{[14][a]}
Battle of Melitopol	Zaporizhzhia	25 February	1 March	Southern Ukraine offensive	Russian victory and ongoing occupation ^[17]
Battle of Volnovakha	Donetsk	25 February	12 March	Eastern Ukraine offensive	Russian victory ^[18]
Battle of Lebedyn	Sumy	26 February	4 April	Northeastern Ukraine offensive	Ukrainian victory ^[19]
Battle of Mykolaiv	Mykolaiv	26 February	8 April	Southern Ukraine offensive	Ukrainian victory
Battle of Vasylkiv	Kyiv	26 February	26 February	Kyiv offensive	Ukrainian victory ^[20]
Battle of Bucha	Kyiv	27 February	31 March	Kyiv offensive	Ukrainian victory ^{[21][b]}
Battle of Irpin	Kyiv	27 February	28 March	Kyiv offensive	Ukrainian victory ^{[24][25]}
Battle of Enerhodar	Zaporizhzhia	28 February	4 March	Southern Ukraine offensive	Russian victory ^[26]

Battles/Month

March–May 2022

Name	Oblast	Start date	End date	Offensive	Result
Battle of Voznesensk	Mykolaiv	2 March	13 March	Southern Ukraine offensive	Ukrainian victory ^[27]
Battle of Iziurm	Kharkiv	3 March	1 April	Northeastern Ukraine offensive	Russian victory ^{[28][29]}
Battle of Brovary	Kyiv	9 March	1 April	Kyiv offensive	Ukrainian victory ^[30]
Battle of Rubizhne	Luhansk	15 March	12 May	Eastern Ukraine offensive	Russian victory ^[31]
Battle of Slavutych	Kyiv	18 March	27 March	Kyiv offensive	Russian victory and subsequent withdrawal ^{[32][c]}
Battle of Popasna	Luhansk	18 March	7 May	Eastern Ukraine offensive	Russian victory ^[34]
Battle of Azovstal	Donetsk	10 April	20 May	Southern Ukraine offensive	Russian victory ^[35]
Battle of Donbas	Donetsk, Luhansk	18 April		Eastern Ukraine offensive	Ongoing
Battle of the Siverskyi Donets	Kharkiv, Luhansk	5 May	13 May	Eastern Ukraine offensive	Ukrainian victory ^[36]
Battle of Sievierodonetsk	Luhansk	6 May		Eastern Ukraine offensive	Ongoing

Battle of Sievierodonetsk



Sievierodonetsk

- On 9 May, LPR troops reportedly took control of [Nyzhnie](#) and started to attack [Toshkivka \[uk\]](#), two settlements southeast of Sievierodonetsk. Heavy combat continued at [Rubizhne](#), [Vojevodivka](#), and [Bilohorivka](#), as Russian forces attempted to further encircle Sievierodonetsk from the west.^[24] On the next day, Russia's military continued its attacks on the city and its surroundings — Ukrainian forces destroyed a Russian [pontoon bridge](#) across the [Siverskyi Donets River](#) in the vicinity of [Bilohorivka](#), attempting to disrupt the Russian advance, and destroying almost an entire Russian battalion in the process.^{[25][26]} According to Ukrainian regional police chief Oleh Hryhorov, Sievierodonetsk and its direct neighbor, [Lysychansk](#), had become tactically encircled, as Russian artillery could freely hit the remaining open roads into the city. Power and water supply was disrupted in the cities, leaving tens of thousands of civilians without basic necessities.^[2] By 12 May, Russian and LPR forces had defeated Ukrainian forces in the [Battle of Rubizhne](#) and established full control of the city, furthering their attempts at encircling Sievierodonetsk.^{[27][28]}
- For the most part, Russia subsequently ceased its ground attacks on the surroundings of Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk and limited itself to artillery bombardments. Pro-Russian forces instead focused on completing the encirclement of the two cities. To this end, they attacked at the northern frontline around [Izium](#) and in the south toward [Bakhmut](#). The northern attacks made little to no progress, but in the south Russia made limited advances over several days of heavy combat. Fighting was mainly concentrated at a number of villages, including [Toshkivka](#), [Pylpchatyne](#), [Hirske](#), and [Zolote](#).^{[30][31][32]} As of 19 May, the settlements of [Borivske](#), [Kreminna](#), [Novotoshkivske](#), [Nyzhnie](#), [Orikhove](#), [Popasna](#), [Rubizhne](#), [Toshkivka](#), [Voronove](#) and [Voyevodivka](#) in [Sievierodonetsk Raion](#) were under Russian control.^{[33][34][34]}

2) Investigations

- 2 minutes
- Send Slides or bring them
- Ongoing

What makes the Donbas region
different from the rest of the
Ukraine? Trisha Crowley

Some history

- Largely unpopulated until the late 17th century
- In 18th century, migration of ethnic Russians to the coal mining and industrializing parts of the Donbas
- Russians were the urban workers, Ukrainians the farmers
- 1932-33 Holodomor famine heavily impacted the rural Ukrainian population
- Suffered greatly during WWII, many industrial workers taken to Germany, forced to work in German factories

- After WWII, the region largely destroyed and depopulated.
- Large numbers of ethnic Russians arrived after the war, altering the Ukrainian/ Russian balance
- Voted strongly for an independent Ukraine after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991
- Severe depression and wage reductions after 1991-3, coal miners strike 1993

- “1994 consultative referendum on various constitutional questions in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, held concurrently with the first parliamentary elections in independent Ukraine. These questions included whether Russian should be declared an official language of Ukraine, whether Russian should be the language of administration in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, whether Ukraine should federalise, and whether Ukraine should have closer ties with the Commonwealth of Independent States.”

- 90% of Donbas region voted in favor of the propositions, but none implemented by the Kyiv government
- Rampant corruption during the privatization process of the 1990s
- After the 2014 Revolution of Dignity, strong pro-Russian protests
- After 2014, separatists, with Russian support, started fighting
- This continued, to various degrees, from 2014-2022

3) Reflections

- Zelensky
- Autocracy versus Democracy?
- Cost of Compromise?
- War Crimes
- Hunger and Famine
- Automated Weapons of War

Zelensky's effectiveness

- <https://link.wired.com>
- Volodymyr Zelensky and the Art of the War Story: Video dispatches from the Ukrainian president skillfully dissolve Putin's delusions. We would all do well to listen.
- **IN 2003, VOLODYMYR** Zelensky, then 25 and freshly licensed to practice law, formed an organization Kvartal 95 Studio "to make the world a better place using humor and creativity."
- The videos are apparently written in collaboration with Dmytro Lytvyn, a sharp-tongued, controversial Ukrainian pundit whose coy Twitter bio says simply, "I think you heard what I'd written." Others from the old studio, including Yuri Kostyuk, a writer on *Servant of the People*, are also said to be involved.

Autocracy versus Democracy?

- Will show that growth begets democracy, or that democracy is unnecessary for growth?

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Autocracy+versus+Democracy%3F&oq=Autocracy+versus+Democracy%3F&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i22i30l6j0i10i22i30j0i22i30l2.1360j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#:~:text=Autocracy%20or%20democracy,www.economist.com/>

- How Democracy Can Defeat Autocracy

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/14/how-democracy-can-defeat-autocracy?gclid=CjwKCAjw4ayUBhA4EiwATWyBrpIBRS0JJU Gv1lcz4aM OBMGdLd6bTRfugxH7i98Eg-sYP3xJUTd2RoCOTgQAvD BwE>

Compromise? Peace versus territory?

- Can we compromise with a fascist state?
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/19/opinion/russia-fascism-ukraine-putin.html?smid=url-share>

War Crimes

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0c7p4xw>
- How are Russia's war crimes classified?

Hunger and Famine

- <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/05/19/world/russia-ukraine-war#here-are-the-latest-developments-on-the-war-in-ukraine>
- Tens of millions of people are threatened by hunger and famine because of the war in Ukraine, the secretary general of the United Nations said Thursday, in the latest warning about the impact Russia's blockade of Ukrainian ports has had on global grain supplies. (Russia-Ukraine war updates)
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine is creating one of the worst disruptions to the supply of wheat since the first world war.
- <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2022/05/19/the-coming-food-catastrophe>
- <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/05/19/vladimir-putin-trying-starve-world-submission/>

Automated Weapons of War

- The future of warfare could be a lot more grisly than Ukraine
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/03/11/autonomous-weapons-geneva-un/>
- the defense industry in the West:
- https://adamtooze.substack.com/p/chartbook-120-st-javelin-lockheed?r=av0bg&s=r&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web
- This article is about the impact of high technology on ground warfare:
- https://adamtooze.substack.com/p/chartbook-123-the-war-in-ukraine?r=av0bg&s=r&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email

Military Corruption

- On the operational level, the corruption in defense procurement has also likely undermined logistics, manifesting in soldiers receiving inadequate equipment and supplies on the ground. Poor logistics slows down the advancement of troops, undermines their morale and hinders military effectiveness. (Politico)
- Russian soldiers received rations that had expired in 2015.
- Lack of fuel
- Embezzlement
- Secrecy
- <https://www.politico.eu/article/russia-military-corruption-quagmire/>

The long-term consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine are coming into focus

- <https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3462875-the-long-term-consequences-of-russias-war-against-ukraine-are-coming-into-focus/>
- Russia spends a lot on defense (third after the U.S. and China) and has modernized its military. But autocratic and rigid leadership, soldiers' poor will to fight and deficient logistics have sapped military agility and endurance.
- Russia's economy may decline by some [15 percent](#) this year, in part because of severe sanctions, which Putin has likened "to an [act of war](#)." In the future, the West might employ sanctions more often.
- Russian aggression and atrocities in Ukraine have shattered Kremlin attempts to sow [divisions in the U.S. and Europe](#). Western audiences may become more resistant to information technology-enabled psychological and political warfare.
- Europe may further reduce dependence on Russian hydrocarbons. By August, the EU plans to end purchases of Russian [coal](#). This year the EU plans to cut imports of Russian [natural gas](#) by two-thirds. This will benefit U.S. and other suppliers of liquified natural gas.

4) Discussion Time.

THE END