

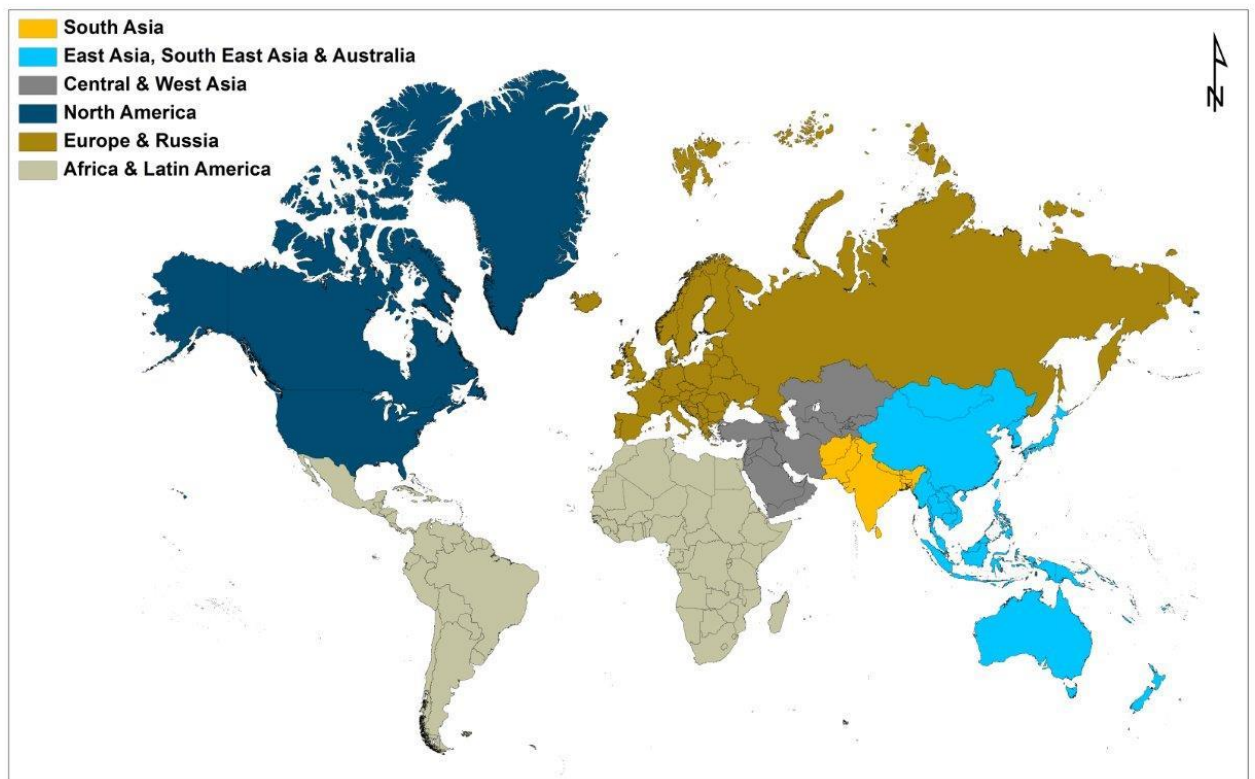


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume VI, Issue 10 | March 6, 2022

Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

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ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is among India's oldest think tanks with its primary focus on strategic and international issues of critical national interest. DPG is a non-partisan institution and is independently funded by a non-profit Trust. Over past decades, DPG has established itself in both domestic and international circles and is widely recognised today among the top security think tanks of India and of Asia's major powers.

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[Why Indian defence is concerned about Russia-Ukraine crisis – project delivery, lessons China draws](#)

February 28, 2022, The Print

The immediate effect of the Ukraine conflict would be the delay in delivery of ongoing projects by Russia. But the long-term impact would be the lessons China draws here.

[Explained: How dependent is India on Russia's weapons?](#)

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has long-term implications for India, most significantly on the decades old defence trade between the two. How strong are India's ties with Russia, and what is the value of weapons India has bought from Russia?

[India faces uncertainty over defence supplies from Russia and Ukraine, as also CAATSA waiver](#)

March 1, 2022, The Hindu

With tensions escalating between Russia and the West over the Ukraine crisis, India, which has major defence cooperation with Moscow and also with Kyiv, faces uncertainty over timely deliveries in the near future in addition to the lingering threat of U.S. sanctions under CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) over the S-400 deal.

[Ukraine crisis has many lessons for India. Most important: Atmanirbharta is the way forward](#)

March 4, 2022, The Print

The war in Ukraine has woken up Europe from slumber, reshaping the European focus on military and the criticality of investing in defence.

[From 4 to 39 Navies: How Milan Soared Over the Years, What It Means for the Indian Navy](#)

March 4, 2022, News 18

When the Indian Navy started Milan at the Andaman and Nicobar Command in 1995, the multilateral naval exercise saw just four participants from Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

[Govt gives nod to design & development of nine defence equipment by Indian industry](#)

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Thursday said it has given in-principle approval for the design and development of nine defence equipment by the Indian industry.

Pakistan

[30 worshipers martyred, 50 injured in Peshawar mosque blast](#)

March 4, 2022, The News

At least 30 worshipers embraced martyrdom while 50 others sustained injuries in a suicide bomb blast inside a mosque in Peshawar's Kocha Risaldar area during the Friday prayers.

[Pakistan abstains from voting against Russia at UNGA](#)

March 3, 2022, The News

The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution that "demands" Russia "immediately" withdraw from Ukraine, in a powerful rebuke of Moscow's invasion by a vast majority of the world's nations. Pakistan, China among 35 other countries 'abstained' from voting at the UNGA resolution.

[Opposition push for no-trust vote gathers momentum](#)

March 3, 2022, The News

A nine-member committee of the united opposition of Pakistan political parties recommended bringing a no-confidence motion against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. The committee said that the united opposition had the required number of MNAs and the no-confidence motion should be tabled against the PTI government as soon as possible.

[Pakistan likely to remain on FATF grey list until June](#)

March 4, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan is likely to remain on the so-called grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for another four months — i.e. until June — for a couple of unmet targets under the additional criteria.

[Pledge reaffirmed to implement Indus Waters Treaty in its true spirit](#)

March 4, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan and India reiterated their commitment to implement the Indus Waters Treaty in its true spirit and expressed the hope that the next meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission of the two nations would be held at an early date in India.

[Trade deficit widens to \\$32bn](#)

March 3, 2022, Dawn

The country's trade deficit widened 82 per cent year-on-year to \$31.96 billion, largely driven by more than a double increase in imports compared to exports, showed data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

[DSP among three martyred in Quetta blast](#)

March 3, 2022, Dawn

At least three people, including a police official, were martyred and 25 others injured in a bomb blast in Quetta, Balochistan. The attack took place on the Fatima Jinnah Road that runs through a bazaar, and several shops caught fire after the bombing.

[Punjab proposes declaration on finality of Prophethood before marriage](#)

March 2, 2022, Dawn

In what appears to be a bid to win over the right-wing vote bank, the Punjab cabinet approved an amendment to the West Pakistan Rules under Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961, and subsequently included a clause wherein couples intending to get married would have to take an oath to testify their belief in the finality of Prophethood (PBUH) at the time of nikah.

[War leaves Pakistan with fewer LNG import options](#)

February 28, 2022, Dawn

With the escalating Russia-Ukraine war, Pakistan is left with fewer import options for liquefied natural gas (LNG) while struggling to maintain 8-10 cargoes a month instead of 14 required for electricity and industrial needs.

Afghanistan

[Taliban ban evacuations, for now](#)

February 28, 2022, Dawn

The Taliban will not allow any more evacuations of Afghans until the situation improves abroad for those who have already left, their spokesman said. "The government has the responsibility to protect the people so this will be stopped until we get the assurance that their lives will not be endangered," Zabihullah Mujahid told a news conference.

[Kabul varsity reopens, but attendance low](#)

February 27, 2022, Dawn

Afghanistan's main universities reopened, six months after the Taliban returned to power, but only a trickle of women returned to attend now-segregated classes. Most secondary schools for girls and all public universities were shuttered following the Taliban's August 15 takeover of the country, sparking fears women would be barred from education — as happened during the Islamists' first rule from 1996 to 2001.

[UNSC holds meeting on Afghanistan amid humanitarian, economic crises](#)

March 3, 2022, Business Standard

The UN Security Council (UNSC) held a conference to discuss the situation in Afghanistan as the country is continuing its struggle with the ongoing humanitarian and economic crisis. Addressing the meeting, UN Secretary-General's special envoy for Afghanistan Deborah Lyons said that perhaps the worst fears over the humanitarian crisis were averted but any gains were short-term, and "only to buy a little time".

[World Bank approves \\$1bn to fund urgent needs in Afghanistan](#)

March 2, 2022, Al Jazeera

The executive board of the World Bank has approved a plan to use more than \$1bn from a frozen Afghanistan trust fund to finance urgently needed education, agriculture, health and family programmes, the bank has announced.

[Taliban conducting house-to-house sweep across Afghan capital](#)

February 27, 2022, Al Jazeera

The Taliban are conducting a huge security sweep of Kabul and other Afghan cities, their spokesman said, going house-to-house in search of weapons and criminals blamed for a recent spate of robberies and kidnappings.

Bangladesh

[India, Bangladesh to conduct study on economic partnership pact](#)

March 6, 2022, Hindustan Times

India and Bangladesh have agreed to conduct a joint study on Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) at a commerce secretary level talk on Friday, according to an official statement.

[India-Bangladesh joint FTA study to be finalised soon](#)

March 5, 2022, Mint

India and Bangladesh will soon finalize the joint study on the proposed bilateral free trade agreement, aimed to boost economic ties. The matter was discussed by two sides and agreed during the secretary level talks on Friday in New Delhi.

Nepal

[Explained: China-US arm-wrestling in Nepal, played out over \\$500 million grant](#)

March 3, 2022, The Indian Express

The deal was ultimately approved with an 12-point explanatory note stating that it has no military or security component and nothing to do with the US strategy in the Indo-Pacific – and that Nepal would be free to pull out if the US violated this understanding.

[Setback to China as Nepal ratifies US grant](#)

March 5, 2022, Deccan Herald

Just when it appeared that Nepal was headed the Sri Lanka way and would have the \$500 million infrastructure grant offered to it by the US under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact scrapped, with China quietly working towards that end, Kathmandu has pulled back from the brink.

[Ukraine crisis: Nepal asks India to evacuate its nationals; gets positive response](#)

March 3, 2022, WION

The Nepali government has reached out to the Indian government for the evacuation of its stranded nationals. New Delhi has given a positive response to Nepal's request.

Sri Lanka

[Take necessary steps to address Tamil aspirations, India urges Sri Lanka](#)

March 5, 2022, The Hindu

India called upon Sri Lanka to take “necessary steps” to address the “legitimate aspirations” of the Tamil community, while reiterating its earlier stance that it is in Sri Lanka’s “own interest that the expectations of Tamils in Sri Lanka for equality, justice, peace and dignity, within a united Sri Lanka, are fulfilled”.

[Two Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships arrive in Colombo](#)

March 2, 2022, Colombo Page

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ships JS URAGA and JS HIRADO which belong to the Minesweeper Division One arrived at the port of Colombo on a formal visit on 01st and 02nd March 2022 respectively.

East & South East Asia

China

[China supports Russia-Ukraine direct talks, opposes any moves that add fuel to flames, Wang Yi says in phone talks with Blinken](#)

March 5, 2022, Global Times

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Saturday the Ukraine crisis can only be solved through dialogue and negotiations and stressed that China supports all efforts that help ease tensions and push for political solution, and opposes all actions that are not conducive to diplomatic resolution but add fuel to the fire.

[China boosts defense budget by 7.1% for 2022 amid complex global situation](#)

March 5, 2022, Global Times China announced on Saturday its plan to boost the country's defense budget by 7.1 percent, to a total of 1.45 trillion yuan (\$230 billion) in 2022, with analysts saying that the proposed budget growth is steady and reasonable at a time when China needs to modernize its military capabilities to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity amid severe external threats and an unstable security environment.

[China sets lowest economic growth target in decades at annual meeting](#)

March 5, 2022, The Guardian

Premier Li Keqiang warns of risks in economic outlook as the coronavirus, a property slump and uncertainty in Ukraine play out.

[Chinese FM questions US role in Ukraine crisis amid the latter's smears on China](#)

March 4, 2022, Global Times

The US has been spreading disinformation and using the Ukraine crisis to smear China. Its rumour mongering in order to shift its own responsibilities is hypocritical and despicable, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Friday amid report that an anonymous US defense official criticized China for not condemning or imposing sanctions on Russia, and being reluctant to take part in a diplomatic solution to the Ukraine issue.

[China to strengthen cyber security, data security, personal information protection](#)

March 5, 2022, Xinhua

China will advance the building of the national security system and capacity, and strengthen cyber security, data security and protection of personal

information, according to a government work report submitted Saturday to the national legislature for deliberation.

[Mutual respect is way forward for China-US relations](#)

March 5, 2022, China Daily

A spokesperson for the fifth session of the 13th National People's Congress has reiterated that mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation should be the right approach for China and the United States to get along with each other in the new era, saying that Washington regarding China as a strategic rival will eventually hurt its own interests.

[India urges China to hold talks on Ladakh standoff as Beijing increases defence budget](#)

March 5, 2022, The New Indian Express

There has been a military standoff in the Hot Springs area since 2020 and the objective would be to resolve and prevent any further escalation.

Japan

[U.S. should abandon ambiguity on Taiwan defense: Japan's Abe](#)

February 27, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Sunday that it is time for the U.S. to make clear that it would defend Taiwan from a Chinese invasion and ditch its longstanding strategic ambiguity. "The U.S. takes a strategy of ambiguity, meaning it may or may not intervene militarily if Taiwan is attacked," Abe said on a Fuji TV morning talk show. "By showing it may intervene, it keeps China in check, but by leaving the possibility that it may not intervene, it makes sure that the [Taiwanese] forces for independence do not run out of control," he said.

[Ukraine conflict: 77% in Japan fear Taiwan spillover](#)

February 28, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Russia's invasion of Ukraine poses concern for the possibility of China using force against Taiwan unless the international community acts, said more than three-quarters of respondents to a weekend survey by Nikkei Inc. and TV Tokyo. Concern over the risk of spillover effects on Taiwan was expressed by 77% of respondents in Japan overall, rising to 83% among those in their 40s and 50s. Just 11% of all respondents expressed no such worries.

[Kishida says Japan won't seek nuclear sharing with the U.S.](#)

February 28, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Monday it is not acceptable for Japan to make a nuclear sharing arrangement with the United States, rejecting the idea of hosting U.S. nuclear weapons as a deterrent amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Kishida said in parliament, "It is unacceptable given our country's stance of maintaining the three nonnuclear principles," following a call by former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe the previous day to discuss the option of nuclear sharing.

[Japan blocks 7 Russian banks from SWIFT, freezes oligarch assets](#)

March 3, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan will block seven Russian banks from the SWIFT global payments system and freeze the assets of Russian oligarchs, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Thursday, in a coordinated move with other Western countries to put pressure on Russia to end its invasion of Ukraine. Kishida also said Japan will tighten exports to Russia of technology items such as semiconductors. Sanctions are also being imposed on Belarus and its president, Alexander Lukashenko.

[In rare move, Japan to send bulletproof vests and helmets to Ukraine](#)

March 4, 2022, The Japan Times

Japan will provide bullet-proof vests and other defense supplies to Ukraine, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Friday, in a rare delivery of equipment by the Self-Defense Forces to a country under armed attack. The goods to be delivered by the SDF and through other channels also include helmets, tents, winter clothing, food items, hygiene products, cameras and power generators, the Japanese government said, as Russia escalates its attack on Ukraine despite international condemnation.

Korea

[North Korea fires suspected ballistic missile toward East Sea amid Russian attack on Ukraine](#)

March 5, 2022, The Korea Times

North Korea fired what appeared to be a ballistic missile toward the East Sea, Saturday, South Korea's military said, just four days ahead of the presidential election here. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launch from around the Sunan area in Pyongyang at 8:48 a.m. It did not elaborate. The latest launch, the North's ninth show of such force this year, came less than a week

after it claimed to have conducted a "reconnaissance satellite" development test that the South called a ballistic missile launch.

[Korea to ban exports of strategic materials to Russia](#)

February 28, 2022, The Korea Times

South Korea has decided to ban exports of strategic materials to Russia as part of international sanctions against Moscow following its invasion of Ukraine, the foreign ministry said Monday. Seoul also plans to join the international move to exclude Russia from the SWIFT payment system and notified the United States of the decision via a diplomatic channel, according to the ministry.

[Moon tells Zelenskyy that Korea stands in solidarity with Ukrainian people](#)

March 3, 2022, The Korea Times

President Moon Jae-in held telephone talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday and said Korea stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine fighting against Russia's invasion. "As a country that suffered a tragic war, Korea expresses its respect to President Zelenskyy for his strong leadership. We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine who have risen resolutely to defend their country," Moon wrote, retweeting Zelenskyy's Twitter post, shortly after their 30-minute telephone talks.

[Lee Jae-myung envisions efficient, powerful military for future warfare](#)

March 2, 2022, The Korea Times

Presidential candidate Lee Jae-myung of the ruling Democratic Party of Korea will build up an efficient and powerful military prepared for future warfare, his adviser said in an interview with The Korea Herald. South Korea has faced rapidly mounting North Korean nuclear and missile threats and new and emerging security challenges across all domains. The intricate regional dynamics in the Indo-Pacific have been compounded by the growing US-China rivalry and the heated arms race.

Southeast Asia

[Special ASEAN Summit Spotlights America's Southeast Asia Commitment Challenge](#)

March 5, 2022, The National Interest

Engagement offers an opportunity to leverage individual gains to buttress Washington's broader presence in the region.

[US Government Sets Date for Special ASEAN Summit in Washington](#)

March 1, 2022, The Diplomat

President Joe Biden will welcome ASEAN leaders to Washington on March 28-29, though military-ruled Myanmar is likely to be excluded.

[Timor-Leste's long struggle for ASEAN acceptance](#)

March 6, 2022, UCA News

Timor-Leste's pursuit of full membership of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is being put to the test. It officially applied to join the bloc more than a decade ago, but for various reasons it has been kept on the fringes, although it has regularly attended the regional body's meetings and events.

[ASEAN urges end to 'military hostilities' in Ukraine, no mention of Russia](#)

March 3, 2022, Bangkok Post

Foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have called for an immediate ceasefire to what they called military hostilities in Ukraine.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Central Asia currencies feeling heavy pressure from rouble's tumble](#)

February 28, 2022, Eurasianet

The damage wrought by international sanctions on the rouble is sowing varying levels of alarm in currency markets in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, all of whose economies are strongly tied to that of Russia. Uzbekistan appears to be holding firm.

[Ukraine Recalls Ambassadors From Kyrgyzstan, Georgia For Consultations](#)

March 1, 2022, RFE/RL

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy says his country has recalled its ambassadors to Kyrgyzstan and Georgia for consultations over the two countries' positions on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

[Turkmenistan: Berdymukhamedov 2.0 hits campaign trail](#)

March 1, 2022, Eurasianet

Campaigning for the March 12 presidential election has begun in earnest. For one person it has anyway. The president's 40-year-old son, Serdar Berdymukhamedov, hit the trail on February 21 in the Dashoguz province and talked about his core electoral pledge: to implement a 30-year development agenda approved by a gathering of lawmakers and community elders last month.

[Nur Otan No More? Kazakhstan's Ruling Party Rebrands as 'Amanat'](#)

March 2, 2022, The Diplomat

On March 1, during a party congress Kazakhstan's ruling Nur Otan party voted to rename itself Amanat. The change shifts the party name from "Light of the Fatherland" to "Legacy" and underscores the ongoing trend of de-Nazarbayevification that began in earnest after the January unrest.

[Report: Uzbekistan nationals involved in Russian invasion of Ukraine](#)

March 3, 2022, Eurasianet

Military officials in Uzbekistan have issued a statement to deny that troops in the national army are being enlisted to fight for foreign armed forces amid circulating claims that Uzbek nationals are serving alongside Russian forces invading Ukraine.

[Slain Kazakh Opposition Leader's Son Demands New Probe Into His Father's Death](#)

March 3, 2022, RFE/RL

The son of a Kazakh opposition leader whose death in 2005 was officially declared a suicide has demanded a new probe into his father's death. Qairat Nurqadilov said on March 3 that he had filed a request with the prosecutor-general's office to reinvestigate his father's death.

[Kazakhstan braces for impact of Russia sanctions regime](#)

March 3, 2022, Eurasianet

With Russia poised to enter a period of economic recession under the weight of punishing international sanctions, neighbouring Kazakhstan is scrambling to minimise the fallout. The government's main stated areas of concern are keeping inflation under control, keeping the national currency stable, and promoting job creation.

West Asia

[India's Oil Import Bill To Top \\$100 Billion in Current Fiscal](#)

February 28, 2022, Times Now

India's crude oil import bill is set to exceed \$ 100 billion in the current fiscal year ending March 31, almost double its spending last year, as international oil prices trade at seven-year highs.

[India Abstains on Resolution Condemning Russian Invasion of Ukraine, Joins China and UAE](#)

February 26, 2022, DNA

Apart from China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), India has also abstained from a Security Council resolution condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The resolution proposed by the US and Albania with the backing of nearly 60 countries received 11 votes in favour, giving it a majority in the 15-member Council, but was nullified by the Russian veto.

[India, Oman Hold Five-day Air Exercise 'Eastern Bridge-VI' in Jodhpur](#)

February 26, 2022, The Economic Times

The Indo-Oman exercise, Eastern Bridge-VI (2022) was successfully conducted at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 21 to 25 February 2022, informed India's Ministry of Defence.

[UAE, India Parliaments To Strengthen Ties With New Committee](#)

February 22, 2022, Khaleej Times

Om Birla, the speaker of the lower house of the Indian Parliament, addressed a session of UAE's Federal National Council, hailing how the ties between India and the UAE have grown by leaps and bounds through the years.

[Rooted in NATO's Provocations: Iran Responds to Russia's Attack on Ukraine](#)

February 24, 2022, AL Jazeera

Iran's foreign minister, Hossein Amirabdollahian said the Ukraine crisis is "rooted in NATO's provocations".

['Correction of History': Syrian President Praises Ukraine invasion](#)

February 25, 2022, AL Jazeera

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad told Putin that what was happening in Ukraine was a "correction of history and restoration of balance which was lost in the world after the breakup of the Soviet Union".

['Double Standards': Western Coverage of Ukraine War Criticised](#)

February 27, 2022, AL Jazeera

While commenting on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a CBS reporter said "this isn't a place, with all due respect, like Iraq or Afghanistan that has seen conflict raging for decades. This is a relatively civilised, relatively European – I have to choose those words carefully, too – a city where you wouldn't expect that, or hope that it's going to happen."

[Qatar Says "Almost Impossible" To Quickly Replace Russian Supplies of LNG to Europe](#)

February 22, 2022, Reuters

Neither Qatar nor any other single country has the capacity to replace Russian gas supplies to Europe with liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the event of disruption due to a conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Qatar's energy minister said.

[Ukraine Crisis: Saudi Arabia, UAE Divided Over Choice Between US and Russia](#)

February 27, 2022, Firstpost

As the world rushed to condemn the Russian invasion of its smaller neighbour, the wealthy Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have largely kept quiet.

[Progress Toward Iran Nuclear Deal, But Issues Remain: US Official](#)

February 27, 2022, Arab News

Negotiators have made significant progress in the last week or so on an agreement to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal but very tough issues remain, a senior US State Department official has said.

[Russian Invasion of Ukraine Not A Green Light For Iranian Nuclear Weapon: US State Dept](#)

February 25, 2022, Arab News

The US will continue to engage with Russia over efforts to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, even though Moscow's invasion of Ukraine had made it a "pariah on the world stage," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said.

United States

United States

[U.S. Jobless Claims Fell to 215,000, Remaining Near Historic Lows](#)

March 3, 2022, Wall Street Journal

New applications for unemployment benefits edged lower and remained near historically low levels as the labour market stays tight following a decline in Covid-19 cases. Initial jobless claims, a proxy for layoffs, fell by 18,000 to a seasonally-adjusted 215,000 for the week ended Feb. 26, down from the revised 233,000 the week before, the Labour Department said Thursday. The four-week average, which smooths out volatility, fell to 230,500.

[U.S. Cancels ICBM Test Launch Amid Ukraine Tensions](#)

March 2, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Biden administration has cancelled a routine test launch of an Air Force Minuteman III missile to avoid escalating nuclear tensions with Russia, U.S. officials said Wednesday. The Air Force had planned to conduct the test launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in the early hours of Thursday, March 3.

[U.S. Panel Finds No National-Security Concerns With Chinese Plane Deal](#)

March 1, 2022, Wall Street Journal

A U.S. investment-screening panel has concluded its review of a Chinese firm's nearly 47% stake in a U.S. aircraft start-up, determining there are "no unresolved national security concerns" with the deal, according to a letter reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. The decision by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., an interagency panel that can recommend the president block or unwind deals on national-security grounds, marks the end of one part of a bitter saga involving feuding American and Chinese investors in Icon Aircraft Inc., a California-based maker of recreational amphibious planes.

[Powell Says Fed Is on Track to Raise Rates in Two Weeks](#)

March 2, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said he would propose a quarter-percentage point rate increase at the central bank's meeting in two weeks amid high inflation, strong economic demand and a tight labour market, offering an unusually explicit preview of anticipated policy action. Mr. Powell said Wednesday that, before Russia's invasion of Ukraine last week, he expected the central bank would follow that initial rate rise with a series of increases this year.

[Western Sanctions Bite Russian Economy, but Pose Unpredictable Risks](#)

March 1, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The conventional wisdom until last week was that sanctions had limited influence on a nation state, especially one as large as Russia. That wisdom may need to be revisited. The sanctions levelled at Russia for its invasion of Ukraine are likely to do far more damage than President Vladimir Putin had thought possible. By hitting Russia's commercial banks, central bank, business and political leaders and industry, the West is meting out economic punishment that took years to unfold with smaller rogue states like Iran and North Korea. A Biden administration official on Saturday made the goal clear: turn Russia into "a global, economic, and financial pariah."

[First Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol Riot Defendant Fighting Charges Goes on Trial](#)

February 27, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The first of the pro-Trump supporters who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and who is fighting his charges will go on trial Monday, after more than 200 people have pleaded guilty to committing various offenses that day. The trial is being viewed as a critical test for the government, which has charged more than 750 people in connection to the riot that injured more than 100 police officers and caused more than \$1 million in damage in a failed effort to stop the certification of President Biden's victory over then-President Donald Trump in November 2020.

[High Food Prices to Pressure Inflation This Year](#)

February 27, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Rising food prices are emerging as a significant headwind to the economic recovery from the pandemic this year, particularly in developing countries where food accounts for an important share of household consumption. Russia's invasion of Ukraine could make those headwinds even stronger.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU Wants Ukraine Membership As Soon As Possible, Says Deputy Chief](#)

March 5, 2022, NDTV

Ukraine War: Enthusiasm has grown for Ukraine's eventual EU membership in the wake of the Russian invasion among European lawmakers.

[EU Commission to Activate Temporary Protection Directive for People Fleeing War in Ukraine](#)

March 2, 2022, Schengenvisa Info

Over 650,000 Ukrainians have fled to the neighbouring EU Member States since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

[Ukraine-Russia Talks "Can't Be Only European Or American": EU To China](#)

March 6, 2022, NDTV

Russia-Ukraine War: Beijing has so far abstained from condemning Moscow's assault on its pro-Western neighbour as an "invasion" as it seeks to maintain close ties with Russia.

[EU Approves 450 Million Euros of Arms Supplies for Ukraine](#)

February 28, 2022, Bloomberg

A Ukrainian Territorial Defence fighter takes the automatic grenade launcher from a destroyed European Union foreign ministers agreed to send 450 million euros (\$500 million) in military aid to Ukraine for lethal weapons, according to Josep Borrell, the bloc's foreign policy chief.

Russia

[Shell Follows BP In Announcing Plans To Sell Stakes In Russian Oil Companies](#)

February 28, 2022, RFE/RL

Oil giant Shell will sell all its Russian operations, including all joint ventures with Gazprom, the company said on February 28, a day after BP abandoned its stake in Russian oil giant Rosneft following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

[Russian Defense Ministry warns about strikes being prepared on military sites in Kiev](#)

March 1, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russian forces will strike objects of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and the 72nd Centre for Information and Psychological Operations (PSO) in Kiev, the Russian Defence Ministry warned on March 1.

[US announces sanctions on Russian defence firms](#)

March 2, 2022, Russia Today

The White House has placed blocking sanctions on 22 Russian defence companies and extended export controls to tech exports that support oil refining, the administration revealed. The latest round of sanctions also expands the export controls already placed on Russia to include Belarus, which Washington has accused of "enabling Putin's invasion of Ukraine."

[Navalny Calls For Daily Protests Against Russia's Invasion Of Ukraine](#)

March 2, 2022, RFE/RL

Jailed Russian opposition leader Aleksei Navalny has called for daily protests against Moscow's unprovoked invasion of neighbouring Ukraine, saying Russia cannot become "a nation of frightened silent people."

[WWIII will be nuclear – Moscow](#)

March 3, 2022, Russia Today

The next major conflict between world powers will involve atomic armaments and will be catastrophic for the human race, Russia's top diplomat has warned, amid an escalating standoff with the West over Moscow's military attack on Ukraine.

[Russian Journalists Quit State Media](#)

March 3, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian journalists who have quit their jobs in state media talked to The Moscow Times about their decision. Most say they did it as a protest against the invasion of Ukraine or out of fear that they would be sent to the war zone to report.

[Second round of Russian-Ukrainian peace negotiations commence](#)

March 3, 2022, Russia Today

The second round of peace talks between representatives from Kiev and Moscow has kicked off in Belarus as Russia's armed forces continue to attack Ukraine.

[Russian Embassy Demands Explanation From US as Senator Urges to 'Take Out' President Putin](#)

March 4, 2022, Sputnik News

The Russian Embassy in the United States has demanded an official explanation from the White House over a statement made by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), who called on government officials to kill Russian President Vladimir Putin.

[Russian Forces Seize Ukraine Nuclear Plant](#)

March 4, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian forces seized control of Europe's largest nuclear power plant after a battle with Ukrainian troops that caused a fire and fears of a catastrophic accident. The Ukrainian nuclear regulator said that the fire had been extinguished and no radiation leak had been detected, with site staff still able to work at the Zaporizhzhia site.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[AU 'disturbed' by reports Africans stopped from escaping Ukraine](#)

March 1, 2022, Al Jazeera

African bloc says all people have right to cross international borders during conflict as Ukraine-Russia war continues.

[How the Russia-Ukraine War Impacts Africans](#)

March 2, 2022, Foreign Policy

Fleeing African students have been left stranded at the border as a food crisis looms for countries dependent on Russian and Ukrainian grain.

[Ukraine conflict: Europe looks to Africa to fill natural gas gap](#)

March 5, 2022, Frontline

Europe is increasingly looking to Africa for its natural gas imports to move away from depending on Russia. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is forcing Europe to diversify its energy supply. "Germany and Europe must now quickly make up for what they have missed over the last twenty years," Stefan Liebing, chairperson of the Africa Association of German Business, said in a press release. He advises Germany's Economics Minister Robert Habeck to travel to African countries such as Algeria, Nigeria, Egypt, and Angola that could help free Europe from its dependence on Russian gas.

[In North Africa, Ukraine War Strains Economies Weakened by Pandemic](#)

February 25, 2022, The New York Times

Egypt imports most of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine, and is looking for alternative suppliers. And Tunisia was struggling to pay for grain imports even before the conflict.

[Africa: China-Africa Trade Reaches All-Time High in 2021](#)

March 1, 2022, All Africa

China-Africa trade has bucked the global economic downward trend and analysts believe it has contributed to the African economy's resilience in the face of COVID-19 challenges.

Latin America

[Ukraine conflict: Sanctions worry Putin's allies in Latin America](#)

March 5, 2022, Frontline

The White House security chief for the Western Hemisphere, Juan Gonzalez, said that Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua will feel the impact of the sanctions due to their economic relations with Russia. Especially after the European Union's recent decision to exclude seven Russian financial institutions from the SWIFT international payments network.

[Argentina joins China's Belt and Road. What are the implications?](#)

March 4, 2022, Sup China

Why is the U.S. unhappy with this development? Could Argentina's entry into the Belt and Road Initiative bring geopolitical tension to Latin America? What can we expect next? Let us explain. Argentina's entry to the BRI will serve as an [accelerant for other large Latin American economies](#) such as Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia.

[Morocco, Argentina Keen to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation](#)

March 5, 2022, Morocco World News

Morocco and Argentina seek to strengthen their bilateral partnership through joint projects in key sectors.

[Ukraine Crisis: Venezuela Assures "Strong Support" To Russia](#)

March 2, 2022, NDTV

In a call with Putin, Venezuelan President also condemned "destabilizing actions of the United States and NATO."



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