

Russians Close In on Ukrainian Capital



A military base hit by a missile burned in Brovary, Ukraine, on the outskirts of Kyiv on Thursday as Russia stepped up its attack with airstrikes on dozens of cities.

Putin says he aims to oust leadership in Kyiv as attack draws new punishment from West

KYIV, Ukraine—Russian forces renewed bombing Ukraine in the early hours of Friday morning, with central Kyiv rocked by explosions, after the U.S. Treasury said

By Yaroslav Trofimov, Alan Cullison, Brett Forrest and Ann M. Simmons

ter President Vladimir Putin ordered an offensive that he said was aimed at toppling the government.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said that three people had been injured, one of them critically, when a rocket fragment hit a residential building in the city, according to Ukrainian news outlet Liga.net. The building is on fire and might fall, Mr. Klitschko said.

"Horrible Russian rocket strikes on Kyiv. Last time our capital experienced anything like this was in 1918," he said. Please turn to page A10

Invasion Presents Big Risks For Putin

By ANN M. SIMMONS AND MATTHEW LUXMOORE

MOSCOW—Russia's invasion of Ukraine is President Vladimir Putin's boldest move yet in his two-decade-long campaign to reassert Russia's place in the world and redeem the humiliation of the fall of the Soviet Union.

It is an extraordinary gamble.

In invading his smaller neighbor, Mr. Putin now faces a breakdown in Moscow's ties with the West, which will slap sanctions on Russia aimed at inflicting deep pain on its economy.

Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which have sent fresh military equipment and forces to its eastern members in recent weeks, have found new unity in deterring Russia.

"He's prioritized his own obsession over Russia's interests," said Kadri Liik, a senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations. "But he risks Russia's economic development, Russia's global position and also Russia's internal stability in order to get hold of Ukraine."

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A man sat outside his bombed building in a town in eastern Ukraine on Thursday.

As Missiles Fly Overhead, Fear and Rage Intertwine

By JAMES MARSON

Five Russian attack helicopters thundered over the modest house Lyudmyla and her husband, Andriy, two doctors, built on the outskirts of the Ukrainian capital, and opened fire on a nearby military airfield.

As Ukrainian forces fought back, Lyudmyla and her 81-year-old father scurried into the cellar. "It's a peaceful village. We lived here for years, and no one bothered us. Then

that bastard Putin came. He can burn in hell," said Lyudmyla, who declined to give her and her husband's last names.

Across Ukraine on Thursday, people faced a new kind of war—different from the conflict that President Vladimir Putin of Russia has waged against their country for the past eight years. That had been confined to the east of the country, where Russian-armed proxies took potshots with sniper rifles and

mortars at Ukrainian troops, and Russia insisted it wasn't party to the conflict.

But a new chapter opened Thursday, as a large-scale conventional military offensive began with air and missile strikes overnight, from the contested east to airfields and army bases dozens of miles from the country's western border with Poland. The assaults took aim at military infrastructure, but they sent civilians diving for base-

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West Imposes Stiffer Sanctions

By IAN TALLEY AND MAX COLCHESTER

The U.S. imposed new sanctions on Russia's biggest banks and the country's elites after Moscow's attack on Ukraine, while the U.K. rolled out a broad flurry of new restrictions aimed at Russian money in London and European Union leaders approved their own package of stiffer measures.

"[Russian President Vladimir] Putin's aggression in Ukraine will end up costing Russia dearly, economically and strategically," President

Biden said in outlining the new measures. "We will make sure that Putin will be a pariah on the international stage."

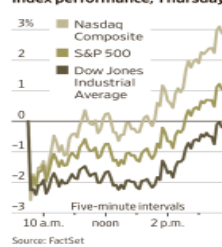
The U.S. Treasury said shortly after Mr. Biden's comments that it was imposing sanctions on almost 90 Russian financial institutions, including big lenders VTB and Sberbank, representing more than 80% of the banking sector.

Reflecting a shift in sentiment in some capitals about how hard to hit Mr. Putin, an option once considered too extreme by much of the West took

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Stocks, Commodities Gyrate After Moscow Begins Attack

Index performance, Thursday



U.S. stocks fluctuated wildly Thursday, starting the day with a sharp drop and then recovering as investors piled into growth and technology stocks

By Hardika Singh, Anna Hirstenstein and Caitlin Ostroff

in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Stocks fell in the aftermath of the attacks on cities across Ukraine, while oil, gold and government bonds rose. Investor optimism grew, however, after President Biden in an af-

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Gerald F. Seib: Shocks rattle world order A4

Companies close Ukraine offices, factories A5

Crude prices top \$100 level A6

Ruble, Russian stocks drop on sanctions A6

China walks diplomatic fine line A8

Eastern Europe faces military reckoning A9

James Mackintosh: Lessons for investors B1

What's News

World-Wide

Russian armored columns pushed into Ukraine and airstrikes hit dozens of cities on Thursday after Putin ordered an offensive that he said was aimed at toppling the government in Kyiv, drawing condemnation and new sanctions from the West. Russian forces renewed bombing Ukraine in the early hours of Friday morning. A1, A4-10

◆ A federal jury found three former Minneapolis police officers guilty of violating George Floyd's civil rights, ending another chapter in a 2020 case that launched a summer of unrest and a national discussion over race and policing. A3

◆ Federal officials plan to release new Covid-19 guidelines that lay out a new approach for preventing spread of the disease over the longer term, an official said. A2

◆ Rising prices and snarled supply chains are poised to blunt the impact of the \$1 trillion infrastructure law Congress passed with bipartisan support last year. A3

◆ The Biden administration outlined measures that the federal government can take to address supply-chain weaknesses. A3

◆ Some prominent border aid groups are refusing the federal government's requests to provide legal representation to people in the Remain in Mexico program, in what they say is an effort to pressure the administration to end it permanently. A3

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Business & Finance

◆ U.S. stocks fluctuated wildly, starting the day with a sharp drop and then recovering in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow ended the session up 1.5%, 3.3% and 0.3%, respectively. Russia's stock market and currency took historic blows. A1, A6

◆ A global oil benchmark surged above \$100 a barrel for the first time since 2014, and prices for natural gas, metals and grains vaulted higher. A6

◆ The Justice Department filed an antitrust lawsuit challenging UnitedHealth's \$13 billion acquisition of health-technology company Change Healthcare. A1

◆ The SEC is investigating whether recent stock sales by Tesla CEO Elon Musk and his brother Kimbal Musk violated insider-trading rules. B1

◆ Healthcare Trust of America is in advanced talks to combine with smaller rival Healthcare Realty Trust in a deal that could create a company worth more than \$10 billion. B1

◆ Alibaba posted its slowest growth in quarterly revenue since it went public in 2014 and said it would focus on retaining users on its platforms rather than pursuing user expansion. B1

◆ Citadel is further paring back its \$2 billion investment in hedge fund Melvin Capital Management. B3

◆ Carvana said it would buy used-car auction business ADESA U.S. for \$2.2 billion. B3

U.S. Files Suit to Block UnitedHealth Deal

By ANNA WILDE MATHEWS AND BRENT KENDALL

WASHINGTON—The Justice Department filed an antitrust lawsuit Thursday challenging UnitedHealth Group Inc.'s \$13 billion acquisition of health-technology firm Change Healthcare Inc., arguing the tie-up would unlawfully reduce competition in markets for commercial insurance and the processing of claims.

The deal, announced in January 2021, sought to bring a major provider of healthcare clinical and financial services, including the handling of claims, under UnitedHealth's Optum health-services arm.

The Justice Department filed its lawsuit in federal court in Washington, saying Change provided key industry technologies that are relied upon by UnitedHealth's health-insurance rivals, making it a hub for competitively sensitive information. If the deal were allowed, UnitedHealth would have access to data that it could potentially use for its own benefit, at the expense of other insurers, the department alleged.

The department also argued the deal would reduce head-to-head competition in the businesses of insurance claims transmission and review because UnitedHealth competes with Change in those areas.

"The proposed transaction threatens an inflection point in the healthcare industry by giving United control of a critical data highway through which about half of all Americans' health insurance claims pass each year," Doha Mekki, a top lawyer in the department's antitrust division, said in a statement.

The states of Minnesota and New York also joined the suit as plaintiffs.

The lawsuit comes at a time of aggressive antitrust enforcement by the Biden administration. Please turn to page A2

This reckless war could ultimately destabilise Russia itself — FT VIEW, PAGE 16

Putin unleashes Ukraine assault

- World leaders unite to condemn Europe's biggest challenge in 80 years
- Scores of casualties reported in fierce fighting across the country
- Gas prices soar and benchmark Brent crude oil tops \$100 threshold



MAX SEDDON — MOSCOW
JOHN REED, ROMAN OLEARCHYK
AND POLINA IVANOVA — KYIV
HENRY FOY — BRUSSELS

Russia has advanced deep into Ukraine and mobilised for an overwhelming assault on Kyiv as Moscow waged one of Europe's largest military offensives since the second world war.

Russian troops launched attacks from Ukraine's northern border with Belarus, across its eastern frontier with Russia and in the south from Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula that Russia annexed in 2014.

After missile attacks and air strikes, columns of Russian tanks rolled into the country from all three fronts.

Western officials warned that Russia

was assembling an "overwhelming force" to take Kyiv as world leaders addressed their nations to condemn what they cast as the most momentous challenge to Europe's postwar order for 80 years. Emmanuel Macron, France's president, described the war as "a turning point" in the continent's history.

Joe Biden, the US president, condemned the "unprovoked and unjustified attack", adding: "Putin chose this war and now he and his country will bear the consequences."

Roads out of Kyiv were gridlocked with fleeing civilians, while city authorities ordered residents to seek refuge in basements and bomb shelters.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine's president, called on "everyone with battle

experience" to take up arms and resist forces that had invaded the country "just as fascist Germany did".

Alarm at the conflict rippled through international markets, with the price of European natural gas contracts jumping as much as 70 per cent to €142 per megawatt hour. Brent crude prices rose to more than \$105 a barrel, the first time the international oil benchmark has crossed the \$100 threshold since 2014.

Ukrainian authorities reported scores of casualties in fierce fighting across the country. One senior US defence official said the initial campaign was "clearly designed to take key population centres", with the intention of ultimately "decapitating the government" in Kyiv. Russian forces pushed for control

over territory in the regions around Chernihiv in the north, Kherson in the south and Kharkiv in the north-east, which saw some of the heaviest fighting.

Jens Stoltenberg, Nato secretary-general, condemned Russia for shattering the peace in Europe with a "brutal act of war". In an emergency meeting, the US-led military alliance agreed to deploy extra land, air and sea forces to bolster its eastern flank with Russia.

In an address on state television, Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, said Moscow would "de-Nazify" Ukraine and "defend" victims of "genocide", despite no evidence of such crimes.

After referring to Russia's nuclear arsenal, Putin warned other countries against "the temptation of meddling"

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and said any such response would "lead you to consequences that you have never encountered in your history".

Boris Johnson, UK prime minister, promised sanctions to "hobble" Russia as he called on the west to ensure that "this hideous and barbaric venture" ends "in failure".

The war raises profound questions for Europe's leaders, who fear a humanitarian crisis in the aftermath of the invasion. The US has warned that as many as 5m Ukrainians could be displaced.

Brussels was to present "massive and targeted" measures to EU leaders for their approval at an extraordinary summit late last night.

Additional reporting by Demetri Sevastopulo and Anne Williams in Washington



Invasion to threaten wide range of key supply chains

The invasion of Ukraine threatens the export of critical commodities key to global supply chains. Although best known as a main exporter of oil and gas, Russia, along with Ukraine, is also a leading supplier of grains: the two account for just under a third of the world's wheat exports. Russia is also a major source of metals such as nickel and aluminium, meaning sectors from fertiliser makers to food, cars and aircraft manufacturers also face cuts. Export disruptions — PAGE 9

European former leaders walk away from director's seats on Russia boards

FT REPORTERS

The former prime ministers of Italy and Finland and the ex-chancellor of Austria have resigned from the boards of Russian companies in response to Moscow's military invasion of Ukraine.

Matteo Renzi, the former prime minister of Italy and a senator for the centrist Italia Viva party, quit as a director on the board of Delimobil, Russia's largest car-sharing service, founded by Italian businessman Vincenzo Trani. Renzi told the Financial Times he had emailed his resignation to Delimobil's board yesterday.

Esko Aho, the former prime minister of Finland, quit the board of Siberbank, Russia's largest bank, where he served for six years as an independent director and member of the supervisory board. "It's my personal decision," he said. "I

saw the challenges in my role because of the sanctions. It's obvious that it will be difficult to be an active participant in this operation."

Christian Kern, Austria's former chancellor, said he had resigned from the board of Russian Railways (RZD) yesterday. "RZD had now actually become part of Russian war logistics," Kern told the Austrian newspaper Der Standard, adding: "I deeply regret this... My thoughts are with the victims of this senseless aggression."

The resignations underline the pressure on members of the western business and political elite who sit on corporate boards of Russian groups, as President Vladimir Putin launched what might be the biggest military operation in Europe since the second world war.

Ernesto Ferlenghi, chief of Eni in Russia, quit his role on the board of Federal

Grid, operator and manager of Russia's unified electricity transmission network, the Italian oil group told the FT.

Other former European politicians and public officials with ties to Russian corporate boards include Germany's former chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who is on the board of Russian state-owned oil company Rosneft. Schröder said the war must end as soon as possible. Bernard Looney, BP's chief executive, and his predecessor, Bob Dudley, are also on the board of Rosneft.

François Fillon, France's former prime minister, sits on the boards of petrochemicals group Sibur and state oil group Zarubezhneft. Fillon said he condemned the use of force in Ukraine.

Reports by Silvia Sciorilli Borrelli in Milan, Nastassia Astrashchenskaya in Moscow, Neil Hume in London, Richard Milne in Oslo, Erika Solomon and Guy Chazam in Berlin

World Markets

STOCK MARKETS				CURRENCIES				INTEREST RATES			
	Feb 24	prev	%chg		Feb 24	prev	%chg		price	yield	chg
S&P 500	4194.39	4225.50	-0.74	\$ per €	1.111	1.133	-0.78	US Gov 10 yr	142.35	1.95	-0.03
Nasdaq Composite	13086.02	13037.49	0.23	\$ per £	1.329	1.356	-1.97	UK Gov 10 yr	1.36	-0.03	
Dow Jones Ind	32577.73	33131.76	-1.62	€ per €	0.937	0.935	0.21	Japan Gov 10 yr	0.17	-0.06	
FTSEurofirst 300	1720.61	1777.20	-3.18	¥ per \$	115.600	115.835	-0.20	Jpn Gov 10 yr	110.67	0.18	-0.01
Euro Stoxx 50	3828.88	3973.41	-3.64	\$ per €	1.032	1.039	-0.67	US Gov 30 yr	103.40	2.26	-0.01
FTSE 100	7207.01	7480.18	-3.89	Sfr per €	1.032	1.039	-0.67	Gov Gov 2 yr	103.82	-0.43	-0.06
FTSE All-Share	4015.81	4169.84	-3.68	€ per \$	0.900	0.883	1.94				
CAC 40	6521.05	6780.67	-3.83	COMMODITIES					price	prev	chg
Nikkei 225	14652.10	14631.36	-0.14								
Hang Seng	22970.82	23440.81	-2.01	Oil WTI \$	96.51	92.10	4.79	Fed Funds Eff	0.00	0.00	0.00
MSCI World \$	2900.33	2949.84	-1.37	Oil Brent \$	103.33	96.84	6.70	US 3m Bill	0.34	0.37	-0.03
MSCI EM \$	1206.98	1206.63	0.02	Gold \$	1904.70	1900.10	0.24	Euro Libor 3m	-0.59	-0.58	0.00
MSCI ACWI \$	686.23	694.57	-1.20					UK 3m <td>0.88</td> <td>0.89</td> <td>-0.01</td>	0.88	0.89	-0.01
Prices are latest for session Data provided by Bloomberg											

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WAR IN UKRAINE

RUSSIANS PUSH INTO OUTSKIRTS OF CAPITAL AS DEATHS RISE AND THOUSANDS FLEE WEST



DESTRUCTION A military facility in southern Ukraine on Thursday as Russian forces unleashed artillery strikes across the nation.

Big Explosion Is Seen Over Kyiv; Zelensky Says He's 'Target No. 1'

This article is by Michael Schwartz, Eric Schmitt and Neil MacFarquhar.

SLOVYANSK, Ukraine — Russia continued its attack on Ukraine early Friday, one day after it invaded the country by land, sea and air, killing more than 100 Ukrainian soldiers and civilians and ominously touching off a pitched battle at the highly radioactive area around the Chernobyl nuclear reactor that melted down in 1986.

Videos verified by The New York Times showed a large explosion in the sky over the outskirts of southern Kyiv, the capital, around 4:20 a.m. Friday. Witnesses filmed fiery debris falling over parts of the city, and videos appeared to show at least two surface-to-air missiles being fired from Kyiv before the explosion.

On Thursday, Day 1 of the first major land war in Europe in decades, the Russian military began its attack before sunrise with the terrifying thud of artillery strikes on airports and military installations all over Ukraine. A senior



President Biden denounced a "brutal assault" and said that "America stands up to bullies."

Pentagon official said that three lines of Russian troops and military forces were moving swiftly toward Ukrainian cities — one heading south from Belarus toward Kyiv; another toward Kharkiv, in northeast Ukraine; and a third toward Kherson in the south, near Crimea. The forces were using missiles and long-range artillery, the official said. By Thursday's end, Russian

Continued on Page A6



DESPERATION A bus station in Kyiv, the capital. The roads were snarled with Ukrainians seeking the relative safety of the far west.

Russians Wake Up to Discover They Didn't Really Know Putin

By ANTON TROIANOVSKI

MOSCOW — Russians thought they knew their president.

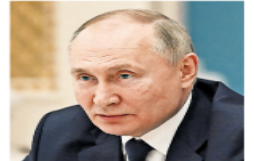
They were wrong.

And by Thursday, it appeared too late to do anything about it.

For most of his 22-year rule, Vladimir V. Putin presented an aura of calm, determination at home — of an ability to astutely manage risk to navigate the world's biggest country through treacherous shoals. His attack on Ukraine negated that image, and revealed him as an altogether different leader: one dragging the nuclear superpower he helms into a war with no foreseeable conclusion, one that by all appearances will end Russia's attempts over its three post-Soviet decades to find a place in a peaceful world order.

Russians awoke in shock after they learned that Mr. Putin, in an address to the nation that aired before 6 a.m., had ordered a full-scale assault against what Russians of all political stripes often refer to as their "brotherly nation."

There was no spontaneous pro-



President Vladimir V. Putin at the Kremlin on Thursday.

war jubilation. Instead, liberal-leaning public figures who for years tried to compromise with and adapt to Mr. Putin's creeping authoritarianism found themselves reduced to posting on social media about their opposition to a war they had no way to stop. Other Russians expressed themselves more openly. From St. Petersburg to Siberia, thousands took to city streets chanting "No to war!", clips posted on social media.

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Sanctions Aim to Isolate Banks And Cut Off Russia Tech Imports

This article is by Edward Wong, Michael Crowley and Ana Swanson.

WASHINGTON — President Biden, vowing to turn President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia into a "pariah," announced tough new sanctions on Thursday aimed at cutting off Russia's largest banks and some oligarchs from much of the global financial system and preventing the country from importing American technology critical to its defense, aerospace and maritime industries.

The package unveiled by the U.S. government is expected to ripple across companies and households in Russia, where anxiety over Mr. Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has already begun setting in. The nation's stock market fell more than 30 percent on Thursday, wiping out a huge amount of wealth. [Page B1.]

The new U.S. sanctions include harsh penalties against the two largest Russian financial institutions, which together account for more than half of the country's banking assets.

Putin Will Be 'Pariah,' Biden Declares After Imposing Penalties

U.S. officials are also barring the export of important American technology to Russia, which could imperil industries there. In addition, the United States will limit the ability of 13 major Russian companies, including Gazprom, the state-owned energy conglomerate, to raise financing in Western capital markets. And it is penalizing families close to Mr. Putin.

The sanctions against the financial giants will cause immediate disruptions to Russia's economy but are manageable over the long term, analysts said. The technology restrictions, on the other hand, could cripple the ability of certain Russian industries to keep up.

"Putin chose this war, and now

Continued on Page A8

U.S. Intelligence Strengthens Biden's Hand in Uniting Allies

By JULIAN E. BARNES
and DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON — The United States intelligence agencies unearthed Russia's war plans. They accurately assessed President Vladimir V. Putin's intentions and, through strategic public releases of information, complicated his efforts to create a pretext to send his armed forces into Ukraine. They got the timing of his invasion right almost to the hour.

The success of American intelligence in reading Mr. Putin and stripping away any element of surprise is one of the most striking developments of the crisis and has had substantial implications as the conflict has exploded into bloodshed.

It was not enough in the end to deter Mr. Putin from carrying out the broad assault that got underway early on Thursday.

But the depth and quality of the American intelligence strengthened President Biden's hand in bringing the trans-Atlantic alliance into a unified front against

Accurate Assessments Helped Buy Time for Global Response

Moscow. It provided time to prepare waves of sanctions and other steps to impose a cost on Russia, dispatch troops to bolster NATO allies and move Americans out of harm's way.

And after high-profile intelligence failures in Afghanistan, Iraq and other global crises over the past several decades, the accuracy of the intelligence gave the C.I.A. and the broader array of U.S. intelligence agencies new credibility at home and abroad.

The result has been a remarkable four months of diplomacy, deterrence and American-led information warfare, including the last-ditch effort to disrupt Mr. Putin's strategy by exposing it publicly. Unlike the withdrawal from Afghanistan last year, it was

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An Untested President Steps Up To Rally His People in Wartime

By VALERIE HOPKINS

KYIV, Ukraine — He appeared on Ukrainian television early on Thursday morning, as the threat of war was pressing down. First, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine addressed the 44 million citizens of Ukraine. Then he turned to the 144 million Russians living next door and beseeched them to prevent an attack that evoked the darkest eras in Europe since World War II.

"Listen to the voice of reason," Mr. Zelensky said after midnight Thursday in Kyiv. "The Ukrainian people want peace."

It was an impassioned bid to save his country — and it did not work. Hours later, a full-scale Russian invasion had begun, and Mr. Zelensky, a former television actor and comic, had become a wartime leader. And for the moment, as the Russian attack is continuing, Ukrainians have rallied around him.

His dramatic speech on Thursday and his appearance at the Munich Security Conference last



Volodymyr Zelensky was elected as a corruption fighter.

weekend, where he warned European allies about "appeasement" of Russia, have given Mr. Zelensky something that even his allies would not normally ascribe to him — gravitas.

He will now face the greatest crisis in his country's modern history, even as he must face off against President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia.

"Putin began a war against

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3 Guilty in Floyd Rights Case
Three former Minneapolis police officers were convicted of failing to intervene as a fourth used deadly force in arresting George Floyd. PAGE A17

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UnitedHealth Deal Targeted
A Justice Department suit to stop the purchase of a health tech company is the Biden White House's latest effort to quash corporate consolidation. PAGE B6

SPORTS B7-10

UEFA Pulls Final From Russia
The incursion into Ukraine proved to be a breaking point for European soccer's governing body, which will relocate the Champions League title game. PAGE B8

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A New Shine on the Stark
James Turrell, a sculptor of light, is presiding over a show of paintings by Ad Reinhardt, a master of darkness, at the Pace Gallery. PAGE C1

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David Brooks PAGE A18



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'We now have war in Europe'

Ukrainians flee Russia's onslaught as troops advance on the capital

'Putin chose this war,' Biden says, stiffening sanctions on Moscow banks, elites and more.

BY ELI STOKOLS

WASHINGTON — President Biden announced Thursday that the U.S. would impose severe economic sanctions on Russia, responding swiftly with European allies to what he called an "unprovoked and unjustified attack" on Ukraine, while steering clear of measures that might roll global energy markets.

Russian President Vladimir Putin "is the aggressor," Biden said. "Putin chose this war. And now he and his country will bear the consequences."

Speaking from the East Room of the White House, the president announced that the U.S. and its European allies would sanction five Russian banks holding about \$1 trillion in assets and block high-tech exports to the country.

"Every asset they have in America will be frozen," Biden pledged, adding that the U.S. would also be sanctioning Russian "elites and their family members." Though Putin himself was not personally targeted by sanctions, Biden said such an action was still "on the table."

A senior Biden administration official who briefed reporters said the oligarchs sanctioned are members of Putin's inner circle. The goal was to get at the elites closest to Putin and the Kremlin, the official said. "We know that by starving these individuals, we are starving Putin."

The sanctions announcement came hours after Russia launched an all-out assault on Ukraine, with troops and tanks advancing across the border and missiles and artillery fire hitting strategic installations. Putin ordered the attack despite weeks of diplomacy by the U.S. and its allies aimed at averting a war that Biden said was brought "without provocation, without justification, without necessity."

The administration has imposed an escalating series of sanctions on Moscow in recent days. Ukrainian officials and some U.S. lawmakers were hoping Biden would strike an even tougher blow to Russia's economy on Thursday. But Biden opted to not sanction Russian energy giant Rosneft and instead focused this round of economic penalties on financial institutions, largely to avoid disrupting global energy markets, a concern the president articulated.

"As we respond, my administration is using the tools, every tool, to protect American families and businesses from rising prices at [See Sanctions, A4]



RUSSIAN forces reportedly targeted a military airport in Chuhuiv, Ukraine. With offensives from the south, north and east, Russian President Vladimir Putin appears intent on conquering the former Soviet republic.

World leaders decry attack

Officials in Europe and beyond condemn Putin's aggression and threat to order.

BY KATE LINTHICUM, HENRY CHU AND DAVID PIERSON

LONDON — As explosions battered Ukraine on Thursday, leaders from across the globe decried Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to launch an unprovoked military invasion on a continent that many believed had long ago shaken off the scourge of war.

In Colombia, President Ivan Duque called the invasion "a threat to world peace."

In Germany, Chancellor Olaf Scholz condemned the attack as an attempt to redraw Europe's borders and "wipe an entire country off the world map."

And in Britain, Prime Minister Boris Johnson called on other nations to [See Reaction, A4]



UKRAINIAN security forces accompany a man who was wounded in an airstrike in Chuhuiv. Ukraine's president said the invasion has left more than 100 dead.

Balancing act for Beijing

Xi may be tempted to side with Moscow in war. But at what cost to China's economy?

BY DON LEE AND STEPHANIE YANG

TAIPEI, Taiwan — As Russia pushes into Ukraine and President Biden marshals the global response, the elephant standing in the shadows is China.

On the surface, Russian President Vladimir Putin's attack may seem to hand Chinese leader Xi Jinping a golden opportunity — a chance to pursue the common goal of the two U.S. rivals to damage Washington and its alliances.

But the conflict also puts Xi in an uncomfortable position that ultimately could prove consequential for his country and its relationship with the United States and American allies.

If Putin continues to use

military force to re-create his dream of restoring the boundaries of the former Soviet Union, China's dual goals of discomfiting the West and benefiting its economy may be hard to maintain.

That is particularly true if China is seen as enabling Putin's destabilizing behavior and personal ambitions to restore Russia's glory, something China has little self-interest in supporting.

Although Russia and [See China, A7]

BY NABIH BULOS, HENRY CHU AND PATRICK J. McDONNELL

KHARKIV, Ukraine — Moscow accelerated its assault on neighboring Ukraine on Thursday, with explosions resounding in cities across the country, airstrikes crippling defenses and reports of troops crossing borders by land and sea as Russian forces advanced on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, and citizens fled on clogged highways and took cover in subway stations.

It was uncertain how long the Ukrainian army could hold back a blistering onslaught by Russian forces that included missiles, airborne units, heavy artillery and cyberattacks. But with brisk Russian offensives from the south, north and east, it appeared Russian President Vladimir Putin had his sights set on not just taking disputed regions of eastern Ukraine but also conquering a former Soviet republic turned U.S. ally and perceived threat to Moscow.

"We now have war in Europe on a scale and of a type we thought belonged to history," said NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Here in the northeastern city of Kharkiv, the country's second most populous, scores of terrified residents sought refuge at an underground metro stop.

"I just can't believe this is happening," said Sergei, 38, a marketing manager, whose wife, mother and 4-year-old daughter sat on pink and blue yoga mats spread out on the platform. "This is the 21st century."

As around him, bewildered Ukrainians threaded their way through crowds like extras in a film. "Not a World War II movie," said Sergei, who others interviewed, declined to give his surname for safety reasons. "A horror movie."

At least 137 civilians and military personnel were killed, and more than 300 more wounded, Ukraine's embattled president, [See Ukraine, A6]

Why is Russia invading Ukraine?

What you need to know as Europe faces its greatest security crisis in decades. PERSPECTIVES, A2

Diaspora stunned, but not surprised

As word spread, Ukrainian community is again caught between two worlds. CALIFORNIA, B1

Talking heads cover the conflict

U.S. outlets favor opinionists over TV news cycle braces for latest international crisis. CALENDAR, E1

UC applications hit a high

System draws largest, most diverse pool ever

BY TERESA WATANABE

For the second straight year, the University of California shattered records for first-year fall applications, as the elimination of standardized test requirements and greater online outreach paid dividends in drawing the largest and most diverse applicant pool ever despite pandemic challenges, according to preliminary data released Thursday.

But transfer applications fell at each of the nine undergraduate campuses — recording an overall drop of [See UC, A8]



GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

UCLA drew the largest number of first-year fall 2022 applications in the University of California system.

U.N. warns of soaring wildfire risk

Report projects a 50% rise in extreme blazes worldwide. Here and globally, governments aren't doing enough, it says. CALIFORNIA, B1

LAUSD leader lays out his plan

Superintendent's first 100 days will focus on academic recovery and revised virus rules. CALIFORNIA, B1

Weather Sunny, warming up. L.A. Basin: 66/44. B6



L.A. told its zoning plan still needs work

City could lose access to billions if it fails to address housing goal by new state deadline.

BY LIAM DILLON AND DAVID ZAHNISER

Los Angeles must rezone to accommodate an additional quarter-million new homes by mid-October after state housing regulators rejected the city's long-term plan for growth.

The likelihood that L.A. will be able to accomplish in months a task that would

normally take several years is very low, but the cost of failure could be high, experts say.

If city leaders do not fix the housing plan or complete the rezoning by the new deadline, they could lose access to billions of dollars in affordable housing grants, officials with the state Department of Housing and Community Development said in a letter this week.

Without the money, the production of new housing for low-income and homeless residents throughout L.A. would take a massive [See Zoning, A11]

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

SU V1 V2 V3 V4

Morning rain 58/31 • Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy 45/30 B6

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022 • B2



"We are left alone in defense of our state. Who will fight along with us now? To be honest, I see no one."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy



"Whoever tries to hinder us... should know that Russia's response will be immediate and will lead you to consequences that you have never faced in your history."

Russian President Vladimir Putin



"Putin is the aggressor. Putin chose this war. And now, he and his country will bear the consequences."

President Joe Biden

Russia invades Ukraine

Putin's tolerance for risk catches some by surprise

BY ROBYN DIXON AND PAUL SONNE

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin, posing one of the biggest security threats to Europe since World War II, is staking his legacy on an irredentist invasion of Ukraine that poses significant risks to his own country and raises worrisome questions about his ambitions to bring Kyiv to heel.

Putin's defiant decision to use full-fledged military force represents an unprecedented level of risk-taking for the Russian leader and threatens to isolate his country even further from the West and its allies. Punishments being leveled by Western nations could land Washington in an escalatory cycle with Moscow, if Russia responds to the measures in kind.

The attack also carries a direct challenge to the post-Cold War global order. Putin's sweeping ambition involves hammering out a new international balance, setting the scene for a club of potent nuclear powers to dominate smaller states and carve out spheres of influence — by force if they see fit.

On the eve of his attack, Putin invoked Russian battles against invaders going back to the 1612

SEE PUTIN ON A14

GOP leaders part with Trump on praise of Putin

BY ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER, JOSH DAWSEY, MARIANNA SOTOMAYOR AND MIKE DEBONIS

Leading Republicans on Thursday assailed Russia for plunging Europe into its first major land war in decades — isolating former president Donald Trump, the de facto standard-bearer of their party, in his praise for the country's authoritarian leader.

From Capitol Hill to the campaign trail, prominent GOP voices, including some close Trump loyalists, vowed that Russian President Vladimir Putin would pay a severe price for ordering a military offensive against Ukraine, even as the party sought to blame President Biden for the crisis. Meanwhile, Republican leaders strained to articulate an alternative policy to counter Russia's revanchist campaign — at once insisting on more severe measures and opposing the deployment of U.S. forces, which Biden has said is not an option.

The crosscurrents point to the hurdles Republicans face in

SEE GOP ON A7



ARIS MESSING/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES



SALWAN GEORGES/THE WASHINGTON POST

TOP: Smoke rises from a military airport in Chuhuiv, Ukraine. **ABOVE:** Hundreds of people take shelter in a subway station in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, where the attacks were concentrated. Russia's actions were met with denouncement from the West. "This aggression cannot go unanswered," President Biden said.



Source: Ukraine Ministry of Internal Affairs

THE WASHINGTON POST

Forces approach Kyiv; blasts hit other major cities

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN, MISSY RYAN, ROBYN DIXON AND DAVID STERN

KHARKIV, UKRAINE — Russia's military pushed deeper into Ukraine on Thursday, attacking strategic airfields and advancing toward major cities as President Vladimir Putin defied mounting sanctions and recriminations from the West.

Explosions continued to rock areas around the eastern city of Kharkiv and the capital, Kyiv, sending residents to shelter in subway stations and prompting others to flee the country. U.S. officials said the expanding offensive may be aimed at toppling Ukraine's elected government and installing a pro-Kremlin regime.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told lawmakers Thursday that the Biden administration was examining ways to provide Ukraine with more defensive equipment and ways that it could continue training Ukrainian soldiers outside Ukraine even if the government in Kyiv falls.

SEE UKRAINE ON A10

Lives suddenly upended, and a mad dash to flee

BY SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN, SIOBHAN O'GRADY, ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN AND LOVEDAY MORRIS

KYIV, UKRAINE — Outside the train station, the crush of people seeking to escape grew by the minute. The fortunate ones clutched tickets to what they prayed was a sanctuary from the unfolding war. The unfortunate had none. They all were pondering their place in a new Ukraine. They included three women, co-workers, who wanted to travel to the same village six hours away. As they stood despondently, a fighter jet streaked through the gray sky. All looked up at once.

"We fear it's Russian," said Ludmila, 56.

"We hope it's Ukrainian," said Larisa, 42.

Millions of Ukrainian lives were upended Thursday by the sudden entry of Russian troops by land and sea, pushing through several borders, lobbing

SEE CIVILIANS ON A12

More coverage inside

U.S. and allies sanction Russia Tech, bank sectors penalized. **A5**

Wake-up call for Europe View of Putin changes fast. **A15**

Global markets claw back Level of stability uncertain. **A17**

For all of Biden's experience, the world's changed

BY MATT VISER

He has been on a first-name basis with European leaders for decades. He knows Vladimir Putin well, and says he's read just about everything the Russian president ever wrote. He was President Barack Obama's point man on Ukraine. He chaired the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

This is the moment President Biden has always said he'd be ready to face.

But as he confronts what could become Europe's biggest conflict since 1945, Biden is also staring at the limits of the American presidency, as all his diplomatic efforts and economic threats were unable to prevent a determined authoritarian from invading a weaker country.

"He's got a lot of experience in the world. He has engaged on this specific issue diplomatically when he was vice president and knows a lot of the characters," said Brian Katulis, the vice

SEE BIDEN ON A6

Impact on energy prices

Will U.S. be hit at the pump? **A18**

Ukrainians protest in D.C. They urge stronger U.S. action. **B1**

Margaret Sullivan Tucker Carlson's pro-Putin act. **C1**

3 former Minneapolis police officers found guilty of violating George Floyd's civil rights

BY HOLLY BAILEY

ST. PAUL, MINN. — Three former Minneapolis police officers who were at the scene with Derek Chauvin as he pressed his knee into George Floyd's neck were convicted Thursday of violating Floyd's civil rights in a case that is likely to increase scrutiny over how officers are trained to intervene with rogue colleagues.

Prosecutors had argued that former officers J. Alexander

Kueng, Thomas K. Lane and Tou Thao knew Floyd was in medical danger beneath Chauvin's knee but put their "discomfort in questioning a colleague" above their sworn duty to save a life.

After a month-long trial that cast a harsh light on police training and practices in Minneapolis, a jury found Kueng, Lane and Thao guilty of violating Floyd's civil rights by failing to provide him medical aid. Kueng and Thao were also found guilty of failing to

Federal jury determines their inaction as Chauvin pressed knee into the man's neck caused his death

intervene with Chauvin. The jury found that the actions of all three men caused Floyd's death.

U.S. District Judge Paul A. Magnuson, who presided over the case, did not order the officers to be taken into custody, citing a

separate trial scheduled for June on state charges of aiding and abetting murder and manslaughter in Floyd's death. Magnuson said he would announce sentencing in the civil rights case at a later date.

The courtroom was silent as Magnuson read the verdicts for each former officer. Throughout the trial, a limited number of friends and family of the former officers had sat in the socially distanced courtroom during the proceedings, but on Wednesday, just one woman sat behind the defense tables. Thao and Kueng showed no visible reaction as they were found guilty, while Lane shook his head and appeared to toss something on the

table in reaction to the decision. At least one of the female jurors appeared to be crying as the verdicts were read.

In a statement, civil rights attorney Ben Crump and other members of the legal team representing the Floyd family called the decision "another important chapter in our journey for justice" for Floyd.

"These officers tried to devise any excuse that could let them

SEE VERDICT ON A4

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TELEVISION C6
WEATHER B6
WORLD A8

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Una ofensiva precedida por bombas y misiles

Cerca de las 5 de ayer, la artillería rusa inició un poderoso y sostenido bombardeo sobre el territorio ucraniano, preludio de las operaciones de invasión por tres frentes



QUÉ PASÓ AYER

5.30: Invasión
Las tropas rusas ingresan por tres frentes en Ucrania

19: Chernobyl
Fuerzas de avanzada rusas toman la planta nuclear

23: Sabotaje
Unidades especiales rusas ya estaban en la capital

LA NACION

VIERNES 25 DE FEBRERO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

— LA NACION EN UCRANIA —

Guerra en Europa Rusia invadió Ucrania y conmociona al mundo

Las fuerzas del Kremlin ingresaron por aire, tierra y mar tras un potente fuego de artillería en tres frentes; esta madrugada había intensos bombardeos en Kiev; sanciones de la Casa Blanca

KIEV.— Es de noche en Kiev y el silencio es ensordecedor. Es el silencio de la guerra que comenzó ayer a la madrugada, hora local, luego de que el presidente ruso, Vladimir Putin, lanzó una invasión total de Ucrania por agua, aire y tierra, en una ofensiva que sorprendió a Occi-

Elisabetta Piqué
ENVIADA ESPECIAL

dente por su rapidez y su dimensión. Al terminar el día Ucrania y Europa no eran las mismas. La invasión dejó por lo menos 137 muertos en el país, mientras el continente enfrenta la amenaza de una gran guerra, por primera vez desde el fin de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Continúa en la página 2



El centro de Kiev, estremecido esta madrugada por explosiones producidas en el marco del asedio ruso sobre Ucrania

TWITTER

¿Una guerra en Europa o la Tercera Guerra Mundial?

Inés Capdevila
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Una alianza que puso a Fernández en tierra de nadie

Martín Rodríguez Yebra
Página 11

Más problemas para una gestión sin concierto

Claudio Jacquelin
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Putin, de frío estratega a romper todos los puentes

Luisa Corradini
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Biden, ante el máximo desafío de su presidencia

Rafael Mathus Ruiz
Página 21

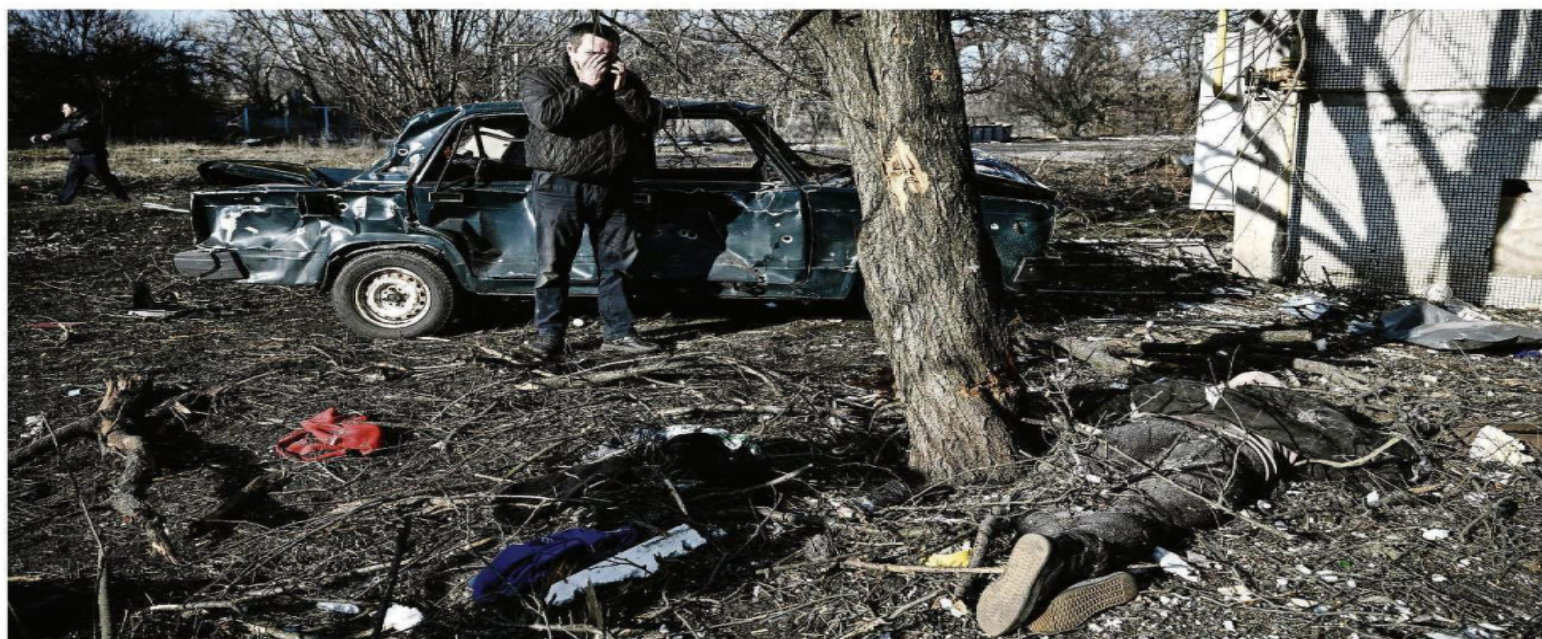
Putin ataca Ucrânia e deflagra maior ação na Europa após Segunda Guerra

★ Russo bombardeia vizinho e avança no território ★ Kiev pede ajuda a potências ocidentais ★ Otan vê 'ato brutal'

A Europa mergulhou ontem em sua mais grave crise militar desde o fim da Segunda Guerra Mundial com o bombardeio de posições das forças da Ucrânia pela Rússia, relata o enviado a Moscou Igor Gielow. As tropas de Vladimir Putin também lançaram uma invasão por terra, deflagrando a guerra com o país vizinho.

As tensões chegaram ao ápice após quatro meses de tentativas frustradas de negociação com o Ocidente. Kiev conta com a promessa de suporte da Otan (aliança militar liderada pelos EUA) e o respaldo de potências que se uniram para redobrar as sanções contra Moscou. Uma reação militar conjunta escalaria o conflito.

Putin diz agir em apoio aos separatistas etnicamente russos no leste ucraniano, mas Kiev acusa "invasão total" e pede ajuda. A Defesa ucraniana afirma ter matado 50 militares russos, o que o Kremlin não confirma, e perdido 137 soldados. O saldo real de mortos era, até esta madrugada, desconhecido. **Mundo A11 a A16**



Ao lado de um cadáver e de um carro cravado pela artilharia em Chuguiv, cidade no leste da Ucrânia bombardeada pela Rússia, homem fala ao telefone **Arts Messin / AFP**

Itamaraty pede fim de hostilidade, mas não critica invasão

A diplomacia brasileira pediu o fim das hostilidades sem criticar a invasão da Ucrânia por Vladimir Putin, aliado de Jair Bolsonaro. Nota do Itamaraty repudia o conflito, mas não cita o líder russo, tampouco mencionado no discurso do embaixador na ONU. **Mundo A15**

Brasileiros ouvem explosão e buscam se abrigar ou fugir

Brasileiros na Ucrânia relataram à Folha que acordaram ontem com barulhos de explosão e sirenes de alarmes de bombardeio. Alguns foram orientados a ir para abrigos antibomba, e outros buscam sair pela fronteira oeste. O governo brasileiro disse que o foco é tirá-los do país. **Mundo A16**

Rússia lança invasão da Ucrânia

Reivindicado por separatistas, mas sob domínio ucraniano
Sob domínio dos separatistas russos étnicos e agora reconhecidas por Moscou

Explosões observadas
Incursoes militares russas relatadas



Biden anuncia mais sanções, e China evita condenar ação militar

O presidente dos EUA, Joe Biden, anunciou novas sanções contra a Rússia. Haverá restrições a transações do Kremlin em moedas estrangeiras e medidas contra os maiores bancos do país. Biden chamou Vladimir Putin de agressor, mas deixou claro que tropas americanas não vão para a Ucrânia.

Segundo agências, os EUA enviarão 7.000 militares para reforçar a segurança apenas de membros da Otan. Aliada de Putin, a China evitou condenar a invasão. Pediu cautela a "todas as partes", sem citar a Rússia. Os países firmaram recente parceria estratégica, mas não militar. **Mundo A13 e A14**

ANÁLISE Vinicius Torres Freire

EUA deixam de punir energia russa

Joe Biden anunciou sanções "sem precedentes" contra a Rússia, mas poupou negócios relativos a energia. Evita, assim, que o petróleo e o gás russos parem de fluir, o que elevaria ainda mais o preço dos combustíveis. **Mercado A26**

Hélio Schwartzman

Invasão russa é ilegal, imoral e burra **A2**

Tatiana Prazeres

Sanções dificilmente vão mudar cenário **A14**

Análise M. Rabinovici

EUA buscarão bloquear narrativa de Moscou **A14**

Nelson de Sá

'Pária', Putin conversa com Modi e Macron **A15**

Conflito deve agravar inflação e queda da atividade no Brasil

Mesmo que guerra dure pouco, analistas veem efeitos como pressão adicional sobre preços de alimentos e combustíveis e adiamento nas decisões de investimento pelas empresas. Dólar subiu 2%, e Bolsas caíram pelo mundo. **A17**

EDITORIAIS A2

A agressão russa

A diplomacia mais responsável e pragmática pauta-se pela não ingerência em questões de outros países.

São de resto pilares da Carta brasileira, o que deveria levar o Itamaraty a condenar a invasão russa.

Guia C9

Sem desfiles agora, escolas de samba fazem festas e ensaios

EDITORIAIS A2

Temeridade litorânea Sobre PEC que transfere posse de áreas à beira-mar.



Bolsonaro quer 'onda 22' com PL e irrita Republicanos

Política **A4**

Câmara aprova, e projeto que legaliza cassino vai a Senado

Mercado **A40**

É cedo para tratar Covid por endemia, dizem especialistas

Saúde **B1**



Ex titular de la SEN es propietario de uno de los yates decomisados en el operativo

A Ultranza: Joaquín Roa destituido por vínculos con narco detenido

Precandidato a senador por el velazquismo es socio comercial de implicado en la red del crimen organizado. Allanamientos muestran obscena ostentación de los delincuentes.

PÁGINA 2 a la 9



Tensión. El ataque desató el rechazo generalizado. El G7 impondrá a Rusia "sanciones devastadoras y otras medidas económicas".

PÁGINA 39 a la 42

Repudio mundial por invasión rusa a Ucrania

Juicio político

Afirman que no se puede justificar la permanencia de Quiñónez como FGE

PÁGINA 10

Entre G. 500 y G. 700 por litro

Pese a esfuerzos, es inminente nueva suba de los precios de los combustibles

PÁGINA 11

Analistas ven sombrío panorama

Conflicto bélico en Europa empujará hacia una mayor inflación en el país

PÁGINAS 12 y 13

La curva sigue en picada

Febrero será el mes con la más baja tasa de infectados con el Covid-19

PÁGINA 18

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La guerre en Europe

La Russie a déclenché jeudi à l'aube une offensive générale contre l'Ukraine, frappée du nord au sud et de l'est à l'ouest. La communauté internationale s'insurge et promet des sanctions dures.

PAGES 2 À 12, 20, 21 ET L'ÉDITORIAL



Une colonne de camions militaires russes s'apprêtant, jeudi, à traverser la ligne de démarcation avec l'Ukraine depuis la Crimée.

SERGEI MALGAVKO/TASS VIA REUTERS

À Kiev, Kharkiv et Donetsk, nos reporters au cœur du conflit

Alors que, dans l'est de l'Ukraine, les séparatistes espèrent une victoire rapide grâce à l'appui de Moscou, dans la capitale, après l'effondrement, les rues se vidaient jeudi à mesure qu'avancait l'ennemi. À Kharkiv, deuxième ville du pays, l'invasion russe était dans toutes les têtes, « mais on n'y croyait pas », raconte une mère de famille.

Mobilisation diplomatique face à l'agression russe

L'invasion russe de l'Ukraine a déclenché un branle-bas de combat diplomatique avec de multiples réunions d'urgence dans plusieurs pays occidentaux, mais aussi à l'Union européenne, au sein du G7 et à l'Otan, qui se réunit ce vendredi. L'arme des sanctions est privilégiée pour forcer Vladimir Poutine à négocier.

Macron : « Un tournant dans l'histoire de l'Europe et de notre pays »

Alors que la guerre percute la campagne présidentielle, le président s'est adressé à la nation pour « condamner fermement l'attaque militaire massive contre l'Ukraine ». Il a affirmé que nous étions « à un tournant de l'histoire de l'Europe et de notre pays » assurant que « la France se tiendrait aux côtés du peuple ukrainien ».

Les craintes pour l'économie mondiale font plonger les marchés

Le conflit en Ukraine provoque une flambée des prix des matières premières et de l'énergie, notamment des cours du pétrole, au plus haut depuis 2014. Inquiètes d'un ralentissement de la croissance, les Bourses internationales ont lourdement chuté jeudi, à l'image de celle de Paris (-3,8 %).

ÉDITORIAL par Alexis Brézet, directeur des rédactions @abrezet

Le retour du tragique

Nous ne voulions pas y croire. En dépit de tous les signes – ces troupes russes massées aux frontières, ces mises en garde américaines de plus en plus précises, ces appels au secours des autorités ukrainiennes –, nous ne voulions pas nous résoudre à l'idée que Poutine irait au bout de sa logique folle. Il n'oserait pas ! Il n'aurait pas le cynisme de déchirer tous les traités, de fouler aux pieds les principes internationaux. En plein XXI^e siècle, il ne prendrait pas le risque de refaire de l'Europe un champ de bataille.

Il a osé. Il a « choisi la guerre » (Emmanuel Macron). Sous couvert de prétextes éculés (la défense de minorités nationales opprimées – depuis les Sudètes, l'argument a beaucoup servi) ou de raisonnements proprement délirants (l'impératif de « dénazification » !), la puissance russe se déchaîne sur la fragile Ukraine dont le crime est de logner trop ouvertement vers l'Occident et ses principes démocratiques. Comme la Hongrie en 1956, comme la Tchécoslovaquie en 1968, le peuple ukrainien, jadis martyri-

sé par Staline, voit à nouveau se refermer sur lui la poigne de son puissant voisin. Rude leçon : le tragique est de retour, porté par les « fantômes du passé ». Notre vieux monde occidental, au lendemain de la chute de l'empire soviétique, s'était pris à croire à la fable rassurante de la « fin de l'Histoire ». Les attentats du 11 Septembre lui avaient fait mesurer l'inanité de cette espérance en lui assignant, avec l'islamisme radical, un nouvel adversaire. Voici aujourd'hui qu'il découvre que l'ennemi d'hier n'a pas disparu, et qu'il n'a jamais été si menaçant.

Les choses seraient-elles allées autrement si les Occidentaux, au lendemain de la chute du Mur, s'étaient imposé une certaine retenue plutôt que de recruter dans l'Otan la totalité des ex-pays de l'Est ? Si en 1999 ils n'avaient pas redessiné militairement les frontières de l'ex-Yougoslavie ? On peut toujours le soute-

nir, on ne pourra jamais le prouver. En attendant, c'est une nouvelle guerre des blocs qui commence. La première s'était soldée par la défaite totale du camp soviétique. Vladimir Poutine, qui rêve de rester dans l'Histoire comme le restaurateur de la Grande Russie, a délibérément choisi de déclencher la seconde pour laver cette humiliation historique en rétablissant un « système de sécurité » qui ne tolère aux frontières de la mère patrie que des régimes vassaux et des États croupions.

Saurons-nous l'arrêter ? L'arrogance russe se nourrit de notre faiblesse. Si Poutine s'est lancé dans cette entreprise, c'est fondamentalement qu'il savait qu'au-delà des belles déclarations, et des menaces de sanctions qui n'ont jamais dissuadé personne, nous n'avions ni les moyens militaires ni la volonté politique de l'en empêcher. À l'heure de la montée des périls – le débat mériterait d'inspirer chez nous les candidats à l'élection présidentielle –, il n'a jamais été plus urgent pour la France, l'Europe et les États-Unis de renouer avec le courage de la puissance. ■

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'I woke in Kyiv at dawn - as Russia's bombs rained down'
Nataliya Gumenyuk

Journal →

Putin invades



PHOTOGRAPH: WOLFGANG SCHWAN/ANADOLU AGENCY

● Hundreds dead or injured as Ukraine is battered by huge Russian offensive

● West responds with raft of new sanctions amid divisions on strength of response

Emma Graham-Harrison Kyiv
Luke Harding Kyiv
Andrew Roth Moscow
Julian Borger Washington

Ukraine was fighting for its survival yesterday after Vladimir Putin unleashed a punishing offensive on the country that left hundreds dead or injured, and world leaders warned Moscow had embarked on a dangerous new era of imperial expansion.

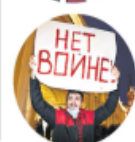
The continent awoke to the shock of scenes it had once believed it had left behind with the horrors of the

▲ An injured woman on the street in Chuhuiv, Ukraine, after an airstrike damaged an apartment complex

20th century: helicopters strafing homes outside the capital, Kyiv, long lines of tanks ploughing ever deeper towards Ukraine's heartland, roads choked with refugees, and civilians huddled in underground metro stations to escape bombardment.

The west scrambled to respond with a series of new sanctions against Moscow, with the US also announcing it would send 7,000 more troops to Germany to shore

Inside



'A war of aggression' Ukraine is attacked on many fronts [Page 6](#) →

Stay or flee? Refugees make for the borders as cities are hit [Page 8](#) →

Fuel bill threat Price of energy could reach £3,000 a year [Page 12](#) →

Russia protests Thousands take to streets to condemn action [Page 15](#) →