



## The Lonely Odyssey of Chronic Illness

### REVIEW

# WSJ

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND



## Antarctica: The Ultimate Bucket-List Trip

### OFF DUTY

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## What's News

### World-Wide

**R**ussian forces closed in on Kyiv, attacking by land and air on Friday, while Ukrainian soldiers and civilians dug in to defend the capital and Ukraine's president vowed not to surrender. Moscow signaled an openness to talks with Kyiv, but Putin subsequently excoriated Zelenskyy. **A1, A6-12**

◆ **The U.S. sanctioned Putin** as part of a broad range of new measures that the Biden administration is preparing in hopes of inflicting financial pain on Moscow. **A1**

◆ **Ukrainians fleeing the invasion** began streaming into EU nations, in what neighboring countries expect to become an exodus of more than one million people in coming days. **A6**

◆ **Biden selected Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson** to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court, making her the first Black woman to be nominated to be a justice on the nation's highest court. **A1**

◆ **The CDC eased guidelines** on Covid-19 masking, including at schools, in a shift that reflects decreased risks from the Omicron variant, a steep drop in cases and mitigation efforts nationwide. **A3**

◆ **J&J and three big drug distributors** have agreed to move forward with a landmark opioid settlement with a majority of states. **A3**

### Business & Finance

◆ **The stock market capped** a turbulent week by rallying Friday, as investors furiously shifted bets on how the Fed will proceed with rate increases after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq rose 2.2%, 2.5% and 1.6%, respectively. **A1**

◆ **Investors who make big bets** against company stocks could soon have to report more information about their positions to the SEC. **B1**

◆ **The British government** is pressuring BP to offload its minority stake in Russian oil company Rosneft, citing the Russian oil giant's links to the Kremlin. **A10**

◆ **U.S. consumer spending** rose a seasonally adjusted 2.1% in January from the previous month, rebounding from a revised 0.8% decline in December. **A2**

◆ **CNN's parent determined** that the network's former marketing chief provided guidance to then-anchor Chris Cuomo as he tried to help then-New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo deal with allegations of sexual misconduct. **B3**

◆ **Starbucks baristas** at a cafe in Mesa, Ariz., voted to unionize, a move that follows a successful organization campaign at two chain locations in the Buffalo, N.Y., area. **B3**

**NOONAN**  
Where Putin Goes From Here **A17**

**JOURNAL REPORT**  
Travel: Crossing America On a Tandem Bike **R1-12**

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Smoke and flames rise during shelling near Kyiv early Saturday morning as the Ukrainian capital girded to defend itself against a Russian ground assault.

## Ukrainian Troops Battle to Save Kyiv

**Prospect of urban combat appears likely after a brief opening for talks failed**

Russian forces closed in on Kyiv, attacking by land and air on Friday, while Ukrainian soldiers and civilians dug in to defend the capital. Ukraine's president vowed not to surrender. Moscow signaled an openness to talks with Kyiv, but Putin subsequently excoriated Zelenskyy.

But shortly after, President Vladimir Putin of Russia excoriated Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy, calling him a terrorist and urging Ukraine's military to oust him, dimming prospects for diplomacy.

Firefights erupted in several areas of Kyiv, including the center, throughout the night into Saturday morning local time as Russian air strikes continued.

Ukrainian officials said Russian saboteur groups were trying to operate in the Ukrainian capital.

*By Yaroslav Trofimov in Hostomel, Ukraine, and Brett Forrest in Kyiv, Ukraine*

"This night they will begin to storm," Mr. Zelenskyy said late Friday night. "We all have to know what awaits us, and we

have to withstand. The fate of Ukraine is being decided right now."

In the town of Vasylykiv south of Kyiv, which hosts a major Ukrainian air base, local authorities reported a large Russian airborne landing attempt. Intense fighting was going on in Vasylykiv in early Saturday morning, and Ukraine's military reported downing a Russian troop transporter

plane. There was no immediate confirmation of that claim.

If Russia succeeds in controlling Vasylykiv, it would effectively surround Kyiv, cutting off the flow of reinforcements and supplies from the south.

Ukrainian troops blew up several bridges leading into Kyiv from the northwest to slow the progress of Russian armored columns that had

*Please turn to page A8*

## U.S. Lays Out New Russian Penalties

WASHINGTON—The U.S. sanctioned President Vladimir Putin of Russia on Friday as part of a broad range of new measures that the Biden administration is preparing in hopes of inflicting financial

*By Vivian Salama, Andrew Restuccia and Ian Talley*

pain on Moscow after Russia invaded Ukraine.

The new penalties targeted not only Mr. Putin but members of his inner circle. The U.S. will also impose full blocking sanctions on the state-owned Russian Direct Investment Fund, a sovereign-wealth fund, according to White House press secretary Jen Psaki. The administration's broader aim, should Russia continue its incursion on Ukraine, is to target all of Russia's banks on a rolling basis.

*Please turn to page A7*

## Zelenskyy: Comic to 'Target No. 1'

*By James Marston*

As Russian troops closed in on Kyiv on Friday, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine posted a video of himself in the heart of the capital city, dressed in fatigues.

"The president is here. We are all here. Our troops are here," he said, surrounded by his top aides. "We are defending our independence, our state, and that will continue."

The Ukrainian leader said that Russian forces pushing

toward Kyiv have placed a target on his back. Russia has made clear that the aim of its attack—the biggest invasion of a European country in over half a century—is to remove Ukraine's government and install a leadership more friendly to Moscow.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia urged the Ukrainian army Friday to overthrow its political leaders, whom he called "terrorists," and cut a deal with Moscow—an unlikely scenario as even Mr. Zel-

enskyy's critics and political rivals have rallied to Ukraine's defense.

Advisers to Mr. Zelenskyy said they are concerned Russian sabotage groups could try to infiltrate the government district in Kyiv and attempt to assassinate the 44-year-old. Security forces are deployed around government buildings in full battle dress.

In a video call with European Union leaders late Thursday, Mr. Zelenskyy drove home

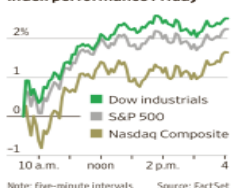
*Please turn to page A12*



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's firmness is winning him praise.

## Stocks Stage Big Rally To Finish Wild Week

*Index performance Friday*



Note: Five-minute intervals Source: FactSet

*By Michael Wursthorn and Joe Wallace*

The stock market capped a turbulent week by rallying Friday, as investors furiously shifted bets on how the Federal Reserve will proceed with interest-rate increases in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Investors bought the dip across markets over the last two days, wading back into

*Please turn to page A10*

## How Western Allies Misjudged Putin

Western powers and their allies have lined up to oppose Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

*By Michael R. Gordon in Washington, Stephen Fidler in London and Alan Cullison in Kyiv, Ukraine*

They can't say he didn't warn them. Fifteen years ago, the for-

mer KGB officer rallied against U.S. domination of global affairs and assailed the post-Cold War security order as a threat to his country. In the years that followed, he grabbed portions of Georgia, annexed Crimea and sent troops into Ukraine's Donbas region.

Mr. Putin sent repeated signals that he intended to widen Russia's sphere of influence

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**Ukrainians fleeing invasion stream into EU nations**  
**A6**

**Bank sanctions aim to focus the pain**  
**A7**

**Global economy suffers a fresh shock**  
**A9**

**China readjusts relations with Russia**  
**A12**

**James Mackintosh: Why stocks rebounded**  
**B13**

## EXCHANGE



### CAR TROUBLE

Prices are soaring, vehicles are in short supply and buyers say they've had enough.

**B1**

## Biden Chooses Jackson for Supreme Court

President Biden selected Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court, making her the first Black woman to be nominated to be a justice on the nation's highest court.

*By Ken Thomas, Jacob Gershman and Jess Bravin*

"For too long our government and our courts haven't looked like America," Mr. Biden said Friday at the White House, introducing the judge as a "proven consensus builder" and a "distinguished jurist."

"I believe it's time that we have a court that reflects the

full talents and greatness of our nation with a nominee of extraordinary qualifications," he said.

Judge Jackson, 51 years old, serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, one of the nation's most influential courts and often a steppingstone to Supreme Court justices.

She joined that court in June after eight years as a federal trial judge in the nation's capital, where she wrote more than 550 opinions, including one from 2019 in which she ruled former White House counsel Don McGahn didn't have absolute immunity

*Please turn to page A4*



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson speaking at the White House after President Biden announced her as his Supreme Court pick.

SAUL LOEB/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES



## War in Ukraine

## The 30-year quest for a post-Soviet order

LIFE & ARTS

## 'He's even more isolated than Stalin'

VLADIMIR PUTIN, PERSON IN THE NEWS



### Arts Special

Anish Kapoor, Larry Gagosian & more

### HOW TO SPEND IT

### Why I'll miss the mask

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### Wine time online

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Met police veteran Leroy Logan on race

### LIFE & ARTS

### Cancer, Covid and me

Miranda Green

### LIFE & ARTS



# Russian forces descend on Kyiv

◆ Citizens defend capital ◆ Nato pledges more weapons ◆ Zelensky 'number-one target'

ROMAN OLEARCHYK AND JOHN REED — KYIV  
HENRY FOY — BRUSSELS

Russian forces breached the suburbs of Kyiv yesterday but the advance met strong resistance, leaving Moscow still battling to seize any of Ukraine's biggest cities.

President Vladimir Putin called on the Ukrainian army to mutiny and spare the nation bloodshed as he expanded his assault, moving one-third of Russia's assembled combat forces into the country, according to US estimates.

Nato member states pledged to continue supplying weapons to Ukraine, including air-defence systems. "We are in this for the long haul," said Jens Stoltenberg, Nato secretary-general, after the alliance held a crisis meeting.

Kyiv residents woke to loud explosions yesterday and reports of Russian

armoured vehicles advancing into the northern Kyiv district of Obolon, bringing street fighting to the 3m-strong capital. But western officials said Ukrainian forces had slowed Russia's attempt to encircle Kyiv and capture Kharkiv in the north-east, the second-biggest city.

Battlefield setbacks highlighted the challenge still ahead for Putin after he pitted Europe's biggest invasion force in half a century against an outgunned but determined Ukrainian military, seemingly ready for urban warfare.

"The Russians have lost a little bit of their momentum," said a Pentagon official. "A good indication is that no population centres have been taken."

As Russian armoured columns moved to encircle Kyiv, Putin urged Ukraine's armed forces to "take power into their own hands" and overthrow their government so they could strike a peace

deal with Russia. Moscow said its troops had taken a key airport and was holding positions so Kyiv was blocked "from the west". The claim could not be verified.

The day began with President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine addressing the nation wearing a military-green T-shirt to warn that "enemy saboteur groups" were marauding through Kyiv. "The enemy has identified me as the number-one target," he said.

Air-raid sirens sounded and the city government warned people to shelter in shelters or subway stations as Russia bombed the city. The Pentagon said that Russia had launched 200 ballistic and cruise missiles during the invasion.

The civilian exodus from Kyiv continued. Traffic was heavy on roads leading out of the capital, with some residents fleeing on foot, hoping to halt a ride.

Ukraine's military called on residents

to resist. "Make Molotov cocktails, neutralise the occupier," it said.

Russia ordered thousands more of the combat forces that it had amassed into Ukraine, including through amphibious

"They are putting up a fight and they are not doing horribly but they are still overwhelmed"

assaults near Mariupol in the Sea of Azov, according to US officials.

Ukrainian forces overnight destroyed bridges north of the city to impede the Russian advance. But western officials warned that the arrival of tens of thousands of troops advancing south from Belarus and north from Crimea would bring "overwhelming" superiority that

could lead to Kyiv's fall within days.

"They are putting up a fight and they are not doing horribly but they are still overwhelmed," said one western intelligence official.

Ukraine's defence ministry claimed its forces had taken down more than a dozen Russian aircraft and helicopters, along with scores of tanks and armoured vehicles. Zelensky said 137 of his countrymen had died. Russia provided no figures on damage to its military assets or on casualties.

*Additional reporting by Polina Ivanova in Kyiv, John Paul Rathbone in London and Leo Lewis in Tokyo*

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The Long View & Lex page 20



### Guns and satire arm Kyiv's citizens against attackers

As Russian troops advanced into the outskirts of Kyiv, its residents awaited their arrival with a mixture of satire, weapons and disbelief. Businesses closed in the elegant capital of 3m and people flooded supermarkets to stock up. Ukrainians in emergency shelters scrolled through their phones for news, easing tension by trading humorous memes. All you need to do is to close the skies and sanction Putin personally, a man told a journalist. **Awaiting the invaders** > PAGE 3

## BP under pressure to sever links with Rosneft as group fuels Putin's troops

TOM WILSON, JIM PICKARD AND HARRIET AGNEW — LONDON

BP is under pressure to sever its ties with Rosneft over the Russian energy group's central role providing fuel to Vladimir Putin's armed forces.

Rosneft, in which UK-listed BP holds a 19.75 per cent stake, is one of the country's largest crude oil producers and a main supplier of fuel to the Russian military, which are engaged in a bloody assault on Ukraine.

UK business secretary Kwasi Kwarteng summoned Bernard Looney, chief executive of BP, to a crisis meeting yesterday as the company faces calls from opposition MPs to divest its stake in Rosneft.

Kwarteng is "uneasy" about BP's involvement in Rosneft and asked Looney for a briefing on the company's

exposure to Russia and future plans, according to a person with knowledge of the situation. "BP left the meeting with no doubt about the strength of the UK government's concern," the person said.

Opposition politicians have called for BP to divest its Rosneft stake. Labour MP Margaret Hodge, who chairs a cross-parliamentary anti-corruption group, said: "It is totally shocking that BP — a major British corporation — is fuelling the invasion of Ukraine and profiting from Putin's maniacal aggression. I fully expect BP to do the right thing by swiftly divesting."

Sir Ed Davey, leader of the Liberal Democrats, urged BP to give up its Rosneft investment "with immediate effect". "It would be totally unacceptable for British companies to profit from investments in Russia after the illegal invasion of Ukraine," he said.

BP has been criticised before for its stake in Rosneft, which has been under US and EU sanctions since Russia annexed Ukraine in 2014. Those measures were designed to ensure Rosneft could still export oil and gas but stymie its growth. As a result, BP was still able to report profits of more than \$2.4bn from its Rosneft stake last year and collect \$640m in dividends, while Looney still sits on the Russian group's board.

A top 20 shareholder in BP said the company's shareholding in Rosneft was problematic but it would struggle to find a buyer even if it wanted to divest its stake. "It has to be worrying what that Rosneft fuel is being used for. But what would BP do?" the person said. "The key thing is anyone prepared to buy a big chunk in a Russian oil company is probably not someone you'd want to sell to."

BP and Rosneft declined to comment.

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### World Markets

STOCK MARKETS					CURRENCIES					INTEREST RATES				
	Feb 25	prev	high	low		Feb 25	prev	Feb 25	prev		price	yield	chg	
S&P 500	4374.27	4288.76	2.30		\$ per €	1.125	1.111	US Gov 10 yr	0.745	0.753	143.27	1.90	0.06	
Nasdaq Composite	13662.27	13473.56	1.40		\$ per £	1.242	1.328	UK Gov 10 yr	1.193	1.195		1.36	0.01	
Dow Jones Ind	33225.77	33223.83	2.11		€ per €	0.859	0.857	Ger Gov 10 yr	126.976	126.477		0.23	0.06	
FTSEurofirst 300	1775.26	1720.60	3.18		¥ per \$	115.580	115.600	Japan Gov 10 yr	82.274	82.910		110.66	0.20	0.02
Euro Stoxx 50	3985.69	3829.29	3.96		₹ per €	155.079	153.477	US Gov 30 yr	1.245	1.233		103.91	2.28	0.02
FTSE 100	7489.46	7207.38	3.91		Sfr per €	1.044	1.032	Ger Gov 2 yr				103.91	-0.30	0.05
FTSE All-Share	4187.09	4015.91	3.76		€ per \$	0.889	0.900							
CAC 40	6752.43	6621.05	3.55											
Xetra Dax	14587.23	14452.16	3.67											
Nikkei	26476.30	25970.82	1.95											
Hang Seng	22787.18	22601.54	-0.59											
MSCI World \$	2905.94	2909.33	-0.12		DK WTI \$	90.59	92.81	-2.39	Real Funds Eff		0.96	0.00	0.00	
MSCI EM \$	1154.96	1206.86	-4.31		EU WTI \$	96.38	99.08	-2.73	US 3m T-bill		0.32	0.34	-0.02	
MSCI ACWI \$	681.96	686.23	-0.82		Gold \$	1836.30	1934.70	1.66	Euro Liber 3m		0.56	-0.58	0.02	
									UK 3m		0.96	0.98	-0.02	

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## FIERCE STREET FIGHTING IN DEFENSE OF KYIV; U.S. AND OTHER NATIONS POUR IN MORE AID



**DAMAGE** An apartment building in Kyiv after a missile strike on Saturday.



**PREPARING FOR WAR** Ukrainian volunteers in Kyiv at a briefing before deployment.



**VOLUNTEER** Julia, a teacher, center, waiting in Kyiv to deploy and join the fighting.



**URBAN BATTLEFIELD** A burned vehicle at the scene of heavy pre-dawn fighting.

### Russian Banks Face Global Restrictions

This article is by Valerie Hopkins, Eric Schmitt and Michael Levenson.

KYIV, Ukraine — The Ukrainian military, outmanned and outgunned, waged ferocious, close-range battles on Saturday to maintain control of the capital, Kyiv, and other cities around the country as intense street fighting broke out on the third day of the Russian invasion.

A day after Ukrainian soldiers sought to forestall an attack on the capital by blowing up bridges and setting up armed checkpoints, bursts of gunfire and explosions could be heard across Kyiv, including in its heart, Maidan square, where Ukrainian protests led to the toppling of a pro-Moscow government in 2014.

In keeping with the pattern since the Russian invasion began, as night fell in the capital, the bombardment intensified. Two large explosions shook Kyiv shortly before 1 a.m. on Sunday after the government has warned that an airstrike was imminent.

Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who was in Kyiv, said Saturday that the military, aided by civilians armed with rifles and firebombs, was repelling attacks throughout the country. He scoffed at reports that the United States had offered to evacuate him.

"The fight is here," the Ukrainian Embassy in London quoted Mr. Zelenskyy as saying. "I need ammunition, not a ride."

Many residents of the capital have fled underground in desperate search for shelter from the bombs. In one neighborhood, some have spent so long in a parking garage that it has taken on the look of a neighborhood street, with children riding bikes and scooters and playing while their parents watch, wondering what tomorrow will bring.

Among them on Saturday was Tetyana Khytryk, who was there with her husband and two young children. Earlier in the day, she said, they visited their apartment for food and witnessed a missile strike. "It's painful seeing a building destroyed right before your eyes," Ms. Khytryk said.

With Russian forces focused on three Ukrainian cities — Kyiv in the north, Kharkiv in the north and Donetsk in the south — each side tried to shape perceptions of how the fighting was going.

Amid reports that Russian forces had been slowed by tenacious resistance, the Kremlin said Saturday that the assault on the capital was continuing "in accordance with the plan of operation," as a spokesman, Dmitri S. Peskov, put it.

Mr. Zelenskyy offered a far different narrative in a video on Saturday.

"We know what we are protecting: the country, the land, the future of our children," he said. "Kyiv and key cities around the

Continued on Page 8

### In Sweatpants And Sneakers, Civilians Fight

By ANDREW E. KRAMER

KYIV, Ukraine — Glass shards, bits of metal and shell casings, the detritus from a fierce and lethal street fight in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, lay scattered over hundreds of yards of pavement. Leading away from the site were bloody footprints.

The fighting, part of a seesaw battle over two nights in the northern parts of Kyiv, left Russian trucks and a tracked vehicle smoldering on a highway. And it signaled that, though vastly outnumbered, Ukraine's army and a growing corps of civilian volunteers are mounting a spirited defense of the capital.

While military experts say the odds are stacked against them, for now the combined Ukrainian defense forces have defied expectations by slowing and in some cases halting the Russian army's advance, apparently upsetting Moscow's war plans.

The change has been swift, for some almost bewilderingly so. What just three days ago had been a bustling, modern European capital, with lively restaurants, bars and cafes, slipped into an eerie war footing faster than seemingly imaginable. Vans and cars with armed men without uniforms carned along the streets. Checkpoints went up at almost every stoplight, with men and women in civilian clothes, carrying rifles, stopping cars.

"When I heard the explosions, I decided that I am ready," said Olena Sokolana, a business manager who received a rifle to help defend the capital. "I am adult woman, I am healthy and it's my responsibility."

The newly armed civilians and members of various paramilitary groups are fighting under the loose command of the military in an organization called the Territorial Defense Forces.

"In the city itself, the territorial defense detachments are working quite effectively," Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to the Ukrainian presidential chief of

Continued on Page 12

### Kremlin Finds It Hard to Hide The Costs to People at Home

By ANTON TROIANOVSKI and IVAN NECHEPURENKO

MOSCOW — President Vladimir V. Putin has ushered in a crisis for his country — in its economy and identity.

The Kremlin is hiding the reality of the country's attack on Ukraine from its own people, even cracking down on news outlets that call it a "war."

But the economic carnage and societal turmoil wrought by Mr. Putin's invasion is becoming increasingly difficult to obscure.

Airlines canceled once-ubiquitous flights to Europe. The Central Bank scrambled to deliver ruble bills as the demand for cash rose 58-fold. Economists warned of more inflation, greater capital flight and slower growth; and the S&P credit rating agency downgraded Russia to "junk" status.

The emphasis on hiding the war's true extent was a sign that the Kremlin fears that Russians

would disapprove of a violent, full-scale invasion of Ukraine, a country where many millions of Russians have relatives and friends.

Even so, more public figures with ties to the state spoke out against the war, including a lawmaker in Russia's rubber-stamp Parliament. Business owners tried to assess the consequences of an economic crisis that appeared already to be beginning, even before sanctions were fully in place.

Facing the greatest test yet of its reality-distorting prowess, the Kremlin's propaganda machine for the moment appeared to be keeping widespread opposition to the war in check. There were no signs that the war could undermine Mr. Putin's hold on power, and in the event of a speedy victory, analysts noted, it could end

Continued on Page 12

### Two Leaders Raised in Cold War Square Off in New Confrontation

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — As President Biden tells the story, he was blunt with Vladimir V. Putin during a meeting in Moscow more than a decade ago. "I'm looking into your eyes, and I don't think you have a soul," Mr. Biden recalled telling the K.G.B. veteran. Mr. Putin smiled. "We understand one another," he said.

Now, as the United States seeks to rally the world to counter Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Mr. Biden and Mr. Putin, the Russian president, are testing their understandings of one another as never before, trying to anticipate and outmaneuver each other with the fate of millions of people in the balance.

Not since John F. Kennedy and Nikita S. Khrushchev squared off over Berlin and Cuba have an American president and Russian leader gone eyeball to eyeball in

quite such a dramatic fashion. While the two nuclear states are not poised for war directly with each other, as they were six decades ago, the showdown between Mr. Biden and Mr. Putin nonetheless holds enormous consequences for the world order that may be felt for years to come.

Mr. Biden has denounced Mr. Putin as "the aggressor" for invading Ukraine and vowed to make him "a pariah on the international stage." To that end, Mr. Biden decided on Friday to impose sanctions on Mr. Putin himself, targeting him personally in a way that never happened even during the Cold War. Mr. Putin, for his part, is testing Mr. Biden's mettle at a time when the Russians have concluded that America is divided and distracted at home, leaving little room for consensus.

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MANNA HETTMANN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

### Mud the Earth Can't Live Without

Villagers protect a critical network of peatlands in the Congo Basin that stores over 30 billion tons of carbon, letting the world breathe. But what is the world doing to help them? A Special Section.

#### INTERNATIONAL 4-14

##### Accepting a Plus-Size Brazil

A country known for slender beach bodies has become a world leader in passing laws that enshrine protections for people who are overweight. PAGE 4

#### METROPOLITAN

##### Fighting Back Onto the Stage

During the pandemic's first wave, the Broadway conductor Joel Frahm got sick. Two years later he is back at work while still battling long Covid. PAGE 1

#### ARTS & LEISURE

##### A New 'Funny Girl,' and More

In the Spring Preview, a long-awaited Broadway revival of "Funny Girl" finds its Fanny. Plus, a Shakespeare smorgasbord and "Don Carlos" at the Met.

#### SUNDAY BUSINESS

##### What's This Cost? It Depends.

Online shopping has put many prices in constant flux as millions of product stickers go up and down each day. That's a bad deal for customers. PAGE 1

#### SUNDAY REVIEW

##### Thomas L. Friedman

PAGE 4



0 554 753 6



# Fierce fighting in besieged Kyiv

## U.S., allies targeting Russia's banking system

BY ELI STOKOLS

WASHINGTON — The U.S. and its European allies agreed Saturday to bar some Russian banks from the SWIFT international network and to sanction the country's central bank, ratcheting up the West's response to Moscow's intensifying and unprovoked war against Ukraine.

"Russia's war represents an assault on fundamental international rules and norms that have prevailed since the Second World War, which we are committed to defending. We will hold Russia to account and collectively ensure that this war is a strategic failure" for President Vladimir Putin, the U.S. and European allies wrote in a joint statement that outlined the new measures.

"As Russian forces unleash their assault on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities," they added, "we are resolved to continue imposing costs on Russia that will further isolate Russia from the international financial system and our economies."

Coming on the heels of sanctions imposed last week against several Russian banks, wealthy individuals and Putin himself, Saturday's actions underscored how unified the world's most powerful democracies remain in response to Russian aggression.

Amid a swelling tide of global outrage over the invasion, there was no mistaking the growing conviction among NATO allies to punish Putin despite the heightened risk of provoking a retaliatory response from Moscow.

Ukraine's leaders had been pushing for Western nations to block the access of Russian banks to SWIFT, the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, a secure international messaging network used by more than 11,000 banks around the world.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, in a video posted online, thanked the U.S. and Europe for going further in punishing Russia.

"Our diplomats fought around the clock to inspire all European countries to agree on a strong and fair decision to disconnect Russia from the international interbanking network. We [See Banks, A5]



**FIRST RESPONDERS** gather outside a residential tower that was hit by a Russian missile Saturday morning in Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital. Several floors were obliterated and six people were reportedly injured.

## Ukrainian forces hold city amid Russian onslaught

BY NABIH BULOS, JAWIED KALEEM AND HENRY CHU

KYIV, Ukraine — As a tense Ukraine awaited daylight early Sunday, military forces and thousands of armed volunteers fought fiercely to protect their capital against Russian troops after a day of explosions and gunfire that shook parts of the city, leaving a missile-hit high-rise tower partially destroyed and residents crowded into subway stations for shelter.

Ukraine's outgunned military desperately sought to fend off an advance by invading Russian forces on Kyiv's northern outskirts. Overnight, the skies lit up after two explosions were reported about 20 miles south of Kyiv near Vasykiv, a city with several fuel tanks and an air base — as nervous residents wondered how close Russians might be getting.

Shells were reported in other parts of the beleaguered city. Shops were closed, nervous reservists clutched battered AK-47s in the streets, and improvised checkpoints made of piled-up tires sprang up to slow anticipated Russian infiltration.

Fuddled in their makeshift bomb shelters, Kyiv residents filled old wine bottles with flammable liquid to prepare Molotov cocktails.

Some signs suggested Ukrainian fighters were succeeding beyond the expectations of Russia, which U.S. officials said has sent the majority of the estimated 190,000 troops it had amassed near Ukraine's borders.

Russians "have been frustrated by what they have seen is a very determined resistance," a senior U.S. Defense Department official said on Saturday.

The official added that, while Ukraine's air- and missile-defense systems had been targeted, they remained viable, and that there was no indication Russia had taken control of any Ukrainian cities in what is Europe's biggest ground war since World War II.

President Volodymyr Zelensky, who defiantly remained in Kyiv despite a reported American offer to be evacuated, called on Ukrainians within the country [See Ukraine, A4]

## Civilians combine their might

Molotov cocktails, handed-out rifles and sneaky ruses add up



**IN KYIV**, volunteers fill glass bottles with fuel and oil for Molotov cocktails. "These bottles are 'Good morning' to Putin," one man said.

BY NABIH BULOS

KYIV, Ukraine — In a basement three stories underground, on a quiet, unassuming street in Ukraine's capital, Olga, 24, crumbled chunks of Styrofoam on Saturday, coaxing the white pebbles from her hand into bottles of sangria mix, Beefeater gin, and beer and wine laid out in front of her.

Olga, a project manager at a graphics firm who asked that her full name not be published to protect her security, was a cog in a five-person Molotov cocktail assembly team. As she and a second woman crushed the Styrofoam, a man and woman to their side carefully poured fuel and oil into a funnel, oozing the mix into the bottles. Next to them, a man dipped the wicks — shredded pieces of tablecloths and curtains — before wrapping the heads with bits of twine.

"I left my [See Civilians, A6]

### Hoping for Cold War 2.0

Invasion marks a return to hostility in Europe, but it's better than World War III. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

### Fears of a broader war

The only way experts foresee a wider conflict is if Putin were to attack a NATO country. **WORLD, A6**

### 'We hope Putin will stop'

Demonstrators march and stage vigils across the state to protest Russia's invasion. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### COLUMN ONE

## Danger, beauty, mystery: The return of California's tule fog

Text by Diana Marcum | Illustrations by Paul Duginski  
REPORTING FROM FRESNO

**T**HIS WINTER the tule fog returned to California's Central Valley. It had been as good as gone for years. But now, as I write this, it's whitening out my window like a coat of paint. On the highway, the Caltrans signs will be flashing in orange lights, "Caution Heavy Fog." But drivers who don't know tule fog won't realize how serious the warning. They won't slow in time. There is danger literally in the air.

This fog isn't the type that rolls in from the ocean, or wraps curling tendrils around hillsides. Tule fog is not the mist in a horror movie, parting to reveal a monster. It is the monster, suddenly materialized.

It is also a misty-cool stamp of time and place in a valley that's always seen itself as a place apart.

Technically speaking, tule fog (pronounce TOO-lee) is just the name people in the Central Valley give radiation, or ground, fog. But to say "technically speaking" means there is far more to explain. [See Tule fog, A10]

### CNN to name its new leader

Chris Licht, producer of Stephen Colbert's show, will replace Jeff Zucker. **NATION, A15**

### Second booster need is debated

Another shot would seemingly help against waning immunity. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### Lakers' James says he's staying

Star clears the air on his future after comments over All-Star weekend. **SPORTS, D1**

### Weather

Warmer, windy.  
L.A. Basin: 75/53. **B10**



## Bitcoin venture is costing El Salvador

Country has lost up to \$22 million in first 4 months of populist president's grand plan.

BY KATE LINTHICUM

SANSALVADOR — Four months into El Salvador's experiment as the first and only country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal currency, the International Monetary Fund had seen enough.

Drop bitcoin now, its board of directors warned in January, saying the cryptocurrency poses "large risks"

to the financial stability of the nation and its citizens.

President Nayib Bukele fired off a response via Twitter: an internet meme that depicted the IMF to Homer Simpson.

An authoritarian populist who brands himself the "CEO of El Salvador," Bukele has become one of the world's foremost bitcoin evangelists since pushing a law through Congress that requires businesses to accept the cryptocurrency for goods and services.

His grand plan has so far produced tepid results. El Salvador is believed to have lost as much as \$22 million in [See El Salvador, A7]



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## Kyiv takes a beating as Putin closes in



U.S., allies add major sanctions on Russian banks to choke Moscow

BY SIOBHAN O'GRADY, KAROUN DEMIRJIAN, ELLEN NAKASHIMA AND PAUL SONNE

KYIV, UKRAINE — The United States and key Western allies on Saturday announced severe new sanctions on Russian banks as the Ukrainian capital came under bombardment with some of the fiercest shelling since the start of the Russian invasion. The Biden administration, Canada and European allies will impose major restrictions on Russia's central bank, freezing its ability to use its \$640 billion in foreign reserves. They also announced that they would remove certain Russian financial institutions from the SWIFT messaging network that connects banks worldwide, a move that to date has been taken against only Iran and North Korea. The latest steps to economically choke Moscow and its ruling

Misinformation, conflict's scale fog Ukraine's civilian death toll

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN AND GRIFF WITTE

KHARKIV, UKRAINE — The father of two preschoolers was driving them to their grandparents' house on the fertile plains of eastern Ukraine when, he said, a Russian convoy opened fire. His car's tires blew out. The engine started smoking. And Victor's shoulder radiated with pain as a bullet lodged within. "I knew immediately that I was wounded," said the 40-year-old, who declined to give his last name. On Saturday, he was being treated at a hospital for a punctured lung and a cracked rib, a civilian victim of Russia's invasion. But exactly how many Ukrainians have suffered a similar fate — or worse — was unknown, three days into a conflict that has continuously upended expectations.

### Zelensky's grit and steel make him an unlikely champion in war-rattled city

BY SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN AND SIOBHAN O'GRADY

KYIV, UKRAINE — Yuri Shuklin has never fired a gun, not a real one at least. His war experience, he said, comes from playing video games such as "Call to Action." "Maybe it's funny, but in some movies and video games, they have nice [battlefield] tactics," he said. By Saturday, he had signed up to fight the Russian forces pressing in on this capital. In Ukraine, there's precedent for Shuklin's screen-to-reality sense of confidence: President Volodymyr Zelensky was an actor and comedian, whose only political experience before getting elected was playing the role of Ukraine's president in a satirical TV series. Now, those savvy communication skills, his ability to sway audiences via social media, a healthy dose of grit and defiance — and not least of all, his readiness to die if necessary — has transformed him into an unlikely champion for Ukrainians and the world. Shuklin, who once never cared about politics, is among Zelensky's devotees. "This man did not jump away to some other country like previous presidents," said the tall and lean 31-year-old mechanic. "He can show us the way."



TOP: A residential building in Kyiv damaged in a missile strike. ABOVE: Anna Semyuk reunites with her children at a border crossing in Hungary. Their dad, not allowed to leave Ukraine, had a stranger take the kids across.

#### MORE COVERAGE OF THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE

On U.S. campuses: Protests, panels, solidarity. **A13**  
Photos: Searing images from the conflict. **A14**  
Militias: Ukrainians rush to defend their nation. **A16**  
Russian money: In London, it is ubiquitous. **A18**  
Social media: Pressure grows on tech firms. **A19**

### Inside the tensions surrounding Biden's pick for the Supreme Court

BY SEUNG MIN KIM, SEAN SULLIVAN AND TYLER PAGER

As President Biden weighed his options for nominating the first Black woman to the Supreme Court, he scoured the records and backgrounds of his finalists and was struck by the work of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. A former public defender, she had served on a commission

### DeSantis emerges as a 2024 darling

BY TIM CRAIG, JOSH DAWSEY AND ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER

The Conservative Political Action Conference, an activist jamboree that has long been a hive of anti-political correctness, helped launch and sustain Donald Trump's political career. But another Republican took the CPAC stage last week to deliver indignation and defiance that left little doubt he sees himself as an heir to the former president's role as the right's commander in America's deepening cultural wars. Addressing thousands at CPAC's Orlando confab, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis blasted what he called the country's "biomedical security state" for encouraging vaccine and mask mandates. He slammed corporations and universities for being "infected" with a "woke virus" that is trying to "tear at the fabric of society." And the governor called on Americans



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks to a crowd of thousands at CPAC on Thursday.

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## FMI: el Gobierno busca frenar una rebelión interna

Enfrenta un clima de tensión creciente del oficialismo en el Congreso por el acuerdo con el Fondo Monetario. **Página 20**

## 1934-2022. ANTONIO SEGUÍ, EMBAJADOR DEL ARTE ARGENTINO

—cultura

El gran artista cordobés murió a los 88 años en Buenos Aires, tras una vida en París; fue uno de los maestros fundamentales de la pintura. **Página 30**



## OTRA DERROTA DEJA A BIELSA AL BORDE DEL DESPIDO

—deportes

A pesar de que el DT dijo que no renunciaría tras una nueva goleada (cayó 4-0 con Tottenham), dan por hecha su salida del Leeds. **Página 5**

# LA NACION

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— LA NACION EN UCRANIA —



## Ucrania opone una feroz resistencia a Putin

Civiles y militares dan batalla por Kiev; Occidente desconecta a los bancos rusos

Voluntarias ucranianas armadas recorrieron ayer las calles de Kiev para defender la capital del ataque ruso

LYNSEY ADDARIO/NYT

**Elisabetta Piqué**  
ENVIADA ESPECIAL

KIEV.— “Los hombres tenemos prohibido cruzar la frontera ucraniana. Nos tenemos que quedar para luchar. Y está bien, lo vamos a hacer: resistiremos, combatiremos hasta el final”. Mientras hace cola en uno de los pocos supermercados abiertos en esta capital bajo asedio ruso, Eduard no tiene dudas. Como ya lo han hecho muchos civiles, tomará las armas para defender su país.

La ofensiva de las tropas rusas sobre Kiev encontró ayer, en el tercer día de invasión, una feroz resistencia

de las fuerzas ucranianas, decididas a mantener el control de la capital, bajo toque de queda hasta mañana. “Estamos repeliendo con éxito los ataques del enemigo. La lucha continúa”, advirtió el presidente Volodimir Zelenski en un video desde las calles.

Mientras el gobierno ruso ordenó ayer ampliar la ofensiva contra Ucrania “en todas las direcciones”, Occidente reforzó al máximo la presión sobre el Kremlin, al excluir a varios bancos rusos del sistema Swift, clave en las transacciones internacionales, e incrementar la ayuda militar para Ucrania. Alemania, Estados Unidos y Francia autorizaron la entrega de armas. **Continúa en la página 4**

EL ANÁLISIS

### Cerca de Putin en el peor momento

Joaquín Morales Solá  
—LA NACION—

En el lugar equivocado, en el momento inoportuno. Ahí estuvo Alberto Fernández cuando hace poco más de veinte días se le ocurrió pasar por Moscú y abrazarse con quien ahora se convirtió en un criminal de guerra. **Continúa en la página 39**

OPINIÓN

### Esto sí que nunca lo vimos

Thomas Friedman  
—THE NEW YORK TIMES—

Las siete palabras más peligrosas del periodismo son “el mundo ya no será el mismo”, y en mis cuatro décadas de periodista rara vez me he atrevido a usarlas. Pero tras la invasión de Vladimir Putin a Ucrania creo que la frase se impone. **Continúa en la página 10**

ESCENARIOS

El líder ruso, marcado por la beligerancia  
Luisa Corradini  
Página 12

Las dos guerras que debilitan a Fernández  
Martín Rodríguez Yebra  
Página 22

El valor de estar allí para contar la historia  
Fernán Siquier  
Página 40





A professora Julia, ao centro, aguarda com outras voluntárias para participar da defesa da capital; civis estão sendo armados para lutar contra as tropas do Kremlin Lynsey Addario/The New York Times

## Forças russas atacam centro de Kiev

Occidente amplia sanções à Rússia, e governo ucraniano insta militares e civis a resistirem; 'Não podemos perder a capital'

Dois dias após o início da guerra, as forças de Vladimir Putin atacaram ontem o centro de Kiev. As primeiras explosões foram reportadas às 5h (antes da meia-noite em Brasília), informa Igor Gielow, de Moscou.

"O futuro da Ucrânia está em jogo", afirmou Volodimir Zelenski, o presidente ucraniano que se diz marcado como "alvo número 1" na invasão, ápice de um processo de quatro meses de tensão entre Moscou e o Ocidente.

Diante das câmeras o dia todo, Zelenski instou a população da cidade de 3 milhões de habitantes a reagir, armando civis e pedindo que usem bombas caseiras. Um toque de recolher foi imposto até a segunda-feira (28).

"Não podemos perder a capital. Falo com nossos defensores, homens e mulheres em todas as frentes."

Governos que se opõem ao Kremlin, como o britânico, puseram em dúvida o avanço das tropas russas.

A Ucrânia diz que um ataque anterior ao centro foi repellido, provavelmente com mísseis do pacote de US\$ 400 milhões ofertado pelos EUA em 2021. Washington prometeu mais US\$ 350 milhões em armas para o combate.

A Turquia fechou estreitos para o mar Negro, e a Alemanha vai fornecer armamento letal à Ucrânia. **Mundo A9**

**Occidente cortará bancos russos de sistema global de pagamentos** **Mercado A15**

### ANÁLISE Alexa Salomão

#### Invasão da Ucrânia pode dar início a nova ordem entre Ocidente e Oriente

Putin dá sinais de que se preparou para este momento mais tenso, inclusive prevendo quais seriam os limites das sanções econômicas.

Tal calma viria do fato de as peças de seu xadrez bélico estarem bem posicionadas em outro jogo: o mercado de commodities. **Mercado A16**

#### Kremlin proíbe mídia local de empregar termo guerra

**Mundo A10**

#### Vinicius Torres Freire

#### Conflito de Putin muda conversa política nos EUA e até no Brasil

**Mercado A18**

#### Clínicas de barriga de aluguel colocam embriões em bunkers

Casais de várias partes do Brasil buscam notícia dos filhos na guerra em Kiev. Os bebês ainda não nasceram: são fruto de barriga de aluguel, legalizada na Ucrânia.

Na última semana, Bruna Alves, diretora da Tammuz Family que atende 35 famílias brasileiras, assegurava a transferência dos embriões para um bunker. **Mundo A11**

### Cotidiano B5

Museu do Ipiranga tem obras de restauro da fachada finalizadas

### Mercado A19

Envelhecimento do Facebook é fantasma que ronda as redes sociais

### Esporte B7

Ligado a Putin e sob pressão, bilionário russo transfere comando do Chelsea

**ilus trada silus**

Signatários de texto de 2006 contra cotas raciais dizem por que mudaram de ideia

+ Helio de la Peña conta como o debate o levou a rever posições



Eduardo Anzelli/Folhapress

#### BLOCOS DRIBLAM FISCALIZAÇÃO NO RIO

Na manhã deste sábado (26), foliões e músicos se reuniram em cortejo carnavalesco clandestino na Pedra do Sal, região central da cidade; secretário pede conscientização **Cotidiano B4**

#### Aliados e rivais projetam Tarcísio no 2º turno em SP

O ministro Tarcísio de Freitas (Infraestrutura) passou a ser visto por aliados e rivais com potencial para 2º turno em São Paulo. Dirigentes do PT e do PL preveem que o estado refletirá polarização entre Lula e Bolsonaro. **Política A4**

#### Chuva ceifa futuro de 42 crianças em Petrópolis

**Cotidiano B2**

#### Telegram barra contas de Allan dos Santos

O Telegram bloqueou três canais ligados ao influenciador bolsonarista. A ação decorre de determinação do ministro Alexandre de Moraes, do Supremo. Essa foi a primeira ordem judicial brasileira cumprida pelo aplicativo. Allan é investigado sob suspeita de fazer parte de milícia digital que atua no ataque a instituições. **Política A7**

#### EDITORIAIS A2

**O custo da guerra**  
Sobre impacto econômico do conflito na Ucrânia.

**Pandemia ou endemia**  
Acerca de relaxamento de restrições contra a Covid.

#### Planalto quer reajustes flexíveis de remédios

O governo avalia permitir subir ou baixar preços de medicamentos a qualquer momento, de modo excepcional, em vez de só fazer reajuste anual. Pasta da Economia é contra. **A15**

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## Preocupante búsqueda de amparo político de traficantes

En los últimos días circularon diversas fotografías de los capos del crimen organizado buscados por la Justicia exhibiéndose al lado de personalidades vinculadas al poder.

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Para mitigar impacto climático

### Los productores piden la creación de un fondo de contingencia

PÁGINA 19

Instan a no seguir esperando a Brasil

### Si reducen la tarifa de Itaipú, plantean que Paraguay licite energía

PÁGINA 18

Asunción todavía no oficializó proyecto

### Agencia de Tránsito no quiere que fotomulta sea solo para recaudar

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### Kiev frenó la primera oleada de invasión



Los ucranianos de Itapúa repudian el ataque ruso y se manifiestan por la paz

PÁGINA 53

**Recios combates.** Los restos de un tanque dan testimonio de la feroz lucha que se tiene en Ucrania. Ante la resistencia, Putin ordenó la ofensiva total.

PÁGINA 50 a la 54

DOMINGO

Una nueva "cortina de hierro" cae sobre Europa con la invasión rusa

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Alerta ante retrasos cognitivos por acceso a pantallas y videojuegos

PÁGINA 24

Existe incertidumbre en el mercado internacional

### Conflicto en Europa traería un menor ingreso de divisas y suba de precios

PÁGINAS 14 y 15

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## LE FIGARO

« Sans la liberté de blâmer, il n'est point d'éloge flatteur » Beaumarchais



Des membres de la garde nationale ukrainienne dans le centre-ville de Kiev, vendredi.

# La bataille de Kiev a commencé

Le récit de notre envoyé spécial au cœur des combats dans les faubourgs de la capitale attaquée sur plusieurs fronts par les forces russes. L'armée ukrainienne s'est positionnée pour la défendre à des points stratégiques.

PAGES 2 À 10, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25 ET L'ÉDITORIAL

## Zelensky, le chef de l'État ukrainien dans le viseur du Kremlin

Très connu dans l'espace post-soviétique pour ses spectacles humoristiques, Volodymyr Zelensky a dû se métamorphoser en président après son élection surprise, en 2019. Voilà aujourd'hui cet ex-comédien russophone, né dans le centre de l'Ukraine, propulsé à 44 ans commandant en chef d'une guerre qu'il croyait pouvoir éviter.

## Le président de la république prorusse de Donetsk s'explique

Dans un entretien accordé à l'envoyé spécial du Figaro, Denis Pouchiline confirme le plan visant à étendre le territoire des républiques sécessionnistes de Donetsk et Louhansk à la totalité des oblasts (régions administratives) du Donbass. Il accuse Kiev d'avoir préparé une attaque et estime qu'être reconnue par la Russie offre à la RPD une protection nécessaire.

## Sanctions : l'Europe gèle les avoirs de Poutine et de Lavrov

Les Européens ont gelé vendredi tous les avoirs que le président russe et son ministre des Affaires étrangères détiennent dans l'UE. Vladimir Poutine serait à la tête d'une fortune estimée à plusieurs dizaines de milliards de dollars. Ce gel intervient alors que les pays de l'UE n'ont pas réussi à s'entendre, pour l'heure, sur une exclusion des banques russes de la messagerie Swift.

## Comment la France se prépare à l'accueil des réfugiés

Les autorités françaises sont mobilisées pour faire face à l'arrivée des réfugiés ukrainiens. Selon les experts, le déplacement de population est estimé à 6 millions de personnes. Dont 1 million migrerait vers l'UE « dans les deux ans », en Pologne, en Italie, en Espagne et en Allemagne principalement. Pas moins de 50 000 se pressent déjà aux frontières en deux jours.

ÉLYSÉE

Face à Moscou, Macron veut articuler union nationale et riposte internationale PAGE 8

ENQUÊTE

Les procès entrent dans la grille des programmes de la télévision PAGE 15

FIGARO OUI  
FIGARO NON

Réponses à la question de vendredi : Les Occidentaux doivent-ils intervenir militairement pour défendre l'Ukraine ?

OUI 37% NON 63%  
TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 291 335

Votez aujourd'hui sur lefigaro.fr  
La France doit-elle accueillir des réfugiés ukrainiens ?

ÉDITORIAL par Philippe Gélie pgelie@lefigaro.fr

## Opération Zelensky

Le « Z » peint en blanc sur les véhicules de l'armée d'invasion russe n'est qu'un signe de reconnaissance destiné à éviter les « tirs amis ». On est toutefois interloqué par le choix d'une lettre qui ne figure pas dans l'alphabet cyrillique (où « Z » s'écrit « З »), mais renvoie au surnom donné par les Ukrainiens à leur président Volodymyr Zelensky : « le Z ». En deux reconversions, de comédien à chef d'État, puis chef de guerre, l'ex-humoriste pris dans la tourmente de l'Histoire s'est attiré la haine implacable de son homologue russe. Au point de faire de lui l'un des principaux enjeux de la bataille engagée pour la prise de Kiev. « Le Z » y porte une cible dans le dos : son élimination – politique ou physique – constitue l'un des objectifs assignés aux forces de Moscou.

Ne nous laissons pas abuser par le vocabulaire du Kremlin : sa disposition à « négocier » avec les Ukrainiens ne concerne que les conditions de leur reddition. Poutine, qui tient le gouvernement de Zelensky pour « une clique de drogués et de néonazis » (bien qu'il soit un Juif ukrainien dont une partie de la famille a péri dans la Shoah), rejette avec mépris sa proposition de discuter de la neutralité de l'Ukraine,

discreditée comme « un mensonge ». Il encourage plutôt l'armée à « prendre le pouvoir » et, dans la foulée, à « déposer les armes ». Le message est clair : la meilleure façon d'écouter la guerre et d'éviter un bain de sang consiste pour Kiev à se soumettre et à remplacer son président élu par un régime vassal de Moscou.

## Moscou veut un changement de régime à Kiev

en jurant qu'il ne veut pas l'occuper en entier – un gros morceau à mâcher, exigeant un investissement militaire supérieur à la force d'attaque en action depuis jeudi –, il en gardera probablement un bon tiers à l'est, afin d'assurer une continuité territoriale entre des zones russophones et stratégiques jusqu'à la Transnistrie. Et laissera les Européens se débrouiller avec les ruines fumantes du reste. S'en tiendra-t-il là ? Provisoirement, peut-être. Mais on le sait maintenant : Poutine le conquérant ne s'arrêtera que lorsqu'on l'arrêtera. ■

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