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March
2022

HISTORY

Everything *Else* Tomorrow

NOW



Ukraine Conflict Supplement

- ❖ Causes of Conflict
- ❖ Leadership
- ❖ Counting the Cost
- ❖ DEC: Ukraine Appeal
- ❖ Being Internet Citizens
- ❖ Resources & Reading



History Now

Conflict in Ukraine Supplement

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Foreword

By Katie Barrett & Issy Keen (Year 12)

News and updates concerning Russia's Ukrainian invasion have dominated the media for weeks now. However, the internet can be an unreliable source at the best of times and misinformation is rife.

Most platforms are American-dominated and this, coupled with the Russian government's hacking campaigns, can lead to biased or disinformation taking the main stage. This is a brief summary of the situation and its basic causes, with information taken from reliable and independent sources.

Why?

Ukraine emerged officially as an independent state in 1991, after its exit from the dissolving Soviet Union (a collection of countries and areas under the control of the Russian state). Russia, however, has continued to attempt to exercise its political influence over the Ukraine and has long resisted the country's move towards the European Union and the West's defensive military alliance: NATO. (BBC)

It was Putin's pressure on the Ukraine not to sign a 2013 EU association treaty which sparked the months of protest which

eventually ousted the pro-Russian president - Viktor Yanukovich - in 2014. (BBC) In retaliation, Russian forces triggered a separatist rebellion in Crimea and have continued to support them throughout their conflict with the Ukrainian forces. This conflict, known as the Russo-Ukrainian War, had already claimed over 14,000 lives (BBC) before Putin's recent escalation of the conflict.

Putin has frequently described the people of Russia and the Ukraine as being 'one people', forcefully separated by 'Neo-Nazis ... militarising the country [Ukraine]' (Putin). He has claimed that his recent campaign against the Ukraine is not an invasion, but a pursuit of the 'demilitarisation and de-Nazification' (BBC) of the country. The Ukraine's, democratically elected (and Jewish) President Volodymyr Zelensky has commented on the preposterousness of this claim, and both the Ukraine's chief rabbi and the Auschwitz Memorial have rejected Putin's accusation.

Reference:

'What does Putin want...?' by Paul Kirby ([BBC News](#), 17-03-2022)

Where in the World?

UKRAINE



FACT FILE - UKRAINE

- Population: 43.3m (approx.)
- Size: 603,548 km²
- Largest cities: Kyiv (Capital, 2.7m); Kharkiv (1.4m); Dnipro (1m)
- Main ethnicities: Ukrainian (77.8%); Russian (17%)
- Languages spoken: Ukrainian (67%); Russian (24%); Others (9%).



'Follow Ukraine's 30-year struggle'

From Eve Conant in *National Geographic*, 25-02-2022

1949

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) created to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.

1991

Ukraine declares independence (becoming a separate country) as the Soviet Union collapses.

"From this day forward, only the Constitution and laws of Ukraine are valid on the territory of Ukraine."
[Act of Independence, 24-08-91]

1994

Ukraine becomes a collaborative partner with NATO. Russia, U.S.A. and U.K. agree to protect Ukraine's sovereignty (right to rule itself).

2004

"Orange Revolution" in Ukraine protests corruption and Russian influence over Ukraine's government.

2008

Ukraine starts seeking ties with NATO and the European Union.

"The next focal point for security tensions - although not for war - might be Ukraine,"

[European Foreign Policy Council report, 25-08-2008]

2014

Pro-Russian government of Ukraine leaves EU talks. 100+ killed in capital protests. President Yanukovich flees. Russia annexes (takes-over) the Crimea, while pro-Russian groups in Donetsk and Luhansk take control.



"Mr. Putin needs to understand that the Ukrainians shouldn't have to choose between the West and Russia. We want the Ukrainian people to determine their own destiny"
[U.S. President Obama, 20-03-2014]

2020

Ukraine becomes a NATO Enhanced Opportunities Partner.

2021

Russia begins mobilising troops.

24 February 2022

Invasion of Ukraine begins...

"Did yesterday's sanctions convince Russia? We hear in our sky and see on our earth this was not enough."

[President Zelenskyy, 25-02-2022]

The Causes of the Current Conflict

By Miss Buttery (Assistant Principal & Head of R6 Sixth Form)

In 1991, Ukraine and Russia were partners in creating new democracies in Europe. However, the Ukrainian government is interested in joining NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) which has many other European members. This would increase its power in global politics and provide defence from other members, if needed from other members.

Many observers believe the Russian government has invaded Ukraine to try and change the current government and President for people who are less

interested in NATO and more interested in closer links with Russia.

There are a number of conflicts currently taking place in the world, but this one is in the news because of the links to NATO, the EU and European partners affecting all European countries including Britain.

Also, this is a significant focus because of the impact on the citizens of both Russia and Ukraine, and on their friends and relatives across Europe.

[Source: *The Economist*]



Meet the Leaders...

Volodymyr ZELENSKYY

(President of Ukraine, 2019-)



- Born: 25 Jan. 1978 (age 44).
 - Family: Married (2 children).
- CV:**
- TV Comedian, 1997-2003.
 - Co-founder of Ukraine's most successful TV studio, 2003-11.
 - 2011-2019 TV & films. In 2015 he played a teacher who goes viral and becomes President.

"[When in 2019] he started his presidential campaign, we were utterly shocked. He's great with media and that is how he won the elections. Right now, Zelenskyy turned into a leader. We can see that he is being advised to by competent people, he has not fled the country even though he was offered to, he stands in front of the Ukrainian people and speaks publicly multiple times a day."
[Olesandra Zubal, 36, IT worker]

Vladimir PUTIN

(President of Russia, 2000-08, 2012-)



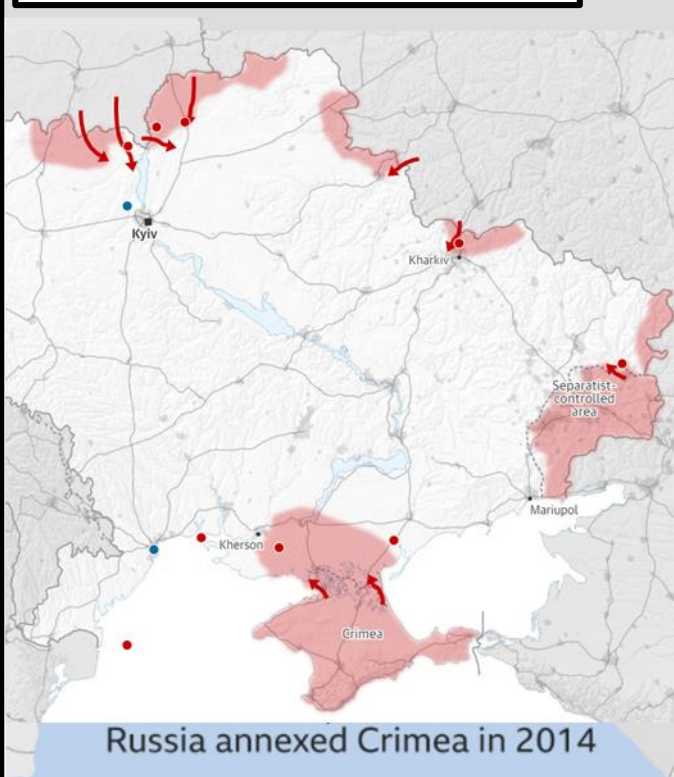
- Born: 7 Oct. 1952 (age 69).
 - Family: Divorced (2 children).
- CV:**
- KGB (Soviet Secret Police) in Foreign Intelligence, 15 years.
 - Prime Minister of Russia twice: 1999-2000, 2008-2012.
 - When President Yeltsin suddenly resigned in 1999, he named Putin as the acting President. Since then he has been (officially or not) the de facto (real) leader of Russia.

"when the Soviet Union was created, [...] Russian territories that never had anything to do with Ukraine (the entire Black Sea region and Russia's western lands) were turned over to Ukraine"
[Putin, speech 19-12-2019]

MAP ROOM: Is Putin's Progress Slowing?

Source: BBC News (2022)

24-Mar-2022 (End Day 1)



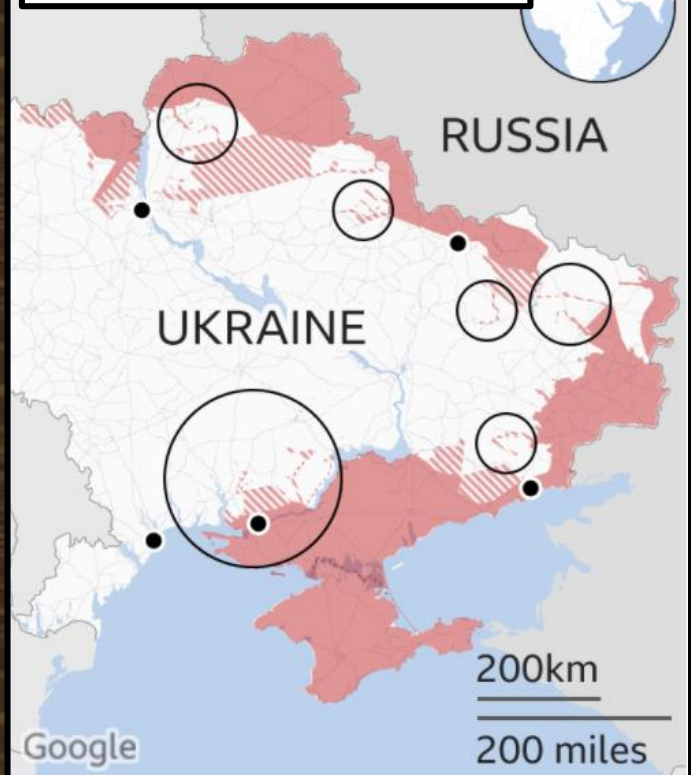
02-Mar-2022 (End Week 1)



w/c 09-Mar-2022 (Week 3)



19-Mar-2022 (Week 4)



Russian Advances

Russian Military Control

Counting the Cost: the conflict in numbers

In 2021 (pre-invasion):

2021	Ukraine	Russia
Military	196,000	0.9m
Reserves	0.9m	2m
Armoured Vehicles	3,309	15,857
Aircraft	132	1,391
Spending	\$4.3bn	\$45.8bn

[Source: [IISS Military Balance 2022](#)]

By 9 March 2022:



2,000 - 4,000
Ukrainian fighters killed.
5,000 – 6,000
Russian soldiers killed.
[Source: [U.S. military](#)]

By 19 March 2022:



5 Major-Generals
(Russian) killed in action.
[Source: [The Independent](#)]

By 15 March 2022:

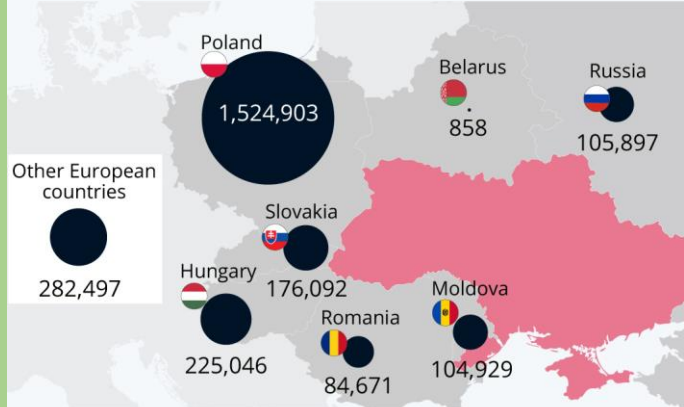


726
civilians killed.
1,174
civilians injured.
[Source: [United Nations](#)]

By 11 March 2022:

2.5 Million Seeking Refuge from Russia's Invasion

Number of Ukrainian refugees by target country*



* As of March 10 except Poland (March 11) and Romania (March 8).

Data extracted on March 11, 12 PM CET

Source: UNHCR

statista



2.5m refugees
Have fled Ukraine.

€500m from EU
Donated in aid & arms.



£100m from UK
Donated in aid.

[Source: [UK Gov](#) & [EU](#)]

By 20 March 2022:



15,029 arrested
In Russia, for protesting
against the conflict.

[Source: [OVD-Info](#)]

References:

- 'Russia-Ukraine war in numbers' by Tobi Thomas ([The Guardian](#), 11-03-2022)



British
RedCross

DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

By [The British Red Cross](#)

On Friday 25 March, the School will celebrate Cultural Appreciation Day. As well as promoting understanding and respect of different cultures, we will collect donations for Ukraine.

In some areas, water, electricity, and phone connectivity have been affected. Many people are taking cover from the shelling in basements and bomb shelters, but are going without the most basic supplies, like food and water. We must act now to protect people caught up in this crisis, in Ukraine and its bordering countries.

What is the DEC?

We're part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), which unites 15 member charities who are experts in humanitarian aid and specialists in different areas of disaster response.

How will my donation help people in Ukraine?

- Providing food, first aid, clean water, shelter support, warm clothing, hygiene parcels and medicines.
- Supporting healthcare facilities, fire and protection units.
- Training in life-saving first aid.

- Helping families stay in contact
- Educating people on the risks of explosives.
- Repairing vital infrastructure, homes, schools, health and community centres.



Your donation will help us reach more people.

- £10 = hygiene kit to a family of five, giving them supplies to stay healthy for a month.
- £20 = five blankets to families taking shelter.
- £33 = 40 chlorine tablets to ensure that families have access to clean, safe water.
- £100 = sleeping mats for 66 people who have been forced from their homes.
- £210 = fully equipped first aid kit, including supplies, to a first aider treating those wounded.

£1



CULTURE DAY!

**SHARE YOUR CULTURE WITH THE RIDGEWAY
COMMUNITY BY WEARING TRADITIONAL
CLOTHING AND BRINGING IN TRADITIONAL
FOODS
(DONATIONS TO RED CROSS FOR UKRAINE)**

**MARCH 25
THE RIDGEWAY SCHOOL**

Understanding 'Us vs Them' thinking

In times of conflict, views can quickly polarise (split) into 'Us vs Them' thinking. However, this feeds tension and conflict, forcing people to choose, or ignore the things groups have in common/ share with each other.

What is Stereotyping?
Making oversimplified assumptions about a whole group, based on certain characteristics.

Seeing the world as 'Us vs Them' divides the world into negatively viewed or **stereotyped** out-groups (Them), and positively viewed or victim in-groups (Us). The current conflict is often written as Ukraine vs Russia. However, this is a very binary (black or white) view that **assumes** that each group is united in its conflict against the other and there is no common ground – a view encouraged by both governments.

The reality of the conflict is more nuanced (shaded) than this. One example of this are the words of Vitaly Vavryshchuk, a 41 year old Ukrainian working in Kyiv. Writing to *People* magazine about the start of conflict, Vitaly wrote:

"It was something beyond imagination. We thought it was a geo-political game and there would be a political solution. Russians are quite friendly to Ukrainians. Russians can enter Ukraine without visas. Many people have family ties with Russian people."

Such connectivity is important as a reminder to look deeper and question assumptions that reinforce 'Us vs Them'. Whilst some talk of *Russian* aggression, it is unclear (due to state media control) exactly how far the Russian people (even soldiers) truly support the war being driven by President Putin and his circle. Likewise, while Ukraine has some pro-Russian areas, outside Ukraine, Russians are among others condemning the war. **Not all Russians are pro-war and not all Ukrainians anti-Russian. Conflict brings suffering for all.**

Sources & Further reading:

- [Educate Against Hate](#) campaign (by UK Government).
- ['Stories of Life Inside Ukraine amid the Russian Invasion'](#) by Brody, Eskind, Herbst & Kurgansky (People, 01-03-2022)

Disinformation & Misinformation, and how to spot it.

In the internet age, flooded with information, being able to recognise disinformation and avoid misinformation is crucial: especially in times of conflict.

What is Misinformation?
Sharing false information accidentally (without realising it).



What is Disinformation?
Information created on purpose to mislead or give inaccurate information of an issue.

Top Left: Behind-the-scenes footage from the 2020 TV show 'Contamin'.
Bottom Left: An edited image shared on Facebook, suggesting the war in Ukraine is being faked using actors.



Right: Shared on Twitter as wife of Ukraine's VP joining the army. This is actually an Ukrainian soldier photographed at a military parade in August 2021.

This is the wife of the Vice president of Ukraine. She is fighting for her motherland. I pray peace prevail



How to spot Disinformation?

1. Suspicious website (e.g. odd web address, inappropriate adverts, weird content).
2. Exaggerated language and/ or spelling/ grammar mistakes.
3. Edited images/ content.
4. Articles, images or statistics with no stated author or source (where it came from).

How to avoid Misinformation?

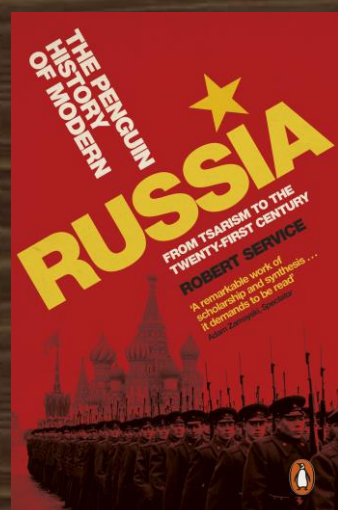
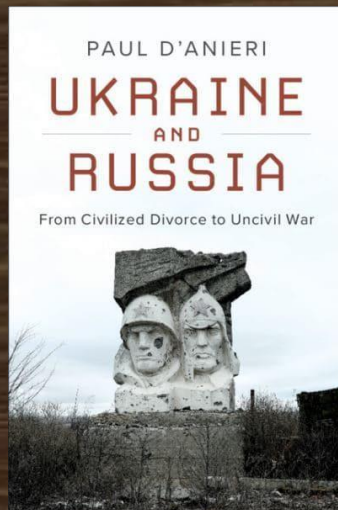
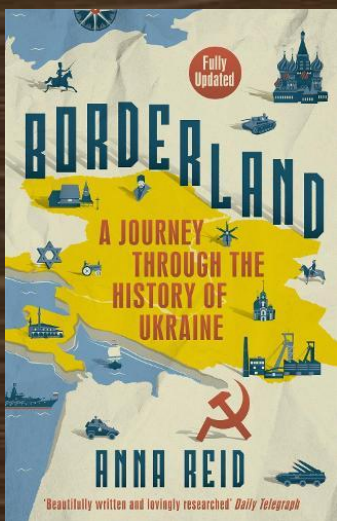
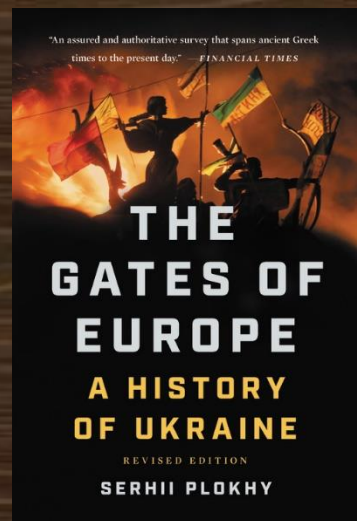
1. How do I know this is fact?
2. Where has information come from (what is source)?
3. Why am I sharing this? Have I checked the facts/ source?

Sources & Further reading:

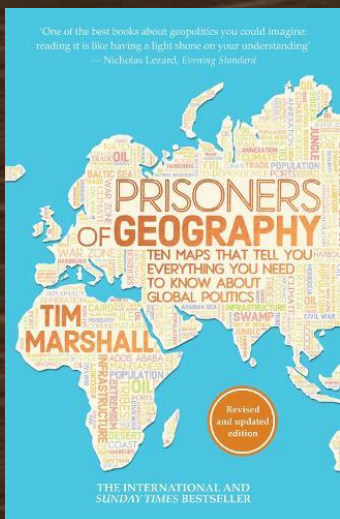
- [Educate Against Hate](#) campaign (by UK Government).
- ['Fact or Fake'](#) and [Young Reporter](#) (by BBC Bitesize).
- ['False claims the war is a hoax go viral'](#) by Sardarizadeh & Robinson (BBC News, 08-03-2022).



If you would like to find out more, we have put together a selection of books covering the political history, culture and traditions of this area as well as fiction books set in this geography.
 (Mrs Day & Mrs Tonkin, Learning Resource Centre)
















Some reading recommendations



Choose your news...
 Tabloids (overview).
 Broadsheets (depth).
 Magazines (analysis).

History YouTube recommendations

-  Home
-  Explore
-  Subscriptions
-  Library
-  History
-  Your videos
-  Watch later
-  Liked videos
- SUBSCRIPTIONS
-  Browse channels
- MORE FROM YOUTUBE
-  YouTube Premium
-  Movies & shows
-  Gaming
-  Live



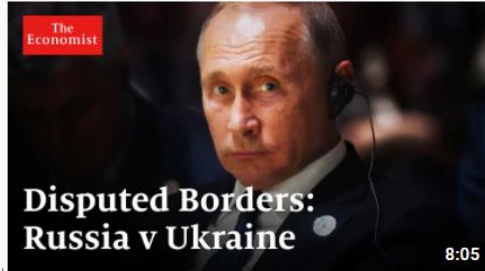
These maps explain why Putin is invading Ukraine
954K views • 10 days ago



Mountains, ports and flat ground: Geography plays a part in Putin's desire to control Ukraine. Author and Broadcaster Tim ...

Tim Marshall (author of *Prisoners of Geography*) explains Ukraine's importance in the region:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r23aYe0Mw1w>



Why is Russia invading Ukraine? | The Economist
1M views • 1 month ago



Vladimir Putin has already annexed Crimea and plunged Donba...

Subtitles

Analysis of the origins of conflict from *The Economist*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUKblujiRyk>



The war on Ukraine explained: Hear from our experts
4.6K views • 11 days ago



Many pundits did not believe Russia was going to attack Ukraine. Yet Vladimir Putin launched a terrestrial invasion...

King's College London academics discuss the conflict:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cH5mv83N6mQ>



BBC News:

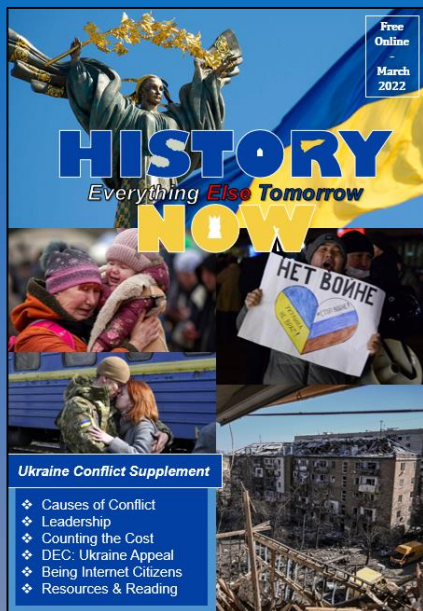
<https://www.youtube.com/c/BBCNews>

Sky News:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SkyNews>

Channel 4 News:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/Channel4News>



Cover Images:

1. Statue of Berehynia atop the Independence Monument, Kyiv.
2. Crying woman and child cross the Polish border from Ukraine (Visar Kryeziu, 07-03-2022).
3. Russian anti-war protester in Pushkin Square, Moscow, carrying placard: 'Ukraine is not the enemy – Stop War – #No War' (24-02-2022).
4. Ukrainian soldier saying goodbye at Kramatorsk Station (Andriy Andriyenko, 27-02-2022).
5. Damaged apartments after shelling in Kyiv (Aris Messinis, 18-03-2022).

*Would you like to write an article? share a creation or experience?
Or just want to get involved?*

*Talk to, or e-mail your History Teacher and you might find it
featured in the next edition. 😊*

<https://www.ridgewayschool.com/learning-and-education/learning-resource-centre/ridgeway-history-hub>

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