



Source: Daily Mail

FROM CONFLICT TO CRISIS: UKRAINE AND RUSSIA

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

- **16.1** – Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.
- **16.3** – Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.
- **16.5** – Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.
- **16.10** – Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

POSSIBLE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Is what happens between two countries the business of other nations?
- What do we need to know in order to really understand a conflict?
- Why do countries fight?

BACKGROUND

Russian forces officially invaded Ukraine on Thursday, February 24, 2022.

From Vox:

“Putin’s attempt to redraw the map of Europe is fast becoming the most devastating conflict on the continent since World War II. It is threatening to cost thousands of civilian lives and send hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the violence in Ukraine.

The battle for Ukraine began in the early morning hours Thursday local time, when Russian President Vladimir Putin launched what he called a “special military operation” into the country of about 40 million, with attacks coming from multiple fronts (from the north, east, and south), and targeted toward multiple cities. Russian troops have since seized territory, and have been pushing to take major cities, like the capital, Kyiv.

Ukraine’s resistance has complicated Russia’s efforts to seize the country. As a senior Biden administration official said Friday, Russia had “not achieved the progress that we believe they thought they would.”

But the more protracted this war becomes, the more catastrophic it will be. Russia’s move into cities has opened up a deadlier chapter, as the urban warfare threatens civilians, and experts said that Ukraine’s resistance may only push Russia to intensify its assault.

The United States and its allies in Europe and the United Kingdom imposed the toughest financial sanctions ever on Russia, and have only built on these penalties since. On Saturday, the United States and European countries agreed to block some Russian banks from the SWIFT, a global messaging system, which will essentially prevent those institutions from doing any global transactions, a punishment that allies had previously hesitated to pursue.

This sustained international pressure, and Ukraine’s resistance, may still not be enough to force Russia to end its military campaign. On Sunday, Ukrainian officials said they had agreed to talks with Russia without preconditions, but Russia has also ordered its nuclear deterrent forces on high alert. All of this leaves Ukraine — and the world — in a perilous and unpredictable moment.”

This is an ongoing conflict, and things are developing rapidly, but below are a series of resources to begin exploring this



topic. In addition, [HERE](#) is an article about ways to discuss this conflict with your students.

RESOURCES

Personal Stories

- [Ukraine's resistance is built on the backs of volunteers](#) (VOX)
- [From TV Star to Wartime Leader, Ukrainian President Zelenskyy Uses Remarkable Videos to Rally His Country](#) (Mother Jones)
- [Terrified Families Seek Shelter Underground in Ukraine Capital](#) (The UN)
- ["You're on your own": African students stuck in Ukraine seek refuge or escape route](#) (Reuters)

Art & Images

- [On The Ground: Ukraine Under Attack](#) (The New York Times)
- [Photos: The sobering cost of Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#) (NPR)
- [The Invasion of Ukraine Is a War Against All Democratic States. As We Fight for Our Liberty, Here Are 5 Ways the Art World Can Help](#) (Artnet (author is the director general of the *Mystetskyi Arsenal National Art and Culture Museum Complex in Kyiv, Ukraine*))
- [Ukrainian Choir on Saturday Night Live](#) (NBC)
- [Protests Erupt In Russia, Worldwide Against Moscow's Invasion Of Ukraine](#) (Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty)
- [Ukraine: Protests, donations and solidarity grow across Europe](#) (Deutsche Welle (DW))

Articles

- [Dictators Aren't Pretending Anymore](#) (The Atlantic)
- [TIMELINE: Ukraine's Struggle for Independence in Russia's Shadow, 1991-2022](#) (Council on Foreign Relations)
- [Russian Forces Meeting "Strong and Wide" Ukraine Resistance](#) (Al Jazeera)
- [The World Is Watching Russia Invade Ukraine. But Russian Media Is Telling a Different Story](#) (TIME)
- [Putin's public approval soared as Russia prepared to attack Ukraine. History shows it's unlikely to last](#) (PBS NewsHour)
- [What is SWIFT and why it's being called the 'nuclear' option for Russian sanctions](#) (ABC News)

- [Can Putin Recover From This?](#) (The Atlantic)
- [UN to launch appeal to fund humanitarian operations in Ukraine - UN News](#)
[Why Did Russia Invade Ukraine? The Conflict Explained In 10 Points](#) (NDTV)
- [World Reaction to the Invasion of Ukraine](#) (The Wilson Center)
- [Putin's Invasion of Ukraine, Explained](#) (VOX)
- [Crisis in Ukraine](#) (TIME for Kids)
- [The US Keeps Turning to Sanctions Despite their Mixed Record](#) (NPR)
- [Do Economic Sanctions Actually Work?](#) (The Week)

Data & Maps

- [Ukraine maps: Tracking Russia's invasion](#) (BBC)
- [6 Maps Explaining the Ukraine-Russian Conflict](#) (CNN)
- [Mapping Russian Attacks Across Ukraine](#) (Al Jazeera)

Literature

- [6 Books to Read for Context on Ukraine](#) (The New York Times)
- [There's a Book for That: Ukraine](#) (Penguin Random House)
- [War and Anti-War](#) (Social Justice Books)

Podcasts

- [The Real and Imagined History of Ukraine](#) (Today, Explained by VOX)
- [TPI Special: The War in Ukraine with Charles A. Kupchan](#) (Council on Foreign Relations)
- ["A Knife to the Throat": Putin's Logic for Invading Ukraine](#) (The Daily)

Videos

- [Ukraine Crisis: Fleeing under the Cover of Darkness](#) (BBC)
- [President Biden Remarks on Russian Invasion of Ukraine](#) (CSPAN)
- [US and EU Impose More Sanctions on Russia](#) (CBS News)
- [Kenya's UN Ambassador on the Russian Invasion of Ukraine](#) (Kenya Citizen TV)
- [Explaining Ukraine to K-5 Students](#)

Websites

- [How do Countries Decide Whether to Go to War?](#) (World 101)
- [Nuclear Proliferation](#) (World 101)
- [History of Ukraine and Russia](#) (Ms. Green Education)