



UKRAINE:

War and Resistance

Fulbright Stories
from the
Unfinished War

March 2022



March 2022



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Cover photo and design by Marian Luniv

European Fulbright Commissions stand in strong solidarity with the people of Ukraine



17:17

The Kyiv TV tower came under attack (preliminary info – it was hit by 2 Russian missile strikes), 5 civilians were killed during the attack, 5 more – wounded. The Kyiv city administration is working to renew the tower's communication.

<https://war.ukraine.ua/news/01-03-2022/>



Statement on Ukraine by Fulbright Commissions in Europe

On behalf of Fulbright Commissions in Europe, we strongly condemn the Russian assault on Ukraine in violation of international law and human rights.

We are working with the US Department of State and local US Embassies, and with governmental partners in our host states, to guarantee the safety and security of alumni and grantees. All Fulbright Commissions in Europe are committed to contributing to this effort.

At this critical juncture in Europe and the international system, we remain deeply committed to the power of the Fulbright Program to open minds, foster dialogue and learning, and sustain mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States and Europe. Together, the Fulbright Commissions

in Europe have supported tens of thousands of grantees, who carry the spirit of transatlantic cooperation and understanding throughout our societies. For 30 years, Fulbright Ukraine has been a valued member of the Fulbright Europe family, contributing significantly to efforts to bring more knowledge, compassion, and reason to the world.

As the courageous people of Ukraine defend their lives and nation, we stand in solidarity with the staff, grantees, and alumni of the Fulbright Program in Ukraine, the people of Ukraine, and others committed to a democratic, free, and peaceful Europe and an international system based on the rule of law.

We encourage the Fulbright community across Europe to support national and international efforts to assist the people of Ukraine.

Hermann Agis, Ph.D., Executive Director, Fulbright Austria
 Erica Lutes, Executive Director, Fulbright Belgium/Luxembourg/Schuman
 Angela Rodel, Executive Director, Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange
 Hana Ripkova, Ph.D., Executive Director, Fulbright Czech Republic
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 Eric Jönsson, Executive Director, Fulbright Sweden
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Anna Taranenko

International Relations
Department of Public Relations, Secretariat
of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine
Fulbright Graduate Student, 2006-2008
University of Illinois, Chicago, IL

This is not a simply russian-Ukrainian war, or, as they claim in russia, "special operation". This is cruel extermination of Ukrainian people. The barbarity and senselessness of the aggression are shocking. Now is day 6 of the war, and it is still hard to come to terms with the new reality. russia launches missiles and airstrikes against civilians in Kharkiv, Sumy, Kherson, Mariupol, and Kyiv. Bomb shelters are targeted as well.

Noteworthy, even under such pressure
Ukrainians do not give up.

This is a gross violation not only of UN Charter, Budapest Memorandum and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty negative security assurances, but simply of humanitarian law.

Belarus provides helps to russia, therefore, it is apparently a regional conflict. russian warships hit Moldovan-flagged and Panamanian-flagged civilian ships in the Black Sea. Nevertheless, despite the horrors of war, I witness everyday courage and unprecedented unity of the Ukrainian people: self-organizing in territorial defense units, helping each other with food and medicine delivery, assisting refugees with transportation and guidance.

Ukrainian people stand strong. We cherish the support of our allies. Because together we are strong and can continue advancing democracy.



Photo credit: **Marian Luniv**
IIE Kyiv Office

March 1, 2022

08:30

Russian missile strikes in Kharkiv: the Karazin Kharkiv National University was hit and caught on fire, Kharkiv regional police department sustained heavy damage. Preliminary reports: 3 people are wounded.

21:30

Kyiv railway station was not damaged by the nearby airstrike and evacuation of citizens by train continues. However, major damage was done to city heating infrastructure, damage and injuries are being assessed.



Don't Underestimate the Ukrainians

<https://www.statecollege.com/dont-underestimate-the-ukrainians/>

Penn State's Ukrainian Society and community members held a rally in support of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

Russell Frank

Journalism

Pennsylvania State University,
University Park, PA

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2012-2013

Lviv Ivan Franko National University, Lviv

As I walked through Ivan Franko Park one fall morning in the beautiful western Ukrainian city of Lviv, a woman tossed a chestnut downhill for her burly German shepherd to fetch. The chestnut gained momentum. So did the dog. The nut rolled toward a young couple posing for

a photograph. The dog, intent on its quarry, took no notice of them. The guy noticed the onrushing dog, though. He leaped to his left. The dog, suddenly aware of this obstacle in its path but unable to stop, swerved to its right. Man and beast collided spectacularly.

The guy fell awkwardly but popped right up. His main concern seemed to be his black leather jacket. No damage.

Woman and dog were now walking down the path toward the guy in the leather jacket. Would she say anything? Would he?

The woman walked right past him. No apology. Not even a glance. The guy said nothing. The next day, I asked my journalism class at Ivan Franko National University to interpret. They were not surprised that the woman did not apologize. Nor were they surprised that the guy did not say to the owner, as I did, when an American dog put its muddy paws on my tan coat a few winters ago, "Hey, you can't just let your dog jump on people!" ("He never does that," came the infuriating reply.)

Why were they not surprised?

Because their lives have been hard, a student named Ira said. She struggled to explain in English. I think she was trying to say that older Ukrainians have been through so much trauma that the petty annoyances of everyday life are scarcely worth noticing.

This is a land that was starved by Stalin, overrun by Hitler, stifled by Soviet repression and in recent years, pillaged by corrupt leaders. And now here's Putin.

The Russian president's delusional reasons for invading his neighbor have me thinking about how dangerous it is to concentrate so much power in one person's hands. If a Hitler, a Stalin, an Idi Amin, a Pol Pot, a Saddam Hussein, etc., takes it into his head to go on a killing spree, there's not much any of his people can do about it.

Maybe the world needs fewer headmen and more governing councils. Sure, committees can be slow and ineffectual, but I'd like to think that if Councilman Putin proposed invading Ukraine, his colleagues would say "terrible idea" and move on to other business.

When people ask me how I feel about what Putin has unleashed, I tell them about the incident in Ivan Franko Park during my semester in Ukraine. Ukrainians, I assure them, are not easily rattled.

With every passing day since Putin's myrmidons poured over the border, the world grows more amazed that Ukraine is holding them off. On paper, the Russians should have scored a first-round knockout. On the ground, the Ukrainians are defending their homeland with a tenacity the invaders cannot match.

"Putin thought it would be a blitzkrieg, over in 24 hours," Michael Naydan told me on Monday. "It's now the fifth day."

Naydan, whose parents emigrated to the U.S. from Ukraine after World War II, is a professor of Ukrainian Studies at Penn State. His life's work, translating Ukrainian literature into English, has taken him to Ukraine dozens of times.

I thought I was obsessed with the news out of Ukraine. I'm limited to what's reported in English. Naydan is tracking the conflict in Ukrainian and Russian, and exchanging texts, calls and emails with his many friends, colleagues and former students who are either girding for the fight or joining the hundreds of thousands of souls, mostly women and children, seeking safety in Poland and Romania.

Naydan told me he's distraught over the events of the past week, but also heartened by the outpouring of support for Ukraine from around the world — including Russia, where to protest is to risk arrest. Even "Saturday Night Live" opened with a Ukrainian choir singing a prayer for their country.

The moral support is important. So is the military hardware. Neither, I fear, is enough. Against all my pacifistic instincts, I want NATO to barge in and teach the bully a lesson, even though such a move could escalate the situation to a terrifying degree.

The hope is that it won't come to that – that Putin's decades of near-absolute power have brought him to that moment all despots get to eventually, when belief in their infallibility and invincibility leads them to overreach and then, self-destruct.

Already, the sanctions are "staggering" the Russian economy, to borrow a word from a New York Times headline on Monday. The Ukrainians just need to hang in there.

Hanging in there is what Ukrainians do best.

Dispatches from Ukraine

<https://agnionline.bu.edu/blog/dispatches-from-ukraine/#hunderova>

Tamara Hundorova

Language and Literature (non-U.S.)
Shevchenko Institute of Literature,
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
Fulbright Visiting Scholar
Columbia University, New York, NY, 1997-1998,
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 2011-2012

March 2, 2022, writing from her escape route
Translated by **Virlana Tkacz**

I am a refugee. It's frightening to even say it. I feel embarrassed and ashamed, like I was made to stand naked in front of others. I never imagined this, not even in my worst nightmare. But here it is. I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown and am thankful I decided to leave. Today at one p.m. we left Kyiv. Right now, we are 200 kilometers away. We are spending the night in a city I've never been to. I am not a tourist. We have no plans. We are simply drifting along like tumbling weeds. Sirens wail here, too. They wail all over Ukraine. Our land is holding its breath, listening, gathering strength. It needs to give birth, but it's forced to carry heavy tanks and military equipment. My thoughts are all with Kyiv.



Citizens of Ivano-Frankivsk are preparing themselves for war. In a couple days, I attended basic military training, a first aid training, and saw hundreds of people bringing supplies for the IDPs arriving from more dangerous places all over Ukraine.

Photo by **Alexey Furman/Getty Images**
Journalism
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Fulbright Graduate Student, 2014-2016
University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO

Forced to Evacuate Ukraine, Nicole Jepeal (CAS'11) Worries about Those Left Behind

<https://www.bu.edu/articles/2022/cas-alum-forced-to-evacuate-ukraine/>

Nicole Jepeal

Health Policy

Independent Health Policy Specialist,
Portland, OR

Fulbright Public Policy Fellow, 2021-2022

Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Kyiv

Fulbright Fellow, now in Poland, says Ukrainians' resistance to the invasion is a product of their history.

JOEL BROWN

Nicole Jepeal (CAS'11) emailed *Bostonia* from Poland last week, offering to share her story of being evacuated from her Fulbright Public Policy Fellowship in Kyiv, Ukraine, ahead of the Russian invasion. *Anything*, she wrote, *to help give a human element to what is happening.*

"The things you are seeing on the news and on Twitter—that sense of humor, the acts of defiance—are just so uniquely Ukrainian," Jepeal says by Zoom on Monday from an internet cafe in Warsaw, where she has been staying in an AirBnB, waiting for the crisis to resolve.

"One of the things that has so endeared Ukraine and its people to me is, in the face of all of this, so many of us would just be cowering in fear," she says. "And the bravery and the commitment they show to building a future they want for their country, their family, their children, is pretty incredible."



The Fulbright Ukraine crew at a Ukrainian Solidarity Demonstration on February 20 in Warsaw's Old Town, just before Russia launched the full-scale invasion. Wyn Pennybacker (from left), Tamara Kozyckyj, Alex Hryhorczuk, Eric Matherly, Evan Lenzen, Michael Sampson, Nicole Jepeal (CAS'11), John Vsetecka, and Larysa Kurylas. Photo courtesy of Nicole Jepeal

Keep in mind, Jepeal says, that the Ukrainian national, ethnic, and cultural identity has been suppressed brutally for many decades, and the people fought for so long to be able to forge an independent nation. "It is such a deeply held principle for most Ukrainians I know, they hold that sense of pride in their identity because they haven't been allowed to freely express it for so long," she says. "To be in a country of pure potential, where everything is moving upwards, is really invigorating and inspiring."

Jepeal is safe in Warsaw for now, has an American passport and money in the bank, so she is better off than many. But the stress of weeks of dislocation, uncertainty, and worrying about her Ukrainian friends shows in her face and voice.

"I don't think anyone is good right now," she says. "I'm not Ukrainian, and I'm not in Ukraine watching my country be bombed and invaded. I left before major fighting broke out, the fighting was not where I was at, I didn't have to make a run for the border. So what I experienced is only a fraction of what people are experiencing."

"But we're all worried about friends or family who are in Ukraine, worried about the people we know who are in territorial defense units. I have a lot of friends who are doctors, who are now doing military medicine in war zones. Warsaw is a good city, but I can tell you I haven't slept more than a three-hour chunk since we learned Putin was signing the order of war. We are all exhausted, worried and fearful for Ukraine and the people that we love."

Taking her public health skills to Kyiv

Jepeal grew up in Billerica, Mass., and studied biology and anthropology at BU. Postgrad work as an Americorps member got her into the public health field. She went on to earn a master's in public health from Emory University before landing a job with a nonprofit Medicaid health firm in Oregon, leading a team of 10 working on implementing healthcare reform measures.

Her long-held dream of living abroad while still working in the field came true in 2020 when she was named a Fulbright Public Policy Fellow,

earning a stipend while helping Ukraine's health ministry reform from its old, Soviet-style system to something that more resembles the United Kingdom's National Health Service. Her posting was delayed repeatedly by concerns about COVID, until she finally got the green light last fall. "I think I quit my job three times before I finally left," she says.

Jepeal arrived in Ukraine in October in a cohort of a dozen fellows. "My concerns centered around what's going to happen with the pandemic," she says. "Ukraine had a very low vaccination rate, and we arrived in the middle of their Delta surge, wondering how that's going to go. I never in a million years thought I was going to have to leave because of war."

They began hearing about an escalation in the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia sometime in December. But Russia's invasion of Crimea in 2014 and subsequent support for rebels in two eastern breakaway regions in the years since made it just background noise for most Ukrainians. "They've had a lot of these little moments of escalation, so that for them is pretty routine," she says.

In mid-January, though, the threat grew more serious, and the local Fulbright team—an American leader and several Ukrainian staffers—told the fellows that they had better be making evacuation plans. "It was pretty disconcerting," Jepeal says, but the Ukrainian attitude was still pretty blasé: "nothing's going to happen, we're fine."

So she accepted an invitation to join a couple of the other fellows on a weekend trip to Krakow, the weekend of January 22 and 23.

"I remember sitting in a restaurant on Saturday night eating dinner, and we started getting all these notifications and getting messages from family back in the US," she says. Rumors that the US Embassy in Ukraine was sending families and nonessential staff home turned out to be true. Fulbright was considering its options, which could include an abrupt end to their year in Ukraine. "We would find out our fate on Monday, and we were just sitting there in utter shock."

They rushed back to Kyiv the next morning, and by Monday were told that they would be evacuated to Poland on Thursday. They booked flights, informed their landlords, and started packing. The Fulbright program provided plane tickets and a few nights in a hotel when they arrived in Warsaw.

Their temporary status in Poland means they can't rent apartments, only AirBnBs for a limited time. On Monday, Jepeal had to leave one such dwelling and was planning to move in with friends. But they had to suddenly take in their cousins' two teenage children from Ukraine. The teens' parents—both doctors—were staying in the country to treat the wounded. So Jepeal wound up crashing with a friend, planning to rent another AirBnB the next day.

While the Fulbright stipend was more than enough to live normally in Ukraine, she says, she and others have dipped into savings to fund their stay in Poland.

Doing what they can to help

Jepeal says she and the other fellows think constantly of those still in Ukraine. "My people are most likely to be doing military medicine rather than joining the fighting, but we have two Fulbright staff who have joined a territorial defense group in Kyiv, so we are all thinking about them every night."

None of her other Ukrainian friends have left the country. Most have hunkered down in smaller cities or villages where their families are from. "It's a little bit of a delicate situation to navigate. You don't want to be constantly pestering people with questions like, How are you? Are you safe? Because people are not OK and they're not safe, and so we're really trying to balance checking in on people and making sure they know we're thinking about them, but not pestering them with questions."

She and the other fellows have been attending near-daily protests in Warsaw, often starting outside the Russian Embassy. "I live in Portland [Oregon], so it's in our blood," she says with a smile. They've been helping Ukrainians facing difficult travel and days-long waits at the Polish border, sometimes just by sharing information, other times providing rides and other material help. They help gather and pack relief supplies—clothes, food, batteries—for Ukraine.

"We all feel this intense obligation—I don't mean in a bad way, I mean it in all the good ways—to do what we can for them," Jepeal says. "We all made a commitment to Ukraine by coming. This isn't what we thought our grants would be, but leaving feels like an abandonment, and as long as we can do some good here, I want to stay."



Yevheniia Haidamaka

Arts

National Technical University of Ukraine

"Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"

Fulbright Graduate Student, 2015-2017

Savannah College of Art and Design,
Savannah, GA

Today I'm writing about the truth. Yes, there are people who support us in Russia. Yes, you can feel "bad" for a young soldier who "didn't know where he was going". But the young, naive soldier might have been confused Day 1. Maybe Day 2. But please don't tell me by Day 7 they have no idea

they are killing civilians. Tell this to my friends in Kharkiv, where the city center has been destroyed by a direct missile attack. Tell this to the families of 16 children that are now dead. What do they want, our Russian "brothers"? Maybe to "protect" the Russian-speaking population of Kharkiv by making them IDP or by destroying their homes with one fat missile strike? Amazing brotherhood, 10/10!

Russians are afraid to protest. They go out, clap a little and sing "no to war". Roses are red, violets are blue. They are 145 (!) million people, who since 1991 were not able to overthrow one person. ONE. Starting March 1, Russian children will be taught how to justify the invasion of Ukraine. A new generation of "poor, confused, misinformed". Don't feel bad for adult, educated people. They have internet. They have VPN. They know English. They have studied abroad. Many have friends and families in Ukraine. Just give us a call!

Truth is painful and requires admitting that things you pretend don't happen, in fact happen, and are terrifying. You either feel bad for the nation that whines over Spotify being down, or let them learn their lessons. They form really loooooong lines near the ATMs, not so much on the red square.

I'm not writing this in Russian because I have abandoned my hopes to be heard. I focus on productive things instead. I am spreading the information about ways to help Ukraine. I am donating money. I am drawing and texting with people who offer help. I am checking on my loved ones. I am eating the cookies my students made me to stay sane. You do the same. Support Ukraine. Thank you!

09:10

In the waters of the Black Sea there is a movement of the landing detachment of the Russian Federation consisting of four large landing ships and three missile boats in the direction of Odesa, according to the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces' report. According to the military, naval groups of Russian sailors continue to fire on civilian ships and capture sailors.



Yakiv Tsvetinskiy

Music

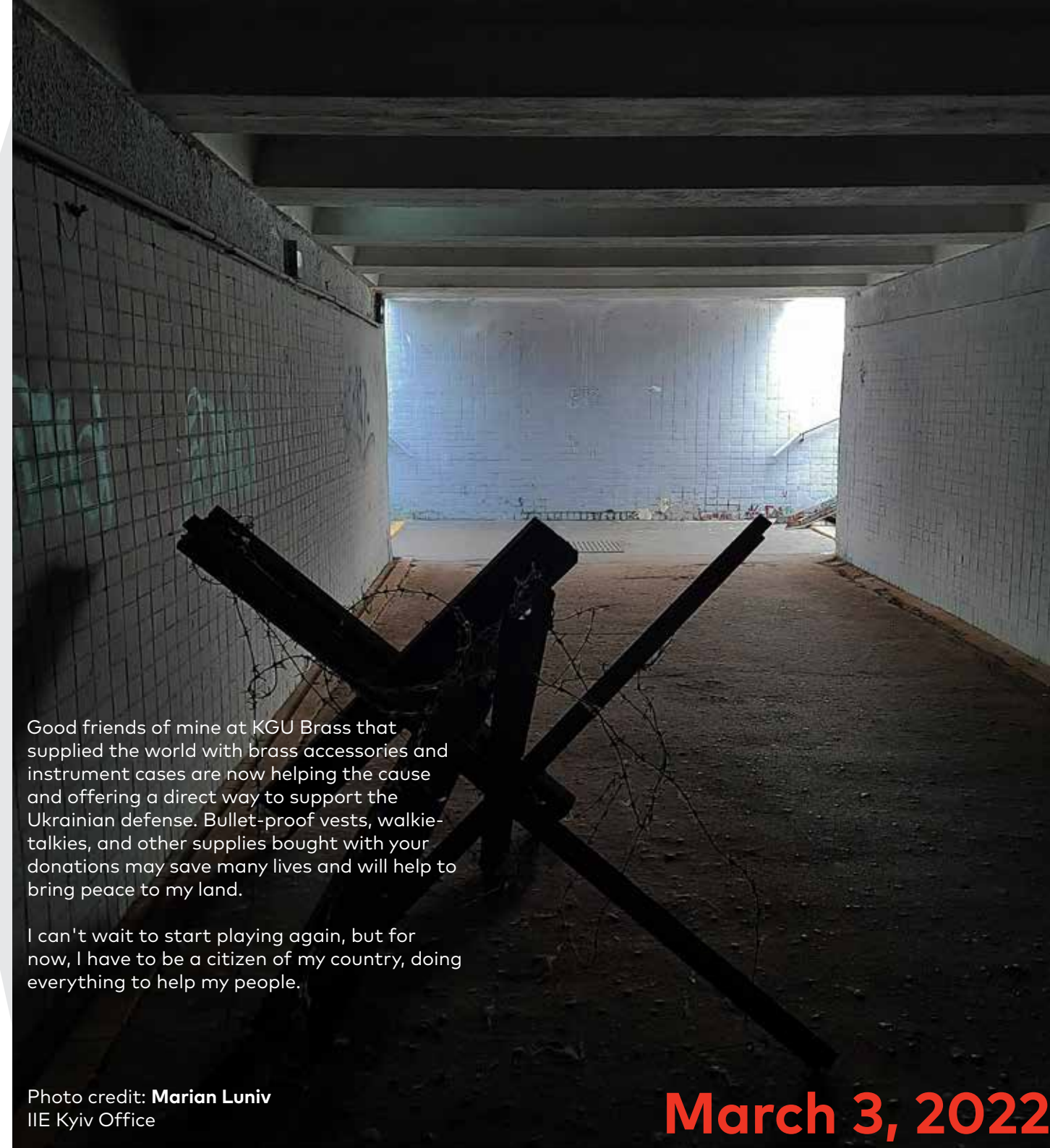
Mykhailo Glinka Dnipropetrovsk Music Academy, Dnipro

Fulbright Graduate Student, 2016-2018

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=7052985281439086&set=a.817666071637736>

My dear international musician-friends,
As you probably know, Ukrainian musicians and artists put their "careers" aside to work on a single goal. For the last week, my trumpet remains in the case, waiting for peaceful times. It feels natural to care about more important things now.



Good friends of mine at KGU Brass that supplied the world with brass accessories and instrument cases are now helping the cause and offering a direct way to support the Ukrainian defense. Bullet-proof vests, walkie-talkies, and other supplies bought with your donations may save many lives and will help to bring peace to my land.

I can't wait to start playing again, but for now, I have to be a citizen of my country, doing everything to help my people.

Photo credit: **Marian Luniv**
IIE Kyiv Office

March 3, 2022

08:24

The platform of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station is seized by the Russian military forces, as reported by the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine. The operational staff controls the state of the nuclear blocks and provides their service according to the requirements of the technological regulations for the safe service.

15:05

U.S. Embassy in Ukraine: "It is a war crime to attack a nuclear power plant. Putin's shelling of Europe's largest nuclear plant takes his reign of terror one step further."

Russia-Ukraine War: Ukrainian students at Arizona State University worry about their homeland amid invasion

<https://www.fox10phoenix.com/news/russia-ukraine-war-ukrainian-students-at-arizona-state-university-worry-about-their-homeland-amid-invasion>

Olena Tanchyk

Education

Mariupol State University

Fulbright Research and Development Fellow, 2021-2022

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

"There are bombings and missiles, and Russians attack from all over the place," said Olena Tanchyk. "A lot of people are in bomb shelters, without water, electricity."

Tanchyk said she has not heard from her in-laws in days, and her last call with her parents in Mariupol was interrupted by sirens.

"You can't even imagine that. They don't want anybody to imagine that," said Tanchyk. "To feel that and experience that when you're talking to your parents, and the next second, you drop the phone call, you can hear the siren and they say we have to run."

"We want this war to be over, so that our people and our land stay Ukraine—that is important for us—and make sure that every Ukrainian fight until the end, and we will not surrender," said Tanchyk. "We will not give up."



Natalie Goshylyk

Linguistics

Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, Ivano-Frankivsk

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2021-2022

University of California, Berkeley, CA

I participated in a panel discussion with California State Congressman John Garamendi. The most urgent issue in the discussion with the Congressman was the request to close the sky and provide more weapons.

I got lots of questions about information and media. Some people continue to find excuses for the Russians' inactivity, because they, poor things, are zombied by television and propaganda and they have no alternative sources of information. Being zombified by one state channel is also a choice. There were opposition media in Russia, Russians saw with their own eyes the murders of Politkovskaya and Nemtsov and could draw some conclusions, but they chose to think "this is all politics, I don't interfere" or "I support my President, let him think".

11:02

Russian occupiers have blown up railroad tracks in Irpin city (Kyiv region), disrupting the evacuation of women, children and elderly. Local authorities are rerouting to alternative evacuation routes.

– Parliament of Ukraine

**З міста, що ракетами розтрощене,
До усього світу прокричу:
Цього року у Неділю Прощену
Я, здається, не усіх прощу!**

**Світе- світе, гарно ж ти нас кинув!
Та у пеклі цих страждань- терпінь
Все ж стоїть золотoverхий Київ,
Буча, і Гостомель, і Ірпінь.**

**Ми усе здолаємо і вистоїм!
Потім ще і рештки приберем
Тих усіх, котрі були тут прислані
Вузькооким лисим упирем.**

**З вами й я і вистою, й вцілію,
Як у землю рідну міцно впрусь.**

**Я ніколи не прощу Росію.
...Чом відводиш очі, Білорусь?**

Hate for Putin's Russia Consumes Ukraine

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/07/world/europe/ukraine-putin-hate.html>

Oleksandr Irvanets

Poet

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2005-2006

La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA

Mr. Irvanets, the poet who sent his bitter composition to friends over the weekend, wrote that he had composed the lines in "a city shattered by missiles," and he referenced the upcoming holiday on Sunday. But by Forgiveness Sunday, his fans were writing on social media that he had not been in contact and they were concerned that something had happened to him. "I will never forgive Russia," the poet wrote.

From a city shattered by missiles,
I will shout to the whole world:
This year on Forgiveness Sunday
I don't seem to forgive everyone!

World-world, you threw us to hell!
But in the hell of this suffering-patience
Still stands the golden-domed Kyiv,
Bucha, and Gostomel, and Irpin.

We will overcome everything and endure!
Then we will remove the remains
All those who were sent here
Narrow-eyed bald ghoul.

With you I will survive,
When I abut to my native land.

I will never forgive russia.
... Why do you turn away your eyes, Belarus?

Andrew Lensky translate



Photo credit: **Marian Luniv**
IIE Kyiv Office

March 5, 2022

Fulbright scholar to Ukraine's texts from hell

<https://nypost.com/2022/03/05/fulbright-scholars-texts-from-hell/>

Michael Sampson

Education/Literacy Acquisition
St. John's University, New York, NY
Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2021-2022
Oles Honchar Dnipro National University,
Dnipro

Michael Sampson, an American Fulbright Scholar to Ukraine, best-selling children's author and a professor of literacy at St. John's University, was able to escape the war-torn country to Poland. But here he shares harrowing tales from friends who haven't been so lucky.

It's five minutes past midnight. I'm at the Ukrainian/Poland border crossing. Lviv is 71 miles to the south. As I'm waiting for a friend and her family to cross the border to safety, I see thousands of refugees crossing into Ukraine. An estimated 1 million refugees have fled Ukraine, with more than 500,000 entering Poland. This cold morning at the border crossing, I can't help but reflect on how we got to this moment. I'll always remember the email from the Institute of International Education, congratulating me on being named a Fulbright Scholar to Ukraine. It was one of the happiest days in my life. Little did I know that my Fulbright experience would be extraordinary, but for the wrong reasons.

In January, as we were launching our spring semester, the State Department started warning U.S. citizens to leave Ukraine. On Jan. 24 we were notified that we were being

relocated to Poland and then one month later, on Feb. 24, Russia invaded.

This text from my friend Pavel, still in Ukraine, captures the horror of what the nation is going through:
"We are staying alive surrounded by RU forces. We are 263 km from the capital. Driving is a big risk. We try to survive, some roads are mined and check points with armed Russian men.

Inside our house, it is so loud with constant bombardment and shelling. We are very much scared. When we go out, we have to be careful as some people are secret agents dressed as civilians but act to destroy and take humans lives.

You asked if we are hungry. So far we have something to eat but I am about to go buy some food from locals farmer. I will be very careful. There are some cases of Russians attacking civilian houses and cars ... Each new day comes with escalation of conflict. A few days before In Zaporizhzhia, Russian tanks were hitting the nuclear power plant that is 6 times more powerful



Pavel with his wife Nataliia, and his cat, Vovchyk, sheltering in place.

than Chornobyl. ... In case of any explosions it can cost millions of human lives. The whole world gotta stop it, if not, it will bring more and more civilian and military casualties not only for Ukraine but the whole of Europe. Why in 21st century people should suffer or lose their lives?

We are indoors at night and don't use any lights inside because of the aviation threat.

If any alarm sounds we go underground to the cellar where we keep our food.

We are with a Christian congregation here in this area. We are supporting each other! Michael, your goodness and love and prayers comfort all of use every day. Plz be in touch. Our family always neutral, not participating in politics, because we put our trust and hope in God. But all this evil makes us under huge stress and frustration ... No sleep, can't eat, threats everywhere.

I hope to see you again someday, my dear friend."

Kristina, a teacher I had worked with on a literacy project, texts me almost every day from a shelter in Kyiv, sharing her observations and worsening fears:

Monday: *"We have a military curfew and we sit in our homes and in shelters at night. My card ran out of money and exchange currency does not work. ... We did not realize you need to stock up on products for several weeks. We do not have enough food."*

Tuesday: *"There has been an attack on our communication system and we have no working television and very limited internet. The Russians broke a television tower in the city of Kyiv. Russians don't want us to know what is happening. ... This is an information war and Russia is winning."*

Wednesday: *"The Russians bombed Babyn Yar, which is the burial place of millions of Jews since the Second World War. It is blasphemy over a Holy Place. In Zhytomyr near Kyiv they bombed a maternity hospital. They are without shame."*
Friday: *"I'm so scared. Constantly something explodes every minute. We never have a break from bombs and have no peace. A week has passed, and it never lets up. How long can we endure this?"*

When at last, I see my friend safely cross the border with her spouse and 6-year-old daughter, they have endured 38 hours in line. After hugs and happy tears, we begin the four-hour drive to Warsaw. I ask, "Why didn't you leave before the war started?" She shares that her spouse is Ukrainian and did not want to abandon Ukraine. They did not think Russia would actually invade, but when the air raids started, they decided to leave for the sake of their young daughter. It has been "like two days in hell," with tanks sharing the highway and the explosive sounds of bombs nearby as they drove to safety.

I continue to worry about the children, teachers and friends I left behind. The Russian dictator has stolen the home from Ukrainian children. Those children are now living in subways, terrorized at the sounds of exploding bombs. They're missing their fathers, who are above ground trying to defend their homes from Putin's troops and the atrocities of war. We just received a warning to not go within 20 miles of the border by Fulbright, saying it is not safe. But of course, I will continue to go. I have three more parties coming in and I want to get them to safety.

13:17

34 hospitals were hit or damaged by Russian fire so far. Some buildings have been destroyed completely, others are cut off from water, heating or electricity. Many hospitals will not be able to operate at all. This is brutal aggression against civilians and a violation of the Geneva Convention.

– Ukrainian Minister of Health



Marla Raucher Osborn
Arts & Heritage
Rohatyn Jewish Heritage, Lviv, Ukraine
Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2019-2020
Center for Urban History of East Central
Europe, Lviv

March 6, 2022

00:01

211 Ukrainian schools have been destroyed or damaged as a result of the Russian military invasion. Source: Minister of Education and Science Serhii Shkarlet.

10:40

Kharkiv

Volodymyr Matsokin, deputy mayor: "The destruction of our city is the most sweeping since the World War II times. The city centre is virtually wiped out. Schools and hospitals are damaged. There is no electricity, gas, heating. No food. People are staying in the shelters for the 2nd day in a row".

12:23

The residential buildings and civil population are being shelled in the towns of Irpin, Makariv, Bucha (Kyiv region). The occupants are blocking all evacuation efforts. Many villages/towns are in a state of humanitarian disaster.

– Head of the Kyiv regional state administration



War Notes (the First Month of War)

<https://uamoderna.com/shafka-dok/war-notes-the-first-month-of-war>

Julia Buyskykh

Anthropology

Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies,
Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2019-2020

The Pennsylvania State University,
University Park, PA

Today is my third day in Khmelnytskyi, which is approximately 350 km from Kyiv. I couldn't sleep my first night here because of the silence: no air alerts, no sounds of bombing, flying airplanes, air defense systems (PPO). I was listening to that silence, and I had a sense that there are air alerts, but nobody hears them, only me. On Saturday morning my host family sliced a piece of bread for breakfast. They even had three types of bread. And I felt tears in my eyes. There was no bread in our area of Kyiv since 24 February. I don't eat bread in my casual life because of the attempts of keeping fit. But in terms of war all my ancestors' experiences who went through WW I, Stalin repressions of the 1930-s, Famine, WW II, and its aftermaths became alive in me. I would never expect this from myself, but the absence of bread in the shops and in our kitchen made me feel anxious. So, when I saw three types of bread for a breakfast, I wanted to taste them all, my eyes turned wet, and was so unbearably thankful.

During the last three days, there were a number of air raid alerts in Khmelnytskyi. There were the attempts of Russians to bomb Starokostiantyniv airport which is a military airbase 47 kilometers

from Khmelnytskyi. My host family is very much afraid of them. They hide in a bathroom every time and take me with them. Today we've even had dinner in a bathroom. I don't hide when I am alone at home. My mother and I were not hiding in Kyiv as well. We've got used to the air alerts and to the explosions to that extent, that it has become the everyday, the casualty. Yesterday Russians bombed the airport in Vinnytsia, nearly 100 kilometers from Khmelnytskyi. The air alert alarms were heard almost all day long. We were outside with one of my friends when the air alerts started to wail. She was terrified and pushed me to go to the nearest basement under a Soviet apartment building. There were people already, one woman with a little dachshund dog, the other with a newborn baby. We were sitting there almost for an hour. One man, who shared the space with us, turned out to be from Kyiv, also from the left bank, as my mom and me. He was taking his family to the relatives in Khmelnytskyi on 28 February, and this journey took them almost 30 hours because of checkpoints everywhere. He had to free their parrot and let him fly in the window. They couldn't take the bird with them. He tells me this, and I see tears in his eyes. "I am a man, I shouldn't cry because of a parrot, it's ridiculous", he says. "But I wonder if our Yasha will be okay. It is still winter. Will he adjust? I hate this war..." After an hour of sitting in a basement without any fresh air, with many anxious, terrified, and angry people, I felt nausea and went out outside. No way I will go to any basement under any circumstances. For me, all these air alerts in Khmelnytskyi mean almost silence, almost quietness. Life here is also different. More shops are opened mostly groceries. More pharmacies are opened, and there are no long queues for them. Here I was able to buy a hormonal cure

for my thyroid gland, which I have to consume daily. It was absent in Kyiv's pharmacies in our neighborhood.

We've been reading the news anxiously. The Russian army is murdering civilians in Ukraine. Women were raped by Russian soldiers in Hostomel. Russian soldiers are doing now the same crimes that the Red Army did in Western Pomerania, Poland, and in Germany at the end of WW II. Volunteers were killed in Hostomel and the other volunteers were shot on the road to Irpin, destroyed by Russians. The XIX century Orthodox church in village Vjazivka in Zhytomyrska oblast was destroyed by Russians. The other church in village Bobryk, near Brovary in Kyivska oblast, was ruined. One more Orthodox church in Malyn, Zhytomyrska oblast was destroyed as well. The Russian navy is bombarding Odesa from the sea. Russian artillery is shooting Mykolaiv, damaging intentionally the living areas. In Zaporizhska oblast Russian soldiers shoot the automobile with two workers of Ukrposhta, who were trying to transfer letters and pensions to people. Russians shoot Kyiv children's hospital again and again, and children with cancer have to be cured in the underground. Russians bombed a large-scale bakery in Makariv, Kyivska oblast and by this killed 13 civilians. More than 1000 have already been perished. There are nearly 400 children among them.

Khmelnyskyi has become a transit spot for thousands of IDP-s from Northern, Southern, and Eastern Ukraine. Khmelnyskyi is in between Kyiv and Central regions, and Western Ukraine. The latest night 32 evacuation trains came to Khmelnyskyi and went further to L'viv, Ternopil', Kamjanets'-Podil'skyi. Some people decided to stay here for a short rest or wait for relatives and friends who can host them for a while, or just jumped from an evacuation coach into the unknown, hoping for Lords' mercy and the other people's kindness. I have been visiting Khmelnyskyi once or twice per year since 2008 when my university friend died because of an accident. We were very close friends, and his parents, my current host family, became very dear to me. I know Khmelnyskyi quite well, and its railway station has always been nice, small, and almost empty unlike the huge Central railway station in Kyiv. Today I witnessed there hundreds of people sitting, staying, lying, trying to have a short nap in between trains. Dozens of volunteers came in and out, helping the IDP-s, bringing food and water supplies, clothes, blankets, heaters, toys for children. Dozens of people who want to host IDP-s, offering their accommodation. Several doctors are monitoring people at the station, offering their help. Dozens of local women are helping their female sisters to overcome what they are going through because of war. Ukrainian women also fight in this war in their own way: not only being in the army, not only cursing Russian soldiers, or giving them sunflower seeds to grow through their dead bodies on Ukrainian soil. I think that the most important fight we, as women, are holding here, is HEALING. We have the power to heal wounds: we support, we hug, we cook, we cradle our sisters' children saying the banalest but so important phrases: "I am here for you.

You can cry, it's okay. It will end. Everything will be okay". My friend's mother and I baked little pies with mushrooms and potatoes and brought them to a railway station. A train from Kharkiv is expected soon. Perhaps, some Kharkiv's residents may taste them. I have put a lot of love into my baking.

I didn't cry in Kyiv. No single day. My body was so petrified, that I couldn't cry, despite what I wanted. Here I cry a little bit. Every day. First, when I saw three types of bread on a kitchen table. Second, when I saw an opened café where people in the middle of the day were sitting and just drinking coffee. This is something that hasn't been seen in Kyiv since 24 February. Third, when I came today to the railway station with my pies and saw all these incredible women hugging, encouraging, and helping the other women, who were forced to leave their home nest, saving their children. We will go through the war. Despite this unbearable trauma in its three dimensions: collective, communal, and individual.

My mother seems to feel better without me in Kyiv. No more tears from her, no more anxiety. She is concerned about her institution and its preservation. Our cat is also fine, thank you for asking. I miss them both tremendously. But I am glad that my mother is having relief, knowing that for now, I am relatively far from bombing and shooting.

Photo credit: **Marian Luniv**
IIE Kyiv Office

10:30

MFA of Ukraine: A humanitarian corridor to evacuate civilians, including foreign students, from Sumy to Poltava has been agreed today. We call on Russia to uphold its ceasefire commitment, to refrain from activities that endanger the lives of people and to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid. We call on Russia to agree on other humanitarian corridors in Ukraine.

Viktoriia Ivanenko

Language and Literature (non-U.S.)
Kyiv National Linguistic University
**Fulbright Research and
Development Fellow, 2008-2009**
Clark University, Worcester, MA

This week I have learned that the week consists of 168 hours. I remember up to every half an hour what I have been doing. I was lying under the shelling, spent a night in a bomb shelter, delivered food, distributed medicine, coordinated some actions, threw up from fear (or disgust?), slept on the floor in the corridor, searched for people.

The most important thing though is that I lived next to the legend. We watched the movies and read the books about this kind of heroes. However, anyone who is staying here, in the heart of Europe, right now knows that those fictional heroes are nothing else but a bleak background to the real courage, spirit, and strength of the mythological titans such as our Armed Forces, you, me, the neighbor Ms Natalya, the mechanic Mr Misha, Sashko, the student, the saleswoman Nadiia, the retired couple Vadym and Olena. I've been living an epos. The LEGEND.

Glory to Ukraine,
glory to Ukrainian Armed Forces,
glory to my people!



Dear Sir/Madam:

I am contacting you from the Spanish Fulbright Alumni Association 'Asociación J. W. Fulbright'. We are trying to contact you in order to see how we can help with the current situation in Ukraine.

Is there anything you need for your (former) grantees or anybody else you are in touch with? We are aware of the fact that you may be receiving some help regarding food, clothing and medical-aid material, but we'd like to know if there's anything we can do from our end that may be truly useful to you.

Just want to help in an organized way.
Thanks to you for resisting!

Esther Gimeno-Miro

President of the Spanish Fulbright Alumni Association's Catalan Chapter
since February 2022.





Ukraine War. Displaced

Emine Ziyatdinova

Arts

Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

Fulbright Graduate Student, 2010-2013

Ohio University, Athens, OH

This is my old friend and roommate from university days Alina with her daughter Edlin. I know her since 2004, she was one of the first friends I made in Lviv when I arrived to study from Crimea. Now she is displaced in Poland.

"We are looking for a car, for someone to pick up 25 boxes to drive to Lutsk. What are in the boxes? Diapers, formula, clothes for labor for perinatal center. Our husbands would meet you over there", – Alina constantly on phone calls trying to arrange logistics for help they gathered. She says she is uncomfortable to gather money for weapons, because weapons are for killing.

She signs and says that it is a war and weapons are needed as well. You cannot be neutral in situation when someone is bombing the kids. She herself fled Ukraine on the 5th day of Russian invasion. "This is not normal when your 10 y o child is texting to her friend in Kyiv asking if he is alive". They are staying with her sister and mother, who have been working in Poland for years now.

Alina is startled by my question if Edlin would go to school in Poland. "I do not know... We packed to come here for a week till bombing stops".

Since Russian full-scale invasion on February 24th about 1.37 million people have fled Ukraine into neighboring countries according to UNHCR.

March 8, 2022

09:26

The loss of connection of the occupied Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant with the monitoring systems of the International Atomic Agency is a dangerous situation threatening the nuclear safety in Europe.
– Office of the President of Ukraine

Olena Tanchyk

Education

Mariupol State University

Fulbright Research and Development Fellow, 2021-2022

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

MARIUPOL WANTS TO LIVE!

What is happening now in the city is genocide against civilians.

Mariupol has been WITHOUT water, WITHOUT light, WITHOUT heat, WITHOUT communication for a week so far! The city is complete isolated. Mariupol is blockaded all around which makes it impossible for our relatives and friends to leave the place. Just think: the city accounts for 400,000 people.

Let people LIVE!

How many more civilians must die for us to finally be heard? Close the Ukrainian sky! Friends, please, repost the message; people MUST NOT die!!!



Volodymyr Dubovyk

International Relations

Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University

Fulbright Visiting Scholar

Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson

International Center for Scholars,

Washington, DC, 2006-2007;

St. Edwards University, Austin, TX, 2016-2017

Ukrainians are learning to live in a war time. Sirens are wailing, missiles and shells falling on numerous cities already. From earlier attacks targeting military objects, Russian troops have switched to what might be called "Grozny" or "Aleppo" style: meaning bombing civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, residential buildings. Aim is clear: break the will of the people, strangle resistance.

But the opposite is happening: people are incensed and mobilized. They are incensed even in the areas that were considered sort of pro-Russian. It is hard to keep any sympathy for the country which is throwing its deadly load on you. They are mobilized to contribute to the resistance. The pre-war hashtag "Ukraine will resist" is now being the modus operandi. The scale of resilience is stunning. Social services, banks, hospitals, pharmacies, post offices are open. Emergency medical teams arrive to help those in need, often doing this under fire. Firemen do their job. Public officials show up to work. No one is willing to give up. If enemy hoped for the society to fall apart, the opposite is happening – it is coming together.

09:12

The bombing of the maternity hospital and the children's hospital in Mariupol killed three people, including one child, a girl. 17 people were injured: women, children and doctors, according to the Mariupol City Council.

14:17

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov confirmed that the bombing of the hospital and maternity hospital in Mariupol was a purposeful decision of the Russian army. The Russian Federation, according to him, considers this maternity hospital a military base.

Олександр Ірванець

З півночі онде орда проривається
І для цивільних нема укриття.
Брід-перебрід через річку в Романівці,
Наша дорога від смерті в життя.

Київ стоїть! Київ міцно тримається.
І наче ниточка світла в імлі –
Людський потік через річку в Романівці:
Сунуть дорослі, старі і малі.

Їм у взуття вода наливається.
Пси і коти скавучать і нявчать.
Брід-перебрід через річку в Романівці –
Брама із пекла, де душі ячать!

Будь вони прокляті, всі бусурмани ці
З фюрером лисим мерзенним своїм!
Я, перейшовши брід у Романівці,
Все пам'ятаю, про все розповім!..



Question of Russian Guilt

<https://chytomo.com/en/question-of-russian-guilt/>

Oleksandr Irvanets

Poet

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2005-2006

La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA

Canons are still firing outside my window, albeit in the distance. Meanwhile, I've brewed myself some strong tea (Oksana has gotten hold of the last few boxes back on the 24th) and ponder over Karl Jaspers and his "Question of German Guilt".

Jaspers wrote this work in 1946 in Germany, an already defeated, occupied, crused and humiliated, but not yet denazified Germany; while the wounds were still fresh, so to speak. In this book of his, the German philosopher classifies guilt into 4 categories: criminal, political, moral and metaphysical. He then suggests the subjects of judgment to be court, victor, conscience and God, respectively. Jaspers guilts are also differentiated by where they come from, that is, from the outside or from the inside. The external judgment is what takes place in the first two cases; but as for the conscience and God, the picture gets a bit more complex here. Forcing one to repent, demanding repentance of a person, is clearly pointless. Pressure won't change anyone's beliefs. One has to independently reach a true understanding of one's guilt. An open and deep apprehension it should be of how wrong was their previous position, accompanied by tears of shame and remorse for what's been done, with bitter sleepless nights and spiritual torment.

According to the researchers of his heritage, it is in this book that Jaspers created the theoretical ground for the denazification of Germany. Here, two times have I used the word already — 'denazification'. Putin has also referred to a denazification, speaking about why he attacked Ukraine: apparently the invasion has been launched «to demilitarize and denazify» our country. It seems that both those processes should be applied to Russian Federation itself following our victory, but how do we implement that?

The war is underway, and I understand — victory is not yet in sight, however strongly I might wish for Good to prevail already, with Ukraine and all of us fighting on the side of Good. But what next? Will we let the enemy crawl back quietly to Rostov and Bilgorod, and celebrate his exile without crossing the border? Or shall we drive the bloody butcher as far as Moscow, and then over the Ural Mountains, over Lake Baikal and further still, to eventually throw him into the ocean? I doubt it. Ukraine won't be able to carry out such a quest on her own, and creating a military anti Putin coalition is not a likely prospect. But then, how do we get the people of Russian Federation (over 100 million of people, that is) to achieve sincere repentance and realization of how wrong they were?

I'm reading loads of Russian public opinion now — the whole Kasparov-Bykov-Khodorkovsky-Shenderovich bunch — and in their liberal, sincerely pacifist texts I catch now and then a slight and well camouflaged reality denial, dissent with how the events unroll. "It's important that Ukraine doesn't fall into conceit!" — Dmitry Bykov warns us on the

pages of "Novaya Gazeta" from March 1st — I'm not saying that Ukraine is future, I'm saying, that Ukraine holds the leadership..." A net of words devoid of meaning, as it is, not unlike the product of a sick stomach, or a sick brain. No new Jaspers is yet in sight in Russia to bring some order into the minds of those, who, as a part of the giant conglomerate of almost totally suppressed peoples, are collectively called "Russian".

In the second half of the forties, the citizens of the fallen Reich were forced by American administration, as part of the denazification process, to dig up the unnamed collective graves by the concentration camps and jails, sort the remnants, try to identify the dead and then bury them with dignity, according to the religious rituals. It must have really helped to sober one great European nation, I suspect; helped them to realize the measure of their guilt, helped them cleanse their souls through repentance. However, I don't think the Germans did this somber work gladly, there was surely no fun in such passtime.

So how can one sober the Russians of today, and not the Moscow or Saint-Petersburg Russians, among whom the 'educated liberals' constitute a huge share, but Russians all over the place, living in all those Kalugas, Tvers, Omsks, Tomsk and suchlike towns? How to persuade them, that their whole great country is deeply, inherently maleficent? Who will take it upon himself to bear this heavy and thankless mission in this country, the biggest one in the world (by territory)?

Someone on Facebook has suggested one of these days, that we do not give up Russian captives to their mothers, do not send them home by organized groups through Red Cross. Instead, let the mothers pick up their sons in Ukraine, in person. Let them travel through Chernihiv, Sumy and Okhtyrka. Let them see the ruins of the Kharkiv central square, the detritus in the densely populated districts of Kherson. Let them witness the traces of shelling on the buildings in Irpin and Bucha. Let them look at the shot-through walls of schools and orphanages, at the shell-holes on the roads and in the fields along the roads. All of that are the horrific consequences of their sons' deeds.

It would be an effective method, I suppose, but would it suffice? Would it be enough to sincerely realize the inhuman and essence of the Putin's Russia, which during the last two decades has turned into an abominable beast, which, no more than a week ago, looked arrogantly upon the frightened world, scratching the ulcer of so-called greatness in its own mind?

Where is the new Leo Tolstoy, who would tell Russians the cruel and bitter truth? Hey there! Where are you!

Silence...



Kyrylo Lysov, 22, kisses his girlfriend Yelyzaveta Sokolova, 20, before she boards a train to Poland and he stays to join the Ukrainian army. March 10, 2022, Lviv, Ukraine.

Photo by **Brendan Hoffman**
Photojournalism
Freelance Photographer, DC
Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2018-2019
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

A Tumultuous History, Cast in Stone and Bronze

<https://today.umd.edu/a-tumultuous-history-cast-in-stone-and-bronze>

Larysa Kurylas

Architecture

The Kurylas Studio, Washington, DC

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2021-2022

Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance,
Kyiv

For days, architect Larysa Kurylas '80 had weighed her safety working in Kyiv against the advice of her American ex-pat and Ukrainian friends who were skeptical of a Russian advance on the capital.

But in the early hours of Feb. 11, unable to sleep in her apartment, she tuned into "PBS NewsHour" and learned of the rising possibility of President Vladimir Putin ordering an invasion. Within hours, she had a train ticket to Lviv—40 kilometers from the Polish border—the fate of her parents' home country, many friends and her research all uncertain.

Now the giant map of Ukraine resting on her unfamiliar apartment windowsill in Warsaw serves a grim new purpose. Purchased to trace her planned visits to Ukrainian memorial sites as a Ukraine Fulbright Scholar, Kurylas is using it to track the Russian military's march into the country.

"My intellectual pursuit seems so irrelevant now in light of Ukraine's existential threat," she said from Warsaw. "It seemed that, after 30 years of independence, Ukraine as a nation—even with its

flaws—was out of the woods. It is heartbreaking that it must fight an existential battle yet again."

Kurylas had arrived in Kyiv on Feb. 1 for a months-long endeavor to examine how design techniques used across Ukraine have shifted since its break from the Soviet Union 30 years ago—gravitating away from the Soviets' figurative style of monumental statues and memorials to more Western, abstract or reflective interpretations of events including the Stalin-engineered famine known as Holodomor, the tragedy of Chernobyl and the Orange and Euromaidan revolutions.

As in the United States, Ukraine's memorialization of events and people has evolved amid contrasting identities and a multicultural population. Still emerging in some ways from the enforced ideology of the Soviet



era, Ukraine grapples with representing its complex history, including how to commemorate a subset of nationalist leaders with unsavory ties to Nazi Germany, as well as broader questions about how Ukraine should envision itself as an independent country in the shadow of a powerful, overbearing neighbor, Russia.

"The independent and multicultural Ukraine grapples with establishing its own historical narrative and on 'who' and 'what' to commemorate," said Kurylas, who is working with the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory in Kyiv, the National Union of Architects of Ukraine and regional architectural faculty. "While this is a subject worthy of study in itself, the focus of my research will strictly be on 'how,' or the form that memorialization is taking."

Raised by her immigrant parents in Baltimore and Wheaton, Md., Kurylas is familiar with the history between Russia and Ukraine. In 2009, she won an international competition to design the Holodomor memorial in Washington, D.C. Completed in 2015, it's a tribute to the almost 4 million Ukrainian lives lost in 1932-33 as Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin sought to bring the country's wheat farms into a government-owned collective agricultural system. For 10 days in February, Kurylas visited memorials in and around Kyiv before evacuating; among them were various installations at the Babyn Yar Holocaust memorial site, where Nazis executed 100,000 Jews and other political prisoners between 1941 and 1943; it was struck by a Russian missile last week.

She also saw one of the country's most recent memorials, honoring victims of the 2014 Maidan Revolution of Dignity: a temporary shrine in the

center of Kyiv that fluctuates with the flowers, candles and tokens left by visitors. The winning design for its permanent home is an "undeniable departure" from the monumental and anonymous memorials of the Soviet era, said Kurylas, offering a place of reflection for the individual sacrifices of the "Heavenly Hundred" killed by sniper fire during the uprising. A line of 100 maple trees, strategically switching back as it climbs a hill to the memorial, she said, will symbolize Ukraine's difficult road to freedom, one that she fears may end with the Russian conflict.

"The Maidan Memorial is different and reflects Ukraine's aspirational goals," she wrote. "This is history created in recent memory and so relevant to the reason for Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine's threat to Putin is not military. It is ideological. If Ukraine establishes itself as a successful democracy on Russia's border, with an improving standard of living, Russians will ask, 'And why not us?'"

The fate of Ukraine's memorials, Kurylas said, depends entirely on Putin's success; any structures that deviate from his ideology will be destroyed—much like the removal of pro-Communist monuments after the fall of the Soviet Union. If Ukraine prevails, Kurylas envisions these memorials as tangible reminders of its quest for democratic freedom, a story not yet complete.

"When the war ends, I vow to travel all over Ukraine to resume my original research," she said. "And I see a new category of memorials cropping up throughout the country honoring both the sacrifices and victory of Ukraine in the Russian-Ukrainian War of 2022."

Nataliia Vysotska

American Literature

Kyiv National Linguistic University

Fulbright Visiting Scholar

University of Mississippi, University, MS, 1994-1995;

Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson

International Center for Scholars,

Washington, DC, 2002-2003

In spite of all the tension and premonitions clouding for us December 2021, January and early February 2022, my life went on pretty much as usual, with its daily chores, concerns and routine. On February 23 I was busy making a PowerPoint presentation for my new course on contemporary drama, did some washing and ironing, and walked my dog in the park...My son's call at five in the morning changed all that – perhaps, forever. What we hoped against hope could be evaded, happened – Russia attacked my country. For a person of my post-WWII generation it was monstrous, inconceivable – but it was a reality that surpassed the worst nightmares, even though Russia's leader's toxic rhetoric might have prepared us for this course of events. Shock, disbelief, fear were the first emotions. We grew up hearing about the past war, reading books and watching films about it. But it had never occurred to me that we, too, would have to go through this kind of experience. And still the siren sounded, and, as if in a daze, I tucked something into a backpack and moved to the nearest shelter... My first night there – in a cold cell, without any conveniences, dosing on a hard stool, trying to catch the faintest sounds from without... More nights like this. Shock and confusion. But a human being is blessed with wonderful resilience, and one is prone to adapt to the most outrageous circumstances quickly enough. And then the next

stage: realizing that it is full-scale war, and that my compatriots are rebuffing the enemy's offensive with valor, professionalism, and resolution. Original disorientation gives way to pride for my people who, not unlike the Biblical David, courageously confront the giant Goliath. New words, new concepts, new humor. A strange war when one can keep in touch with the rest of the world and receive heart-felt words of support from every continent. A ruthless war with the enemy bent on destroying not just Ukraine's military structures, as Putin claimed, but her spirit and soul. He wants to deprive Ukraine of her future, bombing and shelling maternity homes, children's hospitals, and day care centers. Are these parts of our military infrastructure? But Putin's advisors misinformed him. We did not look forward to being "liberated" by his brutal force, even though we were not always happy with our leaders' policies. But it is our country, and it is our business to deal with that.

I had to leave Kyiv and spend three days driving westward. I saw my country resolved to fight – regular troops, local defence detachments, volunteers risking their lives to help others, common Ukrainians doing their best to oppose the invasion. I witnessed local communities mobilizing their resources to provide lodging, food and other necessities for the refugees.

I had time to think about these gruesome developments. The very nature of empires presupposes expansion. Especially highly centralized, vertically ruled empires, with power mostly concentrated in the hands of the "top" led by an equivalent of a sacralized "tsar". Until Russia gives up its age-old imperial ambitions, the implacable logic of history will again and again push her leaders towards doomed attempts at grasping what does not belong to her. It is not just the matter of winning



this undeclared war. It will be won by us with the help of the world – at what price though? Ukraine is now in the spotlight as a bulwark of democracy and the right to national self-determination. So this war is also about changing the Russian nation's mentality. It takes long, probably longer than my lifetime, but without it the evil finger on the nuke button will always present a threat to mankind. It is up to Russians to start moving in a more realistic direction, and up to the rest of the world to make them aware of this necessity.

A short break in the volunteer hub located in the Ternopil Science Center. Ternopil.

Photo by **Alexey Furman/Getty Images**

Journalism

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Fulbright Graduate Student, 2014-2016

University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO



Photo credit: <https://www.facebook.com/nata.natali.naumova/>

Nataliia Naumova

Biology

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2018-2019

Washington State University, Pullman, WA

I was sending "don't worry, mama, I'm absolutely fine, you see, I'm smiling", I was recording audio with jokes and supportive texts for my family and friends — while I was sitting near basement without water under permanent attacks.

My parents sent me "don't worry, Nata, we are fine, there's no air alert, no, don't worry, even our cat is sleeping, we are fine" — while they both had covid, my mother had fever (and still has it, more than 14 days) and they were not able to go to shelter during air alert, they had no antibiotics and possibility to leave apartment even to be safer in shelter.

My grandparents told me "don't worry, Nata, we are playing cards and reading books to each other, don't worry, we'll be fine" — they are 91 and 92, this is their second war, they can't leave apartment physically, they leave on 11th floor and it's so scary for them to hear all sky attacks.

My dear friend is sending me "I'm safe, I'm ok, thinking of our future project and of our coffee in Odesa, don't worry, my dear" — he's a brilliant scientist, brilliant doctor, I love him and I admire his smile on the photos while he's wearing body armor.

My dear friend sent me "good morning, hunny, I'm ok, I had perfect breakfast and I sleep well" — while he hadn't, definitely he hadn't, he was under attack all night, he's in TerOborona, he's a brilliant programmer, and it was his own decision to protect our country.

These "don't worry, I'm ok" — is all about taking care of our loved ones.

We all are "not ok", but it's our responsibility to send a smiling selfie and this f*cking "don't worry" to people who care about us, we should be strong for our loved ones, we are much stronger all together, we should be.

P. S. And I still receive from some men and women (who are safe, who has apartment in safe region, who has money, who has job) something like "I'm so scared, I'm sleeping with nightmares, I'm not sure about my money and about my future"... I have nothing to answer.

10:17

The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency said it is impossible to deliver equipment and specialists for the repairs of the Zaporizhzhia NPP captured by the occupiers. The maintenance of the first power unit has been reduced to the minimum level allowed.

16:00

"I saw that my target were civilian residential buildings. I still fulfilled the criminal order. After that my plane was shot down. I believe we have already lost this war."

– Russian captured pilot,
Interfax Ukraine press conference.

Kateryna Minkina

Political Science

V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University

Fulbright Graduate Student, 2021-2022

Villanova University, Villanova, PA

My name is Kateryna. I'm a Fulbright Student at Villanova University from Ukraine. On February 24, 2022, Russia attacked Ukraine. They had already invaded Ukraine in 2014 and occupied the Crimea Peninsula, territories in the Eastern part of Ukraine.

This war is ongoing and brutal when the Russian Federation targets residential areas and civilian infrastructure, killing innocent people trying to evacuate. People in the besieged city of Mariupol don't have a chance to evacuate because Russians shelled the evacuation corridor. So more than 400,000 people are staying there without food supplies, water, heat, sanitary systems, and power. Russians hit a maternity hospital in Mariupol. There are dead and injured mothers there. These days Russians shelled the group of people in Irpin. They were trying to get out of the bombed city. So the family with two children is dead. They bombed my native university, where I got my Bachelor's and first Master's degrees. Kharkiv National Karazin University is one of the major universities in Ukraine. Now, you can see what's left. The Russian army hit a children's hospital, "Okhmatdyt," in the center of Kyiv. One child died, two children and two adults were wounded. And we, as Ukrainians, have thousands of such stories to tell.

My family and friends are staying in Ukraine. My parents are in Kramatorsk and are helping with humanitarian aid. My native town was occupied by Russians for several months in 2014, so my

family has experience in organizing shelters and humanitarian assistance. Several days ago, the residential building of my grandparents was shelled. They are okay and alive. One of my friends gave birth to a beautiful child in the shelter of a perinatal center in the capital city Kyiv, which is under constant shooting and bombing. It's almost nothing left of the town of Izyum in the Kharkiv region, where my other friend lives and helps with humanitarian response. Now I can't get through to her. She hasn't gotten in touch since the last bombing.

We are very grateful to the US government for a comprehensive sanctions package and the financial support and shipment of armaments. We are grateful for the US agreement to disconnect Russia from SWIFT. But we, as the Ukrainian community, are asking, please, do more to stop this bloody aggression against Ukraine. Russia has significant air superiority and closing air space (establishing a no-fly zone) over Ukraine can help us limit the casualties.



As an individual citizen, you have the power to influence. I'm asking you, please, reach out to your officials asking to provide air and military defense to Ukraine. Support organizations that deliver humanitarian aid, medical equipment, ammunition to Ukraine.

I request the University to release an official community and media statements supporting Ukraine and condemning Russian unjustified and brutal invasion; to divest from Russian funds and projects that directly or indirectly benefit the Russian army, and to financially support Ukrainian students in times of hardship.

You need to understand, I don't need you to feel sorry for me. I need you to act, respond and do whatever you can to stop Russia.

You have the power to help and stop this war.
Stand with Ukraine!
Glory to Ukraine!
Слава Україні!

Russian fascism will be punished!

Serhii Kot

(October 22, 1958 — March 28, 2022)

History (non-U.S.)

Institute of History of Ukraine,

National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2008-2009

The Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Russian fascism has revealed its true face. Russians totally destroy the Ukrainian people. This war is aimed at their physical and spiritual elimination. Russia is ruining our cities and villages, murdering women, children, and elderly people. She destructs the whole civilian infrastructure, all the signs of civilized life on our territory.

Russian fascists as Hitler's and Goebbel's followers and successors blame Ukraine for committing these crimes against humanity and causing humanitarian catastrophe. Their accusations are ultimately cynical – it turns out, it is Ukraine who is to blame for declining humiliating ultimatums put forward by the new "Fuerher" putin in the face of terrorism and mass destructions. "Give in, lay down arms, and the horror will be over!" – the enemy's propaganda resources are crying. And they are getting mad because the Ukrainian People demonstrates miraculous staunchness, will and the faith in their victory. Even on temporarily occupied territories.

The world has to forget about the so called "great Russian culture". It has long been dead in Russia as such. It has the same relation to it as the great Greek and Roman cultures of antiquity have to contemporary Greece and Italy – it was just a page in history. This is a myth that is collapsing now on the Ukrainian terrain. The

Russia of today duped by putin and his clique has only artificially cultivated ideology and culture of novel Russian fascism – putinism, modeled after the patterns of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

Putin and his clique over decades have claimed that the Ukrainian nation is not existent, while the Ukrainian State is "artificially formed". Similarly to German Nazis perpetrating Holocaust against Jews as the "ultimate solution for the Jewish issue", today's Russia discusses "the existential confrontation with Ukraine" which is "the source of permanent threat for it, both nowadays, and in future". They "cannot allow for Ukraine's existence as anti-russia". The Kremlin spokespersons do not conceal the fact that in its war against Ukraine Russia intends "to ultimately solve the Ukrainian issue" in accordance with their vision of Ukrainian people's history whom they refuse the right to exist. Under the mottoes of "liberating Ukraine" Russia actually is trying "to liberate Ukraine from Ukrainians". Moreover, they do not hide their idea that fighting against Ukraine "Russia initiated the ultimate separation from the West and started establishing the new international order".

Parallels with the Nazi "new order" are absolute!

But Russian fascism will not move forward! It will be stopped by the Ukrainian people supported by the civilized world. And the internstional Tribunal will put putin and his clique to trial and penalise these criminals publicly. As to Russia, it will have to face many decades of deputinization and isolation from the civilized world.

This will happen in the foreseeable future. Today, though, the Ukrainian nation has the single motto: "Death upon Russian invaders! Slava Ukraini!"



Photo credit: Marian Luniv
IIE Kyiv Office

March 11, 2022



The War Comes to Us All: Snapshots

<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/the-war-comes-to-us-all>

Catherine Wanner

Anthropology
Pennsylvania State University,
University Park, PA

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2019-2020

Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv

Snapshots of War: Introduction

The Russian invasion of Ukraine represents a new kind of war. It is the culmination of eight years of hybrid war, during which new political technologies were perfected. We used to call nonmilitary means of influencing groups of people "soft power." In this war, traditional soft power has been jettisoned in favor of political technologies that weaponize and securitize such things as religion, history, and social media. Weaponization and securitization refer to the instrumentalization of information and sentiment for political purposes and to secure state sovereignty. These new tactics are likely to remain, certainly as an aspect of warfare, but also as a fixture of political life precisely because they are so effective.

Why has the attack on Ukraine gripped the global public and generated such an engaged, swift response? Initially, the Russian invasion was compared to "incursions" in Moldova in 1992, the Georgian provinces of South Ossetia and Abkhazia in 2008, and the Crimea and Donbas regions of Ukraine in 2014. Now the 1999 leveling of Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, a region in Russia, and the devastation of Aleppo, Syria, in 2016 are more apposite comparisons because they symbolize indiscriminate bombing of civilians and of civilian infrastructure.

The Ukrainian military is poorly equipped to fight off a full invasion. Therefore, Ukrainians are simultaneously waging a parallel information war and they are winning the battle for our hearts and minds. People have opened their wallets to fund the defense of Ukraine and their borders to let in Ukrainian refugees. News outlets follow this unfolding tragedy with rapt attention; TikTok is afire with teenage girls in love with the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy; and iconic, global landmarks are draped in the blue and yellow Ukrainian colors, from the Eiffel Tower in Paris to local town halls to urban sports stadiums.

The Russian state is a formidable opponent in an information war. It has long engaged in political technologies to produce forms of covert communication, including deep fakes, alternative facts, and the subversion of rhetoric by gutting categories of shared meaning. This actively produces ignorance or a will to be ignorant. It strains communication by destroying a shared vocabulary. When disinformation fails to persuade, conspiracy theories travel through social media to explain a grand plan conducted by omnipotent invisible actors, whose presence is

as difficult to prove as it is to disprove. Although these forms of deception are overall remarkably effective, ultimately, they have limits.

There is a history and a legacy of repressive governance in Russia. A political culture of censorship, silence, and fear yields disadvantages when the goal is empathic communication on a global scale. The manipulation of information and images by authoritarian regimes that is *technically sophisticated* has proven no match for those that are *emotively sophisticated*.

Ukrainians learned the power of social media during the Maidan protests of 2013–14 as they "self-organized" a revolution. Facebook was used to draw huge crowds of protesters and the Russian platform Vkontakte was used to identify *titushky*, meaning mercenaries posing as "locals" with directives to create provocations by fomenting dissent, conflict, and division. Prior to the invasion, the Ukrainian state was weak and dysfunctional, but it was not repressive. Ukrainians have used social media to capitalize on that point and to establish direct, unmediated communication with a global public in digital space as a means of self-defense. Russians are a key audience of such open yet targeted communication.

Attackers and the attacked speak the same language. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy called Russian soldiers "confused children." Many are conscripts as young as eighteen years old—hungry, ill equipped, and unwilling. They claim they had no idea they were in Ukraine. Prisoners of war in the Donbas often said the same thing. Ukrainians film captured soldiers stating their names, addresses, and if they have a family. If

they do, the conscripts' parents are informed that Ukrainian forces will hand over their sons if they come to Ukraine to collect them. Those who believe there is no war in Ukraine or that Russian forces are protecting "Russians" in Ukraine suddenly feel two parallel (and incompatible) worlds collide and implode.

This is a weapon of the weak: a means to rouse the Russian population to audibly and visibly protest Putin's war by rehumanizing a grotesquely inhuman war and reintroduce basic standards of human decency and empathy. The full effect of sanctions won't be felt for months, but images of captured "confused children" yield immediate, emotive reactions. The goal is to stir Russians to follow jailed Russian oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky's plea for each Russian to be willing to take fifteen days for Ukraine—that is, risk the punishment of fifteen days imprisonment for protesting. If every Russian was willing to go to prison for fifteen days, then police, incarceration, and other repressive means would collapse.

Further, they have used social media to document the Russian military aggression they are experiencing and to make direct appeals, individual-to-individual, for assistance in defending their country. These unscripted appeals have prompted reactions from those who heard them the world over to donate, support boycotts, and accept refugees. Below are "snapshots," postings and messages, that Ukrainian scholars have created to break the fear, isolation, and inhumanity of war by reaching out to us and bringing us into their bunkers. As the war has come to them, it comes to all of us.

Snapshots of War

February 24, 2022: Day 1

We were awakened early in the morning, around 5 a.m., by a Telegram call from our friend: *"It's started."* We immediately began talking with dozens of people: a chat with coworkers, a chat with students, a chat with neighbors, a chat-that-was-created-to-plan-a-birthday-party-for-a-friend; single messages with friends; and calls with parents.

Almost immediately, many of our friends decided to hit the road and go west: Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia, Lviv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk. We were invited to join them but decided to stay in Kyiv. We agreed to keep each other posted. When someone types "update" or "status" in the chat, everyone should respond by giving their location and report about their mental health and any needs for support. We shared info on gasoline stations, traffic jams, and possible road bombs. We shared addresses of people who can host travelers, petitions to send to Western governments, calls for sanctions, et cetera.

We started following all the official chats and channels: city administration, defense, and internal affairs. Many people share rumors and fake news in chats. Vox Ukraine (an official news channel) created a special line to report fakes and disinformation. All the major media outlets stress how crucial it is to *only* report verified information and asked to share this message to all channels.

We spent all day reading scary news about attacks in all parts of Ukraine: West, South, North, East. The strategy is to bomb the

infrastructure (airports, warehouses, military bases) and then move across the borders. Many experts said this would happen, but the idea that Belarus is complicit and that Russian troops will move from the North is still a shock. It was a moment of quick realization that there is no safe place anymore.

I received several messages from my Russian friends. Some of them asked me, "Is it true?" Apparently, the information there was so scarce and obscure they had to verify it with me.

—Tymofii Brik (FRDP 2019-2020) remains in Kyiv.



Tymofii's girlfriend and their cat in the bunker where they sleep in Kyiv.



Fortified windows in Julia's apartment in Kyiv.

February 27, 2022: Day 4

Today, for the first time since the morning of February 24, I was able to sleep for a whole four hours. The sounds of sirens, the sounds of Russian shelling, the sounds of our Air Force. You learn to distinguish the shades of sounds, far or close. Windows glued and covered with cardboard, blankets, and pillows. Babushka (Grandmother) told me how they did that during the Second World War, when Kyiv was attacked by Nazis. Did we think that our great-grandmother's and grandmother's survival strategies would come in handy? We have a supply of toilet paper and candles that Babushka collected last fall for a black day. And here you go. My mom and I think about her and thank God he took her in December so that she is not living through war again. What would my

great-grandfather say, who fought together with Russians near Stalingrad, now that tanks are in his city where his granddaughter and great granddaughter live? What a blessing that he died in the late 1990s and he didn't see that shame.

At night we don't turn on the lights. We sit with a candle. Only one window across the street has light. The whole building is black. The cat is afraid of loud noises and cries with grief when there are sirens or explosions. The cat burrows into his own armpit and shakes. Why did the Russian army come to fight with us, against women and cats?

I can't understand anything: Why do they obey him? Why do they follow the orders of someone who sits in a bunker far away, and who doesn't care about them? Why are they coming to us—to a foreign country—and killing? Are they really so pumped with propaganda?

I think all the time how good it is that Daddy is no longer with us. As an ethnic Russian, this would be a double tragedy . . .

Please, God, help us survive this. May God grant us all the will to survive this war. Defend Ukraine, our home. And may God grant us here not to be destroyed by the hatred within. God grant that light will be stronger than darkness in every sense.

—Julia Buyskykh (Fulbright Visiting Scholar 2019-2020) spent the first nine days of the war in Kyiv with her mother and their cat. After an especially bad night of bombing, at her mother's insistence, she fled Kyiv for Khmelnytsky, a city in Western Ukraine. Her mother remains in Kyiv.

06:46

Missile strikes on Lutsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Dnipro on Friday, March 11th, were carried out by at least 10 cruise missiles from 6 Russian 95MC strategic bombers, as reported by the General Staff.

Oksana Vysotska (Borysenko)

Higher Education Administration
Vasyl Stus Donetsk National University;
Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University
Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 1997-1998
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL

I am a 1998 Fulbright scholar, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I worked for Donetsk National University where I was head of the Department of English for Arts and Science. In summer 2014 I had to leave Donetsk and moved first to Lviv (worked for famous Lviv Politekhnik), then to Bucha where we (my daughter and I) managed to buy appartments. I started working as an associate professor for Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University.

I enjoyed every day of my life, I loved the University, the English Department I worked for, my colleagues, my students, my flat, my dogs... I had plans for 2022 summer... Then, on February 24 everything changed... Moscovia people waged the large-scale war. They started with Hostomel-Bucha, Antonov airport. Shelling, explosions, fires, russian helicopters, fighter aircraft, panic... My daughter was shocked to observe the battle for the airport out of her window (when I came to her place before the present hostilities, I loved to look at the airplanes, especially when there was Mriia, burnt down now)... Then my daughter, her husband, my 4-year-old grandson David, and our friend came to my place as their houses were just at some distance from Antonov, were hit by shells, and we spent the night in my one-room flat, four kids, six adults, and our two dogs, wiener dogs that have always been with us since their birth in 2010. We thought it would be safer to be in my first-floor apartment. The next day, under shelling, we left Bucha... Now we

are in Khust, Transcarpathia, – my daughter's student, who is in London now allowed us to live in his house. My son-in-law went to the army and was sent to a training center (because of his health problems he was not called to the colours on the first day of the war). My daughter is volunteering, I am helping her...

Every minute, when possible, my computer is on – Priamyi-Espresso online (a long time ago these channels became members of my family). I am in contact with my University colleagues and students (before the war we had online classes, so not all of them were in Kyiv), my friends, my family. Some of them spent weeks in basements, without heating, without water, without food, without any connection with the outside world. They reached a safe place only on the 16th day of the war...

It seems to me it is a nightmare, I will wake up and it will disappear. How come that people from moscow can do such things, bombing, shelling, shooting, torturing people, babies, kids, civilians, taking hostages, kidnapping, ruining, threatening to wage a nuclear war, to use biological and chemical weapons. Kharkiv, Sumy, Irpin, Bucha, Hostomel, Kherson, Mariupol, Enerhodar... Hospitals, schools, residential houses, bridges, roads ruined; thousands of civilians killed, including children. Our defendants are wounded and killed in battles. I don't know what happens to my colleague Allochka (PhD) from Sumy, to my colleague Olechka (PhD) and her family in Kharkiv. I know that Ihor (PhD) from Kharkiv is homeless now as his appartment was ruined. Helen, an IDP from Crimea, was in hospital in Kherson for two weeks without electricity and heating. I don't know whether my neighbours in Bucha are alive. I don't know

whether my home is still there, in Bucha, whether our library of several thousand books still exist, whether hundreds of my family photographs, my parents' archive are still there ... I can't visit their graves in the cemetery near Donetsk airport...

How come that it happens in the 21st century?!! I stopped buying russian goods long before 2014. When the war started in 2014, I broke any contacts with russian people. I hate them and can't get rid of this feeling. I am ready to kill them, and not only their military. Some of the people I know talk to their relatives in Russia who say, "You are lying! You have attacked Russia! You are guilty! You are fascists!" moscovits bless the war, their husbands, fathers, sons. They are "nechist", they are not human beings, they are some mutated creatures. They do what fascists did 70 years ago. They even out herod herod! I listen to putins, to lavrovs, to lukashenkos, to gundiayevs and ... I don't know what to say... They lie openly. I understand that their lies are for their inner consumers – they "skhavaut" (will shovel). Once putin said, "The more lies, the greater chance that they will be trusted." I know that there is diplomatic protocol, but I think it is high time to say at the highest-level forum, "Stop lying!"

I will never forgive them!

**SLAVA UKRAINI! HEROIAM SLAVA!
SMERT' VOROHAM!**

Mourners attend the funeral of two local Ukrainian soldiers, Vadym Hryniuk and Ivan Koshil, both killed in an attack on a military airfield in Lutsk the previous morning. Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, March 12, 2022, Lutsk, Ukraine.

Photo by **Brendan Hoffman**
Photojournalism
Freelance Photographer, DC
Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2018-2019
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv



03:41

A russian airstrike hit the Holy Dormition Lavra in the city of Sviatohirsk, Donetsk region, damaging the monastery that houses monks and refugees. No casualties reported so far.

07:13

Russian occupiers carried out an air strike on the International Center for Peacekeeping and Security in Lviv Region. According to preliminary data, 8 missiles were fired. Information about the victims is being verified, according to Lviv Regional Administration.

07:48

Russian aggressors once again shelled Ivano-Frankivsk airport, – reported Ruslan Martsinkiv, the Mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk.

12:34

Update on air strike on the International Center for Peacekeeping and Security in Lviv Region: 35 people are killed and 134 injured, – reported by Maksym Kozytskyi, the Head of Lviv Regional Military Administration.

14:15

Brent Renaud, a US journalist from the New York Times was shot and killed by Russian troops in Irpin city (Kyiv region) while covering the war in Ukraine. A second journalist from NYT may still be alive, police are trying to rescue him.

Information is being verified and updated.

– Kyiv Region Police

15:42

The 2nd NYT journalist (Juan Arredondo) is alive being operated in the Okhmatdyt specialized children's hospital (Kyiv), his life is not in danger.

– Press service of the hospital

20:28

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale war in Ukraine, three journalists have died, reports the "Justice for Journalists" (JFJ) Foundation.

Victoriia Rodinkova

Biological Science

National Pirogov Memorial Medical University, Vinnytsia

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2017-2018

University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK

Part 1. The most important after 2 weeks of war You know... I am writing these texts sitting at my desktop during the air raid alert. There is no any potency and desire to go to the shelter. Moreover, there is no any potency and desire to move at all. War blocks many feelings. Yes, courage to win exists. Yes, we believe in our victory. However, every day the price of this victory raises and faith into the world shrinks instead.

My life dramatically changed on February 24, 2022. That morning I woke up in 5.45 a.m. in order to go to Kyiv. We should had been mountain there a new and only in Kyiv trap for monitoring of pollen and spores, which cause seasonal allergy. Now these plans are suspended. However, I still hope that they will come true. Nevertheless, that morning I was shocked. Devastated, ruined, destroyed... Almost two days I was able just lie on the bed keeping my phone at my eyes.

All skills went away except the only one – search and analysis of the information. As a former active journalist, I was just able to share and use information as a tool to support Ukraine in the war.

It was clear on February 25, when Russia bombed Kyiv for the second day, that we need protection from the sky. At those days, it looked very easy: big and kind World, which all stood for Ukraine in all its corners, will come and protect our country. We considered that it is enough just to ask this World – either the US or Europe, – about this support, to push the world more and Ukrainian sky will be closed. However, time showed that we all were mistaken.

In some moment, when other bloggers asked to write appeals to different world leaders asking them to close the sky, I went to the Facebook of President Biden. How to ensure him to listen to me? Yes, I am a Fulbright scholar! At this moment, I guessed that we could write an official appeal to the American President on behalf of Fulbrighters of Ukraine. Responsible officials of Fulbright Circle of Ukraine were under bombing in Kyiv at that time... They couldn't help at all and forwarded me to the Director of the Fulbright Program in Ukraine Jessica Zychowicz. She supported my idea too and thanks to Jessica, we can suppose that the appeal reached his addresser. It was so cool and inspiring! However, these days we could not image that it was just beginning of the story...

Two weeks later, when I am writing these words, the story continues. A couple of Ukrainian cities are ruined completely. They are Volnovakha and Kharkiv. Mariupol is almost destroyed too. Enemies, who do not let to deliver humanitarian aid or stole it from the convoy, surrounded city completely and perishing it using the carpet-bombing every 30 minutes. It looks like Russia, which definitely loosed in war during first 2 weeks, realizes a Syrian scenario here. We stopped them on the land, and they are just

bombing. Endlessly and with no merci. Death toll accounts thousands. Up to 80 children are among them. Russia destroyed ancient Chernihiv; it is bombing Zhytomyr, Lutsk and my city Vinnytsia. The airport no longer exists. Moreover, 2,5 million Ukrainians or even more have already left the country... Many of them just lost their homes and escaped just looking for the clean and peaceful sky.

However, a no-fly zone vital for those who is staying in Ukraine, zone, which could save these thousands of lives, is not established so far. Still waiting, we still have a hope to receive an international support. However, this is a great pity that all the world was and still is afraid of a one men. Of mad dictator putin, the guy who keeps the entire so-called civilized world on the short leash of military terrorism. (The story continues...)





Photo by **Alexey Furman/Getty Images**
Journalism
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Fulbright Graduate Student, 2014-2016
University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO

War Notes (the First Month of War)

<https://uamoderna.com/shafka-dok/war-notes-the-first-month-of-war>

Julia Buyskykh

Anthropology

Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies,
Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2019-2020

The Pennsylvania State University,
University Park, PA

My host mother and I went to the railway station and brought there our freshly baked cookies. At the station, volunteers were waiting for a separate train of children from orphanages. I am not asking where are they from. I saw a guy about my age, maybe a little older, who coordinated the volunteers and said that we still need to bring sweets and toys for children. Later, at home, I saw his video and realized that he was the mayor of Khmelnytskyi. I was glad that the mayor is such a young man, being at the station, without security, cameras and PR is engaged in volunteering. At the exit from the station, there were standing a mother and a daughter. The girl said: "Mom, when will we go back to Kharkiv ...?" The woman hugged her wearily, saying: "I do not know, but we will return home". Then the girl asked: "Mom, and when will dad come to us?" The woman simply hugged her kid, and it was clear that she did not have the strength to answer. The girl had a toy in her hands, a plush hippopotamus. She hugged him and said to the toy, chanting, "We'll be home soon." I swallowed a lump in my throat. It seems that volunteers approached them and asked something. I also miss Kyiv. And I think that the last thing I did before the war was walk

along the banks of the Desenka River, listening to the river's sounds, embracing how the river was preparing for spring. I was standing under a big willow tree and squinting in the sun, soaking up my whole small and boundless world: the meadow, the cries of seagulls over the river, the first shoots of the first green grass, small stones and river shells ... Then I went to the bazaar and bought my first spring flowers, pink tulips. I really like tulips. On the evening of February 23, I sat in my kitchen drinking tea made from thyme collected last summer in the same river meadow, and looking at the delicate tulip petals in a vase. This was the last photo I took before the war that woke me up the next morning. I know it will end. This has already happened in the history of mankind. The wars are over. And I will return home. A girl with a hippopotamus and her mother will return to their father and husband in Kharkiv. We will probably lose something. Hopefully, we won't lose people. We will be different. But we definitely will be. We will rebuild our common Home, because we carry it in our hearts. Always. Just as I carry a small stone from the bank of the Desenka River near Troieshchyna in Kyiv.

00:59

The Russian military is preparing for a landing in Odesa. Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council Oleksiy Danilov said that the threat of invasion from the sea has increased.

02:21

Russia is preparing an offensive against Brovary, Kharkiv, Sumy, and Severodonetsk, reports the General Staff of Ukraine. Russian troops are trying to secure their positions and maintain the pace of advancement. Russians are trying to resume the offensive against Kharkiv and Sumy.

02:25

Trostianets in Sumy region continues to be temporarily occupied by the Russian military, reports Zhyvytskyi, the Head of the Sumy Regional State Administration. According to him, the armed forces of Russian Federation have positioned themselves at the train station and are conducting the shelling of the city from there.

07:10

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is calling for urgent action to prevent a "worst-case scenario" for civilians trapped in Russian-occupied Mariupol. According to the ICRC, hundreds of thousands of Mariupol residents face extreme or complete shortages of basic necessities, such as food, water, and medicine, and many are hiding in the unheated basements.

07:32

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights cites conservative estimates civilian losses since the start of the war as 1663 people. However, the OHCHR believes that the real numbers are much higher, though

difficult to count accurately. Note: the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine estimates civilian losses as 1582 just in the city of Mariupol.

07:58

A Russian missile hit a 9-story residential house in Kyiv. 2 people are dead, 3 hospitalized, 9 were given first aid. 15 people were rescued, 63 evacuated. Rescue efforts are ongoing.
– State Emergency Service

08:11

Russian forces shelled the TV tower in Rivne region, public television and broadcasting is not working. – Head of the regional military administration Vitalii Koval

08:14

As of March 14th, no green corridors are available for evacuation and humanitarian aid in Sumy region due to shelling and hostilities by Russian occupying forces. – Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, head of the Sumy Regional State Administration

08:30

In Kyiv, the Russian occupants shelled the Antonov aviation factory, reports the Kyiv City State Administration.

08:42

The risk of a Russian naval invasion of Odesa remains, as well as an attack of the city by air or land. The Ukrainian Army is preparing a defense.
– Odesa Military Administration

09:10

Russian artillery / airstrikes during the night of 13-14 March took the lives of at least 3 people in Okhtyrka town (Sumy region).
– Mayor of Okhtyrka.

09:13

The shelling of Avdiivka (Donetsk region) has not stopped since yesterday. The Russians are firing from "Tochka-U" guided missile systems and multiple rocket launchers. – Head of the Donetsk regional military administration

09:43

At least two people died as a result of the shelling of Kramatorsk city (Donetsk region) during the night of 13-14 March.
– Head of Kramatorsk City Council

09:44

90 children have been killed and more than 100 injured since the beginning of the war on February 24th, as reported by the Prosecutor-General's Office.

09:49

At night (13-14 March) Russian occupying forces shelled and destroyed Chernihiv Polytechnic University. The nearby town of Nizhyn was fired upon from Uragan rocket launch systems.
– Head of Chernihiv Regional Administration

09:52

Total combat losses of Russian aggressors in Ukraine from 24 Feb to 14 Mar (approximation): 12000+ troops; 389 tanks; 1249 armored vehicles; 150 artillery systems; 64 rocket systems; 34 anti-air systems; 77 aircraft; 90 helicopters; 617 military auto vehicles; 3 military boats; 60 fuel tanks; 8 tactical UAVs.
– General Staff of Armed Forces of Ukraine

10:45

Artillery shelling of Kharkiv city by Russian forces continues: on March 14th another residential building in the city centre was destroyed.
– State Emergency Service

10:48

18 million people have been affected by Russian aggression in Ukraine. 6.7 million of them are internally displaced persons. 3 million people have fled Ukraine as refugees. Many health institutions have been destroyed or damaged, making it very difficult to provide medical aid.
– World Health Organization

10:51

The 211 members of staff of the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant are not able to maintain effective repairs and maintenance. Due to psychological and physical fatigue and pressure from the Russian occupiers, staff rotations aren't happening.
– International Atomic Energy Agency

11:00

Russian occupying forces have destroyed the main bridge between the cities of Zaporizhia and Enerhodar (near Europe's largest Nuclear Power Plant). Travel is possible only via rural roads. Evacuation and delivery of humanitarian aid remain impossible.
– Enerhoatom National Nuclear Energy Company

11:35

A cruise missile fired by Russian troops was shot down in Kyiv over Podil district downtown. The remains of the missile fell on a residential building further in the city.
– Advisor to the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Anton Herashchenko

11:39

A 15-year-old child died as a result of artillery shelling in Derhachi town (Kharkiv region).
– Head of Kharkiv Region Police Investigation Department

12:01

Russian occupying forces include chemical experts. Among the IDs of defeated Russian troops, Ukrainian Armed forces discovered IDs belonging to the 'Federal command of secure storage and disposal of chemical weapons' division. – Center for Strategic Communication and Information Security of Ukraine

12:26

Russian occupying forces have once again damaged the power lines to the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant. Emergency crews are forced to enter hostile territory once more to conduct repairs.
– Enerhoatom National Nuclear Energy Company

12:37

A Russian bomb destroyed a city water pumping station in Chernihiv. 4 civilians were killed.
– Chernihiv Water Utility Company

12:39

34 settlements remain without electricity and water in Kherson region due to Russian artillery and aviation strikes.
– Kherson Regional State Administration

13:15

Within the hour, Russian occupying forces are planning to "dispose of" munitions near the ruins of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant training centre. In other words, they are planning to blow up explosives directly in front of the 1st nuclear power unit of the NPP.
– Enerhoatom National Nuclear Energy Company

15:55

The negotiations between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations have been rescheduled for tomorrow. Advisor to the Office of the President of Ukraine noted that a "technical pause" was taken for additional work in subcommittees and clarification of specific definitions/terms in the negotiation process.

18:27

Update on the Russian artillery strike on the TV tower in Rivne region: 9 people were killed, 9 more were injured.
– Head of the Rivne Regional Administration

18:38

600 residential buildings have been destroyed by Russian shelling in Kharkiv city since the start of the war, said Mayor of Kharkiv Ihor Terekhov in a conversation with the Mayor of Chicago.

20:03

A Russian missile hit one of the largest shopping malls in Kyiv (Lavina mall). No casualties reported so far.

20:50

On March 14, 10 people died in Chernihiv as a result of yet another strike on residential buildings and city infrastructure. This is reported by the press service of the Prosecutor's Office of Chernihiv Region.

20:52

The shipment of humanitarian aid including food supplies, water, and clothing, as well as the buses people could use to leave Mariupol were unable to reach the city due to Russian shelling.
– Deputy Head of the President's Office
Kyrylo Tymoshenko

21:50

As of today, out of 10 humanitarian corridors only 7 have worked... In total, the humanitarian corridors have helped us rescue around 4,000 people.
– Iryna Vereshchuk, Minister of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories

21:55

Fox News correspondent Benjamin Hall was injured while gathering news near Kyiv. This was announced live on air by the anchor John Roberts. According to Fox News, Ben Hall is currently hospitalized.

22:20

On March 14, the occupiers continued to shell residential areas of Kharkiv as well as Chuhuiv, Izium and Derhachi cities, according to Head of Military Administration Oleh Syniehubov.

23:21

Experimental physicist Vasyl Kladko was executed on 13 March by Russian occupiers. He spent many years as a Department Head, Deputy Director at the V.E. Lashkaryov Institute of Semiconductor Physics, and a corresponding member at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

23:52

The Russian military opened mortar fire targeting an evacuation column on the way out of Hostomel. As a result, one person has died and two more have been injured, reports the National Police press service.



At night (13-14 March) Russian occupying forces shelled and destroyed Chernihiv Polytechnic University.

02:46

A Pentagon representative has stated that since the start of the full-scale Russian war in Ukraine, Russian invading forces have fired more than 900 missiles at Ukrainian cities and objects of infrastructure.

17:25

As a result, shelling of Kyiv in the morning of March 15, shells hit residential buildings in three districts, killing five residents of the capital.
– President Zelenskyy

17:52

Two more journalists were killed by Russian forces on 14-15 March in Kyiv region: Irish Fox News journalist Pierre Zakrzewski (covered the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria) and a Ukrainian journalist Oleksandra Kuvshynova.
– Daily Mail, Fox News, Ukrayinska Pravda

19:01

Since the beginning of invasion, Russian occupiers have destroyed 48 schools and more than 600 apartment buildings in Kharkiv.
– Mayor of Kharkiv



The Fulbright Program in Ukraine has a proud history of 30 years, with hundreds of distinguished alumni, and we pledge our continued commitment to Fulbright's mission to strengthen democratic values and promote understanding among all people around the world.

Currently, the Fulbright U.S. Student and U.S. Scholar programs in Ukraine and Russia are suspended, and U.S. participants formerly in those countries have returned to the United States or relocated to another country in the region. We are supporting Ukrainian and Russian Fulbrighters who continue to carry out their programs in the United States.

Andrii Leonov

Philosophy

Oles Honchar Dnipro National University

Fulbright Graduate Student, 2017-2018

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL

The Fulbright Program What does it mean "We are supporting Ukrainian and Russian Fulbrighters who continue to carry out their programs in the United States"????

1. Ukraine and Russia are NOT equal parties in this war. Therefore, the same applies to the Ukrainian and Russian Fulbrighters. Ukraine didn't start this war. Stop being hypocritical and trying to sit on two chairs as if your eyes do not see, and your ears do not hear. Stop trying to keep the status quo.

2. Ukrainians are dying for the Western values and democracy. The values that you are a bearer of, aren't you? Or, you chose to support the double-standards? Please, show some respect at least for those Ukrainians (there are many children among them) who have died from the Nazi Russian army massive killings, bombing and shelling of the Ukrainian civilians. What if among those children and young people who died from the Russian guns and rockets could have been another Fulbrighters??? But no, they LOST this POSSIBILITY namely because of that Nazi Russian unprovoked military aggression!

3. As it was said in the comments below, we, Ukrainians, see your "support" to both "Ukrainians AND Russians" as if it were an equal support both to the Jews and the citizens of the Nazi Germany in the time of the WW2.

4. Ukraine is facing a real genocide. A genocide of the entire nation and culture that anyone can watch "online." It's not a Netflix movie though. It's pretty real. And that genocide was created by Russia.

5. We agree that not all the Russians support the Nazi Russian regime that is governed by this new Hitler, the president the of the Russian federation, Vladimir Putin. But it does not entail that you have to make both Ukrainian and Russian Fulbrighters "equal." Equal in what? In the same amount of suffering? Like really? What does it mean?

6. Ukrainians were fighting any trial to establish any kind of dictatorship in their country literally with their lives (recall the "Heavenly Hundred Heroes" from the time of the = Revolution of Dignity (2013-2014)).

Therefore, Ukrainians do not understand how it is possible not to do anything for more than 20 years, and just watch how your country freedoms are just eliminated step by step. Understand, Ukraine is NOT Russia. Please, stop acting as if you don't.

Sofiia Fedzhora

Language

National University of Water Management and Environmental Engineering, Rivne

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA), 2021-2022

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

The Fulbright Program, your last sentence crossed the whole message. Supporting both "Ukrainian and Russian Fulbrighters" seems like supporting Jewish and Nazi people during the WWII. If you still don't realize, Russian troops have been destroying hospitals, schools, churches (!), even maternal houses as well as raping the Ukrainian girls and killing volunteers and civilians during the evacuation! Could you imagine this horror! No, you can't imagine. Because if only you could, you wouldn't let yourself to support in such way. Besides, as far as I know, even among Russian

Fulbrighters there are people who consider putin's genocide of the Ukrainian nation as an essential action towards Ukraine (it's hard to believe but that's true!) So, I would appreciate it if you review your position.

Lisa Korneichuk

Arts
National Academy of Fine Arts
and Architecture, Kyiv
Fulbright Graduate Student, 2021-2022
School of the Art Institute of Chicago,
Chicago, IL

This type of support makes Ukrainians feel offended. Expressing support to both Ukrainians and Russians equates the mass killings of civilians in Ukraine with the difficulties of consumption in Russia.

Senator William Fulbright established the program in 1946 for students worldwide to unite around the idea of education, connections, and peace. "The Fulbright Program's mission is to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship," he said.

Could you please show us how many of the Russian Fulbright alumni expressed their condemnation of the war in Ukraine? How many of them supported Ukrainians and called for their government to stop this war? As a program whose mission is to sustain peace between nations, do you recognize your failure?

Diana Butsko

Political Science
National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy,
Kyiv
Fulbright Graduate Student, 2020-2021
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL

Dear The Fulbright Program, could you specify what do you mean when you say that IIE supports Ukrainian scholars? So far, Ukrainian Fulbrighters received emails recommending to talk to advisors and referring us to counseling if there is a need. That's it.

Irynka Hromotska

Photojournalism
(Ukrainer, Reporters.media, RFE/RL), Lviv
Fulbright Graduate Student, 2021-2022
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Your effort to support both Ukrainians and Russians at the time of the full-blown Russian war against Ukraine is insulting and heartbreaking. You humanize the aggressors and downplay the terror Ukrainians live in right now.

Since February 24 Russian army has killed more than 4000 civilians in Ukraine. They bomb maternity hospitals, schools, and residential neighborhoods. People live in bomb shelters, journalists are killed on the streets, and humanitarian convoys are being shot at! 6.8 million people are internally displaced, while almost 3 million fled the country.

This is not a great time for moral relativism. As a Fulbrighter from Ukraine, I feel offended by how this program treats me and my fellow Ukrainian students here in the US.

Kateryna Minkina

Political Science
V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University
Fulbright Graduate Student, 2021-2022
Villanova University, Villanova, PA

The Fulbright Program I feel offended by this kind of your support. As Ukrainians, we are all losing homes, friends, relatives, and all our people under this blatant russian war. They don't mind shooting at women and children, aiming at hospitals and civilian buildings. They have already destroyed so many places I love. I'm losing my friends there, and my parents have to suffer from shelling again, as they already did in 2014 when russia occupied my native town.

You hurt my feelings by saying that you are "supporting Ukrainian and russian Fulbrighters" because I already have people I will never see again, and, as Maryna and my fellow Ukrainian students, I'm not sure that I will have a home to come back to. Meanwhile, russians and russian scientific community are supporting the war in Ukraine. Stop supporting me like this, that doesn't feel like support.

Mariana Doboni

Language
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA), 2020-2021
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

I don't understand why you support Russians Fulbrighters. They are part of Putin russizm world and spread its values in the United States. Russians must be banned from the Fulbright program until Ukraine's territorial integrity is restored.

Andriyana Baran

Language
Ivan Franko National University of Lviv
Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA), 2020-2021
The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

russia attacked my country. My friends died, our homes were destroyed... We have been living in constant horror for 3 weeks. And you are supporting russians? Well done!

RUSSIANS are killing us! Aggressor must NOT be supported in any way!

You say it's putin's responsibility? It's not! It's not thousands of his copies who came to my country to kill!

EVERY russian is responsible for that! Stop finally helping them to spread their propaganda!

Olha Poliukhovych

Literature
National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
Fulbright Research and Development Fellow, 2017-2018
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Extremely tone-deaf arrogant reaction of @The Fulbright Program. "We are supporting Ukrainian and Russian Fulbrighters who continue to carry out their programs in the United States." It's good that Senator Fulbright does not witness this shameful message.

Promoting the values of "cultural dialog" and "mutual understanding," the Program closed comments to its offensive for each Ukrainian Fulbrighter statement.



'I live in the centre of the city. Many things here have remained normal.'
A picture of Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, taken by Sergiy on one of his daily walks.
Photograph: Sergiy/Guardian Community

People have become nicer': one resident describes life in Kyiv

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/15/resident-describes-life-in-kyiv-ukraine-russia>

Sergiy Kurbatov
JFDP Fellow, 2003-2004
Brown University, USA

Sergiy, 50, is a university lecturer who did not want to leave the Ukraine capital despite the advance of Russian troops.

As told to Diane Taylor

We try to live our life here in Kyiv as normally as we can in the circumstances. We know how close we are to the line between life and death. When there is so much killing all around our only instinct is to survive.

I walk around my beautiful city of Kyiv every day and I take photographs of some of the nicest places.

I live in the centre of the city. Many things here have remained normal. There has been some shelling but so far we are OK. We are still able to buy all the essentials – meat, bread and milk – and the phone network here has been working perfectly.

One thing that has changed is that people in the city have become nicer since the war started. In the shops everyone is so polite to each other. I was in the pharmacy queue and someone needed insulin. Everyone let that person go to the front of the queue. If someone is carrying bottles of water they will tell you where they managed to buy them.

In some ways the Covid pandemic prepared us for the war. I work at the university here. I am a senior lecturer at the university. I was doing a lot of my work with students online. Now the war has started I am still working online.

I have no military background or training but I do not want to leave my city. After 30 years of independence I do not want us to lose our democracy because of Russian aggression.

My parents and grandparents were critical of the government during the Soviet era. I can remember that life when I was growing up – going to a department store that had just two things in it – a very simple type of shoe and blankets. Our only window through the iron curtain were two English language publications – Moscow News and the Morning Star, which could only be found at certain kiosks. I can sum up in one word my feelings when the Soviet Union was dismantled – “euphoria.” We do not want to return to that so we are fighting the Russian aggression.

There are not many people out on the streets but some kind of normality has returned. Everything in the city is still alive and flourishing. Although many women with young children have left, the city is still gender balanced!

When the war started everyone in Kyiv was in shock, paralysed. But we have adjusted.

The worst part of this is my fear for the safety of my parents. My dad is 84 and completely blind and my mum is 81. They and their cat Monkey are stuck in their apartment in the city of Sumy, where there has been a lot of bombing. It is too dangerous for me to go to them and impossible for them to evacuate. They hear many explosions but so far they are OK.

I have never before seen our railway station so crowded with people leaving for Lviv and other parts of western Ukraine. But many refuse to leave Kyiv. We are determined to stay.

We know the Russians are encircling us and there is an expectation in the city that something will happen in the next few days.

Putin wants to take us back to the last century. We must return to the 21st century.

I have many friends internationally and they have expressed so much solidarity with us. The most positive thing to have come out of the war is our increased unity. We are strong here in Kyiv. The outside world cannot see all of the resolve and determination of Ukrainians.

They only see the tip of a very big iceberg. Underneath that tip we are even stronger.

Student view: My experience as a Fulbright scholar in Ukraine

<https://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2022/student-view-fulbright-scholar-ukraine>

John Vsetecka

History

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Fulbright U.S. Student to Ukraine, 2021-2022

Institute of History of Ukraine of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv

John Vsetecka is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History, College of Social Science. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Northern Colorado in 2012 and a Master of Arts from the University of Colorado in 2014.

I did not expect my Fulbright year in Ukraine to end with war. I arrived in Kyiv, Ukraine, in October 2021 to finish research for my dissertation on the history of famine in 20th-century Soviet Ukraine. I first became interested in studying Ukraine as an undergraduate student at the University of Northern Colorado, where I heard a lecture on the 1932-1933 Holodomor famine from a professor who would become instrumental in developing my interest in the region. That lecture on a part of Ukrainian history changed my life forever.

I planned to work and travel in Ukraine until June 2022, but I was evacuated out of the country in late January when the threats of war grew louder. In late February, the worst came true when Russian military planes began bombing campaigns across Ukraine. It was the reignition of Russia's invasion of Ukraine that first began eight

years ago when Russia illegally annexed Crimea and put soldiers in Ukraine's eastern territories after the Euromaidan revolution of 2014.

Luckily, I made it out of Ukraine before the war started. My Fulbright cohort was relocated to Warsaw, Poland, where we waited to see if it would be possible to return to Ukraine. Fulbright scholarships are competitive grants that allow one to teach or research in various parts of the world. The application and interview process are rigorous, and it is a huge honor to win a Fulbright grant. Our small cohort lived in different parts of Ukraine while we were in the country, but we became particularly close when we all moved to Warsaw together. We bonded and spent time discussing when we would go back. Now, the war has made this impossible. I am in Poland indefinitely, and I have paused my scholarly pursuits to help refugees who are crossing the border from Ukraine to Poland.

Since the war started, more than 2 million refugees have left their homes and lives in Ukraine. It is heartbreaking to see women and children cross the border without their husbands, boyfriends, fathers and brothers. Currently, any Ukrainian male between the ages of 18 and 60 years old must remain in the country to fight. This means that many families are separating as some stay in Ukraine and others flee the country.

If you go to the Polish-Ukrainian border, you will find crowds of people coming into Poland (part of the European Union) where they wait for friends and family to pick them up and bring them to safety. Volunteers in orange and yellow vests cook food, brew hot tea and help organize rides. Boxes of clothes, diapers, bags



and suitcases and other essential items line the fences next to the border. People have donated whatever they can spare to help those who are beginning a new life abroad. Many Ukrainians have no idea when they will be able to return home. In fact, they are not sure if there will be a home to return to at all.

The result of this war will inevitably move Ukrainians to all parts of the world, including to the United States. Michigan has thriving Ukrainian communities in Detroit and Warren,

so Ukraine and Michigan are not as far apart as one might think. As this war continues to progress, those of us at Michigan State University should continue to lend our support to Ukrainians in our state. As a fellow Spartan, I encourage you to check in on your friends with Ukrainian backgrounds, take classes on Ukrainian history and continue to lend your support to all of those affected by this war. I look forward to returning to campus soon to promote Ukrainian studies and bring my perspective back into the classroom.

18:05

Russian aggressors dropped a powerful bomb on the Mariupol Drama Theatre, where hundreds or thousands of people were taking shelter (mostly – women and children). Information on casualties is not available. Due to constant Russian artillery strikes it's nearly impossible to start a rescue operation.
– Serhiy Taruta, member of the Parliament of Ukraine

23:56

Russians bombed the Mariupol Drama Theatre, where reportedly almost a thousand women and children were taking shelter. The word "CHILDREN" was laid out in giant letters (visible from the sky) in front of the building to protect it. The Russians still dropped the bombs. People are currently buried under rubble. Rescue efforts remain nearly impossible due to shelling.



What Part of War Isn't a Crime?

<https://www.statecollege.com/what-part-of-war-isnt-a-crime/>

Russell Frank

Journalism

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2012-2013

Lviv Ivan Franko National University, Lviv

You think?

What part of Mad Vlad's three-week-old assault on his "brother Slavs" isn't a war crime? What part of any military aggression isn't a crime against humanity?

Watching the carnage in Ukraine has me thinking it might be time to broaden the definition of war crimes. According to standard formulations, the unprovoked invasion of another country is not a war crime. Ordering uniformed young men and women to shoot at other uniformed young men and women is not a war crime. Destroying property, as long as it isn't a residence, a hospital, a church or a school, isn't a war crime.

Insanity.

Definitions of war crimes seem to hark back to an age when wars were regarded as group duels, essentially, governed by a set of rules and rituals that fooled young men into believing they were embarking on a noble, gentlemanly, heroic and glorious adventure.

That's what the old guys who moved game pieces around on a flat map with a little stick wanted their recruits to believe.

The reality – the blood, the screams of the wounded, the stench of death – is far grimmer, as General Eisenhower acknowledged: "I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity."

Here's what Muhammad Ali said when he refused to go to Vietnam to "drop bombs and bullets" on people who had done him no harm: "Shoot them for what? How can I shoot them poor people? Just take me to jail."

How I wish Russia's soldiers would ask the same questions and lay down their arms. Or that members of Putin's inner circle, aware, surely, that hurting Ukraine is also hurting Russia, would pry Putin's fingers from the levers of power.

In the meantime, we're getting to see for ourselves, more than ever before, how destructive, disruptive and indiscriminate war really is. Maybe because I'm old, because I have grandchildren, because I've been in the train stations of Kyiv and Lviv, the images of old folks, kids and moms camping in these places, or trying to board the trains that will take them to safety in Eastern Europe, or hiking to the border, fill me with impotent rage...

Contra Spem Spero

<https://agnionline.bu.edu/blog/dispatches-from-ukraine/#poliukhovych>

Olha Poliukhovych

Literature

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Fulbright Research and Development Fellow, 2017-2018

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Olha Poliukhovych, a Ukrainian writer, philosopher, editor, and humanities professor, writing from her hometown of Kyiv

Twenty-one days of full-scale Russia-Ukraine war have passed as one prolonged horrific day.

Most of all I regret not having completed military training or my course in tactical medicine before this war began. If I had done that, I'd be more helpful.

I'm staying in Ukraine with my family and finding ways to be useful. The words of Ukrainian poet Yevhen Malaniuk echo in my head: "my stiletto was a stylus and a stylus was my stiletto." Written almost a century ago, they're unexpectedly relevant today. A professor of literature, I'm daily reminded of my powerlessness before the events unfolding around me. It feels impossible to convey how radically war has already altered the meanings of so many familiar words and commonplace notions. But while Ukrainians on the ground are writing our history in real time with arms and blood (tragically, this is no metaphor), it falls to me, and others like me, to speak—to forge a language adequate to these new realities.

Knowing something about language, as well as the history of Ukraine, may give me a bit of an edge. Ukrainians are by now adept at identifying propaganda and the imperial narratives that until now have dominated the rest of the world's understanding of our story. So much of Russian society's image of itself depends on their uncritical acceptance of centuries of their own PR. What we see of that storied Russian soul is that it is capable of nuclear terrorism and is willing to slaughter civilians without mercy in order to dominate our cities. Yet Ukrainians have thwarted their expectations. They expected to be greeted with carpets of flowers. Instead, they've been met with people lining the streets, raising blue-and-yellow flags. After the Russian military attacked the city of Kherson, its residents organized a Ukrainian rally and rejected Russia's offers of humanitarian aid.



People across the country continue to protest and to resist the troops trampling their territory. I personally can't begin to grasp what the average Russian soldier thinks he is doing here. Their armies will never succeed in occupying Ukraine.

Russia's initial plan to capture Kyiv in two to three days failed. (Unfortunately, the West appeared to share Russia's assessment and acted accordingly—had they imposed sanctions at once . . . but such "what ifs" are a game for children and political scientists.) Unable to subdue Kyiv, Russians focused on attacking Kharkiv, a former Ukrainian capital. They shelled not only residential areas in the city, but also universities, colleges, and schools. The secret soul of Russia is to be found neither in Tolstoy nor in Dostoyevsky but in the pictures of the still-smoldering skeletons of elementary schools and universities, churches, libraries, and museums barely standing in the ruined cities of eastern Ukraine and beyond.

In Kharkiv the Russians shelled Freedom Square, notable for being the largest public square in Europe. What was the thinking behind bombing a large empty square? What strategic value did it hold? It's not simply physical violence, not merely death and the destruction of millions of lives, that Russia intends. The real purpose of the carnage and the weirdly symbolic violence behind destroying an empty square is to instill fear, to embed it deep under our skins, so that the next time Russia raises its voice Ukrainians everywhere will quake. They want to control us—first by force, then psychologically. But it happens that Ukrainians choose to read Russia's insane ruthlessness differently: we see it as a gesture of national despair, of spiritual

vacuousness, an act of self-abasement and agony. Theirs will be, at best, a Herostratic fame.

They bombed Freedom Square in Kharkiv—yet we ourselves will always remain free.

Russia's revenge on eastern cities in the Donetsk region, on Mariupol and Volnovakha, was especially brutal, violent, senseless, inhuman. From the start of Russia's assault on Donbas in 2014, Russian hybrid forces failed to capture the targeted cities. Tonight, it seems, Russia vented its frustration by bombing Mariupol's theater, in which hundreds of women and children were sheltering. The Russian word for children had been painted in huge letters on the grounds of two sides of the building. Perhaps that's what made it a target.

Still these cities remain Ukrainian and, for this, pay an impossible price in blood and tears. It's been reported that Volnovakha has been almost completely destroyed.

The logic behind this annihilation seems almost self-evident: unable to occupy these Ukrainian cities, the "mysterious Russian soul" would prefer to destroy them and slaughter their residents, to turn them into the same nothing that they feel within.

My horror is compounded by my awareness that the rest of the world is watching—billions see us on Instagram, Twitter, TV news, on websites, in newspapers and magazines. And, apparently, billions of people stand helpless before one evil man and his minions. How is this possible? What do they really fear? Is it a terror of Putin, a failure of faith in themselves, a combination of both?

Ukrainians are not the only victims of Russia's war on Ukraine—now several international journalists are among the dead. Pierre Zakrzewski, a resident of Ireland, and a reporter for Fox News was killed a couple of days ago outside Kyiv. In Irpin Russian invaders shot Brent Renaud, an award-winning American film producer and former journalist for The New York Times. These men had survived stints in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. But they couldn't survive Mr. Putin.

All of these deaths could have been prevented—so I believe. As soon as the war began, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke not only for Ukraine but for civilization itself when he urged NATO to create a no-fly zone over Ukraine, or at the very least to provide our country with protective aircraft systems. The world, fearing World War III, refused. They submitted to Putin's blackmail. I, and many others, believe if they'd called Putin's bluff they would have stopped him in his tracks.

"When is life grievable?" asks Judith Butler. Are Ukrainians so dispensable to the rest of the world? I refuse to believe it. No: contra spem spero! I choose to hope against hope, in order not to leave the question rhetorical.

A moment to stop and think over

Natalie Goshylyk

Linguistics

Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, Ivano-Frankivsk

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2021-2022

University of California, Berkeley, CA

Among the huge flow of information about the war in Ukraine, there are things that are important and should be in our focus of attention. These are primarily our soldiers, our cities and our people at the front line and all over Ukraine.

And there are things that are not so important. Like Schwarzenegger's video to the Russians, where we see equality signs between the Soviet and Russian and the already familiar narrative about "beautiful Russians who are held hostage by one person, they know nothing, poor people." We also should not care about Russians who quit their jobs or go to help refugees in Poland, because they know the Russian language and feel needed. The addressees of all these stories are only Russians. They are the target audience of their messages, they want to appease their own conscience. Eventually, let them do what they want, like spiders in a jar. And we shouldn't care.

We've got our own agenda.



I covered the funeral of four Ukrainian soldiers who were killed after an air attack on the Yavoriv Military Complex. Their names are Oleh Yaschyshyn, Serhii Melnyk, Rostyslav Romanchuk and Kyrlo Vyshyvanyi.

One of them, Serhii Melnyk, was a colonel. His son told me he was pulling people out of the rubble, and died when another hit came.

When the war is over, we will rebuild theaters and apartment blocks. Too sad we wouldn't be able to bring back those who perished in this war. The irreversible nature of this loss hits really hard.

Photo by **Alexey Furman/Getty Images**
Journalism
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Fulbright Graduate Student, 2014-2016
University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO

8.30

90% of Mariupol city has been destroyed or damaged. Almost no buildings have been left untouched by constant Russian artillery strikes. Most of the 400,000 residents remain. Evacuation and rescue efforts remain extremely difficult due to constant Russian shelling. This is beyond a humanitarian disaster.

– Advisor to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Denisenko.

10:16

As of 15 March, the total number of those who crossed the borders of Ukraine leaving the country to escape Russian aggression reached 3,063,095 citizens.

– UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

FROM RESPECT TO ABHORENCE ... AND (NEVER) BACK?

Olha Vorobyova

Linguistics

National Technical University of Ukraine

"Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 1995-1996

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL

It might seem odd but it is only now, in the time of war, that I came to full realization not only of the difference between the holistic and the fragmentary mindsets, but also of their inseparability. Sudden glimpses of seemingly insignificant occurrences, of phrases uttered in passing, of evasive looks – all these spontaneously emerge from memory or, perhaps, "emerge" is a wrong word – rather, they are illuminated in memory, like a flash in the sky left by an enemy's missile, and, step by step, they modify the outlines of the previously shaped holistic world picture.

It happened so that my shaping as a professional was fed by the energetics coming from both Ukraine and Russia, or rather, the latter's intellectual think tanks, which is natural in the case of the faded planet USSR. At that time, at the turn of the decade and in early 1990s, it really seemed that the elites in the Soviet and later post-Soviet science and scholarship were concentrated in Moscow. These were the people who commanded respect not only due to their colossal knowledgeability and ability to discern a glimpse of talent in another person and help it grow, but also due to being courageous as citizens in supporting dissidence and freedom of thought. And still, and still, and still...

My colleagues and myself (all doctoral students at the time) saw in the year 1991, the year Ukraine gained its independence, in the Moscow academic milieu. Against the backdrop of ironic comments and the capital's elites playing upon the prepositions "in" and "on" [in reference to Ukraine] that could be heard from every rostrum and in every conversation, I felt real warmth only after a chance meeting in the street with Viktoriya Yartseva (at that time a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of Russia). It is symptomatic also that we ran across each other at the corner between the Institute of Linguistics and the Military Shop. It turned out she was from the Poltava Region. Her greetings were the only words of support I've heard at that time

Later, in early 2010, when we came to Moscow to pay the last tribute to our teacher, Professor Olga Kubriakova, the words I caught by chance – "Keep away from Olga, she is a nationalist!", sounded as a personalized echo of Russia Today and proximity to Putin's structures. It was followed by biting phrases in Russian scholarly discourse, like "They started studying concepts in "mova", too" ["mova" meaning "language" in Ukrainian], or by looking aside at the international conferences in 2014. And then there were trivial images posted on the Facebook in late February 2022 by the Russian colleagues who were still in social networks at the time.

Someone would say these are trifles. Right, these are trifles. Like sand grains, particles of the sandcastle which once elicited if not admiration, then at least respect by its grandeur. Was it illusory? No, it was destroyed from within.

We will restore the Karazin University in Kharkiv, as well as the Mariupol Drama Theater, we will heal the wounds in our souls. Will they be able to restore the castle they've ruined themselves? I'd rather leave the question open.

Ihor Poshyvailo

American Studies

Director at the National Museum of Revolution of Dignity (Maidan Museum)

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2009-2010

The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Russian Nazis systematically destroy what distinguishes Ukrainians from Muscovites – our cultural identity.

The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine has estimated the cultural heritage losses. 135 objects, including 59 Orthodox churches, prayer houses, mosques, synagogues, 25 architectural monuments of the 19th – early 20th centuries, 12 museums and reserves, 10 memorials, 6 theaters and cinemas, 5 libraries were destroyed or badly damaged.

The largest number of destructions took place in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Chernihiv, Kyiv, Luhansk and Sumy regions.

International agreements on the protection of cultural heritage in times of war – the Hague Convention and its protocols – do not stop Putin's vandals. However, the Mariupol tribunal will stop them. Maybe in the rebuilt Mariupol theater. Sooner or later, but for sure!





His mother drapes the coffin of Ivan Skrypnyk, a Ukrainian military officer who died in an air strike on the International Center for Peacekeeping and Security at the Yavoriv military training ground.

Photo by **Alexey Furman/Getty Images**
Journalism
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Fulbright Graduate Student, 2014-2016
University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO

March 17, 2022

05:55

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights estimates verified Ukrainian civilian losses since the start of the war at 2032 as of 16 March. The Commissioner noted that the real casualties are likely to be much higher.

10:30

A residential block in Kyiv's Podylsky district was shelled by Russian artillery fire in the morning. 1 person was killed, 19 were injured, 6 buildings were damaged (among them – a school and a kindergarten). Rescue efforts are ongoing, information is being updated. – Kyiv Mayor

11:08

Russian artillery hit a college dormitory in Kharkiv. 1 person died, 11 were injured. Rescue efforts are ongoing. – State Emergency Service

13:00

Russia has spent almost its entire stockpile of high-accuracy rocket artillery. The regime has ordered the factories producing these munitions to work in a 24/7 production schedule.
– General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine

13:17

222 people (4 of them – children) have died in Kyiv due to Russian aggression since the start of the war. 889 have been wounded (18 of them were children). – Kyiv City Administration

14:24

In the village of Zavody (Kharkiv region), a family of four people was killed during Russian shelling of a residential neighborhood: a man, two women and an 11-year-old boy. Another woman was injured.
– Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office

15:05

Since the beginning of the war, under the pretext of evacuation, Russia has been forcibly relocating Ukrainians from enemy-occupied territories of the Donetsk region. These actions are a violation of the provisions of Art. 49 and 55 of the Geneva Convention.
– Office of the Prosecutor General

17:25

Ukrainian journalist Victoria Roshchina was likely taken hostage by Russian FSB on 15 March. Victoria was reporting from areas of intense fighting in the East and was last known to be traveling to Mariupol.
– Novoye Vremya news company

19:55

According to UN estimates, about 6.5 million Ukrainians have already become internally displaced, and 3.2 million people have been forced to leave the country due to the Russian invasion.

21:44

Six people were killed and five were wounded due to Russian artillery shelling of Makariv (Kyiv region). – First deputy chairman of Kyiv Regional Council

21:50

9145 people were evacuated today via humanitarian corridors, among them 4972 – from Mariupol, 1124 – children.
– Deputy Head of the President's Office



The Fulbright Program

During times of crisis, Fulbrighters step up and take action.

Many of the U.S. Fulbright Students and Scholars who were conducting their grants in Ukraine have since relocated to Poland. They remain in virtual contact with their hosts in Ukraine, as well as their students and fellow faculty, where feasible.

In addition to their Fulbright activities, many are working with local organizations to address the growing refugee crisis. They are raising funds for and gathering medicines, food, and clothing; helping refugees locate housing and other services; and supporting in other ways.

"The process of all of us coming together at this time has been momentous. We are learning and living so many important lessons of community, trust, and engagement," said Jessica Zychowicz, director of the Fulbright Program in Ukraine.

We are proud to see the Fulbright community come together to make a positive impact.



Message from Executive Director Belinda Theriault. Fulbright Commission Iceland

<https://fulbright.is/slava-ukraini/>

Dear friends,
What can one possibly say? Here we are in 2022, watching a megalomaniac with nuclear weapons and a massive army, attacking a sovereign European state, murdering its citizens and bombing its cities. This puts Russia in the same league as the worst of the worst of the world's dictatorships. This is not defensive; this is not a misunderstanding between two countries; this is a cold calculation by a bully to take what he wants because he can and because he is frightened of open, free societies.

And here we all thought Europe was past this. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, especially in the last decade or so, we had allowed ourselves to become complacent about autocratic tendencies and even flagrant misuse of power, of misinformation, cyber-attacks and blatant attempts to weaken democracy, both from within and without. But the events of the past month have finally woken us up. We must not take our way of life for granted. While we all want to live in peace, we cannot allow such flagrant aggression against democracy and the rule of law to stand unchallenged. It must be a bit frustrating for this particular tyrant, after having spent so much effort to weaken Western resolve, to now be the very reason for our unity and renewed commitment. A miscalculation, surely, predicated on hubris. If ever there was proof that absolute power corrupts absolutely.

I want to be clear that only the Russian leaders who are responsible for this war should be condemned. The Russian people are not at fault here. Many cannot get accurate information on what is going on, since the despot has strangled the free media. For the brave Russian souls who are standing up to tyranny, including many academics and students, despite great danger to themselves, we should have the utmost respect. And we must also understand and have compassion for those who are unable to put themselves in a position where they could be imprisoned for up to 15 years for speaking the truth.

But why am I going on about this? What business do I have writing about this in a Fulbright Iceland newsletter? Is not Fulbright apolitical and should it not steer clear of political controversy? In theory, yes. But when we are faced with complete disregard for the values that we hold dear, an aggression that has brought us to the brink of another world war, I do not think that we should keep silent. Yes, Fulbright is about opening minds, about sharing knowledge and increasing mutual understanding between peoples to pave the way forward to a better future and that is the mission of Fulbright Commissions. But this mission is put in grave jeopardy when we are under attack. And this is an attack, not only on Ukraine, but on democracy, on free and open societies everywhere, and we must condemn it.

And as for all of us who still have the privilege of safety in our homes, it is clear that we are going to have to accept some inconveniences and hardships as a result of this horrific war. It will be difficult, and prolonged difficulties may soften the resolve of some to stay the course in the longer term. I call on Fulbrighters the world over to lead the way here and be proponents of defending democracy, even at a personal cost to ourselves. This is a defining moment. Slava Ukraini!



Why this Ukrainian exchange student left Seattle for a war zone back home

<https://kuow.org/stories/why-this-ukrainian-exchange-student-left-seattle-for-a-war-zone-back-home>

Olena Bidovanets

Public Health
Public Health Center of the Ministry of
Health of Ukraine; Danylo Halytsky Lviv
National Medical University
Fulbright Graduate Student, 2021-2022
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

More than 1.9 million refugees have escaped Ukraine since Russia's invasion. Many more are expected to leave. But, Olena Bidovanets has returned to Ukraine.

Bidovanets is a psychotherapist and a Fulbright scholar at the University of Washington pursuing her Master in Public Health. When the invasion into Ukraine began Bidovanets and other members of the Seattle Ukrainian community staged protests across Seattle.

But every time she supported her homeland locally, her heart said it wasn't enough. "Felt that every time that my heart is not calm,"

Bidovanets said. "I don't feel that I am doing good, being in the distance."

She began to wonder if she should return to Ukraine. Bidovanets spoke with her parents and friends about the idea of traveling back to Ukraine; many of them told her to stay in Seattle. But still, it didn't feel right.

"I was raised in a family where all the principals, like, defending my country; that my country, my land, my culture is a great culture and is a great treasure," Bidovanets said. "And my ancestors fought for that. Thanks to them I am who I am. I have all this treasure right now."

She continued to debate with herself if going to Ukraine, a war zone, was the right decision. Then a friend asked her a question.

"She just asked, 'What is your heart telling you? What do you feel you would love to do?' And I had the answer; that I realized I want to go," Bidovanets said.

Bidovanets soon joined a humanitarian aid group. She arrived in Ukraine last week. Her team is staged in a remote location. They're assisting people heading for the border with medical support.

Currently, she is focusing on the logistics of finding people who have been displaced and need medical help. She'll soon be providing therapeutic counseling.

Bidovanets says she plans to return to Seattle when the war is won, or for the fall quarter to pursue her masters.

00:43

Within the last 24 hours, on March 18th, Russian military has executed four missile strikes (14 missiles) and over 40 air strikes in Ukraine.
– the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine

Several villages in Sumy region are still in a critical situation. The Russian occupiers enter villages, loot, and commit crimes against civilians. There are also instances of torture and kidnapping. – Sumy Regional Administration

05:56

Over the past 24 hours, four civilians were killed and ten were injured in Severodonetsk and Rubizhne, Luhansk region, as a result of shelling by Russian military.

07:39

In Mariupol, there is an ongoing fight for Azovstal at the moment. The shelling by Russian occupation forces destroyed the metallurgical plant.

09:30

Russians have launched 29 shelling attacks against Kharkiv during the last 24 hours. This includes artillery, mortar strikes, and rocket artillery systems.
– Kharkiv Region Military Administration

10:08

Russian troops have damaged nearly 500 schools in Ukraine since the start of the war, 69 of which have been completely destroyed.
– Head of the Parliament Education Committee.

10:39

112 children have died since the start of the war due to Russian aggression, 140 have been injured.
– General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine

11:30

As a result of the shelling of the suburbs of Zaporizhia by Russian troops on March 18, 9 people were killed, 22 more were wounded. – Secretary of the Zaporizhia City Council Anatoliy Kurtev

13:39

On March 18, the Russian occupiers fired heavy artillery at settlements in the Bucha district (Kyiv region), killing seven civilians.

16:08

Since the beginning of the war, the Russian occupiers have conducted 1,403 air raid and air strikes against Ukraine. – Ministry of Defence

16:55

The Russian occupiers began to parachute shells into Ukraine. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the weapons used by the enemy army are the most brutal. The weapon explodes over the target, forming a deadly cloud of striking elements.

18:44

In Kyiv, 228 people have died since the beginning of the war, including 4 children. 912 people have been injured. – Kyiv City State Administration

20:05

Russian shelling led to numerous fires breaking out in several districts of Kharkiv, as well as damage to residential buildings. According to preliminary reports by the Centre for Emergency Medical Aid, there are casualties and injured, including children.

20:10

Russian occupiers are forcibly deporting residents of Mariupol to Russia, moving them through 'filtration camps', where they check their phones and documents. The mayor of Mariupol estimates that thousands of people have been deported to remote regions of Russia.

20:12

During the day, the Russian army shelled the western area of Chernihiv. Fires broke out in 3 factories and 10 residential buildings. No information on casualties is available so far.
– Chernihiv Regional State Administration

20:15

More than 50 dead bodies have been recovered from under the debris of a military barrack in Mykolaiv which had suffered a missile strike on 18 March. – State Emergency Service

21:13

As a result of shelling in Kharkiv, a 9-year-old child and a man have died, according to Head of Regional State Administration Oleh Syniehubov.

23:01

Russian occupiers have shelled the city hospital in Chernihiv; now the patients who have undergone surgery have to stay in corridors at +10 temperature. – Mayor Vladyslav Atroshenko

23:47

In Lviv region, in the town of Kamyanka-Buzka, the City Hall building is on fire. This information has been confirmed by the press service of the SES in Lviv region. Rescue services are currently working there.



The Free World Must Continue to Strengthen and Sustain Ukraine

<https://omaha.com/opinion/columnists/midlands-voices-the-free-world-must-continue-to-strengthen-and-sustain-ukraine/>

Richard Fellman

Political Science

University of Nebraska, Omaha, NE

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2009-2010

Uzhhorod National University

Every time I watch a television news story these days and look at the map depicting Ukraine, I see myself, for 12 years ago I lived in that football shaped breadbasket of Europe and traveled north, south, east and west where we had an apartment built during the years following the First World War when the Czechs ruled the lands on the western slopes of the Carpathian Mountains. The Communists under Lenin were in the midst of consolidating their control after their Revolution of 1917 and for a short period of time, only about a year, the Ukrainians asserted their independence as a nation of their own. My wife and I lived in today's Ukraine for six months from early summer until the end of December in 2009. We were there because I had received a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship as an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in the Department of Political Science. My purpose in Ukraine was to teach American government at Uzhhorod National University, one of the old USSR's university's established in the late 1940s.

When I first told Bev that I was going to receive a Fulbright and we would live in Ukraine she said, "Dick, can't you change that so we can go to

Italy or Spain or almost anyplace but Ukraine." She paused. Then she said, " Don't worry. I'll come and visit you."

By the time we were ready to leave she was as excited as I was about Ukraine.

We flew to Budapest, spent a few delightful days in Hungary, and took an overnight train northwest and across the border to Ukraine and the university town of Uzhhorod. I taught, we traveled, and at the end of my tour the university awarded me an Honorary Doctorate degree, the first they had ever given to an American.

But there was far more to those six months, for each of our immigrant families originated in Ukraine. Bev's maternal grandmother came from Zhytomyr, a large city southwest of Kyiv, and we spent a couple of days there and walked through the old cemetery where her relatives were buried.

The Fellman family came from the village, in Yiddish called a "shtetl," of Lechovitz. The Soviets changed its name to Bilehoria to sound less Polish or German. Bilehoria is located in the middle of western Ukraine, about 150 miles southeast of L'viv. I was there twice and visited the still standing building where my great-grandmother ran a small Inn, still called by the locals the "Jews Inn." There are no Jews today in Bilehoria.

Spending time touring throughout Ukraine...we were in Chernobyl, the site of the nuclear disaster; had a wonderful long weekend in L'viv; and nearly a week in Kyiv including a visit to Babi Yar, the deep ravine on the outskirts of the magnificent city and capitol of Ukraine where during two days the Nazi's murdered over 30,000 Jews. We attended Shabbat services run by Lubavitch rabbis and those

run by Reform rabbis. We attended High Holiday services in a small synagogue hidden from both the Nazi's and the Communists in the middle of a block, reached only through a hidden rock filled trail with no marks showing its entrance or what it was. We saw the home and monument to the writer, Sholem Aleichem, and the grave of the great Chasidic Rebbe, Levi Yitzchak of Berdychiv. The city of Kyiv reminded me of San Francisco, steep hills, well tended parks everywhere, with the added excitement of a national Capitol with impressive government buildings, major churches, and bureaucrats all well dressed with big black sedans everywhere.

That has all changed these last few weeks. Day by day Russia is attempting its age old practices, and Ukraine is its victim. But this time Ukraine is not turning and running even though it would appear to be totally overwhelmed by Soviet power, now nuclear, even though the former Soviet Union lies on the ashes of history. The mentality of Russia hasn't changed. In the 1890s my grandfather, Gershon Fellman (it became Harry Fellman when he came to America) the tenth child in a family of eleven, was conscripted into the Russian Army for a term of 20 years.

The Russians were terrorizing the Jewish villages with soldiers on horseback burning the small wood and mud homes and randomly killing all they could find. Called "pogroms," together with the draft, confiscatory taxes, and prohibitions against education, hundreds of thousands of Jews left for America.

Gershon served in the Army, won a medal for outstanding marksmanship with a 30-day furlough, came home to Lechovitz, backed a bag

with three bottles of vodka, and told his mother goodbye. He would never see her again. He went to the border, bribed the guards with the vodka, crossed into Poland, threw his Russian uniform away and wore civilian clothes, and came to America.

He ended up in Omaha where an older sister had already moved. Within a few years a younger brother and two nephews, all four about the same age, were settled in Nebraska where they worked first as peddlers but ultimately opened small business's and within a generation became doctors, lawyers, college professors and often well-to-do entrepreneurs.

The President of Ukraine comes from that same stock. It makes me proud. It should make every Jew proud since nearly every American Jew has an ancestor or two who originated in Ukraine. Volodymyr Zelenskyy's origin is no different than mine. A few nights ago in one of his speeches he explained that his grandfather was one of four brothers, the only one who survived the Nazi Holocaust. He was raised in a Jewish family. He became famous as a comic and an actor, but he is also a law school graduate. He is still a young man, only 44 years old. And he is an icon to the world, already a man of history. I pray he lives, but regardless of what might take place in his life he has already given the citizens of Ukraine more hope for their future than they have ever had.

When I taught in Ukraine the "Politology" (that's what they call Political Science) Department office had posters on its walls advertising the European Union, NATO, and the United Nations. The only major obstacle to Ukraine being admitted to any of those organizations is the impossible level of corruption which exists throughout the nation,

including the legal system itself. Once that is corrected, Ukraine will be able to set its sights on the west with success.

Like Zelenskyy, Vladimir Putin graduated from law school, but he grew up and matured in the old East Germany. He shares their disjointed world view. From school he entered the KGB, the Soviet Secret Service. Everyone fears the KGB. I had experiences with the KGB. Their agents came to the first couple of classes I taught. The KGB men were much older than the typical college student. They said nothing to me but I was told by the chairman of the department that they were in my class "just to watch the American and listen to what he said." They stopped coming after a couple of classes. But the KGB watched our apartment and bugged our phone, intercepted our mail, and made us fully aware of their power. I can picture them even now...tall, strong and even handsome young men with black leather jackets and a side arm hidden beneath their clothing.

Zelenskyy speaks English. He clearly states his thoughts and his goals. He is open. Hopefully he is closely guarded and not in personal danger. He has already inspired his nation and the world. Putin, on the other hand, has already entered the fraternity of tyrants. He will never escape. He will in time drive Russia to ruin, but I fear he has already set the course of history with the commencement of the Second Cold War. I think this "hot" war and what might become the Second Cold War will end, whenever that might be, and in the end it will result in the economic ruin of Russia just as the First Cold War ended in the economic collapse of the Soviet Union. The citizens of Ukraine few years ago staged the Orange Revolution. The leader of the puppet

government subservient to Russia was deposed. The next leader ended up in jail, and so it went. Then came the aggression of Russia in the Crimea and the eastern territories of Ukraine. Then came today.

Ukraine has historically been a rich nation of Europe since it has the largest and most fertile single body of land on the entire continent. Throughout history its relationship with Mother Russia was tension filled. For many years Kyiv was the capitol of all of Russia, during the 1930s the USSR literally starved the farmers of Ukraine, called the "holodomor" which was a national famine. And today there is war.

Russia will not be able to withstand the pressures of sanctions and economic mobilization by nearly every nation of the world. Even with the nearly total lack of internal freedom, I believe the time will come when the average Russian citizen discovers, as they did during the First Cold War, that the West is not out to conquer and subjugate Russia.

I was told many times while visiting with Russian friends during my time in Ukraine that America and the west wanted to conquer and destroy the USSR. They trained their military using that description of what they called their enemy. Putin is again reverting to that type of propaganda. He has added the charge that we are filled with Nazi's. That pitch failed once and will again. The united free world must again stand together, as we did against the Nazi's, for at heart Putin is a Nazi. To accuse Zelenskyy who is Jewish of being "a Nazi" is misreading history as only a true Nazi might.

We in America together with all of the free world must continue and strengthen what we do to sustain and ultimately bring victory to Ukraine.

...30...



Photo credit: **Marian Luniy**
IIE Kyiv Office

March 19, 2022



Putin Made a Profound Miscalculation on Ukraine

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/19/opinion/ukraine-russia-putin-history.html>

Yaroslav Hrytsak

History (non-U.S.)

Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 1996-1997

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

LVIV, Ukraine — Ukraine is once again at the center of a potentially global conflict. World War I, as the historian Dominic Lieven put it, “turned on the fate of Ukraine.” World War II, according to the legendary journalist Edgar Snow, was “first of all a Ukrainian war.” Now the threat of a third world war hinges on what could happen in Ukraine.

It’s a striking repetition. Why has Ukraine, a midsize country of more than 40 million people on the eastern edge of Europe, been at the epicenter of warfare not once, not twice, but three times?

Part of the answer, at least, is geographical. Set between Russia and Germany, Ukraine has long been viewed as the site of struggle for the domination of the continent. But the deeper reasons are historical in nature. Ukraine, which has a common origin point with Russia, has developed differently over the course of centuries, diverging in crucial ways from its neighbor to the east.

President Vladimir Putin likes to invoke history as part of the reason for his bloody invasion. Ukraine and Russia, he asserts, are in fact one

country: Ukraine, in effect, doesn't exist. This, of course, is entirely wrong. But he is right to think history holds a key to understanding the present. He just doesn't realize that far from enabling his success, it's what will thwart him.

In 1904 an English geographer named Halford John Mackinder made a bold prediction. In an article titled "The Geographical Pivot of History," he suggested that whoever controlled Eastern Europe would control the world. On either side of this vast region were Russia and Germany, poised to do battle. And in between was Ukraine, with its rich resources of grain, coal and oil.

There's no need to go into the finer details of Mackinder's theory; it had its flaws. Yet it proved extremely influential after World War I and became something of a self-fulfilling prophecy. Thanks to the Nazi geopolitician Karl Haushofer, the concept migrated into Hitler's "Mein Kampf." Lenin and Stalin had not read Mackinder but acted as if they had. For them, Ukraine was the bridge that would carry the Russian Revolution westward into Germany, making it a world revolution. The path to conflict again ran through Ukraine.

The war, when it came, was catastrophic: In Ukraine, around seven million perished. In the aftermath, Ukraine was sealed up in the Soviet Union, and the question for a time seemed settled. With the collapse of Communism, many believed that Mackinder's thesis was outdated and the future belonged to independent and sovereign states, free from the ambitions of bigger neighbors. They were wrong.

Mackinder's argument — that Eastern Europe and Ukraine held the key for a contest between Russia and Germany — never went away. In fact, it took pride of place in Mr. Putin's mind. With one change, however: He substituted Germany with the West in its entirety. Ukraine, to Mr. Putin, became the battleground for a civilizational contest between Russia and the West.

He didn't act on it at first. In the early years of his tenure, he seemed to expect — in line with those in Boris Yeltsin's circle who oversaw the end of the Soviet Union — that Ukrainian independence wouldn't last long. In time, Ukraine would be begging to be taken back. It didn't happen. Though some Ukrainians remained under the sway of Russian culture, politically they leaned to the West, as shown by the Orange Revolution of 2004, when millions of Ukrainians protested against electoral fraud.

So Mr. Putin changed course. Soon after the war in Georgia in 2008, in which the Kremlin seized control of two Georgian regions, he designed a new strategic policy for Ukraine. According to the plan, any steps Kyiv might take in the direction of the West would be punished with military aggression. The objective was to cleave off Ukraine's Russophone east and turn the rest of the country into a vassal state headed by a Kremlin puppet.

At the time, it seemed fantastical, ludicrous. Nobody believed it could be genuine. But by the final weeks of Ukraine's Maidan revolution in 2014, in which Ukrainians demanded an end to corruption and an embrace of the West, it became horribly clear that Russia was intent on aggression. And so it proved: In a rapid-fire

operation, Mr. Putin seized Crimea and parts of the Donbas. But crucially, the full extent of his ambition was thwarted, in large part through the heroic resistance mounted by volunteers in the country's east.

Mr. Putin miscalculated in two ways. First, he was hoping that, as had been the case with his war against Georgia, the West would tacitly swallow his aggression against Ukraine. A unified response from the West was not something he expected. Second, since in his mind Russians and Ukrainians were one nation, Mr. Putin believed Russian troops needed barely to enter Ukraine to be welcomed with flowers. This never materialized.

What happened in Ukraine in 2014 confirmed what liberal Ukrainian historians have been saying for a long time: The chief distinction between Ukrainians and Russians lies not in language, religion or culture — here they are relatively close — but in political traditions. Simply put, a victorious democratic revolution is almost impossible in Russia, whereas a viable authoritarian government is almost impossible in Ukraine.

The reason for this divergence is historical. Up until the end of World War I (and in the case of western Ukraine, the end of World War II), Ukrainian lands were under the strong political and cultural influence of Poland. This influence was not Polish per se; it was, rather, a Western influence. As the Harvard Byzantinist Ihor Sevcenko put it, in Ukraine the West was clad in Polish dress. Central to this influence were the ideas of constraining centralized power, an organized civil society and some freedom of assembly.

Mr. Putin seems to have learned nothing from his failures in 2014. He has launched a full-scale invasion, seemingly intended to remove the Ukrainian government from power and pacify the country. But again, Russian aggression has been met with heroic Ukrainian resistance and united the West. Though Mr. Putin may escalate further, he is far from the military victory he sought. A master tactician but inept strategist, he has made his most profound miscalculation.

Yet it's one based on the belief that he is at war not with Ukraine but with the West in Ukrainian lands. It's essential to grasp this point. The only way to defeat him is to turn his belief — that Ukraine is fighting not alone but with the help of the West and as part of the West — into a waking nightmare.

How this could be done, whether through humanitarian and military help, incorporating Ukraine into the European Union or even supplying it with its own Marshall Plan, are open questions. What matters is the political will to answer them. After all, the struggle for Ukraine, as history tells us, is about much more than just Ukraine or Europe. It is the struggle for the shape of the world to come.

Eighty Years Later, Another War

<https://rohatynjewishheritage.org/2022/03/80-years-another-war/>

Marla Raucher Osborn

Arts & Heritage

Rohatyn Jewish Heritage, Lviv, Ukraine

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2019-2020

Center for Urban History of East Central Europe, Lviv

Today we were supposed to gather with friends and colleagues from Rohatyn, Lviv, and elsewhere in Ukraine and Europe, and together with Jewish descendants of Rohatyn from Israel and the US, for a memorial service led by Rabbi Kolesnyk of Ivano-Frankivsk to mark the 80-year anniversary of the German Nazi destruction of the Jewish community of Rohatyn, as we had on the 75-year anniversary. But war, another war, prevented Jay and me from returning to Lviv last month after a short visit to California, and we had to cancel the memorial gathering in Rohatyn for the safety of all those who had wanted to join. This year, like last year at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, we all marked the anniversary wherever we were. Jay and I bore witness this year remotely, saying a prayer for the souls of the martyred victims in my own family and the families of all Rohatyn Jewish descendants abroad. We know from messages that others also commemorated the day in North America, South America, Europe, and Israel.

This is a time of terror in Ukraine, with echoes of past wars which devastated Rohatyn and nearby towns and brought horror to all of the people of the region. The simmering war which

began in 2014 with the forced annexation and occupation by Russia of the Crimean peninsula and other Ukrainian territories in the eastern oblasts erupted last month into a full-scale armed invasion across nearly all of Ukraine. Anyone who has studied the effects of past wars on Rohatyn, the region, and the people who lived there now shudders with recognition at new images and reports of the same kinds of destruction and the slaughter of innocents, again.

Battles in the first month of the World War I in Rohatyn and other towns of its district inflicted widespread damage and reduced the center of Bilshivtsi to a heap of ruins. After occupying Rohatyn for less than a year, retreating Russian imperial troops forcibly deported more than 500 Jewish men into Russia, and then burned most of Rohatyn to the ground. This week in several eastern and southern Ukrainian cities and smaller towns, news reports and video

show Russian military units doing the same things to Ukrainian civilians, their homes, and their neighborhoods.

Rohatyn still lives with the legacy of World War II, the Soviet and Nazi occupations, and the Holocaust: the shadows of the murdered Jews, deported Poles and other minorities, shattered physical heritage and lives. Now in some cities in Ukraine, we see the same targeting and destruction of residential buildings, hospitals, markets, and schools with the innocent people inside; millions of refugees displaced within Ukraine and beyond; the Russian military blocking and firing on humanitarian caravans with people, food, and medical supplies. Civilian deaths outstrip the ability of local services to recover and bury the victims; now mass graves gather the dead again, like 80 years ago. Satellite images of Ukrainian towns flattened by Russian artillery appear hauntingly like aerial photos of Rohatyn's Jewish ghetto after its liquidation by fire in 1943.



Aerial views of Rohatyn's burned former Jewish ghetto in 1944 (at left), and the ruined city of Volnovakha in southeastern Ukraine one week ago (at right). Sources: NARA via Alex Feller and Maxar Technologies.

09:37

Russian aggressors dropped bombs on Art School #12 used as a shelter by women, children and elderly. No information available on casualties yet.

– Mariupol City Council

14:44

Russian occupiers started engaging in piracy, stealing ships loaded with tens of thousands of tons of Ukrainian grain from Berdiansk seaport.

– Oleksandr Starukh, Head of Zaporizhzhia Regional Military

16:30

Russian invaders have hit more than 500 educational institution since the start of the war: universities, schools, kindergartens, research facilities. This is part of their purposeful destruction of civilian infrastructure with artillery fire and aviation strikes.

– Minister of Education and Science

Offsetting immense sadness, we are grateful that so far all of our closest friends and colleagues in and near Lviv and Rohatyn are physically safe, though under duress. Many are working to shuttle supplies and refugees, in between sheltering in cellars and basements during alerts, and preparing for the greater storm to come in western Ukraine. With each passing day, their lives become more precarious, and several of them have already sent family members over borders to relative safety. Jay and I remain in contact via multiple message and media services with many of our Ukrainian friends and colleagues still in the region, several on a daily basis. Like many others outside of Ukraine, we work each day to communicate and coordinate aid, to donate to humanitarian services and to the Ukrainian territorial defense, and to encourage our friends who are despondent over the madness and their future.

Our own lives and work are now disrupted by the war as well. Our apartment in Lviv where we have lived for more than five years is now home to a refugee family from Kharkiv, still with the clothes, tools, and more we left behind two months ago for what should have been a brief trip to the US. Jay and I have no other home; since the war erupted we have been staying with friends and family and in short-term rental units in California. Our heritage work in Rohatyn and in support of others' projects in the region is of course on indefinite hold. To date there have been no severe impacts to Rohatyn, only an influx of refugees which has grown the city's population by 20% in just three weeks. We have no idea when, or even if, we will be able to return to Lviv and resume our lives and work.

This has been one of the hardest reports I have ever had to write for Rohatyn Jewish Heritage.

For those wishing to support Ukrainians and Ukraine's independence with humanitarian aid, I have posted dozens of options on social media and will highlight one organization here which has managed multiple initiatives in past years and is especially effective now:

Razom for Ukraine:
<http://razomforukraine.org/donate/>

...as well as a "super site" which aggregates many financial and volunteer options and organizes them by country:
<https://how-to-help-ukraine-now.super.site/>

God full of mercy, grant the innocent victims of all of these wars eternal peace, and watch over our friends and colleagues in Ukraine.



*Unofficial territorial defense soldiers look towards the sky at an aircraft
 March 20, 2022, Rivne, Ukraine.*

Photo by **J.T. Blatty**
 Photojournalism
 United States Military Academy, West Point,
 NY /Center for Documentary Studies, Duke
 University, Durham, NC
Fulbright U.S. Student to Ukraine, 2021-2022
 National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

00:57

Kyiv city authorities reported several explosions in houses and on the territory of one of the shopping centers. Rescuers are extinguishing a large fire in the shopping center in the Podil district of Kyiv. It is known about at least one victim. The information is still being clarified.

11:14

More than 3 million Ukrainians have been forced to leave for European countries due to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. 11-12 million have been internally displaced within Ukraine.
– Adviser to the Head of the President's Office.

12:15

The destruction of Ukrainian Mariupol by Russian troops is a large-scale war crime, said Josep Borrell, the EU's high representative for foreign and security policy. He noted that Russian forces are indiscriminately bombing civilians, homes and civil infrastructure, killing and injuring residents of the city en masse.

17:14

Since the start of the war, Russian invaders have shelled 135 hospitals, 9 of which have been completely destroyed. The occupiers have also fired at 43 ambulances and killed 6 medical workers. – Minister of Health of Ukraine

19:17

5 children have been hospitalized in critical condition after Russian forces opened fire on families and refugees evacuating out of Mariupol in private vehicles.
– Head of Zaporizhia Regional Administration



Undisclosed location: A Lenin era painted mural painted on the wall inside of an abandoned building.

Photo by **J.T. Blatty**

Photojournalism

United States Military Academy, West Point, NY /Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC

Fulbright U.S. Student to Ukraine, 2021-2022

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

The Archeology of War

What will be the legacy of Russia's invasion of Ukraine?

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/personal-history/andrey-kurkov-ukraine-russia-archeology-war>

Andrey Kurkov

Kyiv National I.K. Karpenko-Kary Theater, Cinema and Television University
Political Science, Cultural Studies, Anthropology, Humanities
Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2020-2021
University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA

I was born in 1961, sixteen years after the end of the Second World War, in which one of my grandfathers died; the other survived. Throughout my childhood, I played War with friends. We tried to divide into groups: us and "the Germans." Nobody ever wanted to be "the Germans," so we drew lots, and someone was forced to be "German" for the duration of the game. It was clear that "the Germans" had to lose. We ran around with makeshift wooden Kalashnikovs, ambushed our enemies and "shot" at them, shouting "rat-tat-tat-tat" to imitate the sound of machine-gun fire.

When, in fourth grade, we were allowed to choose a foreign language to study at school, I flatly refused to learn German. "They killed my grandfather Alexei!" I said, and no one tried to change my mind. I studied English. The British had been our allies in the war. Now the British are still our allies, but the concept of "our" has changed: then it meant Soviet, now Ukrainian. I am sad to think that, after the war, when children are given the option to study Russian

at school, they will flatly refuse and say, "The Russians killed my grandfather!" or "The Russians killed my little sister!" It will surely happen. And it will happen in a country where a third of the population speaks mostly Russian at home, where there are several million ethnic Russians like me.

Putin is destroying not only Ukraine but Russia, too, and he is destroying the Russian language. During this terrible war, at a time when the Russians are bombing schools, universities, and hospitals, the Russian language is one of the least significant victims. Many times over, I have been ashamed of my Russian origins, of the fact that my native language is Russian. I have come up with different ways of explaining that the language is not to blame. That Putin does not own the Russian language. That many defenders of Ukraine are Russian-speaking, that many civilian victims in the south and east of Ukraine are also Russian-speaking and ethnic Russians. But now I just want to be quiet. I speak Ukrainian fluently. It is easy for me to move in conversation from one language to the other.

I already see the near future of the Russian language in Ukraine. Just as some Russian citizens are tearing up their passports and refusing to consider themselves Russian, so many Ukrainians are giving up everything Russian, including the language, the culture, their very thoughts about Russia. My wife is from the United Kingdom, and my children have two native languages: Russian and English. When they speak to one another now, they use only English. They still speak Russian to me, but they have no interest in Russian culture. Though, no—from time to time, my daughter Gabriella sends me links to statements by Russian rappers

and rockers who oppose Putin. Apparently, she wants to support me in this way, to show me that she knows that not all Russians love Putin and are ready to kill Ukrainians.

I know it, too. Among my Russian writer friends and acquaintances, there is a small group that is not afraid to declare support for Ukraine. This group includes Vladimir Sorokin, Boris Akunin, and Mikhail Shishkin. They have long been living in exile and have long been opposed to the Kremlin. There are also a few in this group who live in Russia, though they are likely to have to emigrate, as well. I am grateful to them and put them on my white list of honest and decent people. I want them to remain in history and in world culture, to be read and listened to. Not all of Russia is a collective Putin! But the unfortunate truth is that there is no collective anti-Putin in Russia. Even Alexey Navalny was not ready to endorse the immediate return of illegally annexed Crimea!

All these thoughts regularly make me want to take refuge in the memories of childhood.

As a boy, I loved to travel to a village called Tarasivka near Kyiv, to the battlefields of the Second World War. We journeyed by train, with my best friend, Sasha Solovyov. We took with us folding "sapper" shovels to dig in the hills near the village. There you could easily find bullets and shells from machine guns and rifles. There were also fragments of grenades and buttons from uniforms. Metal from the Second World War still lies in the ground around Kyiv—and not only around Kyiv but throughout Ukraine. Around the village of Lazarivka, in the Zhytomyr region, where we have a summer house, there are local residents who have long been engaged

in treasure hunting. They have expensive metal detectors that can search the ground to a depth of a metre. And in their free time they walk with them through the fields and forests. Two years ago, Slava, a tractor driver who lives near my house, found and dug up part of the barrel of a German tank. For a long time, he could not decide what to do with this barrel. He sold his small finds on the Internet, but a piece of a barrel—about two metres long and weighing more than fifty kilograms—is not a very popular item, even for collectors of military memorabilia. I don't know what he did with the barrel in the end. Most likely sold it for scrap. It lay in his yard for several months, and I think that his wife expressed her dissatisfaction. Then the barrel disappeared, and I did not ask where it had gone. But, after this war, he will again take a metal detector through the fields. I expect many new finds will await him there.

There are now thousands of tons of Russian military scrap metal both on Ukrainian soil and in the ground. After the war, Ukraine will probably sell all this metal to China or somewhere else. But, for now, wrecked tanks and burned-out armored personnel carriers are accumulating on our roads and fields. And the inhabitants of cities not captured by the Russian Army are digging trenches and building fortifications. Many civilians have become specialists in fortifications. They already know what the "first line of defense" and the "second line" and the "third line" are. They are digging trenches, day and night, waiting for the advance of Russian tanks and infantry. And, while they dig those trenches, completely unexpected discoveries occur—not military but archeological. Already ancient artifacts from the Bronze Age have been found. The Union of Archaeologists of Ukraine issued instructions

advising everybody who comes across an archeological site to memorize the location, mark it on a map, and leave it for further study and excavation after the war.

After the war, of course, the ancient cultural layer will mix with the current one, or, more precisely, with a modern layer of "Russian culture." But archeologists will find it easy to sort the artifacts. At least the finds with real value will not have the stamp "Made in the Russian Federation."

After the war, the ruins of dozens of cities and thousands of villages will remain; millions of homeless Ukrainians will remain. There will be bitterness and hatred. And, when the children play War, it will be this war. They will dig its bullets and grenade fragments out of the ground. And cars will be damaged by mines left near the roads. A war never ends on a specific date in a specific year. The war continues as people continue to die from their wounds, from its consequences. Psychologically, in some ways, the Second World War was over in the former U.S.S.R. by the end of the seventies, but the Soviet system prolonged its memory and prolonged the postwar hatred through films, books, school textbooks. Textbooks in the separatist "republics" teach that Ukraine is a fascist state. Children are taught to hate Ukraine, Europe, and the U.S.A.

I can only imagine how this war will be described in Russian history books. Russia has a lot of experience rewriting history. It would like to control the history books of other countries as well. During the Soviet era, the U.S.S.R. even exerted control over the content of history textbooks used in schools in Finland.

The independence of history is a guarantee of the independence of the state.

I really want schools to teach the true history of Ukraine. But, when a country is in crisis, the study of myths becomes more important to a portion of the population than the study of history.

This war has already added many myths to Ukraine's yet-unwritten history. Some of these myths will turn out to be true. I just don't know which. The main myth today is that of the pilot who protects the skies of Kyiv. The Ghost of Kyiv is what they call him, and he is rumored to have shot down many Russian planes. Whether he is real or purely mythical, he has already made history. And if his ghost plane were shot down by the Russians and he fell somewhere, then sooner or later either a child with a sapper shovel or a tractor driver with a metal detector would stumble upon him. And a piece of his aircraft metal would end up in a museum—in a museum of the history of Ukraine, where it would take its place beside the Bronze Age artifacts found during the Ukrainian-Russian war by people digging trenches near the city of Mykolayiv.



March 21, 2022

04:47

There are seven active fires in the Exclusion zone near the Chernobyl Power Plant. The area of fires exceeds acceptable size by tens of times.
– Sentinel-2 satellite images from the European Space Agency (ESA)

09:32

Russian forces were purposefully hunting international journalists in Mariupol. They had a list with names and were trying to capture or kill the only people documenting the brutal siege of Mariupol. – Mstyslav Chernov, journalist of Associated Press, rescued by Ukrainian forces from Mariupol

09:44

117 children have been killed since the start of Russian aggression in Ukraine, 150 have been injured. Recent cases include: In Kharkiv region, a Russian tank fired on a car with a family of refugees, killing a 9 year old child. A 7 year old child was found dead under the rubble of a house shelled by Russian in Mykolaiv region.
– General Prosecutor's Office

11:40

The city of Chernihiv is on the verge of collapse. Half the population has left, the remaining 130 thousand are predominantly sick, elderly or unable to fully care for themselves. The suburbs have been fully destroyed by Russian shelling, the city has no electricity or water. Repairs and logistics are nearly impossible due to Russian artillery strikes. – Commissioner for Human Rights of the Parliament of Ukraine.

13:08

Residents of Kherson have once again organized a rally protesting Russian occupation of the city. Russian soldiers dispersed the crowd with tear gas, but some people came back once the gas cleared. Evidence was also uncovered of gunshots fired by Russian soldiers. – Hromadske news (based on eyewitness reports)

14:40

Russian aviation dropped 2 heavy "super bombs" on Mariupol, making it clear that the goal is complete destruction of the city and mass deaths among its population. – Azov Battallion of the Ukrainian Armed Forces

16:00

Due to the blockade in Kherson, there is a critical shortage of food and medicine. Newborns who lack baby food and hygiene products, as well as seriously ill people, are at special risk. There are also around 100 foreign students in the city.
– Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

17:00

Since the start of the war, Russian occupiers completely or partially destroyed at least 4,431 houses, 548 educational institutions, 135 medical and cultural institutions (conservative estimates).
– Organization of analysts and lawyers of the Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group.

17:40

Another use of phosphorus munitions (banned by international conventions) was recorded yesterday in Kramatorsk, the damage from these can cause particularly severe and painful injuries, chemical burns, bone and bone marrow damage, provoke slow and painful death. – Commissioner for Human Rights of the Ukrainian Parliament



ASU alumna using network, language skills to help besieged Ukrainians

The choir conductor is leaving for Poland to assist with refugees

<https://news.asu.edu/20220322-global-engagement-asu-alumna-using-network-language-skills-help-besieged-ukrainians>

Erica Glenn

Music Studies

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Fulbright U.S. Student to Ukraine, 2021-2022

Mykola Lysenko Lviv National Music Academy

Erica Glenn, who earned a doctorate at ASU, is the choral director and visiting professor at Brigham Young University-Hawaii.

An Arizona State University alumna whose dissertation focused on Ukraine's first female composer and who studied Ukrainian in Kyiv

through the ASU Melikian Center has become deeply involved in humanitarian and anti-war efforts in Ukraine.

Erica Glenn, a visiting professor at BYU-Hawaii, will travel to Poland next month on a Fulbright grant to conduct research and assist refugees who have been displaced.

Glenn earned a doctorate in choral conducting from the ASU School of Music, Dance and Theatre in 2020. She lived in Mariupol, Kharkiv and Donetsk, Ukraine, starting in 2008, becoming fluent in Russian. She later studied Ukrainian in Kyiv, forming a deep bond with the country and its people. Much of her musicological research centers on Ukraine, which was attacked by Russian troops starting in February.

"This is heartbreaking because they have worked so long and so hard to be independent," she said.

"I speak Russian, Ukrainian and Polish, which happen to be the three most vital languages now in this crisis. Poland has become a major escape route for refugees. I've translated instructions on how to tie a medical tourniquet into Ukrainian and Russian. I've collaborated on relief efforts with people hiding in bomb shelters in Kyiv. It feels absolutely surreal."

...Glenn helped rediscover the missing scores of a female composer from Ukraine, Stefania Turkevych. For her dissertation project, Glenn conducted the U.S. premiere of one of Turkevych's operas in Ukrainian in 2019 at ASU. For her Fulbright project, she will write the first English-language biography of Turkevych. "Turkevych has several symphonies and operas

and hundreds of chamber works," said Glenn, who is now the director of choirs and a visiting professor of music at Brigham Young University-Hawaii.

"Her music is extraordinary, but she fled the Soviet Union because her works did not comply with Socialist Realism. Her whole story and most of her music has been lost in the annals of history."

Glenn traveled to Ukraine in 2019 on a Melikian Center scholarship to study Ukrainian, and she saw significant changes from her time there in 2008.

"2008 was roughly 17 years after the fall of the Soviet Union but, especially in the east, it still felt very Soviet," she said.

In 2019, she lived in Kyiv and revisited many of the cities in the east.

"They had beautiful new landscaped parks, buildings had been updated, and the economy was in better shape. They had even pulled down the statues of Lenin that used to dominate the main squares," she said.

In 2020, Glenn won a Fulbright grant to return to Lviv, Ukraine, the birthplace of Turkevych, to conduct archival research. She also received funding from the Melikian Center for a lecture tour about Turkevych in Boston and New York, just days before the country shut down for the pandemic. She managed to produce an audio recording of Turkevych's opera, "The Heart of Oksana," with other ASU students in Katzin Concert Hall just two days before the university went remote in March 2020.

Then she learned that her Fulbright had been placed on hold.

"I was looking for ways to fill that gap. And I saw that the Critical Languages Institute had moved all of their programs online," she said.

"I thought, I've studied Russian and Ukrainian, so the next step would be to study Polish. So I did." As the pandemic dragged on, Glenn moved to Utah and founded a business that helps choirs move rehearsals and performances to a digital space. She also produced digital music education content for the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She was hired to conduct the BYU-Hawaii Concert Choir virtually, which eventually led her to accept a full-time position at the university, which is in Laie, Hawaii.

Glenn was able to defer her Fulbright award to 2022, only to see it jeopardized again after the attack on Ukraine by Russian President Putin.

"Because most of the other Fulbrighters were already on the ground in Ukraine, I was attending a lot of virtual meetings, and I was there when they told everyone, 'You have to get out, and you have three days to do it.' Some had entire families with them and had to pull their kids out of school and figure out the complicated logistics of relocating.

"Nobody thought Putin would go straight for Kyiv and launch such a brutal attack on civilians," she said.

Since then, Glenn has been online daily, translating messages, connecting people to relief organizations and trying to locate her missing friends in Ukraine.

"The situation in Mariupol is particularly dire. Putin's army has cut off electricity and water supply, and few people are able to escape," she said.

"People haven't been able to contact anyone. There is no internet or phone service."

Glenn has been particularly affected by the attacks in Mariupol, a city near the Russian border, where the Russians bombed a theater that was serving as a shelter for thousands of innocent civilians, including children.

"It's heartbreaking. This is a town that I called home for nine months, full of peaceful people who happen to live in an unfortunately strategic place. Putin is making an example of this entire population," she said.

"I'm a choir conductor; I'm not a diplomat or in any substantial way prepared for this, but I do have language skills, a love of Ukraine and a unique network."

Glenn wrote an op-ed for USA Today, describing her friend Anya's escape from Mariupol after being trapped inside with no electricity and dwindling food and water supplies for almost three weeks:

"Contacting people inside Mariupol feels hopeless. Without electricity, no one can charge their phones. The people are being systematically starved to death in what feels like a calculated genocide," Glenn wrote.

With a trip to Ukraine out of the question, the Fulbright team offered to send Glenn to Poland instead. She's scheduled to leave May 1.

"I'm heading to Warsaw. My intention is to be involved with humanitarian efforts as I continue my research," she said.

She has also been involved in coordinating musical performances to benefit Ukrainians, including a concert organized by her own choir students at BYU-Hawaii, and has started meeting with a team of people who are trying combat Russian disinformation on YouTube, since Putin has banned all other forms of social media in Russia.

Glenn said that Ukrainians are frantically trying to preserve their cultural artifacts as the Russians advance.

"The Ukrainians are lovers of freedom and the arts. I conducted a research project at ASU that explored the role music plays in political protests in Ukraine. It's substantial," she said.

"Ukrainians often trust their pop stars more than they do their politicians."

Glenn said that during the Revolution of Dignity on Kyiv's Maidan in 2013–14, Ukrainian students placed a piano on top of a barricade and played classical music from Ukraine and Poland (including Chopin's "Revolutionary Etude"). The Russian soldiers responded by blasting Russian pop music.

Glenn said that tracing lost threads of Ukrainian history has never felt more important. "I feel strongly about working with the Ukrainian people as they reclaim their cultural narrative as a kind of defense against Putin," she said.

01:44

Russians have looted and destroyed a new 6-million euro laboratory in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone.

02:00

Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine has for the first time charged a Russian soldier with war crimes for raping of a female in Kyiv region.

03:08

In Trostianets, Sumy region/oblast, Russian invaders do not allow locals to bury the dead and perished as a result of aggression. City residents are unable to get to the hospital, so women are forced to give birth at home.

18:53

Russian forces are destroying agricultural equipment and creating minefields in agricultural zones. This puts the harvest season at risk. – General Staff of Ukrainian Armed Forces. [Note: Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of grain, feeding numerous countries].

23:04

Ukrainian gymnast Kateryna Dyachenko, born in 2011, died in Mariupol as a result of shelling by Russian troops.

Creating Frankenstein

<https://en.desk-russie.eu/2022/03/23/creating-frankenstein.html>

Mykola Riabchuk

Political Science

PEN Ukraine

Fulbright Visiting Scholar,

Pennsylvania State University,

University Park, PA, 1994-1995

George Washington University,

Washington, DC, 2015-2016

Today's Russia was largely prefigured by the red-brown coalition in the early 1990s, and Putin is just its embodiment, an epitome of the national (imperial) spirit, mentality and basic instincts. Without NATO expansion we would not have a "better" Russia today but we would certainly have many more countries in Eastern Europe that are blackmailed, intimidated and dismembered like Ukraine, Moldova, or Georgia.

In 1818, young English author Mary Shelley published a novel anonymously, Frankenstein, that has gone on to live a long life in both print and film as well as mass culture. The reason for its popularity has probably been less for the artistic quality of the prose than its prophetic insights. Frankenstein became a symbol of dark and destructive forces that get out of the control of their creators and supervisors, a metaphor for the risky and irresponsible experiments on nature and human beings.

It seems that the thirty-year experiment with Russian democracy produced a similarly disastrous result — determined probably not so

much by Russia's alleged intrinsic incompatibility with democracy and liberalism as by a wrong approach and a whole set of mistakes made by the experimenters.

The dominant storyline promoted by Moscow and supported, at least until recently, by its numerous international "apologists" contends that Russia, since Mikhail Gorbachev and especially Boris Yeltsin, has pursued the democratic way of development (with some local peculiarities and, of course, imperfections) and held a friendly, or at least non-confrontational, stance vis-à-vis the West. This might be true but we should not forget that by the late 1980s the Soviet Union was bankrupt, both economically and politically, and Gorbachev had little choice but to tacitly accept the dissolution of the Soviet bloc, of the Soviet Union, and of the communist dictatorship. But neither he nor Boris Yeltsin ever tried to build a nation out of the empire — a sine qua non for successful modernization and effective safeguard against imperial nostalgia and resentment.

The feeling of "humiliation" that the Russia apologists often mention as the main reason — and, often, justification — for Putin's revisionism has resulted in fact not from the West's desire to belittle Russia and take advantage of it but, rather, from the glaring failure of the Russian political class to get rid of imperial habits and an antiquated identity, and to modernize the country. Indeed, the West contributed to this failure but not in terms of "humiliation". It benevolently condoned the rapacious looting of the country by the Russian elite and persistently turned a blind eye to their neo-imperial statements and undertakings.

The West tried to appease rather than "humiliate" Russia, and crafted multi-pronged policies in all possible fields to support its "fledgling democracy". Russia was indisputably, with no preconditions, admitted into the UN Security Council and, eventually, into the G-7 — even though it did not meet the political and economic criteria of the prestigious club. In 1997, the EU signed with Russia a comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) that was upgraded in 2011 (under Dmitri Medvedev's presidency) into a "Partnership for Modernization" — much more ambitious than the rather feckless Eastern Partnership program (EaP) designed for the western post-Soviet republics. In 2002, the NATO-Russia Council was established to handle security issues and joint projects — again, more ambitious in scope and agenda than any NATO cooperation programs with Ukraine or Georgia at the time. Additionally, to support reforms in post-Soviet Russia, the EU endorsed in the 1990s \$3bn to Moscow in the framework of the TACIS program.

This wishful thinking made the "West" turn a blind eye not only to Boris Yeltsin's shenanigans but also to his much more malicious successor. They met him with a standing ovation in the Bundestag in 2000 despite the horrific explosions at apartment buildings in Moscow and Volgograd in 1999, attributed with much evidence to Putin's FSB. They endowed him with l'ordre de la Légion d'honneur in 2006 in Paris despite the proved genocidal crimes in Chechnya. They responded to his 2008 invasion of Georgia and lasting occupation of 20 percent of its territory with another "reset" and Partnership for Modernization. They responded to the annexation of Crimea and the invasion of Donbas with mild sanctions and the powerful

Nord Stream 2. All this only bolstered Putin's confidence and belief that all Westerners are either corrupt opportunists like himself or hopeful and harmless idiots.

Very few experts (deemed "Russophobes") dared to say that Putin's Russia was not interested in any partnership. It strove for dominance — maybe not (yet) over the whole of Europe but definitely over its "traditional sphere of influence". And since Russia never had enough soft power to compete with the West in the "common neighborhood", it increasingly relied on coercion, blackmail, and propagandist claims. This is how the story emerged about the West's "betrayal" — even though no written document proves that NATO promised at any time not to expand eastward. In fact, such a promise could not have been kept simply because it would have run against both the organization's statute and its essential principles.

The truth is that neither NATO nor the EU have ever tried to pull the postcommunist states into the Union. On the contrary, their initial reaction to the East's overtures was very lukewarm. It took much effort to persuade the West to gradually admit them. It is Russia's fault, not the West's, that the country remained more frightening than attractive for the former satellite states, and that its post-Soviet development did not assuage their fears and mistrust. Domestically, Boris Yeltsin's so-called reformist government was increasingly challenged by the "brown-red" coalition of unreformed communists and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's fascists, and Russian "centrists" responded with a gradual shift of their rhetoric and politics to neo-imperialism. Internationally,

they supported secession in Crimea, fueled rebellion in Transnistria, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia, and launched a brutal military crackdown in Chechnya. Perhaps only a scarcity of resources constrained their great-power drive at the time.

It is hardly surprising that postcommunist states reacted to these developments by instinctively moving further away from the former and still unrepentant imperial master. Today's Russia was largely prefigured by the red-brown coalition in the early 1990s, and Putin is just its embodiment, an epitome of the national (imperial) spirit, mentality and basic instincts. Without NATO expansion we would not have a "better" Russia today but we would certainly have many more countries in Eastern Europe that are blackmailed, intimidated and dismembered like Ukraine, Moldova, or Georgia.

Even more baseless are the claims about Russia's expressed intentions to join the EU and NATO. Again, no documents prove this; what is clear however from all Russia's words and deeds, is that it has never been prepared to become a member of any organization. So far, whatever organization Russia may be part of, it demands special rights and entitlements and shows little compliance with common rules — either in the UN, the Council of Europe, the WTO, the IOC, etc. To take part in the EU decision-making process on an equal footing with Cyprus and Malta, or with Slovenia and Luxembourg in NATO, is another "humiliation" for Russia's overblown imperial self-esteem and ambitions. How such a country was supposed to meet very tough NATO or EU membership criteria is best left out of any serious discussion.

Claims that the West "pulled" the post-Soviet republics, Ukraine in particular, into NATO and the EU, are particularly demagogic. The truth is that the West was even more reluctant to give these countries any hopes of eventual membership than it was initially ready vis-à-vis Poland, Hungary and other postcommunist East European states. And the main if not only reason for this was to please Moscow, to tacitly comfort its geopolitical claims to the "sphere of influence" and its antiquated imperialistic feelings. Despite persistent knocking at the door and rather intensive cooperation (mainly at Ukraine's insistence), the EU never hinted at possible membership, nor did it ever define Ukraine in official documents as a "European" country (instead, it was euphemistically referenced as a "partner" or "neighboring" country. So much for the "pulling".)

One may argue that Ukraine's exclusion from "Europe" was primarily its own fault since the country had indeed been far from meeting membership criteria. It might be true if we compare Ukraine with Estonia, Poland, or the Czech Republic, but it is certainly not true if we compare Ukraine with the Balkan states.

The recurrent mantra about Moscow's "security concerns" is also profoundly false. First, because Moscow is well-aware that NATO (let alone the EU) poses no "security threats" to anybody, least of all to the state with the second-largest nuclear arsenal. The real concern here was not "security" but loss of control over the postcommunist states that luckily joined NATO, and inability to pacify them in the way Russia pacified Georgia or Ukraine. And secondly, Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014 not to preclude

its NATO membership but merely to discourage it from signing the Association Agreement with the EU that was essentially about free trade, not "security". Since 2012, Ukraine had been a neutral country that approved its non-allied status in national legislation and, to placate Moscow, extended the rent of the naval base in Sevastopol through 2047, with an option to prolong it for another 25 years. It did not help — just because "security" was not Moscow's real concern. Rather, its real concern, its primary interest was in its neighbors' maximum insecurity — their permanent susceptibility to Russian diversions and manipulations.

The main problem, however, with all these debates and invoked arguments is that they are framed in a fundamentally wrong way. We are forced to discuss the whole set of issues and disprove the collection of arguments that merely fog the simple question we should start with: are Ukraine — and Moldova, Georgia, etc. — sovereign states, as sovereign and internationally recognized as Russia? If so, are they entitled to the same rights by international law and interstate agreements? Are their "security concerns" less important and less reasonable than Russia's? Indeed, why are security issues framed from the Russian perspective and not from theirs?

Alas, we failed to answer these questions in time or even to ask them. We allowed Moscow to appropriate the master narrative, to impose the suitable discourse upon the speakers, and thereby to obscure and manipulate very simple issues. And now, as Frankenstein runs amok, we have a real "geopolitical catastrophe", maybe the greatest, indeed, of the century.



Photo by **Alexey Furman/Getty Images**
Journalism
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Fulbright Graduate Student, 2014-2016
University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO

Stand with Ukrainian Scholars and Students

<https://scapeblog.edu.hku.hk/archives/5468>

Liz Shchepetylnykova

Education

Ukrainian Association of Students

Self-Government, Kyiv

Fulbright Graduate Student, 2014-2016

George Washington University,
Washington, DC.

Russian invasion of Ukraine

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is the largest since the Second World War crisis unfolding in Europe. 44 millions of Ukrainian people are in danger. As of 18 March 2022, over 3 million have already fled the country in search of a safe refuge and over 6 million have been internally displaced. While it remains unclear for how long the war will continue, the number of Ukrainian people in need of help is expected to only increase...

...Stand with Ukrainian Scholars

As we seek to help those in Ukraine and abroad, some of our closest colleagues – Ukrainian students and academics may find it necessary to ask for support. As Ukrainian scholars have left their homes in search of opportunities for temporary academic positions in universities outside of Ukraine, some institutions have opened their doors and offered research positions for Ukrainian academics.

Understand the War In Ukraine

Support for Ukraine also includes developing our awareness of the myriad root issues of the crisis. Understanding Ukraine in a more contextualized and nuanced way will enable us to better support Ukraine, as well as its neighbors who share similar histories and geopolitical challenges.

It is not appropriate to write concluding remarks, since the Russian war in Ukraine is far from over. Personally, I find it important to remember – no matter how long the war lasts, each of us can help to save Ukraine. The buildings and roads may be restored, but not human lives. Every opportunity for Ukrainian people to have safe spaces where they are welcomed and able to continue their life is contributing to the ultimate victory of Ukraine – the victory of life over death. Thus, I would like to ask that you take this chance to host a Ukrainian scholar, student, refugee and ask your colleagues and friends to create opportunities for Ukrainians. Stand with Ukraine everywhere where you are.



March 23, 2022

08:35

The Russian military fired missiles at the most densely populated area in the Sumy region (Okhtyrka locality) . There are civilian casualties, the exact number is not known yet.

– Mayor of Okhtyrka city, Pavlo Kuzmenko

15:07

UNICEF: One month of war in Ukraine has led to the displacement of 4.3 million children – more than half of the country's estimated 7.5 million child population. This includes more than 1.8 million children who have crossed into neighbouring countries as refugees and 2.5 million who are now internally displaced inside Ukraine.

18:36

During the 11th extraordinary special session of the UN General Assembly on Ukraine, 140 states voted in support of the resolution "Humanitarian consequences of aggression against Ukraine", which clearly indicates Russian aggression as the root cause of the humanitarian catastrophe and focuses on urgent response efforts.

18:41

Russian occupiers are starting to resort to kidnapping children. The State Border Guard Service reports cases of Russian soldiers using kids in Kharkiv region to blackmail their parents.



Joseph C. Kush

Education

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2018-2019

Sumy State University

<https://www.facebook.com/joe.kush.319>

As most of you know, as a university professor I'm expected to engage in the traditional practices of teaching and research. In addition, we are expected to provide service to our profession and one of the ways I have done this is to serve as a reviewer or editorial member for professional journals. I currently serve in this capacity for several dozen journals at the national level as well as internationally, including publications in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, Ukraine, and Russia. Some of these journals are associated with publishing companies while others are affiliated with universities.

As a result of the recent events happening in Ukraine, myself, and the other members of the editorial team of the journal, Education & Self Development received an email from the Deputy Editor (who lives in Britain) stating, "Education & Self Development will continue

to evaluate manuscripts for their intellectual content without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy of the authors." He indicated that these were his own personal beliefs and were not necessarily reflected by Kazan Federal University, the Russian university that publishes the print version of the journal. The online version comes from the United Kingdom.

Several days later I received a subsequent email from the Journal's Editor-in-Chief:

Dear colleagues,

On 6 March, 2022 xxx xxxxx sent a message to all potential reviewers for the articles submitted to Education and Self Development journal. In the preamble of his letter, xxx xxxxx outlined the position of many countries of the world in relation to the conflict in Ukraine. At the same time, he notes that "Education & Self Development will continue to evaluate manuscripts for their intellectual content without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy of the authors". The editorial board and me as Editor-in-Chief of the journal fully support this position. We also call for a distinction between politics and science and continued work on the fruitful cooperation of scientists from different countries.

At the same time, as the editor-in-chief of the journal published by KFU, I must convey to you the official statement of Kazan Federal University regarding the situation in Ukraine, which is set out on the university's website. It reads "The Kazan Federal University has always expressed its patriotism, civic consciousness,

and commitment to the fundamental interests of the motherland throughout the difficult periods of our country's history. Therefore, none of us has been indifferent to the recent political events.

The situation is acute, and unfortunately, it is a situation with potential safety and sovereignty concerns for our homeland. The President of the Russian Federation referred to this very issue in his address to the nation, elaborating on the reasons behind the tough decision. The Academic Council of the Kazan Federal University supports the decisions of the President and the Government of the Russian Federation on ensuring the national safety of our homeland.

The main goal of Kazan Federal University is to contribute to the development of traditions of Russian education, science, and technology; to provide the country with personnel capacity; and to establish cooperation with international scientific, educational, and academic centers".

Thank you for understanding.

Our collaborative work is very important for us, particularly in today's turbulent time.

Best regards,
Roza Valeeva
D.Sc. of Pedagogy, Professor,
Head of Pedagogy Department,
Institute of Psychology and Education,
Kazan Federal University,
Editor-in-Chief, Education and Self
Development journal

I must admit I was shocked.

I immediately submitted my letter of resignation which I include below:

Dear Dr. Valeeva,

Please accept my immediate resignation as an editorial member of Education and Self Development. I found your letter and the position of Kazan University to be deeply disturbing. Having spent the 2018-19 academic year as a Fulbright Scholar in Ukraine I consider the aggressive actions of the Russian government against the people of Ukraine to be indefensible. For eight years brave Ukrainians have fought and died following the Russian invasion of Crimea and the Donbas region. President Putin's recent actions reflect an even greater disrespect for human life and Ukrainian sovereignty.

I find any support for this war, whether intentional or coerced, to be naïve, immoral, and cowardly. These are not mutually exclusive.

I condemn the position of Kazan Federal University as sickening on both personal and professional levels. Further, I will share my opinion with colleagues and students, face to face and through social media, as I encourage them to avoid any involvement with Education and Self Development either as contributors or readers.

Joseph C. Kush, Ph.D.
Professor

I made a number of friends during my year in Ukraine, and I learned to love the Ukrainian spirit and ethos. I am heartbroken at what the war has done to these people, their families, their cities, and their country. May God bless them all and bring a rapid and peaceful end to this nightmare.

Russian aggression and the attempt to "spin" it is obvious on the battlefield, in social media, hacking attempts, and political speeches. And unfortunately, this war is emerging in less obvious arenas like academia. John F. Kennedy's mistaken quotation, which he attributed to Dante, was that "The hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who in time of moral crisis preserve their neutrality." While Dante never actually said that, his sentiment can be found in the passage, *non ragioniam di lor, ma guarda e passa* emerged. Clearly, I believe this extends to every and all of Putin's sycophants no matter how they try to reframe this unjust war.

While I continue to value international collaboration, I urge you to join me in my condemnation of Kazan Federal University and in the rejection of the journal Education and Self Development.



A month of war.

Natalie Goshylyk

Linguistics

Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian

National University, Ivano-Frankivsk

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2021-2022

University of California, Berkeley, CA

If in Berkeley, California, a rally of solidarity with Ukraine is announced in the morning, then at 5 pm a hundred people and even the journalists will come. The rally in Berkeley is 40 minutes of the official part and 1 hour of informal communication. The main point that I wanted to focus on in my speech today was one's own reflection on what's going on. During the month of war, everyone had the opportunity to look around and answer the question "What is my ROLE in this?" What can I do and what do I do?". The story from the rally that struck the most: an employee of an American pharmaceutical company is looking for someone who can find medicine for his mother in Kherson. Medicines are not available in pharmacies.

P.S. Singing acapella in public is not scary at all, but only if you sing a hymn.

War Notes (the First Month of War)

<https://uamoderna.com/shafka-dok/war-notes-the-first-month-of-war>

Julia Buyskykh

Anthropology

Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies,

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2019-2020

The Pennsylvania State University,

University Park, PA

24.03.2022. The month of war.

I do lack words. There has been a month of war.

"Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, He abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done." Romans 1:28

I have been always thinking that Life is In everything. It is just is. And it's enough for us just to be meaningfully alive, rejoicing at such a gift with which the Lord has blessed us... Is it enough now?

10:49

At least 300 people died when Russian aviation bombed the Mariupol Drama Theatre that acted as a refuge for around 1000 women, children, and elderly. – Mariupol City Council

13:06

Russian occupiers continue forcibly deporting people from Mariupol to Russia. Ukrainians are passed through 'filtration camps', where the Russian FSB compiles lists of 'unreliable persons'. – Human Rights Commissioner of The Parliament of Ukraine

21:18

Russian invaders continue to kill civilians in Donetsk region. Russian artillery / aviation strikes continue in Mariupol, Avdiivka and Mariinka areas. On March 25, reports came in of several injured civilians and the death of a child. – Head of Donetsk Regional Military Administration

21:29

In Mariupol, the Russian occupiers have destroyed the Children's Rehabilitation Centre, completed in autumn 2021 together with the European Investment Bank.
– Mariupol City Council



Photo by **Serhii Korovainyi**

Journalism

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Fulbright Graduate Student, 2017-2018

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Reflections from Ukraine:

Russia is no brother of ours

*Putin sees a kinship between our nations,
but his war proves their total difference*

<https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/world/reflections-from-ukraine-russia-is-no-brother-of-ours>

Olha Poliukhovych

Literature

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Fulbright Research and

Development Fellow, 2017-2018

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

The week the war began, I tasked myself with finishing writing one more chapter of my book about the infamous Ukrainian émigré writer Yurii Kosach. It never happened.

On Thursday, 24th February at around 5 am, we were thrown out of our beds by an explosion uncomfortably close to our 15-storey apartment building in a suburb outside Kyiv. Car sirens all over town joined in the choir. The walls trembled. So did my hands. My heart pounded. Since then, my blood has been replaced by adrenalin.

Researching my book, I've studied many aspects of the Second World War and the subsequent period. After all, my biographical subject survived the war, displaced persons camps and emigration. What I've read in books I will now see with my own eyes: explosions, cities ruined, innocent civilians (including children) slaughtered, people living for prolonged periods in shelters without the most rudimentary human consolations, under constant threat from bombs.

For Ukraine in 2022, "Never again" has become a rhetorical flourish in countless self-serving speeches—a catchphrase uttered with about as much sincerity as the knee-jerk "Have a nice day."

A recent survey shows that the majority of Russian citizens support Putin's full-scale war on Ukraine. The aim is to effectively reclaim the country as Russian. In their propaganda-filled minds, we are "brothers." Russia, however, regards itself as the "big brother" (in both a familial and Orwellian sense), with the right to punish Ukraine as it sees fit if it refuses to dance to Big Brother's tune.

Russia's leaders have long peddled the myth of our national friendship, of the "fraternity of the two peoples." This myth remains so potent that even a month into the war, some western media outlets still refer to what is happening on the ground as the "Ukrainian crisis," or "Russia-Ukraine conflict," as if this war were a minor feud between siblings...

History rhymes. Having inflicted the mass murder of Ukrainians in the 20th century, Russia now repeats the practice.

In 1933, eastern Ukraine experienced the Holodomor; today the region is again strewn with the rubble of burning buildings, of destroyed villages and cities. Russia is making it almost impossible to establish genuinely safe humanitarian corridors and resupply the region with food and water. Dead bodies again litter the streets, just as they did in 1933. Again mass graves are being dug in Mariupol and other cities. Residents who fled the Russian missiles and shelling to the outskirts are dying of hunger.

In 1944, Russia seized the homeland of the Crimean Tatars; in 2022 it is forcibly deporting the citizens of Mariupol to remote regions east of the border.

Hearing Russian planes and missiles flying overhead, my grandmother tells me how they hid from the Germans during the Second World War. She was three years old when that war began. I insist that the basement or corridor is the better option for surviving an attack from the sky, while my granny insists that the forest offers the best hope. Her personal experience supports her claim: when her village became a theatre of war, she and her mother hid in a makeshift dugout in a forest for months.

While Ukraine was a part of the "Russian world," it experienced the meltdown of the Chornobyl nuclear plant. Today, Russia again threatens the world with a nuclear catastrophe, and Russians shelled a nuclear power plant in Zaporizhzhia—a historic first. My parents remember well the catastrophe of 1986. As Putin threatens us with nuclear weapons, they tell me how they protected themselves. I hear them and can't believe we are talking about this again in 2022.

Each Ukrainian family has its own horrific memories, now resurrected. Yale historian Timothy Snyder said Ukrainian territory is part of the "bloodlands." Much of this blood is on Russia's hands.

Russians seem surprised by the ferocity of Ukraine's resistance to its onslaught. I am not. We know what is at stake for us, and for the world. I live in a country where unarmed civilians with Ukrainian flags approach armed Russian tanks to tell them to leave their land. I live in

a country where people with disabilities help make Molotov cocktails with which to greet their invaders. I live in country where people are trying to bribe their way into the territorial defense forces for the privilege of protecting Ukraine. I live in a country where, when 13 Ukrainian border guards faced demands from a Russian warship to surrender, they replied: "go fuck yourself!"

Today, nowhere in my country is safe. Russians attack even the dead, their shelling damaging the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Centre.

Each morning I fear reading the news of what's happened while I slept. Russians bomb the Mariupol shelter holding hundreds of women and children; they shell lines of people waiting to buy bread in Chernihiv; they use outlawed white phosphorus weapons against civilians; they bomb maternity hospitals and cars fleeing the zone of battle. Mass graves, tortured bodies, burned corpses in the street, funerals held to the sound of shelling, tombs near our houses because only a quick burial is possible...

Each morning I wake up hoping this nightmare has ended. The reality of war dawns most intensely in the afternoon. I look for clues that might help me believe the struggle is worth it. Thousands of Ukrainian people, soldiers and civilians, are paying with their blood so that I might have the freedom to pen you this missive. Today, right now, they are fighting for the right to their own history. If Russia is really our "brother," then its name is Cain.

I'm not a terribly spiritual person, but at this moment I find a singular strength in my Ukrainianness. I feel the power of unity between my "dead, living, and unborn compatriots, both within Ukraine and outside it," as the 19th-century poet Taras Shevchenko put it. I'm thinking about the legions of persecuted Ukrainian poets and artists; about my great grandparents, who survived Stalin's gulag; and also about the courageous Ukrainians fighting today for the sake of future generations, that they might enjoy the right to live in Ukraine and speak for themselves.



00:14

The city of Slavutych has been encircled by Russian troops, held off by the city's defenders. Local authorities have decided to stay in the city and keep its civil services functioning.
– Mayor of Slavutych

01:18

54 railway workers have been killed in Ukraine since the start of Russian invasion, 64 have been injured. – Chairman of the Board of Ukrainian Railways

01:23

Ukraine wants Russia to provide Ukraine with a list of all citizens forcibly deported from Mariupol by Russia. – Iryna Vereshchuk, Deputy Prime Minister

20:20

Two missile strikes were made by Russian forces against Lviv. One was against an industrial area. Another landed nearby a school, knocking out the windows. No casualties reported so far.
– Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyy

Photo by **Serhii Korovainyi**

Journalism

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Fulbright Graduate Student, 2017-2018

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY



March 26, 2022

08:39
139 children were killed and more than 205 were injured as a result of Russian armed aggression in Ukraine. – General Prosecutor's Office

22:39
Russia has once again used cassette munitions (banned by international conventions for their horrific danger of civilian casualties) when shelling a town in Kryviy Rih region. There are no military targets in the area. Info on civilian casualties is being updated.
– General Prosecutor's Office

23:35
Russia struck Lutsk, Kharkiv, Zhytomyr and Rivne with missiles. – Adviser to the Head of the Office of the President Mykhailo Podoliak

Natalie Goshylyk
Linguistics
Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian
National University, Ivano-Frankivsk
Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2021-2022
University of California, Berkeley, CA

It is important and pleasant that Americans are initiating events to support Ukraine. The branch of the Democratic Party in Castro Valley held rallies at crowded intersections to attract the attention of passers-by.

In my speech at the rally I shared one of my biggest fears: I am afraid that attention to the war will significantly drop. I also thanked everyone who came for the fact that each of them took an action today that helped dispel this fear. It is necessary to stay on the same page!



"Voices of Ukraine: Reflections on War" Panel Discussion, Fairfield University, USA

1 month has passed, and we can look back and see a bigger picture. Russia invaded a free independent Ukraine over a month ago and has committed atrocious war crimes that cannot be allowed to continue. Putin's regime is intent on destroying Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Russia's army has deliberately shelled civilian targets including schools and hospitals and murdered thousands of civilians; laid sieges to major cities like Mariupol and Kharkiv, starving people of basic human needs like water, food, and warmth; executed civilians and raped women; forced millions of Ukrainians to flee their home; sent millions of refugees into Poland and neighboring countries; terrorized all of Ukraine.

Let's have a closer look at what Ukrainians are doing on the ground. Ukrainians are forced to fight for their country, and they are not going to surrender. This is our conscious choice.

My colleagues from various fields have picked up a role in this war. Some are fighting at the frontline, some have joined territorial defense units, some are volunteering, some are continuing to do their jobs, like my sister. She works at the governmental public service sector and she has more work than ever with people coming from all over Ukraine in need of help from the governmental institution. So she feels this responsibility of representing a country and she is staying in Ukraine to do her job. My colleagues are doing their jobs at Universities. Colleagues from besieged Kherson managed to organize a series of webinars with scholars from Europe and US.

Let's have a closer look at what Ukrainians in the US and all over the world are doing. Our task is to persuade more people all over the globe to do the same - choose an active role and act. Ukrainians ask that the American people continue to stand by Ukraine through and contact the White House, Senators, and their Representatives to express their support for defending Ukraine. We ask to donate directly to the Ukrainian government to fund defensive capability, to donate to charities. Moreover, we ask to boycott companies who are still doing business with Russia. No business as usual, no communication as usual.

Ukraine is becoming the greatest discovery of the 21 c. Not to leave it on the level of information, mere interest we, together with our international allies, like all of you right now, have to help this fight for freedom and democracy.

We are grateful that the United States and its allies have joined in an effort to defend Ukraine by supporting them with military resources and imposing economic sanctions. This support, combined with the Ukrainian Army and People's courageous resistance, have helped Ukraine contain Russia's ground advances. This has to go on.

13:20

About 160,000 civilians are still in Mariupol, which is blockaded and shelled by the Russian occupiers. The city needs a complete evacuation. Life within the city is impossible: no water, heat, electricity, supplies or communication.
– Mayor of Mariupol

14:50

Residents of Enerhodar gathered for a peaceful rally to show that despite Russian occupation, Enerhodar was and remains a Ukrainian city. People demand the release of the first deputy mayor Ivan Samoidyuk who was kidnapped by Russians. – Enerhodar Mayor Dmytro Orlov

17:00

The city of Irpin in the Kyiv region was liberated from the Russian occupiers by Ukrainian armed forces. Defenders are fortifying the city in anticipation of further Russian attacks.
– Mayor of Irpin

17:04

Almost 5 thousand people have died in Mariupol since the start of the Russian aggression, 210 of them are children. 170,000 people remain in the city under Russian fire. 30,000 have been forcibly deported by the aggressors into Russia. The rest were evacuated.
– Mayor of Mariupol

18:41

Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova confirmed Russia's use of banned cluster munitions in the Kherson and Odesa regions.

Dorita S. Berger

Public/Global Health

Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ

Fulbright Specialist to Ukraine, 2009

Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University, Mykolaiv

My Fulbright Award was, I believe, in April 2009. My award was for Mohyla University in Mykolaiv, for one month, to teach about Music Therapy to a class of Social Work students. Attached is the photograph of the entire class group – the most wonderful bunch of people I have ever encountered!! I am sitting on the floor in the first row, wearing a white peasant blouse with black rim around the neckline.

My experience in Ukraine was absolutely incredible and memorable. The people were very special. It was a time when "Democracy" was still very young to the country – I believe only some 20 years since the dissolution of the USSR. So many were still speaking Russian, and quite frightened of "freedom" – that is, free to choose, free to decide for themselves, and so on. It is not a system that is easy to understand, and after so many years of autocratic rule, many of the older population were doubtful and confused. The young people were better. They looked forward to more European travels, and the freedom to choose their lives for themselves.

Mykolaiv is a beautiful, yet sad city. There is poverty. The Russian regime did very little, as can be seen, to reconstruct old, deteriorating housing. There are many poor people trying to understand new freedoms. Yet there is much culture. We attended theater, and wonderful concerts. The official buildings are beautiful, and there are many parks and lovely boulevards.



Residents of Odesa are trying to save the monument of the Duke Richelieu from Russian attacks, March 2022. By Salwan Georges

But most of all, I loved meeting the people and was joyful all the time I was there! And I learned to fully appreciate Democracy and Freedom as I know it living in the USA. And my students were so intelligent, wonderfully enthusiastic, and receptive of my being there that we all cried on the final day and had to wash our faces before taking the group picture. We did not exchange contacts, but I wish we had.

When this war began, all I could do was think of those wonderful students and their families in Mykolaiv, and wondered how they are doing, if they are safe, and so on. I am in great pain about what is happening there.

After my teaching responsibility concluded, my husband and I spent a week in Odesa, and we were awed by the beauty of that city! The beautiful boulevards, the gorgeous Opera House, and so much history – it was a dream to be in that city. Yes, we walked the steps down to the wharf, and back up. We had seen the film "Potemkin" and would not have missed experiencing the steps. We are Jewish, so we

attended Synagogue Services that Saturday, and that was an extremely rewarding experience. We were able to talk with native Ukrainian Jews, and learned so much about life in Odesa.

I have to mention that my entire family on both mother and father's side, including my parents, were all born and raised in Lviv – which at that time was Lwów (Poland). So my roots are deep in Lviv! My husband and I had visited Lviv and Kyiv when my husband Larry held a Professorial Fulbright to Vienna (1973-74) to teach Jazz Dance at the Conservatory. So we travelled to Lviv and to beautiful Kyiv, which is now being bombed and turned into rubble. So I am in great pain about what is going on in Ukraine, although none of my family that remained had survived the Holocaust, so I no longer have family there. Still, my roots begin there. Fortunately, my parents left for Argentina one year before the war, where I was born. So indeed, my Fulbright to Ukraine seemed to be somehow provided by Fate that I experience parts of Mykolaiv and Odesa in the South after having once been in the North of the country.

09:00

Russian occupiers have already destroyed more than 60 Ukrainian religious establishments in warfare.

– General Staff of Armed Forces of Ukraine

14:45

Every day Russian occupiers launch about 40 missiles into Ukraine. It has been more than 1370 missiles since the beginning of the full-scale invasion.

– Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine

16:10

Yesterday, from the territory of Belarus, the Russians fired two "X" missiles at the city of Lviv. The missiles were shot down by Ukrainian air defences. – West Air Command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

19:21

Ukraine's losses due to full-scale Russian invasion, including future expenditures, exceed 1 trillion US dollars.

– Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmygal

21:05

Russian occupation forces kidnapped medical personnel and patients of a maternity hospital in Mariupol.

– Mariupol City Council.

Russian troops attacked Mykolaiv Regional State Administration, March 29

By the State Emergency Service of Ukraine



A Photographer Forced to Flee a War at Home

<https://adamferguson.substack.com/p/a-photographer-forced-to-flee-a-war?s=r>

Adam Ferguson. A conversation with Brendan Hoffman in Ukraine.
Fragments

Brendan Hoffman
Photojournalism
Freelance Photographer, DC
Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2018-2019
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Brendan Hoffman is an American photojournalist who has been living and working in Ukraine for the last eight years. I've watched Brendan's work since the Maidan protests in 2014 and am always struck by his subtle observations of breaking news events. When international news interest faded, Hoffman stayed and committed to the story of Ukraine. After Russia invaded Ukraine, I reached out to Brendan to ask what he was experiencing on the ground. We connected on Zoom; it was morning in Ukraine and Brendan was in a hotel with his wife in Lviv.

LVIV

Brendan: Well I'm in Lviv right now, which is in Western Ukraine, a fairly long way from the center of the action. This is one of the more normal cities in Ukraine. It still feels like the war is pretty distant, cafes and restaurants and stuff are open, albeit only until seven or eight o'clock in the evening. But there are people on the streets, there aren't barricades at every intersection. The main impact here is that this

has been a transit point or destination for people fleeing other parts of Ukraine. But we're over three weeks into this war now, a lot of the people that were passing.

BACKGROUND

Adam: So what's the day to day looking like for you now?

Brendan: It's a huge challenge, honestly. I've never been the kind of photographer to carry a camera with me to the supermarket, or step out my front door and just work on my street. I need separation where I can be like, I'm here, I'm working, or I'm home, I'm not working. And so to suddenly have work surround you and be your life is difficult. It's difficult too, that this has been the story I've worked on for eight years, and it's reached this extremely critical moment, and I have bigger things to sort out – my family. We have a couple of weeks maybe, but at some point pretty soon we need to figure out where we're going to live and have this kid and have some form of stability.

And at the same time – is taking pictures even the best way for me to be involved right now? I was at the train station the other day and I was trying to have conversations with people, and whether I made pictures or not wasn't really the point. People were confused about when they could get a train to wherever they needed to go. I was running around getting them cups of tea and trying to find information on train schedules. And that felt a lot more fulfilling than taking pictures. And I think it actually made my pictures better. So it was a good reminder of the need to engage on a really human level and that to just stand there and be a fly on the wall is not always the right way.

FORECAST

Adam: It's hard to imagine this winding back anytime soon ... What's your forecast? Do you have one?

Brendan: Now that it's happened, I have no idea. It depends on what happens with the Russian domestic political situation. And it depends on the extent to which one believes the rumors about Russia's military reaching the limits of its capacity, on how effective Ukraine's resistance continues to be. I think this is a fundamentally irrational move by Putin. And when you have a leader acting irrationally, there's just no way to make predictions on what he might do.

Adam: How long do you think it will take until fighting reaches Lviv?

Brendan: I think it depends on whether Belarus gets involved. For weeks they've been talking about Belarus mobilizing and pouring across the border with the idea being to try to cut off the border of Ukraine, first with Poland, and then probably the rest of NATO countries, which of course is the main supply route, particularly for all the weapons that the West has been sending Ukraine. So there's a lot of logic in the idea of trying to take this part of the country and cut that supply route. There's also been a lot of information about the Belarusian military being really hesitant to get involved. If that happens, and that could happen at any time, I would be worried about Lviv pretty quickly.

Adam: Brendan, if you don't mind me asking, if the war catches up to you in Lviv, do you think you'll stay and photograph it, or move your family again?

Brendan: It's the same thing as Kyiv, I suppose. If it looks like things here are getting dicey, our first priority has got to be making sure our family is safe, and that would probably mean moving across the border in some direction. And we have a few weeks before we're going to have to do that, to make sure we're in a place where we can get access to medical services. We need a place to live so that in June when this baby is born, we're settled and ready for it.

Adam: Brendan, thank you so much for your time. I wish you, your wife, and your unborn child all the best.

Shortly after this interview, Brendan and his wife, whose name has been withheld for privacy, made the decision to leave Lviv, Ukraine and are now in Poland. The first Russian airstrikes hit Lviv on Saturday.



People sit on a bus leaving Ukraine for Poland from the central railway station on Thursday, March 10, 2022 in Lviv, Ukraine.

Photo by **Brendan Hoffman**
Photojournalism
Freelance Photographer, DC
Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2018-2019
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

05:22

Russian aggressors have shelled the EU Advisory Mission field office in Mariupol. There are no casualties.

– Josep Borrell, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

18:02

The Russian Navy is blocking 94 civilian ships in the Black Sea region intended to carry grain and other foodstuffs. At least three civilian vessels have been attacked by the Russian military.

– U.S. Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman

18:13

Russian troops launched a fire attack on the Assumption Monastery of St. Nicholas-Vasyl Monastery of the UOC MP near Volnovakha, wounding its abbot, Bishop Amvrosy of Volnovakha.

– Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine

20:23

The Ukrainian Defence Forces recaptured the town of Trostyanets. While retreating, the Russians destroyed an architectural monument of national importance, the House of L.E. Kenig, the manager of the estates.

– architect Ivan Bykov.



It was day 35 of WW3. Kharkiv, Taras Shevchenko. When will the world finally wake up?

Oksana Chepelyk

Arts

Modern Art Research Institute, National Academy of Arts of Ukraine, Kyiv

Fulbright Visiting Scholar 2003-2004, 2010-2011

University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Celia Hildebrand

Public Health/Medical Care

The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Fulbright Specialist to Ukraine, 2019

Uzhhorod National University

I just got off a Zoom call with six of the 22 Uzhhorod doctors / providers I trained in 2019 (exactly three years ago today). My Fulbright project was to train medical providers in using auricular acupuncture for trauma, PTSD, stress, anxiety, etc. Among the participants was an Army leader who at that time had a few returned soldiers experiencing PTSD, nightmares, rage, etc. He used it immediately on his companions, and it helped them to return to some normalcy. I could not have imagined how important this little project would become ...

I have stayed in touch with my host at UzhNU College of Medicine, and many of my 'students'. Today was the second Zoom meeting we had together since the war began, to review the points and protocols they learned. I have been raising funds to send supplies (needles homeopathic medicines, aromatherapy oils) in suitcases of MDs and other people I know traveling to the area. They are able to put these protocols to use immediately with refugees and, blessedly, with each other.

Today they reported that they have increased use of the PTSD protocol in shelters and among their peers and results have been 'remarkable.' That work ... including translation of the materials from English to Ukrainian ... has already shown incredible "return" on the investment of time, energy and funding provided by Fulbright, and we are all so very grateful to the Fulbright program for what has been accomplished.

Sergey Edward Lyshevski

Engineering

Rochester Institute of Technology,

Rochester, NY

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2012-2013

National Technical University of Ukraine

"Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"

I am aware on the situation per my communication with my relatives (2 cousins are on the frontline, two others are in the Ohmatdyt Kyiv Hospital, doing surgeries in the basement, leaving there). Their families still in Kyiv, some moved to Obukhiv and Cherkasy.

Also in constant contacts with my former colleges from Kyiv Polytechnic, National Aviation University and Academy of Sciences.

I am doing whatever I can here.

I am aware what Ukraine army needs heavy weapon.

I and my friend contributed \$, bought and shipped sniper rifles and night-vision 32x scopes.

Regular weapon is urgently needed yesterday. Understood and fighting for it.

Too bad that our President and Biden's administration are late in support and deterrence. I am trying to "work" and push the White House, Senate, Congress, etc understanding that Ukraine fights for America and a whole world.

Слава Україні! Смерть ворогам.

If Only the News Were Fake

<https://www.statecollege.com/if-only-the-news-were-fake/>

Russell Frank

Journalism

Pennsylvania State University,
University Park, PA

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine, 2012-2013

Lviv Ivan Franko National University, Lviv

...Ten years ago, when word got around that I was going to spend a semester in Ukraine, the country was so far off the American radar screen that one acquaintance told me he heard I was going to Uganda. Another thought I was bound for Uzbekistan; a third, for Kosovo.

Now everyone can find Ukraine on a map and news junkies like me are overdosing on news of the war. During normal times, I look at my phone during the night only to check the time. Now, every time my eyes pop open – which is often, alas – I tap the red “Load new posts” button on The Times app, unable to resist keeping up with the latest developments. Not healthy.

In so doing, I’ve been enormously impressed with the coverage. First, there’s that red button – the constant updates, sometimes no longer than a paragraph.

I used to mock the superficiality of Twitter: How in-depth could you get with 140 characters? But when news is breaking – and during a war, news is breaking around the clock – I want the latest, provided I’m told the source of the information, and whether it has been independently verified. This, the Twitter Times is doing.

Then there are The Times’ formidable resources. We’re not just hearing from a lone reporter in Kyiv. Times staffers have fanned out across Ukraine and throughout Europe, including techies who cross-check satellite images, citizens’ cell phone footage and witness accounts to verify what has happened when and where.

Last week, for example, The Times compared radio communications among Russian soldiers with visual evidence to document a brutal, yet ineffectual Russian assault on the town of Makariv. The Times newsroom, long a bastion of telephones and typewriters, seems to be morphing into the Situation Room in the White House.

A couple of days after I watched that Times clip, I talked to a communications class about the state of journalism in the third decade of the 21st century.

For context, I started with the good old days when audiences trusted – naively, at times – Cronkite, Huntley, Brinkley and the other patriarchs of TV news, and journalism played its essential role of shining bright light in dark corners.



Air Siren: A war volunteer shelters inside of an abandoned building during an air siren at a camp where Ukrainian Armed Forces soldiers (and 2014 Aydar volunteer veterans) train territorial defense soldiers. While some territorial defense soldiers are former war veterans and highly capable, many are men conscripted into the service under Zelensky's Marshal Law and have never held a weapon in their lives. Undisclosed location, Ukraine. March 2022

Photo by **J.T. Blatty**

Photojournalism

United States Military Academy, West Point, NY /Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC

Fulbright U.S. Student to Ukraine, 2021-2022

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy



08:17
The US government is not ready to decide on Ukraine's security guarantees at the moment. Negotiations are ongoing. – Keith Bedingfield, White House Communications Director

08:55
Rocket attack on Mykolaiv regional building administration: 16 casualties for today. 15 people have been found dead under the rubble, one of the victims has died in intensive care. – State Emergency Service of Ukraine

11:17
Russian troops have used phosphorus bombs in Mariinka, Krasnogorovka, and Novomikhailovka. 11 civilians have been injured, including 4 children. – Pavlo Kirilenko, Head of Donetsk regional military administration

17:49
"There is hell in Mariupol, there is a disaster that the whole world knows about, but no one has enough determination to help stop the disaster in this city and other cities of Ukraine," – President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

18:58
The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) cannot contact some of its staff who are in Mariupol. – the organization's High Commissioner Filippo Grandi

19:49
Russia continues transferring missile units to Belarus in order to increase the intensity of ballistic missile attacks on populated areas and infrastructure in Ukraine. – the General Staff of the AFU.

Ірина Шувалова:

якщо мене вбивають...

якщо мене не вбивають
чи маю право я
говорити із тими кого вбивають
на рівних
чи маю я право боліти
якщо не маю рани
скаржитись
якщо не маю втрати
чи маю право
на безсоння
коли тут
не чути сирен
близькість смерті тепер
лежить між нами на столі
як хлібина
із запеченим усередині ножом
якщо мене не вбивають
що я можу сказати
тим кого
так
адже переломившись через смерть
мова стає сама на себе не схожа
і ось –
ми з тобою вже не говоримо
однією
і зрештою
якщо мене не вбивають
чи маю право я
хотіти тримати тебе
так само міцно
як звикла тримати перед тим
коли не вбивали ще жодну з нас

"if I am not being killed..."

<https://www.apofenie.com/poetry/2022/5/1/if-i-am-not-being-killed>

Iryna Shuvalova

Language and Literature (non-U.S.)

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Fulbright Graduate Student, 2013-2014

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

if I am not being killed
do I have the right
to talk with those who are being killed
as an equal

do I have the right to hurt
if I'm not wounded
or complain
if I haven't suffered losses

do I have the right
to sleepless nights
if sirens
do not wail here

now death's proximity
lies on the table between us
like a loaf of bread
with a knife baked into it

if I am not being killed
what can I say
to those
who are



whose language has been cracked open by death
so it no longer resembles itself
now –
we no longer speak
the same language

so
if I am not being killed
do I have the right
to want to hold you
as tightly as
I used to before

when neither of us were being killed

translated from the Ukrainian
by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps

Virlana Tkacz

Theatre

Yara Arts Group, New York, NY

Fulbright U.S. Scholar to Ukraine

2015-2016, 2016-2017

Les Kurbas National Theatre Center in Kyiv



Photo credit: <https://www.facebook.com/nata.natali.naumova/>

Nataliia Naumova

Biology

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, 2018-2019

Washington State University, Pullman, WA

...a girl who spent 3 days under the rubble of her home next to her dead parents, who covered her with their bodies...

...a mother who is burying under sky attacks her little daughter "somewhere under tree in the park" and crawling back to the basement, because her younger son is waiting for her...

...a woman who was raped for two days in front of her 6-years old son, by a russian, who killed her husband and father before theirs eyes...

Do you hear me, russian soldier?

It could be YOUR daughter,
it could be YOUR wife,
it could be YOUR sister.
It could be YOUR mother
to whom you explain what you've done.





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