

Where is Ukraine



Why has Russia attacked?

Since 2014, Russian-backed separatists and Ukraine's armed forces have been fighting a war in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in which more than 14,000 people have died.

President Putin this month recognised the two regions held by the Russian-backed separatists as independent states and ordered Russian troops there, tearing up a peace deal.

GEOGRAPHY



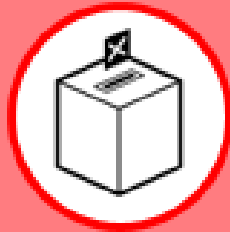
- The country shares borders with Russia both to the east and northeast.
- In 2014 Russia annexed the Crimea. The region was of particular interest to Russia since it depends on the Black Sea for access to the Mediterranean. The Port of Sevastopol, is one of the few ice-free deepwater ports available to Russia.

HISTORY



- A huge amount of this current crisis is rooted in the legacy of the Cold War (1945-1991) which was a period of mistrust and competition between the USA (the West) and the Soviet Union (the East).
- Ukraine, which was part of the Soviet Union won independence as the USSR broke up in 1991.

POLITICS



- From a Russian perspective the politics of this situation is about what the country DOES NOT want. Essentially Russia does not want the Ukraine to join the US led NATO.
- At the current moment relations between President Biden and Putin have deteriorated.
- Whilst Russia

ports available to Russia.

The Ukraine is an important route for Russian gas. The continent gets nearly 40% of its natural gas and 25% of its oil from Russia.

1991.

- Russia has always considered Ukraine to be within its 'sphere of influence' and is extremely hostile to allow the Ukraine to have closer ties with the EU/NATO.

- Whilst Russia has decided to engage in invasion countries such as the USA, UK, Britain and France have decided to enforce tough economic sanctions and provide weaponry.

CONFLICT CHRONOLOGY

- **MARCH 2021** – Russian troops begin amassing across the Ukrainian border.
- **DECEMBER 2021** – An estimated 100,000 troops are concentrated across the Ukrainian border.
- **JANUARY 2022**
 - ▶ Russia, NATO (**North Atlantic Treaty Organisation**) and the OSCE (**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**) hold talks
 - ▶ The US and Russia meet in Geneva to de-escalate tensions – differences remain unresolved.
 - ▶ NATO puts troops on standby.
- **FEBRUARY 2022**
 - ▶ Ukraine and Russia conduct military drills.
 - ▶ Putin order Russian forces to Ukraine rebel regions.
 - ▶ Western powers call for more sanctions on Russia.
 - ▶ Russia launches full scale invasion of the Ukraine.

Is this the start of WW3? Is everything I see online true? (2 mins 10 seconds)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60522467>

Who is Vladimir Putin (2 mins 36 seconds)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60521909>

Some of the world leaders responses



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country was ready for a Russian attack, vowing, "We will defend ourselves".



Boris Johnson said in a TV address that the UK "cannot and will not just look away" at Russia's attack on Ukraine



US President Joe Biden has said that the world will hold Russia accountable for what he called an "unprovoked and unjustified attack by Russian military forces".

What is a sanction?

- A sanction is a penalty imposed by one country on another, often in order to stop it acting aggressively or breaking international law.
- Sanctions are often designed to hurt a country's economy, or the finances of individual citizens such as leading politicians. They can include travel bans and arms embargoes.
- They are among the toughest measures nations can use, short of going to war.

What sanctions are Western nations imposing?

US President Joe Biden announced:

- four major Russian banks will have their assets frozen and be cut off from US dollar transactions
- sanctions on wealthy Russian individuals with close links to the Kremlin
- the US and allies will cut off more than half of Russia's high-tech imports to stop it developing its military capabilities

EU nations sanctions included:

- targeting 70% of the Russian banking market and key state owned firms, including defence firms
- targeting the energy sector with an export ban on materials Russia uses for oil refineries
- banning the sale of aircraft and equipment to Russian airlines
- limiting Russia's access to high-tech, such as semiconductors and software
- The EU has also announced it's freezing the European assets of both Vladimir Putin and Russia's foreign minister Sergei Lavrov.

The UK announced:

- all major Russian banks to have their assets frozen and be excluded from the UK financial system
- laws to stop major Russian companies and the state raising finance or borrowing money on UK markets
- asset freezes on new individuals or entities
- Russia's Aeroflot airline will be banned from the UK
- export licences suspended for dual-use items which can be used for military purposes
- a stop to exports of high-tech items and oil refinery equipment
- a limit on deposits Russians can make to UK bank accounts

Germany put on hold permission for the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany to open.

Australia has imposed sanctions on wealthy Russians and over 300 members of the Russian parliament who voted to authorise sending Russian troops into Ukraine.

Japan is sanctioning Russian financial institutions and individuals and halting exports of goods such as semiconductors.

- The UK, US and Australia are also extending financial sanctions on Belarus for its role in the assault on Ukraine.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-60125659>



Essential support for under 25s

About www.themix.org.uk

The Mix is here to take on the embarrassing problems, weird questions, and please-don't-make-me-say-it-out-loud thoughts that people under 25 have in order to give them the best support through our digital and phone services.

Our Mission is to become the first point of contact for any young person seeking help or information on any subject wherever and whenever they need it.

The news is making me feel anxious

Hearing about scary or upsetting things in the news can lead to feelings of anxiety. If you're feeling concerned about something you've read, heard or watched, we've got some tips to help.



[Page of the week](#)