

COLLIDE

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Crises and Conflict: The things we've overlooked while transfixed on Ukraine

While the vast majority of us are familiar with the events unfolding in Ukraine, hardly anyone has the same level of knowledge regarding the other conflicts occurring around the world. So, how is conflict affecting those further afield than Ukraine, and why do we respond to those events so differently?

One place that is currently suffering in silence from the consequences of conflict is Yemen. It is one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, where the average annual salary is equivalent to £1224. The conflict there originated from a popular uprising in 2011 by the people of Yemen, which forced the country's authoritarian president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, who had been in office for over twenty years, to hand over power to his deputy, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi.

However, as Hadi came to power, he was met by many challenges, including militant attacks, corruption, food insecurity, and the fact that many military officers were continuing to be loyal to Saleh. A rebel group, called the Houthis, decided to take advantage of the weakness of Yemen's leadership, and in early 2014, they occupied Saada, a province in the north of the country, and then proceeded to capture Saana, the nation's capital city, which forced President Hadi to flee abroad in March 2015. Saudi Arabia, which borders Yemen, was concerned about the prospect of the country being under the Houthis' control, as they feared that Yemen could be used as a puppet state by its rival, Iran, similarly to how Russia has been using Belarus in its invasion of Ukraine.

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia, along with other Arab countries, launched air strikes on Yemen, aiming to oust the Houthis and restore the Yemeni government, and the coalition were provided with intelligence and logistical support from the US, UK and France. This marked the beginning of seven years of conflict, with still no end in sight, which has resulted in the world's most severe current humanitarian crisis.



Photo above - file from Care - not-for-profit organization. Our EIN number is 13-1685039. © 2020 CARE. All rights reserved. Photo below canva stock.

'So, with 377,000 dead, 100,000 displaced and 19 million going hungry, why are we allowing ourselves to overlook this tragedy?'

The UN has reported that 24.1 million Yemeni people, accounting for 80% of the population, are currently in need of humanitarian aid, and have estimated that there have been over 377,000 deaths, with 60% of them resulting from hunger, lack of healthcare and unsafe water, as a result of the war. Along with this, it says that more than 10,200 children are known to have been killed or wounded as a direct result of the fighting. One of the most significant aspects of Yemen's humanitarian crisis is the level of hunger and malnutrition prevalent there, with the UN predicting that 19 million Yemenis will go hungry in the coming months, while more than 160,000 of them will face famine-like conditions.

The situation there has worsened even more due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as hunger levels have been pushed even higher by the decrease in exports of Ukrainian wheat that Yemen has been reliant on. This only goes to show that the repercussions of the invasion are echoing detrimentally across the world, without assistance or recognition.

This has come after the World Food Programme were forced to cut the food rations of 8 million Yemenis by more than half due to low food stocks brought about by critical underfunding. Meanwhile, food prices doubled in Yemen during 2021 as a result of hyperinflation from the devaluation of the Yemeni rial, spiraling the country's economy into disrepair.

So, with 377,000 dead, 100,000 displaced and 19 million going hungry, why are we allowing ourselves to overlook this tragedy?

It has now been over six months since the Taliban assumed control of Afghanistan in August 2021, and although the fighting has stopped, the Afghan people are suffering from unfathomable hardships under extremist rule, and a humanitarian crisis rapidly developing into the most severe in the world. The United Nations has said that since the Taliban takeover, at least half a million Afghans have lost their jobs, and has estimated that by the middle of 2022, up to 97% of the people there will be living under the poverty line. This has resulted in a drastic rise in food insecurity, particularly impacting young children who are becoming increasingly malnourished.

The UK's Disasters Emergency Committee have warned that warned that 8 million Afghans are at risk of starvation, and that overall, 22 million people, accounting for over half the population, do not have enough to eat. Along with this, 3 million children under the age of five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition, with data from UNICEF showing that the number of children with severe acute malnutrition admitted to hospital nearly doubled between August and December 2021, highlighting just how quickly and severely the impact of Taliban control has taken its toll on the Afghan people. Recent developments in Afghanistan have seen controversy surrounding girls' education.

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When Afghanistan was originally under Taliban control during the 1990s, girls were banned from receiving an education, so when they reassumed power in August 2021, they were quick to prohibit girls from attending secondary schools. Many countries have pushed for the Taliban to restore girls' education before they are able to access international aid, so they announced that girls would be able to return to secondary school classrooms on 23rd March.

However, on that morning, they left thousands of girls devastated by suddenly retracting their decision, announcing that schools would reopen once a decision was made regarding the regulations over the uniform of female students in accordance with "Sharia law and Afghan tradition."

In an interview with the BBC, Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for girls' education who was shot by the Taliban in 2012, commented that 'these excuses are nothing new that we are hearing, and I think that the Afghanistan that the Taliban are envisioning is one where girls do not receive their education.' The destruction caused by the Taliban is evident in the nation's capital city, Kabul, where there are long queues of people outside the Iranian embassy waiting for visa appointments, and maternity clinics where babies are being abandoned because their parents cannot afford to look after them.

The International Psychological Organisation, which is based in Kabul, has estimated that 70% of Afghans are in need of psychological support, so why are we so content with leaving countries like this in such a solemn state of affairs?

The dire circumstances in Yemen and Afghanistan are clearly not isolated cases, with other situations, such as the military coup in

Myanmar, the Israel-Palestine conflict and the genocide of Uighur Muslims in China all being additional examples of crises overshadowed by the invasion of Ukraine, just to name a few.

Questions have therefore been raised as to why the case of Ukraine is being taken so seriously by western powers, while other countries are neglected as a distant afterthought. Many are claiming that it is because the majority of Ukrainians are white, along with the majority of the populations of western powers.

This view has been reflected by the attitudes of journalists and news broadcasters, who have recently been accused of making racist comments. One such remark that has come under fire was made by the senior foreign correspondent of America's CBS News, Charlie D'Agata, who stated that Ukraine "isn't a place, with all due respect, like Iraq or Afghanistan, that has seen raging conflict for decades.

This is a relatively civilised, relatively European... city, one where you wouldn't expect that, or hope that it's going to happen." However, such claims have been made much closer to home, with an ITV journalist commenting that "Now the unthinkable has happened to them. And this is not a developing, third world nation. This is Europe!" and a writer for the Telegraph adding that "They seem so like us. That is what makes it so shocking.

Ukraine is a European country. Its people watch Netflix and have Instagram accounts..." It is becoming clear that we live among a culture that dehumanises those less fortunate than ourselves, but what will it take for us to understand that we all bleed the same colour?

Ava Broughton

Have the UK aided the Ukraine crisis enough?

Over the past few months, the Russian invasion into Ukraine has shocked the world as we witness a beautiful country being turned to rubble. Innocent Ukrainians have had to flee their homes and seek refuge in other countries, including the UK. Members of NATO have tried to help the crisis by sending military aid, humanitarian supplies and opening their homes to those fleeing. However, NATO has extended a hand only so far, in the fear of being pulled into the terrible conflict themselves. This poses the question 'Is the UK doing enough?' Should we be deploying troops in Ukraine? What will happen when the war is over?

From the early onset of the conflict, the UK was quick to respond with both military and humanitarian aid. According to GOV.UK the UK have committed £400 million in humanitarian and economic aid to date in credit to the British public. Alongside this, the UK has donated approximately 4 million items of medical equipment. Additionally, the UK's contributions have been so significant that we are now the largest bilateral humanitarian donor to Ukraine,

which shows that we are going to remarkable lengths to support Ukraine in comparison to other NATO countries.

On the military front, Britain has already credited £350 million in military aid. For an example, 4000 anti-tank missiles have been transported from the UK to the Ukrainian armed forces. The UK has not stopped there with £100 million bolster package of high-tech weaponry to meet the requirements of what Ukraine need to defend their homeland. The UK has supported Ukraine with best efforts besides actually sending troops. Another notable contributor helping Ukraine is the US sending \$800 million in military assistance to Ukraine; this includes a wide range of equipment from 25,000 sets of armour to 20 million rounds of ammunition

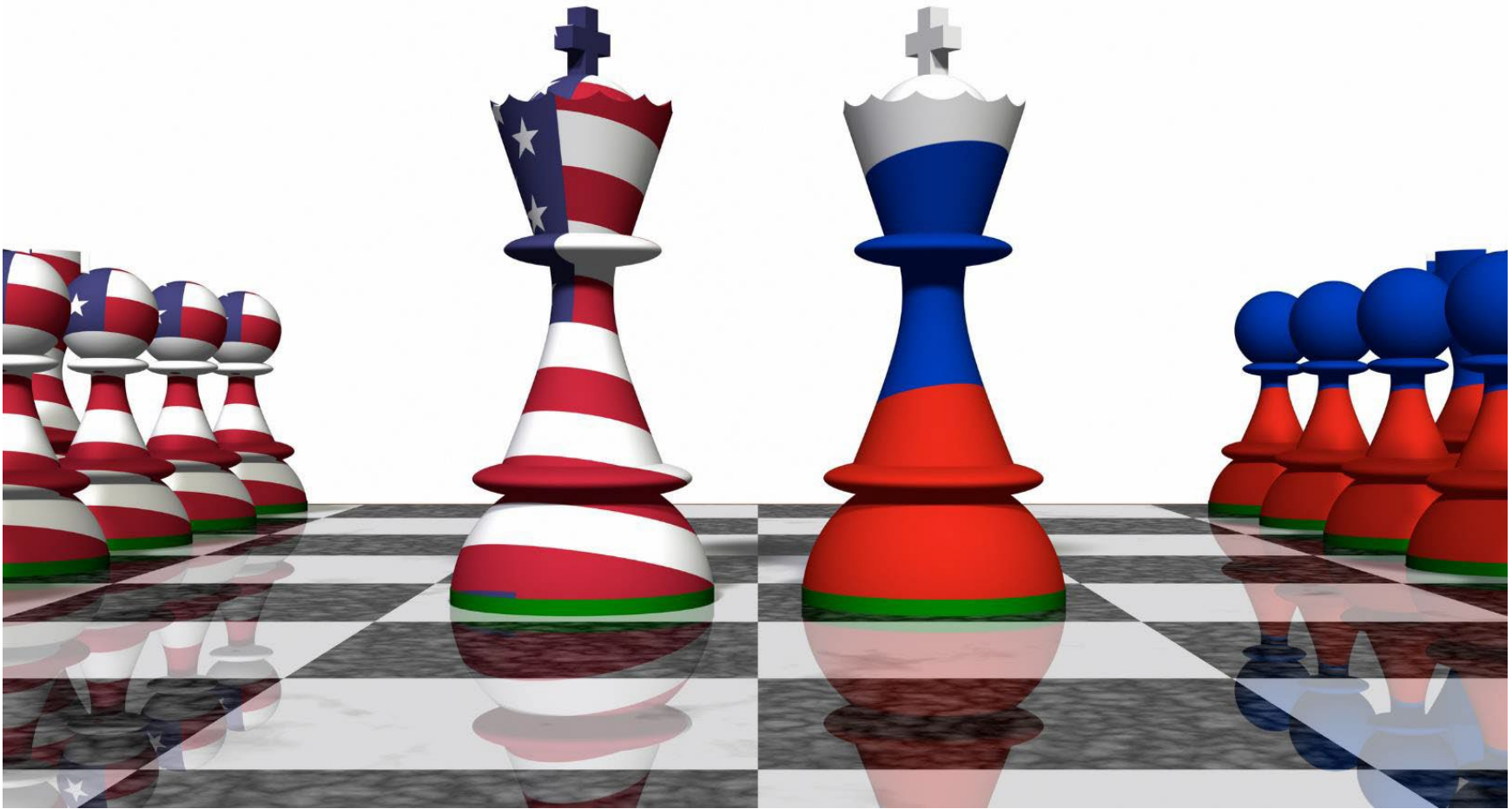
For the US this is a huge military contribution in such a short duration in comparison to \$2.7 billion they supplied from 2014, when Russia took Crimea, to 2022. Yet, in contrast to the UK, the US has bestowed roughly the same as the UK if you consider the proportion of the US economy and armed forces to the UK's much smaller one. Many other NATO countries have generously added to

support including Germany, Canada, and the Netherlands.

The UK is one of the leading NATO countries aiding Ukraine combined with the US, a powerful ally.

The UK is part of NATO and Ukraine is not. Consequently, this means NATO's actions must be defensive as Ukraine is only a partnering country in NATO. Therefore, under the founding NATO treaty Ukraine does not receive a guarantee of security assistance from NATO allies. If the UK were to send troops to Ukraine or NATO collectively agreed to impose a no-fly zone, this would inevitably be seen as a direct provocation.

In other words, NATO would be at war with Russia. If, this occurred the Ukraine conflict would escalate astronomically and could descend into World War Three. Therefore, the UK and NATO cannot do much more to help the crisis without imposing a wider scale suffering, even if that means the sacrifice of the horrific pain and suffering plaguing Ukraine right now. Presently Boris Johnson has made a daunting visit to Ukraine. He has made courageous promises and pledges of helping to rebuild the country. Let us just hope there is one left to rebuild.



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David Kirk

Bush versus Putin - Western Hypocrisy?

Nearly two months ago, Putin's red armies invaded Ukraine, and Europe erupted into turmoil. The world looked on in shock, powerless to stop the advance of troops and bombardment of civilians. Sanctions were quickly drafted, Oligarchs were thrown out of countries and warnings were issued against the Russian President, but the onslaught continued.

The western world, as a collective, was outraged by this act of outright encroachment, and rapidly drafted out plans for refugee housing and relocation. Acts of needless violence committed by the Russian army soon flooded our social media. Never had we experienced a superpower exert injustice in this completely unnecessary way, especially not in the 21st century. Or had we?

The date was the 19th of March 2003, and American soldiers had just invaded Iraq. According to President Bush, it was due to a suspicion of Nuclear power and organised terrorism which was supported by the Iraqi government. He postulated it under the guise of liberty, saying "The greatest danger to freedom lies at the crossroads of radicalism and technology".

Under this proclamation, he convinced the western world that it was reasonable to take away that same freedom from others and undermine the sovereignty of a nation. Six months before, in September 2002, he had already laid out his ideals in the first National Security Strategy. Bush claimed to be fighting "terrorist organisations with global reach, weak states which harbour and assist such terrorist organisations and rogue states."

This, at the time, was popular due to the heart wrenching events of 9/11, and the western world flocked to America's aid.

However, the claims Bush made in terms of weapons of mass destruction and the control of al Qaeda in Iraq have since been diminished in reliability. Louis Fisher, in his article 'Deciding on war against Iraq: Institutional Failures', said that "[Iraqi control of] weapons of mass destruction [where offered by Bush] as the principal justification for war."

‘Due to indoctrination and the corruption of the Russian Government, many in the country have agreed with the sentiment Putin expressed, seeing themselves as Ukraine’s liberator’

Fisher goes on to state that "little evidence [was] found" to back Bush's claims, and that "the Bush administration had deceived allies, Congress and the American public." This lead journalist Antonia Juhsz to simplify the real reason for the invasion: "It's about the oil, silly." The whole ordeal seemed to have clearly been orchestrated for pure financial gain, and the freedom of a people had been stripped away due to the desire of the American government.

How, then, does this differ from Putin's invasion of Ukraine? Let us for a moment, to answer this question, quickly look at the statements issued before the Ukrainian war began as well as the actions that have taken place since the 22nd of February. At the beginning of the same month, Putin stated that "Do we want this or not? Of course, not. That is exactly why we put forward proposals for a process of negotiations." This was, of course, revoked only a week afterwards, rendering the former KGB agent a liar, something we should have probably suspected.

Putin has given a reason for his invasion, stating that he feared Kyiv was conducting an anti-Russian genocide, and that the government was headed by antisemites. This is of course, for lack of a better term, complete rubbish. As CTV news pointed out, "the country has a Jewish president who lost relatives in the Holocaust and who heads a Western backed, democratically elected government."

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However, due to indoctrination and the corruption of the Russian Government, many in the country have agreed with the sentiment Putin expressed, seeing themselves as Ukraine's liberator.

In other words, Putin's administration has deceived allies and the Russian public, much like Bush did in 2003.

The west seems to have completely ignored the invasion of Iraq, or moved past it speedily, but it is incredibly concerned with the well-being of the Ukrainian state.

Why? That question is too complex, unfortunately, to have a simple answer, but

there are what could be considered main factors to the problem.

We in the west see ourselves as the standard for living, as the best in world, as above other countries.

Our culture, tradition and values have been exported across the globe so that everyone knows what things are 'supposed to be like'. In many ways we have achieved good things in society, more equity and thriving diversity, but we have a long way to go.

Maybe the reason we ignored Bush and condemned Putin was because it is easier to blame the enemy than actually change.

As a culture we tend to focus mainly on external conflict, but maybe our

hypocritical state of the denial is what we should hone in on.

Maybe the main conflict isn't with foreign powers, or a fight against universal evil, but the decision to hold our leaders and ourselves accountable for our crimes.

The hope is that, in the future, we never repeat the mistakes we saw Bush make due to greed and a desire for power. That we may never stand indifferent in front of injustice, be it internal or external. Bush v Putin? Or complacency of the masses v complacency of the masses?

Sam Andretti

Economic Sanctions

What is an Economic sanction? The Dictionary of Business and Management defines it as: "An action taken by one country or group of countries to harm the economic interest of another country or group of countries, usually to bring about pressure for social or political change. Sanctions normally take the form of restrictions on imports or exports, or on financial transactions. They may be applied to specific items, or they may be comprehensive trade bans. There is considerable disagreement over their effectiveness. Critics point out that they are easily evaded and often inflict more pain on those they are designed to help than on the governments they are meant to influence. They can also harm the country that imposes sanctions, through the loss of export markets or raw material supplies. In addition, the target country may impose retaliatory sanctions."

What is the goal and success rate of economic sanctions? This question has a less straightforward answer, Sanctions cause stress. Depending on the size and breadth of a sanction with some only being applied to specific industries or individuals within the country to achieve a goal, which can range from stopping international crimes, stopping weapons development or in the most extreme cases the goal can be causing a regime change through an uprising caused by economic collapse effectively starving a population into submission, the efficacy of sanctions varies one study concluded that sanctions were partially successful only 34% of the time, however as the scope of the sanctions increased the success rate decreased.

A notable failure in achieving success was the U.S embargo on Cuba which lasted for more than five decades and achieved almost nothing with Forbes reporting:

"More than a half-century of sanctions have not sparked a popular uprising, forced the Castros and allies from power, moderated the regime, delivered democracy, promoted economic liberalisation, cut regime ties with other communist systems, stopped foreign investment, or achieved much else of note," with evidence suggesting the longer sanctions last, the less likely they are to succeed.

However, there are notable examples of sanctions working, experts say targeted sanctions helped to bring Iran to the negotiating table in 2015 and to agree to scale back its nuclear activities. However, a key thing to remember here is that there was a credible threat of military action from the US and its allies. Obama refusing to rule out a strike on Iran's nuclear reactors, as any military intervention could very easily lead to nuclear disaster.

What are the effects of economic sanctions? Economic sanctions affect the economy of the target, but also those who depend on the affected country either importing or selling goods. Russia and Ukraine constitute 30% of the world's wheat supply, with Ukrainian farmers too busy dealing with Russian tanks than tending to their crops, and Russian farmers unable to access the global banking systems to receive payment, there is a serious threat to valuable nations like Kazakhstan, Egypt and Turkey who are not involved in the conflict in any way. Russia is also a major producer of oil which (although is technically not affected due to the oil crisis and having a carve-out within the sanction, there is immense social pressure for western oil companies to pull out of Russia).

The US imports a large quantity of oil, it being at a multi-year high of about 10% of oil imports coming from Russia increasing after sanctions on Venezuela, meaning that costs of oil increase everywhere.

These however do not acknowledge the effects within the nation that has been sanctioned, as stated earlier the goals of sanctions are generally stopping international crimes (like human rights abuses in China and 1960s South Africa), stopping weapons development (like the nuclear programmes in North Korea) and causing a regime change, with this being the goal first in modern-day Zimbabwe in the 1960s, this was achieved eventually more than a decade later, but only after considerable human costs.

Iraq was probably one of the worst sanction fails in history, in 1990 Saddam Husain invaded Kuwait, this first involved active military combat, however, Hussain refused to surrender, leading to economic sanctions dragging on, by the end of the decade a third of Iraq's children were malnourished and poverty was rife, Hussain's rule did eventually come to an end, although this was due to another war, not sanctions. Are there any alternatives? While this article is generally critical of Sanctions, there is a lack of viable alternatives, the main goal should be peace, even if this means minor compromise, however, this is not always possible and geopolitics is not black and white, without sanctions you actively fund the suffering of others, but with them, you strangle another population into potential submission causing harm either way.



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Cordelia Hoxa

War of the mind

The wanton assault by Russian president Vladimir Putin’s army on the sovereign nation of Ukraine has caused not only direct physical impact on the defenseless civilians but also lingering psychological wounds. Since February, 4.4 million Ukrainian citizens have been abruptly displaced from their homes and forced to flee. With limited refugee resources and a growing uncertainty about what their future holds the stress has taken a significant toll on their mental health now and in the long term.

The fear was initially amplified when the full invasion began on February 24th, 2022. As Kyiv and other cities suddenly came under attack the uncertainty shifted into terror as families and their children witnessed and experienced explosions and consequential deaths firsthand. Not only did this cause immense fear but also immediate disruption of daily life as it ceased accessibility to basic resources and disabled contact with loved ones.

Dozens of children are now having to hide in bomb shelters, basements, train stations and other underground areas while others have fled their homes to neighbouring countries. Children are no longer in a safe structured environment, and retaining that structure somehow is crucial in the prevention of mental health issues developing.

Parents can only shield their current and future children from trauma to an extent. Constant exposure to an unstable war experience such as this can actually cause subtle but heritable shifts to ones genome, thus leading to future generations possibly inheriting this heightened state of anxiety.

Shonkoff, a professor of child health and development, said “one way to ensure a good outcome for children in a war zone is by making sure the adults are being taken care of too”, this being due to the fact that children tend to imitate and reflect their parents’ emotions.

Traumatic events being witnessed by young children and adolescents can also increase the likelihood of numerous mental health problems arising within adulthood: depression, anxiety and PTSD. There is copious amounts of research highlighting how severe events lead to these mental illnesses. Post-traumatic stress disorder includes symptoms that reflect the victim’s brain state when it was in “survival mode” to protect one from recurrence of trauma. Refugees who experience PTSD are highly anxious, irritable, emotionally numb and avoid any triggers that could remind them of trauma. They also tend to have frequent nightmares disrupting their sleep due to flashbacks or sensory experiences, making it feel as though the trauma is happening there and then. Up to 80% of people who get PTSD also develop other difficulties, such as anxiety disorders, depression, substance use and in worst case scenarios, death by suicide. Whether mild or severe, PTSD can have a devastating impact on troops and their families, altering lives for the worst.

This emphasises how people who are at risk of developing any mental problems should be offered cognitive behaviour therapy to improve their thinking and help displace any triggering memories causing them these repeated episodes. It could also help them improve their sleep, anger management, and alter how they interpret difficult events – such as not blaming themselves; as these are all early risk factors among troops and refugees for later developing PTSD. It may be too early to predict the outcome of this war, however we can be sure that significant mental health costs will result - so help must be accessible.

Holly Larkin

Has Climate change been put on the back burner since the Ukraine/Russia conflict began?

Just 4 months shy of when the COP 26 conference made their final agreements, the Russia/Ukraine conflict followed.

There has been rising concern surrounding climate change and carbon emissions due to Putin’s use of unconventional weapons; not only is Putin hurting innocent civilians, he is now hurting our planet. As a result of the war, more man made conflict carbon emissions are being released due to Putin’s burning of fuel tanks or damaging pipelines, emitting carbon into our atmosphere.

As a society we are already racing against the clock to save our planet; but ‘conflict-driven carbon’ will be unbearable alongside the emissions made by society during everyday life, which is why climate change is so important. However, the effort to save our planet from climate change has had to be put on the back burner since the Russia/Ukraine conflict to help people escape; how much are we succeeding at saving those if we can’t even save our own homes, from ourselves?

Reducing carbon emissions is no doubt a central international issue and the Russia/Ukraine conflict has been a huge reminder for that as now it has caused a deeper struggle to tackle climate change in such restricted time- which is quickly catching us.

According to The Atlantic council, the international community should consider introducing punitive measures to hold countries accountable for impacts on climate change created by war and aggression as the use of releasing these carbon emissions are purely by spite and choice.

Europe and the US have the resources to lead this new opportunity to save our planet with the help of the United Nations, so why isn’t society following through with this?

Since the start off the conflict, many countries have put sanctions in place. However, due to Russia ultimately being their main fossil fuel supplier, it has left many countries scrambling for other resources and the demand for renewable energy sources has plummeted. Due to the dire lack of renewable energy sources, which aren’t as accessible as fossil fuels, many have conceded into accessing new resource suppliers that don’t include renewable energy sources.

Overall, the demand of saving our planet is dire and is a priority but isn’t being treated like one. Ultimately the continuation of such actions will put our planet in a fragile state in both the short and long term future, which we simply can’t afford. Instead of using new partnerships to obtain more fossil fuels that hurt our planet, now is the time to put time and energy into new renewable energy sources to add a positive aspect to this conflict

Holly Larkin

Russian Propaganda- Debunking the truth



Free picture – independent media.

News outlets over the world have all been covering the Russia/Ukraine conflict, but have they all been presenting the same root of this casualty?

Russia has been accused of using social media to spread messages of fake news and propaganda to their audiences by advertisements and pseudo-activist movements.

Journalist Marina Ovsyannikova, an editor at Russia's channel one, interrupted a live broadcast with an prodigious protest against Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Ovsyannikova burst onto the set on the nightly channel one news broadcast holding a sign stating "Don't believe the propaganda. They're lying to you on here" while shouting "Stop the war. No to war".

However, as she continued to protest the news anchor carried on reading from her teleprompter attempting to drown Ovsyannikova out; but she could be heard loud and clear before the channel abruptly switched to adverts. This event has been a clear exhibition of how one-sided the Russian news outlet is, following a dictatorship rather than a democracy.

Ovsyannikova later posted a pre-recorded video on her Instagram with the OVD-info human rights group; in this video she communicated her regrets for working for channel one and helping them spread their 'Kremlin propaganda'.

She later began to state how "Russia is the aggressor" and "What's happening in Ukraine is a crime"; completely juxtaposing the information that Russian news outlets are feeding to the citizens of Russia. Ovsyannikova later persuaded Russians to join the anti-war protests to end this conflict. While wearing a necklace consisting of the colours of the Russian and Ukrainian flag she voiced how "only we have the power to stop all this madness...Don't be afraid of anything. They can't imprison us all".

Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy appropriated and embraced the protest and stated "I'm thankful to those Russians who don't stop trying to deliver the truth, who are fighting against disinformation and tell real facts to their friends and family, and personally to that

woman who went in the studio of Channel one with an anti-war poster".

However, after Ovsyannikova's protest, she was arrested and held for interrogation for fourteen hours and recently fined 30,000 roubles (287 pounds) for this act of expression. She continues to live in Russia but now "fears for her and her children's lives".

But what has this woman's valiant protest done to the Russian media?

Although the public receive daily reports from Ukraine about their trials and terrors while they fight to defend their country, little is heard from Russia but what they do release is questioned whether to be a reliable news source due to their history of disinformation as they potentially use their news for strategic purposes to benefit Putin's agenda.

Moreover, many citizens have been reluctant to join protests since now anyone who joins a protest, even if its peaceful, will be arrested and possibly fined for simply going against the war crimes taking place and believing in peace.

Ultimately, it's hard to defend Russia's constant claim of offering humanitarian support to those they've just attacked, and their false victimisation presented by the media.

Henry Russell

Why you're wrong about Nuclear energy

In the early morning of March 4th, 2022, Russian forces entering Ukraine initiated what is now considered the world's first military attack on a nuclear facility on the Zaporizhzhia (Ukrainian) nuclear power plant. A shell hit the plant's first production unit which was under maintenance at the time and a fire broke out. Fortunately, there were no radiation leaks or fatalities.

Nuclear power plants are extremely resilient. They must be, not because nuclear power is inherently dangerous, but because to make power safely from nuclear reactions you need an enormous amount of concrete and steel. A modern nuclear reactor is a vast structure of lead-infused concrete and steel, with multiple levels of shielding which is hundreds of feet tall.

Despite the safety measures built into the plant's design, public sentiment toward nuclear power is generally negative and has been since the Chernobyl disaster on 26th April 1986. This perception needs to change if the public is to embrace further developments in nuclear power.

One of the main problems that people have with nuclear energy production is the perceived problem of nuclear waste and viewing it as a fundamental obstacle to the expansion of nuclear energy.

Nuclear waste can be anything from spent nuclear fuel rods down to nuclear engineers' gloves. This amasses a total of 450,000,000 kg of nuclear waste which has been generated, one-third of which has been recycled and reused, being put back into the plant's core to be used to generate more energy. This amount may appear large, but it is comparatively small relative to the emissions from coal. Every year in the US alone, coal plants put three hundred times more ash into the sky by weight than the nuclear waste ever produced. By its very nature, coal contains some radioactive material such that the average coal plant through its ash will emit one hundred times more radiation into the atmosphere than a nuclear plant of the same size, contrary to arguments put forward by nuclear critics that nuclear carries more risk of radiation.

Three types of nuclear waste can be produced:

Low-level waste Anything from papers to gloves that are lightly irradiated.

Intermediate-level waste Does require

some shielding but decays well enough over time.

High-level waste Even though this is the stuff people worry about, it's only between 1 and 3% of all nuclear waste produced. The total amount of high-level waste could be put into an area the size of a football pitch, it's that efficient.

High-level waste is stored mostly above ground in dry casks, and giant concrete cylinders, and inside of them is nuclear material combined with glass and ceramic such that the nuclear material stays cool and below critical condition. Waste can also be stored deep underground, below the water table and active geological sites. Scientists believe that after a natural source of uranium caused a series of nuclear reactions, amidst all the movement of the underlying geology, without any protection or storage, the nuclear material moved less than 10 meters away from the site. This is good evidence that deep disposal is safe.

Making sure any form of energy production is safe is vital but also useless if the form of energy is not efficient and sustainable. France is currently run on seventy percent nuclear energy, yet the world only relies on nuclear for four percent of its total energy usage. So, what

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is stopping this expansion from happening? The fear of nuclear energy stems from incidents such as the Chernobyl and Fukushima disasters.

These incidents were terrible and a showcase of what can happen when nuclear power goes wrong.

However, when put into perspective, and compared to other sources of energy, we can see what is in effect here.

Deaths per TWh (Tera Watt-hours)
Coal 100,000
Solar 440
Wind 150
Nuclear 90

Fossil fuel is the invisible burden that people imagine nuclear to be.

The only thing safer than nuclear is wind and solar.

Scientists estimate that air pollution from fossil fuels has taken about 81,000,000 lives in total; that's five million lives a year.

One in five deaths can be attributed to the burning of fossil fuels. So far nuclear energy has prevented 64,000,000,000,000 kg of carbon equivalent from entering the atmosphere.

The argument for nuclear power doesn't just rely on what has already been achieved, but also on what it has to offer by way of a cleaner and safer alternative to fossil fuels.



Sportsfree media /madrussiagp

Tobias Hancox

The effect of the Russo-Ukrainian Conflict on Sport

Thursday the 24th of February 2022, the day Russia invaded their Ukrainian neighbours. On that day, the freedom of the Ukrainian people was put in jeopardy and the financial repercussions were felt globally. However, for the common Brit, there has been no visible change. Or has there?

The sporting industry is huge, raking in billions of pounds of revenue and providing entertainment to the masses. Sport is an essential part of everyday life here in the UK. Whether you aspire to be on the world stage competing at the highest level, or you prefer to watch on a Sunday afternoon, there is always a conversation to be had about sport. In fact, the UK loves sports so much that SKY Digital has eight broadcasting channels dedicated to it. With this in mind, I am aiming to explore the effect the recent conflict has had on our beloved sports.

Russia as a nation has been barred from the Olympics and major sporting events for a number of years now due to a doping scandal. This has left many Russian athletes and teams absent from the sporting world. But Russia itself has not let itself become distant from our TV coverage.

Most recently, the Formula One Russian Grand Prix has been held in Sochi, the FIFA World Cup was held in Russia in 2018, and Sochi also hosted the Winter Olympics in 2014. However, with the recent conflict, a number of governing bodies and sporting officials have pulled out their support for hosting sport in Russia for the foreseeable future.

Firstly, Formula One "has terminated its contract with the Russian Grand Prix promoter meaning Russia will not have a race in the future,". After the news of the outbreak of war, "Formula One, motorsport's governing body FIA and the teams discussed the situation and concluded that it was "impossible to

hold the Russian Grand Prix in the current circumstances".

Many of the drivers, specifically the 4-time world champion Sebastian Vettel, had stated that it would be wrong to race in Russia. He even went as far as to say that even if the event went ahead, he wouldn't race.

In the end, the heads of the sport took the option to cancel the Grand Prix, due to be held on September the 25th of this year, and to terminate its long-term contract. This means that F1 will not be racing in Russia for a while. Fans of the sport are in full support of this decision; not only are they showing support for the oppressed people of Ukraine, they are also eliminating one of the most boring race tracks on the calendar - many saw the race at the Sochi Auto drome as an opportunity to have a two-hour nap on a Sunday.

It's not just the circuit that's got the slice! Nikita Mazepin, son of Russian Oligarch Dmitry Mazepin, lost his Haas F1 seat just a few days after the invasion. Mazepin senior is a majority shareholder in Uralchem, parent company to the former title sponsor of Haas, Uralkali. Haas delivered this team statement across various social media platforms: "Haas F1 team has elected to terminate, with immediate effect, the title partnership of Uralkali, and the driver contract of Nikita Mazepin. As with the rest of the F1 community, the team is shocked and saddened by the invasion of Ukraine and wishes for a swift and peaceful end to the conflict."

For many fans, who saw Nikita as a pay driver who crashed far too often and had an anger problem, this was a good bye and good riddance moment. Although the FIA had allowed Russian nationals to continue to compete in F1 for the foreseeable future, it was undoubtedly the close links the Mazepin family has to

continued from page 7

the Kremlin that put an end to Nikita's short, unsuccessful, and underserving F1 career.

Moving away from Formula One and to the world's most popular sport – football. As many readers will be aware, the UEFA Champion's League Final was set to take place in St. Petersburg, Russia later this year. However, due to the recent events, it was decided that the world of football could not allow its players, fans, and its coverage to go to Russia. The UK Culture Secretary summed up why we should be pulling out of competing in Russia: "Russia must not be allowed to exploit sporting and cultural events on the world stage to legitimise its unprovoked, premeditated and needless attack against a sovereign democratic state."

UEFA's decision is not going to stop Putin in his power-hungry invasion, but it does show that the general public do not wish to associate themselves with such barbaric atrocities.

Similar steps have been taken by Rugby's world governing body, banning Russia and Belarus from all international rugby.

So far, mostly governing bodies and heads of sport have sanctioned Russia with terminating contracts and pulling out of competitions, there have not been many instances where athletes themselves show defiance towards the Kremlin and its political position. Well, until Elina Svitolina. Svitolina is a Ukrainian tennis player who has a career high of rank no. 3 in women's singles. She is the first tennis player who had refused to compete against a Russian athlete.

She said she would not play Anastasia Potapova, however, she decided she could do more for her country by competing than leaving early. In the end, she thrashed the Russian national and has taken to social media to show support and speak out for her home country.

The tennis authorities also decided to ban Russian and Belarussian tennis players who played under their national flag.

Although the common Briton may not see the direct affects of the war, and we are under no threat, we can see the detrimental effect this conflict is having on sport.

Athletes who are innocent are being denied opportunities because they were born inside Russian borders, and stadiums and sporting facilities are not being given the opportunity to show off their love for their sport. This article has brought to light some of the ways the conflict has interrupted sport across the globe, it has also shown the resolve and character of athletes and sports stars we look up to as we all battle together against the Russian opposition, helping in any way we can, with whatever platform we have.



Bing picture - Elina Svitolina

Sam Smith

Are the Oscars the right platform for political views



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Considering events, both during and following the Oscars 2022, many have been left to question the allowance of political and socially debatable topics in awards acceptance speeches and other interviews following.

Viewership of the Oscars has fallen on average internationally. American viewership fell from 46.33 million in 2000 to 15.4 million in 2022, a drop of slightly over two-thirds but hit its lowest in 2021 at 10.4 million. The figures are not small enough to scoff at though, with millions of households still tuning in to watch the awards live.

However, this drastic decrease in viewership makes evident that in each nation of the world in which the ceremony is broadcast, the Oscars have lost their golden shine and started to dull. Some have credited this to exclusive and unfair voting from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) which fails to convey the public generalised opinion on the various awards that are to

be presented, others claim it is the platform for messages and personal beliefs from the award winners and directors and that they use it as a stepping stone to push ideologies on both young, middle aged and old viewers.

But the real question that has left everyone debating and feuding is why are such speeches given?

People are split on the topic, with some saying there shouldn't be a speech outright, some claiming it's a personal agenda and pushing one's belief on an audience of billions around the world, and others claiming it is to raise awareness for some of the many issues that society and governmental infrastructures fail to deal with such as sexism in many different parts of the world, racism, crime or violence towards innocents like the Ukrainian and Russian conflict. Ricky Gervais, an actor known for his roles in *Afterlife* and *The Office*, is one of the many people that believe a speech should not be given after receiving an award in the industry, stating in his hosting of the 2020 Golden Globes "If you do win an award tonight, don't use it as a platform to make a political speech, you're in no position to lecture the public about anything." and jokingly adding, "You know nothing about the real world, most of you spent less time in school than Greta Thunberg".

Many people relate to this view and believe that both the speeches, and the awards ceremony itself, are too long and this can correlate to the decrease in viewership which further decreases the number of people that meaningful speeches, with good messages and actual

kindness and compassion, reach and impact.

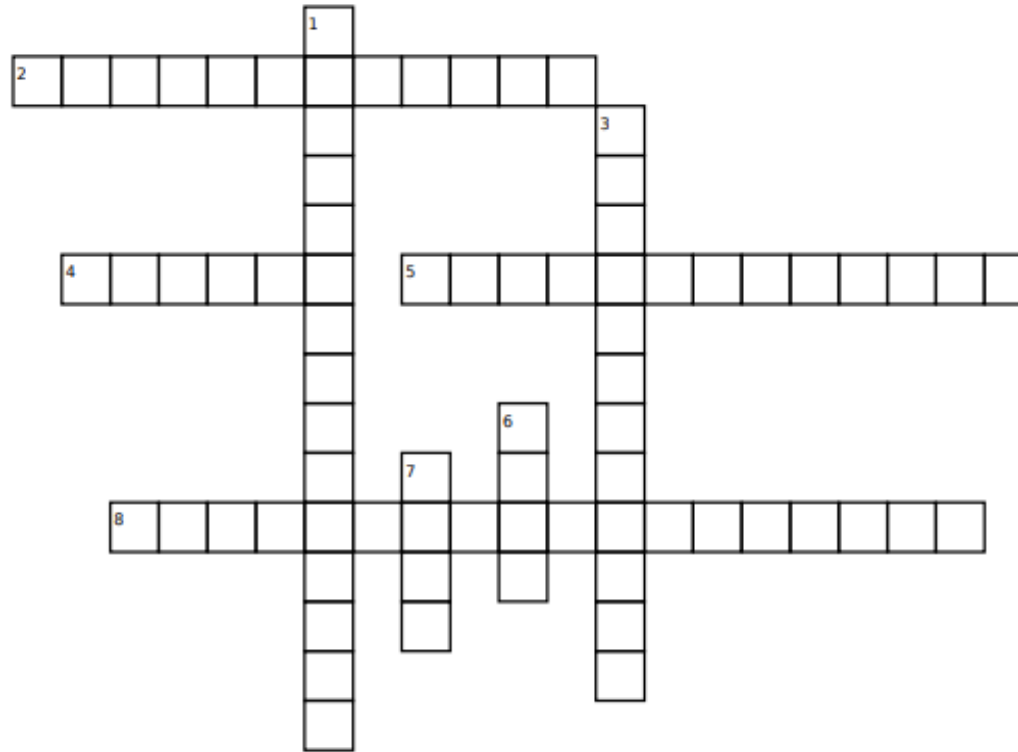
The final issue to bring up with political speeches at the Oscars is whether they are just what the person thinks and believes about a topic put into words or the individual, deep and complex topics that they are with roots in human history and culture, religion and science.

Places where these topics often are discussed, both controversially and personally by many, are most usually talk shows, podcasts, radio stations, or debates where multiple people talk from different viewpoints and angles on the topics, allowing for an open discussion and weighing up two opposing arguments.

However, having a speech with a political message behind it can often come off as one-sided and, in some cases, biased. Whether a slap and a yell from an agitated audience member counts as an input and therefore a discussion could be an opinion up for discussion itself, but one that does not answer the questions asked by the public in general.

In conclusion, the Oscars have potentially hit a few curveballs, a few bumps in the tracks, and may have slightly derailed, all to stay current and in the loop of the revolving and growing world. Maybe it is time they stuck to the basics as actors and stopped playing the parts of fashion icons, influencers, musicians, politicians and psychologists.

Collide



Down:

1. Energy source that has increased in demand since the Russia and Ukrainian war.
3. A country that send a large donation in military assistance to Ukraine.
6. Experiencing feelings of isolation and irritability are symptoms of _____ .
7. Energy method that causes most deaths per TWh.

Across:

2. An actor that is against political speeches at the Oscars.
4. The name of a country banned from the Olympics.
5. Russian former F1 driver who lost their seat due to the recent conflict.
8. Name of Russian journalist that protested on live broadcast.