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What the West Should Do in Response to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

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Abstract

Russia's unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine is unparalleled in Europe since 1945 and has already impacted practically all aspects of Western security. This article outlines ten steps the West should take in response. These include designating Russia as a terrorist state, implementing a no-fly zone, and blocking the import of Russian oil and gas.

Russia's unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine is unparalleled in Europe since 1945. The world is undergoing the worst crisis since that in Cuba in 1961. The crisis has impacted practically all aspects of Western security, from Germany expanding its military capacity, to the increased number of countries supporting Ukraine militarily, to the range and extent of sanctions against Russia.

In response, the West should take ten steps.

First, the UK and its Western allies should designate Russia as a terrorist state. Russia has pursued a covert war against Ukraine for the last eight years, leading to the deaths of 20,000 civilians and combatants. Far more Europeans have joined Russian terrorist forces in the so-called DNR (Donetsk People's Republic) and LNR (Luhansk People's Republic) than joined ISIS. Britain and its fellow NATO members should follow America's lead in the GUARD Act, which designates Russia "as a state sponsor of terrorism in the event its forces further invade Ukraine."

Second, sanctions should be expanded to the higher level of those imposed on Iran. In April 2020, the [European Parliament](#) adopted a non-binding resolution that stated that, in the event of a Russian invasion of Ukraine: "imports of oil and gas from Russia to the EU [should] be immediately stopped, while Russia should be excluded from the SWIFT payment system, and all assets in the EU of oligarchs close to the Russian authorities and their families in the EU need to be frozen and their visas cancelled." When Iran was removed from SWIFT in 2012, its gas and oil revenues dropped by almost half, crippling its economy. Other areas that have been considered for new sanctions are Russian state debt, Russian state banks, and Russian energy, mining, and metals businesses.

Third, the UK should close London as a laundromat for dirty Russian money. It is time to rename Londongrad back to its historical name of London. Russian oligarchs and officials should be banned from the UK indefinitely and any assets they own should be nationalised. The nationalised money could be used by the West-

minster Foundation for Democracy to support democratic change in Russia. Another way the funds could be used would be for humanitarian aid for the one million or more Ukrainian refugees.

Fourth, support President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in designating the invasion and accompanying human rights abuses as a war crime. Warn the Kremlin against undertaking massive human rights abuses during a Russian occupation and that Putin and his Kremlin sycophants will be charged as war criminals by the International Criminal Court. Although Russia is not a member of the ICC, this step would mean Putin and his Kremlin sycophants would be unable to attend any international summit or go on vacation in Europe.

Fifth, adopt a Europe-wide Magnitsky Act. In March 2019, the European Parliament adopted a resolution in favour of the EU adopting a Magnitsky Act, and in September 2020, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen stated that this would be a goal for her Commission. Now, with Russia having invaded Ukraine, is the time for the EU to support the collective adoption of a Magnitsky Act.

Sixth, certification of Nord Stream II should be not only suspended, as Germany has done in response to the invasion, but permanently closed. Western sanctions should be expanded to block the import of Russian gas and oil into Europe. Russian oil and gas, which is always accompanied by the Kremlin's strategic use of corruption to buy political elites and extremist political parties, should no longer be welcome in Europe.

Seventh, NATO members should implement a no-fly zone over the capital city of Kyiv and at a minimum Ukrainian territory west of the Dnipro River. By denying Russia a monopoly of the air, the West could create a safe haven for refugees and provide air cover for supply lines to Ukrainian security forces.

Eighth, NATO member states more willing to support Ukraine directly in the military field should send special forces into western Ukraine. These special forces would assist their Ukrainian counterparts in training in the use of weapons that have been delivered and strategy

and tactics. NATO special forces could accompany Ukrainian forces for the purpose of collecting intelligence. NATO should plan for the medium term by storing military and medical supplies in Poland, Slovakia, and Romania—three of the four NATO member states bordering Ukraine—with the goal of organising a supply route into Western Ukraine, a region that is unlikely to be occupied by Russia. In the event of a Russian occupation, NATO special forces should become more directly involved in planning and possibly participating in a covert manner in launching attacks on Russian forces.

Ninth, NATO should increase its supply to the Ukrainian armed forces of lethal military equipment, especially military equipment that can be used to destroy Russian air force planes, helicopters, and incoming missiles. Secondly, NATO should provide upfront and advance intelligence on Russian military movements.

About the Author

Taras Kuzio is a Research Fellow at the Henry Jackson Society, London, and Professor of Political Science at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. He is the author of *Russian Nationalism and the Russian-Ukrainian War*, published by Routledge in January 2022, and joint editor of *Ukraine's Outpost: Dnipropetrovsk and the Russian-Ukrainian War*.

ANALYSIS

Kazakhstan–Russia Relations in the Wake of the January Unrest

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Abstract

Putin's Russia appeared to gain the greatest benefits from Kazakhstan's Bloody January. Contrary to claims that the Kremlin's influence in the republic is growing, I show how Russia's relatively weak economic standing, coupled with Kazakhstan's changing attitudes, will seriously limit Russia's ability to increase its geopolitical influence over Kazakhstan.

Russia's Troop Deployment

The deployment of Russia-led CSTO troops to Kazakhstan in January 2022 to protect key strategic facilities threatened by the violent unrest and standoff with the loyalists of former President Nursultan Nazarbayev triggered a tide of commentaries about the future of Russia in Central Asia and Moscow's relations with Kazakhstan. According to many observers, not only has the swift military expedition changed assessments of the CSTO, which was once dismissed as a symbolic alliance, but it has also helped the Kremlin to strengthen

Tenth, Russian information warfare and media outlets such as RT should be closed in every NATO and EU member state. YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter should ban Russian disinformation outlets.

The fate of the democratic West is being decided in Ukraine. If the West were to allow Ukraine to be occupied and transformed into a Russian satellite state resembling Belarus, it would be the beginning of the end for NATO and the EU. Revisionist powers such as China and Iran would see this as a signal that the West was in decline. The threat to Taiwan and the three Baltic states would grow.

The West cannot allow Russia to destroy Ukraine's sovereignty and democracy. Ukrainians made their choice to live in an independent state three decades ago and have given thousands of lives in two revolutions and since 2014 to join the ranks of the democratic world.

its influence in the post-Soviet space and secure the loyalty of Kazakhstan's leadership to Russia. Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's first foreign trip to Moscow following the January 2022 unrest seemed to support these accounts. During the February 2022 Russia–Kazakhstan talks, President Tokayev thanked President Vladimir Putin and other CSTO partners for their support and stressed that the two countries would expand and deepen their bilateral cooperation.

The argument that Tokayev's government will lose its political and economic autonomy to Moscow is mis-