

Exemplars of Discussion Posts

[Russia and Ukraine Crisis](#) (Developing 2: 65%)

The Russian military buildup near Ukraine's border in 2021 and 2022 has intensified tensions between the two governments and strained diplomatic cooperation, with the US conveying a powerful message that an invasion would have grave economic consequences for Russia. From three main directions, Russia has started a massive invasion of Ukraine. According to reports, forces are attacking Kyiv from the north, Donetsk, Luhansk, and Kharkiv from the east, and Crimea from the south. Many have defined Putin's political system along with elements of economic liberalism. I cant say much now, but our world as we know it has changed both politically and economical.

[Ukraine](#) (Exemplary 2: 100%)

This article details the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which is a major world event at the moment. The article has maps that clearly show Ukraine's strategic location, including having two significant ports on the Black Sea. It is clear why Russia would have such a high level of interest in securing its borders and controlling that geographical area in the interest of Russian national security. The other concept that the article identifies is NATO membership. NATO was created to offset Russian aggression, and is composed of about 30 countries currently. If one NATO country is invaded, all NATO countries would respond in defence. The possibility of Ukraine joining NATO is not in Russia's best interest. Putin would rather not have a NATO member country with differing ideologies immediately outside its border, and this again helps understand Putin's motivations in this war.

After reading this article, it is clear that it relates to many of the concepts that we have studied in our class so far. This event is extremely devastating as there have been many atrocities. Putin claimed that he was launching a "liberation mission." It is evident that many Russian citizens are undergoing indoctrination through the use of propaganda, and they therefore do not know what is actually occurring in Ukraine. These two nations are not in alignment in terms of ideologies. Ukraine's ideology is liberalism while Russia is illiberal. Russia is in an authoritarian state and is threatened by those promoting liberalism and free market economies. Vladimir Putin is a right wing reactionary, as he is opposed to change. This conflict is a hot war instead of a cold war. Putin is trying to eliminate the liberal ideology of Ukraine, as well as eliminating the risk of Ukraine joining NATO. Putin's actions are an example of expansionism, as Russia is attempting to increase their sphere of influence as well as their geographical security.

To this point, countries across the globe have responded to this invasion by implementing sanctions on Russia to cripple its economy.