Survey Draft

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# Research Questions

Does knowledge about international politics affect people’s support for the Ukrainian War effort? Does framing affect how much political sophisticates support the Ukrainian War Effort?

# Hypotheses

H1 (Observational): *In a comparison of individuals, those with higher levels of international political knowledge will be more supportive of the Ukrainian war effort than those with less knowledge.*

* *IV*: International Political Knowledge
* *DV:* Support for the Ukraine War Effort
* *Explanation for relationship:* Individuals with greater knowledge of international politics have dedicated time and effort to thinking about how and why states interact. Their thoughts on International Politics will be well organised, broad, and extensive. Therefore, they will likely have strong preferences in a survey asking them about their support for Ukraine’s defence against the Russian Invasion. It is possible that there may be individuals with high levels of IPK who are strongly neutral, vehemently opposed to taking a side in the conflict, so this survey is focusing only on support for Ukraine.

H2 (Experimental): *In a comparison of individuals, those exposed to an episodic frame favoring Ukraine will be more likely to support the Ukrainian war effort than those who are not exposed to that frame.*

* *IV:* Exposure to Treatment or Control
* *DV:* Support for the Ukrainian War Effort
* *Explanation for relationship:* Communication frames affect how we think about political problems and the solutions to them. A news story about aid workers in Ukraine from one side or another will affect how threatening or worthy of support Ukraine or Russia will be. With the previous survey on political knowledge, we can also gauge what kinds of political knowledge affect someone’s response to frames favouring one side or another.

H3 (Experimental): *In a comparison of individuals, those exposed to an episodic frame favoring Russia will be less likely to support the Ukrainian war effort than those who are not exposed frame.*

* *IV:* Exposure to Treatment or Control
* *DV:* Support for the Ukrainian War Effort
* *Explanation for relationship:* see H2

# Citations to relevant literature

# Control Variables

* Age
* Income
* Gender
* Education Level
* Political Participation
* Previous International Experience (Years lived in Foreign country)
* Party Affiliation
* Ideology
* Media Consumption
* Proximity to War
* Domestic Political Knowledge
* Trust in Domestic Institutions
* Trust in News Media
* Trust in International Organizations
* Threat Perception (Perhaps this a moderating variable?)

# Survey Items

For the political knowledge quiz items, cheating by googling the answers will be likely. Certain questions on political knowledge have answers which cannot possibly be correct, such as a US state having less than 3 electoral votes or there being zero countries with a P5 veto in the UNSC. This is deliberate. For items relating to institutional trust, I’ve selected the CDC and WHO because after the pandemic, I imagine many people to have at least heard of them and probably have an opinion on them. Original questions are in red.

## Control Variables: Demographic information

1. How old are you? (dropdown list of years old)
2. In what state do you currently live? (dropdown list, this will be cross-checked with a later answer to gauge domestic political knowledge)
3. How much money to you make per month? (fill-in blank)
4. What is your gender? (male, female, self-reporting blank)
5. What is the highest degree of education that you have studied? (high school, bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, doctorate degree)
6. Some people volunteer for causes they care about, and other people don’t have time in their schedule to volunteer. How many days per month do you volunteer for a cause you care about? (drop down list maxing out at 30+)
7. How many years have you lived in a foreign country? (drop down from “0” to “ten or more” )
8. How much time per day do you spend reading or watching the news? (dropdown list from “0” to “6 or more”
9. Where do you get most of your news? (internet, television, newspaper, or fill in blank)
10. Some people have very liberal political beliefs, and other people have very conservative political beliefs. How would you describe your political beliefs? (1 = very liberal, 2 = somewhat liberal, 3 = somewhat conservative, 4 = very conservative)
11. Which one of these political parties are you affiliated with? (Democratic, Republican, Independent, fill in the blank for greens/libertarians/etc.)
12. How often do you vote? (dropdown list of every 1, 2, 3, 4 years, or never)

## Dependent Variable: Support for Ukrainian War Effort

1. Some people are supportive of the Ukrainian War effort today, others are neutral. How much do you support the Ukrainian War effort? (1 = not at all, 4 = neutral, 7 = a lot)
2. Putting aside the military and the government of Ukraine, how much do you support the Ukrainian people? (1 = not at all, 4 = neutral, 7 = a lot)
3. In the Ukraine conflict, do you think the United States should favor Ukraine, favor Russia, or should the US not favor one side over the other? (favour Ukraine, favor Russia, favor neither)[[1]](#footnote-2)
4. Do you feel that the US should supply the Ukrainians with weapons and material? (yes/no)
5. Some people say Ukraine should negotiate with Russia even though it is unlikely to end the war. Do you feel that Ukraine is doing the right thing by refusing to negotiate with Russia? (yes/no)

## Control Variable: Proximity to War

1. Have you personally fought in a war or been caught in the crossfire of a war? (yes/no)
2. Thinking of your friends, family, and co-workers, do you know anybody whose life has seriously been affected by war? (yes/no)

## Control Variable: Domestic Political Sophistication

1. Some people know a lot about politics, and some people do not. In general, how would you describe your knowledge of politics? (1 = none at all, 4 = a lot)[[2]](#footnote-3)
2. Some people pay a lot of attention to politics, and some people do not. In general, how much attention do you pay to politics? (1 = none at all, 4 = a lot)
3. Some people are interested in politics, and some people are not. In general, how interested are you in politics? (1 = none at all, 4 = a lot)
4. We’re interested in getting your opinion on this question: Do you think the the government should pay for parents to send their children to a private school of their choice (using school vouchers, for instance)? Take as much space as you want in your answer. (open response, will require manual coding for abstraction and interconnectedness of their response)
5. Which political party does Anthony Blinken belong to? (drop down list of Republican / Democratic / Independent / Don’t Know)
6. Thinking of the state where you currently live, how many votes does your state have in the electoral college? (Drop down list of 1 to 60)

## Control Variable: Trust in Domestic Institutions

1. How much do you trust the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)? (1 = not at all, 4 = a lot)

## Independent Variable: International Political Sophistication

1. Some people know a lot about politics, and some people do not. In general, how would you describe your knowledge of politics? (1 = none at all, 4 = a lot)
2. Some people don’t pay much attention to international politics, and some people do. In general, how much attention do you pay tointernationalpolitics? (1 = none at all, 4 = a lot)
3. Some people aren’t interested in international politics, and some people are. In general, how interested are you in internationalpolitics? (1 = none at all, 4 = a lot)
4. We’re interested in getting your opinion on this question: Why or why not was the Iraq War justified? Take as much space as you want in your answer. (open response, this will require manual coding for abstraction of thinking and intereconnectedness of ideas)
5. How many countries have a permanent veto in the United Nations Security Council? (drop down list of 0 to 15)
6. Which country in the world has the largest population? (Fill in the blank)

## Control Variables: Trust in Int’l Institutions & Threat Perception

1. How much do you trust the World Health Organization (WHO)? (1 = not at all, 4 = a lot)
2. Some people think that the Russian invasion of Ukraine is a threat to the United States. How much of a threat do you think Russia is? (1 = not a threat at all, 4 = a very big threat)
3. How much of a threat do you think Russia is to the rest of the world? (1 = not a threat at all, 4 = a very big threat)

## Question Order

I’ve placed the Ukrainian War effort question at the end so that respondents are not primed to be thinking about the true purpose of the survey until this exact point. I’ve placed the war experience question afterwards so that this doesn’t tip off respondents towards the purpose of the study. My questions for assessing International Political Knowledge also come after the war support item so that I get a “cold start” measure for Ukraine which primes respondents to think about International politics *afterward,* not before.

Self-reports on IPK come after general political knowledge so that respondents answer with general political knowledge first. Hopefully this prevents their self-report on general knowledge to influence their answer for international knowledge. Both self-reports come before the political facts quiz so that respondents aren’t thinking about political facts until they need to.

In the political knowledge items, I’ve grouped domestic knowledge questions and international questions separately.

# Survey Experiment

Respondents will be random assigned to three experimental groups: one control, one which watches a Pro-Ukraine news item, one which reads a fictionial Pro-Russia news item.

The basis for the stimulus will be this article from Al-Jazeera: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/4/on-patrol-with-ukraines-frontline-aid-workers>

The al-Jazeera news item is a narrative frame, allowing the readers to transport themselves into a day in the life of a Ukrainian aid worker delivering food in a conflict zone. I will scrub the article’s indicators of its origin, because someone who has heard of al-Jazeera may have a strong distrust of the organization. In each instance where the text references Ukraine or Russia, I will alter the text so that it flatters Russian or Ukrainian aid workers and combatants respectively. I think this will be a comparable experimental treatment, even though the optics of Russian aid workers assisting Ukrainians may be different than Ukrainian aid workers looking after their own. This could be reconciled by altering the text to say that Russian aid workers were aiding Russian ethnics in the Donetsk and Luhansk Republics.

After treatment, I will ask the following questions again to assess the dependent variable (support for UA war effort). Although it’s a control variable, it would be very interesting to see if threat perceptions are also affected by the treatment stimulus. I’ve also included an item about Fake News at the end (after support questions)

1. After reading the article, which side of the Russian-Ukraine conflict would you say that it favours? (Pro-Ukraine, Pro-Russia, Favours neither)
2. How much of a threat do you think Russia is to the United States? (1 = not a threat at all, 4 = a very big threat)
3. How much of a threat do you think Russia is to the rest of the world? (1 = not a threat at all, 4 = a very big threat)
4. How much would you support the Ukrainian War effort? (1 = not at all, 4 = neutral, 7 = a lot)
5. Putting aside the military and the government of Ukraine, how much do you support the Ukrainian people? (1 = not at all, 4 = neutral, 7 = a lot)
6. In the Ukraine conflict, do you still think the United States should favor Ukraine, favor Russia, or should the US not favor one side over the other? (favour Ukraine, favor Russia, favor neither)
7. Do you still feel the US should supply the Ukrainians with weapons and material? (yes/no)
8. Do you still feel that Ukraine is doing the right thing by refusing to negotiate with Russia? (yes/no)
9. Some people worry about the spread of fake news. How much do you trust the article you just finished reading? (1 = not at all, 4 = a lot)

# Bibliography

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1. This question is adapted from a survey about sympathy for Palestine during the Intifadah in a survey of Americans by Moughrabi (1986). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. This question’s wording is from Miller (2011), who was studying emotion and political sophistication. In an effort to keep the survey easy to fill out, I’ve imitated its structure for the other items. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)