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Mirror of the “military operation”

This post-release is an unusual one. It is based on the Chronicle project in Russia and research by the Ukrainian company Info Sapiens.

Sociologists from the two countries at war continue to do their work despite the censorship in Russia and the horrors of war in Ukraine.

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Facts

Ukraine: Refugees, economic and humanitarian consequences

As of May 16, 2022, **6.5** million residents of Ukraine have been displaced within Ukraine, and **6.2** million have left the country.

There are an estimated **12** million more Ukrainians who are ready to move within the country and abroad, but do not yet have the opportunity.

Countries of refugee displacement	
Poland	3,376,992
Romania	919,574
Russia	850,534
Hungary	610,076
Moldova	464,294
Slovakia	424,027
Belarus	27,308

Table 1. According to the BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-60555472>).

The UN, as well as reputable foreign media such as The Guardian, BBC, and The Washington Post, are conducting their own independent investigations into population displacement, including the practice of forcible deportation of Ukrainians to Russia.

Under conditions of dire need for information, sociological research becomes not only a tool for studying opinions, but also the statistics of humanitarian processes per se.

Info Sapiens has conducted **15,000** telephone and online interviews over the course of the military operation.

The surveys are based on monitoring questions that allow us to assess the dynamics of development of the humanitarian, economic and psychological status of the Ukrainian population.

What are important and, to a large extent, unique indicators are the measurable effects of the military operation in Ukraine.

We provide a comparative analysis of the data for Russia and for Ukraine. For the Ukrainian data, we also give figures for percent estimates in absolute values.

	Russia	Ukraine	
Family income decreased	39%	41%	17 mln
Laid off at work	3%	19%	7 mln
Purchased food and household goods in advance	15%	-	-
Anxiety or depression episodes	34%	-	-

Table 2. Economic and psychological consequences according to the Chronicle surveys, Wave 4 in Russia, and the Info Sapiens surveys in Ukraine.

One should be aware of these figures, the consequences of Russia's military operation, in which the official target is military facilities, places of deployment of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

A million people starving, 2.5 million without medical care, 3.6 million who lost their homes and possessions, 8 million separated from their families, over 2 million Ukrainians whose loved ones were killed or suffered health damage.

Within the month, all of these numbers have already become outdated, and today they can only be greater.

	Percentage	Population
Failure to provide proper medical care	7%	3 mln
Starvation	2%	714 k
Loss, destruction of home or property	9%	4 mln
Family separation	22%	8 mln
Loss of life or health	6%	2 mln
Forcible deportation to Russia	1%	390 k
Torture, abuse	1%	533 k
Unlawful mobilization	1%	480 k
Nothing of the above	27%	10 mln

Table 3. Humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine according to the Info Sapiens survey.

The value of Info Sapiens surveys also lies in the fact that they reflect the dynamics of important processes and are comparable with available official statistics.

They can serve as a point of reference for questions that do not yet have other sources.

According to a survey by Info Sapiens, **18%** of Ukrainians have left their home as of mid-April. Projected onto the population (36,367,000 people including the 4.8 million refugees who had left Ukraine as of April 1) this amounts to **6,546,060** people. This estimate corresponds to the official figures.

Since the beginning of March, more than **4.7** million refugees have left Ukraine (as of April 15, 2022), and approximately **7** million people have been internally displaced (as of April 1, 2022), [according to the UN](#).

Current location	
At their own home	82%
Moved within their region	5%
Moved to a different region	13%

Table 4. Based on the Info Sapiens survey.

According to data from Info Sapiens, about **400,000** Ukrainians have been forcibly removed to Russia. Orphans who were also deported to Russia are not counted here, so this estimate is lower than the actual number.

Ukrainian ombudswoman Lyudmila Denisova gives an estimation of at least **400,000** Ukrainian citizens displaced to Russia ([EuroNews 30.03.2022](#)).

At the end of April, according to her estimates, the figure was **900,000**.

13% of respondents in Russia have encountered refugees from the LPRR. **9%** have encountered refugees from Ukraine. These are, of course, overlapping groups.

Overall, **16%** of respondents have encountered one or another type of refugee, which amounts to one and a half million witnesses, quite consistent with an assessment of the number of refugees and the territorial distribution of refugees as significant.

Personally encountered refugees in the Russian Federation after the start of the military operation									
	Total	CFD	SFD	NWFD	NCFD	VFD	UFD	SFD	FEFD
From the LPR/DPR	13%	16%	25%	16%	12%	9%	5%	8%	8%
From Ukraine	9%	13%	18%	8%	5%	5%	5%	4%	8%

Significantly less than **Total**
 Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 5. Refugees in Russian regions according to the ExtremeScan Chronicles project.

According to UNICEF, as of March 31, **2** million children have left Ukraine and an additional 2.5 million children have been internally displaced. This brings the proportion of children forced from their homes due to the ongoing attacks on urban areas to more than **60** percent.

A huge proportion of those who have left Ukraine, (according to Info Sapiens - 88 percent of refugees) maintain their desire and intention to return home. The UN estimates that up to 30,000 refugees return each day, so there is an estimate that more than one million have already returned.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1116212>

Russia: Emigrants of the war wave

In the first two months of the war, many citizens left Russia.

There are very different estimates of the number of people in the "war wave" of emigration.

Expert demographers speak of several hundred thousand. The latest figures, the source of which is attributed to the FSB, say that 3.8 million people have left in the first quarter of 2022.

Data on arrivals to other countries have not yet been accumulated. The exact data will probably not be known soon, too many parties having an interest in manipulation.

According to the Chronicle Project, **7%** of respondents said that someone close to them had left Russia. That gives a figure twice as high, about **8** million, but it's likely that we have sampled a longer period. Since 2000, the exodus rate from Russia has been **5** million. The overall scale seems to be just that.

Ukraine: The consequences of the war, regional and linguistic viewpoints

First and foremost, it is clear that the East of Ukraine, which includes the Donetsk, Luhansk, and Kharkiv regions, suffered the most. By all accounts, the proportion of those affected is greater: **31%** lost their jobs compared to **8%** in the western region. Four times as many families were separated.

Torture, abuse, and unlawful mobilization are four times higher than the Ukrainian average. Accordingly, the share of residents of the East not affected by the above-mentioned consequences of military actions of the Russian army is only **9%**, while in Ukraine as a whole it is **27%**.

Irpın, Bucha, Hostomel, Vorzel, Borodianka - these and other heavily affected settlements in the Kiev region are part of the North region. This region has the highest rates of failure to provide medical care and loss of life and health.

The survey took place immediately after the well-known events in the settlements of this region.

	Total	Region of Ukraine					
		West	Center	Kyiv	North	South	East
Decrease in regular income	33%	26%	30%	36%	44%	31%	37%
Complete loss of income	13%	6%	6%	13%	18%	19%	22%
Job loss	19%	8%	10%	22%	32%	24%	31%
Depression, stress, fear	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	5%	1%
Failure to provide proper medical care	7%	4%	4%	5%	11%	10%	8%
Starvation	2%	1%	0%	2%	3%	4%	3%
Loss, destruction of home or property	9%	1%	3%	5%	17%	5%	33%
Family separation	22%	11%	17%	28%	20%	28%	39%
Loss of life or health	6%	5%	4%	2%	10%	6%	8%
Forcible deportation to Russia	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%
Torture, abuse	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	0%	4%
Unlawful mobilization	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	4%
None of the above	27%	45%	37%	24%	14%	16%	9%

Significantly less than **Total**
 Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 6. Humanitarian consequences of war by region. According to the survey by Info Sapiens.

	Total	Region of Ukraine					
		West	Center	Kyiv	North	South	East
the Ukrainian language	52%	94%	58%	30%	58%	19%	18%
the Russian language	19%	1%	13%	24%	17%	36%	41%
Equally often in both languages	26%	4%	27%	45%	22%	43%	39%

Significantly less than **Total**
 Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 7. The use of Ukrainian and Russian languages by regions of Ukraine according to the survey by Info Sapiens.

In this table we have accumulated the economic consequences of the military operation in terms of the main language used and the regions with predominant use of the Ukrainian and Russian languages.

The picture is so vivid that it requires no detailed commentary.

The main thing is obvious: on all counts, economic and humanitarian, the Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine suffered the most: destruction of cities, loss of life and health, loss of jobs and income, forced deportation to Russia, unlawful mobilization, and even torture.

32% of respondents immediately after the start of the operation thought that its main goal was the protection of Russian-speaking citizens of Donbass (according to Project Athena 28.02 - 01.03.2022). The next position, the security of Russia, scored twice as little at that time.

Can any rational explanation be given as to how these results of the two months of the military operation fit in with the goals of protecting the interests and lives of

Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine as declared by the authorities and accepted by the population?

Thoughts and feelings

We asked Ukrainian and Russian respondents several similar questions. One of them was about people's confidence in their influence on their own lives in the context of current events.

	Ukraine	Russia
Can influence	53%	38%
Cannot influence	18%	36%

Table 8. Personal influence on one's life in the context of events in Ukraine and Russia. According to Info Sapiens and ExtremeScan, the Chronicles project.

A significant difference was found between Ukrainians and Russians. Russians perceived themselves as "victims" to a greater extent, despite the circumstances. This indicates deeper roots of the external locus of control, i.e. the national delegation of responsibility to the outside. **78%** of those who support the military operation feel trust (in the actions of the authorities), and this is an important basis for support.

The lack of agency among Russians is clearly manifested in the answers to the questions "Should Russia terminate the military operation as soon as possible?" and "If further development of the military operation depended on you personally, would you terminate the operation right now?": 30% answered the first question in the affirmative, while the second question was answered in the affirmative only by 19%.

In other words, a third of Russians who believe that the war should be stopped would not be willing to stop it themselves, because they are afraid of personal responsibility - what if "not everything is so unambiguous".

- From an Info Sapiens press release.

This is the main difference between the two peoples: the Russians are attuned to subordination, paternalism removes responsibility for decision-making, makes the perception of even the current historical situation expectant and relaxed.

The Ukrainians' anarchism leads to a critical perception of the authorities' actions, the citizens' unpredictability, and at the same time to an incredible cohesion in moments of joint trials and to a wholehearted spontaneous consolidation "round the flag". According to Info Sapiens, the presidential rating of V. Zelensky has grown from **26%** among those who made up their minds in February before the war to **82%** in the wartime April of 2022.

Russians' sympathy for Russians and Ukrainians

We asked Russian respondents about their sympathy for both peoples: "ordinary Russians" and "ordinary Ukrainians". The numbers of sympathy/non-sympathy for the two warring peoples were surprisingly similar.

But if one looks at the overlaps between these groups, one can see a more revealing combinatorial pattern.

	Total
Sympathy for all	51%
Sympathy for Ukrainians, but NOT for Russians	5%
Sympathy for Russians, but NOT for Ukrainians	6%
NO sympathy for anyone	4%

Table 9. Combinatorial patterns of sympathy according to ExtremeScan, the Chronicles project.

The remaining **34%** are people who found it difficult to answer both or one of the two questions.

It would seem that at least half of the respondents appear to have sympathy for both sides. A sufficient basis for a truce? However, a deeper look reveals the ambivalent nature of this compassion.

There are few demographic features, but they are there. Men, young people, people with high income are less empathic. Women, older people, low-income people are more so.

		Sex		Age		Income	
	Total	Male	Female	18-34	55+	Low	High
Sympathy for everyone	51%	46%	54%	44%	55%	58%	41%
Sympathy for Ukrainians, but NOT for Russians	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%
Sympathy for Russians, but NOT for Ukrainians	4%	7%	2%	7%	2%	4%	7%
NO sympathy for anyone	5%	4%	6%	6%	5%	3%	8%

Significantly less than **Total**
 Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 10. Sympathy for Ukrainians and Russians. According to ExtremeScan, the Chronicles project.

Half of the respondents sympathetic to both peoples and feeling personally responsible for the military operation support it and would not stop it even if they had that authority.

However paradoxically, there are **4.5** times as many of those who do not support the military operation among those who do not sympathize with anyone than among the supporters. There are also more "unsympathetic" people among those who would stop the military operation.

	Total	Personal moral responsibility for the military operation		Personal desire to continue or to stop the military operation		Support for the military operation	
		Feel it	Do not feel it	Would stop it	Would not stop it	Yes, I support it	No, I do not support it
Sympathy for everyone	51%	58%	43%	54%	49%	50%	47%
Sympathy for Ukrainians, but NOT for Russians	6%	5%	7%	5%	6%	7%	2%
Sympathy for Russians, but NOT for Ukrainians	4%	2%	6%	4%	4%	4%	1%
NO sympathy for anyone	5%	6%	5%	10%	4%	4%	18%

Significantly less than **Total**
 Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 11. Impact of moral responsibility on sympathy for ordinary Russians and ordinary Ukrainians. According to ExtremeScan, the Chronicles project.

Sympathy, of course, correlates with an elevated willingness to accept refugees. It is interesting that those who sympathize with Russians and do not sympathize with Ukrainians show a clear difference in willingness to accept refugees from the Donbass and Ukrainians: **27% vs. 15%**.

In the end of the interview we asked our respondents

If you have the possibility to send a short message (telegram) to ordinary people (not to the military or authorities) in Ukraine (or Russia correspondingly), what would you say?

The nature of sympathy can be seen projectively in Russian telegrams. Sympathy and support were expressed more articulately by respondents sympathizing with Ukrainians.

They also wrote messages of support: "not everyone supports the war", "I'm sorry", calls to fight.

But it must be said that such telegrams were given by a small group of respondents - only **3%**. At the same time, **13%** of the pro-Russian respondents called on Ukrainians to surrender, capitulate, and lay down their arms, and promised that Russia meant well and would free Ukraine from the Nazis.

So this kind of sympathy, as well as the **30%** who claim that Ukrainians greet Russian troops in a friendly manner, is a reflection of Russians' inadequate perception of the actions in Ukraine and of the status of the operation.

A detailed description and analysis of the telegrams, as well as all the information on this joint experience can be read in the partners' reports, links can be found at the end of this release.

	Total	Sympathy for everyone	Sympathy for Ukrainians, but NOT for Russians	Sympathy for Russians, but NOT for Ukrainians	NO sympathy for anyone
Readiness to host refugees from the LPR/DPR at their home					
Yes, ready	34%	37%	27%	27%	28%
No, not ready	60%	57%	68%	67%	71%
Difficult to answer	6%	6%	5%	5%	1%
Readiness to host refugees from Ukraine at their home					
Yes, ready	31%	36%	30%	15%	22%
No, not ready	62%	57%	62%	83%	71%
Telegram					
Stop the war, fight against war	1%	1%	0%	4%	0%
Lay down your arms, surrender, capitulate	3%	3%	1%	10%	10%
Words of encouragement (hang in there, you'll be fine, take care of yourself, etc.)	21%	27%	19%	7%	14%
Don't be Nazis, fight Nazism	2%	2%	0%	1%	6%
Russia has come to liberate you, to help, the Russians mean well for you	6%	7%	9%	3%	8%
Not all Russians support the war	1%	1%	6%	1%	0%
Forgive us	1%	1%	7%	0%	0%
Glory to Ukraine, calls to fight	1%	1%	4%	0%	0%
Be kinder	1%	1%	1%	3%	0%
Nothing to say, no point in saying anything	2%	1%	3%	3%	6%

Significantly less than **Total**
 Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 12. Telegrams to Ukrainians. According to the ExtremeScan Chronicles project survey.

Happiness

While hostilities are taking place on the territory of only one of the warring sides, and the consequences of isolation and sanctions have not made themselves fully known, we are witnessing a situation best described by a Russian proverb "Some people don't have meat in their soup, and some people don't have enough pearls".

On the chart we see three dips in the Ukrainian citizens' feeling of happiness: in April 2021, in January 2022 and the latest 2.5 months of 2022. All of them are related to the actions of Russia.

In April, the conflict in Donbass escalated, Ukrainian military personnel were killed, and Russia built up a large military presence on the border with Ukraine. It looked like preparations for war and therefore the level of anxiety increased.

By early 2022 there was another build-up of troops, with U.S. intelligence reporting that an invasion was imminent. The population of Ukraine felt threatened again.

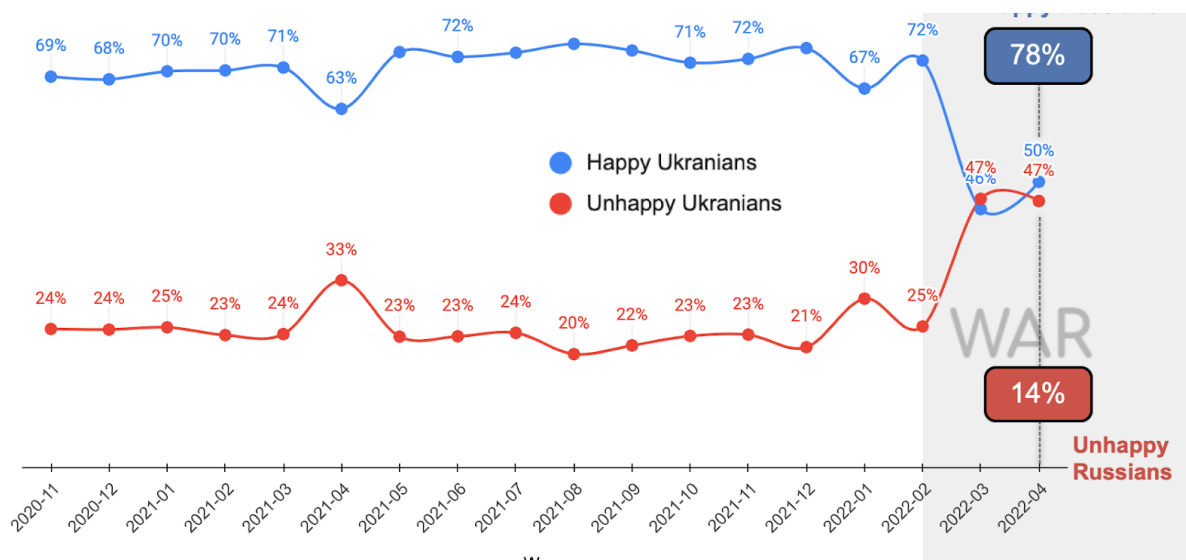


Figure 13. Dynamics of the feeling of happiness in Ukraine and Russia. According to the Info Sapiens and Extreme Scan surveys.

Russians: Dependence of happiness on attitude towards the military operation

Today Russia declares the happiness level as in pre-war Ukraine.

There is an impression that only a small percentage of Russians, about **15-20%**, experience anxiety and depression.

Furthermore, at the end of March, when we measured this parameter, the main reason for such sentiments was local effects affecting respondents personally or their families: loss of jobs and income.

Yet there were few for whom deaths and suffering of people, possible conscription of their kinsmen, and relatives in the army were a source of depression or anxiety.

		Happiness level	
	Total	Happy	Unhappy
Event related personal effect			
Laid off at work	3%	2%	8%
Family income decreased	39%	33%	69%
Purchased food and household goods in advance	15%	14%	18%
Argued or quarrelled with loved ones over political issues	25%	22%	36%
Experienced episodes of anxiety or depression	34%	28%	65%
Degree of concern about the developments in Ukraine			
Does not concern me	9%	8%	8%
Concerns me	78%	78%	85%
Sympathy for ordinary Ukrainians			
Yes	67%	66%	73%
Feelings about the military operation in Ukraine			
Pride	69%	74%	48%
Sense of fairness	70%	75%	51%
Enthusiasm	40%	43%	26%
Trust	64%	69%	39%
Indifference	13%	12%	18%
Anxiety/fear	39%	36%	56%
Anger/Indignation	31%	26%	55%
Shame	12%	9%	26%

Significantly less than **Total**
 Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 14. Differentiation of happy and unhappy people in Russia.
According to the ExtremeScan Chronicles project.

It is clear that by asking about happiness, we partly capture the generally accepted answer to this question, but it reflects the emotional state of society. To understand how reliable this measurement is, let us look at what this national happiness correlates with.

Not to say that this is unexpected, but Russians' state of happiness is dependent on the level of support for the military operation, as well as of a lesser sense of responsibility for the military action in Ukraine, on the part of all ordinary Russian citizens as well as one's own.

Opponents of the operation, for the most part, feel unhappy: in the current situation, it is difficult to feel happiness if you do not believe in the justice and justifiability of the military operation conducted by your country. These people experience bouts of depression and quarrel with their loved ones. They are more concerned about the events in Ukraine and bear personal responsibility for them.

Among them there are twice as many who feel helpless in this situation. Everything related to the sphere of the economy, finance, the prospects of material well-being and social tensions affects the assessment of one's happiness.

Ukrainians: Factors influencing the happiness level

Where is the line between Ukrainian happiness and unhappiness?

The red line is loss: of income, work, home, places of origin, family, lives of loved ones, and health.

	Total	Happiness level		Location		
		Happy	Unhappy	At their own home	Moved within their region	Moved to another region
Family income decreased	33%	33%	32%	31%	45%	34%
Complete loss of income	13%	10%	17%	11%	20%	20%
Job loss	19%	16%	22%	15%	36%	32%
Other: depression, stress, fear	3%	1%	4%	3%	0%	2%
Failure to provide proper medical care	7%	6%	8%	7%	8%	5%
Starvation	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	4%
Loss, destruction of home or property	9%	8%	11%	4%	23%	35%
Family separation	22%	19%	24%	18%	33%	42%
Loss of life or health	6%	5%	7%	5%	12%	7%
Forcible deportation to Russia	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Torture, abuse	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Mobilization that, from your point of view, is unlawful	1%	1%	2%	1%	3%	4%
None of the above	27%	35%	19%	32%	7%	8%

Significantly less than **Total**
 Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 15. The consequences of the war in Ukraine and their impact on feelings of happiness. According to the Info Sapiens survey.

It is appropriate to quote from another Info Sapiens research report commissioned by the Norwegian Peace Research Institute Oslo.

“In Ukraine, stories of sexual violence have been documented by human rights organizations and mentioned in the media. Although sexual violence can affect men, women, and children, news reports from Ukraine have so far highlighted that women are primarily targeted.

Survey evidence indicates that the vast majority of Ukrainians, about 93%, have heard of rape or sexual assault by the Russian or pro-Russian forces. The awareness of such cases seems to be about equal among women and men.

Moreover, 20% say that they personally know someone who has been raped or sexually assaulted by the Russian or pro-Russian troops since the invasion started on 24 February 2022.

Given that scholars of wartime sexual violence warn that the taboos and shame surrounding sexual violence often give strong concerns about underreporting, these figures are astonishingly high.”

<https://sapiens.com.ua/en/publication-single-page?id=225>

The army of mindsets: An analysis of two opposing groups

Before concluding, we would like to share the images of certain groups of people that have emerged in the process of examining the data from this mirror study.

A segment of Russians: War advocates

We selected for analysis the respondents who answered two following questions in the following ways:

"We are experiencing events of historical significance in the life of our country that affect every citizen. Under these circumstances, to what extent can you personally influence your life?" - I certainly can.

"If further development of the military operation depended on you personally, would you or would you not terminate the operation right now?" - I would not.

We have a group with a somewhat higher male population, with a core of **35-54** year olds, more educated than the general population. Among them there are significantly more people with high incomes.

By all accounts, they were less affected by the effects of the military operation. Their perception of the Russian people improved more than that of others during the military operation.

But the main feature in this segmentation was their proactive and positive attitude. They are less prone to episodes of anxiety or depression, and their level of happiness is higher even than the level VTsIOM gives for the overall population - **92%**.

		Total	War advocates
Happiness level	Happy	78%	92%
	Unhappy	14%	4%
Sex	Male	45%	49%
	Female	55%	51%
Age groups	18-34	26%	27%
	35-54	36%	46%
	55+	37%	28%
Education	No higher education	57%	49%
	Higher education	43%	51%
	no data	0%	0%
Income level	Low	26%	14%
	Middle	51%	50%
	High	19%	32%
Event related personal effect	Laid off at work	3%	1%
	Family income decreased	39%	27%
	Episodes of anxiety or depression	34%	22%
Attitude towards Russians has improved in the last 1.5 months		27%	37%

Significantly less than **Total**Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 16. Socio-demographic characteristics of "war advocates" in Russia. According to the ExtremeScan Chronicles project survey.

We have called these people "war advocates". It should be noted that it is very difficult to come up with names for segments. In past studies, we modelled the "militarists". The militarists seem to be, for the most part, among the "advocates", they are less affected by sanctions as well, they are less depressed, they are slightly less wealthy than the war advocates.

Perhaps the militarists are not so positive. Perhaps they support the invasion "no matter what".

But the "war advocates" seem to like the military operation. They support it whatever the wording of the question is. They are not afraid of sanctions: almost 60% believe that sanctions cannot affect anything. All of the positive feelings about this event: pride, enthusiasm, and a sense of justice are expressed by them to a significantly greater extent.

There are **27%** of such people. And now this is a more substantive figure than the **60-80%** of direct support for the military operation shown by the pollsters.

These self-confident people do not simply share the decision to invade, but accept it as their own. Perhaps these people are aware that they have to experience these events in Russia and in order to do so they must adopt the official position, otherwise they must abandon their usual, pre-war self-confidence and recognize themselves as victims. Thus, agency, which is already less present in society in general than in Ukraine, translates into support for military action.

	Total	War advocates
Happy	78%	92%
Feelings about the military operation in Ukraine		
Pride	69%	83%
Feeling of fairness	70%	84%
Enthusiasm	40%	50%
Trust	64%	78%
Should push for capitulation	59%	74%
Supporting the military operation	66%	84%

Significantly less than **Total** Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 17. Feelings of Russian "war advocates". According to the ExtremeScan Chronicles project survey.

A segment of Ukrainians: Defenders

The group is built on the overlap of two questions and the answers to them as follows:

"We are experiencing events of historical significance in the life of our country that affect every citizen. Under these circumstances, to what extent can you personally influence your life?" - I certainly can.

"Do you believe that things in Ukraine today are generally going in the right direction, or do you think that the country is moving in the wrong direction?" - In the right direction.

In this case, approval of the way things go means not only support for resisting the invasion of Russian troops, but also the belief in victory and in the country changing for the better after the victory.

Combined with high personal activity/agency, there are **45%** of such people.

We have called them "defenders". As well as the "war advocates", they are wealthier, and there are more men among them than in the population. But they are much younger than the Russian group. The majority are in their **20s to 40s**. It is worth noting that the generational difference between Ukraine and Russia is noticeable on many levels of society. The average age of members of the Russian government is **55** years old, while that of the Ukrainian government is **39** years old.

The "defenders" are more "Ukrainian" in their main language. The western regions of Ukraine are essentially more passionate. In the West, 59% of Ukrainians believe they can influence their own lives. In the Russian-speaking East there are only 41% of such people.

	Total	Defenders
Low income	52%	43%
Average income	34%	37%
High income	10%	16%
Male	45%	54%
Female	55%	46%
16-19 years old	4%	7%
20-29 years old	14%	21%
30-39 years old	20%	24%
Ukrainian is primary language	52%	60%
Russian is primary language	19%	14%

Significantly less than **Total**
 Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 18. Demographic characteristics of the "defenders". According to the Info Sapiens survey.

They are also more "happy" than Ukrainians in general.

They trust Zelensky more, and the presidential rating reaches 82%. It is worth noting the difference in causality: Russians have supported the military operation because it is Putin's decision. The "defenders" support Zelensky for standing up for Ukraine, but they criticize him even today when they see his mistakes.

During the war they have become even more loyal to Ukrainians than others.

They have been slightly less affected by the consequences of the war, they are less afraid of losing their homes or property. There are fewer of them in occupied territory, partly because men of conscription age are especially dangerous to be there and they fear forcible deportation to Russia more than others.

The "defenders" appear to be the core of the resistance, their psychological status creating the foundation of the nation's resilience. They take responsibility for themselves and are in fact the backbone of the nation.

	Total	Defenders
Happy	50%	66%
Fully trust to Zelensky	65%	73%
Getting better attitudes towards Ukrainians	70%	79%
Haven't experienced consequences of war	27%	32%
Fear of losing home or property	44%	36%
Fear nothing	8%	9%
Fear of forced deportation to Russia	34%	37%
Live in the occupied territory	6%	2%

Significantly less than **Total** Significantly higher than **Total**

Table 19. Feelings of the "defenders" of Ukraine. According to the Info Sapiens survey.

In both countries, we asked about the main traits inherent in their people.

For the Russian "war advocates" such traits turned out to be "fair", "united", and "patriotic".

Ukrainian "defenders", more than others, named "strength of spirit", "loyalty", "indestructibility", also patriotism, and, characteristically, belligerence.

Since projecting one's own values plays a major role in determining the characteristics of one's ethnicity, we can assume that military personnel, members of the Territorial Defence Forces and volunteers, as well as their entourage, constitute a significant part of the Ukrainian group.

Telegrams from Russians to Ukrainians and vice versa: wishes to each other

In their telegrams, the "advocates" wrote:

Hang in there!

Russia has come to liberate you, to help you!

Don't be Nazis.

Fight against your authorities.

Come over to the Russian side, help the Russian military.

Don't watch TV, don't trust your authorities.

We are one nation, it is better for you to be with us.

Open your eyes. Start thinking.

The voice of the "defenders":

Open your eyes, start thinking.

Fight against your authorities

Take your children and men, don't let them go to war

Don't watch TV, don't trust the authorities.

Stop the war, fight against war.

You are bad people, morons, assholes, etc.

Follow the Russian warship / go **** yourselves

Wishing death

Don't come to our land, get out of Ukraine

Look at what's really going on in Ukrainian cities

Leave us alone

Ukraine will overcome

Feel what the Ukrainians have been through

We will not forgive you, you have become enemies.

Be concerned with your own country

Open your eyes. Start thinking.

This is probably the most numerous mutual wish expressed by Ukrainian and Russian respondents.

We hope that our release has not only shown fractions and percentages of various parameters of public consciousness, but has allowed at least a little understanding of the scale of the consequences of the invasion. We hope that it has allowed a glimpse into the minds and souls of the people on the warring sides.

With this release we wanted to show that public opinion research sometimes turns into an investigation of the causes of the disaster we are witnessing and participating in. There is a great deal of analytical work to be done. By conducting surveys today, we are accumulating valuable material.

Survey methodology

Survey methodology on which this release is based (unless otherwise noted)

- The survey in Russia was conducted from April 13 to 18, 2022 (from the 49th to 54th day since the beginning of the "military operation"). The survey in Ukraine was conducted on April 10-14.
- The survey method is telephone interview on a random sample of mobile numbers.
- Geography of the survey - all regions of Russia and Ukraine (in Ukraine - except for the territories occupied before February 24).
- We interviewed citizens of Russia and Ukraine aged 18 years and older.
- A total of 1,613 respondents in Russia and 1,000 respondents in Ukraine were interviewed.
- The 95% confidence interval for the estimates for the total sample including the weighting does not exceed +/- 2.6 percentage points.
- The final sample is weighted by gender, age, region, and type of locality.

Materials

The main materials of the projects are presented in a release by our Ukrainian colleague Inna Volosevich and in a detailed report by the sociologists of the Chronicle project. The links are provided below.

- [Russia, Analytical Report Chronicles 4.0](#)
- [Ukraine, Info Sapiens](#)