



Introduction

As the impacts of the Ukraine crisis reverberate worldwide, threatening to derail the energy ecosystem that has prospered over the past century, countries worldwide brace to survive the long-promised **End of Oil**. Yet it is nearly impossible to ignore the plight of everyday people who cannot afford to heat their homes or have stable reliable energy in their lives; their plight demonstrates the difficulty of transitioning from oil and natural gas to a greener future, even if the fate of the planet depends on that transition. While Europe struggles to cope with former economic and political allies who may not be reliable in today's climate, Iran tends to a nuclear deal that is on a knife's edge as the country's social stability erupts in chaos and protests.

Climate change is an existential crisis that threatens the very fabric of our society. Member nations will look to solutions, protecting key biodiversity, providing funds for developing nations to revolutionize their energy grids, and sharing green technologies. These solutions must be equitable, and superpowers have at times stepped up to promote clean energy production in other countries, but time runs short, and the temperature only rises.

Today's most pressing global issues – from access to healthcare and food security to the refugee crisis in DRC and the war in Ukraine – await delegates at CIMUN 19. Unorthodox and exciting bodies across the public and private sectors will force delegates to adapt on the fly and navigate a world where creativity and flexibility are essential to survival. Across cabinets, UN bodies, and corporate boards, delegates will debate, compromise, and innovate like their lives depend on it.

*This guide is meant to present the primary threats that all national cabinets and committees face as of the conferences' start date – **January 16, 2022**. Each body will be reacting to the same issues. Some may be more important to individual nations than others, but each will shape the landscape of the world. It will be up to each body to determine how they wish to engage with each.*

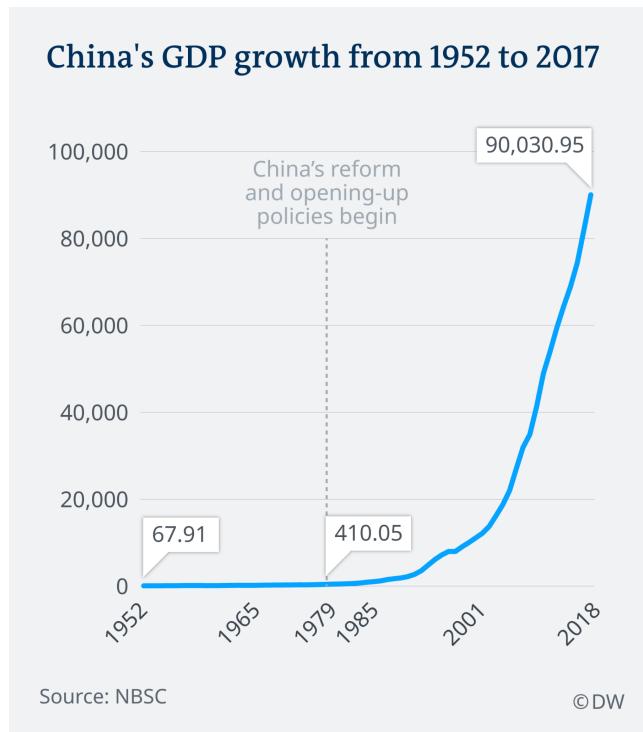
Main Players

1. Countries
 - a. United States
 - i. Led by President Joe Biden
 - b. Russian Federation
 - i. Led by President Vladimir Putin
 - c. People's Republic of China
 - i. Led by President Xi Jinping
 - d. Ukraine
 - i. Led by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy
 - e. Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - i. Led by Supreme Leader of Iran - Ali Khamenei
2. Multinational Organizations
 - a. NATO
 - b. European Union
 - c. OPEC/OPEC+
 - d. African Union
 - e. UN Security Council
 - f. UN Environmental Assembly
3. Newspapers and News Organizations
 - a. BBC
 - b. New York Times
 - c. Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
 - d. Al-Jazeera
4. Additional Groups and Key Players
 - a. "We are Janes" grassroots group
 - b. Exxon Mobil

Historical Background

The Rise of China

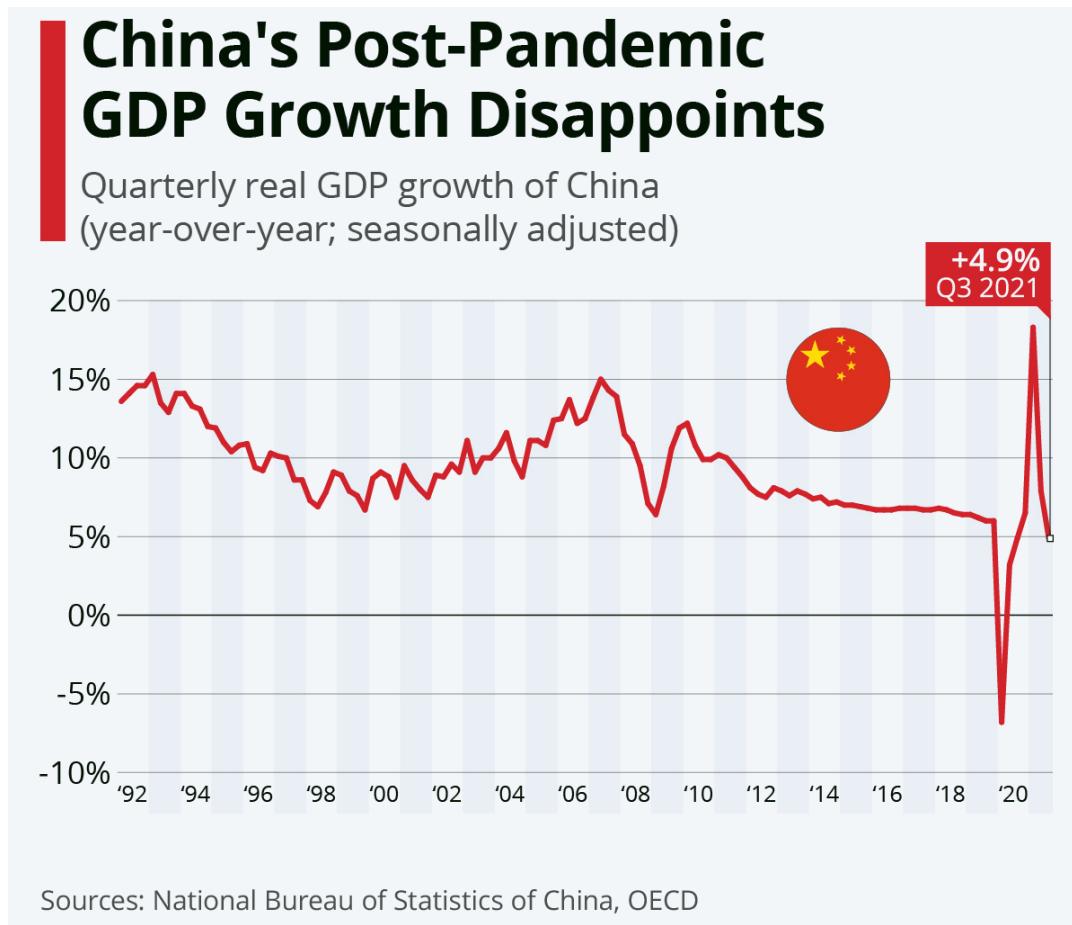
Former PRC President Jiang Zemin ruled China from 1989-2002; he is widely seen as the architect of modern-day China. He led the integration of China into the broader world economy, restarted initiatives to jumpstart the export sector of the economy, created the private housing sector, and modernized the Chinese economic system. President Zemin also facilitated China's entry into the World Health Organization (WHO). Before 1989, China was a mainly agricultural economy and economic growth was paltry. The economic modernization brought in foreign funding and kickstarted a period of economic growth that continued through the present day¹.



Over the course of the next few decades, total GDP increased exponentially creating the world's newest economic superpower. The PRC Government used its economic growth to invest in geopolitical relations via its One Belt One Road / Belt Road initiative, gaining allies across the southern hemisphere in South America, Africa, and Asia. The government has used these new geopolitical relationships to increase its global influence and isolate Taiwan and the Republic of China (ROC) diplomatically. The PRC government has also poured investment into its military capabilities, seeking to project force across any medium including land, air, cyber-warfare, and nuclear capabilities. Over the past few years, experts have found warning signs that continuous rapid GDP growth may not continue to be the norm for China moving forward. One Goldman

¹ [How Jiang Zemin Made China a Global Superpower - The Journal. - WSJ Podcasts](#)

Sachs projection says that China is still expected to supplant the U.S. as a global superpower but that an aging demographic would hurt continued growth. Additionally, strict COVID-Zero policies, weakening currency, and an inflated housing bubble have made 2022 the slowest year of GDP growth since 1992²³.



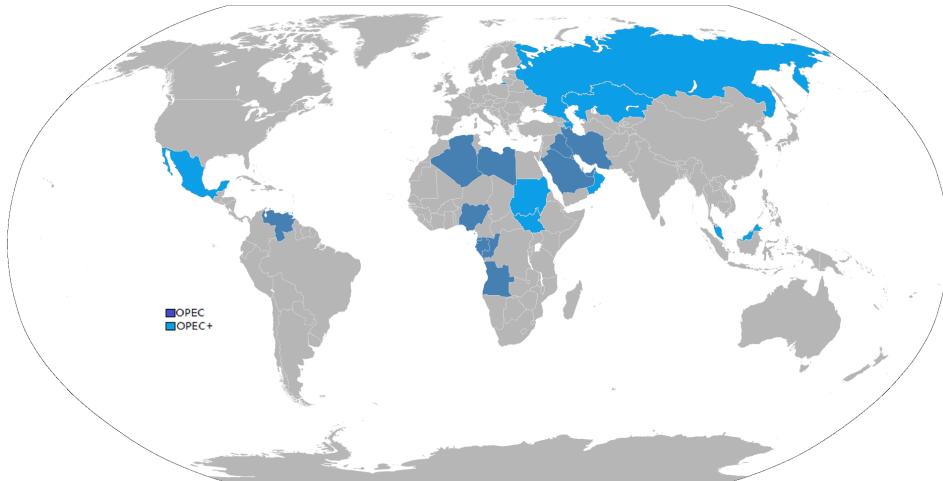
OPEC

The Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded at a conference in Baghdad in 1960. Founding members, including Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, sought to create an organization that could bring, “some degree of stability to the oil world market⁴” Initially, OPEC struggled to coalesce around a strategy to keep prices high and compete against other oil-drilling countries. The group was full of oil-rich countries, but collectively they still only made up less than half of the total global energy production, and no country in OPEC wanted to decrease their production and potentially reduce their revenues.

² [Chart: China's Post-Pandemic GDP Growth Disappoints | Statista](#)

³ [China GDP to surpass US around 2035, years later than previously expected, Goldman Sachs predicts](#)

⁴ [OPEC \(brief history\) - Energy Education](#)



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The 1973 Yom Kippur war against Israel marked a shift in how the oil bloc operated. When the U.S. offered support and arms to Israel, OPEC introduced an embargo on oil sales to the U.S., which translated into very high prices and shortages across the U.S.. No longer was OPEC just an economic cartel, it was now an economic cartel with the power to make a political message. In the decades since, OPEC has repeatedly, with varying levels of success, used oil sales to pressure allies and punish those it sees as enemies.

The latest threat to OPEC oil market dominance has come from the rise of alternative and cleaner energy sources. They have claimed that halting investments in fossil fuels would be “wrongheaded” and that the “[oil and gas industry] can unlock our carbon-free future through its role as a powerful innovator in developing cleaner and more efficient technological solutions to help reduce emissions.”⁶

OPEC members currently include Qatar, Indonesia, Libya, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Nigeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, and Congo⁷. OPEC regularly works alongside non-OPEC oil-exporting countries which fall under the OPEC+ umbrella. Those additional countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan, and Sudan⁸.

Tensions between Russia and NATO

NATO was created in 1949 to combat the influence of the Soviet Union and provide a counterweight to USSR influence⁹.

⁵ [OPEC - Wikipedia](#)

⁶ [OPEC says oil will remain number one, despite green energy push](#)

⁷ [OPEC : Member Countries](#)

⁸ [Organization Of The Petroleum Exporting Countries \(OPEC\) | JODI](#)

⁹ [North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\), 1949](#)

With the fall of the Soviet Union, NATO was forced to reinvent itself or fade away into obsolescence. However, NATO did not have far to look before finding a new rival and a new purpose. Russia was no longer the USSR but still had formidable military, nuclear, and political power to bear. Moreover, Russia still had the inclination and political will to keep former USSR states in their sphere of influence. Over the 1990s and early 2000s, NATO absorbed several members of the former Warsaw Pact, including the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Albania, and Croatia. With each encroachment of NATO into the former Warsaw Pact, Russian administrations grew increasingly frustrated. In their eyes, the NATO expansion had betrayed the original mission and promises made of the group from its inception and represented an existential threat to Russian stability and influence.

"The Russians were always concerned about how far NATO enlargement was going to go. It's one thing for Poland to come in, or the Czech Republic to come in. That's not such a big deal. But there was always a concern about Ukraine," Goldgeier said. In 2008, Europe and the U.S. promised Ukraine that there was a path for Ukraine to join NATO, but did not offer any concrete timeline¹⁰. This, in Russia's eyes, crossed a very clear red line. When Ukrainian protesters ousted the pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych in 2013, that made it even more clear to Putin that Ukraine was swinging away from Russia and towards the European Union. Russia then annexed part of Crimea, breaking the 1994 Budapest Memorandum it had signed. Against the backdrop of the Russian invasion, both Finland and Sweden applied to be part of NATO in June of 2022¹¹. Both countries had formerly rejected an interest in joining the alliance, partly to avoid antagonizing their neighbor to the East. Their accession to the union has gone relatively quickly and only Hungary and Turkey have not approved their inclusion. Experts expect Hungary to approve the accession in the near future and say Turkey is the main holdout. Russia, for its part, has warned that this is a "destabilizing" move for the region and that there would be "serious military and political consequences" for both countries joining the alliance.¹²

In 2022, Ukraine submitted an application to join NATO amid the Russian invasion.¹³ The application represents a monumental shift, a step that Russia had clearly tried to prevent over the past decade. However, the application still faces steep hurdles; in order to be accepted, Ukraine will need the approval of all 30 current NATO member nations, and European nations will be wary of further antagonizing Russia and risking war, not to mention nuclear escalation. The NATO charter dictates that an "armed attack" against one member nation is considered an attack against all member nations and this could pull Europe into a war with Russia. Furthermore, Ukraine would have to meet requirements related to democracy and rule of law, requirements that some experts say Ukraine has failed to meet in the past. Still, some NATO leaders and experts have cheered the move and promised to fast-track the application in the face of Ukraine's

¹⁰ [How NATO's expansion helped drive Putin to invade Ukraine : NPR](#)

¹¹ [Finland & Sweden Accession | NATO PA](#)

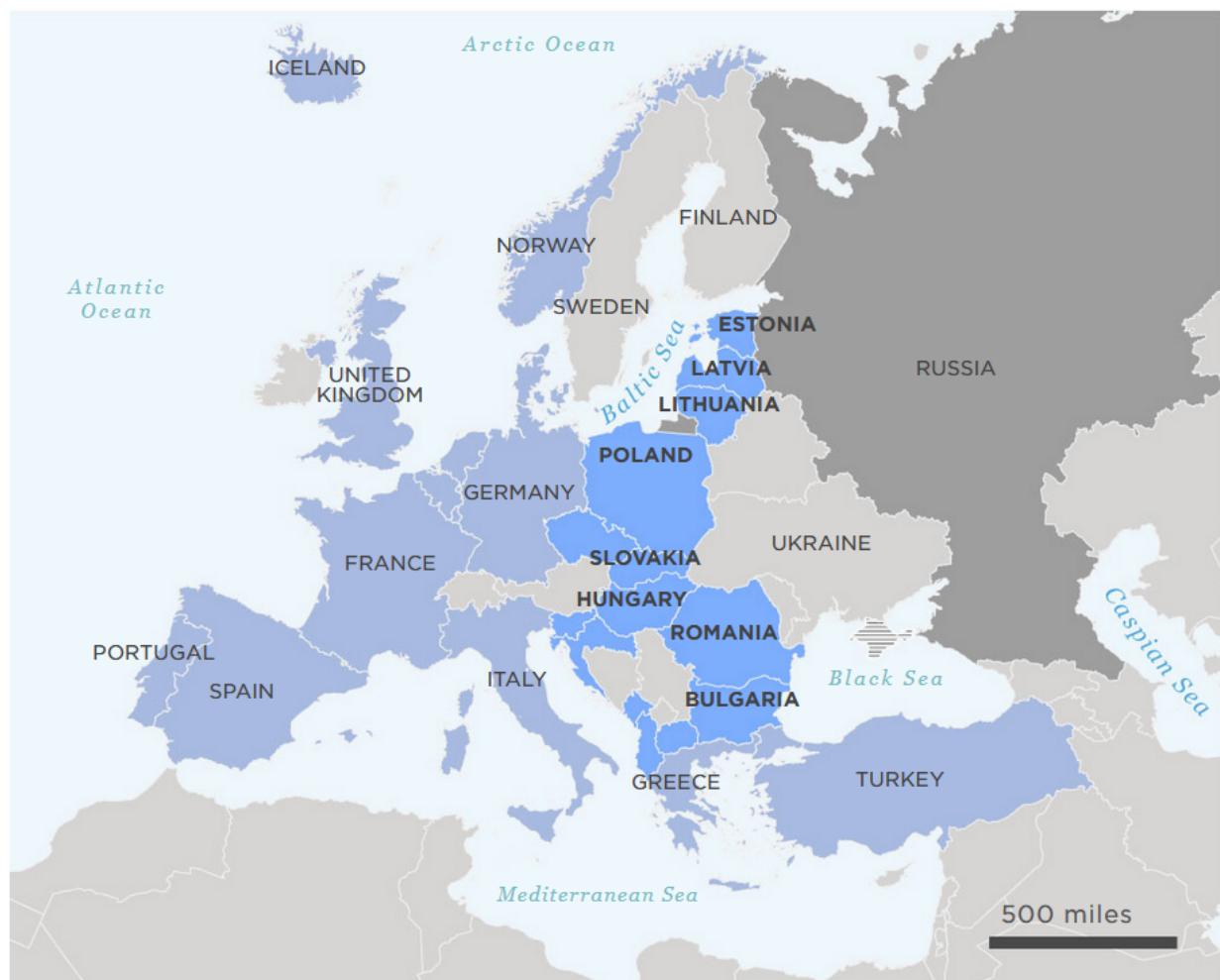
¹² [Turkey is keeping Finland and Sweden from joining NATO : NPR](#)

¹³ [Ukraine submits an application to join NATO, with big hurdles ahead.](#)

extenuating challenges. Whether Ukraine ultimately joins NATO over the coming months or years, this represents the culmination of the shift for the former Warsaw Pact country.

“We condemn the irresponsible course of the North Atlantic Alliance that is ruining the European architecture, or what’s left of it,” Russian deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov said. “I have a great deal of doubt as to whether the upcoming period will be calm for our north European neighbors,” he added¹⁴.

Joined before 1992 Joined since 1992



The fall of coal and the rise of natural gas in America and Europe

Since 1960, American and European countries have steadily increased their reliance on coal to fulfill their energy needs. However, the world has seen a remarkable shift away from coal over the past decade. This trend continues strong, as coal fell to its lowest in 2020 since 1965¹⁵.

¹⁴ [Putin issues fresh warning to Finland and Sweden on installing Nato infrastructure](#)

¹⁵ [In 2020, US coal production fell to its lowest level since 1965](#)

Responsible for this fall, and in turn replacing coal, is natural gas. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, natural gas comprises 40% of its electric generating portfolio, while coal stands at 19% and shrinks yearly.

There are several reasons to explain this phenomenon, but the two main ones are environmental and economic. On the former, natural gas is a preferable alternative as it releases half of the emissions that coal does when burned to generate energy. Many countries, including the United States, aim first to decarbonize the power sector and then achieve net-zero emissions. Natural gas, then, serves as a good alternative for carbon and a good energy source, while renewable, less polluting sources both develop technologically and are widely adopted to be a viable replacement.¹⁶ On the economic front, natural gas has the fundamentals of theory on its corner. First, studies indicate that coal will run out of supply before natural gas, and that scarcity will increase prices. Beyond future price fluctuations, coal is also more expensive than natural gas across the board. First, coal brings greater externalities through deforestation and water contamination. Second, as new technologies develop, the price of natural gas has decreased while coal remains high¹⁷. Due to these two reasons, many countries are starting to pivot away from coal and toward natural gas.

Lastly, COVID-19 helped fasten the obsolescence of coal. The pandemic slowed global demand for coal, but more importantly, coal mines closed to stop the spread of the virus. Reflecting this, in 2020, coal exports by the United States dropped 26%. In 2021, as the economy started to rebound, coal production did as well, giving the illusion that coal as an energy source wasn't going to disappear. Furthering this perspective was the invasion of Ukraine. As Russia serves as one of Europe's main providers of natural gas, the efforts from European countries to decouple Russia from their economies meant foregoing the acquisition of Russian natural gas and, in turn, relying on readily available energy sources such as coal. However, this is a temporary mirage, the environment, and the economy are still at play. It is cheaper to replace a coal mine with solar or wind energy plants than to keep it running, and the S&P Global Market Intelligence Report still forecasts constant coal plant foreclosures.¹⁸ So despite its past importance, coal is on the way out, replaced by natural gas.

¹⁶ [With Coal On The Way Out, Policymakers Have Their Eye On Natural Gas](#)

¹⁷ [Natural gas vs Coal – environmental impacts](#)

¹⁸ [So Much For Coal's Rebound - Plant Closures Come Roaring Back. It's Time To Unlock A Just Transition](#)

Current Situation

Major International Touchpoints

Ukraine

In 2013, protests drove Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych out of office in response to his anti-EU integration stance. The following year, in 2014, Russia responded by taking over a portion of Crimea, reportedly to “protect the rights of Russian citizens and Russian speakers in Crimea and southeast Ukraine.¹⁹” Russia then held an independence referendum that was largely considered to be disputed by the international community. Nevertheless, Russia used the referendum as justification to annex the disputed regions.

After annexation, there was a period of armed conflict in the region between Russian-backed forces and the Ukrainian military. This conflict ultimately ended in a stalemate between both sides. In 2015, superpowers including France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine attempted negotiations via the Minsk Accords. Ultimately, the accords failed to take effect and the armed skirmishes continued.

Ukraine’s allies took further action to show their solidarity with Ukraine. In 2016, NATO conducted troop movements in neighboring states to deter future Russian aggression in the region and both the U.S. and Europe put sanctions on Russian individuals and companies. Russia’s foreign ministry called on the U.S. and NATO to:

1. Cease military activity in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
2. Commit to no further NATO expansion toward Russia
3. Prevent Ukraine from joining NATO in the future

the U.S. and NATO denied these demands. As a result, on February 24, 2022, President Putin authorized a “special military operation²⁰” to invade Ukraine across multiple fronts. the U.S. and its European Allies sanctioned Russian officials and companies as well as the Russian oil and gas industry. They also provided military and economic aid to Ukraine. One important result of this military operation was the permit denial of the long-awaited Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which would have transferred natural gas from Russia to Germany. The current German SDP administration has recognized the strategic risk of previous administrations of becoming too reliant on Russian Natural Gas. Now Germany has vowed to replace the need for Russian oil and natural gas, through other sources, clean energy, liquid natural gas reserves, and lower consumption if necessary. It remains to be seen how quickly Germany will be able to pivot; Germany’s gas import dependency on Russia has been as high as 55% over the last decade and that is not energy that will be easily replaced over a short time frame²¹.

¹⁹ [Conflict in Ukraine | Global Conflict Tracker](#)

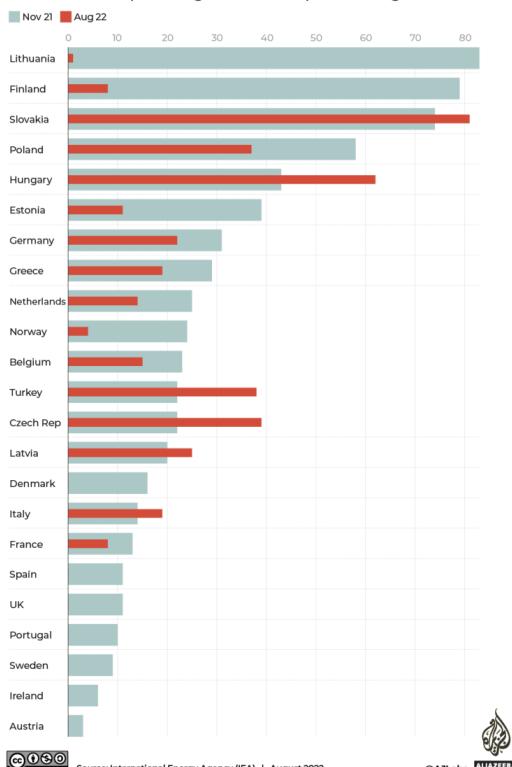
²⁰ [Putin says Ukraine ‘special military operation’ is taking longer than expected | PBS NewsHour](#)

²¹ [Risks and requirements for German gas and energy policy](#)

OIL

Who imports Russian oil in Europe?

OECD Europe countries imported more than 30 percent of their total oil from Russia in November 2021. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, some European states curbed their reliance on Russian oil. The chart below shows the percentage of total oil imports coming from Russia.



Source: International Energy Agency (IEA) | August 2022



Russian forces made some quick tactical gains, but progress quickly slowed on their invasion. Lack of communication and unfamiliarity with the terrain proved to be powerful anchors on the Russian military operation. Still, Russian forces seized control of key parts of Eastern Ukraine, including the Zaporizhzhia facility, the largest nuclear plant in Europe. The IAEA has since called for “a nuclear safety and security protection zone” around the plant to prevent any potential for nuclear disaster.

Equipment from U.S. and NATO allies and strong national morale proved to be helpful in slowing or rolling back the Russian advance. Ukraine forces retook territory in the Kharkiv region, potentially cutting off Russian supply chains and providing a morale boost to Ukrainian forces. Russia responded with a partial mobilization to replenish its armed forces, causing thousands of Russians to flee in order to avoid being drafted.

Now the war is again at somewhat of a stalemate. Ukraine has made slow but steady advances in key regions of Kherson, while new Russian mobilized troops lack training and morale, they number in the thousands. The U.S. and Europe have released another package of military aid, but political will to continue donating to the war effort seems to be slacking. Europe buys up Liquid Natural Gas and any spare energy commodities on the market, sparking accusations from nations

in Africa, Asia, and South America that they will be left without any natural gas to heat their homes. President Putin faces growing unrest and protests at home over his “special military operation,” but his rhetoric on Ukraine and the West grows stronger day by day. He has committed publicly, and to retreat would likely mean the end of his credibility and status at home. Meanwhile, Iran has been more than happy to provide Russia with drones and other military equipment, much to the chagrin of the U.S. and NATO. Russian cyber forces have reportedly launched massive Denial of Service attacks and other cyberattacks on key Ukrainian infrastructure including banking, energy grid, and internet services.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Kherson's strategic relevance

Kherson is strategically important to both Ukraine and Russia. The region borders Crimea and establishes a land bridge between Russia and the Black Sea peninsula.



©Mapbox, ©OpenStreetMap
Source: Institute for the Study of War | November 10, 2022

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Taiwan

After the Chinese civil war, the Nationalist government fled the mainland and set up a government on the island of Taiwan, now called the Republic of China (ROC). The PRC government has made it a stated priority to reunite Taiwan with the mainland, ideally through peaceful means.

A “1992 Consensus” allowed both the ROC and PRC Governments to agree that there is only one China, while having different views on who the rightful government of that one China was. This allowed the two governments to normalize relationships and spur economic collaboration to an extent.

There have been various scenes of diplomatic and military tension between the two governments since 1992. The PRC has used shelling of nearby islands, flights into Taiwan’s airspace, and strong diplomatic pressure on other countries to isolate the ROC government, while the ROC government has drawn closer ties with the US, building deep military collaboration ties and stockpiling strong armament reserves. The Donald Trump US administration alone sold more than \$18 Billion in arms to Taiwan²².

One area of key interest to both the U.S. and China is the wealth of semiconductor manufacturing located on the island. Taiwan produces 65% of the world’s semiconductors and 90% of the most advanced chips. Not only are semiconductors an important component for many industries in the present, such as the automobile and communication industries, but they are also considered a key asset for technological dominance in this century, similar to 5G infrastructure and quantum computing. Due to their importance, China is keen to acquire a stranglehold on semiconductors. In an effort to alleviate the possible dependence on semiconductors should Taiwan’s factories be seized or destroyed, Congress passed bipartisan legislation known as the CHIPS act, which will destine USD\$53 bn toward developing domestic semiconductor manufacturing. Despite these efforts, Taiwan has a 40-year head start, and combined with its advanced-research department that has engineers switching shifts to develop advances in the semiconductors field 24 hours 7 days a week, it’s unlikely that Taiwan’s importance in the sector will diminish anytime soon²³.

Recent activity including a four-day blockade after then Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi’s unprecedented trip to the island, alongside President Biden’s statements indicating that they would jump to Taiwan’s defense in case of an attack, have indicated a more hawkish approach toward the island’s sovereignty compared to past administrations. The White House had, as indicated above, kept relations with Taiwan without officially recognizing it as a country. This approach is known as strategic ambiguity. However, as the economic, ideological, and intelligence struggle between the PRC and the United States continues to escalate, the Biden

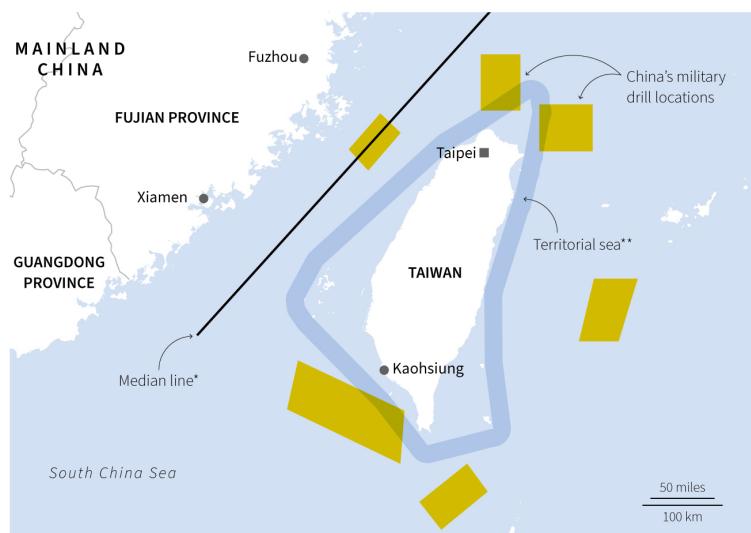
²² [Confrontation Over Taiwan | Global Conflict Tracker](#)

²³ [The U.S. Has a Microchip Problem. Safeguarding Taiwan Is the Solution. - The Atlantic](#)

administration has subtly indicated that the defense of Taiwan, a democratic country, is a key element of its strategy in the region.

China embarks on military drills

The map below shows the locations of China's military drills surrounding Taiwan after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi – a veteran China critic and the third most senior U.S. politician – visited Taipei this week.



* An unofficial maritime line of control which China does not recognise, although neither side's aircraft or battleships normally cross it.

** A 12-nautical mile zone from the baseline or low-water line along the Taiwanese coast. Taiwan's control also extends to the air space over the territorial sea as well as to its bed and subsoil.

Sources: Xinhua News Agency; Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative; U.S Congressional Research Service

W. Foo | Reuters, Aug. 4, 2022

The United States' political effort to retrain its focus on the Pacific, also known as the Pivot to Asia, has lost intensity and strength since the invasion of Ukraine, but it's still underway. One of the impacts of Ukraine on the region comes from the parallels between Russian and Chinese narratives. At the onset of the invasion, Russia claimed that Ukraine was part of its country due to being under the same banner at one point in the past, from this point of view, Ukraine is nothing but a rogue province. The same is claimed by China in the instance of Taiwan, insisting both in the mainland and across international bodies, that the island of Taiwan is and has always been part of the PRC. Furthermore, China's CCP claim to power is based on guaranteeing economic prosperity, but as the engines of growth slow down and Xi Jinping starts his third term as General Secretary, the narrative is shifting to coincide more with that of Russia. The government, then, is in power due to the nationalistic call to achieve superiority in fronts beyond the economy, encompassing areas such as culture, diplomacy, military, etc. As part of this new narrative, reunification with Taiwan takes a new role. Beyond the technological benefits it can provide, it is also a key metric of success for the CCP to prove its ability to materialize the Chinese dream. While Ukraine bought time for the PRC as the U.S. pivot to the region lost its impetus, the invasion also galvanized the West and showed that the Biden administration is quite hawkish when responding to the narrative Russia deployed to justify for its invasion, and its

likely that the White House will react aggressively if and when China brings out a similar story to justify military actions against Taiwan.

Iran

After the death of Mahsa Amini at the hands of the morality police, protests have roiled the nation of Iran, potentially endangering the rule of Ayatollah Khamenei's administration. Protesters, largely led by women, have ripped off their headscarves and chanted "women, life, freedom," and "death to the dictator."²⁴

Initially, the protests were focused on reforming the morality police and relaxing the strict rules around wearing Hijabs in public. Protests then morphed into a broader movement against the economic and social conditions in present-day Iran, especially for the younger generations. Inflation and stagnating wages have made it hard for young Iranians to imagine a prosperous, bright future in their country. The government responded with force against the protesters, accusing the protestors of being stirred by Western propaganda and claiming that the U.S. and other western powers were intentionally stirring this unrest. The presence of an increasing number of women and teenagers blunted the impact of Iran's crackdown, and soon protests reached even traditionally religiously conservative areas like Mashhad and Qom²⁵.

The persistence and widespread range of the protests have so far continued unabated despite the best efforts of the Ayatollah's administration. In December 2022, the Attorney General declared that the Morality Police had been disbanded and that the Hijab laws would be reviewed. This admission would represent a huge concession to the protesters' demands. It is unclear how true this statement is; since the announcement Iranian local state media outlets said the statement had been taken out of context and the morality laws would continue to be enforced²⁶. Even if the Ayatollah relaxes the morality laws and reforms or abolishes the morality police, many experts say the protests have evolved into a more multifaceted list of grievances with the current administration and would be unlikely to die down.

²⁴ [Iran: A really simple guide to the protests - BBC News](#)

²⁵ [A barrier of fear has been broken in Iran. The regime may be at a point of no return](#)

²⁶ [Uncertainty over Iran's morality police after official's 'disbanded' remarks - BBC News](#)



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Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Second Congo War pitted government forces against rebels, killing over three million people and creating many of the systemic issues that face the DRC today. A 2002 peace deal eased the violence of the Second Congo war, but the new transitional government did not have much success in creating the social infrastructure for peace²⁸. Rebel and armed militia groups have flourished, often taking advantage of DRC's abundant natural resources for money.

The environment of persistent instability, a weak government, and well-funded diverse rebel militia groups have pushed hundreds of thousands of people out of their homes. The DRC has also suffered from an Ebola outbreak. According to UN estimates, there are 4.5 million internally displaced persons (IDP's) in the DRC and almost a million DRC refugees in other nations. This ties into a broader global issue of an increasing number of refugees worldwide. Over the past decade, the number of refugees has more than doubled, from 15 to 30 million. This crisis affects

²⁷ [Photos: Iranians protest over the death of Mahsa Amini](#)

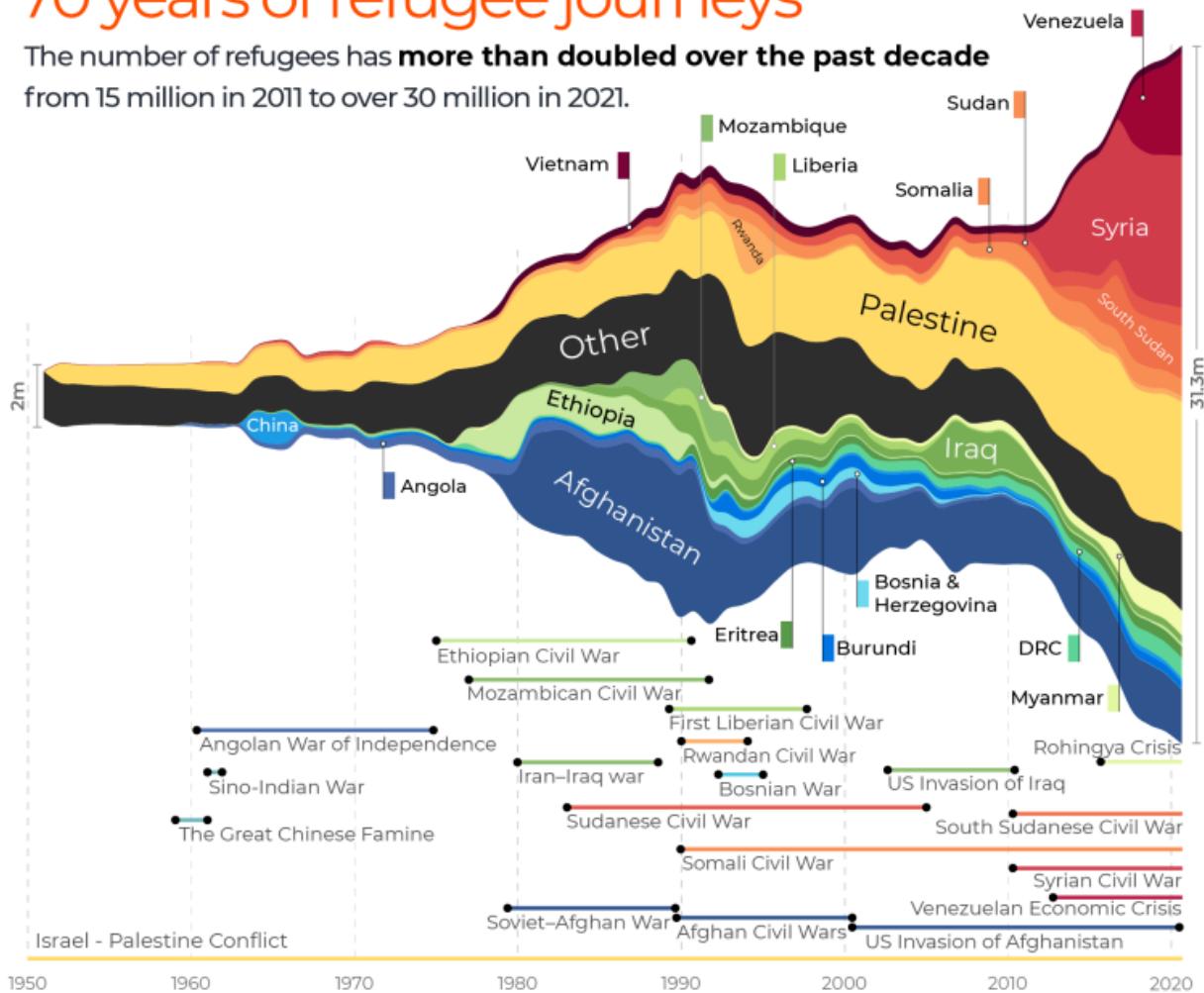
²⁸ [Instability in the Democratic Republic of Congo | Global Conflict Tracker](#)

countries as geographically apart as Venezuela and Pakistan, and each crisis will need to have a tailored solution in order to be able to tackle the root causes of these refugee journeys.

REFUGEES

70 years of refugee journeys

The number of refugees has **more than doubled over the past decade** from 15 million in 2011 to over 30 million in 2021.



Source: UNHCR | 2021

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Timeline of Key Events

- **1949:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is established. The communist People's Republic of China wins the Chinese Civil War; the Republic of China retreats to the island of Taiwan.
- **1950:** The Sino-Soviet Pact is signed between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. The Korean War between North Korea (supported by the USSR and PRC) and South Korea (supported by the US) begins.
- **1953:** Joseph Stalin, President of the Soviet Union, dies. The Korean War ends in a stalemate.
- **1960:** The friendship between the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union deteriorates.
- **1960:** Founding of Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- **1979:** During the Iranian Revolution, the Pahlavi dynasty, led by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was overthrown. The Shah's government was replaced by the rule of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who was previously in exile for 14 years. The Iranian people approved a new constitution, instituting the Islamic Republic of Iran as a theocratic republic.
- **1979:** Iranian Hostage Crisis
- **1979:** US President Jimmy Carter signs into law the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which commits the U.S. to "make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability."
- **1980:** Iran-Iraq war
- **1992-1995:** NATO action in the Bosnian war, including naval blockade, no fly-zone, and deployment of a peacekeeping force
- **1998 - 2003:** Second Congo War killed over three million people and created the foundation for ongoing violence that continues to this day
- **2011:** NATO action in the Libyan war, including a no-fly zone and air campaign
- **2012:** NATO action in the Syrian war, installation of an anti-missile system in Turkey
- March 2014: Russian troops take control of the Ukrainian region of Crimea and formally annex the peninsula after a disputed local independence referendum
- **2015:** France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine attempt to bring an end to violence through the Minsk Accords but are largely unsuccessful
- **2016:** PRC cuts off official communication with Taiwan
- **2018:** US imposes sanctions on several Russian officials linked to the conflict in Ukraine and approves the sale of anti-tank weapons. Ukraine joins 8 NATO countries in conducting a series of large-scale air exercises in Eastern Ukraine.
- **2014 - 2022:** Ukraine experiences thousands of cyberattacks targeting both private and public targets including energy grids, government systems, and banking institutions. The cyber-attacks have mostly been attributed to Russian resources.

- **Feb 2022:** Putin announces the beginning of a “full-scale land, sea, and air invasion of Ukraine.” US and European allies respond with sanctions against Russian individuals and the oil and gas industry. The UNGA votes to condemn Russia’s invasion.
- **May 2022:** US President Biden stated that the U.S. had a “commitment to come to Taiwan’s defense, if necessary, and that his administration would uphold that commitment.” PRC criticized this statement as a breach of the US’s long-standing One China Policy
- **August 2022:** PRC military resources executed a four-day military drill that simulated a blockade of Taiwan in response to US Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan. The blockade simulation included naval and aircraft military resources as well as sanctions and cyberattacks²⁹.
- **September 2022:** Mahsa Amini dies after being taken into custody by the morality police in Tehran for allegedly violating Iran’s strict Hijab laws.
- **2022:** Russian forces seize control of the Zaporizhzhia facility, the largest nuclear plant in Europe. The IAEA has since called for “a nuclear safety and security protection zone” around the plant to prevent any potential for nuclear disaster.
- **2022:** Ukraine forces retake territory in the Kharkiv region, potentially cutting off Russian supply chains and providing a moral boost to Ukrainian forces. Russia responds with a partial mobilization to replenish its armed forces, causing thousands of Russians to flee in order to avoid being drafted.

Additional Resources

- Ukraine Overview - <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>
- How much oil does Russia Produce infographic? - <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/12/5/infographic-how-much-oil-does-russia-produce>
- Al Jazeera Oil and Natural Gas Infographics - <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/5/infographic-does-europe-have-enough-gas-for-winter>
- Infographic for Refugee Crisis - <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2022/6/16/visualising-the-fastest-growing-refugee-crises-around-the-world>
- Infographic for Climate Change Heat Crisis around the Globe - <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/18/what-is-the-highest-temperature-ever-recorded-in-your-country>
- <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/suspected-drones-over-taiwan-cyber-attacks-after-pelosi-visit-2022-08-04/>
- <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violence-democratic-republic-congo>

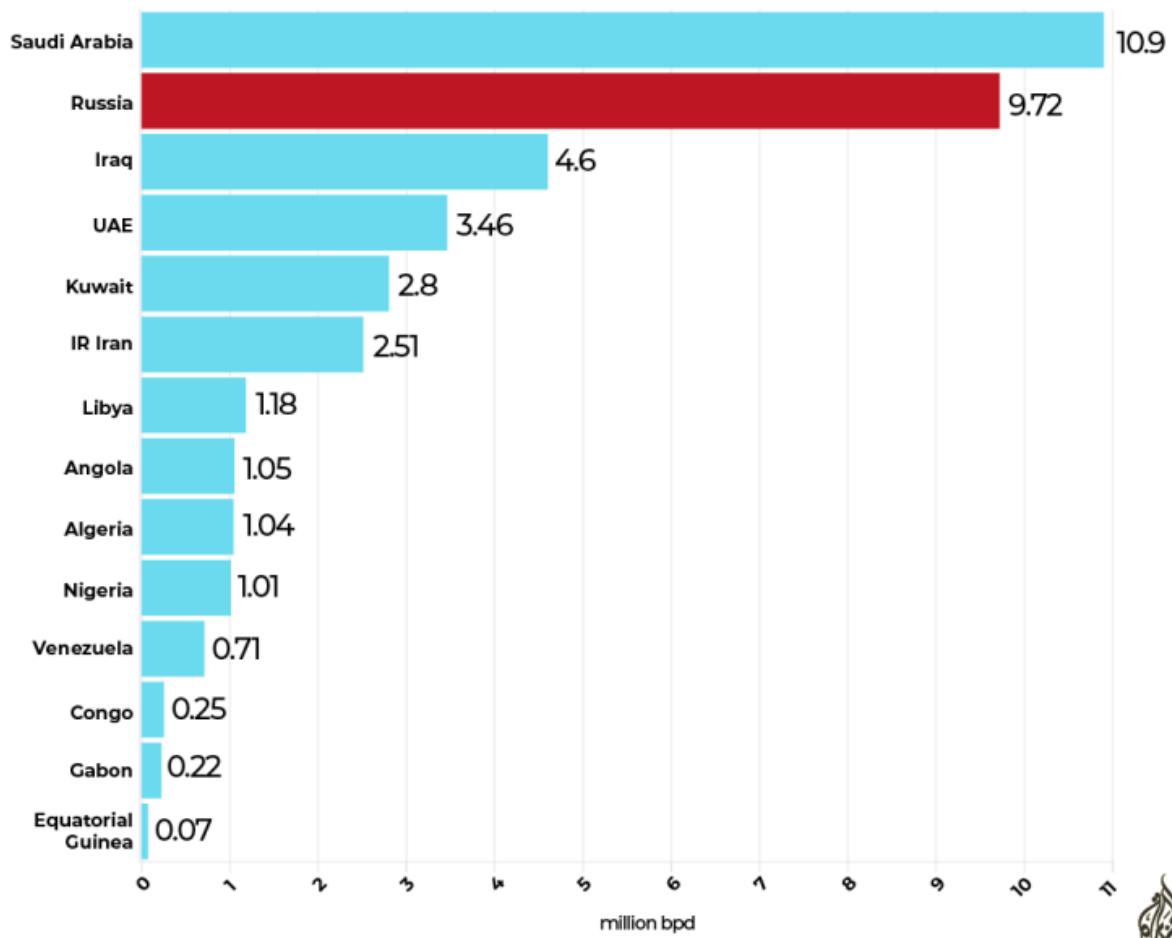
²⁹ [Furious China fires missiles near Taiwan in drills after Pelosi visit | Reuters](#)

- <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2022/9/20/photos-iranians-protest-over-the-death-of-mahsa-amini>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-63240911>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-63850656>

RUSSIA

How much oil does Russia produce?

In October 2022, OPEC members pumped 29.8 million bpd. Russia, which is an OPEC+ country, produced 9.72 million bpd, putting it second to Saudi Arabia.



Source: International Energy Agency (IEA), OPEC | Dec 5, 2022

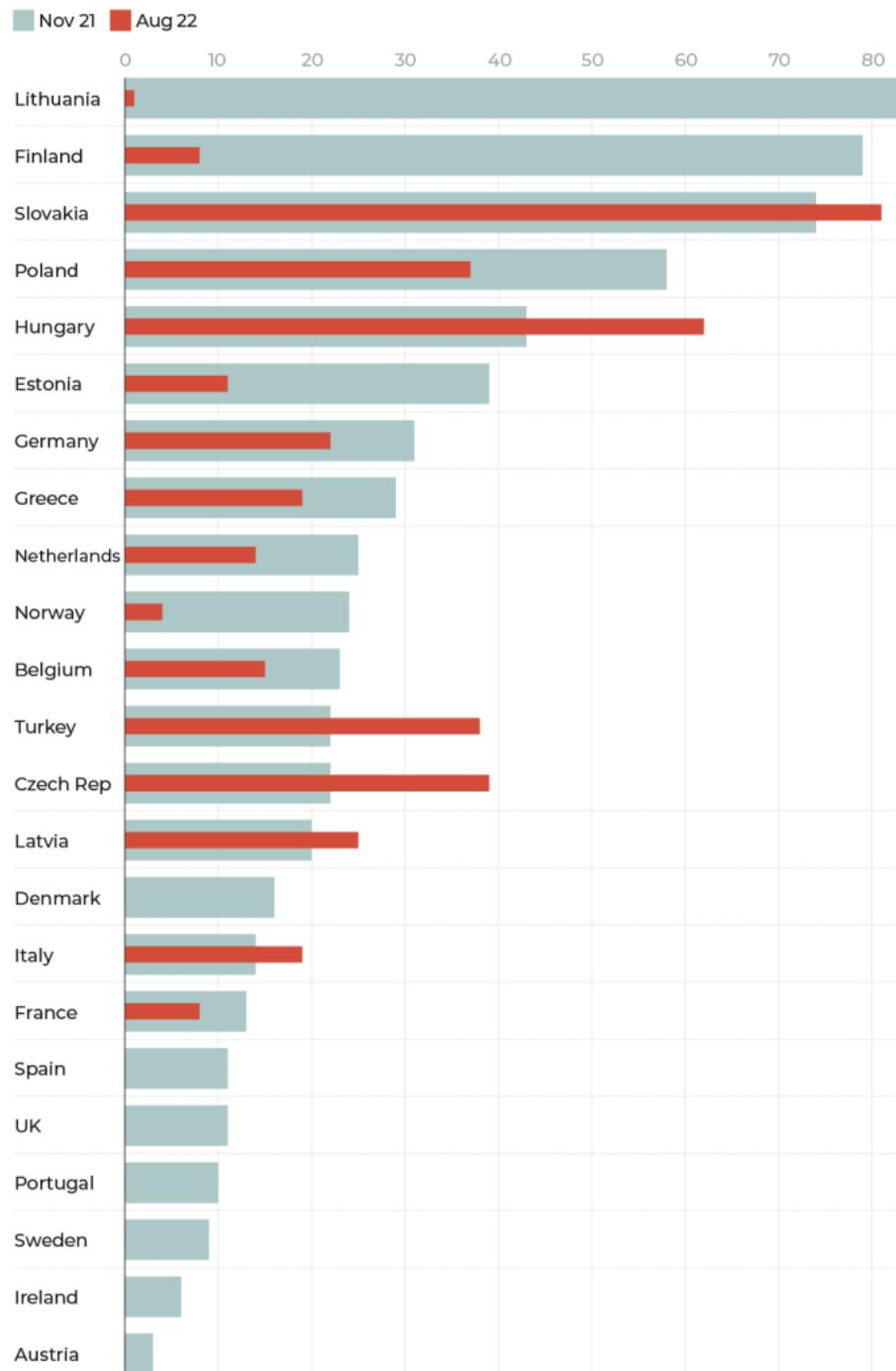
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OIL

Who imports Russian oil in Europe?

OECD Europe countries imported more than 30 percent of their total oil from Russia in November 2021. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, some European states curbed their reliance on Russian oil. The chart below shows the percentage of total oil imports coming from Russia.



Source: International Energy Agency (IEA) | August 2022

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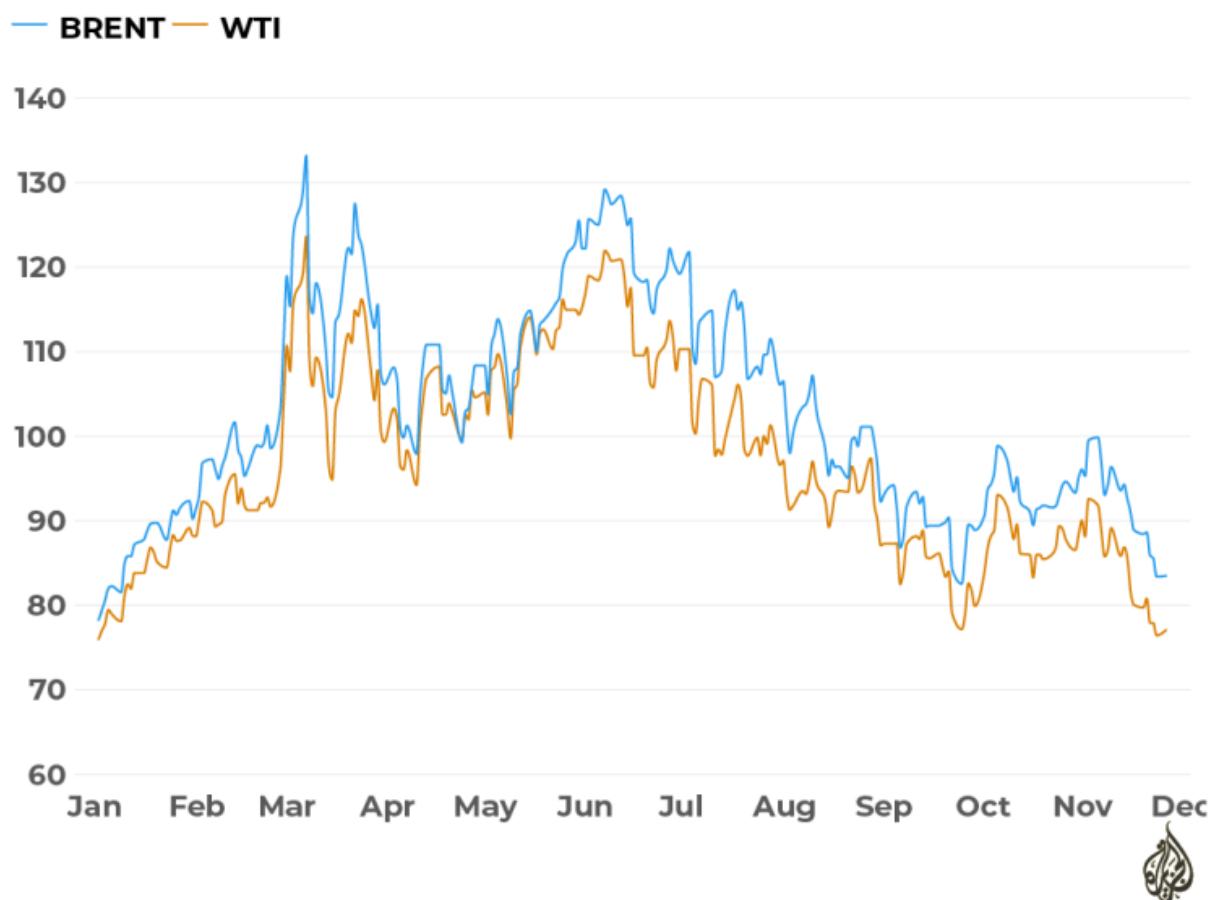


OIL

Oil prices in 2022

The price of oil soared to its highest levels following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February.

US dollars per barrel



Source: Reuters, Energy Information Administration | December 5, 2022

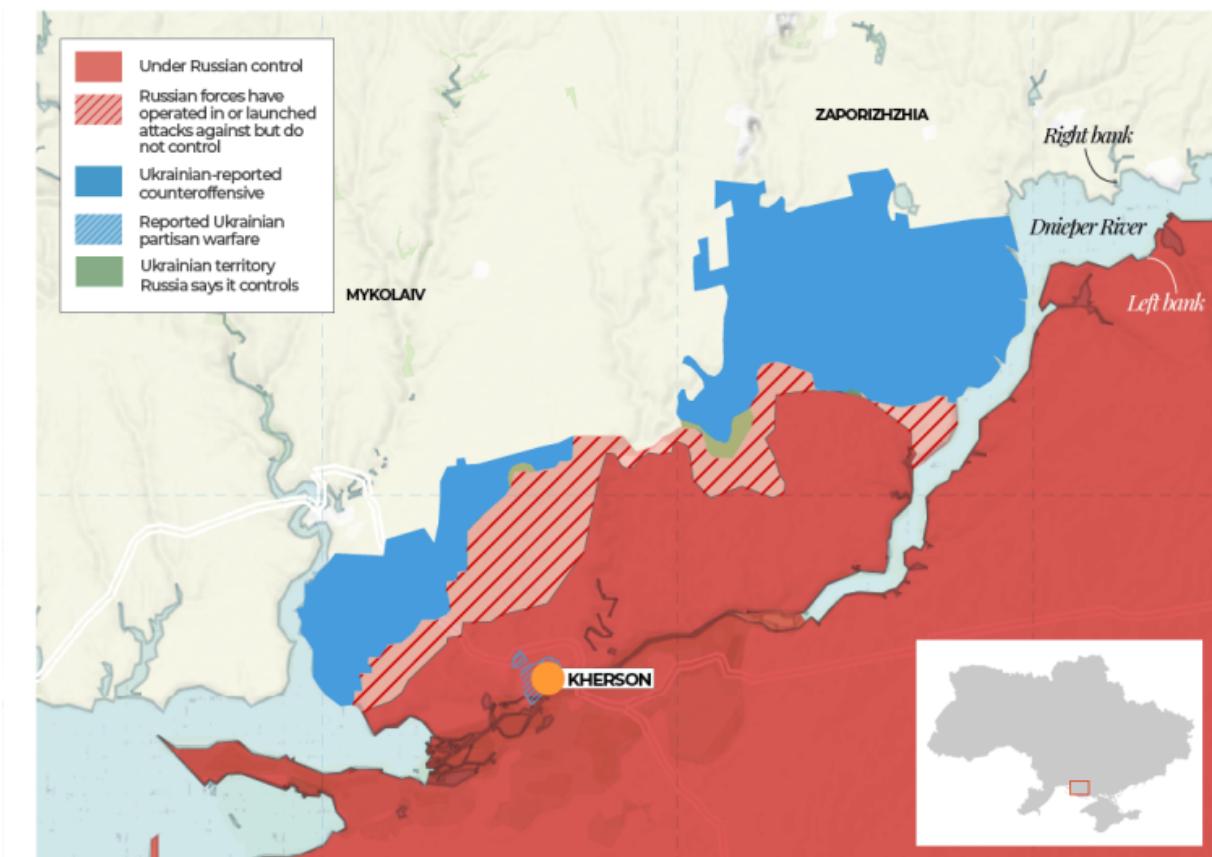
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RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Russian troops to withdraw from Kherson

Russia's defence minister orders troops to retreat from Kherson city, the only regional capital seized throughout the war.



©Mapbox, ©OpenStreetMap

Source: Institute for the Study of War | November 9, 2022



RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Which Ukrainian regions is Russia annexing?

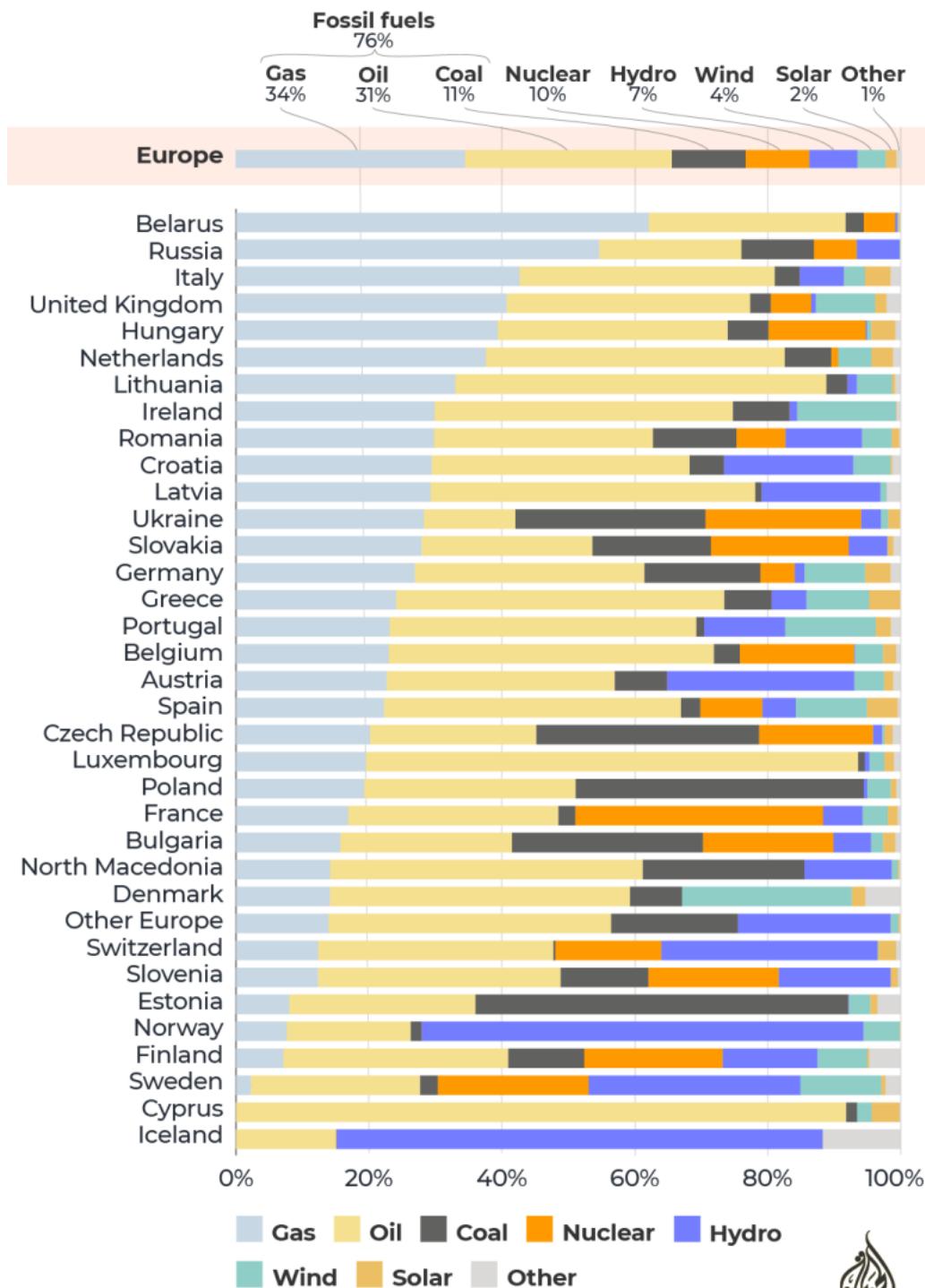
Four partially Russian-controlled regions of Ukraine - **Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhia** - will be incorporated into Russia following 'referendums' held in the regions, the Kremlin has said.



RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Europe's heavy reliance on gas

In 2021, **one-third of Europe's energy** - used for generating electricity, transport and heating - **came from burning gas**. The chart below highlights which countries rely most on gas for generating energy.



Source: Statistical Review of World Energy - BP (2022) | September 6, 2022

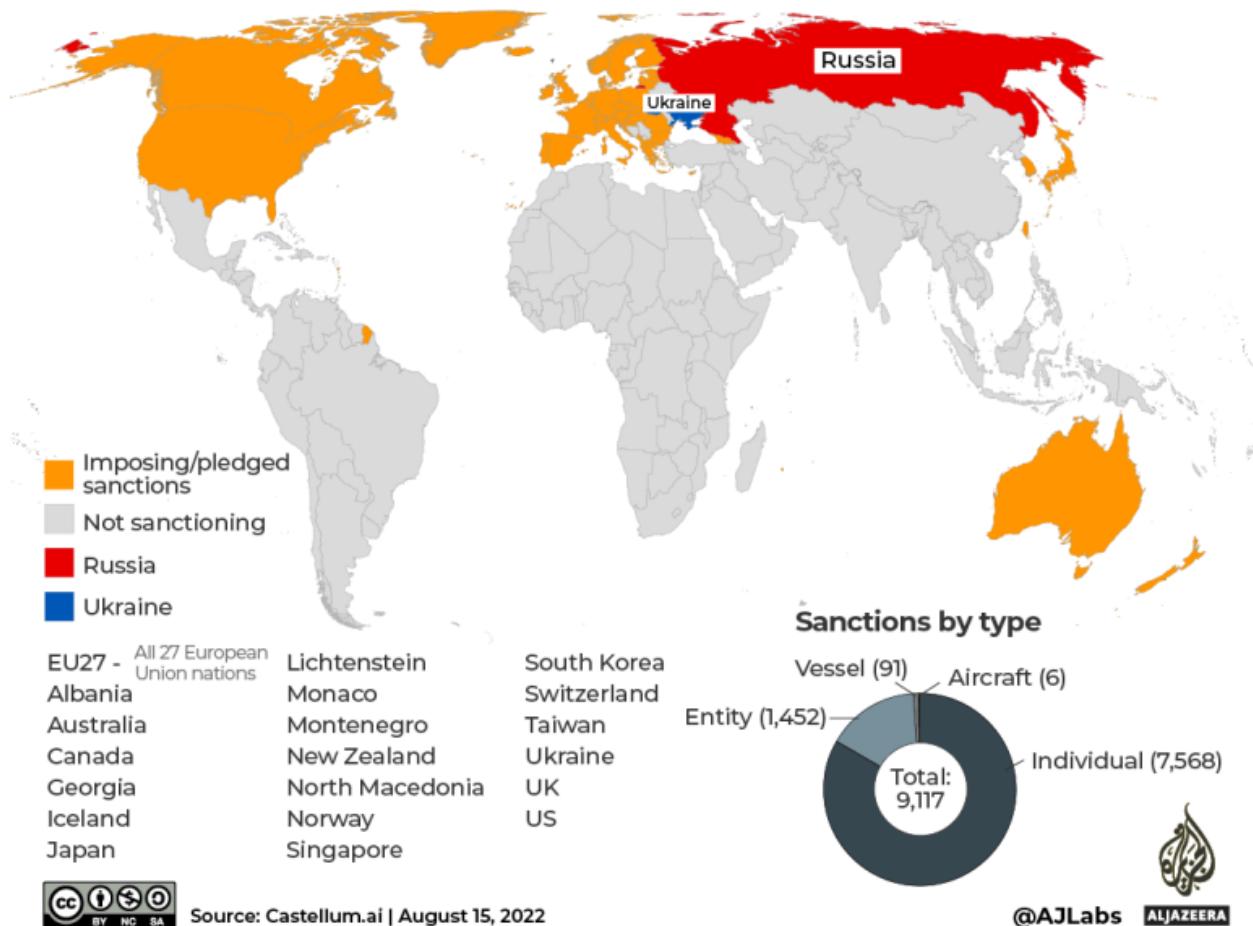
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RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Which countries have sanctioned Russia?

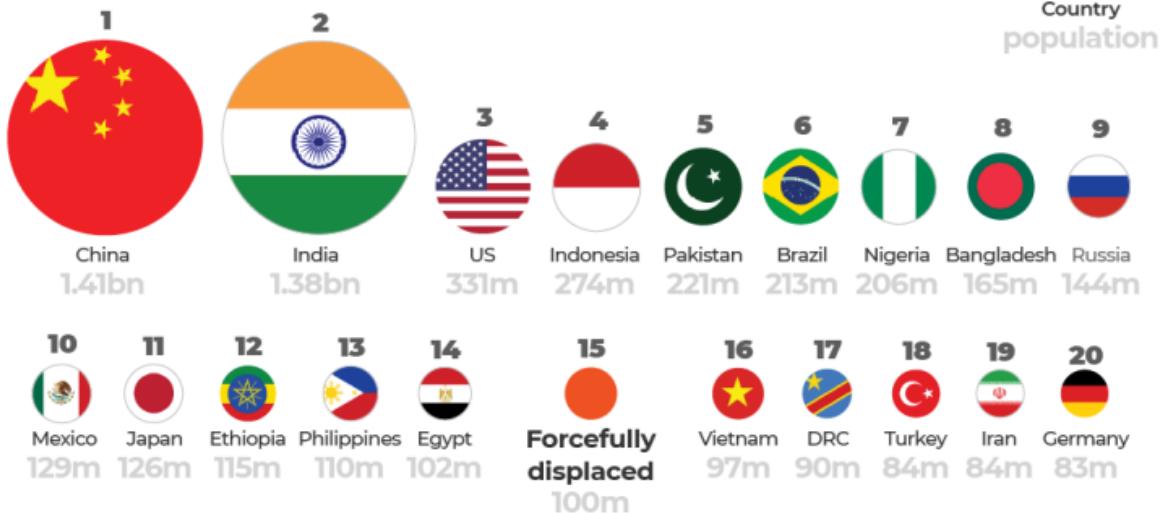
At least **46 countries or territories have imposed sanctions on Russia, or pledged to adopt a combination of US and EU sanctions**. Since February 22, **more than 9,117 sanctions** have been imposed on Russia, making it the **most sanctioned country in the world**.



REFUGEES

100 million forcibly displaced people

If the **number of forcibly displaced people was a country**, it would be the **15th** most populated in the world.



DISPLACED PEOPLE AS OF END 2021:



By May 2022, the number of displaced people had grown to **100 million, the highest ever recorded figure.**



Source: UNHCR | June 16, 2022

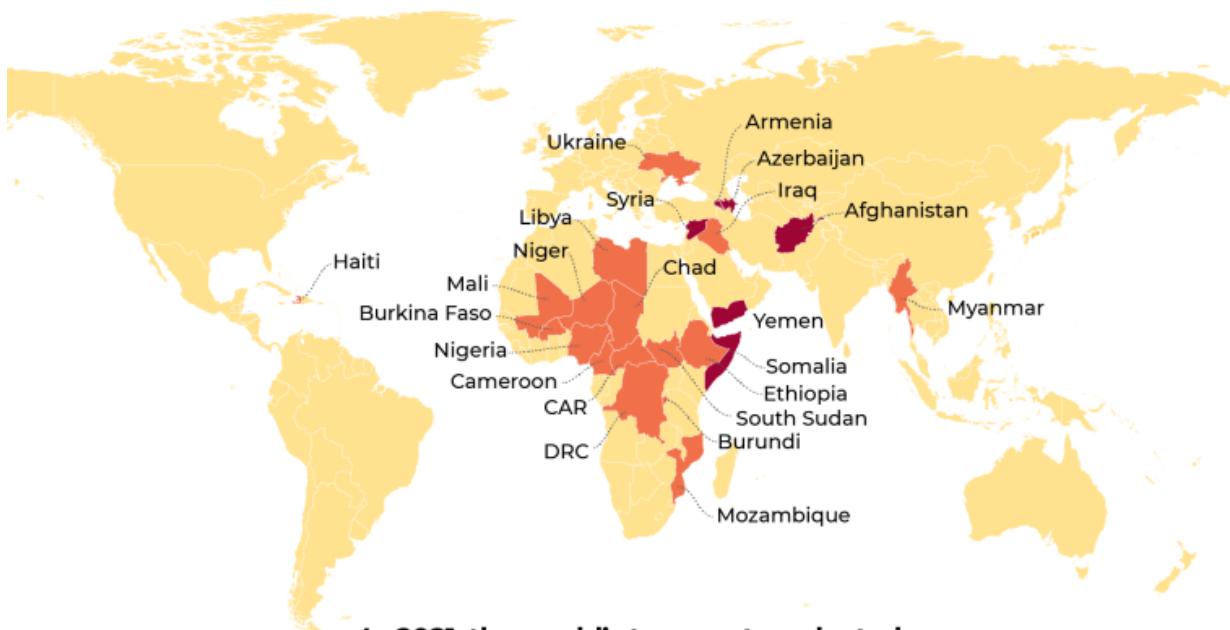


REFUGEES

Countries facing conflict in 2021

23 countries, hosting a combined population of **850 million people**, faced high- or medium-intensity conflicts in 2021 according to the World Bank.

● High-intensity conflict ● Medium-intensity conflict



In 2021, the world's ten most neglected displacement crises were all in Africa, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council's annual analysis.



Source: The World Bank | 2022

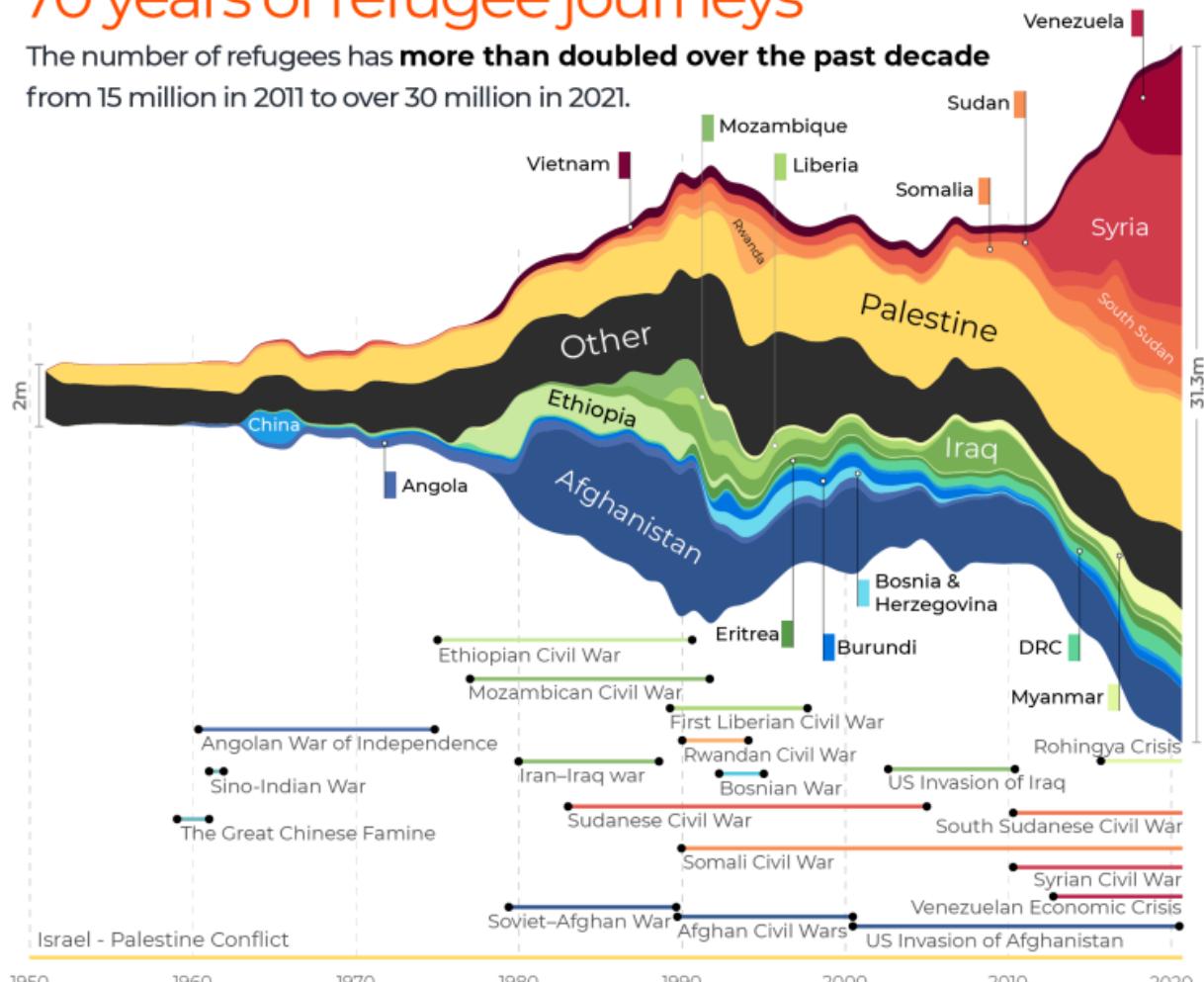


REFUGEES

70 years of refugee journeys

The number of refugees has **more than doubled over the past decade**

from 15 million in 2011 to over 30 million in 2021.



Source: UNHCR | 2021



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NATO

Finland, Sweden move to join NATO

Once both countries are admitted into the 30-member security bloc, NATO forces may be right next to the Finnish-Russian border.

