

2022

The World's 100 Most Powerful Women



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MOIRA FORBES AND MAGGIE MCGRATH WITH NICOLETTE JONES AND ERIKA BURHO

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Vladimir Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine was a defining moment for Europe. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen rose to the challenge. A

week after the war began, she announced three major economic sanctions against Russia—banning transactions with its central bank, closing airspace to Russian plane travel and barring Kremlin-owned news agencies.

“Protecting our liberty comes at a price,” von der Leyen said. “This is our principle: freedom is priceless.”

For her leadership during the Ukraine war, as well as her handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, von der Leyen sits atop the 19th annual Forbes list of the World’s 100 Most Powerful Women. Her influence is unique—no one else on the list formulates policy on behalf of 450 million people—but her commitment to a free and democratic society is not. Von der Leyen is just one face of the biggest storyline of 2022: women acting as stalwarts for democracy.

American women suffered the greatest reversal of rights in the two decades of the list when the Supreme Court limited the right to an abortion. In reaction, female voters energized U.S. midterm elections. In Iran, thousands of women marched in the streets in protest against theocratic laws that treat them as second-class citizens.

Representing the protesters on this year’s list is Jina “Mahsa” Amini, whose death in September sparked the unprecedented women-led revolution. The rest of the women are more traditional power players—39 CEOs; 10 heads of state; and 11 billionaires worth a combined \$115 billion.

The list was determined by four main metrics: money, media, impact and spheres of influence. For political leaders, we weighed gross domestic products and populations; for corporate leaders, revenues and employee counts; and media mentions and reach of all. The result is a collection of women who are fighting the status quo.

“If you don’t react to the first violation of your rights,” says Roya Boroumand, an Iranian historian and human rights activist, “the second will come, and the third will come.”

--Maggie McGrath

The Highlights



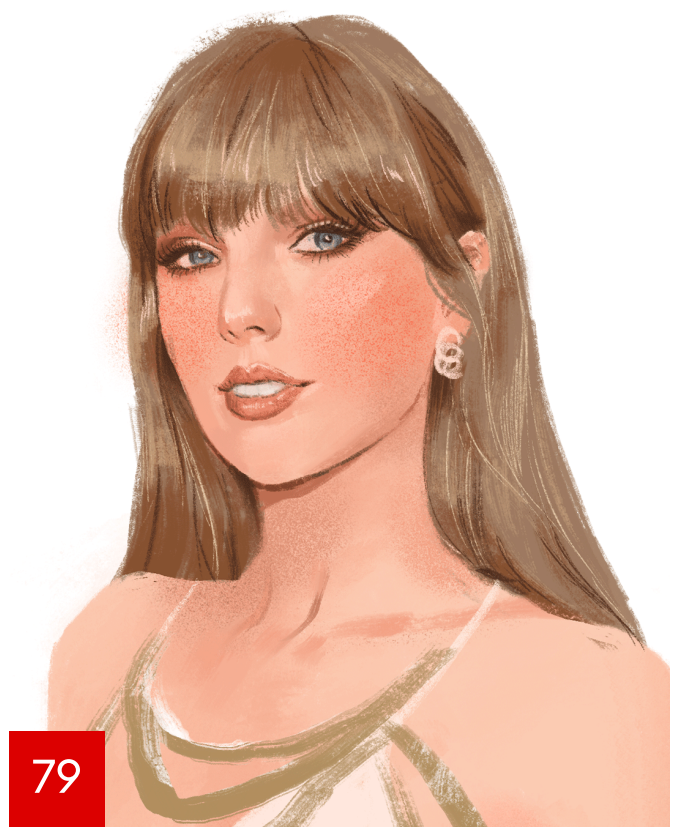
Thasunda Brown Duckett

TITLE: PRESIDENT AND CEO, TIAA

LOCATION: UNITED STATES

In 2021, Thasunda Brown Duckett took the helm of TIAA, a retirement and financial services company for academic, research, medical and governmental workers. The role makes her one of just two Black female CEOs leading one of America's largest 500 companies, and one of the most powerful women in finance.

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Taylor Swift

TITLE: MUSICIAN

LOCATION: UNITED STATES

Taylor Swift broke records and Ticketmaster's website this year. After releasing her 10th studio album in October, she became the first artist in history to claim the top ten spots on the Billboard Hot 100 song list. And in November, demand for tickets to her 2023 Eras Tour overwhelmed Ticketmaster, prompting members of Congress to question the company's hold on concert sales.

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Falguni Nayar

TITLE: FOUNDER AND CEO, NYKAA

LOCATION: INDIA

Falguni Nayar worked as an investment banker for two decades, leading IPOs and helping other entrepreneurs achieve their dreams. In 2012, she decided to work for herself, investing \$2 million of her own savings to launch beauty and retail company Nykaa. She took it public in 2021 and became India's richest self-made woman.

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Xiomara Castro

TITLE: PRESIDENT

LOCATION: HONDURAS

Xiomara Castro was sworn in as Honduras' president in January 2022, becoming the first woman to hold the position. Castro campaigned for the presidency on a platform that included protecting and expanding women's rights, but nearly one year into her tenure, feminist activists are losing hope that she will deliver on these promises.

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The Full List

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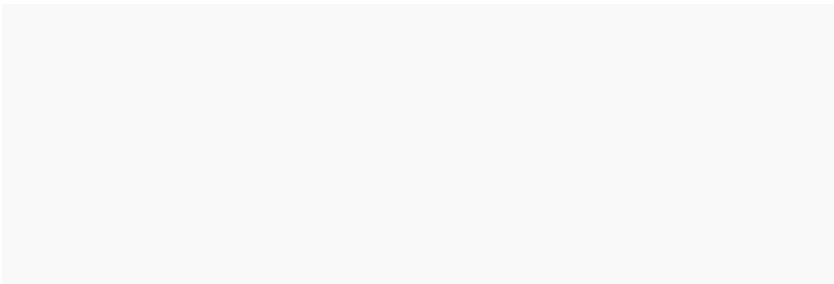
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RANK ^	NAME	AGE
1.	Ursula von der Leyen	64
2.	Christine Lagarde	66
3.	Kamala Harris	58
4.	Mary Barra	60
5.	Abigail Johnson	60
6.	Melinda French Gates	58
7.	Giorgia Meloni	45
8.	Karen Lynch	58
9.	Julie Sweet	55
10.	Jane Fraser	55
11.	MacKenzie Scott	52
12.	Kristalina Georgieva	69
13.	Rosalind Brewer	59
14.	Emma Walmsley	53
15.	Ana Patricia Botín	62

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16.	Gai	
17.	Tsai Ing-wen	66
18.	Ruth Porat	65
19.	Safra Catz	60
20.	Martina Merz	59
21.	Carol Tomé	65
22.	Judith McKenna	56
23.	Susan Wojcicki	54
24.	Oprah Winfrey	68
25.	Nancy Pelosi	82
26.	Laurene Powell Jobs & family	59
27.	Amanda Blanc	55
28.	Amy Hood	50
29.	Catherine MacGregor	50
30.	Phebe Novakovic	65

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31.	Gwynne Shotwell	59
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33.	Janet Yellen	76
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35.	Ho Ching	69
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43.	Mary Callahan Erdoes	55
44.	Adena Friedman	53
45.	Gina Rinehart	68

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46.	Lynn Martin	46
47.	Sri Mulyani Indrawati	60
48.	Vicki Hollub	63
49.	Nicke Widyawati	54
50.	Lisa Su	53
51.	Tricia Griffith	58
52.	Shemara Wikramanayake	60
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57.	Yuriko Koike	70
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59.	Jenny Johnson	58
60.	Hana Al Rostamani	
61.	Donna Langley	54
62.	Dong Mingzhu	68
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65.	Suzanne Scott	56
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67.	Soma Mondal	59
68.	Belén Garijo	62
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70.	Bela Bajaria	51
71.	Paula Santilli	
72.	Laura Cha	
73.	Rihanna	34
74.	Mette Frederiksen	45
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76.	Joey Wat	51
77.	Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	69
78.	Jenny Lee	50
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80.	Beyoncé Knowles	41
81.	Güler Sabanci	67
82.	Linda Thomas-Greenfield	70
83.	Sanna Marin	37

84.	Solina Chau	60
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86.	Reese Witherspoon	46
87.	Zuzana Caputova	49
88.	Dominique Senequier	69
89.	Falguni Nayar	59
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100.	Mahsa Amini (posthumous)	

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