**America’s role in the Russia-Ukraine conflict**

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In February 2022, Russia invaded its neighbor country Ukraine. The main man behind this invasion is the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin. He has been wanting to take control of Ukraine for 8 years; additionally, he claims to protect people from eight years of bullying and genocide by Ukraine's government. Americans believed their nation had a duty to help and support Ukraine in its difficult phase. Even though the United States was not directly involved in this conflict, it was certainly affected by it economically and politically.

Various news outlets covered this global event. Each news source had its own way of mentioning America in context. Bret Stephens from *New York Times* argues that America should intervene in this conflict to gain self-belief. Meredith Deliso from *ABC News* mentions Biden saying that if we do not stand up for freedom today, we will pay a higher price for it tomorrow. *PBS* summarizes a few sanctions placed by the U.S in the hope that Russia will stop its incursion in Ukraine. McCarthy from *CNN* discusses how China is putting unnecessary blame on America for putting economic sanctions on Russia. Peter Hasson from *Fox News* blames Joe Biden for not putting in enough effort to take control of the Russia-Ukraine situation. He also brings up Biden’s false promises and his weakness in handling a global crisis. *USA Today* examines Biden’s decisions on sending additional troops to Ukraine; rather he will deploy move forces and equipment already stationed in Europe. David Corn from *Mother Jones* goes back to the 2016 U.S election and argues that Russians helped Trump win and Trump was aware of that. This gave Putin confidence because he just reshaped an election in the most powerful nation in the world. *The Onion,* a satirical news outlet, covers this topic in a comedic way by making up fake conversations between Biden and Putin that are not meant to be serious. *BuzzFeed* mentions various memes and comments made on social media about this conflict. This generation has a tendency to not take everything seriously and make a laugh about it. This article has various comments and posts about the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Teenagers on social media tend to make a ‘meme’ out of this war and not take it seriously. All of this news was fairly published within a duration of weeks. Each news source covers a different aspect of America’s actions in this Russia-Ukraine relationship.

Every source has its own technique to arrive at its target audience. Stephens in his article ‘This Is a Moment for America to Believe in Itself Again’, states “These victories were not the result of asking, ‘Who are we?’ They came about by asking, ‘Who but us?’” (Stephens, 2022, n.p). Putin would go beyond anything and anyone to capture Ukraine under its thumb. This article emphasizes the fact that America should intervene in this conflict to gain self-belief. He believes that America will somehow get involved in this conflict. This article is very opinion-based because it gives keeps mentioning that America needs to regain its self-belief by intervening in this conflict. It has a patriotic set of tone as it only mentions America’s fine points. Next, ‘Why Americans should care about the Ukraine-Russia conflict’ by Meredith Deliso also suggests that it is valid for America to intervene in this conflict. “If higher oil and gas prices cause the Federal Reserve to be more aggressive in its monetary tightening, that could also impact inflation” (Deliso, 2022, n.p). Here, economic precautions are being discussed and how it will affect Americans. Biden mentions that we should stand up for freedom today, otherwise we will pay a higher price for it tomorrow. Later it discusses gas prices going up due to this crisis. In the end, it mentions how Russia could send cyberattacks to America for intervening in this conflict. There is a similarity between the two sources mentioned above. The titles make a statement in themselves. It depicts the bottom line and purpose of the article.

Transcript between Judy Woodruff and Ned Price, the State Department Spokesperson, summarizes the various sanctions put on Russia to resist them. “We now have sanctions on

Russia's 10 largest banks, 80 percent of Russia's banking sector assets” (Price, 2022, n.p). This was done to get Russia to discuss diplomatic solutions. Price is successful in letting the audience know that America is taking heavy precautions to not ignite the already ignited situation. This article implies that America will not only take diplomatic and strategic decisions but also economic decisions to help the Ukrainians from Putin.

McCarthy in her narration of “As war breaks out in Europe, China blames the US” discusses China putting unnecessary blame on America for putting economic sanctions on Russia. China's Assistant Foreign Minister Hua Chunying also blamed NATO for its expansion eastward all the way to Russia’s border. “In her comments Wednesday, Hua pointed to China's position that sanctions are "never" effective” (McCarthy, 2022, n.p). Here, direct blame is being put on America from China as China disagrees with America’s economic decisions. No other source has brought up other countries other than CNN. CNN is a piece of worldwide news, therefore it suits them to mention other countries in this conflict. Similarly, in Fox News ‘Russia-Ukraine war: Biden promise to restore world order collapses as global chaos reigns’ by Peter Hasson identifies Biden’s faulty decisions “Republicans have argued that Biden's perceived weakness on the world stage has invited aggression from America's allies” (Hasson, 2022, n.p). This article discusses Biden’s promises about Putin not messing with East Europe once he is elected President. This passage seems to focus on Biden’s false promises and his weakness in global crises. Fox News uses strong words such as ‘promise’ and ‘collapses’ to emphasize Biden’s presidency.

In the article ‘Biden says world will hold Putin accountable for 'unprovoked and unjustified attack' on Ukraine’ by Maureen Groppe, Biden’s strong promises are again being discussed. It is quite clear that Biden will not tolerate Putin’s impatient behavior and will respond with diplomatic decisions. He says Putin shall be held accountable for his actions “Now, President Joe Biden will lay out the U.S. plan to hold Russia accountable for what could be the biggest military battle in Europe since World War II” (Groppe, 2022, n.p). Biden says freedom will come at a cost. Biden will not be sending more troops from America to Ukraine, rather he will deploy move forces and equipment already stationed in Europe. This passage seems to be more supportive towards Biden compared to the last two articles mentioned. According to US sources, the invasion might result in a significant loss of life and wounded. It has the potential to spark a migration catastrophe throughout Europe, put the NATO alliance to the test, boost energy costs, and transform Russia into a pariah state in Western eyes.

Next, this passage seems to be focusing on America’s past elections and connecting it to the current Russia-Ukraine conflict. In David Corn’s ‘Here’s How Trump’s Russia “Hoax” Led to Death and Destruction in Ukraine’, the 2016 election seems to be the main focus. Corn claims that Donald Trump had won the 2016 presidential election through Russia’s help “But Trump and his fellow Russia hoax hoaxers afforded Putin running room that he has used to race into Ukraine” (Corn, 2022, n.p). This article goes back to the 2016 U.S election and argues that Russians helped Trump win and Trump was aware of that. This gave Putin confidence because he just reshaped an election in the most powerful nation in the world. Here, Mother Jones uses a strange technique to tackle the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Rather than focusing on current America’s involvement in this conflict, it goes back four years and examines how those actions are taken then affected everyone today. At the end of the article Corn states “But Trump and his fellow Russia hoax hoaxers afforded Putin running room that he has used to race into Ukraine” (2022, n.p). This is a bold statement because Corn is directly claiming that Trump has helped Putin invade Ukraine. Corn also claims that Trump did specific things at the end of his presidency to make things difficult for Biden. So far, all of the news sources are covering this conflict from all different types of angles. Some are heavily mentioning America’s government, while others are associating countries such as China.

This next source from The Onion does not intend on covering up the story, rather it mocks the entire situation. It uses sarcasm to put the Russia-Ukraine relationship into perspective. The title itself ‘You Know, If I Were You, I’d Go After Finland,’ Says Biden Trying To Dissuade Putin From Invading Ukraine’ tells the reader a lot about the seriousness of the article. This fake conversation from the article “At press time, Biden added that invading Finland would also put Putin perfectly in position to invade Sweden” (The Onion, 2022, n.p). Here, a fake conversation between Biden and Putin is depicted to illustrate the current situation in a comedic way. Humor is used by the news outlet to show the relationship between Biden and Putin.

This next source “Vladdy Daddy’ Memes Are Taking Over TikTok As Russia Invades Ukraine And It’s Really Something” by Steffi Cao and Kelsey Weekman focuses on the social media aspect of this conflict. Teenagers are seen making comments such as “‘Vladdy daddy please no war,’ one user wrote on a photo of the Russian president that has a caption discussing a potential attack against Ukraine” (Cao 2022, n.p). This article has various comments and posts about the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Teenagers on social media tend to make a ‘meme’ out of this war and not take it seriously. In addition to that, many pictures and memes were being posted. The main point of these teenagers is to prevent war. Young anti-Putin activists are willing to utilize social media to boost their cause, suggesting that most of these users are aware of their own ridiculousness and joking through the dread of an imminent conflict.

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