

One year of war in Ukraine and ominous horizons

Written by The Hill Press

Friday, 24 February 2023 11:42

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Alexis Simendinger & Kristina Karisch provide a one year report on the battle for freedom in Ukraine and our involvement in it.

WASHINGTON - Today marks the official one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, capping off a week of commemoration and renewed calls for support from leaders across the globe. **President Biden** reaffirmed the U.S.'s solidarity with and aid for Ukraine in meetings in Kyiv and Warsaw, Poland, this week, stressing that Washington's support would continue for as long as it takes.



Biden will meet virtually on today with Group of Seven leaders and Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelensky**

and announce new sanctions against those aiding Russia's war effort. The sanctions will include Russian banks, technology and defense sectors, and will impact both people and companies involved in the conflict, according to the White House. In conjunction with the

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sanctions, Biden will announce a new U.S. aid package that will include economic, security and energy support (

[Reuters](#)

).

Russian President **Vladimir Putin** remains stalwart in his insistence that Russia will prevail, despite emerging empty-handed after a bloody winter offensive. After a series of strident speeches in the run-up to the anniversary of his invasion, Putin announced plans on Thursday to deploy new Sarmat multi-warhead intercontinental ballistic missiles this year. Earlier this week, he suspended Russia's participation in the START nuclear arms control treaty (

[Reuters](#)

).



Back at home in Russia, the grim realities of Moscow's war in Ukraine — tens of thousands dead, international isolation and a declining quality of life — are not part of the alternate reality of nationalist fervor created by the Kremlin's propaganda machine. But the future of Russia is bleak, and Putin likely set his country back decades, experts told [The Hill's Laura Kelly](#), with the Kremlin showing no signs of letting up and the Russian people facing rising uncertainty over how it will end.

- [The Washington Post](#) : Oral history: Leaders recall dismay, fury on first day of war in Ukraine.

- [Politico](#) : "We knew we were on the precipice." The inside story of how Washington navigated the run-up to the Russian invasion of Ukraine — the shocking intelligence, the skepticism and the building of an international coalition — as told by the people in the room.

Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** on Thursday [in a live interview with The Atlantic](#) said that

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the administration is not only focused on the immediate conflict, but also the months ahead as Russia's future strategies become clearer.

We're thinking about their longer-term defense posture, because at some point when this is over, what's going to be very important is to do everything we can to make sure that Russia can't repeat the exercise a year later, two years later, five years later,"

Blinken said.

"And that means building up Ukraine's longer-term deterrent and defense capacity. So, all of those things are being worked at the same time. We're running and chewing gum at the same time."

Finance ministers from the G7 on Thursday called for more financial support for Ukraine and vowed to maintain tough sanctions on Russia. Speaking ahead of a meeting of the Group of 20 nations in India, Treasury Secretary **Janet Yellen** took the lead in urging the International Monetary Fund to pull together a loan program for Ukraine, adding that Washington was preparing an additional \$10 billion in economic assistance (

[Reuters](#)

).

"Our economic assistance is making Ukraine's resistance possible by supporting the home front," she said. "As President Biden has said, we will stand with Ukraine in its fight — for as long as it takes."

[The New York Times](#) : Yellen confronts Russian officials at G20 meeting.



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When the Biden administration announced response plans for the refugee crisis in Ukraine, it stressed the temporary nature of a new program. But a year after Russia's invasion, hopes of any near-term return to Ukraine for the 100,000 who have arrived so far appear dashed after a long year. As [The Hill's Rebecca Beitsch reports](#), Ukraine's refugee population in the U.S. was granted temporary status and just two years to remain in this country.

*"This is a situation with all the hallmarks of a protracted conflict, one that makes returning safely all but impossible," said **Krish O'Mara Vignarajah**, president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. "I think there needs to be reconsideration of the timeframes that we're talking about."*

Meanwhile, the U.S. has issued several stern warnings to China amid growing concerns that Beijing may provide lethal aid to Russia, but has so far not made clear what those "consequences" would be. [The Hill's Brad Dress reports](#) that according to experts and analysts, any U.S. action would likely take the shape of sanctions. On Wednesday, the Pentagon said there would be consequences for sending weapons or munitions to Russia, echoing similar warnings from Blinken and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations **Linda Thomas-Greenfield**.

. Last weekend, Blinken first raised the alarm when he said China has already provided nonlethal aid to Russia and was considering sending lethal aid. Blinken said he warned his Chinese counterpart against supplying Moscow with arms.

On Thursday, the United Nations General Assembly approved a resolution calling for Russia to withdraw from Ukraine ([The Hill](#)). Voting in favor: 141 countries. China, South Africa and India abstained, among 32 nations in total.

[CNN](#) : China calls for Russia-Ukraine ceasefire as claims to its neutrality are questioned.

China's position paper on the Russia-Ukraine war, released on Friday, is [HERE](#) .