



Voices

The war in Ukraine

Queensland History Week
22 - 26 May 2023

The Queensland History
Teachers' Association
presents



Queensland History Week

22 – 26 MAY 2023

QHTA

Above:

Image: 1990 Human Chain
<https://euromaidanpress.com/2020/01/22/how-ukrainians-created-human-chain-in-late-ussr-to-mark-anniversary-of-ukraines-unification-archival-photographs/>

Right:

Image: Map <https://geology.com/world/ukraine-satellite-image.shtml>

Reference list:

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Russia-Ukraine-war/634203>
<https://www.dfat.gov.au/crisis-hub/invasion-ukraine-russia>
<https://www.president.gov.ua/en/president/biografiya>
<https://news.ufl.edu/2023/02/russia-ukraine-global-supply-chain/#:~:text=This%20supply%20shortage%20has%20resulted,rose%20by%2095%2D97%25.>
<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/12/1080205477/history-ukraine-russia>
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/11/was-it-inevitable-a-short-history-of-russias-war-on-ukraine>



Voices - The war in Ukraine

The land that is now Ukraine was part of the Russian Empire and in 1922 it became part of the Soviet Union. Under Stalin in the 1930s several million Ukrainians died of starvation when the Soviets took over their farms.

By the late 1980s anti-communist protests developed in many of the Soviet bloc countries. In January 1990 more than 400,000 people joined hands stretching from Lviv to Kyiv (the capital of Ukraine) signalling their desire for independence. Many held the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag that had been banned under Soviet rule.

The Ukrainian parliament declared independence on August 24, 1991. In December of that year Ukrainians voted to make their independence official.

Ukraine is an important country. It is the second largest country in Europe after Russia. It is a major producer of coal, steel and grain. It has a highly educated population and is strategically located on the Black Sea, bordering many European nations.

For the first 20 years of Ukrainian independence Russia kept a close eye on Ukraine. Ukraine's large Russian speaking population made Russia feel confident that the nation would remain within its sphere of influence. Some Russians, including Vladimir Putin (Russia's president), believe that Ukraine should still be part of Russia. In 2014 Putin sent troops to a part of Ukraine called Crimea and they took control of the region.

In late 2021 Putin began massing troops along the border of Ukraine and on February 24, 2022 they invaded and launched a series of attacks.

Ukrainian troops and people have fought back with the support of Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky. Prior to moving into politics Zelensky was an actor, writer, producer and comedian. Many thousands of people have fled to Poland and other countries as refugees to escape the fighting.

Many countries including Australia, the USA and UK have tried to convince Putin to stop the war. They have sent weapons and military assistance to help, and have imposed economic sanctions (economic punishments that make it hard for Russia to sell their products and access money) on Russia.

The war in Ukraine has had a huge impact on the global economy. Russia produces 25% of the world's nitrogen fertiliser and wheat from Russia and Ukraine accounts for 28% of global wheat exports. Much of the gas used in Europe comes from Russia, which is now limiting its supply. Key metals that are required to produce batteries in cars and devices are also commonly sourced from Russia. Shortages have disrupted the production and cost of these goods and a decrease in exports from both nations has led to higher prices. This has led to a rise in inflation which in turn has led to a rise in interest rates.

Thinking Activity

Know, New and a Question

1. What is something you already knew before you read this article?
2. What is something new that you did not know before?
3. What is a question that you now have about this conflict?

Extra for experts

Watch the clip on Ukraine Refugees from BTN. <https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/ukraine-refugees/13779908>

What else could we do in Australia to support the people of Ukraine?

Watch the clip on Ukraine - One year on from BTN. <https://www.abc.net.au/btn/newsbreak/btn-newsbreak-20230224/102021442>

What different perspective exist on the war? - Russian/ Ukrainian/ Refugees/ International