

Brady Boyd

Mr. Rutherford

Oxford Scholars Fall 2022

14 November 22

The Effects of the Russian-Ukrainian War on the Ukrainian Refugees, the Countries that Help
Them, and the Economies Around the World

The war between Russia and Ukraine is a topic that has been widely discussed among many of the world's leaders, as well as the people in their countries. It is often debated what countries such as the United States should do, and whether or not Russia would follow through on the threat of nuclear war, but an aspect of this war that is often left out of the discussion is the refugees and people of Ukraine that feel the effects of the war every day. According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, as of September 30, 2022, there was a total of 7,563,433 Ukrainian refugees, fleeing to other countries, and nearly all of them are women and children. This is because men between the ages of 18 and 60 are not allowed to leave the country. They are required to serve in the military (Yayboke). This large exodus of people from Ukraine begs the questions: Where are they going, which countries are and are not accepting refugees, what are the effects on Ukraine and the countries taking in large amounts of refugees, and how has the global economy been affected?

According to Statista, the Ukrainian refugees have gone to 44 different countries, immediately after leaving Ukraine. The top 5 make up just over 6 million of the refugees. The top five countries, in order of receiving the most to least refugees consists of Russia, Poland, Germany, Czechia, and Italy, with Russia receiving just under 3 million and Italy receiving about 175 thousand. The remaining 39 countries received anywhere between 130 and 151,000 refugees

(Published). As far as general location goes, the majority of refugees have either gone into Russia or surrounding countries, which are part of the EU, and have open borders with each other, allowing the refugees to travel anywhere within. While Ukraine is at war with Russia, millions of refugees have still gone there, and it's because they feel they have nowhere else to go, as many of them have family in Russia or think it is their best chance to be able to start their new lives.

America has been a small contributor in making room for Ukrainian refugees, when comparing the size and wealth of the country to one such as Poland, which has taken in over a million refugees. President Biden stated at the beginning of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, that the U.S. would provide a temporary safe-haven for 100,000 refugees, and has provided for just over that number. This is not to say that the U.S. has not assisted Ukraine in their war effort, but I believe that they should be doing everything they can to help, without triggering Russia to start nuclear war. In my opinion, the countries that have the means to do so need to find a way to stand up to Russia and show Putin that he cannot continue to bully smaller countries. If this happens, he will continue to push the boundaries as far as he can, without any repercussions. The amount of destruction and unnecessary lives lost or negatively impacted has created unwanted situations for millions of people.

The economies of Russia's trade partners and Ukraine have also been greatly suffering because of the conflict. "Russia's invasion has wrecked Ukraine's economy, which is projected to shrink by as much as 35 percent this year, according to World Bank estimates" (Amy). The millions of people that have left the country as refugees have created several holes in the Ukrainian economy in areas such as agriculture, revenue from the ports of Ukraine, and a severe uptick in defense spending, creating more debt for the country (expected \$38 billion deficit this

year). The damages within Ukraine are also increasing every day, with an estimated repair cost of \$349 billion as of October 5th (Amy).

Ukraine is certainly not the only country affected by the war; countries that have their energy needs reliant on trade with Russia, such as Germany have been struggling to find ways to meet their needs. A prime example of this is Zinkpower in Germany, which requires energy from natural gas, which they get from Russia. In order to keep 2.5 million dollars worth of zinc in a molten state, which is what “steel parts are dipped [in] before they end up in car suspensions, buildings, solar panels and wind turbines” (Wiseman). Zinkpower is now struggling to get enough energy, and the cost has dramatically increased. Products that Russia and Ukraine are no longer producing are also hurting several countries’ economies through causing severe inflation, as seen in Uganda. For example, they are selling gas for an average of \$6.90 a gallon, and the people living there constantly expect everyday items to increase by about 30% on a week to week basis (Wiseman). These are just two small examples of the drastic effects that the war between Russia and Ukraine is having on the world.

America has felt the effects of the conflict as well. Despite being well insulated from outside events, the U.S. economy was affected in its energy needs. The already rising gas prices continued to increase sharply, as the price of oil increased, due to the sanctions placed on Russia, who contributes about 10% of the world’s oil (Cassidy). Inflation is another factor that has hurt the U.S. economy. Prior to the war starting, there was already a 7.9% increase in inflation, and the war between Ukraine and Russia only added to the issue because the sanctions placed on Russia made it more difficult for the U.S. to get goods such as petroleum, fertilizers, and various types of metals. The U.S. has also been slightly affected by the lack of trade with Ukraine, which can be attributed to the amount of refugees leaving the country, and amount of destruction that is

taking place in it. Products such as base metals, agricultural products, and machinery and mechanical appliances were among Ukraine's top imports to the U.S. in 2019 (U.S.)

The war between Russia and Ukraine has caused so much loss and destruction for both Ukraine and Russia, and the countries' whose economies have been affected. It is an unnecessary conflict that needs to be resolved as quickly as possible for everything to begin a return to normalcy. The millions of refugees are among the greatest affected, and once the war is over, they would finally have the ability to return to their home country. I believe that the best way to end the war is for the nations that oppose it to present a united front against Russia, or find a way to get Russia to keep its dignity, while pulling out of Ukraine.

Amy Mackinnon, Robbie Gramer. "The Battle to Save Ukraine's Economy from the War."

Foreign Policy, Foreign Policy, 5 Oct. 2022,

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/10/05/russia-ukraine-war-reconstruction-european-bank-dile-renaud-basso/#:~:text=Russia's%20invasion%20has%20wrecked%20Ukraine's,and%20driven%20up%20defense%20spending>.

Cassidy, John. "How Big a Threat to the U.S. Economy Is the War in Ukraine?" *The New Yorker*, 14 Mar. 2022,

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/how-big-a-threat-to-the-us-economy-is-the-war-in-ukraine>.

Karasapan, Omer. "Ukrainian Refugees: Challenges in a Welcoming Europe." *Brookings*,

Brookings, 14 Oct. 2022,

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2022/10/14/ukrainian-refugees-challenges-in-a-welcoming-europe/#:~:text=listed%207.6%20million%20Ukrainian%20refugees,evidence%20of%20executions%20and%20torture>.

Published by Statista Research Department. "Ukrainian Refugees by Country 2022." *Statista*, 10 Nov. 2022, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1312584/ukrainian-refugees-by-country/>.

U.S. Trade With Ukraine, Office of Technology Evaluation, 2019,

<https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/country-papers/2618-2019-statistical-analysis-of-u-s-trade-with-ukraine/file>.

Wiseman, Paul. "Russia's War at 6 Months: A Global Economy in Growing Danger." *AP NEWS*, Associated Press, 21 Aug. 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-inflation-covid-health-2f23aa3df0f2f6916ad458785dd52c59>.

Yayboke, Erol. "Update on Forced Displacement around Ukraine." *Update on Forced Displacement around Ukraine | Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 4 Nov. 2022, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/update-forced-displacement-around-ukraine>.