

The Ukrainian crisis: Military threats and diplomacy

Russia continues to strengthen its military presence around the Ukrainian border, despite intensive diplomatic activity to ward off a feared armed conflict between the countries. Russia has amassed more than 100 000 troops, as well as ships, aircraft, rocket launchers and other heavy weaponry near Ukraine, prompting some politicians and analysts to say that war may be imminent. Others believe Russian President Vladimir Putin is still playing a diplomatic game, aimed, among other goals, at bringing Ukraine into Russia's sphere of influence. The United States, the European Union and other countries have threatened severe sanctions against Russia should it start new hostilities, following its annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the destabilisation of some eastern Ukrainian provinces.

This note gathers links to recent publications and commentaries from many international think tanks on the crisis and its implications for neighbouring countries, the European Union and global geopolitics. More reports on the issue can be found in a [previous item](#) from the 'What think tanks are thinking' series.

[The crisis of European security: What Europeans think about the war in Ukraine](#)
European Council on Foreign Relations, February 2022

[Friendly arguments: Biden's and Zelensky's disagreement on the threat from Russia](#)
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[How the Russia-Ukraine crisis could change Sweden's security policy](#)
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[Putin knows exactly what he wants in eastern Europe, unlike the West](#)
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[Russia's choices and the prospect of war in Ukraine](#)
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[Russia's 'military-technical solution' for Ukraine](#)
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[Belarus seeks to amend its constitution to host Russian nuclear weapons](#)
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[Russia's assault on Ukraine and the international order: Assessing and bolstering the Western response](#)

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[How the demise of an arms control treaty foreshadowed Russia's aggression against Ukraine](#)

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[For Biden, wreaking havoc on Russia's economy is the least bad option](#)

Atlantic Council, February 2022

[Russia crisis military assessment: What would a ground offensive against Ukraine look like?](#)

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[With Putin poised to invade, Zelensky must prioritize Ukrainian unity](#)

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[Is Putin winning, or is he trying not to lose?](#)

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[What Ukraine reveals about NATO and the EU](#)

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[Rewinding the clock? US-Russia relations in the Biden era](#)

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[Die Ukraine unter Präsident Selenskyj: Entwicklung hin zum 'populistischen Autoritarismus'?](#)

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[The Ukraine crisis: There is still room for diplomacy](#)

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