

Quo Vadis Europa? The EU at a turning point

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Q

Sections

The Washington Post

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Retropolis

Putin's attack on Ukraine echoes Hitler's takeover of Czechoslovakia

The Nazi leader used similar tactics to dismember and devour Czechoslovakia before World War II

Listen to article

5 min

By Michael E. Ruane

February 24, 2022 at 1:15 p.m. EST

German Chancellor Adolf Hitler and his army parade in Prague on March 15, 1939, the day of the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Wehrmacht. (AFP/AFP/Getty Images)

Putin's War Is Europe's 9/11

The continent has finally woken up to the necessity of hard power.

By Caroline de Gruyter, a columnist at *Foreign Policy* and a Europe correspondent for the Dutch newspaper *NRC Handelsblad*.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen speaks during a press statement on Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Brussels on February 24, 2022, ahead of a EU special summit called today to "discuss the crisis and further restrictive measures" that "will impose massive and severe consequences on Russia for its actions". KENZO TRIBOUILLARD / POOL / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

FEBRUARY 28, 2022, 3 53 PM

Starting with a hybrid and asymmetric conflict ...



Goal: destabilization (EU/Germany)

Strategy: *divide et impera*

Means:

- influencing public opinion via *fake news*
- hunting political opponents
- financing political parties and referendum campaigns
- cyber attacks
- fossil raw materials
- migrants
- ...



De Standaard

vrijdag
25 februari 2022
Vlaams-Brabant
www.standaard.be

Oorlog in Europa



- Russische troepen rukken razendsnel op
 - Oekraïense president Zelenski 'vreest voor zijn leven'
 - Interview: 'Geen enkele sanctie zal Poetin van gedacht doen veranderen'
 - Opinie: 'Een nieuwe Hitler is opgestaan'
- 2-19, 33-36 opinie

Helena (53) raakte gewond toen Russische bommen een appartementsgebouw troffen in de Oekraïense stad Chuhiv, nabij Kharkiv. © Justin Van/Sipa USA

Jaargang 99, no. 87 | RK 5.100 | De Standaard, Karmelieten 47, 1000 Brussel | Mediafax: 02 517 22 11 | klantendienst: 02 790 23 10 | e-bet: standaard.be/klantendienst

DE TIJD

25
vrijdag 25 februari 2022
www.tijd.be

Oorlog in Europa

Poetin kiest voor
frontale oorlog
'Regimewissel
in Oekraïne
is eerste
doelstelling'

Zware sancties
voor Russen
Oligarchen,
banken en
bedrijven
afgesneden

Beurzen duwen
verkoopknop in
Prijzen van
gas en olie
schieten
omhoog P2-10



EUROPEAN NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR | English & Irish jaargang | 10-120 | BEL €3,20 LUK €3,70 NL €4,20

KU LEUVEN


What has been decided?

- 4 packages of 'restrictive measure'/sanctions
 - humanitarian aid for refugees
 - macro-financial assistance (€300 million out 1.2 billion)
 - 'European Peace Facility' (€500 million + ?)
 - measures against desinformation
 - suspension of cooperation
 - ...
- + Member States + US/UK/Switzerland etc.


How explain this European acceleration?

- after indifference, shame and embarrassment (indirect, military) support (compensation) at the request of Ukraine
- VDL = former German defense minister + “geopolitical Commission”
> *rise to the moment*
- broad support (bottom-up)
- wave of solidarity: from East to West
- support Northern (Sweden/Finland) and Central and Eastern Europe (Poland/Baltic States)
- ‘*Zeitenwende*’ Germany

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2022/kw08-sondersitzung-882198

 Deutscher Bundestag

Abgeordnete | Parlament | Ausschüsse | Internationales | **Dokumente**



© Foto: DBT/Xander Heint/photothek der Bundestag

Der Deutsche Bundestag hat aus Anlass des von Russland völkerrechtswidrig begonnenen Krieges gegen die Ukraine am **Sonntag, 27. Februar 2022**, in einer **Sondersitzung** erklärt, dass die „Bundesrepublik Deutschland fest und unverbrüchlich an der Seite unserer ukrainischen Freundinnen und Freunde“ steht. Im Anschluss einer Aussprache an die Regierungserklärung von **Bundeskanzler Olaf Scholz (SPD)** zur aktuellen Lage stimmten die Abgeordneten über eine Reihe von Vorlagen ab, in denen die Fraktionen unter anderem den russischen Überfall auf die Ukraine verurteilten. Beschlossen wurde ein gemeinsamer Entschließungsantrag der Koalitionsfraktionen von SPD, Grünen und FDP und der größten Oppositionsfraktion von CDU/CSU ([□ 20/846](#)), die Fraktionen Die Linke und AfD votierten dagegen, es gab zwei Enthaltungen. Keine Mehrheiten fanden hingegen die Entschließungsanträge von AfD ([□ 20/843](#), [□ 20/844](#)) und Die Linke ([□ 20/845](#)).

Turning point > impact on EU policy areas

- security/defense
- foreign affairs (China)
- energy/climate change
- migration
- enlargement (Moldova/Georgia)
- budget and macro-economic policy
- monetary (ECB)
- cybersecurity (JHA)
- agriculture
- ...

my.europe EUROPE DECODED

Ukraine is pushing for EU membership. But what are the real chances?

 COMMENTS

By **Jorge Liboreiro** & **Aida Sanchez Alonso** • Updated: 02/03/2022



President Zelenskyy wants the EU to grant Ukraine candidate status through a fast-tracked procedure. - Copyright Twitter account of Denys Shmyhal / AFP

Versailles Summit > European Council (24-25 March)



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Statement of the Heads of State or Government, meeting in Versailles, on the Russian Military Aggression against Ukraine

Published on 11 March 2022

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Informal Meeting of Heads of State and Government

© F.Balsamo/Dicom

'Strategic Autonomy' = EU's Geopolitical Agenda

Window of opportunity = April 2022 – April 2024

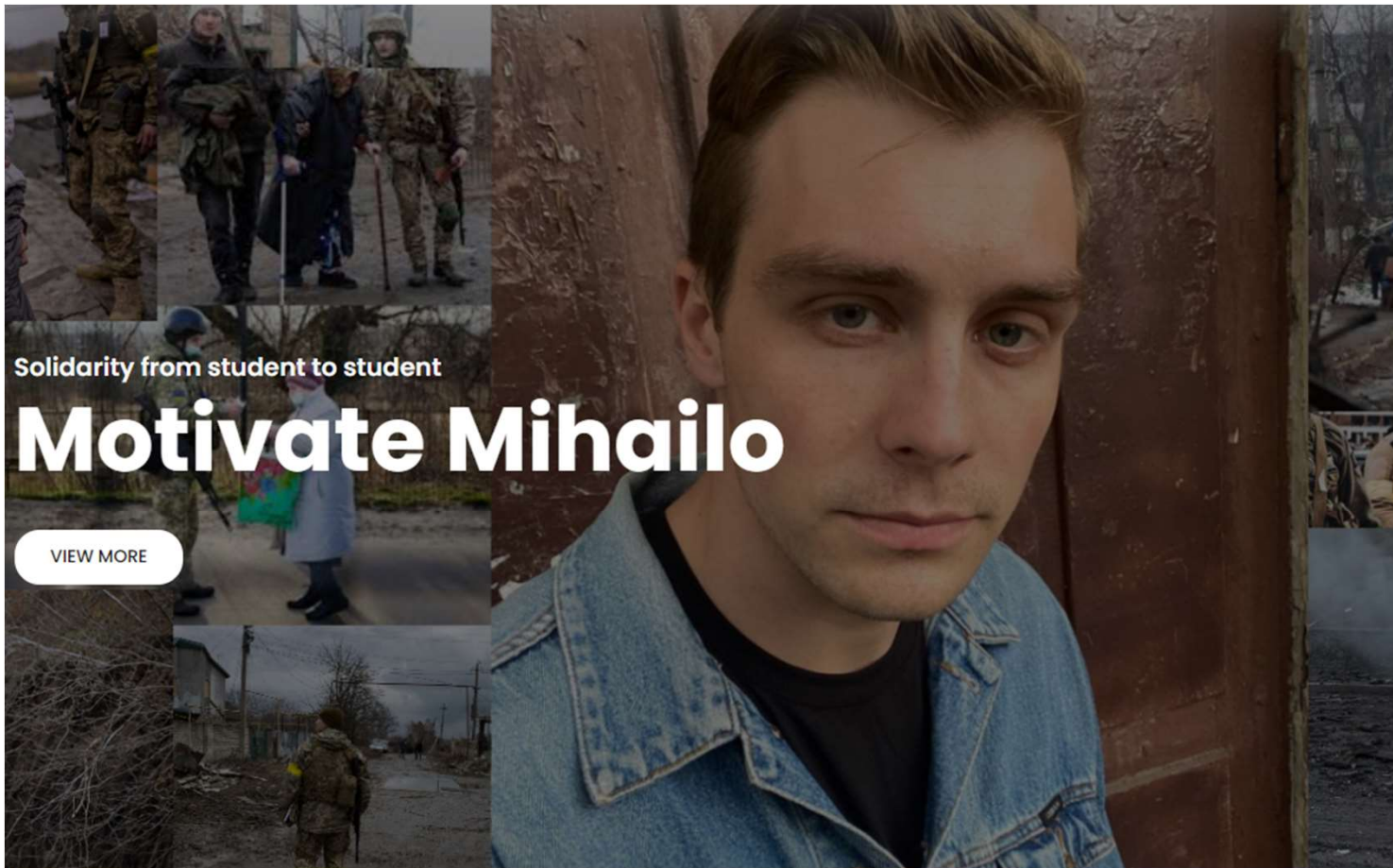


Why European integration?

- protection against vulnerability smaller MS:
 - Ireland
 - Flanders/Belgium
 - Baltic states
 - ...
- protection against vulnerability continent



www.student4student.be

The image is a promotional banner for a fundraising campaign. It features a collage of three photographs on the left side, depicting soldiers in a conflict zone. The central part of the banner is a large, close-up portrait of a young man with light brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a denim jacket over a black t-shirt. The text 'Solidarity from student to student' is written in white above the main title 'Motivate Mihailo', which is in a large, bold, white font. Below the title is a white button with the text 'VIEW MORE'.

Solidarity from student to student

Motivate Mihailo

VIEW MORE

Help Mihailo, every donation – no matter how small – is welcome.

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