

MAR 13, 2022

Global Politics

This is The Weekly Letter for March 13, 2022. [About this newsletter](#)

News

Ukraine: U.S. and European leaders [do not predict a quick resolution](#) to the war in Ukraine. (Washington Post, 3/10)

· The impact of war in Ukraine on [food insecurity](#). (Washington Post, 3/11)

France: [12 candidates](#) have qualified for the first round of the French presidential election on April 10. The candidates are listed here in order of their polling percentages, according to Politico.eu's [Poll of Polls](#) as of March 11. I have also provided my characterization of their political stances.

Emmanuel Macron [incumbent] (center), Marine Le Pen (far-right), Eric Zemmour (far-right), Valérie Pécresse (conservative), Jean-Luc Mélenchon (far-left), Yannick Jadot (green), Fabien Roussel (far-left), Anne Hidalgo (center-left), Jean Lassalle (center), Nicolas Dupont-Aignan (far-right), Philippe Poutou (far-left), Nathalie Arthaud (far-left)

With the left and far-right divided and Emmanuel Macron's poll numbers rising since the invasion of Ukraine, the incumbent President is in a strong position to win a second term.

South Korea: Yoon Suk-yeol, a conservative, has [won the presidential election](#). (The Guardian, 3/9)

Spending bill: Congress passed a \$1.5 trillion [spending bill](#) on Thursday. (NY Times, 3/10)

Opinion

Masha Gessen: 'Z' has "become the [symbol of the new Russian totalitarianism](#)." (New Yorker, 3/7)

Ed Yong: There have been nearly one million recorded COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. Why are we [accepting so much loss of life?](#) (The Atlantic, 3/8)

Your View

On abortion

The debate over abortion has long been characterized by complete moral clarity on both sides. Many freedom-of-choice advocates would agree with [the opinion recently published in this newsletter](#). "To me it's quite simple; if you don't believe in abortion, don't have one." On the other side, many anti-abortion advocates equate abortion with murder, thus justifying its prohibition.

Extremists on both sides ignore inconvenient facts. A fetus is neither an inert piece of meat, nor is it the same thing as a human being. A fetus is not a person, but it represents a potential person. This is why a miscarriage is often understood as an occasion for grief.

When we bring a child into the world, we should do so with the intention of providing at least minimal physical and emotional care, to allow the child a reasonable chance to flourish. Sometimes a woman can foresee that continuing her pregnancy is likely to result in the creation of a person who will have a life of pain and misery. In such case, it is better that she abort her pregnancy, to minimize the suffering added to this world. Yes, a deliberate abortion is an occasion for grief, just as is a spontaneous abortion, and for the same reason: a potential human life has been terminated. But a deliberate abortion is much less a tragedy than bringing an innocent child into a life of suffering.

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Jamie Larson

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