

MAY 1, 2022

State of the War in Ukraine

Happy May Day! This is The Weekly Letter for May 1, 2022. [About this newsletter](#)

News

International

Much recent fighting in Ukraine has taken place in the east of the country. However, Russian missile attacks also [hit Kyiv](#) on April 28, the day that UN Secretary-General António Guterres visited the city.

- Conditions at the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol are [dire](#). Ukrainian soldiers and "up to 1,000" civilians are living beneath the steel plant, which is "the only part of Mariupol not occupied by Russian forces...." (AP, 4/30)
- An Al Jazeera [program](#) documents life in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, since the war began.
- *The Washington Post* [reports](#) that there is significant concern about the war among some Russian elites.

Also: On April 24, Emmanuel Macron [won](#) a second term as President of France, defeating far-right rival Marine Le Pen.

Environment

The New York Times [reports](#) that several hundred people rallied in front of the White House on April 23 to demand action on climate change. The rally took place at an important political moment: "if Democrats, who hold a razor-thin majority in Congress, do not enact major climate legislation within the next few months, many analysts say that window to meet that goal will slam shut." One demonstrator, Willett Simpkins, told the *Times* that he would not vote in the 2024 election if President Biden did not get strong climate laws passed. (NY Times, 4/23)

A much grimmer act to decry climate change occurred on Earth Day, April 22. Also [according to the Times](#), a man named Wynn Bruce set himself on fire outside the Supreme Court. He died the following day. The Supreme Court "heard arguments in late February on an important environmental case that could restrict or even eliminate the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to control pollution. The court's conservative majority had voiced skepticism of the agency's authority to regulate carbon emissions, suggesting that a decision by the justices could deal a sharp blow to the Biden administration's efforts to address climate change." (NY Times, 4/24)

U.S.

Elon Musk is set to soon own Twitter. *Wired* [notes](#) that Twitter employees and moderation advisers at the company worry that Musk's stated commitment to free speech on the platform will empower trolls and create a more hateful environment. "Research indicates that online abuse already falls disproportionately on marginalized groups, suggesting that any increase in toxicity on Twitter likely would too." (Wired, 4/28)

Opinion

Nataliya Gumenyuk: The [choices](#) faced by leaders and citizens in the Donbas region. (The Atlantic, 4/24)

Molly Jong-Fast: Democrats should embrace [personal narrative storytelling](#). (The Atlantic, 4/26)

Philippa Nuttall: Jonathan Franzen says climate doomsday is inevitable. [He's wrong](#). (New Statesman, 4/28)

Podcast: Jane McAlevey and Liz Shuler debate [strategy for labor unions](#) in an episode of *The Argument* (hosted by Jane Coaston). (NY Times, 4/20)

Longform

David Brooks argues that conservatism is correct—but today's conservatives have [broken with the tradition](#). (The Atlantic, 12/8/2021)

Have some thoughts about a current event? Want to reply to an opinion article featured in the newsletter? To create a conversation about the news, all are encouraged to share their views. Send your letter along with your name and where you're writing from to theweeklyletternewsletter@gmail.com or reply to this email. Please be aware that the newsletter is published on the website theweeklyletter.ghost.io and sent by email to subscribers. Letters that are hateful or contain misinformation will not be published.



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