

JUL 10, 2022

Updates on Ukraine War, Global Impact

This is The Weekly Letter for July 10, 2022. [About this newsletter](#)

First, a little housekeeping: The Weekly Letter is taking a week off, so the next issue will be out on July 24.

Big Story

More than four months since Russia invaded the country, the war in Ukraine rages on without a resolution in sight. These are a few stories from the past week on the war and its ripple effects.

Donetsk Province: Russian rocket attacks and airstrikes have hit towns and villages in Donetsk Province, causing civilian deaths. However, the Institute for the Study of War says that these attacks are likely only the leadup to a full onslaught on the province. (NY Times)

Putin's speech: In a speech to Russian parliamentary leaders on Thursday, President Vladimir Putin struck a hawkish tone but did not close the door to peace talks. (Al Jazeera)

The war's impact on poverty: "Soaring inflation rates have seen an increase in the number of poor people in developing countries by 71 million in the three months since March 2022, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) alerts in a [report released today](#) [July 7]." (UN Development Programme)

Brittney Griner case: On Thursday, American WNBA star Brittney Griner pled guilty to drug charges in a Russian court. She has been detained in Russia since February 17. "American officials say [Griner] is essentially a hostage taken by President Vladimir V. Putin in the run-up to the war in Ukraine." (NY Times)

Opinion

Rebecca Solnit: "Women in many US states have lost their access to abortion, but not their [belief in their right to it](#)." (The Guardian, 7/3)

Leana S. Wen: What a [national public health system](#) would do. (Washington Post, 7/5)

Sarah Milov: The tobacco industry claims that smoking is a choice. If the FDA's proposal to lower nicotine content in cigarettes is adopted, that claim will be [put to the test](#). (NY Times, 7/6)

Longform

Ed Yong explores the ways animals [perceive the world](#) and the effect of light and noise pollution on their senses.

"Every animal is enclosed within its own sensory bubble, perceiving but a tiny sliver of an immense world. There is a wonderful word for this sensory bubble —*Umwelt*.... By barraging different animals with stimuli of our own making, we have forced them to live in our Umwelt. We have distracted them from what they actually need to sense, drowned out the cues they depend upon, and lured them into sensory traps. All of this is capable of doing catastrophic damage."

However, Yong writes, "We can still save the quiet and preserve the dark." (The Atlantic, 6/13)

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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