



Citizens flee capital

Image source: Anadolu Agency via Getty Images



In this week's issue...

The Russia-Ukraine War: 7 Days In
NEWS PAGE 2

Marking its 10th Anniversary: Carrefour March Campaign Promises Wonderful Surprises
NEWS PAGE 3

'Historic Day for Georgia' – PM Signs Application for EU Membership
NEWS PAGE 3

The Real and Present War
POLITICS PAGE 5

The 100 Women Entrepreneurs' Bazaar - USAID Empowering Women to Build Georgia's Economy
BUSINESS PAGE 8

EFES, the Beer with the Protective Foil, Available Now in Georgia
SOCIETY PAGE 10

On the Works of Marjory Wardrop. Part IV
CULTURE PAGE 11

FOCUS ON THE WAR

Russia continues to attack Ukraine despite Western sanctions
PAGE 8

Prof. Sergey Radchenko on the War, the Repercussions, and What Lies ahead for Russia and Georgia

INTERVIEW BY VAZHA TAVBERIDZE

If you look at the people who are representing Russia, they are clowns and nationalists. These are not serious negotiators, - Professor Sergey Radchenko told Radio Free Europe's Georgian service, as Ukrainian and Russian delegations sat down for the first round of talks. Radchenko, a cold war scholar, teaches at the John Hopkins University and is, as he himself put it, "vehemently opposed" to the war Putin has waged on Ukraine.

"I'm not entirely Russian. I'm like many Russians - I have extensive family links to Ukraine. It came as a huge shock. It feels like almost a part of you died when this happened. So it has been a very dramatic few days for me personally," Radchenko says. "Obviously, it's a tragic situation. It's a situation that I think very few people predicted among the policy community in Moscow. Everybody thought it would be utterly irrational for Russia to invade Ukraine, because of the high risks of economic sanctions, being cut off from the West, etc. So for all those reasons, people just could not believe until the last moment that this would happen. And that includes



Image by: Justin Tallis/AFP via Getty Images

many of the liberal intelligentsia in Moscow. "But in the end, I think most people, even most reasonable people, believed that something would be arranged and this would be averted at the last moment, because it was just too hard, psychologically, emotionally to believe it could happen."

YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE IS COLD WAR - HAVE WE GONE BACK TO IT?

I think it is a reasonable position to take when we discuss the Cold War. The major difference is that today we have a much closer interlinkage between the Russian and Western economies.

Continued from page 5

GALT & TAGGART							
Prepared for Georgia Today Business by							
As of 28 Feb 2022							
Markets			Markets				
	Price	w/w	m/m		Price	w/w	m/m
BONDS				STOCKS			
GRAIL 07/28	92.54 (YTM 5.41%)	-4.4%	-6.2%	Bank of Georgia (BGEO LN)	GBP 13.18	-6.8%	-9.6%
GEORG 07/23	105.37 (YTM 2.09%)	+0.9%	+0.6%	Georgia Capital (CGEO LN)	GBP 5.61	-11.7%	-14.2%
GEOPAP 03/24	97.60 (YTM 7.43%)	-3.4%	-3.4%	TBC Bank Group (TBCG LN)	GBP 12.02	-13.0%	-14.8%
SILNET 01/27	101.20 (YTM 8.07%)	-0.6%	+0.0%				
TBC 06/24	104.38 (YTM 3.74%)	+0.2%	-0.4%	CURRENCIES			
GGU 07/25	105.72 (YTM 5.87%)	-0.1%	+0.1%	GEL / USD	3.2000	+7.0%	+5.1%
				GEL / EUR	3.5900	+6.2%	+5.7%
				GEL / GBP	4.2930	+5.6%	+5.2%
				GEL / CHF	3.4935	+7.0%	+6.8%
				GEL / RUB	0.0305	-18.4%	-21.8%
				GEL / TRY	0.2305	+5.5%	+2.7%
				GEL / AZN	1.8872	+7.2%	+5.2%
				GEL / AMD	0.0066	+5.6%	+4.3%
COMMODITIES				GEL / UAH	0.1058	+1.4%	-0.3%
Crude Oil, Brent (US\$/bbl)	100.99	+5.0%	+12.2%	EUR / USD	0.8914	+0.8%	-0.6%
Gold Spot (US\$/Oz)	1 908.99	+0.1%	+6.6%	GBP / USD	0.7454	+1.4%	-0.1%
				CHF / USD	0.9168	+0.1%	-1.5%
				RUB / USD	98.0625	+23.0%	+25.9%
				TRY / USD	13.8455	+1.1%	+2.2%
				AZN / USD	1.6957	-0.1%	-0.1%
				AMD / USD	486.7500	+1.5%	+0.8%
INDICES							
FTSE 100	7 458.25	-0.3%	-0.1%				
FTSE 250	21 081.05	-0.1%	-0.6%				
DAX	14 461.02	-1.8%	-5.6%				
DOW JONES	33 892.60	-0.5%	-2.4%				
NASDAQ	13 751.40	+1.5%	-0.1%				
MSCI EM EE	97.88	-34.4%	-41.6%				
MSCI EM	1 171.31	-3.9%	-1.7%				
SP 500	4 373.94	+0.6%	-1.3%				
MSCI FM	2 633.05	-2.4%	-0.1%				

The Russia-Ukraine War: 7 Days In



BY ANA DUMBADZE

Following a major Russian military build-up around Ukraine's borders and Russia's official recognition of the two self-proclaimed separatist states of Luhansk and Donetsk in the Donbas, on February 24, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Earlier, NATO repeatedly accused Russia of planning an invasion, also warning Ukrainian officials about the expected danger, which it denied. Russian president Vladimir Putin criticized the enlargement of NATO as a threat to his country and demanded Ukraine be barred from ever joining the military alliance. He also expressed irredentist views, questioning Ukraine's right to exist and claiming Ukraine was wrongfully created by Soviet Russia.

Reports spread in the Ukrainian media said Putin was planning to invade the capital city of Kyiv within three days, but he came across unprecedented resistance from the Ukrainian army and even the country's citizens. Seven days in and the world is impressed with the rare courage and unity of the Ukrainian people.

On February 24, Russian forces attacked from Belarus to the north, the occupied Crimea Peninsula to the south, and its own soil to the east, in the biggest Russian military deployment since World

War II.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky ordered a general mobilization and martial law in response.

Ukraine's resistance has been fierce, repelling Russian hits to the capital Kyiv and other major cities, but Russian air and artillery attacks on populated urban areas have intensified in recent days, with Russian state-run TV channels telling the Russian population that Ukraine is to blame for bombing its own.

Meanwhile, Zelensky, who has remained in Kyiv to rally his people against the invasion, officially signed Ukraine's request to join the EU on Monday.

Despite heroic resistance on the ground, and \$1.6bn in US and EU military aid, Ukraine's armed forces have been struggling in the fight against continuous attacks of the Russian army.

On February 25, the day after the invasion, Russian forces took control of Chernobyl, site of the 1986 nuclear disaster and a place that remains radioactive to this day - prompting significant concern from international nuclear watchdogs. Russian soldiers are holding the staff of the Ukrainian nuclear site hostage.

Dozens of people were killed in rocket strikes by Russian forces in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

The Russian army claimed it had taken control of the strategically important city of Kherson in southern Ukraine on Wednesday. A 64km convoy of hundreds

of Russian tanks and other vehicles is on the road to Kyiv, and Russian forces have encircled the eastern city of Kharkiv and the port city of Mariupol.

Several cities have come under intense shelling, with Wednesday one of the most destructive days of the fighting.

Kherson is the first major city to be taken by Russia after heavy fighting.

Kherson's Mayor, Igor Kolykhaev, said

Russian troops had forced their way into the city council building and imposed a curfew on residents.

"The capture of Kherson - located on the banks of the Dnieper River where it flows into the Black Sea - is significant because it could allow Russia to create a base for the military there as it seeks to push further inland.

"Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, came under a fierce aerial assault," its mayor told the BBC. "Shelling and cruise missile strikes were hitting residential areas and inflicting heavy civilian casualties."

In the southern port of Mariupol, hundreds are feared dead following hours of sustained shelling.

After more than 15 hours of continuous bombardment by Russian forces, the key Ukrainian port city of Mariupol is "near to a humanitarian catastrophe", the city's deputy mayor told the BBC.

"The Russian army is working through all their weapons here - artillery, multiple rocket launch systems, airplanes, tactical rockets. They are trying to destroy the city," Serhiy Orlov said.

Mr. Orlov said Russian forces were several kilometers from the city on all sides and had launched strikes on key infrastructure, cutting water and power supplies to parts of the city. One densely populated residential district on the city's left bank had been "nearly totally destroyed," he said.

"We cannot count the number of victims there, but we believe at least hundreds of people are dead. We cannot go in to retrieve the bodies. My father lives there, I cannot reach him, I don't know

if he is alive or dead."

However, Russian efforts to encircle the capital Kyiv have slowed, with one US official saying a huge Russian convoy to the north of the city barely moved all day on Wednesday.

Large explosions were heard in the capital overnight into Thursday, with footage showing a huge fireball lighting up the night sky.

Ukraine's army has resisted Russian forces so far in key parts of the country but the increased aerial bombardment of cities has raised fears Russia is shifting tactics.

"The Ukrainian army is very brave and they will continue to defend the city but the style of the Russian army is like pirates - they do not fight with their army, they just destroy entire districts," Mr Orlov said.


"We believe in our Ukrainian army, but we are in a terrible situation."

Meanwhile, many Ukrainian civilians have rushed to arm themselves and join in the defense of their cities, setting the stage for the intensifying violence to come.

In its latest intelligence report Thursday, the British Ministry of Defense said Russian gains in Kyiv have been slow due to a "staunch Ukrainian resistance, mechanical breakdown and congestion" and that Russia "has been forced to admit" soldiers killed since the invasion.

"The main body of the large Russian column advancing on Kyiv remains over 30km from the center of the city," the report said. "Despite heavy Russian shelling, the cities of Kharkiv, Chernihiv and Mariupol remain in Ukrainian hands."






The English - Speaking Union

ინგლისურ ენაზე მოლაპარაკეთა კავშირი

Creating global understanding through English

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
President: HRH The Princess Anne



BANK OF GEORGIA
Main Supporter

Invites 16-20 year old young speakers to take part in the

Public Speaking Competition

The theme of the competition is "We expect too much from our heroes". Speakers may interpret this theme in any way they see fit, but they should not use the theme as their title. Each speaker will be allocated 5 minutes.

The competition will be held in three rounds. The first round, March 21, at the English Language Centre "British Corner".

The date and theme of the second round will be announced later.

The competition is sponsored by the Bank of Georgia.

Due to the pandemic the final of the competition in London will be held online.

The deadline for registration is March 15.

Contact us:
"British Corner", Vake Park
(entrance from I. Abashidze St.).
Tel.: 032 226305, 591339993, E mail: marinaesu@yahoo.com; britishcornerbc@gmail.com
www.esugeorgia.com <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnIKLma7rBA>

A Round Up: International Reactions to the Ongoing War

BY KETEVAN SKHIRTLDZE

Volodymyr Zelensky addressed the Russian people the day before Russia invaded Ukraine last week, asking them to stop their leadership from sending troops across the border and into his country, in an emotional video appeal that underscored the close ties between the two nations.

Zelensky said Moscow had approved the movement of nearly 200,000 troops into Ukrainian territory, along with thousands of armored vehicles. He said an incursion risked becoming "the start of a big war on the European continent."

"You are being told this is a plan to free the people of Ukraine," Zelensky said. "But the Ukrainian people are free."

"The Ukraine on your news and Ukraine in real life are two completely different countries, and the main difference is that ours is real," Zelensky said. "You are told that we are Nazis. How could a people

that lost more than 8 million people in the fight against Nazism support Nazism?"

"How could I be a Nazi?" Zelensky, who is Jewish, asked, noting that his grandfather spent the entire war as a Soviet soldier but died in an independent Ukraine.

Zelensky said Russian citizens are being told that he is preparing an offensive to retake separatist territory in the Donbas region and "bomb it without question." But, he asked, who would he be attacking?

"Luhansk? The house where my best friend's mother lives? The place where my best friend's father is buried?" Zelensky said.

"This is our land. This is our history. What are you fighting for and with whom?" he asked. "Many of you have been to Ukraine. Many of you have relatives in Ukraine. Some have studied in Ukrainian universities. Some have made friends with Ukrainians. You know our character. You know our people. You know our principles."

Continued on page 4

Marking its 10th Anniversary: Carrefour March Campaign Promises Wonderful Surprises

Carrefour, owned and operated by Majid Al Futtaim in Georgia, continues to celebrate 10 years of serving Georgian communities. As part of the celebrations, Carrefour is extending its anniversary rewards by running yet another special campaign. The brand has already launched a number of campaigns to celebrate the anniversary, however, the largest hypermarkets and supermarkets chain is not going to stop here and plans to reward even more loyal customers and make them even happier.

The next campaign is 10 days long and it will run from March 1 to March 10. As March is the month dedicated to women, with important celebrations on March 3 (Mothers' Day) and March 8 (International Women's Day), Carrefour has put a special emphasis on making women happy.

As part of the campaign, customers

visiting any Carrefour branch during the mentioned period will have the opportunity to win vouchers of the special perfumery and cosmetics chain Voulez-vous. With these vouchers, one can buy perfume or another desired item for their loved one or themselves in the Voulez-vous shops.

In addition, Carrefour offers customers prizes from brands such as Phillips, Berlong, Franco, Eveline, L'Oreal, Henkel and many more.

To win vouchers and gifts, guests need to visit any Carrefour branch, enjoy shopping, use their Carrefour loyalty program "My Club" and, most importantly, check the receipt, because it can be a winner!

Come along to Carrefour, take advantage of the great offers and affordable prices, and win additional campaign prizes!

Throughout these 10 years of operation in the Georgian market, Carrefour has



been at the forefront of serving customers' best interests and providing them with unbeatable value. By always maintaining affordable and low prices, creating a maximally safe and comfortable environment for shopping, and by contributing to the employment of locals and the Georgian economy in general, the French brand has easily won the hearts of customers countrywide and gained a high reputation.

The brand has celebrated many milestones over the past 10-years, including the expansion of its cutting-edge in-store and innovative digital offerings; the establishment of international shopping experiences in Georgia; self-service cash desks for safe and flexible shopping during the pandemic; its own home delivery service; as well as the MyCLUB loyalty programme.

With 68 local stores now in operation

throughout the and up to 3,000 local employees, Carrefour continues to provide its customers with more access to fresh and healthy products at affordable prices.

The physical and digital expansion of the brand actively continues, and Carrefour is expected to prepare even more pleasant surprises for its loyal customers, justifying its main motto: Creating great moments for everyone, every day.

World Wildlife Day: Biodiversity Monitoring Helps Protect Endangered Species in Georgia



The East Caucasian Tur, Bezoar Goat, Chamois, Red Deer, Vultures, Black Stork, Pheasant, Caspian Snowcock, Brown Trout, Chestnut and 20 more animals and plants are under regular observation in Georgia's 12 largest protected areas. Biodiversity monitoring assesses the status of endangered and rare species, examines the current and potential threats, and helps ensure sustainable management of natural resources.

The monitoring draws on UNDP's \$1.8 million program, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented in partnership with Georgia's Agency of Protected Areas (APA) and the Caucasus Nature Fund.

It is aligned with a 10-year biodiversity monitoring plan, developed by Georgia's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture through its Agency of Protected Areas and the Biodiversity and Forestry Department.

In 2020-2021, UNDP-supported biodiversity monitoring provided vital data about the status of indicator species and ecosystems, including birds, fish and mammals, forests and pastures. Researchers and rangers also collected information about plant diseases that plague Georgia's forests.

The APA regularly receives monitoring reports that include short and long-term recommendations for the adaptive management of protected areas.

"Protecting and conserving Georgia's

rich biodiversity is one of the most important priorities of the Agency of Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture of Georgia. We introduced modern technologies and approaches to biodiversity monitoring to address existing challenges with sustainable solutions, make patrolling more effective and improve the management of protected areas," said APA Chairperson David Iosebashvili.

The modern approach to biodiversity monitoring equips researchers and rangers with tools and technology needed to collect real-time information, assess spatial and temporal trends of biological diversity, and evaluate the efficiency of management policies."

"Biodiversity monitoring helps assess climate change impacts and the environmental costs of economic activities, such as tourism and infrastructural projects. Based on its findings, we can ensure that economic gains do not lead to biodiversity loss," said UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia Nick Beresford.

The 10-year biodiversity monitoring is set to continue through 2030, covering Algeti National Park, Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, Javakheti National Park, Kazbegi National Park, Kintrishi Protected Areas, Lagodekhi Protected Areas, Machakela National Park, Mtirala National Park, Pshav-Khevsureti Protected Areas, Tusheti Protected Areas, Tusheti Protected Landscape and Vashlovani Protected Areas.



'Historic Day for Georgia' – PM Signs Application for EU Membership

Today is a historic day for Georgia – I am signing the application for EU membership on behalf of the country, – Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili said after signing the application for EU membership in the government administration.

He noted that applying for EU membership is another important stage on Georgia's European integration path.

"Applying for EU membership is another important step on Georgia's path to European integration – a stage that turns a new page in our history and continues the efforts of our ancestors, which was aimed at unification in a common European family. Georgia is a European state; Our country, throughout its long history, has always belonged to the area of Euro-

pean culture and civilization, and even today it makes its valuable contribution to its protection and development. "Europeaness" is nothing more than a set of values that make up Europe. The history of Georgia itself, which is the history of a struggle for freedom, is proof that these values are in the nature of the Georgian people and, therefore, are inseparable," Garibashvili said.

On Wednesday, GD Chairman Irakli Kobakhidze announced at a briefing that the government of Georgia was preparing an application for accelerated EU membership, which was to be officially presented to the EU structures the following day.

Related Story: Kobakhidze: Gov't Expediently Preparing Application for EU Candidate Status

A Round Up: International Reactions to the Ongoing War

Continued from page 2

"The people of Ukraine want peace," he said. "The government of Ukraine wants peace."

He then warned Russians that if their military invaded Ukraine, his nation would defend itself.

"We know for sure we do not need a war, not a cold one, not a hot one, not a hybrid one," he said. "But if these forces attack us, if you attempt to take away our country, our freedom, our lives, the lives of our children, we will defend ourselves. Not attack: defend. And in attacking, you are going to see our faces. Not our backs: our faces."

His message fell on deaf ears, and the following morning, Russian troops crossed into Ukrainian territory and the Ukrainians began fighting back.

HITTING BACK

Europe is at a "watershed moment," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told a press conference following a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in Brussels.

Stressing the unity between the EU and NATO, she said: "It is our shared duty to stand up to the gravest act of aggression on European soil in decades," and added: "What is at stake is not just Donbas, not just Ukraine, but the whole international order."

Outlining "massive and targeted sanctions" that will be brought in by the European Union, von der Leyen said: "This package will include financial sanctions that harshly limit Russia's access to the capital markets" and "cut off Russia's industry from the technologies desperately needed today to build a future."

She highlighted said financial sanc-

tions would "suppress Russia's economic growth, increase borrowing costs, raise inflation, intensify capital outflow and gradually erode its industrial basis."

The second main pillar of sanctions are set to limit Russia's access to crucial technology.

"Our measures will weaken Russia's technological position in key areas from which the elite makes most of their money - this ranges from high-tech components to cutting-edge software."

"This will seriously degrade the Russian economy in all areas in the future," the European Commission President added.

This week, Russian banks were cut off from SWIFT, the EU and the US locked the sky to Russian traffic, restrictions were imposed on the central bank, transactions were frozen, and media outlets spreading Russian propaganda were sanctioned. Apple, ExxonMobil, Ford, Boeing and Airbus joined a long list of companies shutting down or suspending their operations in Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine and the ensuing Western sanctions. The Ruble weakened again to trade at 112 to the US dollar.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov agreed Russia's economy is being hit hard by the international moves against Russian finances.

"Russia's economy is suffering serious blows. But there is a certain margin of security, there is potential, there are certain plans. Work is underway. [The economy] still stands," Peskov said this week.

SUPPORT FROM THE UK

Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the UK, has maintained a very strong position against Russia this week.

"Our mission is clear, diplomatically,

politically, economically, and eventually, militarily: this hideous and barbaric venture of Vladimir Putin must end in failure," Johnson said, noting that Ukraine is a country that for decades has enjoyed freedom and democracy and the right to choose its own destiny. "We, and the world, cannot allow that freedom just to be snuffed out. We cannot and will not just look away," noted Johnson.

THE WEAPONS SUPPLY

The EU earmarked €450 million (\$503 million) for lethal arms over the weekend, which include air-defense systems, anti-tank weapons, ammunition, and other military equipment for Ukraine's armed forces. A further €50 million will be spent on providing non-lethal supplies such as fuel, protective gear, helmets, and first-aid kits - DW reported.

"The US is also stepping up its shipments and providing an additional \$350 million in military assistance, including Javelin antitank missiles, Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, small arms and ammunition, bringing the total of US military aid to Ukraine to \$1 billion over the past year and to more than \$2.5 billion since 2014" - DW added.

CHINA KEEPING A DISTANCE

China has attempted to distance itself from Russia as the scale of the invasion becomes clear, with Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday saying it was "absolutely imperative" for all sides to exercise restraint to prevent the conflict from "getting out of control," Bloomberg journalists wrote.

"China has been following the evolution of the Ukraine issue, and the present situation is something China does not want to see," Wang Yi said in phone calls with top diplomats from the UK,

France and the European Union, according to a readout from the official Xinhua News Agency.

"The safety of ordinary people's lives and properties should be effectively safeguarded, and in particular, large-scale humanitarian crises have to be prevented," the report cited him as saying.

"The comments came shortly after President Xi Jinping made his first remarks on the crisis, urging Russian leader Vladimir Putin in a phone call to solve the issue through talks with the Ukrainians."

UKRAINE- AN EU MEMBER CANDIDATE

The issue of Ukraine's membership of the EU has been pushed hard by the country's president following the outbreak of war.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in an interview with Euronews that Ukraine is "one of them" and they want Ukraine to be in the EU.

"There are many issues where we (the EU and Ukraine) work very closely and, indeed, over time, they are becoming part of us. Ukraine is one of us and we want it to be in the EU," she said.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Tuesday calling on the European Union institutions "to work towards granting" Ukraine the status of EU candidate country, it said in a statement quoted by CNN's Niamh Kennedy and James Frater.

"The resolution, which also demanded the EU to impose 'tougher sanctions' on Russia, was voted in favor by 637 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). It condemned 'in the strongest possible terms Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine and demands that the Krem-

lin end all military activities in the country,' CNN reported. "The members also stressed that the EU's financial sanctions against Russia should go further, stating that 'all Russian banks should be blocked from the European financial system and Russia should be banned from the SWIFT system.'

"While welcoming the swift adoption of EU sanctions, MEPs want to see broader restrictive measures aimed at strategically weakening the Russian economy and industrial base. In particular, imports of the most important Russian export goods, such as oil and gas should be restricted. New EU investment in Russia and new Russian investment in the EU should be banned," the press release said.

Further, the United Nations has voted overwhelmingly for a resolution deploring Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has called for the immediate withdrawal of its forces.

In an emergency session of the UN's general assembly, 141 of the 193 member states voted for the resolution, 35 abstained, and five voted against. The only countries to vote no in support of Moscow were Belarus, North Korea, Eritrea and Syria.

Longstanding allies Cuba and Venezuela joined China in abstaining. The resolution said the UN "deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine." It demanded that "the Russian Federation immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine" and "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces."

The resolution is not legally binding but is an expression of the views of the UN membership, aimed at increasing pressure on Moscow and its ally, Belarus.

Invasion Episode 1: First Impressions Are Everything



Ukrainian service members get ready to repel an attack in Ukraine's Luhansk region on Feb. 24, 2022. Photo by Anatolii Stepanov/AFP via Getty Images)

BY MICHAEL GODWIN

By now, few are unaware of the rapidly developing situation in Ukraine. On February 24, Russia launched its invasion under the banner of "denazification" and in response to perceived NATO encroachment. Since then, both sides have been entrenched in heavy fighting centered around many of Ukraine's key cities. While it's certainly too early to be definitive, casualties have risen to alarming numbers.

Prior to this invasion, many of the acclaimed military experts in Moscow and around the Russian senior military community projected of a rapid victory. Experts placed the time for the capture of the capital in hours rather than days. Ukrainian resolve was framed as fragile and insufficient. Hostilities would be at a minimum and civilians would be sympathetic given the tenuous socio-political situation in Kyiv. In addition, the larger global community would groan and release condemnations to little effect.

Many of the senior general staff command, largely insulated in an echo chamber of Russian martial greatness, passionately believed in this analysis. Multiple large-scale training exercises only served to compliment this, being self-aggrandizing expressions of force

and firepower against a notional emotionless paper enemy. The Russian generals felt bulletproof, their victory secure.

While still unconfirmed, many reports have arisen during the conflict that junior officers and noncommissioned officers were left in the dark about the true intent of the mission at hand. Soldiers were not informed about the true objective of their mission, and the purpose behind that objective. Cumulatively, this led to a grossly incorrect picture of the tactical and operational terrain that lay in front of the combat units on the ground.

Upon issuing the invasion order, Russian units moved in a seemingly haphazard and uncoordinated fashion. While many Ukrainian forces fell back to the city centers for defensive purposes, Russian forces failed to seize on this opening in the initiative. By allowing the Ukrainian forces to dig themselves into entrenched positions, establish fields of fire, and raise auxiliary forces for a fighting reserve, the Russians force built their own obstacles.

This loss of the initiative may very well have spelled doom for the greater conflict, much of which has yet to be seen. It takes no large amount of martial expertise or education to know that initiative in the opening phases of a campaign is essential to the end victory. As is commonly promulgated in military courses, the principles of speed, surprise, security, and violence of action are the non-nego-

tiabiles for success on the battlefield.

These four pillars of warfare have existed since the beginning, but have been enshrined further since the rise of modern urban combat. During the Global War on Terror, this mantra was tantamount to a religion in NATO military circles. Young recruits to the seasoned veteran understood and based any mission planning around these core concepts, balancing aspects of each; speed versus security, surprise versus violence of action.

However, Russia, largely untested in significant combat operations, may not have had the experience to harmonize these principles. The veterans of Chechnya, Moldova, and Georgia have largely left the service, along with their experiences, though even these conflicts were limited in scope. The limited contingents deployed to Syria operate largely in a policing or security fashion, shying away from combat roles and leaving that to Russia's infamous private military organizations.

This has led to the eternal disparity between training and combat experience that had existed since the dawn of human conflict. What was perceived in the meetings deep inside the Kremlin's war rooms, is not what has played out in the field. The prospect of liberating the Ukrainian people has quickly been shattered. In fact, Putin may have made every single Ukrainian, including the mass of foreign volunteers, into an army against him.

Ukraine has mobilized virtually its entire nation to war. Thousands have enlisted in the regular military or territorial defense forces in direct opposition to the Russian invasion force. Masses of volunteers have lined up outside blood banks to donate for the war effort. Businesses and industries have pivoted to streamline the production and distribution of relevant supplies.

To complement this internal effort to fuel the defense, the EU and many other nations have begun shipping a litany of arms, munitions, and equipment to the embattled country. From ballistic vests

and helmets to anti-tank rockets, much of the international community has rallied in efforts to aid Ukraine. Additionally, a mounting number of foreign volunteers have already made their way into the region following Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's decree to raise an "international brigade."

Another tool Zelensky has managed to keep in the fight is the small but highly effective fleet of armed drones, most notably its Turkish-made Bayraktar TB2. Gaining immense fame in the recent clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan for their deadly use by the latter, Ukraine has begun to replicate this success. Despite Russia's early missile strikes that attempted to eliminate Ukrainian air assets, they have failed to effectively maintain supremacy in the skies.

The failure in the air is compounded by the surface-to-air shortcomings as well. While many open source intelligence analysts have noted that some of the drones have been taken down, they are continuing to plague the Russian advance. Russian convoys and supply lines remain vulnerable, showing that their commanders are unable to secure the rear edge of the battlefield.

The footage recorded from these drones also highlights another facet of the campaign that Russia has seemingly ceded to Ukraine. The information and "social media" war has been dominated with images of the destruction of civilian

structures, destroyed Russian military hardware, and various captured or fallen Russian servicemembers. While this information continues to spread, it will inevitably make its way to the people in Russia living under heavy censorship. Once many citizens learn of this otherwise hidden information, it will have predictably prodigious implications for the future of Putin's power base.

While this conflict continues to rapidly develop, even at the time of writing, Ukraine has burrowed deep and forced Russia to pay a significant price for their transgressions. However, Russia has also brought superior numbers, surrounding some of the key cities and laying siege to the inhabitants. The United Nations already is claiming that over 500 civilians have been killed in the conflict, many due to Russia's indiscriminate shelling of urban centers. Military casualties on both sides are supposedly already in the thousands.

Abstaining from any reaching speculation, it can be surmised that the conflict is in its early youth with plenty of life, or more accurately death, left in it. Ukrainian resolve can endure a significant amount of abuse, but everything has an eventual expiration date. The West, most notably NATO, can not allow this violation to continue. The Neville Chamberlain approach to foreign policy has already left its lurid scars on humanity and cannot be allowed to be repeated again.



Ukrainian forces detain servicemen of the self-proclaimed Lugansk People's Republic. Source: AFP via Getty Images

The Real and Present War

OP-ED BY NUGZAR B. RUHADZE

I thought the war wouldn't happen, but it did. I presumed the Russians would act more wisely, but they didn't. Is this my naiveté or lack of political judgment? Both! War is stupid and horrible, but people still go to it. And there is one happening right now in the middle of Europe.

After a prolonged mess near the Ukrainian border, the Russian troops invaded Ukraine. The incursion was widely expected at any given moment, but hopes of avoiding the war didn't die until the very instance of intrusion. Then the war became very real and very present. The Russian army and its war gear are currently on an assault from north, east and south on Ukrainian territory, closing in on Kyiv to take it over and put Ukraine on its knees. Clashes between the attacking and defending forces have become ubiquitous, but the final outcome of this roaring conflict is still far from having yielded to the Russian-planned bottom-line, which is the reinstatement of the Russian-Ukrainian centuries-old marriage so that they can never divorce again, the roost being ruled by Russia.

Intensively reinforcing the Ukrainian

army with military supplies and arms, the West is so far fighting the intruder only verbally, threatening Russia with harsh economic and financial sanctions that might not have an immediate effect. The West seems to be trying to prevent the conflict coming to a head, although the heavy inveighs and caustic vituperation against Russia are growing not by the hour but by the minute. And the Russian president is taking the entire verbal western assault in his stride.

The news all over the planet proclaims the desperate people of Ukraine wanting and ready to build up their self-defense in an attempt to save their only recently acquired national freedom, independence and democracy. The world supports the Ukrainian cause, Georgia among them, although our support has its own particular parameters and content, with the current Georgian government poised to provide moral and humanitarian assistance to our Ukrainian brothers and sisters while refraining from hailing the Western sanctions against Russia.

The situation in the invaded land is changing minute to minute, so much so that the content of this piece might become irrelevant to publish by the time it runs in the Paper. What the Ukrainian people need forthwith is real help from real fighters in a real battle against a real enemy. None of



The American people feel OK right now with unemployment going down and the salaries going up, the keeping up of the tolerable standard of living. But God forbid the situation in Ukraine has a negative effect on their good life. Photo by Jerome Adamstein / Los Angeles Times

these are yet in place. Meanwhile, the Russian military juggernaut is approaching its long-cherished final target, and procrastination of real-life assistance might mean the Ukrainians losing their country. The resistance is strong and intense, which will prolong the conflict for longer than expected, yet this is exactly where the skeletons are buried and the shoe is pinch-

ing. Months prior to the beginning of the skirmish, Russia asked America and NATO to consider the most burning issues of its national security. The western opponents responded with an immediate categorical rejection of the request, instead of starting long-term thoughtful and patient negotiations on a variety of issues to balance out the Russian-Western compounded inter-

action, which might well have brought calm to both sides and an avoidance of this war.

The American president is definitely concerned with the crisis in Ukraine, but the solid set of strong and weak points in his administration that he will have to bring to the threshold of the next presidential elections in the States matter no less. The American people feel OK right now with unemployment going down and the salaries going up, the keeping up of the tolerable standard of living. But God forbid the situation in Ukraine has a negative effect on their good life. Then the Russian-Ukrainian issue might become more biting to the POTUS, who sees America doing fair and right right now. Russia has spent a lot of resources on the war and it has sacrificed its international reputation, having subjected itself to those crippling western sanctions, sending a very meaningful and incisive message to the Russian people about its current government. This means that Russia is more in the red than in the gain as a result of the whole deal. And this might be enough of a reason for Moscow not to give up on its military and political goal to have Ukraine back as an ally and disciple, easily manipulated in Russia's best national interests and restoring its once forfeited sense of national security.

Prof. Sergey Radchenko on the War, the Repercussions, and What Lies ahead for Russia and Georgia



Continued from page 1

And we can see just how that has empowered the West in its policy of economic sanctions against Russia, because the moment the West finally came around to understanding the gravity of the Russian threat and acted in unison, we could see that the economic sanctions being applied have proven catastrophic for the Russian economy: the Russian stock market collapsed.

IS IT NOT IRONIC THAT PUTIN AND THE KREMLIN FOR DECADES HAVE BEEN USING ECONOMIC RESOURCES AS A LEVERAGE AGAINST THE WEST, AND NOW IT'S TURNED ON THEM?

Well, yes. And Russian leadership has to recognize that Russia is not really an economic superpower. And it is hugely exposed for various reasons. But Putin is not an economist. I don't think he fully understands the economic implications of this, or if he understands them, he may understand them at some philosophical level, but he doesn't see the practical implications, and the practical implication is that everybody in Moscow in a position of economic authority is now pulling their hair out, and whisper-

ing, "What is this? This is crazy, the Russian economy is being torn apart." And this is dangerous, because this creates huge instability. And it means even less room for Putin to maneuver, and then he'll see himself as being cornered. And I think that is where the situation becomes extremely dangerous.

YOU SAY PUTIN GAMBLER, AND FAILED. HOW COME?

I think Putin's strategic genius has been vastly overstated. I've always been very skeptical of Putin's strategic genius. He has made some interesting tactical moves, yes, but in strategic terms, Putin's entire foreign policy, going back years and years, has been counterproductive and detrimental to Russia's national interest. This is a position of someone who sees the future of Russia in Europe - and all of the things that Putin has done have gone against this, and they have undermined Russia; they have turned Russia into the bogeyman of Europe. And so the question then is - what's so great about that? How's that a great strategic goal to strive for? I think it's been a disaster.

BEING CORNERED MAKES HIM EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, YOU SAY. WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM THIS CORNERED ANIMAL?

I don't think we've seen Putin play all his cards yet. We know that the military operation has been quite brutal so far, but it's certainly not as brutal as could have been with a full scale Russian assault - I think this is a fraction of what we could see if we have further escalation of this conflict. It seems Putin is still hesitating, and he's maybe looking for some kind of way out, and if he's looking for a way out, then perhaps he should be offered some political alternatives for de-escalation, because the danger of

further escalation is too great to ignore. We don't know what's going through his mind. But the key thing is to assume that he's still a rational being, and that he's not crazy, because if he's crazy, we can't do anything about it. If he's a rational being, then we can at least influence him in the right direction.

HOW WORRIED SHOULD THE WEST BE RE: THE NUCLEAR THREAT FROM RUSSIA?

Russia doesn't have a system like the United States with DEF CON. The United States has DEF CON 1,2,3,4, and 5, with DEF CON one actual nuclear war. Russia doesn't have that. So when Putin says, you know, let's make our nuclear forces ready, it's unclear what he means by this. That seems more like just saber rattling in order to remind the West that it should be more accommodating and careful around Russia.

WHAT SHOULD THE WEST'S STRATEGY BE, CONSIDERING THIS MAJOR SHIFT IN ATTITUDE THAT WE HAVE SEEN IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS?

Well, we should continue to look for diplomatic solutions. Always. We are not in a situation like in 1945, where he is Hitler or Hirohito and we should be calling for unconditional capitulation or else. I think, obviously, Putin has cornered himself, unleashed a military campaign, and Russia is going to pay the price, there's no doubt that it's already paying the price. But fundamentally, diplomatic solutions should remain on the table. We should be talking about incentives, like lowering some sanctions if he stops military action, and this is going to be a difficult sell in many Western countries, because it was extremely difficult to get Western unity on Russia in the first place. Nevertheless, I think it's the responsible thing to do.

HOW MANY ALLIES DOES PUTIN HAVE LEFT AND HOW LONG ARE THEY PREPARED TO STICK WITH HIM?

Russia has not got many allies. Obviously, it has its clients in Central Asia. Belarus is an ally for sure. But how useful are those allies? Belarus has certainly proven to be very useful - it's an alliance of dictators. China is not a formal ally. So the big question is whether China will break ranks with Russia, and China has been sitting on the fence, they have been trying to support Russia a little bit in some ways, through a kind of benevolent neutrality. But they certainly haven't been as obliging to Russia as Putin might have expected, given the close relationship between him and Xi Jinping. The Chinese have their own interests, they're looking after their own interests, and those interests are not going to be the same as Russia's.

LET ME ALSO ASK YOU ABOUT THE PROVERBIAL "OTHER RUSSIA." WHERE ARE THEY? A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE OUT OF A COUNTRY OF 142 MILLION?

I don't think the majority of the Russian people want this war. There is the liberal intelligentsia - all of them are opposed to Putin to one extent or another - from the viciously opposed like myself to moderate opposition. There's also a large number of people in Russia who see the whole war as a very unfortunate undertaking. There's also a minority of Russians, a very sizable minority, maybe even half of Russians, that, unfortunately, will support this this conflict until bitter and.

IF THIS MAJORITY THAT DOESN'T APPROVE KEEPS THEIR HEAD DOWN, WILL HISTORY JUDGE THEM AS SPECTATORS FOR KEEPING SILENT?

It all depends on how this ends, but, yes,

I think the Russian people will have to come to terms with the fact that Russia is waging an aggressive war, and there's just no way around that, and a reckoning will come.

COMING TO TERMS ALSO MEANS SPEAKING OUT ABOUT IT? TAKING ACTION?

In the short term, yes. We can expect more in the long term. We should expect some kind of realization that Russia is not benign, as a lot of Russians still think that Russia is a benign actor. It's not, you know, it's waging aggressive war.

HOW IS IT GOING TO CHANGE THE PUTIN PERCEPTION IN RUSSIA, THIS IMAGE OF THE ENLIGHTENED DESPOT OR AUTOCRAT?

Well, that is difficult to say, because Putin's approval rating has been consistently high. There is a possibility, if this war continues, that his approval rating will decrease. In terms of how history will remember Putin, I think he is badly miscalculating if he thinks that history will remember him as the gatherer of lands. History will remember him as the man who clung to power, who became increasingly autocratic and missed every opportunity to integrate Russia with Europe. And that's a huge failure today. It's a crime.

AND FINALLY, WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR GEORGIA HERE?

Putin sees Ukraine as part of the Russian historical space, and Georgia - less so. Georgia and its culture are strange, alien things to him. But undoubtedly, if Putin is successful in Ukraine and inflicts heavy damage on Ukraine, then it will be a signal to Georgia not to go too far in its aspirations to join NATO. And also a signal to the West that it shouldn't invite Georgia further into the alliance.

THE ISET ECONOMIST

A BLOG ABOUT ECONOMICS AND THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

www.iset-pi.ge/blog

The ISET Policy Institute (ISET-PI, www.iset-pi.ge) is an independent think-tank associated with the International School of Economics at TSU (ISET). Our blog carries economic analysis of current events and policies in Georgia and the South Caucasus region ranging from agriculture, to economic growth, energy, labor markets and the nexus of economics, culture and religion. Thought-provoking and fun to read, our blog posts are written by international faculty teaching at ISET and recent graduates representing the new generation of Georgian, Azerbaijani and Armenian economists.

Top 5 Economic Consequences of Russia's War on Ukraine: a View from Georgia



An apartment complex in the eastern Ukraine town of Chugiv was hit in an airstrike on Feb. 24. Photo by Aris Messinis/AFP/Getty Images

BY YASYA BABYCH FOR ISET

As I am writing these lines, Russian tanks are moving deeper into the territory of my country, Ukraine, and emotions are threatening to overwhelm me. But emotions cannot shake what we, as economics scholars, value most: devotion to truth, and careful, impartial use of facts and logic to arrive at conclusions.

In this spirit, what can we say about the top 5 economic threats arising from the war that Russia is waging in Ukraine, especially from the standpoint of a small but strategically and historically important regional player – Georgia?

PRICES – FUEL, GRAIN AND FOOD STAPLES, COMMODITIES

The first economic casualty will be prices, in particular prices of fuel and food staples: wheat, corn, cooking oil.

OIL AND GAS

Since the start of the war on February 24th, the Brent Crude oil prices have jumped to their highest level since 2014. In recent days, the price went over \$100 per barrel. Just to compare, at the beginning of 2022, the price hovered around \$80 per barrel. This spike is driven, on the one hand, by a large gap between

global demand and supply caused by the pandemic, and, on the other, by the geopolitical threat, given that Russia is the third-largest oil producer in the world. Russia currently supplies one-tenth of world oil consumption, and close to half of Europe's gas.

FOOD STAPLES

Both Russia and Ukraine are important global exporters of basic agricultural commodities. According to data from 2020, Russia and Ukraine combined accounted for 26% of global wheat exports, with Ukraine responsible for 8% (not surprisingly, Chicago wheat futures rose sharply as the invasion of Ukraine began). Both countries account for 24% of global barley exports; 57% of the world's exports of sunflower seed, safflower, and cottonseed oil. Ukraine alone accounts for 13% of the world's corn exports. Most of Ukraine's wheat goes to Asia or Africa, putting food security in these regions immediately at risk, but also implying steep price rises in the rest of the world.

IMPLICATIONS FOR GEORGIA

One has to keep in mind that even before the war started, global food prices were rising rapidly due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the strain it put on global production and supply chains (FAO reported a 28% food price increase in 2021). But the situation will be exacerbated by the war. Since Georgia depends

on imports of wheat for more than 90% of its consumption (much of the import comes from Russia), the global price increase will have an immediate effect on the country, in particular on the livelihoods of the poor. The rise in the price of fuel is already being felt in Georgia. For the government, it means that they must start planning on how to soften the blow for its poor and most vulnerable groups. Very likely these measures would imply more foreign borrowing, which brings us to the second set of risks.

FINANCIAL MARKETS FACE UNCERTAINTY. ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM COVID UNDER THREAT

Financial markets are not yet prepared to price in the risks that may be coming from this war. Morgan-Stanley investment chief warned that any short-term trading on the conflict is likely to "get it wrong". This means that financial markets could still experience wild swings going forward, which will increase the cost of borrowing and slow global growth. Bloomberg analytics also warns that growth will be slowed down as households spend an increasing share of their income on food and fuel, thus leaving fewer resources for other purchases.

For Georgia, increased uncertainty on the global financial markets could also imply higher borrowing costs. However, one has to keep in mind that Georgia's sovereign debt is mostly a low-interest multilateral debt to international organizations. This means Georgia may not be immediately and severely hit by the rising cost of borrowing on the international markets. However, Georgia's investment and FDI may be impacted, as uncertainty about the geopolitical situation in the region grows. However, if the value of the Georgian Lari deteriorates, as a result, one may expect the country's debt to GDP ratio to rise even further.

IMPORTS OF RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN GOODS. GEORGIAN EXPORTS TO BOTH COUNTRIES

Both Russia and Ukraine are among the

top five export destinations for Georgia. Ukraine accounted for 9.5% of Georgia's exports in January 2022, while Russia for 12.9%. The biggest linkages, however, come not from the export of goods but from services, such as tourism. If the situation deteriorates, tourism from both countries will suffer significantly or might even stop.

As far as imports into Georgia, Russia accounts for about 11% of total imports (the second-largest share after Turkey), while Ukraine is in 7th place with 4.3%.

REFUGEE CRISIS

A refugee flow from Ukraine is likely to reach an unprecedented magnitude. EU countries already estimate that more than 7 million people will be displaced. In Georgia, there is tremendous public support and readiness to take in refugees from Ukraine. However, as the fighting rages in the North, East, and South of Ukraine, there is currently almost no physical possibility to get to Georgia by air, land, or sea. Most of the refugees are now on the western borders, taken in by Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary.

ANTICIPATION OF WHAT MIGHT BE NEXT – GEORGIA'S PERSPECTIVE



"Russia attack on Ukraine set to hit global food supply chains," by Emiko Terazono, Judith Evans and Hudson Lockett. The Financial Times (February 24, 2022).

A NOTE FROM ISET DIRECTOR TAMAR SULUKHIA: UKRAINE INSPIRES A BETTER WORLD

As an economic policy think-tank, ISET writes about economics. But today we also want to express how much we admire Ukraine's heroism and how it inspires a better world. Ukraine has become a shining beacon. Its fight against Russian aggression has transformed into a noble, heroic fight for the highest values of Mankind, and the most inspiring phenomenon, one which the entire civilized world now admires through a veil of tears.

No matter how contradictory this may seem, Ukraine, in the middle of tragic reality, has given the world a unique chance to become better. First, it inspired absolutely unprecedented solidarity around the globe – big and small countries and global institutions are confronting and isolating the aggressor together, while equally providing military, humanitarian, and financial support to Ukraine. Second, it reminds the global community that there is never a 'too early' to confront aggression and violence, and the world can't afford to repeat mistakes of the recent past – with the world's apt and timely reaction against aggression, Ukraine's current tragedy could have been avoided.

Every night, Rustaveli Avenue in Tbilisi stands full of people protesting Russian aggression, expressing solidarity and admiration for our Ukrainian allies, and showing Georgia's solid commitment to membership of the EU and European values. We are happy to see Europe's door now open for Ukraine, and believe our country will also join its European family soon.



Russia-Ukraine war: As the Brent crude oil price climbing to record high, oil marketing companies are likely to revise the fuel prices soon. Source: india.com

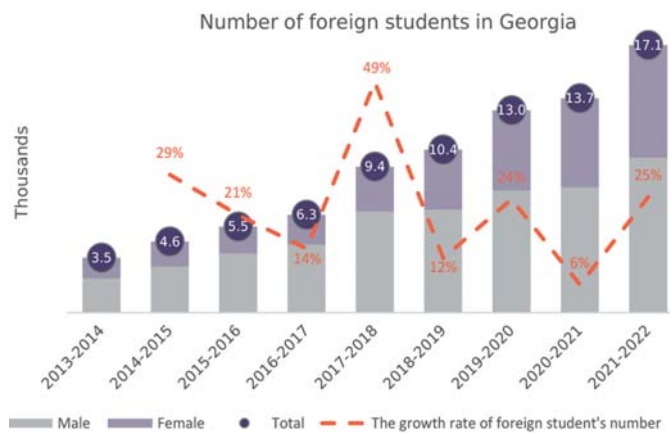


Research

Foreign students and foreign language programs dynamics in Georgia

Economic Outlook and Indicators

Issue # 133 28.02.2022



Source: EMIS, PMC RC calculation

In recent years, the number of international students has been increasing worldwide. For instance, according to UNESCO data, from 2015 to 2019, the number of international students increased from 4.8 million to 6.1 million. Moreover, studies have illustrated that international students, directly and indirectly, contribute to the host countries' economies through tuition fees, living costs, transportation, travel, and other aspects. In this issue, we overview the dynamics of foreign students in Georgia and their financial contribution to the country's educational sector.

from 3.7 points to 8.1. In 2019, Georgia ranked 32nd out of 94 countries, rising notably from 55th place in 2015.

BREAKDOWN OF FOREIGN STUDENTS BY NATIONALITY

A breakdown of the number of foreign students in Georgia by nationality reveals that from the 2013-2014 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, the highest share came from Azerbaijan, averaging 31% during this period. However, from the 2017-2018 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, the number of students from Azerbaijan shrank rapidly, with an annual growth rate of -24%. Meanwhile, from the 2016-2017 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, the share of students from India significantly increased. Specifically, during this period the share of Indian students increased by 22 percentage points and amounted to 53%.

It is also worth noting that the number of students from North America, the UK, and the EU grew during the analyzed period. For instance, from the 2013-2014 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, the number of students from this combined geographical area increased from 37 to 435 (3% of all foreign students).

DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS BY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

To gain a broader picture of foreign students dynamics it is important to observe their distribution by educational program as well. The share of foreign stu-

dents taking medicine, healthcare, pharmacy, and dentistry increased significantly from the 2013-2014 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year. Indeed, overall growth amounted to 34 percentage points over this period and amounted to 87%. This category's share increased every academic year, with the most noticeable rise coming from the 2017-2018 academic year to the 2018-2019 academic year (17 percentage points).

Meanwhile, the share of students studying business, administration, and law also witnessed growth from the 2013-2014 academic year to the 2016-2017 academic year. However, share of this category started shrinking from the 2017-2018 academic year and stood at 5% as of the 2021-2022 academic year. The most noticeable decrease in this period was recorded during the 2018-2019 academic year (11 percentage points). Meanwhile, the share of social and behavioral sciences, humanities, and arts also witnessed a decline. From the 2013-2014 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, the share has decreased from 12% to 3%.

It is worth noting that the growth of the share of medicine, healthcare, pharmacy, and dentistry students was determined by an increased number of Indian students as the majority of them are studying in this category.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

With the growth in the number of foreign students in Georgia, the number of foreign-language educational programs has also increased in Georgian universities.

For instance, from the 2013-2014 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, the number of foreign-language programs increased from 61 to 191. The majority of them (165) are in English, with 23 in Russian, 2 in French, and 1 in German. The growth in the number of programs is noticeable at every academic level. From the 2013-2014 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, the number of bachelors programs increased from 34 to 95, masters programs rose from 13 to 46, and doctoral programs soared from 6 to 17. Pertinently, one-step medical programs witnessed the highest growth, more than quadrupling from 8 to 33.

It is also worth noting that over the analyzed period, the number of universities providing foreign-language programs tripled from 11 to 33.

In the academic year of 2021-2022, the distribution of foreign language programs in which foreign students are enrolled is as follows: medicine-related fields - 27%; business, management, and law - 26%; social and behavioral sciences, humanities and arts - 17%; engineering, architecture and construction - 12%; computer science - 9%; other fields - 9%. Moreover, the breakdown of foreign students across these pro-

grams is as follows: medicine-related fields - 89%; business, management, and law - 5%; social and behavioral sciences, humanities and arts - 2%; architecture and construction - 2%; computer science - 1%; and other fields - 1%. Thus, the distribution of students across fields is unequal.

AVERAGE TUITION FEE FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS (IN WHICH FOREIGN STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED)

From the 2013-2014 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, tuition fees for foreign-language educational programs, in which foreign students were enrolled, nearly doubled, from GEL 4,300 to GEL 8,300. The annual growth rate over this period amounted to 9%.

Despite the increase in tuition fees in GEL, these have not increased in USD. In fact, over the analyzed period this decreased from USD 2,600 to USD 2,500. Hence, the increase in tuition fees in GEL was strongly determined by the depreciation of the Georgian Lari.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, the highest average tuition fees are for medicine, healthcare, pharmacy and dentistry programs (GEL 11,521), followed by computing (GEL 8,960). Meanwhile, the lowest tuition fees are for social and behavioral sciences, humanities, and arts (GEL 4,660).

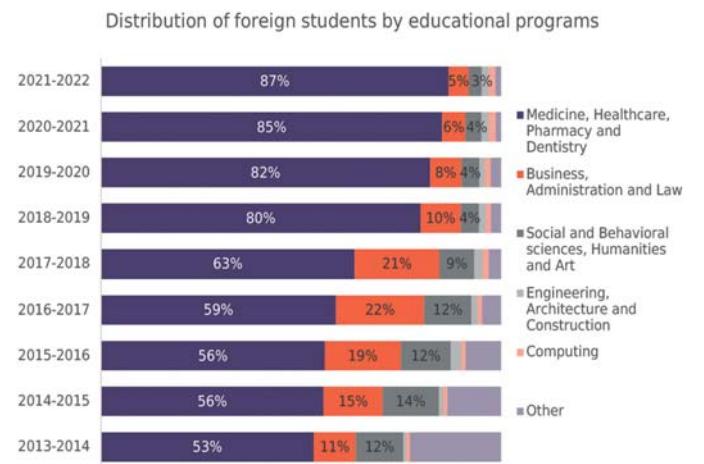
THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF TUITION FEES PAID BY FOREIGN STUDENTS

The total amount of tuition fees paid by foreign students and its share in the education sector's GDP has been steadily increasing since the 2013-2014 academic year.

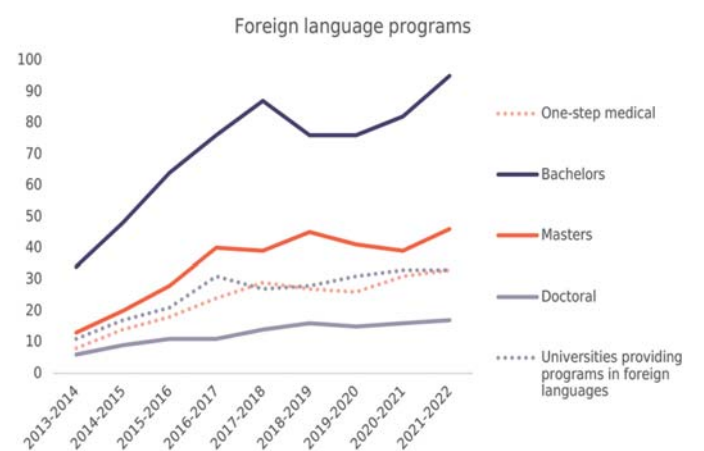
From the 2013-2014 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, the total amount of tuition fees paid by foreign students increased from GEL 14 million to GEL 180 million, with an average annual growth rate of 39%. However, the increase in the total amount of tuition fees has not been as significant in USD as it has been in GEL. Over the analyzed period, the total amount of tuition fees paid increased from USD 8 million to USD 56 million, indicating an average annual growth rate of 29%.

As the number of total tuition fees paid increased over the analyzed period, its share in the education sector's GDP also grew steadily. From the 2013-2014 academic year to the 2021-2022 academic year, this share increased from 1.1% to 8.6%. In terms of total GDP, over the analyzed period, the share increased from 0.05% to 0.36%.

Overall, foreign students' interest in studying in Georgia has been rising rapidly in recent times. Due to this increased demand, Georgian universities have started to increase the number of educational programs in foreign languages accordingly. Along with the growing number of foreign students, their financial contribu-



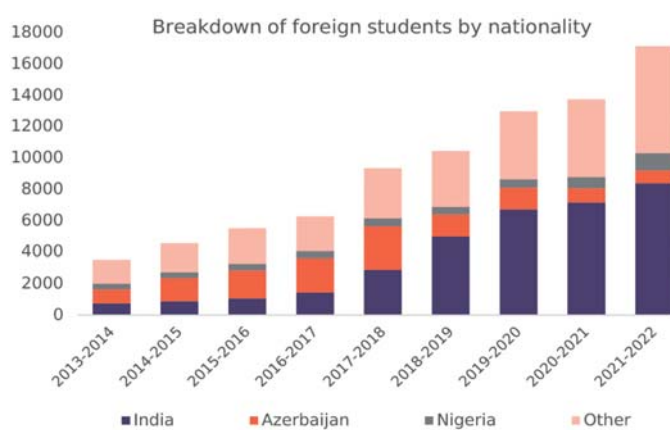
Source: EMIS, PMC RC calculation



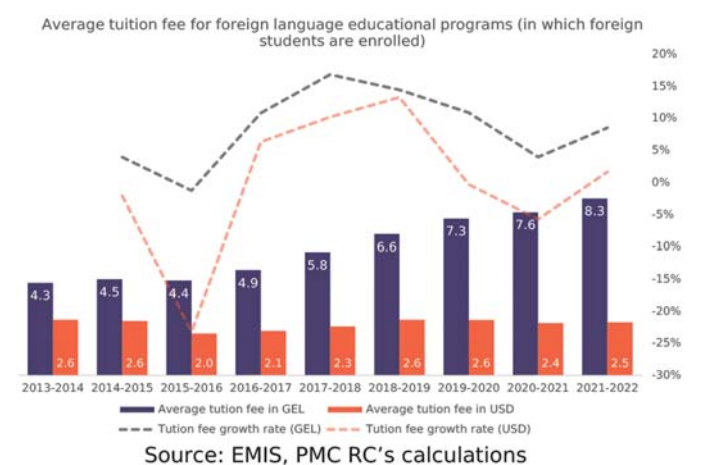
Source: Geostat, PMC RC's calculations

tion to Georgian higher education has also increased. However, the increased interest is becoming more homogenous as the vast majority of students are choosing medical programs and most of them are from India. An apparently emerging dependence on the medical field and Indian stu-

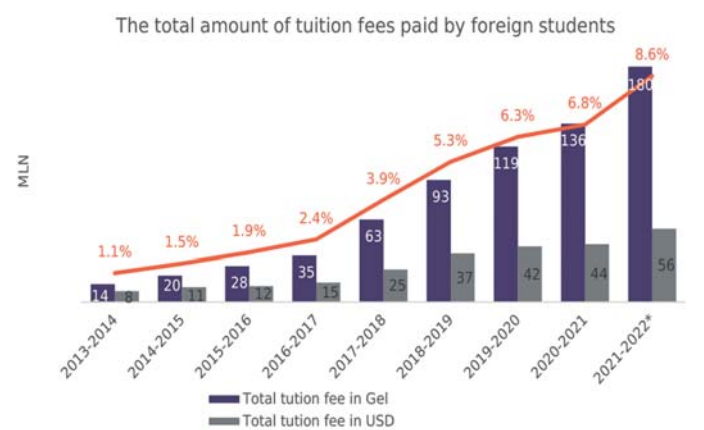
dents might create some challenges in the future. With this in mind, the Georgian higher education system should put more effort toward attracting students from different countries and increase interest, of foreign students, in other academic fields besides medicine.



Source: EMIS, PMC RC calculation



Source: EMIS, PMC RC's calculations



Source: EMIS, Geostat, PMC RC's calculations

The 100 Women Entrepreneurs' Bazaar - USAID Empowering Women to Build Georgia's Economy



INTERVIEW BY ANA DUMBADZE

USAID puts a significant emphasis on empowering Georgia's women entrepreneurs to build successful businesses and create jobs in their communities, thus helping create a more robust economy that is more resilient to economic shocks. Development of small businesses and women entrepreneurs' economic empowerment is critical for Georgia's future prosperity.

On March 6, USAID programs are to host an exhibition and sale of 100 Women Entrepreneurs products in Deda Ena Park in Tbilisi, dedicated to International Women's Day. GEORGIA TODAY spoke to Marika Olson, Economic Growth Office Director, USAID/Georgia, to find out more.

"USAID currently funds more than 35 programs to help Georgia strengthen its resilience to malign influence, build a more citizen-centered democracy, and achieve inclusive economic growth that benefits more of the country's citizens," Olson tells us. "The 100 Women Entrepreneurs' Bazaar is supported by three of our programs: the USAID YES-Georgia Program, which provides financing

and training to women entrepreneurs; the USAID Agriculture Program, which helps farmers and food producers earn higher revenues and create jobs in rural communities; and the USAID Economic Security Program, which supports growth in high-value sectors of the economy. In addition, beneficiaries of other U.S. Embassy programs funded by the U.S. State Department will also participate in the bazaar. It is our hope that Bazaars that highlight the work of women entrepreneurs become commonplace in Georgia and don't require USAID or other donor support."

WHO ARE THE PARTICIPANTS? ARE THESE WOMEN ALL BENEFICIARIES OF THESE PROJECTS? ARE THEY FROM THE REGIONS OF GEORGIA?

The 100 Women Entrepreneurs' Bazaar will feature more than 100 women entrepreneurs from Tbilisi as well as various regions, ranging from Kakheti to Imereti and Adjara. The participants are beneficiaries of U.S. government assistance, including USAID and U.S. State Department programs. In the past, we provided these women with financing, training, and mentorship to help them start and scale their businesses, and the bazaar is one example of our continuing support to them.



WHAT'S THE MAIN AIM OF THE EVENT SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 6? WHAT WILL BE THE MAIN ACTIVITIES ON THE AGENDA?

The 100 Women Entrepreneurs' Bazaar is dedicated to International Women's Day and to 30 years of diplomatic relations between Georgia and the United States. The bazaar serves as a tangible demonstration of U.S. government support for women's economic empowerment, building on what we have helped Georgia's women achieve during the past 30 years. In total, the U.S. government has invested \$6 billion to support Georgia since 1992. This assistance has supported democracy and rule of law, educational and professional exchange programs, and of course, efforts to build a more inclusive economy that benefits more Georgians. All of these measures advance Georgia's ability to integrate with the European community and to be a regional leader for a modern Caucasus.

The 100 Women Entrepreneurs' Bazaar is an excellent opportunity for women entrepreneurs to promote their products and build new connections and sales opportunities between themselves, the public, and other businesses. The bazaar is designed to help handicraft producers raise awareness about their products and hopefully increase their revenues, both at the Bazaar and in the future.

In addition to shopping, visitors have the opportunity to participate in masterclasses: fruit and vegetable carving; ceramic painting; doll making; and bead jewelry production. The event is family friendly, with entertainment for children. We hope to see your readers there on March 6!

WHAT BENEFITS DO USAID PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES GET THROUGH THE PROGRAM?

The U.S. government program beneficiaries participating in the Bazaar have received various forms of assistance to help them build thriving, commercially-sustainable businesses. USAID's assistance is tailored to the needs and capacity of each business. Some women entrepreneurs have received startup financing to get their businesses off the ground, while others have received training to develop strong business plans, improve their products, successfully apply for bank loans, and market their products to more customers. In addition, we help women entrepreneurs participate in exhibitions and Bazaars like this one to raise awareness about their products and network with fellow entrepreneurs. USAID support for women entrepreneurs is part of the U.S. government's larger strategy to empower the Georgian people, including women, to improve their livelihoods and build a more dynamic and inclusive economy in Georgia.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN LIVING IN RURAL AREAS FOR ACHIEVING ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN GENERAL?

Women's economic empowerment, including for those women living in rural communities, is crucial for Georgia's sustainable development. Access to education, employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities allows women to earn better livelihoods for themselves and their families, but that is only the start. Economically empowered women are more likely to participate in civic activities and democratic processes. They are more likely to have children who can



access higher education and better employment. They are also more likely to pass democratic values on to those children. By helping Georgia's women in rural areas reach their professional potential, the United States is helping Georgia reach its potential as a resilient, democratic, and prosperous country.

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM PLANS AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE PROGRAM AIMED AT SUPPORTING YOUTH AND WOMEN ENTREPREURSHIP IN GEORGIA?

Through the USAID YES-Georgia Program, our largest activity specifically supporting women entrepreneurs, we aim to empower more than 2,600 women across Georgia by 2024. Last year, we also launched a new activity that partners with the private sector to co-create professional training programs geared towards increasing remunerative employment in multiple economic sectors. Over the next five years, this activity will help 5,000 Georgians, a large proportion of which will be women, get the training they need to obtain good jobs. It will also help Georgia's private businesses recruit the skilled, innovative candidates they need to grow their enterprises

USAID, THROUGH THE USAID YES-GEORGIA PROGRAM, HAS SUPPORTED YOUTH AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT SINCE 2015. HOW WOULD YOU SUMMARIZE THE WORK DONE BY THE ORGANIZATION OVER THESE YEARS? WHAT'S



THE PROGRESS IN TERMS OF SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH OF WOMEN AND YOUTH AND DEVELOPING THEIR SKILLS IN THIS REGARD?

The USAID YES-Georgia Program has empowered women all over Georgia to start and build successful businesses, transforming their lives and in many cases creating a better life for their families and even creating jobs for other members of their communities.

To date, the program has engaged more than 5,000 youth and women, has provided more than 1,800 young people with professional skills training, provided nearly 100 youth-owned enterprises with startup funding, and facilitated about \$230,000 in private sector investment to support youth-owned microenterprises and startups. Let me emphasize, however, that this successful program is just one example of how USAID empowers women and men of all ages to succeed in the economic sphere. Our work with women across economic sectors continues to expand across our array of programs, and we look forward to identifying more private-sector driven opportunities to collaborate and expand women's economic empowerment.

Editor's Note: This interview was conducted on Wednesday, February 23. As of press time, the event is scheduled to go ahead as planned. If you are interested in making a donation to support the people of Ukraine, reputable charity organizations have been invited to participate in the event to receive donations.

On the Batumi Raptor Count



INTERVIEW BY MARIAM
MTIVLISHVILI

Batumi Raptor Count (BRC), is a nature conservation NGO that works to monitor and conserve the 1,000,000+ birds of prey that migrate every autumn through the "Batumi Bottleneck."

A young and forward thinking organization, BRC has been operating from the Black Sea city of Batumi, in the Republic of Georgia, since 2008 when it has started the raptor-migration count covering the full autumn season. Although originally created as a monitoring organization, after realizing the scale of the hunting pressures that migratory birds face in the region, BRC's mission has now expanded to that of a conservation and monitoring NGO. To find out more, GEORGIA TODAY spoke to BRC team member Mariam Shekiladze.

"Batumi Raptor Count sprang from a trip to Batumi by some Belgian birders who all traveled there to observe the spectacular raptor migration," Shekiladze tell us. "In 2008, they organized the first full-season count of raptor migration between August and October. That resulted in the realization that many

more birds of prey are actually using the Batumi Bottleneck than previously thought. Since then, annual raptor counts have taken place there, involving locals as well as over 400 volunteers from over 30 different countries.

TELL US ABOUT THE WORK AND ACTIVITIES OF BATUMI RAPTOR COUNT.

The Batumi raptor migration bottleneck is the 3rd largest in the world, making it a truly unique place, something worth treasuring! BRC started primarily as a monitoring organization, but now also aims to reduce bird poaching in the region, which poses a significant threat to different bird species. We do so by promoting ecotourism in the region and providing environmental education in local schools.

WHAT IS BRC'S MAIN GOAL?

The goal of the BRC is two-fold; in addition to monitoring the species and numbers during the autumn and spring counts, BRC also works to raise awareness of the fatal consequences poaching has on biodiversity and delicate environmental areas such as the Batumi Bottleneck. Local communities and volunteers are invited to take part free of charge to encourage them to learn more about the

reasons why poaching is harmful and why protecting the birds is vital for local and global communities.

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF THE "AUTUMN COUNT REPORT"?

The autumn count report shows some amazing results in terms of birds counted. There were quite a few record days in late August and throughout September, where astonishing numbers of birds were counted by a group of 15 volunteers spread across two stations. The total number of birds during the 2021 autumn count was an incredible 1,422,171 raptors, the best year yet since the start of our counts in 2008. Some species are and have been doing really well for years, whereas other species are unfortunately decreasing year by year. Only by counting these birds one by one in key sites like the Batumi Bottleneck, can we tell what the populations of these important bird species are doing. By extension, they can tell us a little bit about the state of the ecosystems they come from.

A "SPRING COUNT" IS PLANNED THIS YEAR. TELL US ABOUT IT.

The upcoming spring count starts on March 1 and will go on until May 26. A small yet strong, team of international

volunteers will be counting every day from the station in Sakhalvasho. Nonetheless, BRC is still in need of more volunteers, especially for the periods of mid-April and May! People who are skilled at identifying raptors who are free during these periods and motivated to come help count all raptors heading north are more than welcome to join. For more information about volunteering, go to <https://www.batimiraptorcount.org/.../volunteers-wanted...>

From a scientific perspective, monitoring projects become more valuable the longer they run. We've already been running this world-class monitoring project for over a decade, and hope to do so for many more decades to come. Hopefully, we will see the day when raptor poaching ceases to exist, and instead locals and internationals alike will visit the place to witness the beauty and spectacle of this truly unique natural phenomenon.

WHAT ARE BRC'S FUTURE PLANS?

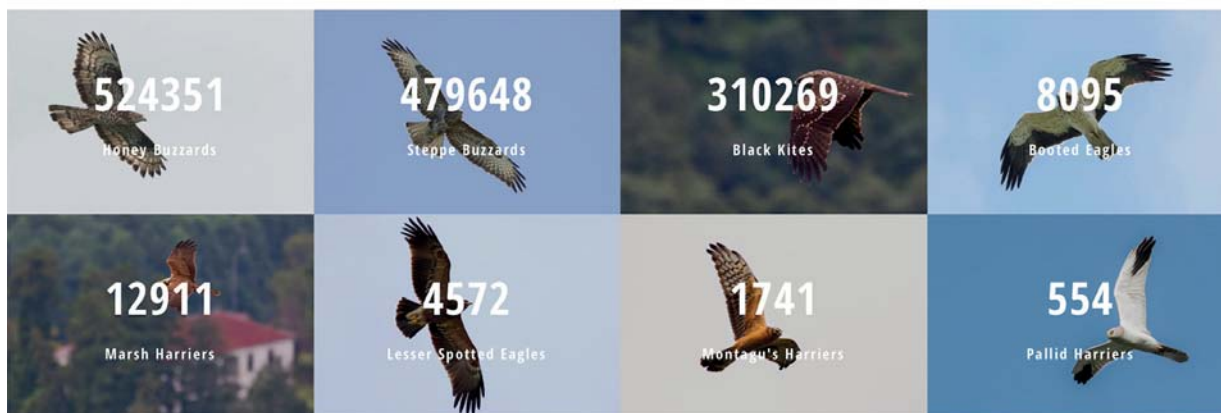
For donations, go to: <https://www.batimiraptorcount.org/support>



Autumn Count 2021

This season we have counted

1,422,171 raptors



58968	Medium Raptors	9697	large eagle sp	5748	Hen/Montagu's/Pallid Harriers	3002	Turtle Doves	2588	Short-toed Eagles	2308	Stock Doves		
2141	Black Storks	2046	European Rollers	814	Greater Spotted Eagles	569	White Storks	448	Woodpigeons	383	Steppe Eagles	339	Cranes
185	Hen Harriers	179	dove (Columba) sp.	170	Ospreys	167	harrier sp.	138	Imperial Eagles	103	Long-legged Buzzards	90	Great White Pelicans
67	buzzard sp.	45	Crested Honey Buzzards	39	Egyptian Vultures	35	Peregrines	22	Griffon Vultures	14	White-tailed Eagles	12	Common Buzzards
11	Oriental Turtle-Doves	7	Lanner / Saker / Peregrines	6	Ciconia sp.	2	Rough-legged Buzzards	1	Lammergeier	1	Cinereous Vulture		

This year's count was made possible by:



Collateral Trauma: February 27 - March 2, 2022

BLOG BY TONY HANMER

The balance for so much of the world now watching events in Ukraine is between keeping informed (by whatever media) and not getting traumatized (by too much terrible news). But we need the former at the risk of the latter.

What is the word for “murder of all”? Not just matricide, as I wrote last week, or suicide, or genocide. It’s omnicide. Is this what we are inching towards on the slopes of our speeches which, however well-intentioned, have recipients too slippery for them to stick to?

Watching the UN Security Council speeches last night (Feb. 27). Some terrifyingly hilarious moments as, on the Georgian channel we were tuned to, the voice-to-text display of presumably the UN itself was on, and quite a few very serious words were getting mangled into farce. The current, ironically President nation of the Council, Russia (ending March 1), trying to persuade us that foot-

age of the destruction in Ukraine we were seeing was lies, recycled from 2014 and presented as current events. Russia’s veto of Security Council statements running out of time, as tonight by Georgian time there will be an emergency general meeting of the whole UN to vote against Russia (with some for or abstaining votes carefully watched too).

That same Georgian TV channel showing “live” footage of one of those Russian truck-mounted missile launchers sending rocket after rocket into the night sky. Yes, there were a lot of missiles. But when you show the same thing 8 or 10 times in a row, exactly the same patterns of smoke, all titled “live”, you deceive us, intentionally or not. It’s already beyond bad: please don’t think you are helping by making it seem worse than it is. “Live” is ONLY true the first time!

To those who’ve been reporting that the Russian Ruble has reached an all-time low against the US dollar (about 102/\$1) as I write this, I remember it being about 120 in September 1992, down from 30 a year prior when I was in Moscow. That was only the start of its crash, though, as it fell to more than 30,000

rubles to the dollar in the next few years... only to have a “triple zero-ectomy” and emerge looking better than a long time at...30.

Nuclear readiness uptick, says Mr P! Why not?! Things are still just too calm!

There are really only two choices. Either he’s rubbing his hands with glee at the wrong he is perpetrating... or he thinks he’s actually RIGHT. Evil does tend to be self-deluding in its own darkness, as well as deceptive towards outsiders, so I lean towards the latter in this deep philosophical question.

More irony: the meaning of the shared first name of Lenin, Putin and Zelenskyy (slight spelling change in Ukrainian)—“vladi mir” means either “rule the world” or “rule the peace,” while the name Putin comes from the Russian word for “way”, or “path”. Is he convinced that the meanings of his first and last names are significant? Contrast Putin with Rasputin, the “mad monk” of infamy a century ago, whose name, perfectly prophetic in hindsight, means “wayward”... Just playing with conspiracy theories now!

Finally getting around to addressing Belarus’s smug, convenient participation in its unquestioned overlord’s war, days or months too late.

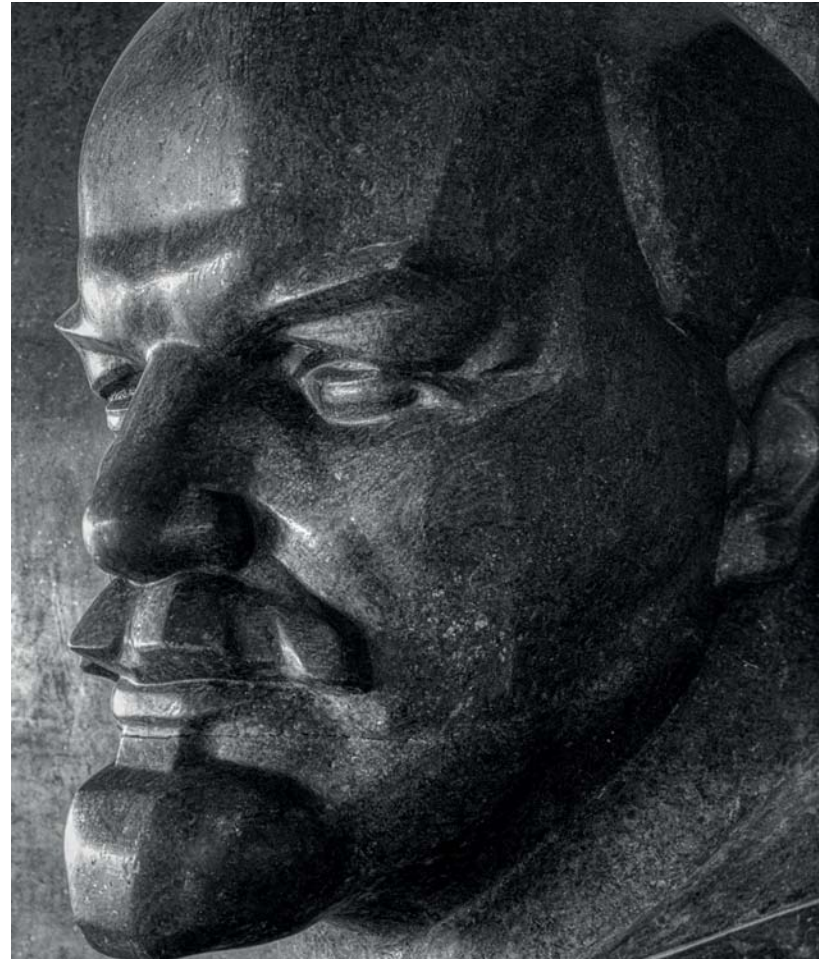
The EU sending hundreds of millions of Euros’ worth of military equipment for Ukraine. Ratchet. Necessary, but ratchet. Russia being given a run for its money in Ukraine, including the reported theft of a tank by... Roma people! Please let this be true!

The hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians fleeing their homeland... maybe the lucky ones. Those left behind are in hell on earth.

So little airspace left for Russian planes outside Russia itself.

Hundreds of brave Russians protesting the war and going calmly to their arrests. I remember on August 19, 1991, end of my sole visit to the USSR, the Soviet army refusing the coup leaders’ orders to fire on the public protesting Gorbachev’s capture. We need such defiance now, again, in the Russian army, sickened by what it’s being ordered to do.

The world is round, so what goes around comes around, sooner or later. My wife and I live about 10 km from the Russian border, and are currently without a vehicle. At least our borders are the high Caucasus, not the most easily crossable ones in winter. Where would we flee to? Canada or the UK, my two countries of citizenship? Eventually things will catch up with all of us anywhere. We would only be buying ourselves a bit more time, I feel. My family’s mostly in Canada and



Zimbabwe, hers mostly in east Georgia, so there would always be someone left out, whichever way you go.

Georgia’s PM saying we won’t participate in sanctions because they might harm us economically: heavy flak for that, see if you can survive. But also: all Ukrainian tourists currently stranded in Georgia given free hotel accommodation and other vital assistance. Tens of thousands of Georgians protesting the war on the streets of Tbilisi, feeling such solidarity.

Blue (sky) and yellow (wheat fields), for the Ukrainian flag, colors of the year, on display everywhere around the world.

For all our civilization and genius, we are dragging ourselves and each other down into a funnel from which there is no escape.

Thank God I can still say I believe that God is not surprised by any of this, nor uncaring; only patient—to a point. That’s a whole other question, though, for another time.

February 28: The Ukrainian Ambassador to Georgia recalled by his president for consultations. Two reasons: Georgia’s “amoral” (president’s quote) refusal, thus far, to join the sanction-applying countries against Russia; and its blocking of a flight of its citizens volunteering for the new Ukrainian Foreign Legion of volunteer soldiers... who will find their own ways there anyway. This shame will all not go away quietly; neither should it. Are WE beholden to Russia, or not?

Belarus’ sad supporting role coming more and more into the light.

Blinken not blinkin’, addressing the UNHRC today.

Standing ovation for Ukraine’s president after he spoke remotely to the European Parliament, which looks to be fast-tracking his country’s application to enter the EU. How ironic that his most popular comedic TV role a lifetime ago was... as president. Life nicely imitating art. His actual presidential inauguration speech, with subtitles in English, is available on YouTube, and well worth watching.

Hardly a Georgian TV channel with less than four screens running, sometimes six, most of the time. The whole world becoming “expert witnesses” of the whole mess, seemingly as never before.

P.S. The photos are from Rivne, Ukraine, in 1993, my only visit to this republic. Not sure if either of these relics has survived the country’s transitory post-Soviet period.

Tony Hanmer has lived in Georgia since 1999, in Svaneti since 2007, and been a weekly writer and photographer for GT since early 2011. He runs the “Svaneti Renaissance” Facebook group, now with nearly 2000 members, at www.facebook.com/groups/SvanetiRenaissance/. He and his wife also run their own guest house in Etseri: www.facebook.com/hanmer.house.svaneti



EFES, the Beer with the Protective Foil, Available Now in Georgia

High quality and devotion to its consumers makes beer EFES a global brand. Now, the brand is taking consumer care to a new level with the introduction of protective foil—EFES is the first to offer Georgian consumers beer with “untouched” packaging.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, this packaging style has become ever more popular worldwide. This innovation protects cans from dust and microbes and ensures the drinkers’ safety. Protective foil packaging is a novelty on the Georgian market and is 100% recyclable.

EFES - Mediterranean slow brew. The brand has a long history in Georgia—imported by EFES Georgia, the leader on the Georgian beer and lemonade market.

Find out more, here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7M41iurBQMM>



EFES with Protective Foil - Slow down and enjoy the Mediterranean

On the Works of Marjory Wardrop. Part IV



BY INNES MERABISHVILI

Literature is the only branch of art that is enclosed within its own linguistic limits and is accessible to the bearers of a definite language only. But any estimable piece of literature, and especially poetry, contains a powerful charge that encourages an appreciative translator to bring the masterpiece to

the notice of other nations, thus making it dear and important to them. Therefore, the translator's work and the act of translation itself appear to be caused by an inner compulsion that what is felt and reasoned in one language should pass the linguistic boundaries of one tongue and become the property of as many nations as possible.

Rustveli composed the poem "The Man in the Panther's Skin" somewhere between the end of 12th century and the very beginning of the 13th, but it was first published in 1712 by King Vakhtang VI in his newly founded first Printing House in Tbilisi. The publication comprised 1587 quatrains with enclosed comments and study by the King himself. Very like to Shakespeare, not a single page of Rustveli's original manuscript has survived. The manuscript according to which Vakhtang VI would have prepared his publication has yet to be found. The earliest dated manuscript of the poem shows the year 1646. Scholars assume that when rewriting and composing manuscripts of the immortal poem anew, some compilers took liberties in altering or extending the existing texts - there are manuscripts of the poem, created in the 18th century, where the number of quatrains is over 2300, much prevailing the

number of quatrains in the 1712 publication. In Marjory's lifetime, more than ten publications of the poem appeared. Marjory Wardrop was a big collector of Rustveli's publications, manuscripts and studies of the poet. Of course, the 1712 publication is at the top of her bibliography.

As a translator and translologist, I have been investigating the original text of Rustveli's poem against its five English translated versions. Studies show that in spite of the fact that Marjory Wardrop created only a prose version of the poem, she is the "winner" not only through her precise, laconic and trustworthy rendering, but through the scholarly attitude of the research she conducted during her work. Today, experts of translation agree that text interpretation, especially when supported by philological research, is a leading point in translated matters. Text interpretation, plus its artistic realization, that's what creates a duly successful translation, though the level of interpretation much depends on the quality of translator's readiness to grasp the values of a masterpiece. Besides, the current attitude of translology has one more demand towards translators: any translator should be at least bilingual and must achieve a profound knowledge of the source language, i.e. the language of the original. Marjory Wardrop anticipated the progressive attitude and developed meticulous research in the 19th century, when translology as a branch of philology had not yet been established. But first of all her research and translating activities were preceded by the process of learning the Georgian language, its culture and history. Only through such dedication was Marjory capable of feeling not only the music of the words, but the music of thoughts implied in Rustveli's text.

There is much to be said and showed concerning Marjory Wardrop's version. The author of these lines finds it necessary to illustrate the skills and sensitivity of the translator at least through one example. The final stanza of the poem that precedes the prologue, offers the main credo of successful rule in the country. Here, we offer the Georgian original text of this quatrain according to the 1712 publication, alongside its linear translation:

ყოვლთა სწორად წყალობასა, ვითა თოვლსა მოათოვდეს, ობოლ ქურციკნი დაამდიდრეს და გლახკნი არ ითხოვდეს, ავთა მქნელნი დაამინეს, კრავნი ცხვართა ვერა სწოვდეს, შიგან მათთა საბრძანისთა თბა და მგელი ერთად სძოვდეს. (1664)

Equal mercy fell on everyone like snow, They enriched orphans and widows and the poor did not beg, They terrified evil-doers, the lambs could not suckle the ewes, Within their domain, goat and wolf graze together.

It is obvious that the phrase "კრავნი

ცხვართა ვერა სწოვდეს" - "the lambs could not suckle the ewes" by the end of the third line comprises very strange content, absolutely contradicting the high ideals presented by the quatrain in connection with the regulations in the state. Did Marjory share the above shown content according to the King's publication? Did she subdue her interpretation to the published version that resonates until now and frequently appears in print? Here is Marjory's translation of the quatrain, which reads as follows:

They poured down mercy like snow on all alike, they enriched orphans and widows and the poor did not beg, they terrified evil-doers; the ewes could not suckle the lambs, within their territories, the goat and the wolf fed together. (1571)

Through the phrase "the ewes could not suckle the lambs" Marjory created the following content: the ewes must not feed on the lambs, but on the contrary, the lambs must get their nutrition from the ewes, that also has symbolic implication. To our great surprise, through that small but important detail, Marjory is again the winner, when compared to other existing English versions. We may assume that the translator who did not follow the King, followed the poet and his main conceptual attitude, thus creating a content that fully fits the poet's credo of successful ruling of the country. Much later, in the 1950s, Rustveli's poem was published under the editorial work



Through such dedication she could feel not only the music of the words, but the music of thoughts implied in Rustveli's text

of eminent Georgian scholars: A. Shanidze, K. Kekelidze and A. Baramidze, where the third line reads as follows: "ავის მქმნელნი დაამინეს, კრავნი კრავთა ვერ უწოვდეს", that can be rendered in English as: "lambs could not suckle from lambs", again confirming Marjory's attitude, talent and intuition in the matter of translation.

To finalize, I would say the following: Some lives are lives; some are but fairy-tales. Even in a fairy-tale, immortality is an outcome of a life, lived by a mortal, but full of love, faith, courage and devotion.

*Innes Merabishvili is the Head of the Chair of Translology with MA and PhD programmes at Tbilisi State University



Rustaveli presenting Queen Tamar the epic poem, painting by Mihály Zichy. Image source: Wikipedia



PUBLISHER & GM
George Sharashidze

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT
Commercial Director:
Iva Merabishvili
Marketing Manager:
Natalia Chikvaidze

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT:
Editor-In-Chief:
Katie Ruth Davies

Journalists:
Ana Dumbadze,
Vazha Tavberidze,
Tony Hanmer,
Emil Avdaliani,
Nugzar B. Ruhadze,
Michael Godwin,
Ketevan Skhirtladze,
Mariam Mtvilishvili

Photographer:
Aleksi Serov

Website Manager/Editor:
Katie Ruth Davies

Layout:
Misha Mchedlishvili

Webmaster:
Sergey Gevenov

Circulation Managers:
David Kerdikashvili,
David Djandjgava

ADDRESS
1 Melikishvili Str.
Tbilisi, 0179, Georgia

Tel.: +995 32 229 59 19
E: info@georgiatoday.ge
F: GeorgiaToday

ADVERTISING & SUBSCRIPTION
+995 555 00 14 46
E-mail:
marketing@georgiatoday.ge

Reproducing material, photos and advertisements without prior editorial permission is strictly forbidden. The author is responsible for all material. Rights of authors are preserved. The newspaper is registered in Mtatsminda district court.

Reg. # 06/4-309



Celebrate Women's Day at Hotels & Preference Hualing Tbilisi!

Enjoy a three-course menu
made especially for you
and get one day

free entrance

in our Recreation Center
Be Pure.

Every woman will
feel special at
Hotels & Preference
Hualing Tbilisi!

For more information,
please contact us:
+995 322 50 50 25;
email: info@hotelspreference.ge

