**The US stands with Ukraine**

**New York, March 2, 2022**—The results of a survey released today by Maru Public Opinion finds Americans in near unanimity (89%) standing with the people of Ukraine in full opposition to Russia’s Vladimir Putin. As a backdrop to that, a majority (61%) believe that Putin’s veiled threat to use nuclear weapons was real and not a bluff. Perhaps because of this, and what they are absorbing daily, while only one-in-five (17%) Americans believe absolutely that we are witnessing the start of World War III, another six-in-ten (57%) say it’s possible we could slide into it via the current conflict.

Overall, many (39%) Americans believe the US is doing too little to aid the Ukrainians, and perhaps because of what they are witnessing unfold as Russian forces pour into the Ukraine, half (49%) are tilting towards military action if the imposed economic sanctions don't deter the Russian invasion. A healthy majority (67%) also believe though that if these sanctions work, it may cause the Russian people to finally revolt against Vladimir Putin successfully because of what he has done in Ukraine.

As for President Joe Biden on the eve of his State of the Union Address, almost two-thirds (61%) support the President in how he is responding to this international event, and majorities believe he is doing a good job in handling this situation (58%) and is being an assertive leader for the US right now (57%).

For a President whose approval ratings have flagged over the past few months, this may be an opportunity to capitalize politically as the Commander in Chief for the free world: six-in-ten (58%) indicate that they could see themselves voting for President Biden if he handles this situation well over the next while.

The rest of the findings cover much ground: from views on NATO, to the United Nations, and even speculation on whether former President Donald Trump would have prevented the invasion if he was still in the Oval Office (spoiler alert, a full majority reject the premise.)

**The pretext**

Last Wednesday evening (February 23, 2022) Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his armed forces to carry out a full-scale invasion of the European country of Ukraine—which was previously part of the old Soviet Union and became an independent country in a 1991 landslide referendum and its adoption by a democratically-elected parliament.

Ukraine has been supported by countries from around the world, especially by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization ("NATO"), a multi-country military alliance (including the United States, Great Britain, the US, France, Germany and 28 other countries). While Ukraine is not a member of NATO, President Putin has viewed such a potential as a political and military challenge, making it an alleged factor for the Russian invasion.
Key findings

Shoulder to Shoulder with Ukrainians...

A vast majority (89%) of Americans express the view that they stand with the people of Ukraine in full opposition to the tyranny of Russia's Vladimir Putin—and a fulsome majority (76%) wish the US and they, themselves, could do more to support and defend the people of Ukraine.

Notably, one-in-eight (13%) of Americans admit to being of Ukrainian descent, heritage, or directly related to those who are

The beginning of “World War III”—maybe

One-in-five (19%) Americans believe absolutely that we are witnessing the start of World War III—and six-in-ten (57%) say that while it’s not the case yet it’s possible we could slide into it via the current conflict. The remainder (18%) either think this is a fight in a small part of Europe and will likely stay that way (16%) or absolutely reject the premise (6%).

Putin’s nuclear weapons threat: no bluff

As his forces were invading, President Putin warned that countries who interfere will face ‘consequences you have never seen’. In that regard, almost two-thirds (61%) say Putin was threatening the use of nuclear weapons against those countries for real while the remainder (39%) say it was just a bluff to give him a tactical advantage.

Americans split on strategic options

The US has imposed a series of comprehensive financial sanctions covering Russian elites, companies, politicians, and financial institutions, cut off wealthy Russians’ access to banks, and terminated trade arrangements. And while none of the US’s military has been sent into Ukraine to confront the Russians, it has sent military personnel and assets to the surrounding countries to bolster its allied NATO forces as a deterrent to the Russians to go further than Ukraine.

Half (49%) tilt towards the US taking military action

Regardless of the apparent consequences, half (49%) of Americans have a tilt towards the US taking military action either now or later: one-in-five (21%) believe the US should send in its military forces now to Ukraine with other NATO allies so the citizens there can be protected, and the Russians deterred even if it means casualties to our forces—followed by a larger group (28%) who believe the US should use financial/economic sanctions now but possibly escalate to use military force over the next two weeks to stop the Russians even if it means casualties to our forces.
The other half (51%) have a strong *tilt* away from military action

One quarter (35%) of Americans believe the US should not send any military forces to confront the Russians in Ukraine either now or later—we should only use other means like imposing financial/economic sanctions on the Russians and stay out of direct military contact altogether while the remainder (16%) say this is not the US’s conflict and that we should stay out of it completely and look after ourselves.

**Majority believe economic and other sanctions could topple Putin**

The US has imposed a series of comprehensive financial sanctions covering Russian elites, companies, politicians, and financial institutions, cut off wealthy Russians’ access to banks, and terminated trade arrangements

Given this, a healthy majority (67%) of Americans believe if these sanctions work, this may cause the Russian people to finally revolt against Vladimir Putin successfully because of what he has done in Ukraine.

**NATO, Western governments, and Donald Trump**

While none of the US military has been sent into Ukraine to confront the Russians, it has sent military personnel and assets to the surrounding countries to bolster its allied NATO forces as a deterrent to the Russians to go further than Ukraine.

A majority (78%) of Americans believe if the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies can’t deter Russia’s takeover of Ukraine it will embolden Vladimir Putin to take over other countries because he will see us as weak. In fact, two-thirds (64%) of Americans say Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine demonstrates a complete failure by Western governments like the US to stand up to him effectively.

A majority (58%) of Americans also reject any view that if former President Donald Trump were leading the United States right now, the Russian invasion of Ukraine would never have happened.

**The United Nations: a potentially useful forum**

Six-in-ten (59%) Americans believe the United Nations (UN) is a useful forum to stop this kind of aggression by Russia—but only a minority (38%) agree that if all the United Nations (UN) does is talk without having any teeth, that’s ok because at least it’s another place for global dialogue.

**Performance politics and the President...**

The vast majority (87%) of Americans believe in a bi-partisan approach to this grave conflict: political parties need to show a common front right now against President Putin, even if they don’t agree with each other. And as if to set the bar for the parties, three quarters (76%) of Americans say they stand with President Joe Biden in solidarity to reject Russia’s Vladimir Putin and all he stands for.
Further, almost two-thirds (61%) support the President in how he is responding to this international event, and majorities believe he is doing a good job in handling this situation (58%) and is being an assertive leader for the US right now (57%).

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Methodology

These are some of the findings from a survey by Maru Public Opinion undertaken February 25-28, 2022, by its panel and data collection experts at Maru/Blue of 1523 randomly selected American adults who are Maru Springboard America online panelists. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of American full-time workers of this size has an estimated margin of error (which measures sampling variability) of +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20. The results have been weighted by education, age, gender, and region to match the population according to Census data which ensures the sample is representative of the entire adult population of the United States. Discrepancies in or between totals when compared to the data tables are due to rounding. This report and its accompanying detailed tables may be found here: Maru Public Opinion Polls US

Maru Public Opinion is the full-service consumer-citizen public opinion research channel for the Maru Group. Maru Public Opinion does not do any polling for any political party or candidate. Maru/Blue is deeply rooted in the Maru/Hub technology platform and offers on-demand, high quality, highly scalable online community samples of deeply engaged, known respondents.

Excerpts from this release of findings should be properly attributed, with interpretation subject to clarification or correction.

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