





# **Russia-Ukraine War & Its Consequences**

#### CONTENTS

# The Post Post-Cold War World



#### Opening: SURPRISES

- Russian Miscalculations
- Ukrainian Courage
- □ Western Resolve
- □ Sanctions' Scope
- Divestment Speed
- Bipartisanship Holding



#### Middle: UNCERTAINTY

- □ How Far Does Russia Go?
- □ Will War Undermine Recovery?
- □ Will Sanctions Prove Effective?
- □ Food Insecurity = Political Unrest?
- **Extent of Humanitarian Crisis?**
- Expansion of Business Divestment?
- Do Midterms Undermine U.S. Unity?
- Does America Have Staying Power?



Endings:

# **NEW ORDER**

- Putin as Permanent Pariah
- Drive to Reduce Dependencies
- China's Sanction-Proofing Imperative
- Battlefields Expanded
- □ Era of Business Neutrality Over
- Key Trends Accelerated
- Questions & Big Picture

# *Opening:* **SURPRISES**

#### **RUSSIAN MISCALCULATIONS**

## Putin Planned for the Last War (Crimea)



## ... But Putin Miscalculated

#### **Overestimated:**

- Russian military effectiveness
- Post-Crimea sanction-proofing
- Western division & energy dependence
- Chinese support

#### **Under-Estimated:**

- Zelenskyy leadership & Ukrainian will
- U.S. ability to rally NATO & the EU
- Stakeholder capitalism & MNC reactions
- U.S. / UK preempting false flags

#### **UKRANIAN COURAGE**

#### Zelenskyy Meets the Moment with Guts & Social Media Savvy



#### Zelenskyy social media followers skyrocket

		O	<b>()</b>
Feb. 8, 2022	408,074	9,270,923	
Mar. 8, 2022	5,163,974	15,462,412	2,448,524



#### WESTERN RESOLVE

*"The West has rediscovered its voice. Faced with the raw, primitive onslaught by Russia against a flawed but aspiring democracy like Ukraine, the free world has been aroused."* 

-- Tom Friedman, NYT, 3/6/22



#### SANCTIONS' SCOPE



### **Unprecedented Sanctions**

- Cut off largest banks from global financial system (SWIFT)
- Froze central bank assets (preventing defense of currency)
- Blocked access to technology, spare parts, flights, export markets
- Confiscated oligarch property



#### **Massive Impact so far**

- Russian Stock Market: -35.9%
- Russian Inflation: 20%
- Value of Currency: -40%
- ➢ GDP change expected in 2022: -8%
- Brain Drain: 43% of Russians age 18-24 wanted to permanently leave before war

#### Surprises:

#### **SPEED OF BUSINESS DIVESTMENT & SUSPENSIONS**

#### Sanctions' Strictures + Stakeholder Pressure = Unwinding Decades of Investment in 2 Weeks



- ROSEN & THOMAS -

Source: Yale Management Professor Jeffrey Sonnenfeld running list

#### **BIPARTISANSHIP HOLDING**

#### "We the United States of America stand with the Ukrainian people."

– President Joe Biden, 3/1/22 State of the Union address to Congress, bipartisan standing ovation



In the next 2 weeks the House of Representatives voted...

**361-69** to aid Ukraine (\$13.6B) & fund other priorities and

**414-17** to ban Russian oil imports and

#### 424-8

to end permanent normal trading relations with Russia

# Middle: UNCERTAINTY

#### HOW FAR DOES RUSSIA GO? WHERE WILL IT END?

**Uncertainties:** 

#### **Massive Escalation Risks, Few Clear Off-Ramps**



#### WILL WAR UNDERMINE RECOVERY?

#### **Energy Shocking**



#### **Shortages Worsening**







Source: Russia 2020 exports

#### WILL SANCTIONS PROVE EFFECTIVE?

## **Is Energy Exemption Too Big?**



**Russian Exports** Hydrocarbons Precious Stones

- Iron & Steel
- Cereals
- Machinery
- Wools & Articles
- Fertilizers
- Copper & Articles
- Aluminum & Articles
- Fish & Crustaceans

#### **Are There Banking Backdoors?**



### Will Russian Citizens Know the Truth?



#### Will Other Nations Throw a Lifeline?



MEHLMAN CASTAGNETTI - ROSEN & THOMAS -

#### **HOW BAD WILL FOOD INSECURITY GET?**

#### War in Europe's "Breadbasket" Threatens Wider Food Insecurity

1 of every 8 calories traded between countries comes from Ukraine & Russia...

#### Food insecurity has consistently led to civil unrest, both recently ("Arab Spring") & historically...



#### Top Wheat, Corn, Barley, and Sunflower Oil Exporters | 2021

#### **EXTENT OF HUMANITARIAN CRISIS?**

#### Millions Displaced, Fleeing to Europe Amidst Populism & Pandemic



#### Pressure to Divest Will Grow, Both in Russia & Beyond



#### WILL MIDTERM POLITICS UNDERMINE U.S. UNITY?

# Have Politics *Ever* Stopped at the Water's Edge?



#### How Russia-Ukraine Will Feature in 2022 Midterm Election Fights

- 1. INFLATION: "Bidenflation" -or- "Putin's Price Hike"?
- 2. MILITARY: "Afghan failure emboldened Putin" -or- "Biden rallied the West"?
- **3. ECONOMY**: Return of recession & shortages -or- solid growth despite war & pandemic?
- **4. ENERGY**: Green new dealers (foreign oil, high gas \$\$) -or- climate deniers (deadly weather)?
- **5. LEADERSHIP**: Congress pushed Biden to be tougher every step -or- the most masterful coalition-building since GHW Bush?
- 6. ANY PEACE DEAL: Appeasement -orsuccess?

#### **America Has the Punching Power...**



#### **Do We Have the Staying Power?**



81% of Republicans say: "The Democratic Party has been taken over by Socialists."

**78%** of **Democrats say:** "The Republican Party has been taken over by **Racists**."



#### Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey

# Endings: NEW ORDER

#### **RUSSIA UNDER PUTIN: PERMANENT PARIAH**

#### Life Behind the New Iron Curtain

#### **Putin's Future Includes:**

- Re-energized & rearming NATO
- Slower growth, higher inflation, less wealth, weaker military (tech access)
- Increasingly dissatisfied citizens
- Attacks on personal wealth & assets of closest supporters
- Fear of coups & unrest

#### **Big defeats have catalyzed leadership changes:**

- > 1856 (Crimean war) → Alexander II's liberal revolution
- > 1905 (Russo-Japanese War) →  $1^{st}$  Russian Revolution
- ➤ 1917 (WWI) → Bolshevik Revolution
- > 1962 (Cuba) → Khrushchev's removal
- ➤ 1991 (Afghanistan) → Soviet collapse

## **Russians' Future Entails:**

- Lower standard of living & growth
- Fewer jobs with global companies
- Less access to Western goods & services
- Fewer markets for Russian workers
- Less Freedom & access to information
- Fewer opportunities to engage globally



#### End Games:

#### **ACCELERATED DRIVE TO REDUCE DEPENDENCIES**

#### **Greater Self-Sufficiencies, More Reliable Supply Chains**

(U.S., China, EU, India reassessing globalization's vulnerabilities)













MEHLMAN CASTAGNETTI — ROSEN & THOMAS —

#### **China's Checklist for Sanction-Proofing post-Russia-Ukraine**

Decrease dependencies on U.S.



Increase dependencies on China



- Control domestic Internet
- Control sea lanes to protect imports
- Dominate trade in strategic areas (e.g. critical minerals)
- Reduce dependence on exports (\$676B trade surplus in 2021)
- □ Become "Too Big to Bail" for MNCs to divest
- Diversify \$3.2T currency reserves out of Western reach
- Greater food security
- Greater energy security (China imports >70% of oil consumption, >40% of natural gas)
- □ Reduce dependence on SWIFT banking system, dollar dominance (accelerate efforts to launch a digital RMB, expand CIPS)
- Semiconductors self-sufficiency (China imports >80% of chips it needs)

#### **BATTLEFIELDS EXPANDED**

#### **New Techniques & Technologies Transforming Warfare**





Low-cost drones offset air power inferiority; tanks struggling



Intelligence releases preempt lies & undermine false flags



Massive sanctions increase economic cost of aggression



Commercial satellite broadband maintains connectivity



Hackers sow chaos in enemy infrastructure & comms



#### End Games:

# THE ERA OF BUSINESS NEUTRALITY IS OVER



#### Why Businesses Are Increasingly Taking Stands on Societal Issues

- Generational: Younger workers & consumers demanding
- **Technological**: Nowhere to hide; Internet = radical transparency & ubiquitous global reach
- □ Activist-Driven: Agents of change leveraging new tools & venues
- □ Investor-Embraced: Managers favoring ESG assets & wielding proxy power
- □ It's an Age of Disruption: The same trends animating global populism are likewise pushing business leaders to engage & offer solutions



#### **KEY TRENDS ACCELERATED**

# **Energy Transition**



- New Urgencies (climate AND national security)
- **New Priorities** (renewables AND domestic production)
- **New Geography** (metals, manufacturing, storage, transmission, distributed systems)

Deglobalization



- Nationalism (self-sufficiency sought in chips, energy, resources, & military)
- **Populism** (backlash against Big-Global-Elite favors protectionism, regulation, splinternet & isolationist impulse)
- Rebalancing (new bipolarity as regions leverage & navigate rising U.S.-China competition)

# **Regulating Tech**



Cyber security / AI, IoT

- Social media (speech, disinfo & de-platforming)
- Crypto currencies / DeFi

#### **Stakeholder Capitalism**



- Activists emboldened, redoubling push
- ESG's <u>S</u>ocial becomes more global
- Businesses adapt (navigate rising nationalism & populism via deeper & local stakeholder engagement)

MEHLMAN CASTAGNETTI — ROSEN & THOMAS —

# Questions & Big Picture: NOW WHAT?

#### THE HARD QUESTIONS

#### Putin's Ultimate Success or Failure Will Inform Us...

- Are nations greater threats when they are more globally-integrated or more isolated?
- Does destroying an enemy's economy pressure its leadership or rally its public against an external foe?



- Does social media empower or undermine tyrants, and who gets to decide who can use platforms?
- Should we prioritize decarbonizing or developing Western energy sources?



 Are businesses motivated by sanctions' strictures (cannot get paid in Russia) or morality (divestment is the "right thing to do")?





#### THE POST POST-COLD WAR WORLD

	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Geopolitics		Pa	x Bri	tann	a	W	orid War	A CONTRACTOR OF A CONT		Pa	Âm	erica	ina—				
World Trade			Increase	ed 32%		F	ell 64%			l	ncrease	<mark>d 366%</mark>			Down	10%	<mark>?????</mark>
U.S. Foreign Policy			Imper	ialist		lso	lationis	st*		Cold	Warrio	r		Globali	st	???	??
										B							4th Industrial Revisition
History of Hamburger es: <u>Trade</u> (Global Mercha	'S	as % GDP) <sup>.</sup> I	Immigrants & R	ace (Census):	*except when	saving the wo	rld twice		Dased fast foo launched 194 DONALDS BURGERS BURGERS ENVTHE BAG CASTAGNETTI & THOMAS	8	Cold War	Mc	oscow McDo Opens 199	90	st Cold Wa	Cle	w McDonalds oses 2022

Sources: Trade (Global Merchandise Exports as % GDP); Immigrants & Race (Census); \*except when saving the world... twice

**GLOBALIZATION** 

TECHNOLOGY

# To join our list for future reports: bruce@mc-dc.com

#### **RECENT ANALYSES:**

https://bit.ly/Mehlman-Infographics

#### MEHLMAN CASTAGNETTI — ROSEN & THOMAS —

is one of the nation's most innovative government relations firms, offering strategic solutions to companies, trade associations, non-profits, and entrepreneurs that help them succeed in Washington.