



Sections

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

Europe

Russia is at war with Ukraine. Here's the background you need to know.

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For weeks, Western officials warned that a massive buildup of Russian troops on the border with Ukraine signaled a plan by Moscow to invade. Now, a full-scale invasion by Russian forces is underway, with missiles and artillery raining down on major cities, hundreds of civilians killed and some places — including [Ukraine's largest nuclear power plant](#) — already under Russia's control.

The war has produced [more than 1.3 million refugees](#) since it began on Feb. 24, according to the United Nations refugee agency, and is upending decades of peace in Europe.