

My Views About the Russian Invasion of Ukraine



A building in Ukraine destroyed by the Russians.

Some of my conservative friends and *especially* Trump supporters have been seemingly justifying Putin's invasion of Ukraine. My friend Jim wrote:

Zelensky is a snake. He has been laundering money for years. He is used by the Deep State. That is why he is supported by the likes of HRC, Biden, Obama, Gates, Pelosi and all the rest. I do know that there are elements of the Ukrainian army who persecute and kill Ukrainian Russians.

Another friend named Mike wrote:

Any bets on who wins? \$100 on The Ukraine Government and The Faggot Zelinski going down. Putin is winning cuz God is using him to take out The Satanic Kazarian Mafia.

Why does Mike think the President of Ukraine is gay? Volodymyr Zelinskyy has a beautiful wife. From where does Mike and Jim get their information?

I told Mike I won't bet with him because I don't want to take his money. He told me that before the Ukrainian army started to take back what the Russian army conquered.

Before I go any further, let me state what I believe to be my qualifications for writing anything about the Russian / Ukrainian conflict: I lived in Russia from March 1994 to October 1997. I've been to the far eastern city of Khabarovsk. I lived in central Siberia in Akadem Gorodok close to Novosibirsk for 4 months. I've been to a few times to Moscow and walked the length of Red Square. I lived in St. Petersburg for two years. And I lived in the Arctic city of Murmansk Russia for 10 months. I love the Russian people! Living in Russia was one of the most fun experiences in my life making new friends and learning a new language. I got to the point I was comfortable on the streets of Russia alone. I could communicate with them in their own language. And I met not only ethnic Russians, I met people from all 15 republics of the former Soviet Union and can name them all from memory. How many Americans can do that? And I even met people from provinces within Russia such as Chechnya.

I considered them to be a kind and affectionate people. I loved to shake hands with the Russians because they are good hand-shakers. The Japanese are no good at it!

And I visited Russia's neighbors such as Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. In 1997 I passed through Belarus and Ukraine by train, the very area of the fighting today, the Donbas region. I passed through Belarus on my way from St. Petersburg to Warsaw, Poland, and was not challenged to show my visa for Belarus. But on my way from the Black Sea area of Russia back to St. Petersburg, the train passed through Donbas Ukraine and Ukrainian border guards on the train asked me to show a visa for Ukraine. I didn't have one. My two Russian companions talked the Ukrainian border guards out of giving me a fine!

Of the 15 former Soviet Republics, only three of them speak Slavic languages, Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. They are close ethnically. I always considered Russians and Ukrainians to be one big family. One-third of Ukrainians speak Russian. In the capital Kyiv the Russian language is predominant. I met many ethnic Ukrainians who live in Russia.

When I lived in Niigata Japan I used to visit Russian ships at port. The captain and the crew treated me and my friends as honored guests. Some of them were ethnic Ukrainians. One Ukrainian lady working on the ship told me half of the Russians are ethnic Ukrainians and half of the Ukrainians are ethnic Russians!

I have a close Ukrainian friend I knew in St. Petersburg. Her name is Lydia and I am still in contact with her. She and her daughter are now refugees in France. She tells me no place in Ukraine is safe.

I'm saying this because it disturbs me greatly what Russia is doing now in Ukraine. There have been countless war crimes. Innocent civilians, women, and children have been killed! And for what? To feed Vladimir Putin's territorial ambitions!

Historically Russia has always been a bully to its neighbors. In the restroom of a department store in Helsinki Finland I saw graffiti on the wall cursing Russians. In 1940, Finland lost part of its eastern territory in a war with the Soviet Union, and that area is now part of Russia. Russia didn't return it after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The three Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became *unwilling* members of the Soviet Union. Their languages are all different from each other and not similar to Russian. They have a strong national identity and are not friendly toward Russia. They all have an ethnic Russian population. The older generation of those countries learned to speak Russian because Russian was the language of education in the Soviet Union. But they refuse to speak it today to any Russian who is a resident of their country. While in Tallinn Estonia, I heard an Estonian lady scold a Russian boy for doing something she didn't like. At first, she spoke to him in Estonian, and when he didn't seem to understand it, she spoke in Russian telling him he needs to learn Estonian. This was a few years after the breakup of the Soviet Union. I

think all the ethnic Russians living in the Baltic countries are probably fluent in the languages of those countries today.

The only neighbor of Russia that likes Russia is Belarus. That's because the president, Lukashenko is a buddy of Putin. He was president of Belarus as long ago as when I lived in Russia in the 1990s! Boris Yeltsin was president of Russia when I was there. The world loved Yeltsin but the Russians considered him a drunk and a clown.

According to a documentary film I saw, Putin was appointed Yeltsin's successor because of a deal the Yeltsin family made with him. The Yeltsins were corrupt and stole billions from the Russian people. They placed Putin in power because Putin promised not to prosecute them later. They're all criminals, including Putin!

This documentary exposes Putin's crimes against the Russian people. You have to click on the "Watch on YouTube" link to see it. YouTube calls it "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences". The only people I can think of who would find it offensive are the Putin worshippers.

Putin came to power through the 1999 apartment bombings. It was a false flag FSB operation. Putin has the blood of his own people on his hands.

If you are new to this website, you should know I am no longer living in Japan. I moved to the US territory of Guam in 2018. There is a Russian community here. Every one of them will tell you that Vladimir Putin is a criminal. Many of them came to Guam for political asylum. One Russian man told me he would be arrested if he returned to Russia because he is a dissenter of Putin's policies.

My opinion: No matter what you think about Ukraine or its president or shady deals with the Biden family, Putin is the aggressor in his war in Ukraine. When I told my Ukrainian friend Lydia what my conservative friends were saying about Putin's justification for his so-called "special military operation", she got upset and told me I was listening to Russian propaganda! She said Russian propaganda is very strong.

Ukrainians have good historical reasons not to trust Russia. Moscow starved millions of Ukrainians to death in 1932-33. See:

<https://www.history.com/news/ukrainian-famine-stalin>

My friend Yanek from Belarus says he believes the West tricked Putin into invading Ukraine knowing that it would result in his downfall. By "the West" I am talking especially about America, Western Europe and NATO which I believe is run by a vast corporation called the "Holy See" the Whore of the Book of Revelation that rides the Beast, the Western nations. Their goal is to take over Russia and destroy Putin, they don't care how many Russians and Ukrainians die in the process.

Putin is toast. He was given false information to think the Ukrainian people would welcome the Russian army as liberators from the Nazis. The Ukrainian government is NOT run by Nazis according to my Ukrainian friend Lydia. The

only possible Nazis are a small army of only 2000 soldiers in Eastern Ukraine called the Azov regiment. Putin used the fear of Nazis to rally support for his war. Many Russians died by the Nazis in WW2. They call it the Great Patriotic War. St. Petersburg, Putin's hometown, is considered one of the hero cities of the Soviet Union for surviving a two-year siege by the German army. Putin used the historical hatred of Nazis to deceive the Russian people to support his invasion of Ukraine. He will not succeed. He is not fighting for his people. He's destroying them. He only cares about himself.

The Russians do not have the heart to fight against their Slavic cousins in Ukraine, and the Ukrainians are willing to fight to the death to defend their homeland. Doesn't that make sense to you folks who call the president of Ukraine a snake? He may be one but he's earned the respect of his people and the world by not running away when given the opportunity to do so. From what I can see, he's being a true leader to his people. I could be wrong about him, but that still doesn't justify Putin's aggression.

Adventures in St. Petersburg, Russia



I lived in St. Petersburg, Russia, from August of 1994 to October of 1997. It was known as Leningrad during the time of the Soviet Union. Many people who don't live in St. Petersburg still call it Leningrad! At least they did during my stay in Russia. But I don't remember a resident of St. Petersburg refer to it by the Soviet name. They are proud of their pre-Soviet history when Peter the Great founded the city on the tributary of the Neva river – actually a wetland. The mosquitoes in the summertime are terrible!



Gostiny Dvor on Nevsky Prospect.

The photo is *Gostini Dvor* on the main street, Nevsky Prospect. In 1997 I spent over 2 whole hours looking for a weather thermometer but could not find one. The salespeople kept telling me to go to a pharmacy. I replied, "I'm not

looking for a body thermometer! I want a weather thermometer.” They replied, “Yes, but they also sell those at the pharmacy.” Well, can you guess what happened when I posed the same question to the pharmacy people back then? They looked at me like I was nuts! “This is a drugstore, not a household appliance store!” “I know I know! But the main department store in town **TOLD me** to come to you!” And so I was bounced back and forth about 3 times before I finally gave up. A few weeks later I went back to my old neighborhood in Chicago and found what I was looking for in a Dollar Shop in a matter of minutes.



Nostalgic communist lady

The lady on the right is a nostalgic communist who is campaigning for the return of communism. Behind her are photos of Stalin, Lenin, and a contemporary politician named Zugannof. If you guessed by the sour look on her face that she doesn't like me, you're correct. She knows that I am a foreigner and a Christian missionary. I just smiled back at her and walked on.



A beggar in St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg is situated on a tributary, and so it is divided into several small islands that are linked by bridges and tunnels. Here is a typical beggar in Petrogradskaya Ostrov (Petersburg Island). It is hard to tell which beggars are really in need and who is faking. Some are professional beggars who actually pay the Mafia to beg on their turf. After a day's work of soliciting donations, they can relax in a fine restaurant eating a good meal. This is something I could not afford to do when I was there!



James and Helen

There was real poverty in St. Peterburg when I was there. I often visited a poor lady named Helen. Here I am with her in 1997. But though she was old and needy, she never begged. She taught English and got paid in groceries. Sometimes I would bring her food and gifts. Read [more about Helen](#), a former interpreter who helped in an interview with the famous Yuri Gagarin, the first man to be shot into space into orbit!



Giving a talk about the meaning of
Easter in a school in St.Petersburg

Here is a picture of me and my friends in a school in St. Petersburg. It is close to Easter and I am giving a talk to the pupils on the meaning of Easter – the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I had the total support of the school teachers and principal to do so. Do you think I could get away with this in a public school in my homeland, the USA? Only deep somewhere in a rural area in the State of Indiana where the Amish live perhaps.



With Natasha Blond

Here I am with Natasha Blond in a park in front of a horse. Isn't she pretty? The horse was kinda pretty too. Her family name is not "Blond" but I named her that because of her real 100% natural blond hair, smooth as silk! You can tell that I really liked Natasha Blond! But alas, she was way too young for me.



Selling audio-visuals at an
exhibition in St. Petersburg

In the photo is Russian Stephanie, American Nat, and me at the main exhibition hall in town. We are offering audio-visual teaching material for children. This is partly how we supported ourselves. The rest of the support came from donations from the headquarters of The Family and monthly donations from my faithful friends in Japan to whom I wrote monthly newsletters of my missionary activities in Russia.



Lydia with a women from Georgia

In the picture on the right is Lydia (right) talking to a lady from the former Soviet republic of Georgia. I don't know why in English we say "Georgia" because the correct pronunciation doesn't sound anything like the US state of Georgia. It sounds more like Gruzia. Lydia was a friend of the head of security at the main exhibition hall of St. Petersburg. He would let us inside for free when everyone else had to pay \$1.00. A dollar doesn't sound like much now but it sure did then! That was 5000 RUBLES!! It was nice to walk around with the head of security. This way the other guards would get to know us and leave us alone while we offered our teaching materials to the guests.



Lydia by a vendor of flowers

Here's Lydia again on a street by a vendor of flowers. Lydia is from Kiev, Ukraine. People often remarked that she spoke with an accent, unlike a Ukrainian. This is due to her learning English and being with missionaries from America. She married and has a one-year-old daughter named Diane.