

Ukraine Resists the Russian Invasion

What helped Ukraine resist the initial Russian invasion?

Key Concepts:

Internal factors: Factors that come from inside a country itself. Here, it can be a government's choices, its own resources, leadership, and the actions of its people.

External factors: Factors that come from outside a country. These include the decisions, support, or actions of other countries and organizations.

In February 2022, Russia launched a full invasion of Ukraine. Many people expected Ukraine to fall quickly. On February 25th, 2022, CNN reported that US intelligence officials feared the capital, Kyiv, could come under Russian control within days. That did not happen. Ukraine held Kyiv, and by April Russian forces had pulled back from the north.

Researchers give four main overlapping explanations. In the end, all four of these mattered

First, Ukrainian preparation. RUSI, a British defence research institute, found that Ukraine moved its

weapons, aircraft and air defences to many scattered locations before the attack. Spreading them out made them harder to destroy.

Second, Russian mistakes. The same RUSI report says the Russian plan had no backup option. When the fast attack failed, Russian commanders had nothing to switch to.

Third, help from abroad. The Kiel Institute in Germany counts the weapons and money governments send to Ukraine. Dozens of countries have sent military, financial and humanitarian aid since 2022.

Fourth, attention. The scholar Joseph Nye argued in 2022 that Ukraine's president won sympathy in other countries, and that this sympathy turned into real deliveries of weapons.

Notice how the four connect. Ukraine's own effort mattered enormously. But so did decisions made by governments far away.



Comprehension Questions

1. What did many people expect would happen when Russia invaded in February 2022?
2. What did Ukraine do with its weapons and aircraft before the attack? Why did this help?
3. According to RUSI, what was missing from the Russian plan?
4. What does the Kiel Institute keep track of?
5. What did Joseph Nye say Ukraine's president was able to do?

Thinking Questions

1. The reading says the four explanations are all overlapping. What do you think that means?
2. Which of the four explanations do you think is the most important? Give one reason.
3. Could Ukraine have resisted without help from other countries? Why or why not?
4. Why might a country far away decide to send weapons to a country it is not fighting for?
5. Is "the other side made mistakes" a good explanation for why someone succeeds? Explain.

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Internal Factors	External Factors

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Now, thinking about the central question of the lesson, **do you think internal or external factors were more important to the effectiveness of the Ukrainian resistance to Russian invasion?**

- Clearly state your answer to the question
- Explain your position with at least two pieces of evidence.
- Your response should make reference to both internal and external factors

[illegible]

Further Research

1. Research the resistance in more detail. Find two events where Ukraine successfully resisted Russia that occurred between February and April, 2022. Make a list of internal and external factors that contributed to Ukraine's success.

Event 1:	
Description of event:	
Internal Factors	External Factors
Event 2:	
Description of event:	
Internal Factors	External Factors

2. From the two events you research, add more to your response above. Were internal or external factors more important?
