



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

Jussi P. Laine
Karelian Institute
University of Eastern Finland
@JussiPLaine
jussi.laine@uef.fi

European & Eurasian Studies Program



Europe's New Challenge: Accommodating Three Waves of Refugees

Thursday, March 30, 2023 | 11 am– 12:30 pm | FIU MMC | GC 355



Depiction of migration as akin to an elemental natural force – particularly with various water analogies.

Power words e.g. a flood, tsunami, tide, wave, avalanche, surge, swelling, and others hide much of the human drama by alluding to magnitude and the mere pace of the phenomenon.

Introduction

- Following Russia's invasion of parts of Ukraine, millions of Ukrainians fled their homes.
- Also significant Russian exodus
- Facing an influx of refugees, attitudes and policies vary across Europe
- Ukrainian refugees generally embraced, Russian shunned
- Ukrainians: Immense – well deserved solidarity, widespread accommodation and heart-warming policies. Response revealed also structural racism and discrimination.
- Russians: mixed feelings, reasonable reservation, but also Russophobia, moral concerns (Russia is a state sponsor of terrorism, committing war crimes in a “genocidal” war in Ukraine; entire country culpable)

Double standards

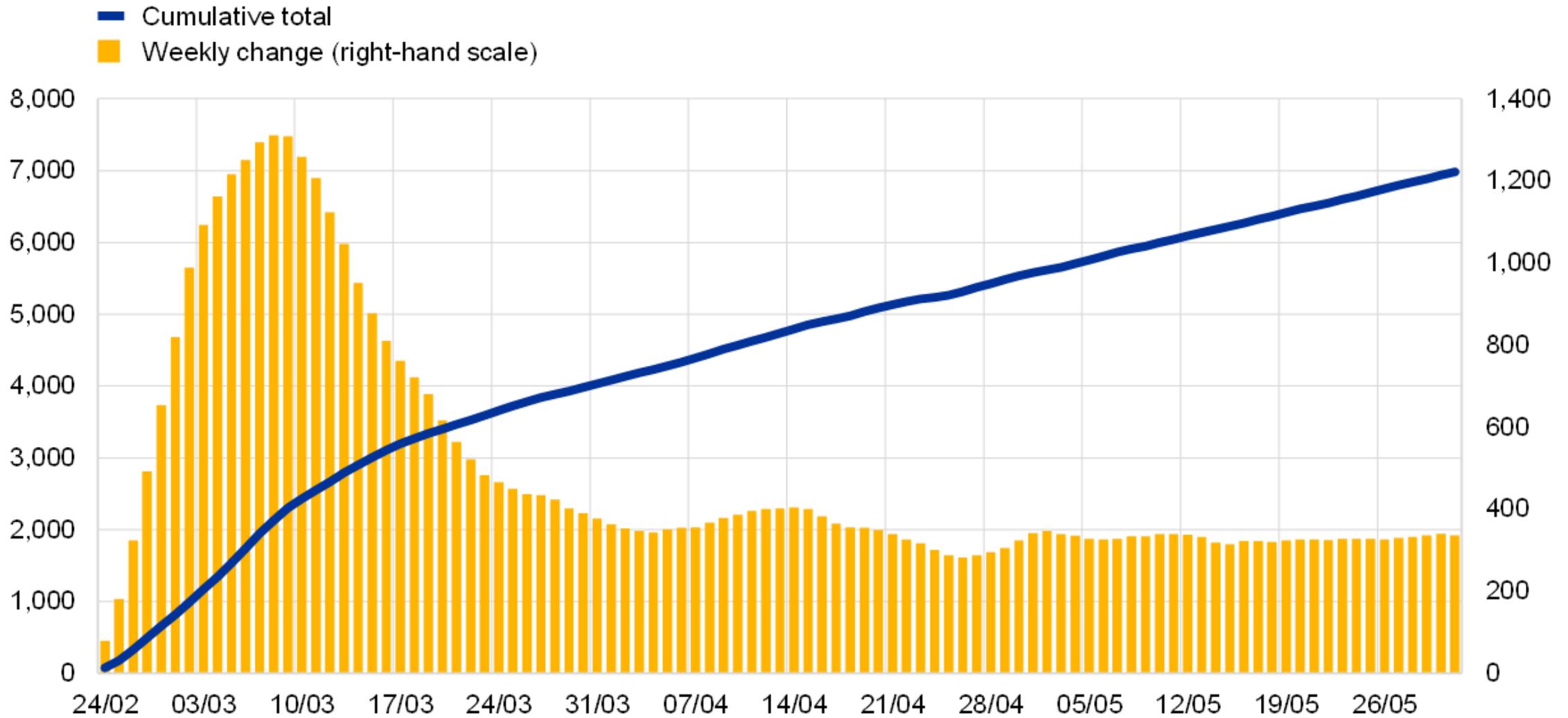


Attitude of toward Ukrainian refugees fundamentally different from the attitude toward refugees from, say, Yemen, Syria, Palestine.

Response to refugees reflect geographical, geopolitical and racist considerations.

Acceptance based on skin color, language, religion, and place of birth rather than on victim status.

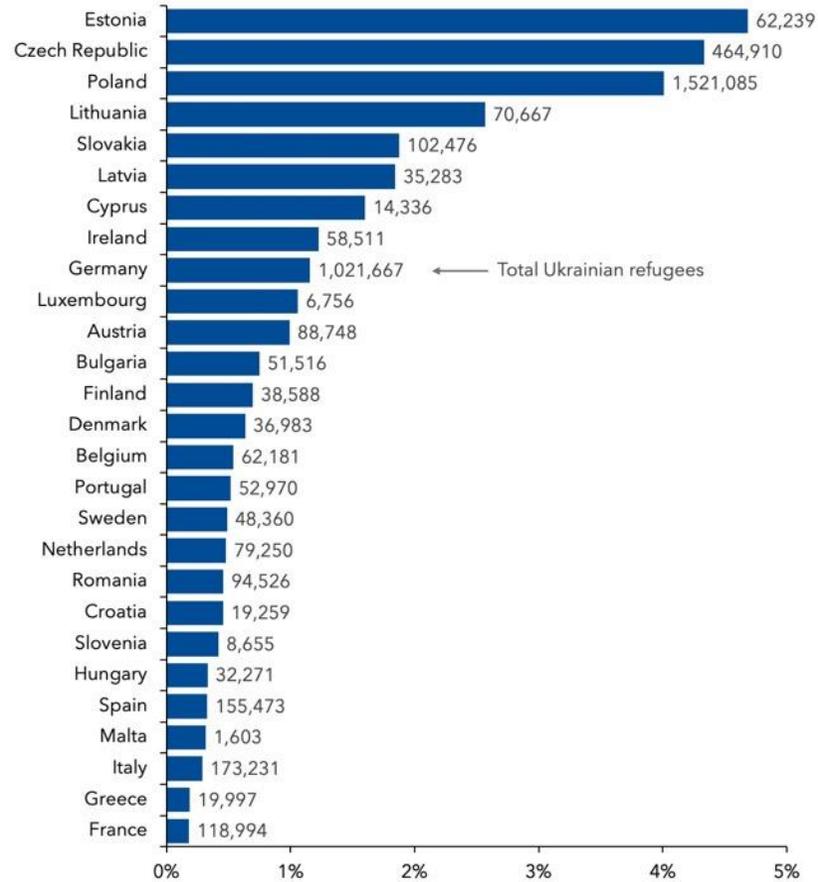
Number of Ukrainian refugees leaving the country



Share of refugees

Almost 8 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion, with the majority now in the European Union.

(Ukrainian refugees as a share of population)



Source: UNHCR; Eurostat; WEO Database; and IMF Staff Calculations.
Note: Refugee numbers as of December 1st.

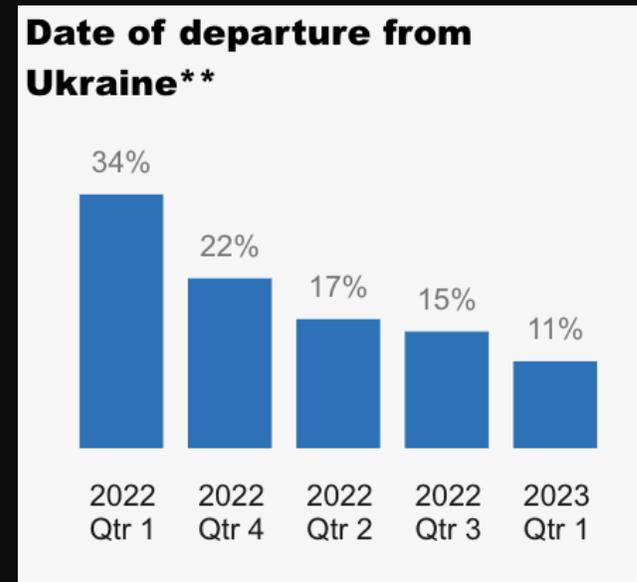
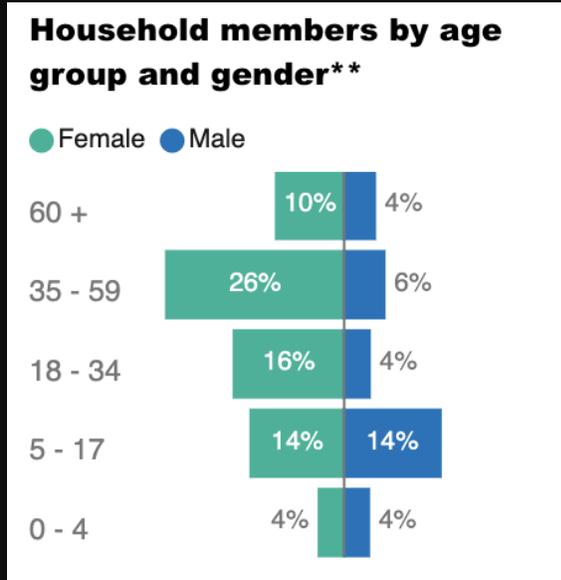
Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

- 8,157,230 (20 Mar 2023)

Refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe

- 4,946,920 (20 Mar 2023)

Source - UNHCR, Government



EUROPEAN COURT PUTS TERRORISTS & MURDERERS FIRST. WHY IS CAMERON DITHERING OVER ENDING THIS FARCE?



Rescue boats? I'd use gunships to stop migrants

NO, I don't care. Show me pictures of coffins, show me bodies floating in water, play violins and show me skinny people looking sad. I still don't care. Because in the next minute you'll show me pictures of aggressive young men at Calais, spreading like norovirus on a cruise ship. Watching them try to clamber on to British lorries and steal their way into the UK, do I feel pity? Only for the British drivers, who get hit with a fine every time one of this plague of feral humans ends up in their truck. Understand this, these two populations are the same. The migrants harassing Brit truckers at the port are the same as the vagrants making the perilous trip across the Med. And there is no stopping them. 110,000 came last year. During a recent operation by the Italian coastguard to rescue migrants off the coast of Libya, the people traffickers threatened crew with Kalashnikovs to get their vessel back. Clearly, boats are in short supply. And that is a good thing. No boats, no migrants. There is a simple solution to this: it's time for the Italians to stop singing opera, drinking espresso and looking chic in chuffing everything. It's time to get Australian. Australians are like British people but with balls of steel, can-do brains, tiny hearts and whacking great gunships. Their approach to migrant boats is the sort of approach we need in the Med. They threaten them with violence until they bugger off, throwing cans of Castlemaine in an Aussie version of sharia stoning. And their approach is working. Migrant

EUrope's Selective Dehumanisation Bueno Lacy & van Houtum (2023)



- Ukrainian refugees welcomed – rightfully so – stark contrast with the illegalisation, push-backs, deportation, and fatal passiveness towards others
- EU has extended the benefits of its Temporary Protection Directive exclusively to Ukrainians – African labour migrants and refugees residing in Ukraine excluded from the policy's scope.
- Just as Ukrainian refugees are being integrated without much hassle, EUropean governments and media keep denouncing refugees as a 'burden'
- Attempt to rationalise discrimination as geographical common-sense dismisses the actual causes and implications of the phenomenon
- The West politicized the refugee issue in an attempt to harm Russia by welcoming Ukrainian refugees – downplaying in so doing their own moral obligations (Laine 2022)



Photo: Zurab Tsertsvadze

Russia: Historic Exodus

- As Russian troops stormed into Ukraine, millions of Ukrainians forced to flee – also high numbers of Russians
 - fearing the Kremlin would shut the borders and impose martial law
 - invasion a last straw for many opposing rising authoritarianism
 - others driven by economic interest, to preserve livelihoods, escape sanctions
 - Military mobilization spurred men to run
- Economic migrants, conscientious objectors, political refugees
- ~ 1 million have left
 - on scale with emigration following the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and the USSR collapse in 1991
- Departures stand to redefine the country for generations
 - Many who have fled young, well-educated professionals
- The huge outflow has swelled existing Russian expatriate communities, and created new ones.
- The layer that could have changed something in the country has now been washed away.” (Tamara Eidelman, a Russian historian)
- Mass protests , violence at draft offices, sold-out flights, chaotic scenes at border crossings





"I'm ashamed to be Russian" - "No war."

Finland shuts border to Russian tourists after spike in arrivals following Putin's reservist call-up

By Euronews with AP • Updated: 04/10/2022

Finland bars Russians from entering as tourists.

The long-planned move closes off the last land route into the European Union for people fleeing Russia's military mobilization effort.

Give this article



Finland's foreign minister said the country would bar Russians from entering as tourists, shuttering the last land route to the European Union for people fleeing the Kremlin's military mobilization.

Alessandro Rampazzo/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



"No war with Ukraine! Putin must resign!"

AA Turkishairlines.com

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01:50 VKO	Direct	06:00 IST	All classes Full
Details Flight Duration: 4h 10m			
06:20 VKO	Direct	10:25 IST	All classes Full
Details Flight Duration: 4h 5m			
11:50 VKO	Direct	15:50 IST	All classes Full
Details Flight Duration: 4h			
15:10 VKO	Direct	19:10 IST	All classes Full



Mobile mobilisation enlistment office



**RUSSIAN DESERTERS,
YOU ARE NOT WELCOME**

A mishmash of responses

- Some countries (GEO, GER and ARM welcoming the draft evaders, others (e.g. Baltic countries, POL and FIN) slamming their doors shut.
- Exodus tested the patience and capacity (resilience) of neighboring countries already strained to accommodate more millions of Ukrainians
 - positive feelings disappearing amidst the sharp increase in inflation brought by the Russians' arrival, the loss of jobs in some cases for locals and the new arrivals' attitudes toward local laws and customs
- Many reluctant to admit they are avoiding conscription > complicate the feelings toward the new arrivals
- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz: “not the war of the Russian people. This is the war of Vladimir Putin.”



- FIN, but also the Baltic States, acknowledge the risks of a hardline policy toward those fleeing Russia yet point to the security problem they may present
 - many newcomers welcomed the war, yet they themselves don't want to join > value clash
 - polls suggest that support in Russia for war stands at 72-75 %
- GER and FRA, further away, more relaxed
 - larger populations
 - tradition to provide protection to refugees
 - GER grant residency to conscientious objectors.

Fight for hearts and minds

- Latvian FM, E. Rinkevics, fleeing Russians “are security risks, those are counterintelligence risks. Those are risks of penetration, not only of people who are fleeing but also people who could be used for further covert operations”
- Estonia’s FM, U. Reinsalu, all countries need
 - to be very cautious about whom they are letting in from Russia, and whom not.”
 - “Officials of Ukraine tell us that the saboteurs and operatives of the Russian security services entered Ukraine months, years before the war,” he said. “Also, many of the operatives of [the] Russian security services responsible for poisonings, explosions, et cetera, used tourist visas and false identities.”
 - “It would be immoral to accept business or even leisure activities of the aggressor state's citizens as if nothing has happened,”
 - “There is a genocide going on, sponsored literally by the tax money of these people who would like to go in any direction to leave Russia.”
- GER MEP Viola von Cramon, “There are people who had to flee, but they are not all dissidents. There are also opportunists who were benefiting from the regime, and there will be a lot of FSB agents as well

How pragmatic Finland deals with its Russian neighbour

🕒 27 July 2017



AFP

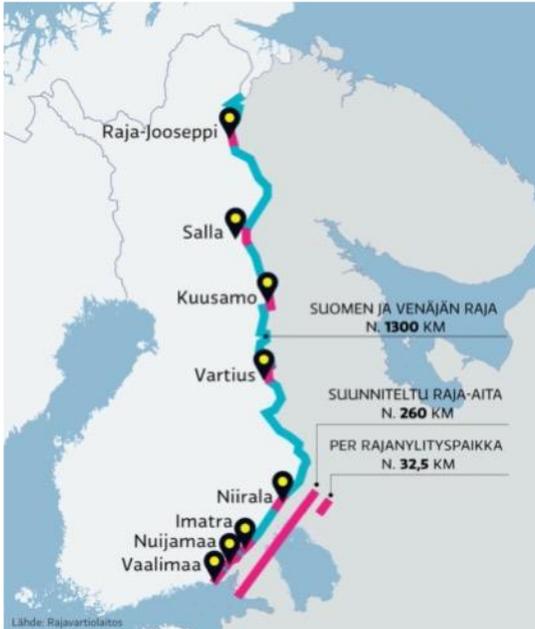
Not-so-frosty ties: The Finnish and Russian leaders played ice hockey together in 2012



"The mask has now come off and only the cold face of war is visible"



Growing cross-party support for Russia border fence



"Hanke on järjetön"

Rajoja tutkineen professori Jussi P. Laineen mielestä hallituksen pitäisi tehdä tarkat laskut "järjen ja tutkitun tiedon valkealla kielellä".



RYSSLAND



...ministerin ei pitäisi hakea tietoa vain yhdestä...
...unnasta, sanoo rajoja tutkinut professori Jussi P. Lain...
...OVA: RAJAVARTIOLAITOS / LEHTIKUVA, MIKKO STIG /
...LEHTIKUVA

...lida Hallikainen

Att bygga ett stängsel vid ryska gränsen är att kasta bort pengar och ett steg mot att överge europeiska värderingar. Det säger Jussi Laine som forskat i gränshinder och migration.

Stängslet skulle byggas där gränsen är enklast att överskrida illegalt. Bygget beräknas kosta flera hundra miljoner euro. Jussi Laine tycker inte det är till någon nytta. GRÄNSBEVAKNINGSVÄSENDETS VISIONSBILD/RIIKKA MALIN



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EASTERN BORDER BARRIER FENCE

Finland's main parties back plans to build Russia border fence

Structure would protect areas identified as posing potential risk of large-scale migration from Russia

[Russia-Ukraine war - latest news updates](#)



Finland's border guards look at cars queuing at the Vaalimaa border crossing between Finland and Russia. Photograph: Alessandro Rampazzo/AFP/Getty Images

Finland's main political parties have backed building a fence along parts of

Finland's political party leaders express support for partial border fence

The Finnish Border Guard has proposed that between 130 and 260 kilometres of partial fencing be built along Finland's 1,300 kilometres border with Russia.



Riikka Purra of the Finns Party (Centre) and NCP chair Petteri Orpo at Tuesday afternoon's meeting. Image: Silja Viitala / Yle

YLE NEWS

18.10 17:50



Border Guard to spend €300m to beef up security

The money will be split between fencing on parts of Finland's eastern border and upgrading the Border Guard's air fleet.



The Border Guard's Dornier 228 German turboprop aircraft will reach 30 years of age in 2025 and will be replaced by new ones in 2026. Image: Yle/ Nora Engström

“In our hearts you've already won”

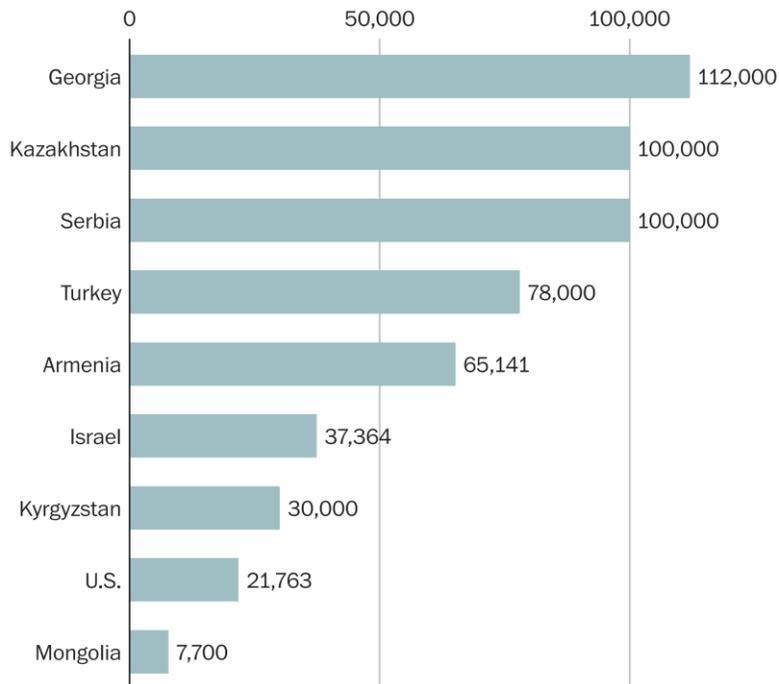
- Zelenskyy: "Finns understand what Ukraine is going through with Russia”
- Marin: “Finland is united in support of Ukraine's cause”



Three phases of Russian emigration

Where Russians emigrated following Feb. 24 invasion

Data for 2022



Data for Georgia accounts for the first nine months of 2022. U.S. data reflects asylum requests from Russians for the 2022 fiscal year. Data for Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Turkey are approximate numbers based on government assessments.

Source: RBC, News.mn, Interfax, Parliament of Georgia, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Interior, Serbian State TV (RTS), Ministry of Internal Affairs of Armenia, Israel's Ministry of Aliyah, 24.kg MARY ILYUSHINA / THE WASHINGTON POST

1. Immediately after Russia invaded Ukraine, journalists, politicians, and tech workers fled
 - to evade criminal prosecution for exercising free speech regarding the invasion.
 - Mar 2022: President Vladimir Putin introduced prison sentences of up to 15 years for publishing "fake news" about Russian military operations.
2. ~ July 2022: middle and upper class people, parents who had to wait for their children's school year to end, people with businesses.
 - June 2022: expected that 15,000 millionaires would leave Russia in 2022
3. Following Putin's announcement of partial mobilization on 21 Sept 2022
 - hundreds of thousands (700,000?) of male citizens fleeing
 - Many to Kazakhstan, Serbia, Turkey, UAE, Georgia, and Finland
 - Putin signed a decree introducing prison terms of up to 15 years for wartime acts, including voluntary surrender and desertion during mobilization or war.

Russian men in Finland ponder next move

Gleb Yarovoy in Joensuu has opened his home to Russian men fleeing the country since Vladimir Putin's partial mobilisation.

- Thousands of Russian men fled Russia after the Kremlin ordered a partial mobilisation. Many of those fleeing are aiming to stay with friends or relatives.
- Unlike Ukrainians, there is little structured support for fleeing Russians, most of whom try to stay with acquaintances.
- *"These are friends of mine, former colleagues and students. I don't have a problem offering them a place to stay, but my wife and kids may have a different opinion,"*