

April 6, 2022



# War in Ukraine: What it Means for Global Food Security



## Bios of Participants

**Roger Marshall, M.D.** is a proud physician, veteran, devoted father, grandfather, husband, and U.S. Senator for Kansas. As a 5th generation farm kid growing up in Butler County, Doc Marshall became the first in his family to attend college. After graduating from Butler County Community College, he received his Bachelor's degree from Kansas State University and his Medical Doctorate from the University of Kansas. He has a strong admiration for those who put their lives on the line to protect our communities and those work day in and day out to feed, clothe, and fuel the world. As an OB/GYN delivering babies in rural Kansas, Dr. Marshall gained a deep appreciation and passion for the sanctity of life. He raised his four children alongside his wife Laina based on traditional Kansas values. Senator Marshall continues to fight to protect Kansas values each and every day. Senator Marshall serves on the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.



**U.S. Senator Joni Ernst** is a native of Red Oak, and has dedicated her life to her state and country, having served in the military for over 23 years, and now serving in the United States Senate. In November 2014—after her service in the Army Reserves and the Iowa National Guard, and then in state government—Joni was elected as the first woman to serve in federal elected office from the State of Iowa and also became the first female combat veteran elected to serve in the United States Senate. In Washington, Joni serves on five Senate committees of major importance to Iowans: Armed Services; Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; Environment and Public Works; and Small Business and Entrepreneurship. As a mother, soldier and independent voice, Joni is committed to bringing Iowa values to Washington, D.C. and to always fight on behalf of families and communities in our state.



**Dr. Hanna Hopko** is an expert in advocacy, international relations, on Russian expansionism and hybrid warfare. She chaired the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament from 2014-2019. Dr. Hopko was one of the civic leaders of the EuroMaidan during Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity. She was elected to Parliament from the pro-European Self-Reliance Party in 2014 and later served as an independent MP. In 2014, Foreign Policy magazine named Dr. Hopko a "Leading Global Thinker". That same year, she received the "Certificate of Merit" from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service Leadership Seminar and was honored with the National Democratic Institute Democracy Award for her efforts to further the cause of democracy in Ukraine. She belongs to Young Global Leaders Networks of WEF (World Economic Forum) and Munich Security Conference. Now, she is ANTS (National Interests Advocacy Network) Chair of the Board and Chairwoman of Democracy in Action Initiative. Since the Russian full scale escalation of Ukraine established together with other Ukrainian activists the International Center for Ukrainian Victory (ICUV) in cooperation with the Casimir Pulaski Foundation. The ICUV advocates for Ukrainian interests internationally and supports civil society actions for Ukraine's victory.



**Daria Kaleniuk** is co-founder and executive director of the Anti-Corruption Action Center, a powerful national organization that has shaped Ukraine's anti-corruption legislation and efforts. Daria's organization ensured that Ukraine's newly elected parliament designed strong anti-corruption legislation, including the laws on the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, the special anti-corruption prosecutor's office, High Anticorruption Court, open property registers and electronic asset declarations. Daria has also founded critical resources to track money laundering and corruption internationally. Daria is member of international networks of Young Global Leaders (WEF) and Munich Young Leaders (MSC); she is in the list of top 100 the most successful women of Ukraine according to Novoye Vremya magazine. Master of Financial Services Law, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Fulbright Graduate Student Exchange Program in 2010-2011. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine established together with others Ukrainian activists the International Center for Ukrainian Victory in cooperation with the Casimir Pulaski Foundation. The ICUV advocates for Ukrainian interests internationally and supports civil society actions for Ukraine's victory.



**Maria Berlinska**



is a co-founder of the Women's Veteran Movement non-governmental organization, a senior advisor for a program to reintegrate veterans into society, and recipient of multiple awards. She is a Ukrainian military volunteer and women's rights advocate. She was a participant of the Revolution of Dignity in February 2014 and subsequently volunteered for the War in Donbas as an aerial reconnaissance drone operator. Returning from the front, Berlinska founded a free school to train other Ukrainian military volunteers in aerial reconnaissance. Beginning in 2015, Berlinska partnered with other female volunteer soldiers to champion women's rights and integration into the Ukrainian Armed Forces. She coordinated the Invisible Battalion series of 3 reports on Ukrainian military women's recognition, reintegration, and harassment, and produced two films on women veterans in collaboration with women filmmakers, that received international attention. This work is credited for a series of laws gradually granting women equality in the Ukrainian armed forces. In November 2015, Berlinska was awarded the Euromaidan SOS volunteer award. In December 2017, the Kyiv Post gave her its "Top 30 Under 30" award. In July 2019, the Embassy of the United States, Kyiv included her in an exhibit paying tribute to 19 Ukrainian and 29 American outstanding women. In 2020, she was listed among the 100 most influential women of Ukraine according to Focus magazine and the readers of its website.

## **Opinion Pieces Penned By Senators Marshall and Ernst**

### **Op-ed: Russian chaos in Ukraine hurts world supplies of wheat, corn and more**

By: U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. and Ambassador Gregg Doud, Former USTR Chief Agricultural Negotiator  
Kansas City Star  
March 6, 2022

As the atrocities of Russian President Vladimir Putin's bombs and bullets in Ukraine continue, some Americans wonder why they should care about this historic conflict on the other side of the world. Outside of the obvious humanitarian crisis, you can be forewarned this war will have dire consequences here at home. The American people are already dealing with the highest inflation in over 40 years, and it's about to get worse.

Let's lay some groundwork: Ukraine is the second-largest nation in Europe and it has rich agricultural soil. A whopping 70% of its land mass is arable. In rough estimates: It produces 18% of the world's sunflower oil exports, 16% of the world's corn exports and 12% of the world's wheat exports. For perspective, Ukraine exports more wheat than the United States. The U.S. is the largest corn exporter in the world and Ukraine exports roughly half that amount. Exports that are now shut down. Any 2021 grain that hasn't shipped out of Ukraine will be stuck either in ports or in the hands of the Russians.

Trade out of the Black Sea has virtually stopped, as carriers won't take the risk of shipping in an area of active war where multiple cargo ships have been hit by missiles. Among Russia, Ukraine and several other countries that use the Black Sea, roughly one-third of world wheat exports have stopped. This is already sending shock waves through the agricultural commodity futures trading business, which establishes the value of the world's most basic staple foods including, corn, vegetable oils and wheat.

Ukraine has a climate very similar to the northern Great Plains'. In just a few short weeks, spring corn planting should begin there — that is if there is enough fuel and fertilizer to sow and ultimately grow crops. In a few months, wheat harvest should begin — that is if the infrastructure still exists and there are resources to bring Ukraine farmers' crops to the world's consumers.

This war will also reverberate through Russia as economic sanctions and the risks of conducting business with Russia set in. Ultimately, as that nation causes devastation in another sovereign nation, Russia may reap what it sows.

The outlook is certainly bleak from an inflationary standpoint, as this war is already driving grain prices up. China will continue to be the world's largest importer of agricultural products to the tune of \$160 billion a

year, including its recent emergence as the world's largest corn importer. After African swine fever ripped through its pig herd, which makes up roughly one-half of all the hogs on the planet, China banned the swill feeding of hogs and is building swine skyscrapers several stories high. Instead of eating food scraps, those pigs are now fed corn — corn that China won't be able to access via Ukraine any time soon.

The bottom line is that a continuing conflict that inhibits Ukrainian farmers' ability to plant and harvest means the price of corn and other commodities could explode. This will impact the pocketbook of every American already faced with staggering inflation.

As food becomes more expensive, geopolitical instability increases. Consumers in the Middle East and North African rely on Black Sea wheat exports and are some of the highest per capita consumers of bread in the world. The last time wheat prices dramatically increased, the world saw significant unrest named the Arab Spring. As poorer countries face a dramatic rise in food costs, instability will permeate different regions of the world. And here at home, our ability to combat hunger will diminish as inflation reduces how far the food dollar goes.

No matter who you are or where you live, the situation in Ukraine spells out higher grocery prices for everyone — especially the hungry and those that live in poverty. Certainly, its lingering effects will be felt by the SNAP, WIC and USAID food aid budgets.

That said, the strength and resilience of the Ukrainian people has inspired this nation and the world. We must continue to stand side by side with them and all their farmers who work each day to feed and fuel those around the globe.

### [Op-ed: How Ukraine can win this war](#)

By Sen. Joni Ernst  
NBC News  
March 30, 2022

*The weapons the U.S., our allies and our partners provided are being deployed with lethal proficiency. But we're not done yet.*

Two weeks ago, I led a group of 10 senators — Republicans, Democrats and even one independent — on a bipartisan delegation visit to Poland and Germany. We traveled together to demonstrate America's unwavering support for the freedom-loving people of Ukraine and to affirm the strength of the world's most powerful alliance, NATO. We departed with the conviction that the U.S., Ukraine and the free world have the will and the means to unite and stand up to Russian President Vladimir Putin's tyranny. As news breaks this week that Russia will "drastically" reduce its military presence in the directions of Kyiv and Chernihiv, my belief has only strengthened.

Ukraine can win this war.

I saw firsthand how the Ukrainian people hungered for freedom. That same flame still burns brightly.

As a student at Iowa State University, I had the opportunity to participate in an agricultural exchange program to Ukraine while it was still part of the Soviet Union. I saw firsthand how the Ukrainian people hungered for freedom. That same flame still burns brightly.

Today, the world is witnessing the Ukrainians' belief in freedom through their ferocity on the battlefield and on the streets of Kharkiv, Mariupol and Kyiv. It was the same ferocity I witnessed fighting alongside Ukrainians during the global war on terrorism. And it seems to be working: There are reports that Russia is running low on manpower and ammunition. The weapons the U.S., our allies and our partners provided are being deployed with lethal proficiency. Meanwhile, Russian casualties could be occurring at a rate up to 1,000 a day. The Ukrainians are intercepting unclassified calls and eliminating Russian field commanders.

In eastern Poland, the U.S. delegation had the opportunity to hear directly from Ukrainian civil society leaders. This group of passionate, strong women delivered a clear message to the U.S.: We need more lethal



aid — weapons, including air defense systems — and we need it as soon as possible. Ukraine will win this fight if we help it win this fight.

They were rightly concerned by the slow pace and flow of the lethal aid that Congress passed and the president has been announcing over the past few weeks. But there is no time to waste. Every second counts in war. We heard a similar plea from a Ukrainian refugee at a processing center near the Ukrainian-Polish border. Though humanitarian assistance is vitally important, her biggest request matched President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's request to Congress a week ago: more weapons. She and others also told me that Ukraine will fight to the last man. She wants peace, but the only way she sees it is if Ukraine wins the war.

Beyond Ukraine's borders, the trip clarified NATO's posture against Putin's unjust and bloody aggression. We are united. After discussions with U.S. commanders on the ground in Germany and Poland, I can share with confidence that the U.S. military is primed at the tip of the spear to deter further aggression and keep Americans safe if called upon.

Defense Department press secretary John Kirby said recently that success for the U.S. mission in Ukraine is, at the end of this conflict, a free and independent, sovereign Ukraine. I wholeheartedly agree, but if that is our mission, then America cannot hold back. I believe the U.S. should help facilitate the transfer of the Polish MiG fighter jets and quickly backfill Poland with our own F-16s. We must also continue to flow lethal aid and weapons into Ukraine at a faster pace. Part of the solution may require re-allocating pre-positioned military equipment around the world, including weapons meant for the Afghan National Security Forces.

Through the recent Ukraine aid package passed by Congress and signed into law, I successfully included a provision that allows President Joe Biden to do this — and I will work to ensure he follows through.

Finally, it is the consensus of America and our NATO allies that Putin must be held accountable for any crimes he has committed. Barbarity and cruelty cannot go unpunished. Ukrainian and Western observers say Russian forces have bombed hundreds of schools, shelled maternity hospitals and preyed on the innocent. I believe he is a war criminal, and we must hold him to account.

Going forward, America's commitment to Ukraine and to our NATO allies must endure. Defending freedom in Ukraine is defending freedom everywhere. And a commitment to allies and partners keeps America prosperous and our families safe. Authoritarians, whether in Afghanistan, Russia, Iran or China, cannot dictate our national security or how we run our economy. We are the world's superpower, and we cannot be pushed around.

Putin is pushing on Ukraine today, but he is also pushing on us. Will we honor the nearly 28-year-old Budapest agreement or surrender a key U.S. partner to a lawless dictator? The choice is clear. Ukraine is ready to fight and win. And with our help, I believe it can.

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