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United States Government & Politics

Weekly Current Events: Posted: 2.28.22

[O’Brien, et al, “White House asks for extra $6.4B to Help to Ukraine,” Politico, 2.25.22.](https://www.politico.com/news/2022/02/25/white-house-congress-ukraine-aid-00012071)

1. Which State Department agency receives and distributes aid?
2. What would this aid/money be used for?
3. How many US troops have been/will be deployed and where to?
4. How much money did Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) call for and for what purpose?
5. Who is the Senate Appropriations Committee Chair, and what did he say?
6. Why is this senator relevant?
7. What power(s) of Congress is(are) at play here?
8. What role is the president playing when he asks this law?

[Knickmeyer, et al, “EXPLAINER: The West’s Sanctions on Russia,” AP News. 2.27.22.](https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-vladimir-putin-technology-business-united-states-2580bdb50fd1b2b9021f16747128e604)

1. What are the two key and most recent sanctions discussed in the article?
2. What is the SWIFT financial system?
3. What is the specific goal of these sanctions?
4. What is the Russian form of currency?
5. When has acting with the SWIFT system occurred or been considered before?
6. How does limiting high-tech trade impact Russia?
7. Do you think these sanctions will have their desired effect? Why or why not?

[Prokop, “The State of the Union Address’s History Explained,” Vox, 2018.](https://www.vox.com/2015/1/20/7854969/state-of-the-union-facts)

1. How did the first 2 presidents report to Congress on the State of the Union (SOTU)?
2. What president altered the routine and why?
3. Who re-instituted the in-person routine? When? How did it go over?
4. What was the initial name of the speech? When did it become the “SOTU”?
5. Explain the modern tradition of inviting guests.
6. Do these speeches alter public perception or gain presidents much support?
7. Name a notable SOTU speech and the topic?

What do you think will be/was the theme for this year’s SOTU message? Why?

[Ukraine Maps, *USA Today*](https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/graphics/2022/02/24/ukraine-invasion-russia-attack-map-guide/6925181001/) [State of the Union from CRS](https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R44770.pdf)