

Science and Digital Briefs

By Shopper Editor Dave Bunting

Mar. 2, 2022



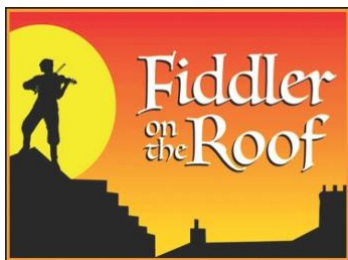
What is Ukraine?

Ukraine has 44 million people, six times Washington State's 7.6 million. Ukraine, the largest country in Europe and about the size of Texas, is 232,000 sq. mi., three times Washington's 71,000 sq. mi. Ukraine is one of the largest grain exporters in the world, in wheat approximately equaling our huge total U.S. export.

Ukraine is the poorest country in Europe with GDP per capita \$4,958, with 31% of its people in poverty. For comparison our U.S. GDP per capita is \$63,500 and Russia's is \$10,130.

Ukrainians are 87% Christian with 67% being Eastern Orthodox, ten percent other Christian, and nine percent Greek Catholic.

73% of Ukrainians speak Ukrainian language, 11% speak Russian, 9% speak Yiddish.



The play *Fiddler on the Roof* is set in the Ukrainian village of Anatevka 14 miles southwest of Ukraine's capitol city Kyiv.

Ukraine's time zone is nine hours ahead of Pacific Time. To know Ukraine time, add nine hours to Pacific Time. For example, if time here is 1:00 pm, time in Ukraine is 10:00 pm.

Ukrainians were considered slaves, starved, and brutalized by the Germans in WWII, especially during their scorched-earth murderous withdrawal after their Stalingrad defeat when more than 700 cities and towns and 28,000 villages were destroyed with the people massacred. Five to seven million Ukrainians perished. Over 100,000 Ukrainians ended up fighting with the Allies with the Polish Army.

Ukraine's cold war 130 ICBM's and 1,700 nuclear warheads, the most in any Soviet state, were removed from Ukraine by 1996 and disassembled in Russia.

Ukraine was told at the time by President Obama and others that the United States and Western powers — so certainly at least the United States and Great Britain — that Ukraine would not be left to stand alone and face a threat should it come under one.

The Donbass separatist area (dark red on the map) is about 10,000 sq. mi. with 4 million population, roughly the population and size of Western Washington State.

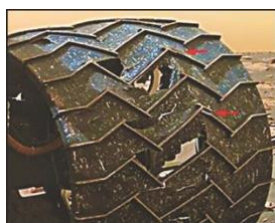


US considering digital dollar

Imagine that you're buying a coffee. But instead of fumbling around in your wallet for crumpled paper dollars or a credit card, you can tap a digital wallet app on your phone to send some digital dollars to the shop owner. The payment would be instant, and unlike other systems, you wouldn't need to go through—or even have—a private bank account. That's the promise behind a newly proposed form of money called central bank digital currencies, or CBDC.

These CBDCs would be a digital representation of a government-issued currency that can be accessed through a government-made [wallet app](#), and many countries have been probing the feasibility of this idea. The Bahamas has already launched a digital sand dollar, and China is in a late-stage pilot for its digital yuan.

Digital currency, because it is so much simpler and more convenient than physical currency, seriously endangers the US dollar as the world's currency base. We in the US are partly using digital currency, for example with the tap-to-pay contactless cards and phones some are now using. But many other nations including China are much farther advanced into eliminating currency and credit cards. The U.S. loss of our dollar as the world currency base would be a devastating



defeat for the U.S. from which we could probably never recover.

Info: [shpr.fyi/usbitdollar](#)

Mars soil tears up rover wheels

NASA's Curiosity rover has left plenty of marks on Mars over the past nine-plus years, and the Red Planet is returning the favor.

The rugged landscape inside Mars' Gale Crater has taken some substantial bites out of Curiosity's six aluminum wheels, as [CNET recently pointed out](#). The damage looks dramatic, but don't panic; Curiosity should be able to keep trundling along for a while yet.

Info: [shpr.fyi/wheeldamage](#)



Kia and Hyundai owners: Park outside

Feb. 8, 2022- Kia and Hyundai warn 485,000 SUV owners to park outside due to fire risk

The problem is caused by contamination in an antilock brake controller module.

Hyundai and Kia say that owners of affected cars should park them outside until the recall has been conducted.

Info: [shpr.fyi/hyundaikai](#)



Lockdown injured thousands

Anxiety and depression rose to over six times their pre-pandemic level during the first lockdown.

Reported by researchers at the University of Bath who conducted a meta-analysis of 14 studies including 46,154 patients with anxiety and 46,158 with depression.

This injury may explain Putin's insanity as he has been in isolation for fear of COVID since Sept. 14.

Info: [shpr.fyi/lockdowners](#)

Check out this week's Bible Readings on page 6 which includes, "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him." Romans 10:12

David Jeremiah preached a good sermon on socialism Sun, Feb. 13:

Info: [shpr.fyi/soclsm](#)

Note: Hopefully we've made links active on this page! Use them!

Dave Bunting, Feb. 28, 2022
References in links below items.
See these columns on my blog: [daverant.com](#)