

Creating a monster, Biden gets a boost and AI's conservation role

Little more than a week has passed since Vladimir Putin's troops invaded Ukraine, but it's already clear the consequences will be profound and generational. This special edition of the Guardian Weekly contains 16 pages of dedicated news coverage, kicking off with Russian author Vladimir Sorokin's scathing essay on the rot at the heart of Moscow's power pyramid that created a monster. Shaun Walker, Emma Graham-Harrison and Peter Beaumont lead our coverage on the ground in Ukraine, while there's brilliant analysis and context from the rest of the Guardian and Observer's international reporting team, including Timothy Garton Ash and Daniel Boffey.

Then, on the Opinion pages, with hundreds of thousands now fleeing Ukraine and the west facing up to a new existential threat, Jonathan Freedland offers the stark reminder that while Putin's appalling worldview took full shape, it was our leaders who wilfully looked the other way. **Ukraine invasion** [Page 8](#) →

The nomination of **Ketanji Brown Jackson to the US supreme court last week** may understandably have passed below the radar. Lauren Gambino explains why Jackson's rise is a timely boost for Joe Biden, while in Opinion Moira Donegan argues that the president's groundbreaking choice was born to the role. **Spotlight** [Page 33](#) → **Opinion** [Page 48](#) →

Artificial intelligence can sometimes be a demonised technology, as people dwell on its potential to disrupt our lives for the worse. But, as Graeme Green writes this week, AI and machine learning are being used to improve the survival prospects of several endangered species, from pangolins to elephants. **Spotlight** [Page 24](#) →



On the cover
Illustration by Sergiy Maidukov

Sergiy Maidukov is a Kyiv-based illustrator whose work appears regularly in the Guardian. His artwork for this week's cover, depicting plumes of smoke rising from a Ukrainian horizon, was one of several images he created on his iPad during last weekend's curfew in the city.

"We are sharing an apartment with four friends and doing some volunteering - delivering food and stuff," Sergiy wrote earlier this week, adding that he had also been donating blood. "I live now at the swing of extreme feelings, from dark fear to bright optimism. In days like these, it is impossible to be on one's own."

"I feel that this time, historically, we have the best chances ever to fight Russia back. We are already discussing how we should rebuild our country after the victory. Glory to Ukraine!"



4-23 GLOBAL REPORT
Headlines from the last seven days
8 Ukraine Putin's terrible war on the west

24-33 SPOTLIGHT
In-depth reporting and analysis
24 **Conservation** How AI can save elephants
26 **Israel** Arab communities fear gun death epidemic
28 **Iraq** The running club for the displaced girls of Erbil
29 **Italy** A women's rugby team tackles the mafia
30 **Health** The quest for a universal Covid vaccine
33 **US** Supreme court pick is a timely boost for Biden

34-44 FEATURES
Long reads, interviews and essays
34 The hustle, hype and dark side of influencer culture
By Symeon Brown
40 Bernardine Evaristo in conversation with Beyoncé's muse, the British poet Warsan Shire
By Ellen E Jones

45-50 OPINION
45 **The Guardian View** Ukraine is a moment of truth for the world
47 **Jonathan Freedland** Vladimir Putin was enabled by the west
48 **Moira Donegan** Ketanji Brown Jackson is born to the supreme court

51-59 CULTURE
TV, film, music, theatre, art, architecture & more
51 **Television** How Peaky Blinders became a lifestyle
54 **Art** The Vietnamese painter finding hope in history
57 **Books** A message from India



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