

# Is Ukraine the ‘War Before the War’?

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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**As with Russia, Persian Gulf states may be reluctant to cross Beijing if conflict erupts in Asia, but Washington should remind them that even narrow financial action can help counter any Chinese moves on Taiwan.**

**D**uring the Ukraine conflict, the West’s efforts to isolate Russia have been hampered by a lack of support from partners outside North America and Europe. These states have largely accepted Russia’s framing of the conflict as pitting Moscow against NATO, when in reality it is a war of naked aggression against Ukraine. They also reject efforts by the West to cast the war in moral terms, instead prioritizing their own national interests, which in many cases have been well served by buying up Russian oil made cheaper by Western sanctions. The problem of recruiting such states to our side—including vital powers such as Turkey, India and Saudi Arabia—in a conflict involving China could be even more acute...

**[Read the full article on the Hill website. \(https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/3870308-is-ukraine-the-war-before-the-war/\)](https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/3870308-is-ukraine-the-war-before-the-war/)**

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