

WRITTEN BY



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EUROPE UNDER ATTACK

The 24th of February 2022 is a date that will be engraved in our memories. For most, it was unthinkable that in the 21st century a sovereign country would face invasion by another one. And yet that is exactly what we have been seeing over the past month.

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organizations like the UN, NATO, and the EU. I believe that the scar caused by this war on my generation will be identical to the one our parents endured in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks 20 years ago.

Even before the invasion began, the military buildup that preceded it was the number one debate topic among teenagers, with some fearing a possible nuclear war that would eradicate us all. However,

most teenagers still thought that there would be no war, despite the news of military gear amassing in a location for a possible attack.

So, when it became clear that we would be witness to the first major conflict of the 21st century in Europe, we all panicked. I have seen instances and I am guilty of reading the live CNN coverage in-between classes to be up to date on the situation, or just general thoughts of what the worst-

case scenario could be. This in turn creates a breeding ground for disinformation, which we have been seeing a fair share of. I think youth is especially vulnerable to the danger of fake news, since we all know younger people tend to be more influenceable than grown-ups.

Nevertheless, today's teenagers are at the origin of a strong wave of solidarity for the Ukrainian cause, despite the efforts

of hoaxers. In my school for example, there has been a donation for Ukrainian refugees coming into Slovakia, and the overall sentiment is very pro-Ukrainian. I think that many young people (that have grown up in a western and peaceful environment) realized that this conflict could very easily impact them, and since they live in a country that borders Ukraine, it is natural that they came to Ukrainians' aid at a time they need it most.

My generation has never experienced war. We have grown up in a society of prosperity, security, and peace for all guaranteed by various international



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