

This morning is the moment to mourn a loss of peace, wh...

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As the [Financial Times](#) has noted in an editorial this morning:

*The underwhelming [UK move on sanctions] has done little to improve the UK's notoriety for being a hub where money and reputations of oligarchs close to the Kremlin can be laundered. More worryingly, such a paltry salvo risks emboldening Putin's strategy of coercive diplomacy as Europe grapples with its worst security crisis in a generation.*

It is impossible to disagree.

I [argued for what I thought necessary](#) yesterday.

This morning we know that the continued nod the UK gives to Russia that it will always turn a blind eye has led to war on Ukraine.

I have the deepest, inexpressible, sympathy with the people of Ukraine this morning. Whatever the rights and wrong of any state involved in this dispute the straightforward human appeal of Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a final appeal broadcast last night is powerful and worth noting. It [was translated by Politico](#):

*"I'm speaking Russian, but nobody in Russia understands what these places, streets, and events are. This is our land and our history. What are you fighting for? And with who? Lots of you have relatives in Ukraine, you studied in Ukrainian universities, you have Ukrainian friends. You know our character, our principles, what matters to us. Listen to yourselves, to the voice of reason. The people of Ukraine want peace. The government of Ukraine wants peace. It's doing everything it can. We're not alone. That's true, lots of countries support Ukraine. Because this isn't about peace at any price. It's about peace, principles, justice, international law, the right to determine your own future. This is about society's right to be safe and people's rights to live without threats. This is all important for us and for the world. I know for sure that this is important for you too."*

They note he added:

*“War will take guarantees away from everyone. Nobody will have security guarantees anymore. Who will suffer most of all? People. Who doesn’t want that to happen more than anyone? People. Who can stop that? People. These people are among you. I’m sure. Activists, journalists, musicians, actors, athletes, scientists, doctors, bloggers, stand-up comedians, TikTokers, and many others. Ordinary people, simple people, men, women, the old, the young, fathers, and most of all — mothers. Just like the people in Ukraine. Just like the government in Ukraine. However they try to convince you otherwise. I know that Russian TV won’t show my speech. But citizens of Russia need to see it. They need to see the truth. The truth is you need to stop before it’s too late. And if the leadership of Russia doesn’t want, for the sake of peace, to sit at the table with us, maybe it’ll sit at the table with you. Do the Russians want war? I’d love to answer that question. But the answer only depends on you — citizens of Russia.”*

The simple reality is that no one wins from war.

Putin is threatening to escalate this one: the threat during the night could only have been of a nuclear attack on the West.

I grew up during the Cold War, and never quite believed the threat. This morning I do.

I note this tweet from Robert Peston this morning:



For those tempted to post some anti-BBC or Peston rhetoric, please do not bother. Do not bother with anti-NATO rhetoric either. I know it all, and personally continue to believe that NATO should make clear it has no intention of offering membership to Ukraine. But the threats from Putin are real. His willingness to undertake acts of madness - Mutually Assured Destruction - seems to exist. Let's leave the analysis of mistakes for another time.

This morning is the moment to mourn a loss of peace, whose passing may be very costly.