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News, Research and Events

April 12, 2022



How will the Ukraine crisis shape U.S. foreign policy?

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has led to the largest ground war in Europe since World War II and has created a major humanitarian crisis in the region. The conflict represents a global policy challenge, particularly for the United States and its European partners. To date, the United States and its allies have provided substantial military assistance to Ukraine and imposed unprecedented economic sanctions on Russia, including Russian President Vladimir Putin himself. Moving forward, how should we address Russian aggression in Ukraine? And how should the current crisis shape future U.S. foreign policy in Europe and elsewhere?

Join us on April 14 as the Baker Institute hosts [Rep. Michael T. McCaul](#), a ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, for a conversation with Baker Institute Director Ambassador [Edward Djerejian](#) on U.S. foreign policy responses to the war in Ukraine.

[Click here](#) for event details and to register.

Tune in: Experts in the news



Russia's invasion of Ukraine upends global oil and gas markets

Fellow [Mark Finley](#) joined the [Intelligence Matters podcast](#) to discuss how Russia's invasion of Ukraine is impacting oil and gas markets, and why current Western sanctions may not meaningfully curtail Moscow's energy revenues. [Listen here](#) and read his paper, co-authored by fellow [Jim Krane](#), on how the global oil market can cope with a disruption of Russian exports, [here](#).



What's age got to do with it? Immigration and an aging America

Research analyst [Pamela Cruz](#) offers a deeper look into the [Center for the United States and Mexico's](#) research on America's major demographic shifts — and where immigration enters the picture — on [The Rational Middle podcast](#). [Listen here](#) and read her report, co-authored by center director [Tony Payan](#), on how immigration can strengthen an aging workforce, [here](#).

Russia's "raw display of military might" in Ukraine strikes a particular nerve in smaller Middle Eastern states. It "draws attention to the imbalance of power within the region itself and the risks this carries for a sustainable balance in regional affairs."

Kristian Coates Ulrichsen,
Fellow for the Middle East,
in an article for [Doha News](#)

Latest research



Let's not abandon Russian scientists. A joint letter written by a group of scientists, including senior fellow in science and technology policy [Neal Lane](#), urges U.S. policymakers and the nation's scientific communities to avoid ostracizing Russian scientists and academics for the actions of Russia's government. Read their letter in [Science](#).



A review of Texas start-ups 2020-2022. In Nov. 2021, President Biden touted the robust growth of small businesses in the United States. As 2022 moves forward, how does this square with data on business growth over the two years since the pandemic began, particularly in Texas? [McNair Center](#) scholar [Alisha Small](#) explains in a post for the [Baker Institute Blog](#).



Biden's executive order sets the tone for digital assets. In March, the Biden administration released a long-awaited executive order containing a government-wide outline for digital assets, focusing on cryptocurrency. The guidance is a welcome and timely development for both regulators and investors, writes fellow [Joyce Beebe](#) in the [Baker Institute Blog](#).

Need nickel? What China's role in nickel extraction and processing means for the global energy transition



A new [paper](#) by fellow [Michelle Michot Foss](#) and research intern [Jacob Koelsch](#) examines tensions in nickel supply and value chains within the context of global efforts to electrify transport. Through their case study, which focuses on China's growing presence in Indonesian nickel extraction and processing, they contend that China is positioning itself as a gatekeeper to the energy transition — with vast implications for strategic planning in the U.S. Read it [here](#).

Upcoming events

Addressing Financial Toxicity in U.S. Health Care: The Physician Perspective.

As U.S. health care prices continue their rise, much of the cost is passed on to insured patients. Physician experts discuss the phenomenon of financial toxicity and potential solutions to mitigate the burden and consequences of out-of-pocket costs for patients. **April 20 | 8:00 am CDT**

Mexico 2025 and Beyond: A Conversation with Samuel García Sepúlveda, Governor of Nuevo León. At the inaugural event for the Mexico 2025 and Beyond initiative, [Samuel García Sepúlveda](#), governor of Nuevo León, shares his vision for the post-López Obrador era and the role of his state in building Mexico's future. **April 26 | 5 pm CDT**

Roundtable Dialogue: China's Foreign Oil and Gas Security Policy. At this member-exclusive event, fellow [Gabriel Collins](#) discusses China's energy plans, practices and import dependency, including how the country's interest in fossil energy sources has shaped its military capabilities and energy procurement infrastructure. Join the [Roundtable](#) or [Roundtable Young Professionals](#) to enjoy this and other exclusive events! **April 27 | Noon CDT**

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