

WaFA

WARWICK FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EXPLORING THE WORLD BEYOND WARWICK

MICHAELMAS 2022



Introducing WaFA

Over the course of the Michaelmas term, a group of WSS and KHS L6 and U6 students have delved into the world's stories, both those that reach the headlines in the UK, as well as those which aren't given the same limelight.

As learners of modern languages, the six students involved in this inaugural issue of WaFA have immersed themselves in publications from around the world, to discover and discuss the stories and figures that influence history, politics, society, and culture around the globe.

The pieces written for this publication are the product of research carried out in French, German and Spanish. In this issue you will find translations and summaries of foreign-language articles written by students, as well as students' own original articles written in the target language.

Enjoy reading and, hopefully, learning something new about the world beyond Warwick!

Mr G. Stingemore
Head of Modern Languages and WaFA coordinator



Putin con el viento en contra

– Putin against the wind

<https://www.20minutos.es/noticia/5060539/0/putin-con-el-viento-en-contra/>

A Vladimir Putin parece que el viento se le está volviendo en contra: en la guerra con Ucrania se está encontrando con un enemigo reforzado que no esperaba, el respaldo patriótico interno con que partió se está cayendo en picado y el principal resorte diplomático que calculaba –el apoyo incondicional de China– no está respondiendo a las expectativas que esperaba.

La cumbre con su colega Xi Jinping celebrada estos días en Samarcanda (la capital de Uzbekistán) le obliga a volver a Moscú sin razones para el optimismo. China apoya la buena relación con Rusia frente a Occidente, pero el respaldo incondicional de China a la invasión armada de Ucrania continúa resistiéndose –a juzgar por las declaraciones al final de la reunión– y a la política del Kremlin sobre el conflicto sólo tibiamente.

Translation of the Spanish original article provided by Leon G, L6.

It seems that the wind is turning against Vladimir Putin: in the war with Ukraine, he is encountering a reinforced enemy that he did not expect, the internal patriotic support with which he left is plummeting and the main diplomatic spring he calculated – China's unconditional support – is not meeting the expectations it had hoped for.

The summit with his colleague Xi Jinping celebrated these days in Samarkand (The capital of Uzbekistan), forcing him to return to Moscow without reasons for optimism. China reinforces the good relationship with Russia in the face of the West, but - judging by the declarations made at the end of the meeting - China's unconditional support for the armed invasion of Ukraine and of the politics of the Kremlin are withering.



Flüchtlinge aus der Ukraine in Deutschland

Stand: Sep. 2022

Zwischen Ende Februar und dem 24. September 2022 wurden dem Bundesinnenministerium zufolge 997.895 Geflüchtete aus der Ukraine im Ausländerzentralregister (AZR) registriert. Davon haben 530.562 vorübergehenden Schutz nach § 24 AufenthG erhalten (Stand: 24. September). Auch der UNCHR veröffentlicht Zahlen zu Deutschland. Abweichungen ergeben sich durch unterschiedliche Zeitpunkte der Veröffentlichung.

Wie viele Personen genau Deutschland erreicht beziehungsweise verlassen haben, lässt sich nicht mit Sicherheit feststellen. Ukrainische Staatsbürger*innen können ohne Visum in die Europäische Union einreisen und sich in EU-Mitgliedstaaten des Schengen-Raums frei bewegen. Das BAMF sagt, dass einige Geflüchtete bereits weiter- beziehungsweise zurück in die Ukraine gereist sein könnten.

English translation of the German original article by Hannah M, U6.

Refugees from Ukraine in Germany

As of Sept 2022.

Between the end of February and the 24th September 2022, 997,895 refugees from Ukraine were registered in the Central Register of Foreigners (Ausländerzentralregister, AZR), according to the Federal Ministry of the Interior. Of these, 530,562 have received protection under Section 24 of the Residence Act (as of 24th September). The UNCHR also publishes figures that relate to Germany. Deviations result from different times of publication. The exact number of people who came to or left Germany cannot be determined with certainty. Ukrainian citizens can enter the European Union without a visa and move freely in EU member of states of the Schengen area. The German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, BAMF) says that some refugees ay have already traveled on or back to Ukraine.

Was weiß man über die Flüchtlinge aus der Ukraine?

Knapp 97 Prozent von den im AZR registrierten Geflüchteten sind ukrainische Staatsbürger*innen (Stand: 24. September). 64 Prozent der Kriegsflüchtlinge sind Frauen und Mädchen, rund 35 Prozent Kinder und Jugendliche unter 18 Jahren, darunter sind die meisten im Grundschulalter.

Einer Befragung des BMI von April 2022 unter rund 2.000 Geflüchteten zufolge lag das Durchschnittsalter der Kriegsflüchtlinge bei 38 Jahren. 92 Prozent der volljährigen Befragten waren in der Ukraine berufstätig oder in der Ausbildung.



English translation of the German original article by Hannah M, U6.

What do we know about refugees from Ukraine?

About 97% of those refugees registered in the AZR are Ukrainian citizens (as of 24th September). 64 Percent of the war refugees are women and children, around 35 percent children and teenagers under 18 years old, most of whom are primary school aged children.

According to a survey from the Home Office (Bundesministerium des Innern und für Heimat, BMI) from April 2022, approximately 2,000 the average age of war refugees is 38. 92 percent of the surveyed adults were employed in Ukraine or in training.

<https://mediendienst-integration.de/migration/flucht-asyl/ukrainische-fluechtlinge.html>

La crise en Iran

<https://news.un.org/story/2022/09/1128111>

Summary of the original article provided by Millie P, U6.

Un article [publié le vingt-sept septembre 2022], écrit par l'ONU, détaille une condamnation de la situation actuelle en Iran, où les inquiétudes concernant les violations des droits de l'homme et les décès d'individus enfreignant les « codes vestimentaires » stricts sont de plus en plus préoccupantes.

L'effort d'activisme accru a été déclenché par la mort de Mahsa Amini, une jeune de 22 ans, qui a été capturée dans les rues de Tehran pour ne pas porter de hijab. Après son arrestation, elle est restée dans un centre de détention pendant trois jours, et elle est morte d'une crise cardiaque, comme l'ont détaillé les autorités. Secrétaire Général Antonio Guterres a répondu par un appel à cesser d'utiliser de "force inutile ou disproportionnée". De plus, il y a un appel pour une autre enquête sur le décès sans aggraver davantage la situation.

Les médias d'État iraniens font état d'un bilan de 41 morts, tandis que d'autres médias non gouvernementaux évaluent le chiffre à environ 300.



The effects of the Russian and Ukraine War on the economies of Latin America

<https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-60741690>

Translation of the Spanish original article provided by Atticus W-H, U6.

The exporters of banana in Ecuador, the producers of meat in Columbia and the importers of fertilizers in Brazil face a similar problem: the invasion of Russian into Ukraine has put their business at risk.

Moscow and Kiev buy almost one quarter of the bananas that Ecuador exports, but with the devaluation of the Russian coin and the economic setback. They fear that their business faces harsh consequences

Brazil imports increasingly more fertilizers in order to sow soya and other agricultural products. As their two big providers are Russia and China, if they keep only one, they will find it very difficult to get their products in other markets.

In recent days the Brazilian manufacturer Embraer announced that it has suspended its maintenance service, including parts repair and technical support from Russia, while the Mexican Group Bimbo, one of the world's largest bread makers, said that it has suspended sales of its products in Russia, as well as investments in that country

On the other hand, there are cases of small businesses throughout the region that ran out of customers to export to Russia and Ukraine.

But it is certain that the volumes of commercial exchange are low.

“The business with Russia and Ukraine accounts for less than 1.5% of the total exports and imports of goods of the major Latin American economies.” Nikhil Sanghani, an economist specializing in Latin America at the British consultancy Capital Economics, tells BBC Mundo.

Russia exports more products to Latin America than it imports.

Last year Russia exported US\$11,000 million to the region, while Latin America sold products worth US\$8,500 million, according to the Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC), a platform that analyses international trade data.



L'impact de la guerre en Ukraine sur les pays d'Afrique du Nord

Original piece by Patrick S, U6.

En ce moment, on apprend beaucoup sur les atrocités qui ont eu lieu en Ukraine, et l'impact de cette guerre sur l'Europe – surtout quant à l'augmentation dans les prix de gaz; mais quels sont les impacts pour les pays africains?

On a entendu que l'Ukraine est «La corbeille à pain du monde» et ce sont ces pays africains qui s'appuient le plus sur cette région pour se nourrir. A cause des conflits, les expéditions des céréales ont été arrêtées par le marin russe. En plus, les pilonnages par les armées ont détruit la récolte: la conséquence – il y a une pénurie des céréales dans certains pays, l'Égypte, par exemple.

D'ailleurs Vladimir Putin a lancé une campagne diplomatique pour gagner la faveur entre les chefs d'état: son ministre des affaires étrangères, Sergei Lavrov, a tenu des réunions avec ses homologues en Égypte, à la République du Congo, en Éthiopie et en Ouganda pendant cette dernière année. On doit être conscient du fait qu'il y a quelques pays africains avec des systèmes politiques quasi-démocratiques, où le gouvernement est plus proche à des régimes autoritaires que la démocratie.



Ainsi que le soutien politique de Mr Putin, la Russie fournit aussi des armes militaires à certains pays ou au moins des groupes paramilitaires. L'Algérie utilise des armes données par la Russie pour battre contre les terroristes islamiques dans le Sahara et à présent elle est engagée à une course aux armements contre le Maroc – ce qui peut être une source de conflit entre l'Algérie et la France.

Bien qu'il y ait des gouvernements africains qui continuent à soutenir l'Ukraine, on sait qu'il y a du désaccord à l'Union Africaine, car au vote à l'ONU, certains pays ont voté pour la résolution de sanctionner la Russie, certains ont voté contre et beaucoup d'autres se sont abstenus ou n'étaient pas présents pour voter, y compris l'Algérie, le Maroc, le Mali, l'Éthiopie, le Soudan et le Sénégal – même l'Afrique du Sud s'est abstenue. Par contre, le Kenya, le Tchad et la Côte d'Ivoire ont voté pour la résolution.

Cependant, on ne devrait pas critiquer ces chefs, ils font de leur mieux pour soutenir leur peuple qui souffrent beaucoup de cette pénurie d'aliment, et des conséquences du réchauffement climatique, alors quelquefois ils doivent se tourner vers la Russie pour assurer la provision suffisante des céréales. Est-ce qu'on peut vraiment dire que si un pays occidental se trouvait dans une telle situation, on agirait différemment?

Bibliographie :

<https://www.bbc.com/afrique/region-62333395>



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La importancia de las lenguas regionales hoy en día

La historia de las lenguas regionales

La diversidad lingüística de España hoy en día no siempre posible décadas atrás. De hecho, dicha diversidad se vio gravemente amenazada durante la dictadura del General Franco y los idiomas regionales fueron oficialmente prohibidos. El castellano o español se convirtió en la única lengua oficial del Estado; el régimen impuso una represión de otros idiomas: el catalán, vasco y gallego. Aunque los habitantes de las regiones donde se hablaban esas lenguas continuaron hablándolas en la intimidad de sus casas, con su familia y amigos de confianza, es cierto que a nivel público no se escucharon durante muchos años. Es una lástima que fuera una situación de verdadera represión lingüística y se prohibió enseñar esos idiomas en las escuelas, escribir libros o cantar en catalán, gallego o vasco. Esta diversidad regional es una buena parte de la identidad y la herencia cultural pero me inquieta que en el futuro la diversidad lingüística pueda desaparecer simplemente porque no hay suficiente personas que los hablan en comparación con español. La constitución española de diciembre de 1978 reconoce tres idiomas regionales: el catalán, el euskera y el gallego.



Original piece by Annie H, U6.

¿Enseñanza obligatoria de las lenguas regionales en los colegios de España?

La verdad es que un niño es una esponja y aprende por ósmosis lo que le enseñen. Lo bueno es que el bilingüismo beneficia el desarrollo del cerebro e impacta positivamente para aprender otras asignaturas. Los idiomas regionales se hablan no solo en el colegio sino también en el entorno social y cultural. Para resumir, las lenguas regionales ayudan a construir la cohesión cultural, comunitaria y histórica.





La inmigración en el mundo hispánico

Original piece by Annie H, U6.

Que yo sepa, hay posiblemente más de 4,5 millones de inmigrantes hoy lo que representa un 15% de la población española. Para añadir, 13% de inmigrantes viven en la region de Madrid y Catalana dado que son las regiones más ricas y hay muchas oportunidades de trabajo y ganarse la vida. La mayoría de los inmigrantes son de países de América Latina, un 39%, luego de la Unión Europea, un 22%, y finalmente de Àfrica, un 20%. De hecho, España es el segundo país receptor de inmigrantes en el mundo detrás de los Estados Unidos sin embargo la verdad es que el número de extranjeros continuó aumentado hasta 2014, pero debido a la crisis económica es una lástima que el país perdiera unas doscientas mil. Esto es muy atractivo por los inmigrantes que pueden ahorrar dinero trabajando en el país pero también mandar dinero a su país de origen. Por ejemplo, las remesas recibidas en Colombia forman la segunda fuente de dinero del país. Hay también otros países que viven así: Ecuador, Bolivia, Marrueco y Rumanía. Dado que Español es la tercera lengua más hablada del mundo, es ideal que no haya una barrera del idioma para muchos inmigrantes. La mayoría vienen a España porque hay problemas en sus países como la falta de oportunidades, el hambre y la sequía o desastres naturales como terremotos y huracanes.



Los beneficios de la inmigración en la economía de España

Original piece by Annie H, U6.

A mi modo de ver creo que la inmigración es principalmente positiva no sólo por la economía de los países receptores sino también por el país de origen y los propios inmigrantes. Si no fuera por los inmigrantes, la verdad es que la economía de España se habría estancado. Que yo sepa, la economía ha crecido por el 6% gracias a los inmigrantes. Cabe decir que los inmigrantes trabajan en sectores como los servicios sociales y en la construcción donde hay una falta de trabajadores. Así que lo bueno es que los inmigrantes mejoran la fuerza laboral en los países acogidos. Normalmente, los inmigrantes hacen trabajos sucios y indeseados que los ciudadanos no quieren hacer. A primera vista es cierto que los españoles ven a los inmigrantes como personas que vienen a robarles sus puestos de trabajo y entonces se fomenta el racismo y la xenofobia pero la verdad es que este flujo de inmigrantes contribuye a la economía dado que representan la mano de obra que hace falta en muchos sectores para revitalizarla. Si fuera un inmigrante, me gustaría que los españoles me tratarán con la dignidad. Sin la llegada de miles de trabajadores inmigrantes, habría faltado mano de obra en sectores importantes. Para resumir, España necesita los inmigrantes porque tenía una tasa de natalidad baja.



Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva or “Lula” was born on the 27th October 1945 in Brazil. He is a Brazilian politician who is a part of the worker’s party. Furthermore, he was the 35th president of Brazil from 2003 to 2010 as well as the current president of Brazil, resulting in him also being the 39th President. During his first two terms in office, Lula helped to lift an estimated 20 million people in Brazil out of poverty. Indeed during these two terms, poverty, inequality, illiteracy, unemployment, infant mortality, and child labour rates fell substantially, with minimum wage and mean income increasing. For his current term, Lula has pledged to protect the Amazonian rainforest regions.

by Leon G, L6.



Getting to know

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was elected President of Ukraine in 2019. Although he was a political novice, his anti-corruption platform won him widespread support and his significant online profile lead him to have a solid electoral base. Zelensky won over Petro Poroshenko in the second round of the 2019 elections.



Source: Time.com

Zelensky’s leadership during the Russian invasion of Ukraine won him global acclaim and widespread international praise, and he has been described as a symbol of the Ukrainian resistance. He has faced an escalation of tensions with Russia in 2021, culminating in the launch of the ongoing full-scale Russian invasion in February 2022. Zelensky was named TIME's Person of the Year for 2022 and opinion polls in Ukraine have ranked him as Ukraine's greatest president. Refusing to leave Ukraine's capital of Kyiv at the outbreak of the war as Russian bombs rained down, the former comedian rallied his compatriots in broadcasts from the capital and traveled across his war-torn nation. Zelenskyy's life and career have been anything but typical compared to other international leaders, and he has faced a seemingly unending series of crises since taking office.

by Annie H, U6.



"Je ne suis pas né socialiste... pour ne rien arranger, je n'ai jamais fait preuve de précocité."

by Millie P, U6.

François Mitterrand can be considered - to this day - to be one of the most influential and well known French presidents in history. Mitterrand's advanced interest in politics and foreign policy began at degree level where he studied political science and law in Paris. Shortly after this, he was enlisted in the army and was soon captured by the Germans. One year and two failed escape attempts later, he succeeded in escaping the prisoner camp in which he was situated and 3 years later WW2 ended. After the end of WW2, he entered into politics and held a variety of political roles throughout the IV and V republics, until his 14 year presidency [1981-1995] which overall constituted a 48 year political career. Mitterrand was initially a centrist and often described himself as such, however, throughout his career he gradually shifted to a more leftist stance and ultimately became the first Socialist president.

Mitterrand once said: "Je ne suis pas né socialiste...pour ne rien arranger, je n'ai jamais fait preuve de précocité"

In addition to the difficult economic situation in France, one of Mitterrand's biggest goals was the development of relations between France and Germany, for which he worked closely with Helmut Kohl. Mitterrand greatly encouraged the enlargement of the EU on the international scale, but by contrast wanted to further the literary education of France through more national libraries, representing his own passion for philosophy and academia.

Meet the authors

WaFA author Atticus, U6, spoke to his co-authors about what they consider to be some of the most pressing international issues of our times. The authors' responses are included over the following pages.

As you read their responses, consider the questions yourself and whether you agree with our authors' views.



Leon

After having done WaFA what do you think will be the most pressing international issue?

I believe that future global pandemics will be the most pressing international issue due to how greatly affected everyone was by COVID-19 and how it impacted our everyday lives. One major impact of COVID-19 was how it created a more technologically-dependant society.

To what extent does art impact our perception of a foreign country?

I think that every country has art that powerfully influences our perception on that country as they depict the country's culture, history, traditions and religious beliefs. For example, we can see from Picasso's Guernica the history of the Spanish civil war and the miserable way the tragedies and suffering were perceived.



Annie

What is the importance of learning a language in today's professional world?

Today, the value of learning a language cannot be overstated. Globalisation has caused a foreign expansion which comes with the demand for multilingualism. If you are monolingual, the world has clearer boundaries. In an era of borderless communications and global travel, it seems almost archaic to limit yourself to one language. Learning a language bridges divides between people. Cultural differences between nations can be stark, and failing to take them into account can be detrimental to businesses. Appreciating other cultures creates a better working environment and reduces preconceived notions about people. Through learning languages, you can optimise the potential growth within companies. The wrong word can hinder negotiations and threaten a healthy relationship. All languages use different words and phrases to communicate similar ideas, which can sometimes make it difficult to separate true meaning from false interpretation. In addition, not only do you learn how to communicate with people, but you really immerse yourself in a new culture. The reality is that it doesn't matter how good a business is today if it can't communicate and relate effectively to its customers.

What, in your view, is the most pressing global issue for the next decade?

In my opinion one of the most pressing international issues is the climate crisis. The impact climate change has already and will have on humans in years to come will be huge. The shifting weather patterns threaten food production, which will become the catalyst to increased numbers of people suffering from food insecurity and poverty, another pressing issue in our society today.

Hannah

What is the importance of learning a language in today's professional world?

Of all the pressing international issues, the climate crisis is perhaps the most important and urgent. It is one of the few which can be said to truly impact everybody, regardless of their geography and whether they are alive now, or are yet to be born. An optimist may hope that some issues might cease to be problematic of their own accord, but this cannot be said of the climate crisis. Without action, and without action now, feedback loops and human inertia can only serve to deepen the crisis.

To what extent does learning a foreign language help you to understand foreign affairs?

In an increasingly globalised world, solving problems that affect us all will require collaboration that in turn requires communication. If we all speak different languages literally or metaphorically the process of misunderstanding is surely doomed to repeat. By learning languages we learn how to interpret media written by people of different nationalities. This means that we will gain less biased insights into their perspectives, as it will not have to go through a single translator.

Personally, I have found that studying languages has been essential in developing my awareness and understanding of foreign affairs. Through my studies of both French and German at A level, I have gained an insight into several social issues in the French and German speaking worlds from various perspectives. Being part of WaFA has allowed us to discuss these issues as linguists, and to dig more deeply into differing global perspectives; this in turn has confirmed to me the true importance of studying languages in gaining an understanding of current affairs in our world.