

Video: President Biden's State of the Union Address

By [Joe Biden](#)

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[The White House](#)

Region: [USA](#)

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Transcript

emphasis added by GR

(The President presents his prepared remarks to Speaker Johnson.) Your bedtime reading.

Tony! Thank you. Looking for Jill.

Good evening. Good evening. If I were smart, I'd go home now.

Mr. Speaker, Madam Vice President, members of Congress, my fellow Americans.

In January 1941, Franklin Roosevelt came to this chamber to speak to the nation. And he said, "I address you at a moment unprecedented in the history of the Union". Hitler was on the march. War was raging in Europe.

President Roosevelt's purpose was to wake up Congress and alert the American people that this was no ordinary time. Freedom and democracy were under assault in the world.

Tonight, I come to the same chamber to address the nation. Now it's we who face an unprecedented moment in the history of the Union.

And, yes, my purpose tonight is to wake up the Congress and alert the American people that this is no ordinary moment either. Not since President Lincoln and the Civil War have freedom and democracy been under assault at home as they are today.

What makes our moment rare is that **freedom and democracy are under attack at —**

both at home and overseas at the very same time.

Overseas, Putin of Russia is on the march, invading Ukraine and sowing chaos throughout Europe and beyond.

If anybody in this room thinks Putin will stop at Ukraine, I assure you: He will not.

But Ukraine — Ukraine can stop Putin. **Ukraine can stop Putin if we stand with Ukraine and provide the weapons that it needs to defend itself.**

That is all — that is all Ukraine is asking. **They're not asking for American soldiers. In fact, there are no American soldiers at war in Ukraine, and I'm determined to keep it that way. [let our NATO allies do the dirty work?]**

But now assistance to Ukraine is being blocked by those who want to walk away from our world leadership.

It wasn't long ago when a Republican president named Ronald Reagan thundered, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

Now — now my predecessor, a former Republican president, tells Putin, quote, "Do whatever the hell you want."

That's a quote.

A former president actually said that — bowing down to a Russian leader. I think it's outrageous, it's dangerous, and it's unacceptable.

America is a founding member of NATO, the military alliance of democratic nations created after World War Two prevent — to prevent war and keep the peace.

And today, we've made NATO stronger than ever. We welcomed Finland to the Alliance last year. And just this morning, Sweden officially joined, and their minister is here tonight. Stand up. Welcome. Welcome, welcome, welcome. And they know how to fight.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to NATO, the strongest military alliance the world has ever seen.

I say this to Congress: **We have to stand up to Putin. Send me a bipartisan national security bill. History is literally watching. History is watching.**

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