



Subscribe

Sign in

Sri Lanka on the Brink

How the Pandemic and War in Ukraine Led to Economic Collapse

By **Dushni Weerakoon**

April 14, 2022



Subscribe for unrestricted access.

Sri Lanka is facing an economic meltdown. The COVID-19 pandemic hurt many low- and middle-income countries, but the island nation of 22 million people stands out as one of the hardest hit. Sri Lanka is experiencing the worst economic downturn of its history, grappling with staggering levels of government debt, spiraling inflation, and a foreign exchange crisis that has led to the scarcity of many essential goods. Long lines snake outside

Finish reading this article for free.

Enter your email and we'll send a paywall-free link directly to your inbox.

In addition to your unlocked article, you will receive our flagship weekly newsletter *Foreign Affairs This Week*, as well as occasional updates and offers from *Foreign Affairs*. You can unsubscribe at any time. For more information, visit our [user agreement](#) and [privacy policy](#).

Get unlimited access to all *Foreign Affairs*. [Subscribe now.](#)

Are you already a subscriber? [Sign in.](#)

DUSHNI WEERAKOON is the Executive Director and Head of Macroeconomic Policy Research at the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka.

 MORE BY DUSHNI WEERAKOON

More: [Sri Lanka](#) [Globalization](#) [Monetary Issues](#) [Coronavirus](#) [War in Ukraine](#)

Recommended Articles

[Subscribe for unrestricted access.](#)



A Chance to Preserve the World They Made

America and Europe Seek to Revive Trade Ties

Chad P. Bown and Cecilia Malmström

Subscribe for unrestricted access.



The End of Globalization?

What Russia's War in Ukraine Means for the World Economy

Adam S. Posen

GET THE MAGAZINE

Save up to 55%

on Foreign Affairs magazine!

[Subscribe](#)

Subscribe for unrestricted access.

Weekly Newsletter

Get in-depth analysis delivered right to your inbox

[Sign Up](#)

ABOUT

CONTACT

SUBSCRIPTION

FOLLOW

GRADUATE SCHOOL FORUM

From the
publishers of
Foreign Affairs

Recipient Countries Hold the Key to China's BRI Success

by Author:Manjari Chatterjee Miller

Nigeria Security Tracker Weekly Update: June 18-24

by Michelle Gavin

Women This Week: U.S. Supreme Court Strikes Down Roe v. Wade

Published by the Council on Foreign Relations

[Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#)

©2022 Council on Foreign Relations, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Subscribe for unrestricted access.
