

ECOTEENS



EFFECTS OF THE GLOBAL WARS IN 2026

Right now, Russia and Ukraine are still hitting each other hard. Russian missiles and drones keep slamming into Kyiv, killing civilians and wrecking homes. Ukraine's fighting back with strikes on Russian oil sites. Neither side is backing down, and it's civilians paying the price every single night.

And honestly, wars don't stay contained anymore. Missile supplies meant for one conflict get diverted to another, oil routes get disrupted, and countries far away feel the ripple effects. It's a reminder that global stuff isn't separate from daily life — it's all connected, whether we notice it or not.

Beyond the numbers, it's the human stuff that stings. Families sheltering in subway stations at 2am, kids growing up hearing air raid sirens like they're background noise, cities rebuilding buildings that just got destroyed. War isn't just political — it's someone's home, gone overnight.

Money-wise, things are getting messy too. Gas prices in the US are still way higher than last year, partly because of all this global tension. Supply chains, oil routes, and everyday costs all shake when wars like this drag on — it hits wallets far from the actual battlefield.

THE AI STOCK MARKET BOOM AND THE WIDENING WEALTH GAP IT'S LEAVING BEHIND

Global stock markets have been on a wild AI-powered run lately. The Nasdaq climbed nearly 13% in just the first half of 2026, and small-cap stocks had their best start since 1991. Investors are pouring money into anything AI-related, betting big that this tech wave will keep paying off.

This boom isn't spread evenly though. Billionaire wealth jumped 25% in a year, way outpacing regular people's wealth growth of just 11%. So while headlines cheer record highs, the gains are landing mostly at the top — a classic case of markets booming without everyone actually feeling richer.

Stock markets are booming on AI hype — the Nasdaq's up almost 13% this year, and small-caps just had their best run since 1991.

But billionaire wealth grew way faster than everyone else's this year, showing the AI boom's gains aren't reaching regular households equally.



Fun Fact: billionaires' wealth grew by 25% in the past year — more than double the 10.8% average wealth growth for everyone else on the planet. So basically, for every ₹2 an average person's net worth grew, a billionaire's grew by ₹5, mostly riding the AI stock wave

JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES—THE MOST INFLUENTIAL ECONOMICST OF THE 20TH CENTURY

John Maynard Keynes basically rewrote how governments handle economic crashes. During the Great Depression, he argued governments should spend money and boost demand instead of just cutting back, completely flipping how economists thought recessions should be handled at the time.

His ideas became the whole basis of "Keynesian economics," which is still taught everywhere today. The core idea is simple: when people stop spending, government spending should step in to keep the economy moving instead of letting it spiral downward.

Keynes wasn't just a theory guy either — he was witty, confident, and loved debating rivals publicly. He famously clashed with economists who believed markets always self-correct, arguing that "in the long run, we're all dead," meaning don't wait around for things to fix themselves.

His influence is everywhere today — every time a government does stimulus spending during a recession, that's basically Keynes's playbook in action. Love him or hate him, his ideas still shape how the entire world reacts to economic downturns.



EURO—THE CENTRAL CURRENCY OF EUROPE



Fun Fact: The Euro is used by roughly 350 million people daily, making it the second most-traded currency in the world after the US dollar. It's also the only currency where you can literally spend the same coin in Paris, Rome, and Berlin without exchanging anything. 🇪🇺

The Euro launched in 1999 and became actual cash in 2002, replacing currencies like the French Franc and German Mark overnight. It was a massive experiment — getting multiple countries with different economies to share one single currency and interest rate policy

That shared setup is also its biggest challenge. The European Central Bank sets one interest rate for the whole Eurozone, but countries like Germany and Greece have totally different economic situations. One-size-fits-all monetary policy doesn't always fit everyone equally well.

Right now, the Euro's dealing with sluggish European growth, energy price shocks from global conflicts, and inflation pressures. Christine Lagarde's ECB has to balance controlling prices without crushing growth further, all while managing nineteen different countries' expectations simultaneously.

OPPORTUNITY COST

Opportunity cost basically means every choice has a hidden price. Whenever you pick one option, you automatically give up whatever else you could've done instead. It's not always about money either — time and effort count just as much in this equation.

ay you spend ₹500 on a movie ticket. The actual cost isn't just that money — it's also whatever else you could've bought instead, like a nice dinner or saving it toward something bigger. That "next best option" is the real opportunity cost.



