

UNFINISHED

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Welcome back to the Unfinished newsletter, where we explore issues at the intersection of tech, ethics, and society.

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Over here, we're still horrified by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. And crypto is on the move.

What we're thinking about

How crypto is moving into ever-more facets of global financial infrastructure—and not just the “capitalism” parts. Whether you hold crypto or think the whole thing is a multilevel-marketing scam, there's no ignoring its penetration into the global economy. This week, the government of Ukraine announced it had received an astonishing [\\$42 million in crowdfunded crypto](#) to support its fight against Russia. (The government was also reportedly [gifted a CryptoPunk](#) NFT, which we will just leave here without comment.) All this happened in a matter of days. And while that sum is paltry compared to the aid needed from other countries and humanitarian groups, it's striking when you consider that most of the donations were, according to the *Washington Post*, quite small — equivalent to less than \$100 apiece.

💰 One of the larger donations apparently came from the CEO of FTX, a crypto exchange. Sam Bankman-Fried also announced this week that FTX would create [a pool of cash](#) of “[up to \\$1 billion](#)” to fund “massively scalable” world-positive projects. Topics they're interested in, according to the Future Fund release, include the safe development of artificial intelligence, reducing catastrophic biorisk, effective altruism, and more. The company has a lengthy list of [potential projects they'd consider](#), but they're open to others, too. The

deadline for first-round funding is March 21. Bankman-Fried has [said in the past](#) that he intends to make as much money as possible from crypto so he can give it to charity. He's currently [29—almost 30—with a net worth of \\$22.5 billion](#), according to *Forbes*, and he's a proponent of a movement called effective altruism, which you can read about [here](#). If you want more from the horse's mouth, check out this [Recode interview](#) with him from a couple years' back.

♥ The Twitter fighting about web3 is getting a little out of hand these days, with many folks appearing to feel they need to pick a side and stick with it. This is a drag because nuance gets lost, and bad things happen when nuance gets lost. If you're like us, you try to stay as informed as possible, which can sometimes mean reading things you might not agree with or even like. If you want a recommendation for a newsletter about crypto that is quick and easy to read, check out [Milk Road](#). You may find it amusing, useful, maddening — or all three. We think it's one fast way to stay up to date on parts of the space. It is, fair warning, bullish on crypto.

🕒 “When social media is such a key element in the war, who should govern global platforms' decisions?” This is a question that will drive many of the conversations being posed by our Unfinished colleagues at the McCourt Institute, which is focused on advancing technology for the common good. At the Institute's [inaugural event](#) next week at Sciences Po in Paris, an impressive group of speakers will tackle the timely — and thorny — topic of [digital governance](#). If you are fortunate enough to be in Paris in Spring, you can register [here](#).

🤖 Twitter is starting to experiment [with a new a function](#) that could be useful in the battle against misinformation on its platform. It's called Birdwatch (cute, IMO), and it will allow users to fact check each other's tweets. You can read *WaPo*'s Will Oremus on the project [here](#).

👁️ Finally, in Facebook's latest transparency fail, it released its [Widely Viewed Content Report](#). The report lives in its transparency center, and notably, the most widely viewed page of content was redacted. Facebook seems to have had its reasons to omit the entry, but it didn't want to share those reasons with inquiring journalists. Many tweets were fired off on the matter, and then Garbage Day writer Ryan Broderick went sleuthing. What was this mysterious page that had more than 121 million views and violated Facebook's content policies? See what he found [here](#). Insider sums it up [here](#). But read Ryan — he's fun.

That's it for this week, folks. We hope you found something interesting to read.

Thank you for reading.

Follow Unfinished ([@byUnfinished](#)) and Damon ([@dlberes](#)) on Twitter for ongoing chitchat on the changing web.

Have a great, restful weekend.

— The Unfinished team

Project Liberty, 888 Seventh Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, New York 10106

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