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Security Council (SC)

Research Report Guide

Topic one: Reaching a peaceful solution to the Russia-Ukraine Crisis.

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Introduction

Russia and Ukraine have strong cultural, economic, and political ties, and in many respects, Ukraine is claimed to be essential to Russia's identity and conception of its place in the world. However, Ukraine also has centuries of its own history, both in connection to Russia and not. After the fall of the Soviet Union, many Russian leaders believed that the separation from Ukraine was a historical error and a threat to Russia's position as a superpower. Many would consider it a serious setback to Russia's international standing; if it lost control of Ukraine permanently and allowed it to sway in the direction of the West. In 2022, Putin framed the increasing conflict with Ukraine as a component of a larger conflict with Western forces, which he claimed were out to destroy Russia[1]. Taking that into consideration, in order to defend the interest of Russia and its powers, major steps were quickly taken, and the war was determined to be raged between the bordering countries.

Definition of key terms

Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity: The Maidan Revolution, widely known as a series of deadly skirmishes between demonstrators and law enforcement, was an attempt to topple the Ukrainian government following the President's abrupt decision to reject a trade agreement with the European Union.

Crimea: a peninsula on the Southeastern side of Ukraine that initially belonged to Ukraine but was annexed by Russia in 2014.

Donbas: Eastern section of Ukraine; current war front, and subject to many Russian raids and armed conflict.

Annexation: a proclamation of sovereignty, or control, over territory outside a state's domain.

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[1] Masters, Jonathan. Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia. Council on Foreign Relations, 11 Oct. 2020

Cyberwarfare: Actions by a state intended to damage another nation's network of information and computer/communication systems.

Schism: a division between opposed parties caused by differences in opinion or belief.

Sanctions: penalty for disobeying a law or rule.

Soviet Union: Communist state which united many Eurasian countries, and was disbanded in 1991, causing regional and sovereignty conflicts among the previous member states.

EAEU: The Eurasian Economic Union is an economic union of some post-Soviet states located in Eurasia. The Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union was signed on 29 May 2014 by the leaders of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia, and came into force on 1 January 2015.

NATO: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states – 28 European and two North American.

Referendum: a direct vote by the electorate on a proposal, law, or political issue.

Overview

A major turning point for European security was reached with Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which represented a significant escalation of the countries' eight-year-old conflict. After six months, several defense and foreign policy professionals characterized the conflict as a significant strategic error on the part of Russian President Vladimir Putin, one that put his decades-long rule in danger.

In 2013–14, tensions with Russia peaked due to Ukraine's links to the EU. Under pressure from his supporters in Moscow, President Yanukovych, from the pro-Russia Party of Regions, abandoned efforts to formally establish a tighter economic partnership with the EU in late 2013. At the same time, Russia had been pressuring Ukraine to join the EAEU, which had not yet been

created. Many Ukrainians saw Yanukovych's decision as a betrayal by a seriously corrupt and inept government, and it sparked the Euromaidan nationwide protests. In response, Putin ordered a clandestine invasion of Crimea, which he later explained as a rescue effort. "There is a limit to everything. And with Ukraine, our western partners have crossed the line," Putin said in a March 2014 address establishing the annexation.[2]

After Russia seized control of Crimea and started supporting paramilitary separatists in the southeast Ukrainian territory of Donbas, Ukraine turned into a battlefield in 2014. The annexation of another European state's territory by a European state has not occurred since World War II until Russia's takeover of Crimea. The Donbas conflict, the worst in Europe since the Balkan Wars of the 1990s, claimed the lives of over 14,000 people between 2014 and 2021. With the outbreak of hostilities, the unipolar era of American dominance in international security gave way to a new era of great power rivalry[3].

Following that, In order to overthrow Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Western-aligned administration, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and the effects were detrimental. Prices for energy in the EU and around the world have significantly increased since the second half of 2021. As a result of Russia's unwarranted and unjustifiable action against Ukraine, gasoline prices have increased further, raising fears about the security of the EU's energy supply. The decision by Russia to halt gas exports to a number of EU members has worsened the issue. More dangerously, the security and affordability of food around the world are being directly impacted by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine. There are effects, mainly on feed prices and for the EU food sector, from the decrease in imports of maize, wheat, rapeseed, and sunflower oil and meal from Ukraine. The fundamental issue in the EU continues to be affordability due to high market prices and inflationary trends brought on by the Ukrainian conflict.[4]

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[2] Masters, Jonathan. Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia. Council on Foreign Relations, 11 Oct. 2020
[3] Masters, Jonathan. Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia. Council on Foreign Relations, 11 Oct. 2020
[4] "Impact of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine on the Markets: Eu Response." European Council; Council of the European Union, Consilium, 22 Dec. 2022,

Consequently, many citizens were forced to leave the country, due to the unlivable standards that the Russian military caused to Ukrainian land. The United Nations reported 7.6 million Ukrainian refugees throughout Europe in October 2022, including 2.85 million in Russia. As of June 2022, when the U.N. recorded 6.9 million internally displaced people, an additional 3.1 million had returned to Ukraine. The total number of displaced Ukrainians is close to one-third of the total Ukrainian population. 13 million more people are stuck inside Ukraine as a result of war, blocked roads, or a lack of resources to travel.[5]

It has been undoubtedly clear that both countries have to establish a solution and peace treaty, as world relations and resources are being threatened. The massive and historic energy shock caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is still driving inflationary pressures, eroding consumer confidence and household purchasing power, and raising risks globally, so it is anticipated that the global economy will slow down even more in the upcoming year.

Major Parties Involved

Russia

Russia's President's main objective was to invade Ukraine and overthrow its government, effectively ending Ukraine's desire to join NATO. He gave up trying to take over Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, after a month of failures, and instead concentrated his efforts on the east and south of the nation. He told the Russian populace on the day of the invasion that his goal was to "demilitarize and de-Nazify Ukraine." His claimed objective was to protect people who had endured what he called the "eight years of intimidation and genocide" committed by the Ukrainian government[6]. Recently, since the commencement of Russia's unjustified war in Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin has made a number of very unnerving nuclear threats, and as his forces lose territory, fears are mounting that he may carry out the unimaginable and order the use of weapons of mass devastation.

Ukraine

[5] Karasapan, Omer. Ukrainian Refugees: Challenges in a Welcoming Europe. Brookings, 14 Oct. 2022
[6] Masters, Jonathan. Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia. Council on Foreign Relations, 11 Oct. 2020

With limited resources and limited political power, Ukraine has no choice but to face massive industrial and societal destruction. In response to the threats made by the Russian military, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Russia should be excluded from the United Nations because of its conduct in his nation. Zelenskyy requested an expedited NATO admission procedure in September when he officially applied for Ukraine to join the alliance. President Zelenskyy asked the EU to place Ukraine on a fast track to membership just days after the invasion[7]. In June, the nation officially declared itself a candidate, but experts warn that the membership process might take years. Moreover, until the conflict is fixed, Ukrainians have to live in fear of the conflict they live within and have to live within severe conditions.

United States of America

Following the invasion in 2022, the United States and its NATO allies significantly expanded their defense, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, as well as their sanctions on Russia. The restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty is something that the United States is still firmly committed to; it rejects Russia's claims to Crimea and the other areas that it has forcibly acquired. By the end of October, the US had spent $17 billion on security aid for Ukraine, including cutting-edge rocket and missile systems, chopper aircraft, and deadly drones.

United Kingdom

The UK is a fervent backer of Ukraine and accuses Russia of aiming to topple the Kyiv government. The UK government has provided assistance ranging from humanitarian, military, and even economic aid to Ukraine. Nearly £400 million has been pledged by the UK overall, including £220 million for humanitarian aid, of which £25 million came from contributions made by the general public to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine humanitarian appeal. Additionally, the UK has modified its immigration policy to enable the Homes for Ukraine sponsorship program, which enables individuals, charities, community organizations, and corporations in the UK to sponsor Ukrainians, including people who have no familial ties to the country.

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[7] Ukraine: Cycle of Death, Destruction, Dislocation, and Disruption 'Must Stop' | UN News. United Nations, 28 June 2022

China

China has attempted to preserve a delicate balance between Moscow and the West in the Ukraine crisis. Beijing's relations with Western nations will deteriorate if it supports Putin's invasion of Ukraine, but Xi also wants to strengthen China's growing relationship with Russia. China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, advised all parties involved to "exercise patience" as news of Russia's troop incursion into Donbas spread. He told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken over the phone that the issue should be settled diplomatically. He nonetheless accepted Russia's "legitimate security concerns" in spite of this. The two presidents reiterated their opposition to NATO expansion while reiterating their support for one another in a joint statement issued to mark the anniversary. Xi and Putin have similar goals in terms of battling the US and expanding their global power. The situation in Ukraine also benefits China. In contrast to the sanctions imposed by the West against Russia, the tensions have diverted focus from China's issues with human rights. Despite this, China has not fully supported Russian military activities in Ukraine, and the nation was not specifically mentioned in the joint statement.

Poland

Poland, which borders Ukraine, has already been the target of a Russian assault. It interprets the Russian escalation on the Ukrainian border as a cautionary sign that Poland might be next. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki visited Kyiv in the beginning of February to emphasize his nation's opposition to "Russian neo-imperialism," and he pledged to support Ukraine with fuel, weapons, and humanitarian and economic aid. The nation is prepared for a significant flood of refugees from Ukraine in the event that Russia attacks. Nearly 5,000 US service members from the 82nd Airborne Division are now stationed in Poland as part of the Biden administration's initiatives to strengthen support for European partners.

NATO countries

NATO strongly condemn Russia's cruel and unprovoked act of aggression against Ukraine, a key NATO ally nation. Ukraine continues to receive extraordinary levels of support from NATO and its allies, assisting in upholding its fundamental right to self-defense. Beginning in the early 1990s, NATO's relations with Ukraine have grown to become one of the alliance's most important relationships. Since Russia's illegitimate invasion of Crimea in 2014, cooperation has

increased in important areas. NATO and its allies have given unprecedented levels of support since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022[8].

Timeline of Important Events

Date	Event
1991	**Ukraine declares its independence.**
1994	**Signing of the Budapest Memorandum** Ukraine surrenders its nuclear weapons in accordance with the Budapest Memorandum in exchange for Moscow's pledge "to respect the independence and sovereignty and the current boundaries of Ukraine."
2008	**Russia opposes Ukraine joining NATO** A vigorous discussion regarding extending a Membership Action Plan (MAP) to Ukraine kicked off a NATO summit in April 2008.
2014	**Russia Takes Crimea** In the wake of the Euromaidan demonstrations, Russia annexes Crimea, a Ukrainian peninsula with a predominately Russian population. Key locations on the peninsula are occupied by Russian forces wearing military uniforms devoid of Russian insignias.
2019	**Zelensky elected as president** Volodymyr Zelensky, a former comedian, is elected president of Ukraine with a sizable majority on a platform of bringing back Donbas to the nation.
2021	**Putin demands protection**

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[8] Nato. "NATO's Response to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine." NATO, 9 Dec. 2022

	Viktor Medvedchuk, a close ally of Putin, was among the pro-Russian Ukrainian oligarchs targeted by Zelenskyy at the beginning of 2021. Putin then places more and more soldiers close to the Ukrainian border. Tens of thousands of Russian soldiers are stationed along the borders by December, and Putin makes demands of NATO and the US. One of these demands, which the Biden administration denied, is that Ukraine never is accepted to NATO.
2022	**Ukraine is invaded by Russia** A full-scale invasion of Ukraine was started by Russia. The Donbas region of eastern Ukraine is where the invasion started. In addition to declaring martial law, Zelenskyy formally severed diplomatic ties with Russia.
Oct 5 2022	**Russia Annexes Four Ukrainian Regions** Putin officially annexed Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia, four regions of Ukraine, after staging phony "referendums" there that the West ignored. In retaliation, the United States and its allies imposed sanctions on more than 1,000 Russian individuals and businesses, adding to the substantial financial penalties that had already been placed on the country since the invasion.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the issue

Ukraine v. Russian Federation (2022) (ICJ Case File) On February 26, 2022, after Russia invaded Ukraine, Ukraine filed a complaint with the International Court of Justice (ICJ), asserting that Russia invaded Ukraine as a result of an unlawful genocide that took place in the Luhansk and Donetsk areas. The International Court of Justice decided on March 16, 2022, to halt military activities against Ukraine while it awaited rulings.

International Sanctions (2015 - Current) Several countries have applied sanctions in an effort to defuse the Russian incursions into Ukrainian territory. These have aided in the devaluation of the European Euro and the collapse of the Russian Ruble.

UN documents

Security Council Resolutions: S/RES/2623
Security Council Presidential Statements: S/PRST/2018/12
Security Council Letters: S/2019/180, S/2019/163, S/2018/1052
General Assembly Documents: A/RES/ES-11/2, A/RES/ES-11/1
Human Rights Council Documents: S/2022/231, S/2022/155

Possible Solutions

A possible solution to the Russia-Ukraine crisis to demand that Russia immediately withdraw from Ukraine and end its military operations there. This can be done by; continuing or increasing sanctions, intervening militarily, or threatening to do so (though this solution is not popular), or continuing diplomatic talks. Another solution would be Ukraine giving up territory. There are various degrees to which this could happen; all of Ukraine can be absorbed into Russia, the majority of the east and southeast, or Luhansk and Donetsk (and possibly Kharkiv), two regions with a large Russian population.

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