



RUSSIA UKRAINE WAR: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

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Abstract

In February 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine it was a major escalation of the Russian-Ukrainian war that had previously begun 8 years before in 2014. The Ukrainian invasion is the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War 2. In response to this invasion, more than 8 million Ukrainians fled the country and almost 30% of the Ukrainian population was displaced. As a result of this crisis, several other issues ascended like global food shortages and human rights issues. This invasion of Russia has received International condemnation from Institutions like the United Nations General Assembly which also passed a resolution condemning this Russian invasion moreover demanding Russian forces withdraw from Ukraine. Similarly, the International Court of Justice ordered Russia how to stop military operations and vis a vis the Council of Europe also expelled Russia. The study critically analyzed multiple causes of the ongoing Russia Ukrainian conflict and also deliberated on the prospects of this dispute.



Keywords: Russia-Ukraine War, Ukraine Crisis, Russian invasion,

Introduction

When the Soviet Union got distorted and when it collapsed in the 1990s, NATO was expanded towards the East. After captivating various regions in the domain of the communists, and due to this, it became closer to Moscow as the borders were directly neighboring Russia. Amidst all this, the Russian president called NATO to resist its expansion and proposed that joining Ukraine could be a threat. He also claimed that historically, Ukraine has been a part and portion of Russia. Putin gave speeches where he stated referring Ukraine and Russia as a single unit and he also claimed that Ukraine itself is not a real and actual country but instead it was created and founded by the Soviet planner on the imperial Russian land (Donahue, 2022).

The main conflict and crises began due to the future of Ukraine. The history dates back to the 1990s when a Russian leader Vladimir V. Putin intended to plan a complete invasion of Ukraine by commanding the Russian forces to seize Ukraine which has been the biggest mobilization and deployment of Europe that ever took place since the year 1945 (Bilesfsky, et al., 2022). However, Moscow tried to capture the majority of the cities but was ineffective due to the weak preparation and the resistance of the Ukrainian troops, fighters (civil), and soldiers who were unsuccessful to seize Ukraine. At that time, Russia was still superior in terms of its military power and Putin had the ultimate goal to occupy attack, and invade Kyiv.

Russia was fascinated to not only acquire an interest in Ukraine but also litigate the security architecture in Europe. The relationship between these two countries Russia and Ukraine is dependent and determined by the Russian Federation and Ukraine which is all connected and followed by the revolution of the dignity of Ukraine (2014). Dating back to the spring of the year 2014, Russia and Ukraine crises were at their peak as all the sequence of drastic events and occasions happened were interrelated with one another and the situation has been rough and tough in the past. According to Harris, E. (2020), the major key event occurred amongst the forces of the pro-Russian government which had the ultimate power and along with it, Ukraine's Peninsula Crimea had been seized by the



traditional Russian population. Soon after that, another event appeared between the chief Viktor Yanukovich and pro-reform supporters of Kyiv to whom the European Union commanded to remove their signs which are present on the agreement association by the chief because of the extreme pressure and influence of Russia.

The second occasion that was held consisted of the extension of the Crimea, which was being captured by some immaculate and powerful Russian forces and it was termed the 'first formal takeover or annexation of the region in Europe ever since the year 1945' (Guver, 2022). However, this was international law's protruding disregard while the authority and sovereignty of Ukraine were shaken by cruelty, insensitivity, and extreme violence. As the conflict started, the front line of the border of Russia and Ukraine had to shell along with skirmishes occurring in the eastern region. Instead of returning to the 'mutual European home' which is regarded, considered, and perceived by the last and final leader Mikhail Gorbachev (USSR), the crisis of Ukraine highlighted and contributed profit to the rebuilding of the East and West partition succeeding to the intense battle between the perpetual authoritarian, patriotic, loyal and nationalist Russia trying to stop a known rebellion which was violently calling for Europeanize and democratize the self-governing, independent or autonomous Ukraine.

Causes of Russian invasion

According to Fitzgerald, M. (2022), the Russia and Ukraine crisis might have occurred as the result of some misled approaches and policies by the EU regarding Russia and due to the engagement of pro-Russia dissenters with the military of Ukraine which led to an armed war and a huge conflict over the control of the East of Ukraine. Another event occurred which also dates back to 2014 where Donetsk and Luhansk which were the Ukrainian regions had been fragmented and broken away from Ukraine due to the influence and leadership of the terrorists who were backed by Russians as per the information given by the Ukrainian government

According to Kirby, P. (2022), the main of Russian forces and leaders was to invade Ukraine and overthrow its government just to make it join NATO which is the defensive western cooperation and alliance but he failed to seize the Kyiv which was the capital and then amidst trying hard by facing all the problems during this process, the leader turned his



focus over the East and South of Ukraine instead. As per prior information, NATO promised membership to Ukraine in the year 2008. However, just after the month of annexation, Russia announced its main motive which was the “freedom of Donbas” and it later was referred to and pointed toward the eastern regions of Ukraine named Luhansk and Donetsk.

According to Reels, T. & Sundby, A. (2022), Ukrainians wanted to be a part of NATO which they were not. Before the year 2014, Ukrainians presumed themselves to the pro-European Union, and due to this, there were not many people wanting to be a part of NATO. But, if today’s perspective is to be discussed then the majority of the Ukrainians are eagerly wanting to be added to NATO because they couldn’t think of strongly defending themselves as per their military situation and it was also very expensive in terms of economy and finance. Later, Zelensky told that this country has to accept that the way toward having membership in NATO is almost closed.

Historical perspective

The birth of this conflict took place in 2008 at the Bucharest summit when NATO announced its open-door policy to the World and promised Ukraine that one day, it will be a part of NATO. All the allies welcomed Ukraine into NATO while praising their efforts for Alliance operations. Allies supported Ukraine’s application for a Membership action plan (MAP) and it was agreed that NATO will start intensive engagement at the high political level to provide Ukraine with military support. (Art, 1998)

At the Bucharest summit held in April 2008, NATO promised Georgia and Ukraine that eventually they will become a member of NATO but MPAs were opposed by key nations like France and Germany as they believed that moving western weapons to the Russian border and surrounding the country will ignite a dangerous reaction. Russia didn’t think that there was a security lapse for other nations as they ensured security for all but the West had a perspective that states had to give up the sovereign choice of, they wanted to join NATO. Then NATO did manage the problems created by its existence but some did happen as the Russia-Georgia war fought in August 2008 as a result of NATO membership. (Pikulicka, 2015)



The Bucharest conference of 2008 proved to be a major breaking point for the rise of NATO and what the relationship between Russia and the West will look like. It was a surprise for many when the Bush administration desired that NATO should offer membership to Ukraine and Georgia even though the MPA's for these countries were opposed by other allies. Allies were not ready to support as they feared that this step will encircle Moscow which won't end well and they were not ready to make any security commitments to these countries. As a response to the concerns of allies and the request of Bush NATO didn't offer an outright membership but stated that both the countries will join NATO eventually (Hunter, 2022).

Russia first invaded Ukraine in 2014, at the time Putin claimed that the invasion was a way to defend itself from Ethnic Russians who reside in the eastern Donbas region. The reason for this invasion was told that those people didn't support or liked the Western influence and Western-style government. In reality, this invasion was done to annex a part of Ukraine, which resulted in the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. Even though the international community has not accepted this annexation but Russia has had active control of that area since 2014. Since 2014 an indirect war has existed in the disputed territory between Ukraine and Russian-supported separatists. According to the Ukrainian government, this war left more than 14,000 dead. (Reals, 2022)

The conflict in Eastern Ukraine started in 2014 as low-level fighting between Russian-backed separatists and the Ukrainian army. Russian-backed separatists seized towns with a Russian-speaking majority and since then this war has escalated as Crimea was annexed and now belonged to Russia. Ukraine's response was not very aggressive till July when they decided to push these separatists out once and for all which triggered a dangerous situation because Russia started providing state-of-the-art arms to the separatists. When Russian-backed separatists accidentally shot down a passenger airplane killing 298 people on board, Ukraine accelerated its efforts to push them out but they were helped by the Russian army which outnumbered Ukraine's army. Even though this war was bloodshed, no Western country sent its army as it was most likely to create a situation of World War 3 so there was no one stopping the Russian army and the annexation of Crimea. (Fisher, 2014)



Conflicts started when the Ukrainian President rejected an economic deal with the EU and left his country in February. It was followed by the annexation of Crimea by Russia with the help of Russian-backed separatists. Putin covered these attacks by stating that these attacks were required to protect the rights of its citizens and Russian speakers present in Crimea. After forcefully annexing Crimea, Russia formally included Crimea into its territory through a disputed or fixed local referendum in which Crimeans voted to join Russia. After the annexation, the conflicts accelerated with arms being involved even though Russia denied its involvement but NATO was able to provide proof of Russian soldiers on the Ukrainian border. Since then, this conflict has been accelerating. (Staff reporter, 2022)

It was February and March 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine and annexed the Crimean Peninsula. When Putin decided to assist the Ukrainian president in feeling the country on the 22nd and 23rd of February, he ordered his security chiefs to start the work on making Crimea a part of Russia again. On 2nd February 2014, masked Russian troops attacked Crimea and took over its Parliament, and later a disputed referendum was done which resulted in the inclusion of Crimea in Russia. This act was condemned by many countries including Ukraine as it was a violation of international laws and treaties but Russia posed nuclear threats if any country interfered. This act led to the start of a series of sanctions against Russia (Yilmaz, 2018).

Contemporary Situation of Ukraine

In late 2021 it was observed that Russia is building some army camps at the border which connects with Ukraine. On asking upon by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Russia denied those allegations but this move was also noticed by Ukraine and they also started moving their troops to the border. The Russian president is against the enlargement of NATO, he was against the idea of Ukraine being a part of NATO. On 21st February 2022, Russia recognized states in Donbas and sent some troops to those areas. After three days, on 24th February Russia starts the invasion of Ukraine which was condemned by most countries and several sanctions were imposed on Russia for damaging the sovereignty of Ukraine (Staff Reporter, 2022).

United Nations, European Union (EU), and G7 with other countries condemned the Russian invasion and supported Ukraine on this matter. In a session of the UN, 141 out of



193 voted to condemn the action of Russia and demanded that Russia should immediately stop its invasion in the part Ukraine. United states have removed Russia from the global market and they have also stopped importing oil and gas from Russia. Whereas the US is still supporting Ukraine with military aid. Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed some issues on March 16 and after that US president Biden announced \$800 Million for aid in military activities (Borger, 2022)

Several sanctions were imposed on Russia while Russian president Putin and their common people are being made public One of the major sanctions was announced on 26th February which was related to cutting off the banks of Russia from the banking system of SWIFT and stopping the Central bank of Russia to use the reserves to prevent the efforts of US to impose sanctions on their country. The full details of the sanctions were not published then but this sudden implementation of the sanction indicates that they are more sanctions to be imposed on Russia to paralyze them from several activities. The White House has also formed a Transatlantic force to form and impose sanctions on Russian assets (Shavit et al, 2022).

Ukraine is not a member of NATO and it was noticed that the US and their other allies have also stepped back in sending the troops to the country to help them defend themselves but they provided military equipment and financial support to Ukraine. The intervention of the US in this to stop Russia from invasion cannot be explained in the context of American lives or good. Neither Ukraine is an important trading partner for the US and the threat to the sovereignty of Ukraine does not pose a direct threat to the US. As Putin is now trying to strengthen its ties with China which is another nation that criticizes the western democracy model and the US trying to prevent them from doing this as it may disturb connections between NATO members (Reals, 2022).

The offensive operation of Russia continued in eastern Ukraine for a limited time because they were looking for rebuilding their forces which were withdrawn while invading Kyiv and they were taking measures to build a strong military to fight in the Donbas area. We can see that after the withdrawal of forces from Kyiv the Russian forces have reintroduced themselves again in that region. Russian forces were attacking different territories of Ukraine on a small scale namely Izyum and Severidonetsk. They still not have introduced



a large campaign in that area. On the other hand, they were busy attacking Mariupol with chemical weapons (Clark, 2022).

The President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky said that he is not sure whether the chemical weapons were used in Mariupol. He further added that we cannot be 100% sure to claim which type of chemical was used in Mariupol as the city is also blocked so that is why they cannot investigate this matter more keenly. On the other hand, the US has also not confirmed the use of chemical weapons in Mariupol. The secretary of that state said that Russia could use any riot controlling agent against the Ukrainian forces to make themselves stable in that state (Knight, 2022).

The population of Ukraine was 44 million before and 3.7 million in total have fled from Ukraine to different areas. The UN is trying to allege against Russia that citizens from the southern part of Mariupol were forcefully moved to Russia. The president of the US Joe Biden visited Poland to pay tribute to them as they have provided refuge to almost 2 million people who were forced to flee from their homes. Biden will meet with refugees and after them; he will deliver about the efforts of Poland to support the people of Ukraine and will set Russia responsible for the invasion (Staff Reporter, 2022).

Even if we think that this is a limited-time conflict, we can assume that Russia will face more severe sanctions than in 2014. As a result, it will be difficult for the world to continue its trade with Russia. We know that Russia produces gas and oil on a large scale which is exported to other nations as well. The implementation of sanctions will ultimately lead to a rise in the price of oil which is already touched the mark of \$105/ barrel. When the price of fuel will rise it will ultimately affect the price of everything because in the production of anything transportation cost is included which depends on the price of fuel (Srivastava, 2022).

Future Prospects

Russia and Ukraine both are the largest countries in Europe and these neighboring countries are now in war conditions. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is started in April 2008, when NATO promised Georgia and Ukraine that eventually they will become a member of NATO but it is a thread for Russia because if Ukraine is become included in a



NATO country automatically Russia's power will be down Vladimir Putin goal is very simple he wants Ukraine to be politically under his control and he wants Ukraine is not able to make its own independent foreign policy decision that means not being able to join alliances that he does not want it to like NATO (Staff reporter, 2022).

For the last few years, the western allies have operated a fudge when it comes to Ukraine's potential membership of NATO they have pushed it off far into the future essentially making it a point of principle but by keeping that point of principle on they believe that they have kept principles that Ukraine is a fully independent state with no Russian veto over its foreign policy alive unfortunately Putin seems to determine to force these issue now on the western alliance at the point of the war meaning that Ukraine is placed in the very precarious and dangerous moment right now (Kingsley, P. 2022).

According to Hookway et al., (2022), the tension between Russia and Ukraine war is not new in February 2014, following political turmoil in Ukraine; Russia invaded and annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. Later that year a group of pro-Russian separatists took control of the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk in the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine. This triggered the ongoing conflict between militia groups armed or financed by Russia, and the Ukraine army and volunteer militia groups, backed by Europe and NATO. After the thousands of civilians died trapped in the crossfire both sides agreed on a ceasefire deal, the Minsk agreement. Then in February 2022, Putin recognized that region as an independent state. Under the Minsk agreement, neither side fulfilled the idea was that Russia would withdraw its forces from eastern Ukraine and Ukraine would allow re-entering these territories but they would be given autonomy what Putin has done is rip up this agreement that was never implemented by either side by recognizing these puppet republics as independent states that means that there is no possibility now of that agreement becoming a peaceful settlement to the conflict but more worryingly Putin in a series of extremely intense aggressive and indeed snarling speeches has made it clear that he is setting up the case for military action across the whole of Ukraine.

The Ukraine-Russia war is still going on and nobody knows how far Putin will go, or when it will end, all these things are unclear. But this war has created a great impact on the rest of the world. But there could many millions of people are moving toward the European Union in the next few weeks or months if he goes ahead. The second major shock that will



hit the world if this terrible invasion does go ahead with its full force is globally inflationary shock an invasion of Ukraine could increase fuel prices worldwide, as Russian controls the majority of Europe's gas which is shipped through Ukraine (Sangal, et al., 2022).

Scribner, H. (2022) suggested that the following outcome of the Russian-Ukraine war in Eastern Ukraine turns out to be the capital of Russia if Russia installs a pro-Russia government in Kyiv. Russia seems separate Ukraine into partitioned countries one among which might bolster Russia. Russia might make a greater isolate between itself and NATO, conceivably supporting psychological warfare on NATO countries. Ukraine carry on the fight with Russia until the results did not come but in one situation, Russia seems to pull back from Ukraine and conclude the progressing strife.

Ukraine might involve nourishment emergencies due to the strife with Russia as the yield of agriculture might decay from a third this current year. Official officer Ukraine might witness deficiency of nourishment for the powerless citizen's indeed a long time afterward this strife will conclusion. Moreover, he trusts that these nourishment and shield emergencies do not overstate to the level where the nourishment specialists or securities ended up obliging towards this matter. He included that the lands have been as of now affected by the surges, bug demolition, and shortage in Europe in conjunction with the decrease of trim yields in America (Rana, Sanjiv. 2022).

Be that as it may, Russia has been the world's biggest exporter of fertilizers, and if the will be a deficiency of fertilizers around the world at that point the hazard of expanded nourishment costs will be higher due to its tireless and relentless effect on farming and nourishment generation and security. Both the nations counting Russia and Ukraine has been the major exporters of sunflower and wheat to the nation Africa indeed sometime recently the emergency started. (Staff Reporter, 2022).

According to Jones, L, (2022). She said that we all think that we are not included in this war but unfortunately, this war bleeding to all of us as Russia is additionally the third-biggest maker of oil after the US and Saudi Arabia the world.12% of the world's oil comes from Russia it is among the three top player in the oil market and this country is now at war on a normal day Russia would export nearly 5 million barrel of crude oil so if there



will doubtlessly be disruptions and unsettling influences within the prepare of oil universally which is able specifically to lead to higher costs of fuel and expanded nourishment generation costs when oil becomes expensive everything becomes expensive form your local fruit to your imported goods.

Findings

To put it in a nutshell, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is not new it has been going on for the past 30 years. In 1990 at the time Vladimir Putin execute a plan to capture Ukraine and to get complete control over the capital Kyiv through his military power but he failed to do so because they face strong defense from the Ukrainian soldiers and civil fighters.

After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine got its independence and it show concern to join NATO for its security from Russia. This is when the problem aroused for Russia because if Ukraine joined NATO and it expand its operations to Ukraine, it would be a dangerous situation for Russia as its borders are close to it and its capital Moscow could be a threat. So at the time president of Russia opposed the joining of Ukraine with NATO and its expansion.

Then there happened some major events which began the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, one of the main reasons was the seizing of Crimea and its expansion by the pro-Russian. Another event that occurred in 2014 which shocked Ukraine was the annexation of the Donetsk and Luhansk region by a group of separatist which were backed by the Russian government which lead to a conflict between Ukraine and Russia to maintain their powers over the region.

Through this suppression by Russia, Ukrainians get against Russia and its interventions. They safeguard themselves Ukrainians wanted to join NORTH Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for which Russia was totally against it. There had been several warnings made by Russia to NATO and the USA to stay away from the matter with Ukraine as they see Ukraine as a part of itself and Russia believed that the USA was poisoning Ukraine against him. For many years Russia through its influence was stopping Ukraine to become part of NATO.



Conclusion

The seed of war between Ukraine and Russia was sowed in the year 2014 and it was the time when this conflict started. Russians invaded the Donbas region of Ukraine claiming that they are saving the ethnic Russians and those who are against the western government and its influence but on the other hand the main motive of this invasion was to capture the Crimean part of Ukraine, globally this annexation was condemned but still Russia got whole control over this region. Then afterward a war has been started unwantedly between Russia and Ukraine over the disruptive territory which caused way more lives approximately 14000 to 15000.

In 2014, this war was on grass root level between the separatists backed by Russia and the military of Ukraine, in which many areas with a Russian majority were liberated by Russian militants and eventually seized the Crimean peninsula. The retaliation of Ukraine was not strong as it should, be until they found out that Russia is now funding these militants with an advanced weapon to fight which was an alarming situation. Then a catastrophic event occurred Russian militants unintentionally fired a rocket on a civilian plane in which 298 innocent lives were lost. After this incident, Ukraine decided to thrash out these militants and they launched huge military operations against these militants but they failed to do so because Russia came in to support and Ukraine cannot compete against the Russian troops as they were outnumbered them.

The year 2013 was also a starting chain of this conflict when Viktor Yanukovich former Ukrainian president was bashed out by Ukrainians as he was in the favor of Russia and was not willing to agree to the European trade agreement. Afterward, when an election was held again the opposition won who was against Russia supported European policies and wanted to join NATO. This situation ignited the fire between Ukraine and Russia because according to Putin there were a large number of people in Ukraine who are against the western influence or European policies and they want to be a part of the Russian federation. In the end, this led to the Crimean annexation by Russian separatists and Putin justified it as they were protecting the people and their rights who were with Russia.

Viktor Yanukovich step down and forced Russia to intervene and attack Crimea to control it as it serves as an essential trade passage on the black sea. Moreover, the Russian



militants also captured two main parts of Ukraine which were Donetsk and Luhansk in the Donbas region later they were declared independent and a part of Russian territory by Putin. Ukraine showed great resistance against the Russian invasion and raised voices internationally but it all went down as no one came for help neither USA nor the European counterparts. And in the end, Russia ultimately succeeded in getting control over the Donbas region.



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