

Committee: Security Council (SC)

Topic: Addressing Civil Security in Ukraine

Student Officer: Nickolas Pachis

Position: Co-Chair

Personal Introduction

Dear delegates of the Security Council,

My name is Nickolas Pachis, and I am an IB2 Student at Platon School. I have the utmost honor and pleasure of serving as one of the two co-chairs of the Security Council in this year's Campion MUN Conference.

This topic, while currently one of the most covered and seemingly sudden issues of global significance, is an incredibly convoluted issue that I have had the pleasure of writing a guide about. The underlying tension of the two countries has incredibly deep roots, going back to even before the Soviet Union was first established. The geostrategic location of Crimea, the resource-rich industrialized region of Donbas and the contrasting political goals of the two countries in recent decades have reached a tipping point, which has resulted in one of the most devastating disasters in Europe after the Second World War. Finding a solution to this issue has proven incredibly difficult for the international community due to a multitude of reasons that have their roots back to Russia's strong militaristic, political and economic influence over the entire world.

At the end of the day, from my point of view, MUN conferences are about learning new things, meeting new people, and having fun. Campion MUN will be my first time chairing in a live conference, and I sincerely hope that everyone enjoys their time lobbying, drafting resolutions, debating and of course submitting gossip.

If you have any questions about the guide or anything else about the topic, do not hesitate to contact me on my email (nick.48478@gmail.com).

Kindest regards,

Nickolas Pachis

Topic Introduction

On the 24th of February 2022 a large number of Russian forces began their advance against Ukraine in what would be labeled a “special military operation” by the Russian president, and a full scale invasion by the international community. Since then, more than 12 million people have been displaced, 8 million of which are internally displaced. All of the above totals to more than 17% of Ukraine’s total population¹. As of June 6th of this year, there have been 9,394 civilian casualties; 4,253 deaths and 5,141 injuries according to the UNCHR². At this point, most of the international community has denounced the Russian invasion, having even the most neutral nations impose economic sanctions in an effort to discourage Russia from advancing, and causing a humanitarian crisis of even greater magnitude.

Despite the already monumental disaster that this invasion has caused, some speculate that it could get much worse. Bearing in mind that Russia is in possession of the biggest nuclear weapon arsenal in the world, some speculate that this conflict could go nuclear³. If this were to happen, it would have catastrophic consequences of global scale. If the situation were to not take such a dramatic turn, it will still bear massive consequences to the global economy, as many economies around the globe are entering an era of stagflation and shortages of many different varieties of products, ranging from oil to wheat.

This topic is very sensitive, as its roots can be traced back to the early 20th century, with the first declaration of independence of Ukraine. From there, the opposing political objectives of Russia and Ukraine seem to have produced a lot of conflict between the two, not only in the form of this invasion, but in the form of a hatred campaign that has never ended since its inception.

The importance of an immediate and effective resolution to this topic cannot be understated, as the conflict has not only created one of the biggest humanitarian crises in recent years, but also poses an immediate threat to international and global security.

¹ ‘Ukraine: Millions of Displaced Traumatized and Urgently Need Help, Say Experts’. *OHCHR*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/05/ukraine-millions-displaced-traumatized-and-urgently-need-help-say-experts>.

² UNCHR. *Ukraine: Civilian Casualty Update*. <https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Ukraine%20-%20civilian%20casualty%20update%20as%20of%2024.00%206%20June%202022%20ENG.pdf>.

³ Thorton, Rod, and Marina Miron . *Will the Ukraine War Go Nuclear? | Feature from King’s College London*. <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/will-the-ukraine-war-go-nuclear>.

The UN and the Security Council has been widely criticized by many because of the fact that it has only provided humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine, while avoiding giving a more direct solution when it comes to the militaristic side of the issue at hand.

Definition of key terms

Casualty

“A person lost through death, wounds, injury, sickness, internment, or capture or through being missing in action.”⁴

Economic Sanction

An economic coercive measure adopted usually by several nations in concert for forcing a nation violating international law to desist or yield to adjudication.⁵ The Security Council is the only committee in the United Nations that can impose sanctions.

Humanitarian Crisis

“A humanitarian crisis is a generalized emergency situation that affects an entire community or a group of people in a region, which involves high levels of mortality or malnutrition, the spread of disease and epidemics and health emergencies”⁶

Invasion

“An occasion where an army or country uses force to take control of another country”⁷.

Secession

In this context, the term refers to a specific community within an area gaining their independence, no longer being part of a country.

⁴ Definition of CASUALTY. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/casualty>.

⁵ Definition of SANCTION. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sanction>.

⁶ ‘What Are the Largest Humanitarian Crises in the Planet Today?’ *Iberdrola*, <https://www.iberdrola.com/social-commitment/humanitarian-crises-causes-effects-solutions>

⁷ Invasion. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/invasion>.

Sovereignty

The power of a government to have (absolute) control over its government⁸. The UN Charter classifies sovereignty as a right to all of its member states, as stated in Article 2.1.

Annexation

The addition of an area or a region to a country or state⁹

Political Corruption

The abuse of entrusted political power for personal gain.¹⁰

Neo-Nazism

A person who belongs to a group that believes in the ideas and policies of Hitler's Nazi party and that sometimes commits violent acts.¹¹

Separatist

"Someone who is a member of a particular race, religion, or other group within a country and who believes that this group should be independent and have their own government or in some way live apart from other people."¹²

Background Information

Annexation of Crimea and Ukrainian-Russian Relations until the invasion

The annexation of Crimea is an important turning point in the diplomatic history of Russia and Ukraine. A lot of the aggression between the two nations stems from this volatile period, which many consider to be a defining moment for Ukrainian politics; a transition from Soviet-era corruption adjusted for the western world, into a more

⁸ Sovereignty. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sovereignty>.

⁹ Definition of ANNEXATION. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/annexation>.

¹⁰ 'What Is Corruption?' Transparency.Org. <https://www.transparency.org/en/what-is-corruption>.

¹¹ Neo-Nazi Definition & Meaning | Britannica Dictionary. <https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/neo%E2%80%93Nazi>.

¹² Separatist. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/separatist>

western system of leadership. This, however, is not favorable for the Putin administration, and according to it, it has caused an increased amount of social discrimination and neo-Nazism. Most, however, seem to contest such a viewpoint.¹³

Before the annexation of Crimea - Victor Yanukovych

One of the more influential figures commonly associated with the 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula is Victor Yanukovych, a former Ukrainian president. He was elected to power in 2010, after having failed to do so in 2004. His past failure is largely attributed to a media uprising prompted by the Yanukovych's alleged attempt to rig the election with the help of Rinat Akhmetov, one of the wealthiest Ukrainians at the time.

What followed is what some call the Yanukovych era of corruption in Ukraine, which ended up having serious consequences on Ukraine's position regarding its international neighborhood. Some of his first actions upon obtaining power were to prosecute his main political rival using Ukraine's already corrupt judicial system and diverting surveillance from him and his business associate's activities¹⁴. This alleged informal association was commonly referred to as "The Family" and was interested in various business opportunities. These ranged from Russian oil and gas to real estate projects; the land for which was taken from public parks, green zones and even public institutions. Until most of this was brought to light, some alleged members of the Family were senior government officials, relatives to Yanukovych and foreign patrons, primarily from Russia. These foreign patrons are also the reason why Yanukovych was pro-Russia, and also partly explain the reasons for Ukraine's jagged efforts to bring itself closer to the EU.

By late 2013, the majority of the population backed the signing of an association agreement with the European Union. This would bring about many perks, such as financial aid, free trade, and visa free travel, but it would also mandate compliance and transparency laws on Ukrainians, which was not favorable to the Family's business ventures. In addition, the aforementioned Russian patrons were completely opposed to change which would move Ukraine closer to the EU. Hence, as preparations for

¹³ Pifer, Steven. 'Crimea: Six Years after Illegal Annexation'. *Brookings*, 17 Mar. 2020, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/03/17/crimea-six-years-after-illegal-annexation/>.

¹⁴ Gorchinskaya, Katya. 'A Brief History of Corruption in Ukraine: The Yanukovych Era.' *Eurasianet*, 3 June 2020, <https://eurasianet.org/a-brief-history-of-corruption-in-ukraine-the-yanukovych-era>.

signing the Association Agreement with the EU initialized in 2013, the Yanukovych administration suspended them.

This, along with other actions that the administration made that favored the Family, led to country wide protests commonly referred to as the Maidan Revolution, or Euromaidan¹⁵. This happened at the end of 2013 and the start of 2014. The government responded with police violence, but to no avail. On the 21st of February 2014, Yanukovych claimed that he had reached an agreement with the protesters. Nevertheless, later in the same day, he left the capital of the city, reached the Crimean Peninsula and eventually reached southern Russia.

The Annexation of Crimea

In the weeks following Yanukovych's departure, gunmen seized control of various key facilities in the Crimean Peninsula. Allegedly, they were supported by the Russian army, seeing as evidence suggests that they were professional soldiers that used Russian combat gear with no identifying insignia. However, the Ukrainian military did not respond¹⁶.

On the 16th of March of the same year, in the weeks following the seizure of the facilities, a highly disputed referendum deemed that more than 95% of the Crimean population wished to secede from Ukraine. Russia's lower house of parliament then passed legislation that allowed Crimea to join Russia "in the very near future". The president of the USA stated that the results would not be recognized by the USA and that it was ready to impose sanctions on Russia over the crisis. On the 18th of the same month, Russian and Crimean leaders signed a treaty in Moscow, which made Crimea a part of Russia officially, and allowed Russian troops to cross to the peninsula¹⁷.

In actuality, the annexation violated multiple international agreements and treaties on multiple levels. Specifically, it violated the UN Charter, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum of Security Assurances for Ukraine and

¹⁵ A 5-Minute Guide to Understanding Ukraine's Euromaidan Protests. <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/explainers/understanding-ukraines-euromaidan-protests>.

¹⁶ Pifer, Steven. 'Crimea: Six Years after Illegal Annexation'. *Brookings*, 17 Mar. 2020, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/03/17/crimea-six-years-after-illegal-annexation/>.

¹⁷ Englund, Will. 'Kremlin Says Crimea Now Officially Part of Russia after Treaty Signing, Putin Speech'. *Washington Post*, 18 Mar. 2014. [www.washingtonpost.com, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/russias-putin-prepares-to-annex-crimea/2014/03/18/933183b2-654e-45ce-920e-4d18c0ffec73_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/russias-putin-prepares-to-annex-crimea/2014/03/18/933183b2-654e-45ce-920e-4d18c0ffec73_story.html).

the 1997 Treaty on Friendship Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and Russia, just to name a few.¹⁸

The reasons for the annexation itself are still up to debate, but Russian officials claim otherwise. It is widely claimed that, for a long time, the citizens of Crimea were seen as Russians by Ukrainians, and thus were discriminated against¹⁹. This falls in accordance with today's claims of neo-Nazism within the country. In a speech given by Vladimir Putin on the day of the annexation, it is stated that the Russian troops that entered Crimea the following days were aimed "to ensure proper conditions for the people of Crimea to be able to freely express their will"²⁰. In contrast, some experts claim that it had to do with the 1954 transfer of Crimea, which was an administrative action taken by the Soviet Union to transfer the Crimean peninsula from the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic to the Ukrainian SSR. The theory is that the annexation was done as both political revenge and a show of power towards Ukraine, which had been moving closer to the European Union from a political standpoint.

After the annexation of Crimea and Russo-Ukrainian relations until the war

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¹⁸ Pifer, Steven. 'Crimea: Six Years after Illegal Annexation'. *Brookings*, 17 Mar. 2020, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/03/17/crimea-six-years-after-illegal-annexation/>.

¹⁹ Clinton, Jane. 'Why Did Russia Annex Crimea? What Happened When Putin Invaded in 2014 and How Nato Reacted'. *Inews.Co.Uk*, 29 Jan. 2022, <https://inews.co.uk/news/world/russia-annex-crimea-why-putin-invaded-2014-what-happened-nato-annexation-explained-1424682>.

²⁰ 'Address by President of the Russian Federation'. *President of Russia*, <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/20603>.

²¹ Pifer, Steven. 'Crimea: Six Years after Illegal Annexation'. *Brookings*, 17 Mar. 2020, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/03/17/crimea-six-years-after-illegal-annexation/>.

that it was ready to impose sanctions on Russia over the crisis. On the 18th of the same month, Russian and Crimean leaders signed a treaty in Moscow, which made Crimea a part of Russia officially, and allowed Russian troops to cross to the peninsula²².

Since the annexation of Crimea, Russia-backed separatist forces have contested a large part of Donbas or Donbass. It is a region in the easternmost point of Ukraine that covers parts of the Luhansk and Donetsk provinces. It is historically and culturally rich and has been one of the more economically active parts of Ukraine. This conflict is called the Russo-Ukrainian war, and it started in 2014, never actually finding an end.

The region itself has historically been a hub for industry and agriculture and its strategic position near Russia and the Black Sea makes it an area of interest. In addition, the extensive coal mining combined with its rapid industrialization in the 20th century has made it into a highly economically productive region. In the 1991 referendum on whether Ukraine was to secede from the Soviet Union the vast majority of the people in the two provinces that make up the region now voted in favor. In the following years, the local economy had collapsed; wages had fallen by almost 80% and the industry in the region had completely fallen apart by 1993²³. Representatives of the region demanded change that not only favored them economically and changed the official language to Russian instead of Ukrainian, but also gave them the authority to govern the province as if it were a separate country. While some demonstrations and strikes continued, little change ensued. There was some economic support of the region by the central government, but the same atmosphere prevailed. In the early 2000s, most of the political and economic power was concentrated within a few people, one of which was Yanukovich, who made an attempt at autonomy of the region in 2004 by attempting to rig that year's presidential elections.

From the beginning of 2014, demonstrations were held in the region by pro-Russian and anti-government groups, prompted by the Maidan Revolution. These continued after the annexation of Crimea and on the 6th of April of the same year, escalated into an armed conflict between the Russian-backed separatist forces in the

²² Englund, Will. 'Kremlin Says Crimea Now Officially Part of Russia after Treaty Signing, Putin Speech'. *Washington Post*, 18 Mar. 2014. [www.washingtonpost.com, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/russias-putin-prepares-to-annex-crimea/2014/03/18/933183b2-654e-45ce-920e-4d18c0ffec73_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/russias-putin-prepares-to-annex-crimea/2014/03/18/933183b2-654e-45ce-920e-4d18c0ffec73_story.html).

²³ Oliver Schmidtke, ed. (2008). [Europe's Last Frontier?](#). New York: Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 103–105

Donbass, which had, at this point, become two self-declared independent states; the Donetsk People’s Republic and the Luhansk People’s Republic, and the Ukrainian government. The conflict is still ongoing, having claimed the lives of some 14,000 people in the region by the end of 2021.²⁴

While there have been multiple ceasefire agreements, fighting has continued with varying degrees of intensity. The ceasefire agreements have had some effects on the fighting, but conflict continues to renew, or never even stop.

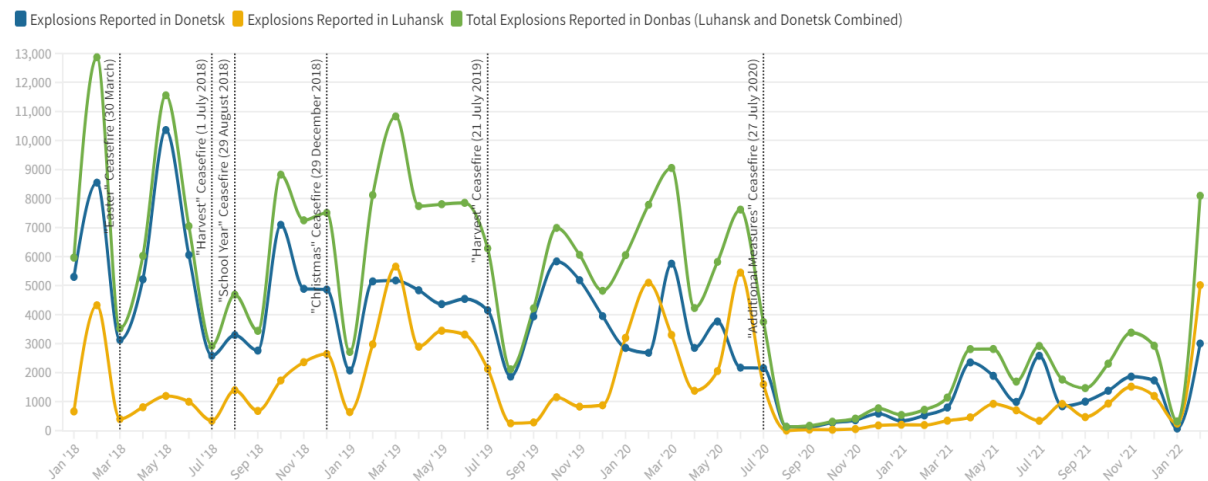


Figure 1²⁵: Explosions reported in the Donbas. The dates of the ceasefires mentioned above are marked by the vertical lines.

The Russian Invasion of Ukraine

The Russian president has made numerous statements that justify the invasion. On the day the invasion was launched, Vladimir Putin himself made a speech in which he announced the goal of the invasion was to “demilitarize and de-Nazify Ukraine”. He also mentions how the Russian people of Ukraine, most probably referring to the pro-Russian separatists in Donbas, have been systematically oppressed for the better part of the last decade, as well as the fact that the Ukrainian government has been making aggressive moves against the people in Donbass and Crimea. It was also said that

²⁴ ‘Conflict in Ukraine’s Donbas: A Visual Explainer’. *International Crisis Group*, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/content/conflict-ukraines-donbas-visual-explainer>.

²⁵ ‘Conflict in Ukraine’s Donbas: A Visual Explainer’. *International Crisis Group*, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/content/conflict-ukraines-donbas-visual-explainer>.

because of Ukraine's Western-leaning political objectives, Soon the objective of ensuring the Ukrainian government's neutral status was added²⁶.

In contrast, some speculate that the motives announced by Putin and other officials are not revealing the whole truth. To start, many argue that the way in which the term "denazify" is used is flawed, specifically because of the fact that the term was used during a specific period in time, mostly post-WWII Germany. Its use in modern warfare is, therefore, misleading and allegedly only used for propaganda.²⁷ Furthermore, it is believed that the term denazification is used to alienate the current Ukrainian regime from the people of Russia and Ukraine and instill the Putin administration's fears of the regime into the public. Furthermore, the invasion of Ukraine has motives other than the above. One such example is limiting NATO's expansion of influence towards the east throughout the years. As had been made apparent before the annexation of Crimea, the country had begun ideologically, politically and economically distancing itself from its Soviet past, a fact that most people within the country supported. In conjunction with the fact that western influence is a major thorn for Russian politics, as expressed in multiple statements made by the administration demanding the withdrawal of NATO troops from formerly Soviet puppet states, citing NATO's apparent militaristic expansion closer to Russian territory as a form of aggression and one of the reasons behind the invasion.

In an effort to justify the invasion of Ukraine on a legal basis, Russia has claimed that its actions are backed by Article 51, Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter,^{28,29} which states that any individual or group has a right to defend itself against an armed attack. This falls in accordance to Russia's claims of discrimination and Neo-Nazism, stating that the invasion is, in actuality, a form of liberation of the Russian and Ukrainian people within the country from said oppression. This, however, is not a stable legal basis, as the invasion defies several other articles of the UN Charter regarding territorial integrity and sovereignty.

²⁶ 'Why Has Russia Invaded Ukraine and What Does Putin Want?' *BBC News*, 9 May 2022. [www.bbc.com, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56720589](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56720589).

²⁷ Waxman, Olivia. 'Historians on What Putin Gets Wrong About "Denazification" in Ukraine'. *Time*, <https://time.com/6154493/denazification-putin-ukraine-history-context/>.

²⁸ Putin Announces 'special Military Operation' in Ukraine | SBS News. [www.youtube.com, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Blv6KORLhSg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Blv6KORLhSg).

²⁹ 'Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression (Articles 39-51)'. United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-7>.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has declared the Russian invasion of Ukraine a Level 3 emergency - the highest level available. Since the 24th of February, 5.6 million refugees have been recorded exiting the country, and more than 7.1 million people are suspected to have been internally displaced. Reports on the exact numbers vary, but some things are for certain. There have been multiple reports that agree on the brutality with which Russian forces have treated the Ukrainian people. From unleashing missiles on civilian buildings, to running over civilian cars with armored vehicles, to small arms fire against unarmed people in the streets. Specifically, the violence against civilians by Russian soldiers is believed to be deliberate, as there have been reports of forced deportations of thousands of civilians, as well as more obviously deliberate crimes such as torture, sexual violence and rape. These are, by the vast majority of accounts the objective truth and are therefore classified as war crimes.³⁰

The Russian Economy

Experts have rightfully estimated that, because of the economic sanctions imposed by a large number of member states, the Russian economy will suffer significantly. Even this year alone, the Russian GDP is said to shrink by 15%, which essentially deletes the past 15 years of economic growth.³¹ This is going to have a catastrophic impact on not only the people of Russia, but also economies that depend on Russia to survive. In addition, the internal and external disruption of supply chains is said to catapult the Russian economy into a state where it will have to rely on support from its allies to survive.

The severe economic sanctions by many states are not the only factor that matters. Russian officials had estimated that the sanctions they would receive would have been similar in severity to those they had received in 2014 with the annexation of Crimea, which were relatively light. In addition, the fact that the Russian government had billions of US Dollars in reserves, combined with all of the above, gave them a false sense of security.³² In addition, some European countries have already eliminated

³⁰ 'Ukraine: Apparent War Crimes in Russia-Controlled Areas'. *Human Rights Watch*, 3 Apr. 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/03/ukraine-apparent-war-crimes-russia-controlled-areas>.

³¹ *The War's Impact on Russia's Economy and Ukrainian Politics* - Foreign Policy Research Institute. <https://www.fpri.org/article/2022/06/the-wars-impact-on-russias-economy-and-ukrainian-politics/>.

³² *The War's Impact on Russia's Economy and Ukrainian Politics* - Foreign Policy Research Institute. <https://www.fpri.org/article/2022/06/the-wars-impact-on-russias-economy-and-ukrainian-politics/>.

their dependence on Russian gas, with many others looking to do the same, and since gas makes up 50% of Russian exports, the Russian economy would be devastated. Had this not been enough, multiple major Russian banks have been barred from the SWIFT system, essentially cutting them off from the rest of the global economy³³.

Ukrainian Politics and Socioeconomic environment

“This war has already been a tremendous political success for Ukraine, though extremely costly in terms of lives lost, property damaged, and cities destroyed. In it, Ukraine has won recognition as a state on the international stage. Most nations are forged in war, and Ukraine has turned this terrible attack to its long-term advantage by introducing itself to the world as a powerful state. It has demonstrated itself to be a democracy, a European nation, possessed of a powerful civic nationalism that transcends the Ukrainian-Russian speaking language divide to include a wide diversity of ethnic identities: Polish, Jewish, Armenian, and Greek. With its popular and telegenic president, Ukraine has left an indelible mark on the world stage. Most notably, after decades of skepticism from core EU states, Ukraine proved itself to be a part of Europe, of European values, and therefore a potential future member of the bloc. That will change Ukrainian politics permanently.”³⁴

In essence, this means that Ukraine, despite its losses, has been able to overcome a certain political and socioeconomic stigma, establishing it as a European state, and bringing it closer to the western world. This ties in with the previously mentioned transition from the Soviet to western politics and economics which will, subsequently, pull Ukraine further and further from Russian influence. Due to the nature of the invasion, it is important to note some important actions made by nearby nations and organizations.

On February 28th, the EU sent equipment to Ukraine in an effort to aid in their defense. This was the first time in history the EU agreed to send lethal equipment to a third country³⁵. In an effort to alleviate the displaced population Poland has taken in

³³ ‘How Russian Banks Got Cut out of Global Finance: A “SWIFT” System Explainer’. *CNBC*, 4 Apr. 2022, <https://www.cnbc.com/video/2022/04/04/what-is-swift-how-russian-banks-got-cut-out-of-the-financial-system.html>.

³⁴ *The War’s Impact on Russia’s Economy and Ukrainian Politics* - Foreign Policy Research Institute. <https://www.fpri.org/article/2022/06/the-wars-impact-on-russias-economy-and-ukrainian-politics/>.

³⁵ Psaropoulos, John. *Timeline: The First 100 Days of Russia’s War in Ukraine*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2022/6/3/timeline-the-first-100-days-of-russias-war-in-ukraine>.

almost 3 million Ukrainian refugees and provided them with temporary housing, both through government programs but also through the hospitality of the people themselves.

Russian forces were permitted to start their advances from Belarusian territory, with the Belarusian president reaffirming that Belarusian troops could partake in the invasion if needed³⁶. This obviously means that there is the possibility that Belarus will too join Russia in the war and, by extension, receive the same sanctions as Russia has. The only difference here is that, when compared to Russia, Belarus' economy is either going to collapse, or rely on the Russian economy for survival, bringing both down³⁷.

There are, in addition, the fears that Transnistria, a de facto independent state that is officially part of Moldova, will be used as a launch platform for Russian aggression. Transnistria's separatism largely stems from the fact that there is both a heavy political and economic reliance on Russia. In addition, within its borders, there is a 1,500 to 2,000 soldier Russian army, called the Operational Group of Russian Forces.

Major countries and organizations involved

The Russian Federation

According to official statements made by the Putin administration, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is on the grounds of the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine, although most speculate that it is not the case. Russia's economic situation is the worst it has been in the last 15 years because of the sanctions and prolonging the invasion would only worsen the economic situation, as more and more countries dependent on Russian gas and oil will be incentivized to eliminate their dependence. Some sources claim that this war is on some level a proxy war of sorts between the US-backed NATO's advance through Europe and Russia.

³⁶ Reuters. 'Belarusian Troops Could Be Used in Operation against Ukraine If Needed, Lukashenko Says'. *Reuters*, 24 Feb. 2022. [www.reuters.com, https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/belarusian-troops-could-be-used-operation-against-ukraine-if-needed-lukashenko-2022-02-24/](https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/belarusian-troops-could-be-used-operation-against-ukraine-if-needed-lukashenko-2022-02-24/).

³⁷ Bayok, Anastasiya, and Stefan Wolff. 'Ukraine War: Fears That Belarus Might Invade on Russia's Side Are Growing'. *The Conversation*, <http://theconversation.com/ukraine-war-fears-that-belarus-might-invade-on-russias-side-are-growing-185416>.

Ukraine

Ukraine has faced major losses, with both giant amounts of infrastructure being destroyed and thousands of lives being lost. Their aggressive relationship with Russia predates the current conflict by almost 8 years, with the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

The United States of America (USA)

Historically considered Russia's main ideological rival, the USA has imposed serious sanctions on Russia on multiple establishments such as banks, politicians and Putin himself, and have provided hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine. While military intervention by the USA is unlikely (and not recommended for the sake of international security, since Russia possesses nuclear weapons), the USA does support NATO in its efforts to halt Russia's progression in typical cold war fashion.

European Commission (EC)

The president of the EC has made multiple statements regarding the situation. Specifically, she has denounced Russia's invasion. The EC has prepared a 500-million-euro aid package for the Ukrainian military, which marks the first-time member-states of the EU have sent military assistance in the form of lethal equipment to a third state.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

"NATO wholly condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's brutal and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine"³⁸ Since 2014, NATO has helped Ukraine restructure its army and have provided equipment and financial support. However, NATO has made it clear that they will abstain from providing direct military assistance in aid of Ukraine for the remainder of the war in light of protecting the international community from a potential world war. NATO has also abstained from other measures to rectify the situation, such as a no-fly zone. Seeing as no-fly zone

³⁸NATO's Response to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine'. NATO, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_192648.htm.

require military power to be enforced, this could be viewed by Russia as a direct act of aggression, which could escalate the situation further.

Timeline of events

<u>March 3, 1918</u>	Treaty of Brest-Litovsk is signed	
<u>December 30, 1922</u>	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic is established	
<u>1939-1944</u>	The USSR annexes parts of Poland and Romania and merges them with western Ukraine. Some parts become the separatist region that we now know as Transnistria	
<u>February 19, 1954</u>	Transfer of Crimea to the Ukrainian SSR	
<u>July 30, 1975</u>	The Helsinki Final Act is signed	
<u>August 24, 1991</u>	Ukraine declares independence	
<u>December 5, 1994</u>	The 1994 Budapest Memorandum of Security Assurance for Ukraine is signed	
<u>May 31, 1997</u>	The 1997 Treaty on Friendship Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and Russia is signed	
<u>November 2021</u>	Satellite imagery shows buildup of Russian forces along Russo-Ukrainian border	
<u>February 22, 2022</u>	Authorization of military force by Russian parliament	
<u>February 24, 2022</u>	Full scale invasion is launched	
<u>February 25, 2022</u>	Russia vetoes a UN Security Council resolution that denounces the invasion and demands withdrawal of troops from Ukraine	

Previous attempts to solve the issue

1975 Helsinki Final Act ³⁹

It was an agreement signed by 35 nations that concluded the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. It was held in Helsinki, Finland on the 30th July, 1975. The act introduced a certain political system, which allowed cooperation between eastern and western Europe, including Russia, on condition that there was absolutely no aggression between the two sides.

1994 Budapest Memorandum of Security Assurances for Ukraine⁴⁰

It comprises three identical political agreements signed at the OSCE conference in Budapest, Hungary, on 5 December 1994. Its purpose was to provide security assurances to Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, as well as assurance that the Non-Proliferation Treaty of nuclear weapons would be ratified.

1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and Russia⁴¹

A bilateral agreement signed by the Russian Federation and Ukraine, which fixed the principle of strategic partnership, the recognition of existing borders and the need for non-aggression.

Widespread Economic Sanctions

One of the most popular solutions to the problem have been widespread economic sanctions, imposed by even the most neutral of member states. For example, the European Commission has imposed sanctions on various sectors of the Russian economy since the annexation of Crimea in 2014, and has decided to extend said sanctions to January 23rd, 2023. Similarly, the United States of America have prohibited future investment by US patrons in Russia.

³⁹ "Helsinki Final Act." OSCE, <https://www.osce.org/helsinki-final-act>.

⁴⁰ "UNTC." United Nations, United Nations, <https://treaties.un.org/Pages/showDetails.aspx?objid=0800000280401fbb>.

⁴¹ "UNTC." United Nations, United Nations, <https://treaties.un.org/Pages/showDetails.aspx?objid=08000002803e6fae&clang=en>.

Relevant UN Resolutions, Events, Treaties and Legislation

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262⁴²

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262, which was adopted on 27th March 2014 by the 68th session of the UN GA in response to the Russian annexation of Crimea, was titled “Territorial integrity of Ukraine”. The resolution was aimed at protecting the sovereignty of Ukraine and Crimea.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1⁴³

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1 was adopted on 2nd of March 2022. In it, the GA deplores the actions of Russia against Ukraine and further deplores the involvement of Belarus in the invasion.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2623⁴⁴

On the 27th of February, the UN Security Council drafted Resolution 2623, which called for an emergency special session of the UN General Assembly to recommend collective action to ameliorate the situation in Ukraine. The resolution had 11 votes in favor, 3 abstentions (Rep. of China, India and the United Arab Emirates) and one vote against which was Russia, effectively vetoing the resolution.

Possible solutions

Interventionist policies

One of the more apparent solutions to the topic, when it comes to the conflict itself, is providing Ukraine with military assistance in the form of weaponry, such as anti-armor weapons, small arms and fighter aircraft. Especially in the case of the first two solutions, the development of asymmetric warfare, where relatively inexpensive weaponry is able to defeat incredibly expensive equipment is incredibly beneficial to

⁴² A/RES/68/262, <https://undocs.org/A/RES/68/262>.

⁴³ “1.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 12 July 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Resolution_ES-11/1.

⁴⁴ “Security Council Resolution 2623 (2022) [on Convening an Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on Ukraine].” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3958818>.

the Ukrainian defense. However, when it comes to heavier armament, such as armed vehicles and tanks the situation is trickier. Not only is it a large financial investment for the donating party, but also problems may appear on the receiving end. For example, the Ukrainian air force has been using soviet-era Mig-29 fighter jets, meaning that countries who are willing to donate aircraft to Ukraine would have to either provide training for Ukrainian pilots, send their own pilots to fight on behalf of Ukraine or provide the same exact model of aircraft. All this is because of the fact that Ukrainian pilots have been trained using this exact model of aircraft. All of the above goes to show that military aid requires extremely careful planning, and is most likely within the interest of any given country's internal affairs to decide whether they would be willing to aid in this way or not.

Military intervention has some benefits. Administrations that push for such policies are generally under the belief that through military assistance, the invasion could be stopped or pushed back quicker, eliminating any immediate danger to civilians and establishing peace in the region quicker. Another advantage to this is that Russia, despite its immense military prowess, will be forced into realizing that entering into a war with multiple nations at a time would not end in their victory, without the use of nuclear weapons, which is also a factor to consider.

Non-interventionist policies

The vast majority of non-interventionist policies regarding the armed conflict itself lie further away from it, in the realm of international economics. The apparently more popular school of thought

A large number of nations have imposed a large number of economic sanctions on Russia, which has already seen a great impact on its internal function because of it as has been mentioned before. Economic sanctions, while they have not had any immediate effect in slowing the Russian advance down, have been more of an incentive for them to stop the invasion. Sanctions have the very obvious disadvantage of not being immediately effective towards stopping the Russian advance, but they also have the side effect of inadvertently and unavoidably crippling the Russian people as much as the government and the military.

Providing civil security through humanitarian aid

The provision of humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian people is an integral part of addressing the issue. The aid provided will have to match the scale of the disaster itself, while keeping in mind the interests of the individuals.

For example, evacuation efforts may or may not be necessary depending on the situation and the status of the war. At the time of writing, there are various towns in southeastern Ukraine that are under fire, while not all civilians have been evacuated. This would mean that, to ensure the safety of all the civilians in the area, the people of the cities in question and of the surrounding territories would have to be swiftly and safely evacuated to surrounding regions within or outside the country.

Many countries, most notably Poland, have opened up their borders to the refugee crisis. This, however, does not mean that the countries that have taken in refugees will have the resources to sustain the massive refugee population for the duration of the war. Not to mention all of the internally displaced people that may not have access to the basics. This means that humanitarian aid in the form of sustenance and shelter provision is required. This is especially true for surrounding countries who may have already taken measures against the Russian advance.

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