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IMPACT OF RUSSIA- UKRAINE WAR ON CENTRAL ASIA AND THE FUTURE GEOPOLITICAL SCENARIO OF THE WORLD

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ABSTRACT

The Russian attack on Ukraine was the first significant conflict in Europe since World War II. The conflict is still ongoing, and a terrible geopolitical drama is being played out in front of the globe. The disagreement between NATO and Russia's competing geopolitical objectives is the fundamental cause of this issue. As a result, tensions between the West and Russia on the international stage have increased. As a result, people fear the New Cold War will start again. How the conflict-affected world politics would also depend on how big a win or defeat was. However, this war would've had severe consequences for the entire world and Ukraine and Russia. As the world has viewed the situation in Ukraine with worry, shock, and terror, the attack has shaken the pillars of our worldwide peace and security system. It triggered a major humanitarian disaster along with a devastating impact on a global financial system that was already fragile. The shared expectation and main concern are the safety of those who would suffer instant harm along with the immediate restoration of harmony and safety measures. Furthermore, sanctions are expected to continue to be implemented because there is unlikely

to be any significant political or strategic de-escalation in the foreseeable future. Although the world is dealing with other security crises, the crisis in Ukraine is the most serious because of its profound impact on security and prosperity worldwide. The recent Russian invasion of Ukraine is examined geopolitically in this study. It assesses the origins of conflict and offers a forecast of the outcomes.

INTRODUCTION

The Russian attack on Ukraine represents the first main violent clash between two countries of Europe after the Second World War. The war is still going on, and the world is viewing a terrible geopolitical drama evolving.¹ There is a minimum possibility of a diplomatic resolution of this crisis. Therefore, there are only apprehensions and fear. The impact of the war will generally depend on whether Russia wins or loses the war in Ukraine, and if Russia wins the war, how decisive the victory will be. As if neither Ukraine has lost nor Russia has won the war. Unfortunately, the war is not over yet. Currently, it is not sure how long the war will last.². If the war ends with a decisive win for Russia, it will mean Russia will succeed in occupying Ukraine. It would effectively captivate it. Then it may be possible that Russia would integrate all or a part of the territory of Ukraine into Russia. There can be even a more modest, less definite Russian victory. There can even be a case of some kind of compromise. Russia may even compromise with retaining the earlier annexed Crimea and the territories in Donbas. In any case, it might entail the loss of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.³ In every situation, Russia may succeed in either imposing a neutral status on Ukraine or creating a buffer space between Russia and the leftover territories of Ukraine. Anything less than that, however, will appear as a defeat for Russia. In every situation, the war in Ukraine will certainly have an impression on the geopolitical relations between countries of Europe and the world at large. Furthermore, the complete Russian victory will enable Russia to impose its dominance. Some political pundits even predict that the Russian victory would mean the end of Western dominance in the world. The political pundits even believe it will reinstate a reshaped version of the Old Russian Empire, although the situation is different today. It is even different from the war in Transnistria or the war in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, or the annexation of Crimea. Essentially, there may be changes in the political map of Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine. There may also be some kind of change in Eastern Europe (at least in the political orientation of Sweden and Finland). Immediately after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Western countries imposed sanctions on Russia.⁴ Many scholars predict that it would ultimately cause the doom of Russia, in general. But it is equally true that its political and economic

¹ Mbah, Ruth Adam, and Divine Force Wasim. "Russian-Ukraine 2022 War: A review of the economic impact of Russian-Ukraine crisis on the USA, UK, Canada, and Europe." Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal 9, no. 3 (2022): 144-153.

² Sim Tack, 2022, Russian Success or Failure in Ukraine will Define Global Security for Decades, Human Security, <u>https://newlinesinstitute.org/russia/russian-success-or-failurein-ukraine-will-define-global-security-for-decades/</u>.

³ Fabry, Mikulas. "How to uphold the territorial integrity of Ukraine." German Law Journal 16, no. 3 (2015): 416-433.

⁴ Christie, Edward Hunter. "The design and impact of Western economic sanctions against Russia." The RUSI Journal 161, no. 3 (2016): 52-64.

implications will also affect the world. The human implication of the war in Ukraine is enormous. The neighboring countries in Europe are feeling the spillover effect of this crisis. It may cause significant disruption to the global economy as well. The current research presents a geopolitical analysis of the war between Russia and Ukraine. It also presents the possible consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This article aims to assess the understanding of the impact of Russia- the Ukraine war and future geopolitical scenarios. This study is essential for understanding the future consequences of war on the whole world. As a result, the following research objectives guided this study:

• An Overview of Russia- Ukraine geopolitical history.

• How will the Russia-Ukraine war geopolitical crisis affect globalization?

• Analyse the Russia-Ukraine war and its implications for the future geopolitical landscape.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is primarily qualitative. The Russia-Ukraine war and its implications for the future geopolitical landscape were examined to address specified research questions. Existing literature, such as books, reports, research articles, electronic and print media stories, and editorials, is systematically reviewed to make research more representative and relevant. Focused group conversations with professors and university researchers have also been arranged as part of the project.

THEORETICAL MODEL

During assembling data to generate theories through the gathering, compiling, and analysis, the theoretical models for this study were collected from the existing literature, such as books, reports, research articles, and electronic and print media stories.

Examination Tool

To build a theory, the researchers analysed the existing literature, such as books, reports, research articles, and electronic and print media stories. They assumed suitable management methods and the methods essential to manage these contents. Then arranged and categorized, qualitatively analysed their content, extracted subject matter, and answered research questions.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The researcher of this study uses a theoretically valid method. Using this method, they collect and assess data at the same time. The information helps to build categories and subjects, which improves the theories that arise from the data. The second volume offers analysis ideas. The researchers in this study keep going until they reach theoretical saturation, which implies that there is no

new knowledge in the data and that the concepts that have been identified clearly and accurately for theory building have been validated. The findings can be explored and evolved into a more precise emphasis and strategy suited to present requirements and situations.

Geography and Political History of Ukraine

In terms of geopolitics, Europe needs Ukraine. Its borders include Belarus in the northwest, Poland, Slovakia, and Budapest in the West, Romania & Moldova in the southwest, as well as the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov in the southeast and south. It also shares borders with Russia in the northeast and east. Ukraine is Europe's second-largest nation in terms of area, behind Russia. In terms of geopolitics also, it is an important country in Europe.⁵ Thus, it dominates Eastern Europe economically and strategically. Throughout history, Ukraine has remained at the edge of the border of the Russian Empire. Through the centuries, foreign armies have invaded this region. Even before the emergence of Mongols and the Tatars (in the 10th century), the land of Eastern Slavs remained the center of the Kievan Rus. It was spread over the western side of Russia, Belorussia, and the central territory of Ukraine. During the 13-14th century, the northern and western parts of the region came under Polish and Lithuanian rule, whereas the southern part came under the Mongols.⁶ During these intervening years, Crimea remained under the rule of the Crimean Khanate. In 1654, the Kievan Rus' land came under the Tsar's control, and Ukraine was united with Russia.

Geography and Political History of Russia

The Dinaric Alps and the Balkans in the south, and the Carpathian Mountains in the north, provide natural protection barriers for the Great Hungarian Plain. Low slopes that could be readily traversed by horse riders once separated the Carpathian Mountains from the Balkan Mountains.⁷ The Carpathians, Dinaric Alps, and Balkan Mountains serve as three natural forts that can be reached after traversing the entire steppe. The 11th century contains one of the earliest references to Slavic Russians. The loose confederation of Russian Slavs in the area is known as Kievan Rus. It was centered in Kyiv, Ukraine, as it is now. The Black Sea was to the south of Kievan Rus, and the Eurasian Steppes were between them. Russia is often recognized as one of the world's foremost revisionist nations, eager to overthrow the liberal world order. Russia must also develop its marine power to become a superpower.⁸ As a result, it aspires to rule over Eurasia and the area between the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea.

Impact of Russia-Ukraine War

The war in Ukraine in 2022 is considered the worst crisis in Europe since the end of the Cold War. The war has devastated Ukraine. Many of its cities have

⁵ Mykhnenko, Vlad. "Causes and consequences of the war in Eastern Ukraine: an economic geography perspective." Europe-Asia Studies 72, no. 3 (2020): 528-560.

⁶ Fennell, John L. A History of the Russian Church to 1488. Routledge, 2014.

⁷ Hart, Timothy. "Beyond the River, under the Eye of Rome Ethnographic Landscapes, Imperial Frontiers, and the Shaping of a Danubian Borderland." Ph.D. diss., 2017.

⁸ Thompson, John M., and Christopher J. Ward. Russia: A Historical Introduction from Kievan Rus' to the Present. Routledge, 2018.

been raised to rubble. More than a quarter of its citizens have been displaced or are now in a state of refugee. The spill over effect of the war will cross the borders of Ukraine, and the impact will extend far beyond the security and sovereignty of Ukraine itself. The war in Ukraine would also make a paradigm shift in global geopolitics. Russian victory would mean the end of Western domination in the world. It will also have implications for international peace and security.⁹ At the present moment, the strategic goals of Russia appear to be limited to Ukraine, but there is all possibility of its escalation into a wider conflict. There is also a possibility of widening the conflict to other nearby countries. In the present circumstances, Russia will not attack the countries in alliance with NATO.¹⁰ Although, some western scholars are afraid that there is also the ability for conflict intensification with NATO. It also includes the threat of nuclear-powered warfare.

Geopolitical Future Scenario

Although the intentions of Russia to invade Ukraine are not clear, Putin publicly says this is about preventing the Expansion of NATO close to the borders of Russia. If Russia is engaged in this war, it will accomplish some strategic interests.¹¹ It seems that Russia is primarily focused on enlarging the buffer territory around separatist republics of the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine. At the same time, it is also focused on curtailing the military capacity of Ukraine so that Ukraine gives up the hopes of joining NATO and the European Union.¹² The four possible outcomes of this battle, which could alter geopolitical futures and modify how international relations develop over the following two to three years, are presented below.

- A standing conflict
- Double battle
- An exciting new era
- Nuclear Armageddon

An Exciting New Era

In direct contrast to the US/NATO haven in Poland, which supplies the Ukrainian resistance with military equipment and training, Russia has launched a strategic nuclear missile into Ukraine. The idea of many Americans using cruise missiles to launch a retaliatory attack on a Russian city horrifies European lawmakers who worry about a nuclear Armageddon.¹³ Deterred from military action by European pressure, China exerts pressure on Russia to lower the alert status of its nuclear arsenal. China, Israel, the US, and the EU collaborate to mediate a peace agreement for Ukraine. The Organizations for European

⁹ Köstem, Seçkin. "Russian-Turkish cooperation in Syria: geopolitical alignment with limits." Cambridge Review of International Affairs 34, no. 6 (2021): 795-817.

¹⁰ Brauss, Heinrich, and Joachim Krause. "What Does Russia Want with Its Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Weapons." Diplomacy & Statecraft 32, no. 1 (2021): 189-201.

¹¹ Toal, Gerard. Near abroad: Putin, the West, and the contest over Ukraine and the Caucasus. Oxford University Press, 2017.

¹² Beber, Anton. "Crimea and the Russian-Ukrainian conflict." Romanian J. Eur. Aff. 15 (2015): 35.

¹³ Doyle, James E. "Building a nuclear off-ramp following the war in Ukraine." Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists 78, no. 4 (2022): 218-223.

Security and Cooperation (OSCE) and UN forces have imposed a cease-fire in Ukraine. As long as Moscow keeps its end of the agreement, sanctions imposed by the West against it are loosened.¹⁴ This is close to the 2024 Russian elections and after the peace conference that puts an end to the war in Ukraine. Putin decides to go into retirement and write his book at his dacha. To enact reform, the Russian people selected a coalition government that included the exiled billionaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky and the newly imprisoned dissident Alexei Navalny. Even under new leadership, it took Russia years to improve and expand its economy and gradually re-establish trust and relations with the United States.¹⁵ The big countries are avoiding confrontation in favor of cautious eye contact, and Washington is worried about the emergence of Chinese soft power. The World Trade Organization's reform forces China to curtail its industrial plans and restrict its objectives. The Group of Twenty (G20) has become more influential and has begun addressing other global governance issues, such as climate change and ethical standards for AI.

Nuclear Armageddon

Numerous Ukrainian cities have been put to ruins despite heroic efforts by the country's citizens to thwart Russia's invasion. In the West, pressure increases for means of intervention other than delivering armaments and humanitarian aid.¹⁶ Western sanctions are worsening the suffering of the common people in Russia than during the financial crisis of 1998. Putin is concerned about how the Russian military is being strained while attempting to occupy Ukrainian territory and contend with a raging rebellion. Russia's intelligence agency informs Putin about the safe refuge for Ukrainian separatists in Poland. He commands his troops to launch strategic nuclear missiles on the Ukrainian sector of the Polish border. ¹⁷Although this does not directly target the US/NATO haven, it nevertheless sends a strong statement. Even as members of Russia's elite attempt but fail to remove President Vladimir Putin, the Russian people support him. NATO responds by launching numerous conventional missiles to strike a Russian military installation in Ukraine near the Russian border. Tactical nuclear missile strikes are launched twice more by Russia in retaliation, this time over the Polish border. ¹⁸Russian and American nuclear control and command systems are being destroyed by each other using offensive assaults and artificial intelligence.¹⁹ The conflict was primarily fought in Europe, unlike World War II, where countries from the Mideast, Africa, and North America staked out neutral territory. China tries to mediate the situation alongside France. But the third world battle has already begun.

¹⁴ Andersen-Rodgers, David, Robert C. Austin, Yann Breault, Brett Buchanan, Christopher J. Fettweis, Ivan Kurilla, Aurélie Lacassagne et al. The New World Disorder: Challenges and Threats in an Uncertain World. Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.

¹⁵ Dollbaum, Jan Matti, Morvan Lallouet, and Ben Noble. Navalny: Putin's Nemesis, Russia's Future? Oxford University Press, 2021.

¹⁶ D'Anieri, Paul. Ukraine and Russia: From civilized divorce to uncivil war. Cambridge University Press, 2019.

¹⁷ Forsberg, Tuomas, and Graeme Herd. "Russia and NATO: From windows of opportunities to closed doors." Journal of Contemporary European Studies 23, no. 1 (2015): 41-57.

¹⁸ Dahl, Ann-Sofie, ed. Strategic challenges in the Baltic Sea region: Russia, deterrence, and reassurance. Georgetown University Press, 2018.

¹⁹ Siracusa, Joseph. Nuclear weapons: a very short introduction. Oxford University Press, USA, 2020.

Double Battle

Since the Ukrainians clung to the expectation that westward Expansion of military equipment would shift the scales of the war in their favour, peace negotiations between Ukraine and Russia have been at a standstill for several months. But no one could win the war after major Ukrainian cities were reduced to ruins.²⁰ Germany and France renew their attempts to persuade both sides to accept a peace agreement. NATO membership would be conditional on the complete withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine, turning it into a neutral state analogous to Austria's nonaligned status. Russian forces are starting to leave the area, and the truce is still in effect. Therefore, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emanuel Macron suggest organizing a wider peace meeting.²¹ Following the Ukraine crisis, many realize that the globe might be stuck in a protracted era of weak economic growth. Even as oil prices decline, they still hover around \$75 to \$95 per barrel. Europe intensifies its efforts to support nuclear energy and other renewable energy sources. Following the conflict, the EU's economic growth is less than 1% annually after a downturn in 2022–2023. ²²Russia and China are becoming increasingly reliant on one another for trade and energy as America expands the new cold war to include Beijing and Moscow. The United States imposed sanctions on a few Chinese banks and asked its partners to put a growing number of Chinese technology companies on the block list.²³ While European leaders are hesitant to challenge China, they do not believe they are in a strong enough position to oppose US demands. The US resolves its "strategic ambiguity" over Taiwan by pledging to use force to retaliate against any Chinese aggression on the island. An unofficial group of nonaligned countries, including India, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Vietnam, Turkey, and Brazil, forms in this setting. Despite Western pressures to isolate Moscow, most of these nations maintained cordial ties with Russia throughout the Ukraine War. International collaboration is becoming more difficult on climate change, common economic issues, global tech norms, and development aid for less developed nations. The US-China rivalry is intensifying, and as a result, each country is trying to sway as many nations as it can in favour of its position on digital issues, further fracturing the internet. The tendency of declining global economic growth is still present, and DE globalization is advancing.²⁴ The United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and the World Health Organization are only a few examples of declining international multilateral institutions.

A Standing Conflict

Russia has been fighting in Ukraine for more than one year, and more civilians are dying. Meanwhile, Russia is in terrible shape. Notwithstanding the Russian

²⁰ Dugin, Alexander. Last war of the World-Island: The Geopolitics of contemporary Russia. Arktos, 2015.

²¹ Parihar, Sanjay. "Russia Ukraine War-the Current Scenario." Academic Journal of Digital Economics and Stability 16 (2022): 29-38.

²² Mišík, Matúš. "The EU needs to improve its external energy security." Energy Policy 165 (2022): 112930.

²³ Harrell, Peter, Elizabeth Rosenberg, and Edoardo Saravalle. China's use of coercive economic measures. Washington, DC: Center for a New American Security, 2018.

²⁴ Stromseth, Jonathan. Don't Make Us Choose: Southeast Asia in the Throes of US-China Rivalry. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 2019.

Central Bank's skilful handling of a difficult situation, inflation rises quickly due to disruptions in the supply of essential foodstuffs and less-than-expected Chinese aid. Early in 2023, as negotiations between the warring parties stagnate and there is no sign of a resolution to the low-intensity conflict, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emmanuel become more eager to act as peace brokers.²⁵ Nearly 10 million Ukrainians have immigrated to (Europe), where the public is against accepting new refugees due to the recession's worsening effects. Putin can receive incentives from European leaders by easing some sanctions in exchange for Russian forces ceasing hostilities and beginning to withdraw from Ukraine.²⁶ As a result of negotiations being deadlocked on these issues, Washington wants to step up its support for the Ukrainian military. At the same time, France and Germany continued to push for a détente with Moscow, worried that Putin would send back the troops he withdrew. Poland and other Central European countries support the US stance, especially as Zelenskyy opposes letting up on the pressure on Russia. He maintains that Ukrainian forces have a fair chance of repelling all surviving Russian forces if they receive greater military support.

CONCLUSION

In reality, the crisis in Ukraine is a resurgence of an earlier one. The 2014 Crimean crisis was the catalyst. The ultimate objective was to make Russia great once more, not to recreate the Soviet Union. Its desire for an exclusive influence sphere in South Caucasus and Eastern Europe is ostensibly made to serve Russian security interests. Russia invaded Ukrainian for geo-strategic purposes, using it as a buffer to protect Moscow against western attacks. The sin of post-Soviet international relations that needs to be atoned for is the eastward Expansion of NATO. The geopolitical implication of this is that NATO expansion will come to an end, the past NATO expansion will be reversed, and American nuclear weapons will be removed from Europe and the Russian area of influence. In essence, this struggle is over whether or not the nations that border Russia will pose a threat to its existence and survival or whether they will recognize Moscow's position there and align their foreign policy with the geopolitical goals of the area. The solution to both current and upcoming conflicts is pragmatism.

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