

Letter From Executive Board

It is an honor to moderate the United Nations Security Council at BBMUN'22. This letter shall also serve as a concept note for the committee and our expectations from the committee is to function. MUN's as a concept are designed to be a simulation more than a conference. This difference is inherent and more obvious in each country's representation through their delegation. The head of this delegation is usually a diplomat who is firstly representing the government and its goals and is hence tasked with the responsibility of indulging other countries into their own goals and using diplomacy effectively into use to achieve the aforementioned goals. The end of the simulation then is different for each diplomat and it is the means to that end that shall define the quality of the simulation.

Apart from the simulation part, it is important to remember the inherent limitations of every student in terms of using or applying international law or such. This then implies that it is not necessary to indulge in highly technical discussions that ensure no learning to the delegate, it is rather imperative that all discussions be integrated with logic that has been graciously been gifted to mankind through our collective wisdom. It is thus expected that this concept note also serves as a very important start point to the simulation and the delegates are able to infer a lot more than what is shown as face value.

The agenda has multiple facets and can take a national or international viewpoint. For the benefit of the delegates and the quality of the simulation, the background guide shall give small introductions and an important start-point to your research. It is important to remember although this has been emphasized all throughout your MUN careers, this is only a start point and this is just a quick start to your research while the end awaits you all.

Godspeed

All the Best Everyone!

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Proof/Evidence In Council

Evidence or proof is acceptable from the following sources:-

1. News Sources:

- a) Reuters – Any Reuters article which clearly mentions the fact, or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in committee.
- b) State Operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the committee. Some examples are – RIA Novosti (Russia), IRNA (Iran), BBC (United Kingdom) and Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China)

2. Government Reports: These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Examples are;

- a) Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation
- b) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India, People's Republic of China, France, Russian Federation
- c) Permanent Representatives to the United Nations
- d) Reports and other documents
- e) Multilateral Organizations like the NATO, ASEAN, OPEC, etc.

3. UN Reports: All UN reports are considered and treated as credible information or evidence (for the Executive Board) from –

- a) UN Bodies: Like the UNSC, GA, HRC etc.
- b) UN affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Committee of the Red Cross, etc.
- c) Treaty-Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System, the International Criminal Court.

Important Documents to understand

Following is the list of documents that need to be perused by all delegates before they come to the council. Please understand that you need to know the following aspects regarding each of the mentioned documents:

- **The reason** why this document exists (for e.g. the Geneva Conventions were enacted to lay down the rules of war and for the treatment of all parties concerned in the wars.)
- **The nature** of the document and the force it carries, i.e. whether it is a treaty, a convention, a doctrine, or a universally accepted custom or norm.
- **The areas** where the document can be applied or has jurisdiction on (for e.g. international humanitarian law applies only to situations of armed conflict, whereas the human rights laws applies at all times of war and peace alike.)
- **The contents** of the document at hand. You need not memorize any articles or rules of any convention or treaty, but should know what the document has to say in various situations that may arise in the council.

The delegates must have the understanding of the following:

1. UN Charter

The Charter of the United Nations was signed on 26 June 1945 at San Francisco by the nations represented at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, most of them earlier allies in the Second World War. The allies began being referred to as the 'United Nations' towards the end of that war. The Charter came into force on October 24 1945. Since that time all members joining have had to declare themselves bound by both documents - though practice has demonstrated on too many occasions that that declaration has not been taken too seriously. Once again, a written constitution is one thing, actual behavior is another.

- <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>
- <http://research.un.org/en/docs/charter>

2. Geneva Conventions

The Geneva Conventions comprise four treaties, and three additional protocols, that establish the standards of international law for the humanitarian treatment of war. The singular term Geneva Convention usually denotes the agreements of 1949, negotiated in the aftermath of the Second World War (1939–45), which updated the terms of the first three treaties (1864, 1906, 1929), and added a fourth treaty. The Geneva Conventions extensively defined the basic,

wartime rights of prisoners (civil and military); established protections for the wounded; and established protections for the civilians in and around a war-zone. Moreover, the Geneva Convention also defines the rights and protections afforded to non-combatants, yet, because the Geneva Conventions are about people in war, the articles do not address warfare proper the use of weapons of war which is the subject of the Hague Conventions (First Hague Conference, 1899; Second Hague Conference 1907), and the bio-chemical warfare Geneva Protocol (Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, 1925).

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva_Conventions
- <https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/geneva-conventions>

3. Responsibility to Protect

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P or RtoP) is an emerging norm that sovereignty is not a right, but that states must protect their populations from mass atrocity crimes—namely genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing. The R2P has three foundation "pillars":

- A state has a responsibility to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing.
- The international community has a responsibility to assist the state to fulfill its primary responsibility.
- If the state manifestly fails to protect its citizens from the four above mass atrocities and peaceful measures have failed, the international community has the responsibility to intervene through coercive measures such as economic sanctions. Military intervention is considered the last resort.

While R2P is a norm and not a law, it is firmly grounded in international law, especially the laws relating to sovereignty, peace and security, human rights and armed conflict. R2P provides a framework for using tools that already exist, i.e. mediation, early warning mechanisms, economic sanctioning, and chapter VII powers, to prevent mass atrocities. Civil society organizations, states, regional organizations, and international institutions all have a role to play in the R2P process. The authority to employ the last resort and intervene militarily rests solely with United Nations Security Council.

Criticisms of the R2P include a "moral outrage and hysteria [that] often serve as a pretext for 'interventions by the civilised world' or 'the international community' and for 'humanitarian interventions', which often conceal the true strategic motives, and it thus becomes another name for proxy wars."

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Responsibility_to_protect

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Commission_on_Intervention_and_State_Sovereignty)
- <http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/ICISS%20Report.pdf>
- http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/2010_a64864.pdf
- http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/2011_a65877.pdf
- [http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/unsg-report timely-and-decisive-response.pdf](http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/unsg-report_timely-and-decisive-response.pdf)
- <http://www.globalr2p.org/media/files/n1338693.pdf>

Any other treaty or convention or custom that has relevance to the theme of armed conflict, terrorism and/or external aggression must also be perused by the delegates in the same manner as described above.

4. Customary International Law / Customary International Humanitarian Law

Customary international law consists of rules that come from "a general practice accepted as law" and exist independent of treaty law. Customary IHL is of crucial importance in today's armed conflicts because it fills gaps left by treaty law and so strengthens the protection offered to victims.

- <https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/customary-law>
- <https://www.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/Home>
- http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/customary_international_law

5. The concept of 'jus cogens' or peremptory norms

Jus cogens (or ius cogens) is a Latin phrase that literally means "compelling law." It designates norms from which no derogation is permitted by way of particular agreements. It stems from the idea already known in Roman law that certain legal rules cannot be contracted out, given the fundamental values they uphold. Most states and authors agree that *jus cogens* exists in international law. Opinions diverge however as to its exact content, sources, means of identification, and application, as well as to its precise effects and role within the international legal order. Despite persistent debates on these matters, *jus cogens* is now referred to in several legal instruments within and beyond the law of treaties.

Please note: This is not an exhaustive list! There are many more sources that you may find very useful as a delegate within committee proceedings. Feel free to research on them and use them as part of your arguments in the committee.

Introduction to the Security Council

The Security Council (SC), as one of the six main organs of the United Nations (UN), is the principle organ responsible for maintaining international peace and security. In its history, the Council has acted on widely differing topics, adapting to the changing nature of threats to international peace and security. Given the SC's role, it is important to understand the structure, rules, and governing principles that define its unique responsibilities and mandate.

Article 24

To ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf.

The Security Council is widely regarded as the most influential and far-reaching of all UN bodies. Created in Chapter V of the original United Nations Charter and ratified in October 1945, the SC is granted extended powers and a wide purview, including the primary responsibility of "maintaining peace and security" in the international community. This makes the Security Council the de facto deliberating body when violent political or economic crises arise. The SC is relatively small, consisting of fifteen member states, two-thirds of whom are elected for two-year terms. The remaining five countries comprise the P5, or Permanent Five members: The United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the Russian Federation. Made up of the victors of World War II, the P5 is unique in that its members hold veto power in all substantive Security Council decisions. Without the approval or abstention of all permanent members, no resolutions can pass in the Security Council.

Most importantly, the UN Charter requires its member states to adhere to all decisions of the Security Council, affirming the authority of the body. This, along with the outlined duties of the SC, empowers the body to both "demand" and "condemn" in its resolutions, language that is unavailable to other organs.

The accomplishments of the Security Council are numerous, and almost every major multilateral UN achievement has come through the actions of the SC. Most notably, the SC has established dozens of peacekeeping missions (as the only body with the authority to do so, considering its focus on international security) with the purpose of acting as a buffer zone between the parties of a conflict, or to aid in rebuilding efforts following a conflict.

The Charter of the United Nations (1945) provides the Security Council with several powers to guarantee international security.

- Sanctions: Pursuant to Article 41 of the Charter, the Council can call its members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or end violence. These include travel bans, severance of diplomatic relations, economic sanctions, financial penalties and restrictions, blockades, among others. It may further mandate arms embargo, enforce disarmament, or call upon international criminal mechanisms to become active.
- Diplomatic Tools: The Council has the mandate to investigate any dispute or situation that might lead to aggression between states or other non-state groups or within states' national territories. To do so, it may "recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement; formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments; work toward the determination of the existence of a threat to the peace or an act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken."
- Military Action: Besides the above-mentioned diplomatic instruments, the Council can also take military action against any state or other entity that is threatening international peace and security and may further decide on the deployment of troops or observers. The Security Council also can make the decision regarding the deployment of new UN peacekeeping operations to be led by DPKO, as well as the extensions of its mandate and subsequent modification or draw down of any troops.
- Partnerships: The Council also cooperates with several international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to implement its decisions. Cooperation between UN-related organizations and the Security Council, as for example, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the African Union (AU), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are of paramount importance for addressing a broad range of menaces such as terrorism, extreme violence from non-state actors, disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, et cetera. Furthermore, collaboration between the SC and local actors as well as partnerships with NGOs are paramount for the deployment of peacekeeping operations.

The difference between peacekeeping and peace-building lies in their mandates, powers and institutional frameworks. While "peacemaking generally includes various measures to address and discuss on conflicts in progress and usually involves constructive diplomatic action to bring hostile parties to a negotiated agreement, peace-building aims to lessen the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by the method of strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management." Contrary to other missions, peacekeeping operations have a military or international police presence in the field.

Conflict Prevention

Conflict prevention is among the Security Council's highest priorities. The Council may stop the outbreak of a conflict through agenda-setting, fact-finding missions, diplomatic initiatives, sanctions, peace operations, and peace enforcement. However, if a conflict breaks out, the Security Council may establish mission mandates and authorize the level and nature of resources for conflict prevention to the UN Secretariat. As the international community faces increasing varying threats

from non-state actors and transnational organized crime, the Security Council has tried to adapt to new working methods.

Introduction

The Russo-Ukrainian War is an ongoing war which began in February 2014 between Russia together with pro-Russian separatist forces and Ukraine. Both nations were members of the communist Soviet Union prior to its dissolution in 1991. Various agreements were made as they separated and each started transitioning towards market-oriented economies. By 2013, much of Ukraine and the national parliament wanted closer ties with Western Europe. Others, including then-President Viktor Yanukovich president and his cabinet, wanted closer ties with Russia. Before the conflict was resolved, large-scale mostly peaceful protests began. Soon, violence broke out, especially in January and February 2014, resulting in the overthrow of the Russian-friendly Yanukovich.

As parliament appointed an interim government seeking greater ties with Western Europe, Russia initiated military action, initially focused on the status of Crimea and the Donbas, internationally recognised as part of Ukraine. The first eight years of the conflict included the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the war in Donbas between Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists, as well as naval incidents, cyber warfare, and political tensions. Following a Russian military build-up on the Russia-Ukraine border from late 2021, the conflict expanded significantly when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

The war expanded to Eastern and Southeastern parts of Ukraine where Russia has been successful in overtaking key port cities such as Mariupol. The Russian government has also overtaken multiple nuclear plants in Ukraine leading to broader safety concerns around the possible use of these plants as well as the environmental damage due to non-maintenance of these plants.

History of the Conflict

1 Collapse of the Soviet Union

On December 25, 1991, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Using the word that we are now living in a new world, Gorbachev effectively agreed to end the Cold War, a tense 40-year period during which the Soviet Union and the United States held the world at the brink of nuclear holocaust. At 7:32 p.m. in the evening, the Soviet flag above the Kremlin was replaced with the flag of the Russian Federation, led by its first president, Boris Yeltsin.

At the same moment, what had been the world's largest communist state broke into 15 independent republics, leaving America as the last global superpower. Of the many factors leading to the collapse of the Soviet Union, a rapidly failing post World War II economy and

weakened military, along with a series of forced social and political reforms like perestroika and glasnost, played major roles in the fall of the mighty Red Bear.

1.1 A Weakened Soviet Military-

The economic liberalization of perestroika and the political chaos of glasnost severely reduced military funding and strength. Between 1985 and 1991, the residual troop strength of the Soviet Military fell from over 5.3 million to fewer than 2.7 million. The first major reduction came in 1988, when Gorbachev responded to long-stalled arms reduction treaty negotiations by drawing down its military by 500,000 men, a 10% reduction. During the same time period, more than 100,000 Soviet troops had been committed to the Afghanistan War. The ten-year quagmire that became the Afghan War left more than 15,000 Soviet troops dead and thousands more injuries.

1.1 2 Glasnost-

The Soviet people learned the realities of glasnost in the aftermath of the explosion of a nuclear reactor at the Chernobyl power station in Pripyat, now in Ukraine, on April 26, 1986. The explosion and fires spread more than 400 times the amount of radioactive fallout as the Hiroshima atomic bomb over much of the western USSR and other European countries. Instead of immediately and openly informing the people of the explosion, as promised under glasnost, Communist Party officials suppressed all information about the disaster and its dangers to the public.

2 History of Russia and Ukraine

Russia and Ukraine have shared a troubled past that stretches all the way back to the 10th century. Both Russia and Ukraine share the same cultural roots. However, over the course of time, both the countries developed different cultural and political identities. While Kyiv has resisted Moscow's attempts to impose its supremacy over Ukraine, the latter has always insisted that Ukraine has always been a part of Russia. However, despite the animosity between the two nations, Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union for over seven decades. In the last twenty years, there have been repeated instances of Kyiv accusing Moscow of meddling in its affairs. Here are some points related to the relation between Russia and Ukraine from the past.

2.1 10th - 19th century-

In between the 10th-19th century, there was Annexation of Ukraine by Imperial Russia because in 1783, Ukraine was annexed by Imperial Russia in a largely bloodless event. The Ukrainian Cossacks, who had been semi-independent since the early seventeenth century, were eager to join the Russian Empire, and the tsar was happy to have them. There was some resistance from the Ukrainians, but it was quickly put down. The annexation of Ukraine was one of the first steps in the expansion of the Russian Empire into the Balkans and the Black Sea region.

Later on Russia tried to suppress Ukrainian culture-

In the 19th century, the Russian Empire started to suppress Ukrainian culture and language. This was done in an attempt to assimilate Ukrainians into Russian culture. The Russian Empire began moving ethnic Russians into present-day Ukraine in the 18th century. This process continued into the Soviet period. As a result, the Russian population in Ukraine increased from approximately 3.5 million in 1917 to over 34 million by 1989. The Russian Empire moved ethnic Russians to Ukraine in order to populate the region and make it more loyal to the empire.

This was done in an attempt to strengthen Russian control over the area and to extend the empire's borders. Later on Ukraine claimed independence. On January 22, 1917, the Ukrainian Central Rada the council issued the Universal of the Ukrainian People which declared Ukraine's autonomy within a federal Russian state. On November 2, 1917, the council issued the Declaration of Independence of Ukraine and proclaimed the nation's sovereignty. A few months later, it proclaimed the establishment of the Ukrainian People's Republic on January 6, 1918.

2.2 The Soviet Era-

In the Soviet-Ukrainian War (1917-1921), the Ukrainian Bolsheviks defeated the national government in Kyiv and established the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Ukraine then joined hands with Russia to become the founding member of the Soviet Union in 1922. Now, Ukraine became the bread basket of Soviet Russia because it had rich soil that was perfect for farming. The country's climate was also conducive to agriculture, which meant that farmers could produce a lot of food. Additionally, the Soviet Union had a large population, so there was a big demand for food. Ukraine was able to meet this demand and became a major supplier of food to the Soviet Union.

2.3 Post-Soviet era-

In the beginning of the 1990s, there was massive support within Ukraine to defect from the Soviet Union. Massive demonstrations took place in support of Ukrainian independence, such as the 300,000-people strong human chain. The chain stretched for over 600 kilometers from Lviv to Kiev, and it is believed to have united over 1.5 million people in support of Ukrainian independence. Later that year, a referendum was held and over 90 percent of the people supported independence. Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk was sworn in as the first president of independent Ukraine in 1991. He served till 1994.

The deterrent value of the nuclear weapons in Ukraine was also questionable, as Ukraine would have had to spend 12 to 18 months to establish full operational control over the nuclear arsenal left by the Russians. The ICBMs also had a range of 5,000–10,000 km initially targeting the United States, which meant that they could only have been re-targeted to hit Russia's far east. The air-launched cruise missiles (ALCMs) left by the Russians had been disabled by the Russians during the collapse of the Soviet Union, but even if they had been reconfigured and made to work by the Ukrainians, it is unlikely that they would have had a deterrent effect.

Had Ukraine decided to establish full operational control of the nuclear weapons, it would have faced sanctions by the West and perhaps even a withdrawal of diplomatic recognition by the

United States and other NATO allies. Ukraine would also likely have faced retaliatory action by Russia. Ukraine would also have struggled with replacing the nuclear weapons once their service life expired, as Ukraine did not have a nuclear weapons program. In exchange for giving up its nuclear weapons, Ukraine received financial compensation, as well as the security assurances of the Budapest Memorandum.

3. Annexation of Crimea

3.1 When did Russia annex Crimea?

Russia mobilized its troops in February and March 2014 to seize control of Crimea. Ukrainians had recently deposed their pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich, who was ousted in the Maidan uprising by protesters seeking warmer relations with the EU and NATO. Yanukovich fled to Russia in February 2014 after the months-long uprising, which saw security forces shoot dead at least 77 protesters in Kyiv. Ukraine would go on to usher in the first in a series of pro-European governments to replace him.

The ousting of Yanukovich provoked immediate unrest in the east of Ukraine bordering Russia, where pro-Kremlin sentiments are higher. In addition to spurring on separatists, Vladimir Putin took advantage of the removal of Yanukovich by ordering work on returning Crimea to Russia, a peninsula that lies between Ukraine and Russia. Amid pro-Russian demonstrations in the Crimean port city of Sevastopol days after Yanukovich fled, masked Russian troops without insignia moved to capture strategic sites across Crimea,

A disputed and internationally rejected referendum was held on March 16, 2014, in which Moscow claims 96.77 percent of Crimean people voted to become part of Russia. Despite international outcry, Russia formally incorporated Crimea as two Russian federal subjects – the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol – on 18 March 2014. Crimea and Sevastopol have since switched to Moscow Time. The Russian government opposed the annexation label.

3.2 Why did it happen?

President Vladimir Putin had insisted Russia annexed Crimea to protect ethnic Russians from far-right extremists whom Russia claimed overthrew President Yanukovich. In a 2015 documentary, Mr Putin said he took the decision on 23 February hours after the Ukrainian leader had fled Kyiv. I told all my colleagues that we are forced to begin the work to bring Crimea back into Russia, he said. Last year, Mr Putin called Russians and Ukrainians one nation and said Ukraine's current leaders were running an anti-Russian project. Russia has been resistant to Ukraine's move towards European institutions, particularly NATO.

3.3 Background to the annexation-

Crimea became part of the Russian Empire in 1783, when the Crimean Khanate was annexed. In 1921, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was established when the Russian Red Army conquered two-thirds of Ukraine, with the Western third becoming part of Poland. Then in 1939, Western Ukraine was annexed by the Soviet Union under the terms of the Nazi-Soviet

Pact. However, in 1954 in a surprise move, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred the Crimean peninsula to Ukraine. Then in 1991, Ukraine declared independence following an attempted coup in Moscow. In 2014 Russia seized Crimea arguing it had a historic claim to it.

3.4 What after the annexation of Crimea?

After the annexation, Russia conducted a sham referendum on the annexation, which was illegal under the Ukrainian Constitution. The result of the referendum remains unrecognized by the international community. The EU and WE imposed sanctions on Russia after annexation. In July 2015, Russian Prime Minister, Dmitry Medvedev, declared that Crimea had been fully integrated into Russia. Then in 2016, Ukraine reported that Russia had increased its military presence along the Crimea border. In response, Ukraine deployed more troops closer to the border with Crimea. According to the United Nations and many NGOs, since the illegal annexation, Russia is responsible for multiple human rights abuses, including torture, detention, forced disappearances as well as discrimination, including the persecution of the mainly Sunni Muslim Turkic ethnic group and nationals who are an indigenous people of Crimea, the Crimean Tatars, in Crimea.

At least 109 Ukrainian political prisoners remain in detention in Russia and Crimea. Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars and other ethnic and religious groups also continue to face cultural discrimination. Education in Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages is restricted. Once Russian authority was established, wages were cut back by 30 per cent to 70 percent. And tourism, previously Crimea's main industry, suffered. Crimean agriculture was also hugely affected by the annexation when Ukraine cut off supplies of water through the North Crimean Canal.

4. Ukraine's Alliance with NATO

Since the very beginning of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2014, NATO has adopted a firm position in full support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. NATO condemned in the strongest possible terms Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine starting in February 2022, which it deemed as entirely unjustified and unprovoked. This is a grave violation of international law and a serious threat to Euro-Atlantic security.

Throughout the crisis, regular consultations have taken place in the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC) in view of the direct threats faced by Ukraine to its territorial integrity, political independence and security. The NUC met for extraordinary meetings in view of Russia's unjustified use of military force against Ukrainian ships near the Kerch Strait in November 2018 and Russia's threatening military build-up in April 2021. Other extraordinary meetings of the NUC took place at NATO Headquarters in January and February 2022, focused on Russia's continued military build-up and unprovoked attack on Ukraine.

In parallel to its political support to Ukraine, NATO has significantly stepped up its practical assistance to Ukraine. Immediately following the illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014, NATO Foreign Ministers agreed on measures to enhance Ukraine's ability to provide for its own security. They also decided to further develop their practical support to

Ukraine, based on a significant enhancement of existing cooperation programs as well as the development of substantial new programs. At the 2016 Summit in Warsaw, NATO's measures in support of Ukraine became part of the Comprehensive Assistance Package (CAP), which is designed to support Ukraine's ability to provide for its own security and to implement wide-ranging reforms in the security and defence sector based on Euro-Atlantic principles and best practice.

NATO Allies are boosting their political and practical support to Ukraine as it continues to defend itself against Russia's full-scale invasion. The Alliance is helping to coordinate Ukraine's requests for assistance and is supporting Allies in the delivery of humanitarian and

Non-lethal aid. Individual NATO member countries are sending weapons, ammunition, medical supplies and other vital military equipment to Ukraine. They are also providing millions of euros of financial assistance to Ukraine. Many Allies are also offering humanitarian aid to civilians and opening their borders to Ukrainian refugees.¹

5. Ukraine Admission in the European Union

Obtaining the status of a full member of the EU as a strategic goal of Ukraine was first declared by President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko immediately after his election in early 2005. The European Union briefly discussed the idea and stated there would be a possibility of Ukraine joining the European Union. However, this would take 15-20 years. In 2017, Ukraine was offered a Free Trade Agreement with European Union but no confirmation on membership. This closeness between Ukraine and European Union caused unease within Russia since the expansion of the EU in Eastern Europe would mean a dent in Russia's influence in the region. After the invasion of Crimea by Russia in 2014, the European nations began to actively discuss the possibility of integration of Ukraine.

According to the Eastern Partnership policy, Ukraine can become a member of the European Union. On 27 February 2014 the European Parliament passed a resolution that recognized Ukraine's right to "apply to become a Member of the Union, provided that it adheres to the principles of democracy, respects fundamental freedoms and human and minority rights, and ensures the rule of law" On 21 February 2019, the Constitution of Ukraine was amended to enshrine the norms on the strategic course of Ukraine for membership in the European Union and NATO in the preamble of the Basic Law, three articles and transitional provisions.

Finally, after the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2022, Ukraine requested for an accelerated accession procedure. The European Parliament voted to advance Ukraine's membership with 637 in favour, 13 against, and 26 abstained. On June 17, 2022, the European Commission recommended that the European Council grant Ukraine the perspective to become a member of the European Union and candidate status for accession.

6. Tensions on Borders

Since Russia launched a full-scale military invasion into Ukraine on February 24, 2022, fighting has caused nearly three thousand civilian deaths and internally displaced more than seven million people, according to the United Nations. The conflict has forced another five million Ukrainians to flee to neighboring countries—the majority of whom have arrived in Poland, a NATO country where the United States and other allies are helping to accommodate the influx of

refugees.

In October 2021, Russia began moving troops and military equipment near its border with Ukraine, reigniting concerns over a potential invasion. Commercial satellite imagery, social media posts, and publicly released intelligence from November and December 2021 showed armor, missiles, and other heavy weaponry moving toward Ukraine with no official explanation.

By December, more than one hundred thousand Russian troops were in place near the Russia-Ukraine border and U.S. intelligence officials warned that Russia may be planning an invasion for early 2022. In mid-December 2021, Russia's foreign ministry issued a set of demands calling for the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to cease any military activity in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, to commit against further NATO expansion toward Russia, and to prevent Ukraine from joining NATO in the future. The United States and other NATO allies rejected these demands and warned Russia they would impose severe economic sanctions if Russia invaded Ukraine. The United States sent additional military assistance to Ukraine, including ammunition, small arms, and other defensive weaponry.

On February 24, during a United Nations Security Council meeting to dissuade Russia from attacking Ukraine, Putin announced the beginning of a full-scale land, sea, and air invasion of Ukraine targeting Ukrainian military assets and cities across the country. Biden declared this attack "unprovoked and unjustified" and has since issued severe sanctions in coordination with European allies, including sanctions that target four of Russia's largest banks, its oil and gas industry, and the financial assets of Putin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The U.S. continues to commit military assistance to Ukraine; following Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's address to the U.S. Congress on March 16, Biden announced an additional \$800 million in military assistance. Since Russia's invasion, the United States has committed \$3.4 billion in security assistance, including heavy weapons and artillery. The United States has also dramatically increased the numbers of U.S. troops in Europe, bringing the total to more than one hundred thousand. The United Nations, G7, EU, and other countries continue to condemn Russian actions and support Ukrainian forces. In an emergency United Nations session on March 2, 141 of 193 member states voted to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and demanded that Russia immediately cease its use of force in Ukraine.

On April 18, Russia launched a new major offensive in eastern Ukraine following its failed attempt to seize Kyiv.²

7. Chaos in Ukraine

In late March 2022, Russia announced that it would "reduce military activity" near Kyiv and Chernihiv. As the initial Russian invasion slowed, long-range missile strikes caused significant damage to Ukrainian military assets, urban residential areas, and communication and transportation infrastructure. Hospitals and residential complexes also sustained shelling and bombing attacks. By April 6, Russia had withdrawn all troops from Ukraine's capital region. In the aftermath of the Russian withdrawal from Kyiv's surrounding areas, Ukrainian civilians described apparent war crimes committed by Russian forces including accounts of summary executions, torture, and rape.

Meanwhile, civilians in Mariupol—a port city in southeastern Ukraine—have been facing an ongoing humanitarian crisis with acute shortages of food, water, and heat. By late March, observers estimated that the Russian bombardment of Mariupol damaged or destroyed more than 90 percent of the city. Ukrainian officials have put the number of civilians killed during the Russian siege of Mariupol at twenty thousand, and satellite images show a mass grave located near Mariupol. Russian forces have surrounded the city for weeks with aerial bombardments that have killed hundreds of civilians.

- As of May 4, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported 6,635 civilian casualties in the country, including 3,238 killed and 3,397 of those killed, 1,162 were men, 738 were women, and 155 were children (71 girls and 84 boys). OHCHR said the actual figures are considerably higher and most of the civilian casualties recorded were caused “by the use of explosive weapons with a wide impact area.”
- As of May 4, more than 5.7 million refugees have fled Ukraine since Feb. 24, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- As of April 21, there are 7.7 million IDPs in Ukraine. At least 600,000 were displaced internally from April 1 to 17.
- As of May 5, there were more than 5 million cases of COVID-19 and 108,411 deaths in Ukraine.

The futuristic societal interest and aftermath of Ukraine

- The most important consequence of the war in Ukraine is the lives lost and the humanitarian crisis associated with the huge numbers of besieged and displaced people. There are also, however, numerous significant economic implications.
- Prior to the outbreak of the war, most key global macroeconomic variables were seen as returning to normality over 2022-23 following the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Global growth in 2023 was projected to return to rates similar to those prevailing in the immediate pre-pandemic period.
 - Most OECD economies were expected to get back to full employment by 2023, and inflation was seen as converging on levels close to policy objectives, though later and from higher levels than previously expected in most countries.
 - Policy settings were also expected to normalize, with exceptional monetary policy accommodation being progressively removed and emergency fiscal measures, taken in response to the pandemic, phased out.
- Although Russia and Ukraine are relatively small in output terms, they are large producers and exporters of key food items, minerals and energy. The war has already resulted in sizable economic and financial shocks, particularly in commodity markets, with the prices of oil, gas and wheat soaring.
- The moves in commodity prices and financial markets seen since the outbreak of the war could, if sustained, reduce global GDP growth by over 1 percentage point in the first year, with a deep recession in Russia, and push up global consumer price inflation by approximately 2½ percentage points.

- Faced with a new negative shock of uncertain duration and magnitude, monetary policy should remain focused on ensuring well-anchored inflation expectations. Most central banks should continue their pre-war plans, with the exception of the most affected economies, where a pause may be needed to fully assess the consequences of the crisis.
- In the near term, many governments will need to cushion the blow of higher energy prices, diversify energy sources and increase efficiency wherever possible. For food, higher production in OECD countries, refraining from protectionism and multilateral support for logistics will help the countries most affected by a disruption to supply from Russia and Ukraine.
- The war has underlined the importance of minimizing dependence on Russia for key energy imports. Policymakers should reconsider the appropriateness of market design with a view to ensuring energy security and putting incentives in place to ensure the green transition in a publicly supported way.

Key treaties and agreements

1. Ukraine and Russia treaty

The Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation was an agreement between Ukraine and Russia, signed in 1997, which fixed the principle of strategic partnership, the recognition of the inviolability of existing borders, and respect for territorial integrity and mutual commitment not to use its territory to harm the security of each other. The treaty prevents Ukraine and Russia from invading one another's country respectively, and declaring war. Ukraine announced its intention not to renew the treaty in September 2018. By doing so the treaty expired on 31 March 2019.

The treaty was also known as the Big Treaty. Until 2019 the treaty was automatically renewed on each 10th anniversary of its signing, unless one party advised the other of its intention to end the treaty six months prior to the date of the renewal. Russia-Ukraine relations have deteriorated since 2014. Russian annexation of Crimea and Russian support for separatist forces in the war in Ukraine's Donbass region. In response, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko signed a decree not to extend the treaty. The treaty was signed

In Kyiv on 31 May 1997 by the President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

In Russia, on 25 December 1998, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly adopted a resolution on the adoption of the federal law on ratification of the Agreement of Friendship, Collaboration and Partnership between the Russian Federation and Ukraine and directed it to the Federation Council. The Federation Council approved this federal law by the Resolution on 17 February 1999. The treaty was ratified. The document superseded the previous treaty between the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic of 19 November

1990 before dissolution of the Soviet Union.

1.1 Content of the treaty-

Under the agreement both parties ensure the citizens of the other countries' rights and freedoms on the same basis and to the same extent that it provides for its citizens, except as prescribed by national legislation of States or international treaties. Every country protects in established order the rights of its citizens living in another country, in accordance with commitments to documents of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and other universally recognized principles and norms of international law, agreements within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The agreement, among other things prematurely confirms the inviolability of borders of countries, regardless that Russia and Ukraine had not finalized a border between the two countries. The border was delineated in the 2003 Treaty on the Russian-Ukrainian State Border, but Ukraine has started the agreed-upon demarcation unilaterally after Russia dragged its feet. Under Article 2 and in accord with provisions of the UN Charter and the obligations of the Final Act on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the High Contracting Parties shall respect each other's territorial integrity and reaffirm the inviolability of the borders existing between them. The Treaty document stipulates in Article 40 that the Treaty is entered into for a period of 10 years and renews automatically unless one of the parties notifies the other of its intention to curtail the Treaty.

1.1.1 Termination clause-

On 19 September 2018, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko signed a decree not to extend the treaty. On 3 December 2018, Poroshenko drafted legislation to Parliament to end the Treaty of Friendship immediately with support coming from Western allies within the United Nations Security Council. According to Poroshenko the non-renewal does not require a vote in the Ukrainian parliament. Ukraine announced that on 21 September 2018, it would notify the United Nations and other relevant organizations on the termination of the treaty. Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it was notified on 24 September 2018 of the treaty's termination by Ukraine. On 3 December 2018 Poroshenko did submit a bill on the termination of the treaty to parliament where 277 MPs supported the termination of the treaty, while 20 legislators voted against it.

2. Ukraine's nuclear treaty

Prior to 1991, Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union and had Soviet nuclear weapons in its territory. On December 1, 1991, Ukraine, the second most powerful republic in the Soviet Union (USSR), voted overwhelmingly for independence, which ended any realistic chance of the Soviet Union staying together even on a limited scale. More than 90% of the electorate expressed their support for Ukraine's declaration of independence, and they elected the chairman of the parliament, Leonid Kravchuk as the first president of the country. At the meetings in Brest, Belarus on December 8, and in Alma Ata on December 21, the leaders of Belarus, Russia, and

Ukraine formally dissolved the Soviet Union and formed the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Ukraine held about one third of the Soviet nuclear arsenal, the third largest in the world at the time, as well as significant means of its design and production. 130 UR-100N intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) with six warheads each, 46 RT-23 Molodets ICBMs with ten warheads apiece, as well as 33 heavy bombers, totaling approximately 1,700 warheads remained on Ukrainian territory. Formally, these weapons were controlled by the Commonwealth of Independent States. In 1994, Ukraine agreed to destroy the weapons, and to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

3. Budapest Memorandum-

The Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances comprises three identical political agreements signed at the OSCE conference in Budapest, Hungary, on 5 December 1994, to provide security assurances by its signatories relating to the accession of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The memorandum was originally signed by three nuclear powers, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. According to the memorandum, Russia, the US and the UK confirmed their recognition of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine becoming parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and effectively abandoning their nuclear arsenal to Russia and that they agreed to the following:

1. Respect Belarusian, Kazakh and Ukrainian independence and sovereignty in the existing borders.
2. Refrain from the threat or the use of force against Belarus, Kazakhstan or Ukraine.
3. Refrain from using economic pressure on Belarus, Kazakhstan or Ukraine to influence their politics.
4. Seek immediate security council action to provide assistance to Belarus, Kazakhstan or Ukraine if they become a victim of an act of aggression or an object of a threat of aggression in which nuclear weapons are used".
5. Refrain from the use of nuclear arms against Belarus, Kazakhstan or Ukraine.
6. Consult with one another if questions arise regarding those commitments.

Conclusion

War between two nations is not a result of a single event rather it's a consequence of multiple incidents taking place back to back. To understand the present scenario of the conflict, we need

to understand the background of the relation between Russia and Ukraine.

Before 1991, Ukraine was a part of the Soviet Union and it was the second most powerful Soviet Republic after Russia. Ukraine gained independence in the year 1991 post the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Since its independence, there was a territorial conflict between Russia and Ukraine as Ukraine is a matter of strategic importance to Russia.

The conflict between them accelerated in late 2013 over a landmark political and trade deal with the European Union. After the pro-Russian then President, Viktor Yanukovich suspended the talks and weeks of protest in Kiev erupted into violence. Afterwards, in the year 2014, Russia had annexed Crimea, an autonomous peninsula in southern Ukraine with strong Russian loyalties, on the pretext that it was defending its interests and those of Russian-speaking citizens from Ukraine following a hastily called referendum, a move that sparked fight between Russia-backed separatists and government forces in eastern Ukraine.

As a result, both the United States and European Union have pledged to safeguard the integrity of Ukraine's border. Soon afterwards, pro- Russian separatists in Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions declared their independence from Kiev, prompting months of heavy fighting. In 2015, despite the fact that Kiev and Moscow were signing a peace deal in Minsk, brokered by France and Germany there have been repeated ceasefire violations. The Minsk agreements consisted of a series of international agreements which sought to end the war in the Donbas region of Ukraine.

Reasons for Russian Aggression–

1. Economic Factors
2. Geo-Political and Strategic Factors
3. Enlargement of NATO

On 24th February, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a military operation in Ukraine, which was termed as “full-scale invasion” by the Ukrainian Foreign Minister. Sergei Lavrov, Foreign Minister spoke of freeing Ukraine from oppression, while Ukraine's democratically elected President Volodymyr Zelensky said “ the enemy has designated me as target number one; my family is target number two”.

This attack took the world politics, economy & the global market system by storm and the diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis by the world leaders showed no sign of progress. US President Joe Biden called this move by Russia “an unproved and unjustified attack”. The member states of NATO also condemned this attack and are backing up Ukraine. The United States and its allies have been responding to this invasion by imposing sanctions on Russia, including the EU. With the invasion of Ukraine, agreements like Minsk Protocols of 2014 and the Russia NATO Act of 1997 stand tall but voided.

The G7 nations also strongly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine 2022. While China rejected calling Russia's moves on Ukraine an “invasion” and urged all sides to exercise restraint, India did not join the western powers' condemnation of Russia's intervention in Crimea and kept a low profile on the issue.

More recently India abstained on a US sponsored UNSC resolution that “bewails in the strongest

terms” Russia’s aggression against Ukraine with New Delhi, saying dialogue is the only answer in settling differences & disputes and voicing regret that the path of diplomacy was given up.

For the last six months, the Russia-Ukraine crisis has disturbed the geopolitical condition of the whole world and is also causing a devastating effect on mankind.

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