

**Committee: Disec 2**

**Topic: The question of the expansion of Russia**

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## **Summary:**

The issue of post soviet Russian expansion has been centred around Ukraine and eastern europe, this began in February and March of 2014 following the Ukranian revolution of dignity where Russia invaded and then annexed the crimean peninsula from Ukraine. This ended up causing major backlash in the international community against Russia, on March 27th 2014 the UN general assembly passed a resolution deeming the annexation illegal. Then more recently on the 24th of february 2022 Russia launched its full scale invasion of Ukraine where russia stated it wanted to “demilitarise and de-nazify Ukraine” but after 1 month of the invasion Russia declared that its main goal had changed to now be the “liberation of Donbas” this, which is referring to Ukraine's eastern regions of Luhansk and Donetsk which have been controlled by moscow based separatists for nearly eight years now. This invasion was condemned by the international community with large sanctions being placed on the Russian federation as a result.

## **Definition of Key Terms**

**NATO:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is a military alliance which is the main opposition of Russia in terms of influence and expansion.

**Militarisation –** The act of equipping a nation or specific location with military resources and defences.

**Invasion –** An instance of invading a country or region with an armed force.

## Background Information

The tension between Russia and Ukraine has been something that has been building up for many years now, with the continued expansion of NATO with the invitations of new member states Russia has also felt a need to re-strengthen its grip on Europe that has fallen since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Since the Baltics had already joined NATO previously and the Nordic countries were historically neutral, Russia set its eyes on Ukraine, it tried multiple times to stop Ukraine from joining NATO such as in 2008 when Russia threatened to send missiles at Ukraine if it joined NATO, and more recently in 2021 Russian President Vladimir Putin said he wanted to receive guarantees from the West that Ukraine would not join NATO. One of the main reasons that Russia is invading Ukraine currently is so that it can stop them from joining NATO, the reason being that if Ukraine were to join NATO then Russia's influence on Europe would be severely diminished. Also the key rebelling provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk have been under control of Russian separatists for nearly 8 years now.

## Major Countries and Organisations Involved

### **Countries: Russia, Ukraine**

The main conflicts pertaining to Russian expansion have been with Ukraine, the first being with the invasion of Crimea on Thursday February 20th following the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity, and the invasion of Ukraine more recently on Thursday February 24th.

### **Organisations: NATO**

NATO has been actively involved in supporting Ukraine having placed many sanctions on Russia and have given Ukraine many weapons, such as artillery, anti-aircraft weapons, anti-tank weapons, armoured vehicles, reconnaissance and attack drones, helicopters, small arms, ammunition and body armour.

## Timeline of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
1994	Ukraine gives up its nuclear arsenal in exchange for a guaranteed independence
February-March 2014	Russia seizes control of Crimea a Ukrainian province causing international outrage
February 12th 2015	Minsk II agreement ending the conflict in donbass and restoring Ukrainian control
November 10th 2021	United states reports unusual buildup of Russian troops on the border
November 28th 2022	Ukraine reported a build-up of 92000 Russian troops.
February 17th 2022	Fighting escalated in separatist regions of eastern Ukraine
February 21st 2022	President Vladimir Putin orders troops into the regions of Luhansk and Donetsk
February 24th 2022	Russia launches a full scale assault of Ukraine.

## Relevant UN Treaties and Events

On the 16th of March 2022 the International Court of Justice ordered Russia to immediately suspend its military operations in Ukraine.

On 7 April 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for Russia to be suspended from the Human Rights Council. The resolution received a two-thirds majority of those voting, minus abstentions, in the 193-member Assembly, with 93 nations voting in favour and 24 against.

The UN has also given a lot of humanitarian support to Ukraine with the UN giving \$2.24 billion for humanitarian aid in Ukraine this helping provide assistance to over 3.4 million people all across Ukraine.

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

As of right now there have not been many previous options to solve the issue with negotiations being the primary target, there have been some attempts at negotiations but the two countries seem to differ on core issues and the negotiations have reached a stalemate, and there has been little to no cooperation on the Russian side of things. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that Ukraine will negotiate with Russia when Ukrainian forces have pushed Russian army back to their positions of February 24 which was the day that the war had began,

## Possible Solutions

In terms of the possible solutions there are a couple that could happen, we're already nearly half a year into this conflict with still no end in sight, there are a couple scenarios that could play out however. One which would be Ukraine favoured is that Russia is pushed back to the original borders of 2014 before it annexed Crimea although this is very unlikely to happen unless major outside support is given to Ukraine. Another scenario is that the border just reverts back to how it was before the war with Ukraine still controlling Donetsk and Luhansk. For a more Russian favoured outcome there are two main options, the first being that Donetsk and Luhansk become independent states and/or join Russia. The second option which is heavily Russian favoured would be that it successfully instates a new anti western government in Ukraine and expands its sphere of influence. Although we are very early in the war and it is still very tough to tell how this will end up playing out.

## Bibliography

(Title of source, author, date of publication – you may also wish to list some useful websites)

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