

Committee: Security Council

Topic: The question of Ukraine

Chair: Emma Portman

School: Royal Russell

Summary

Russia officially invaded Ukraine on the 24th of February 2022. Russia's attack on Ukraine in February 2022 sparked the largest military conflict in Europe since the Second World War and breached humanitarian law. Tens of thousands of people have lost their lives and millions have been forced to flee their homes. While the full effects of the war are still unravelling, it seems safe to say that they will shape Europe's strategic landscape for years to come.

The invasion was met with widespread international condemnation, resulting in severe sanctions against Russia and significant military and humanitarian support for Ukraine from the U.S., EU, and NATO countries.

The Ukraine-Russia conflict began in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea following Ukraine's Euromaidan protests, which overthrew pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich. This led to armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists declared independence in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The war has led to thousands of deaths and a widespread displacement of civilians. Diplomatic efforts for resolution, including the Minsk Agreements, have largely failed to halt hostilities. The conflict continues to shape geopolitical dynamics in Europe and beyond.

Definition of Key Terms

Annexation: The action of annexing territory; specifically, Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Donbas: A region in Eastern Ukraine, comprising Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, where pro-Russian separatists have been active since 2014.

Sanctions: Economic and political penalties imposed by countries (especially the U.S. and EU) on Russia in response to its actions in Ukraine.

Ukrainian Armed Forces: The military forces of Ukraine, which have been engaged in defending the country since the conflict escalated in 2022.

Humanitarian crisis: Generalised emergency situation that affects an entire community or a group of people in a region

Background Information

Ukraine claimed its independence in 1991, when the Ukrainian parliament proclaimed that Ukraine would no longer follow the laws of USSR and only the laws of the Ukrainian SSR, de facto declaring Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union. Since then, there have been major tensions between Russia and Ukraine. Notably in 2014 with the annexation of Crimea, leading to widespread condemnation of Russia actions, and international tensions between Russia and NATO.

Between 2014 and 2018, a military conflict between Ukrainian soldiers and Russian-backed separatists continued in Eastern Ukraine. More than 10,000 people were killed.

On the 24th of February 2022, Russia commenced its overt full-scale invasion of Ukraine, thus escalating the war that had been ongoing for eight years. In that time, the quantity and gravity of crimes allegedly committed by the Russian Federation armed forces and armed units acting under Russia's control spiked dramatically. The scenes of mass atrocities in Bucha, Irpin, Borodyanka and other liberated areas of Ukraine prompted politicians and parliaments of several countries to make statements and declarations about the genocide of the Ukrainian nation.

Examining the current geopolitical positioning of Ukraine, there is a big divide between east and west. The western part of the country, which is primarily Ukrainian speaking, is much more pro-

NATO, pro-EU. The eastern part of the country and Crimea are mostly Russian speaking, which historically is more connected with Russia and is more inclined to see a close partnership with Russia as being in the country's interest.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United Nations (UN)

Ukraine

Russia

United States

United Kingdom

NATO

EU

Timeline of Events

Date	Description
2013-2014	Euromaidan Protests; Protests against President Yanukovich's decision to abandon an EU association agreement in favour of closer ties with Russia led to his ousting and increased tensions with Russia.
March 2014	Annexation of Crimea; following Yanukovich's removal, Russia annexation of Crimea was widely condemned as illegal by Ukraine and the international community.
April 2014	War in Eastern Ukraine; Pro-Russian separatists declared independence in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, leading to ongoing conflict between Ukrainian forces and separatists, supported by Russia. This conflict has resulted in thousands of deaths and widespread displacement.

February 24th 2022	Russia launched a full scale invasion of Ukraine, claimed it was protecting Russian speakers in Ukraine. This was a significant escalation of the conflict.
October 2022	Ukraine's capital was bombed.
January- October 2023	€93.8 billion from 40 countries in financial, humanitarian and military aid.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

27 February 2022: This resolution called for an “emergency special session” of the General Assembly to consider and recommend collective action on the situation in Ukraine.

Resolution (2016): Reiterated support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, calling for the withdrawal of Russian troops and the end of the occupation of Crimea.

Resolution (2019): Addressed the situation in Crimea, emphasizing human rights issues and the treatment of ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars under Russian occupation.

13 OCTOBER 2022: This was a resolution declaring that the staged referendums and attempted annexation of the regions in Ukraine are invalid and illegal under international law.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Minsk Agreements (2014 & 2015): Ceasefire agreements aimed at de-escalating the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, though implementation has been inconsistent.

Normandy Format Meetings: Diplomatic talks involving Ukraine, Russia, Germany, and France to negotiate peace and implement the Minsk Agreements.

United Nations Resolutions: Various resolutions condemning the annexation of Crimea and calling for the respect of Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Sanctions Against Russia: Economic sanctions imposed by the US, EU, and other countries targeting Russian individuals, entities, and sectors in response to aggression in Ukraine.

Support for Ukraine: Military and humanitarian assistance provided to Ukraine by Western countries to bolster its defence capabilities and support civilians affected by the conflict.

OSCE Monitoring Missions: Deployment of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to monitor ceasefires and facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties.

Bilateral Talks: Direct negotiations between Ukraine and Russia at various levels to address specific issues related to the conflict.

International Conferences: Summits and conferences held to discuss security and peace in Europe, often focusing on the situation in Ukraine.

Possible Solutions

Diplomatic negotiations

Economic guarantee of support to Ukraine

Increase sanctions on Russia

Security Guarantees for both Russia and Ukraine.

Bibliography

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