

Europe on fire

The Russo-Ukrainian war, its causes and consequences

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- **Abstract**

The Russian declaration of war on Ukraine will not pass unnoticed by the NATO countries, especially the United States, and Russia will not be spared from violating the rules of international law and peacekeeping treaties, as the consequences of the Russian war will not be limited to Ukraine only, but rather it is a threat to humanity, considering that Russia is a country that possesses A huge nuclear arsenal, and this war will antagonize nuclear countries as well, such as the United States and France. This war will also lead to heavy losses of lives and a decline for the global economy as a whole, considering Russia is one of the largest exporters of oil and the first country to issue natural gas, but the first to harm these dire consequences is Russia, as the European countries announced Economic sanctions against Russia to deter it for its aggressive behavior against Ukraine and its people. But who is the victim? Does Russia have the right to declare war on Ukraine in defense of its national security, given that Ukraine is the dividing line for its borders with NATO countries? Or does Ukraine have the right as a sovereign state that does not want to remain under the mantle of Russia? What are the causes and dimensions of that war? The answer will be through this study.

So In this paper we will discuss the causes of the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war, as well as NATO's response to it, the economic sanctions imposed on Russia, and China's response to Russia's aggressive stance.

- **Keywords:** Russia, Ukraine, War, Russian war, NATO, United state, Europe, China

- **Reasons for the outbreak of war between Russia and Ukraine**

As a buffer state, it is obligated to maintain neutrality between Russia and other European countries, not to be an ally of one country against another. This is how Russia saw Ukraine throughout history that Ukraine is its borders that no one should cross.

The argument over Ukraine is for a long time and historically. In early 1997, "Yevgeny Primakov" former Russian Foreign Minister has told his counterparts that NATO's approval of Ukraine would traverse the "red line".

The enmity between Russia and Ukraine has existed since the time of the Crimea problem. Since 1991 there has been inherent tension in Russian-Ukrainian relations, because the more Ukraine asserts its sovereignty, the more Russia will question it, and vice versa.

The Crimea's Republic is located on a peninsula stretching from southern Ukraine between the Azov's sea and the Black Sea. It is detached from Russia to the east by the Kerch Strait.

At the beginning of 2014, Crimea became the most serious East-West crisis' focus since the Cold War, after the evicting of Ukraine's (and pro-Russian) President Viktor Yanukovych in drastic protestations in Kyiv. At that period, pro-Russian forces dominated the Crimea, after which the district's population - Most of them are of Russian origin - voted in a plebiscite to adhere the Russian alliance. Sevastopol's port is an essential naval base and has been the Russian Black Sea Fleet's headquarters since Soviet era. After the Soviet Union's collapse, the navy was separated between Russia and Ukraine. Russian leaders and Western historians write about Chersoneses the place where Prince Vladimir (Volodymyr) baptized the "Russian first state". Thence, its addition in 2014 was a normal series; finally, the area has always been "in Russian." In his words welcoming Crimea's blending with Russia Putin said he described Crimea's association with "a common history" with Ukraine in Kievan Rus', its return to Russia in 1783, and the "mythical city of Sevastopol" as a base for the Black Sea flotilla. "Each of these places is sacred to

us, these are symbols of Russian military glory and unprecedented valor," Putin said. Crimea was shown on Russian television as the "Russian" nation's core and soul.²

The Russian fleet's presence in Sevastopol has always been a resource of stress linking Russia and Ukraine yet. In 2008, Ukraine demanded Russia desist from using the Black Sea navy in its struggle with Georgia. But the two countries settled that the Russian navy would stay at its control center in Sevastopol till 2017, but after the pro-Russian Viktor Yanukovych election as Ukraine's President in 2010, Ukraine decided to expand the stay of the Black Sea armada in Sevastopol by 25 years after 2017, In exchange for Ukraine to obtain preferential prices for Russian gas.³

The terrain of Crimea has always been of vast value to Russia for a long time. It was a geostrategic location that improved Russia's authority in the Black Sea area. Sevastopol's port served Russian benefits extensively, and Russia could not hazard losing it. Although Russia had a tenancy agreement until 2042 at its marine base in Sevastopol's Crimean port, this was not an assurance for Russia that Ukraine would oust the Russian Black Sea Fleet one day. In other words, Ukraine's attainment to NATO means that Russia will share a riskily long and perilous border with an institution it considers highly concerned with its security and as a great power that threatens Russia's security as it has reached its limits. As a natural response from Russia to protect its interests, this was rejected at any cost, as Ukraine has a significant geopolitical site. For many years, Russia has tried to save its neighbors and generate a buffer sector versus the West. Russia has always had this sensation, since the Russian Empire, that the lone way to guard the Motherland is to produce a security strap around the state. Through the Soviet age, it succeeded, but after the end of the union, the nation lost its protection girdle. This was discreditable to

² Taras Kuzio, Western Histories of 'Russia' and Ukraine, OCT 26 2020, ISSN 2053-8626 .p.8, <https://www.e-ir.info/2020/10/26/western-histories-of-russia-and-ukraine/>

³Basic information about Crimea April 12,2017 <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-39568324>

them, and they had to reinstate this method in so far as possible. This mentality led to the essential of keeping Ukraine on its side at all costs, and the cost was war ⁴

But as a sovereign state Ukraine cannot be considered today merely a part of historical or the modern Soviet space; Ukraine is directly linked not only with Russia, but also with Central Europe and the Black Sea area countries.⁵

In contrast, States debate that some national interests are enduring and do not modify with transitory governments. for instance, they argue that particular national assets, whether strategic (sea routes, port access) or economic (resources), are always more expected to be coveted by exterior powers, and then a country has a continuous national interest in securing them so as to secure its economy and national protection ⁶.therefore The war was a ordinary response to the growth of NATO and the European Union. Realist thinkers like Mearsheimer John J take the situation that “the United States and its European allies share most of the responsibility for the crisis”. Since Ukraine was obviously a red line for Russia and it is considered a buffer state, the West had to avoid such an extension that would evidently destabilize the stability of power.⁷

Even though Russia was at times much closer to the West and NATO than it is today - to the point of contemplating joining the organization - one must reminder that the danger posed by NATO's eastward extension is in the "instant neighborhood of Russia's borders" where Since the Gulf War, the West has sheltered more and more to strength, either through NATO or individual state procedures. It has done so in 1999, when the violence of Serbia, a close supporter of Russia in Europe, NATO or some of its members occupied in military interventions in Afghanistan, Libya and Iraq .so From a Russian opinion, NATO went from a defensive organization as it was for the period of the Cold War, to an

⁴ Eltaj Amirkhanov,2021, Analysis of the Russia-Ukraine War from the Perspectives of Three Theories of International Relations, International Black Sea University Faculty of Social Sciences, Humanities and Education, December 19, 2021

⁵ Taras Kuzio, opcit, .p15.

⁶ Scott Burchill ,The National Interest in International Relations Theory, Deakin University,2005, p.27.

⁷Eltaj Amirkhanov, opcit, p.1.

unpleasant one, NATO Consisted of countries that were members of the previous Soviet Union (as Poland and the Baltic states) that are now constantly hostile to Russia and more significantly, It previously shaped a buffer zone linking NATO and Russia. Hence, from a Russian perspective, NATO's eastward extension into its globe of authority and buffer zones turns out to be a major threat. Specially, when Ukraine joins NATO, Russia will contribute to a 2,000-kilometre border with NATO, which Russia deems intolerable for its national security as Ukraine considers it a buffer state⁸

In a remarkably prescient observation. The previous Soviet nation of Ukraine enjoys a exclusive location militarily, diplomatically, and geographically when it comes to relations with Russia. Unique location of Ukraine stems from a number of factors. Primary, it is a country that is militarily friendly to NATO, but does not have the membership's benefits. In spite of being a part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, it is of great importance to Euro-Atlantic security. Secondly, it is geographically positioned on the Black Sea, is an essential Russian nautical center, and a area of great geographical significance. Access to the Black Sea gives access to the Mediterranean, which is fundamental for trade. Along the similar lines, access to the Black Sea provides ways for power projection over the region. Third, Ukraine's political affairs with Russia have been anxious and confused, particularly after the installation of a new Ukrainian administration in 2014 and the succeeding conjunction of Crimea. Therefore Russia wants assertions that Ukraine will in no way be permitted to join NATO. Plus Moscow also wants NATO members not to have enduring infrastructure or forces based in Ukraine, and to stop the progress of military movements near the Russian boundary. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization insists that it is a defensive association and doesn't create a threat to Russia. However NATO has also made obvious that it confirms Ukraine has the right to make its decisions as a sovereignty country, and that it is not agreeable to provide Russia a veto over the future of Ukraine.⁹

⁸ Giovanni Baldoni, A Theoretical Analysis of Russian Foreign Policy: Changes Under Vladimir Putin, chapter1, September 10 2016, p.5.

<https://www.e-ir.info/2016/09/10/a-theoretical-analysis-of-russian-foreign-policy-changes-under-vladimir-putin/>

⁹ Jonathan Bell, December 13, 2021, <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-59627984>

Russia wants a guarantee from the West that Georgia and Ukraine will not joined NATO. Furthermore, it desires NATO to avoid deploying troops and military equipment in post-Soviet countries that could be used against Russia. It wants to sign an agreement on these issues with the United States. The Russian Foreign Ministry published a draft on December 17, 2021 “Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Security Guarantees”,¹⁰ which it submitted to the United States and NATO for discussion, requesting the imposition of the United States of America commitments to stop further expansion of NATO in an eastern route, to reject to join To the alliance of USSR past members. USA will not found military bases on the region of the states that were previously part of the USSR and not NATO members, and will not employ their infrastructure to conduct any military action, over and above expand bilateral military collaboration with them.¹¹

On January 12, 2022, after discussions between NATO and Russia, the Secretary General of NATO Jens Stoltenberg said that the transatlantic alliance rejected Russian requests for new members and the withdrawal of troops from Eastern Europe. In a phone discussion with French President Emmanuel Macron, Vladimir Putin confirmed that "The US and NATO responses did not address Russia's core concerns such as halting NATO expansion." In short, tensions between Russia and the West over Ukraine continued to escalate.¹²

Although Vladimir Putin announced on February 24 that in response to a request from the presidents of the Donbass republics, he made a decision to carry out a special military operation in Ukraine in order to protect people "who have suffered mistreatment and genocide by the Kyiv regime for eight years". The Russian President stressed that Moscow has no plans to occupy Ukrainian lands and that the operation aims to disarm and disarm Ukraine¹³, but everyone sees that the goal behind that war is not to allow Ukraine to enter NATO due to its strategic location

¹⁰ Mher Sahakyan, The Ukrainian crisis in the multipolar world order: NATO, Russia, February 2022, p.5 <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/358781125>

¹¹ Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Security Guarantees, December 2021, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, https://mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/rso/nato/1790818/

¹² Mher Sahakyan, opcit, p.5.

¹³ Russian, French military chiefs discuss situation around Ukraine — top brass, Russian news agency, March 5, 2022, <https://tass.com/defense/1417041>

in relation to Russia and its common interests on the territory of Ukraine, as the Russia fears that NATO is encroaching on its spheres of influence by attracting new members in Eastern Europe, and that accepting Ukraine into the alliance will bring NATO forces into its own backyard

On March 4, 2022 the Russian Minister of Defense, General Sergei Shoigu, had a telephone conversation with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The two sides discussed the situation in Ukraine in which the Russian Minister clarified that the decision to war stemmed from the fact that the Ukrainian leadership for the past eight years had been refusing to implement Minsk agreements, encourage nationalists and neo-Nazis in power structures, and intensified bombing attacks on civilians in Donbass at the moment. The Minister of Defense noted that talks on a peaceful settlement of the conflict had not begun. Instead of asking the Kyiv regime to stop the genocide against the population of the southeast of his country, Washington and Western countries began flooding Ukraine with weapons, and ammunition pushed it towards settling the conflict by force. Kyiv was so moved by the support of the West that it announced its nuclear ambitions. According to the ministry, Shogun noted that the hostile confrontation with Russia has become the main position of Ukraine "and thanks to the West it has become a land from which comes a threat to Russia's security". Shoigu stressed that "the Russian army does not threaten civilians, does not shoot at civilian facilities, and respects international humanitarian law."¹⁴

In the space of a few words, Russia has always determinedly protected its right to self-government and sovereignty and has criticized Western measures to interfere in the internal relationships of other states. It also has expressed a promise to protect international law rules, but Putin's war in Ukraine broke that commitment¹⁵ The European Union countries said in a joint statement that the Russian military attack on Ukraine - an independent and sovereign country - is a flagrant violation of international law and the basic principles underlying the rules-based international order.¹⁶ The overriding center factor of Russian foreign policy -and one that achieved better significance under Putin- has always been the

¹⁴ Russian Defense Minister discusses situation in Ukraine with UN chief, Russian News Agency, March 5, 2022, <https://tass.com/defense/1417059>

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶lexis Nexis Uni, Russia - Ukraine : Russian tanks enter the Kiev region, latest war update, February 24, 2022 Thursday, [Russia - Ukraine : Russian tanks enter the Kiev region, latest war update](#)

reinstatement of its status as a super power, and then strengthened. In Putin's words himself "we will strive to be leaders", It is openly admitted that Putin has not overcome Russia's loss of prestige in the wake of Soviet Union collapse, which he referred to as the supreme geopolitical calamity of the twentieth century. Hence Russia has always counted itself on a par with the United States and Europe and has no purpose of being led by them. It has always secured its place as an independent strategic player because Russia has historically considered itself an extraordinary country.

- **European reaction to Russia's aggression**

The United States knows Russia's demands and knows very well the consequences of rapprochement with Ukraine for Russia and its national security. At the end of 2021, Russia gave the United States a list of demands that were crucial to avoid the opportunity of a full-scale military conflict in Ukraine. In a draft treaty handed over to an American diplomat in Moscow, the Russian administration demanded a official halt to NATO's eastward growth, a enduring freeze on further extension of the alliance's military infrastructure (like weapons systems and bases) in ex-Soviet region, and an end to Western military assist to Ukraine.¹⁷

NATO countries are accused by Russia of "pumping" Ukraine with arms and said that the United States was provisioning tensions in the area as its main demand is a stood to any NATO extension to the east, with Representative Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov saying after current talks that it is "absolutely mandatory to ensure that Ukraine never joins".¹⁸

Armed forces of Ukraine as well as Western analysts know that because of the large differences in abilities, the more than 190,000 Russian military and interior protection personnel operations now circulated around Ukraine are likely to immerse the country's traditional defenses. Volodymyr Zelensky ordered a general recruitment, and the Ukrainians are engaged in an unequable warfare and are preparing for an extended struggle. What might extreme Ukrainian resistance

¹⁷Dmitri Trenin, What Putin Really Wants in Ukraine Russia Seeks to Stop NATO's Expansion, Not to Annex More Territory, December 28, 2021, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/russia-fsu/2021-12-28/what-putin-really-wants-ukraine>

¹⁸ Joseph Lee, Russia-Ukraine crisis: UK sending weapons to defend Ukraine, says defense secretary, 18 January, 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60033012>

involve? What is the probable effectiveness and what are the dangers? What backing can the global society supply?¹⁹

By land, sea and air, Russia began a destructive aggression on Ukraine on February 24, 2022, a European democratic system of 44 million citizens. Its military shell city centers and blow the capital, Kyiv, resulting in a mass departure of refugees. For months, Vladimir Putin has denied he would attack his neighbor, but then he broke a peace agreement and released what Germany calls "Putin's War," sending regiments into northern, southern and eastern Ukraine.

As the death toll rises, the Russian leader faces charges of undermining peace in Europe. What happens next can be shown²⁰

A Ukraine's ambassador described the country's executives:

"Ukrainian presidents over the past 20 years have created a balance with the goal of identifying Ukraine on the European map, ensuring that Ukraine does not end up as a border between an expanding Europe and a rebellious Russia"²¹

If Ukraine does not smash, Russia may disburse a huge price. The defenders of Ukraine have a strict geographic scope and army due to seven years of aggressive in eastern Ukraine. By averting Russia's speedy surrounding efforts. Stingers can shoot down Russian airlifts and helicopters to provide logistical support to advanced fighters the possible Western response to Russia's new aggression, if Ukraine's conditions become more dangerous, may be not only expanding the Ukrainian forces preparation and equipping and imposing financial sanctions on Russia. The United States or NATO allies may see the necessity of intervening for their forces, Thus, the United States and its associates may strengthen the eastern border of NATO with main land and air units. They may raise their stockpile of precision munitions, as the new Precision Strike average-range ballistic projectile. Due to Russia's potential extensive use of extended-rang PGM munitions, NATO

¹⁹ Stephen J. Flanagan and Marta Kepe, What Kind of Resistance Can Ukraine Mount?, February 28, 2022, <https://www.rand.org/blog/2022/02/what-kind-of-resistance-can-ukraine-mount.html>

²⁰ Paul Kirby, Why is Russia invading Ukraine and what does Putin want? March 3, 2022 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56720589>

²¹ Julia Sinitsky, 2015, EU-Ukraine Relations Before the 2014 Maidan Revolution, ISSN 2053-8626, April 23, 2015, p.2 <https://www.e-ir.info/2015/04/23/eu-ukraine-relations-before-the-2014-maidan-revolution/>

may have to progress its air military protection. But there is no consensus in the United States or NATO to get their battle forces into Ukraine. One cause may be the terror that close conflict could produce a broader European war, maybe even risking a Russian nuclear menace. Russian President said in 2014 "we were ready to put nuclear weapons on alert". In 2018, a video showed a boast simulating an armed nuclear projectile attacking Florida, and on March 4, 2022, the Ukrainian authorities announced that a fire had been put out at the largest nuclear plant in Europe, which was ignited by Russian bombing, while Russian forces took control of the site, Zaporizhia is the biggest of Ukraine's four nuclear power plants, that together supply about half of the country's electrical energy. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he feared an explosion that could be "the end of everyone. The end of Europe. The evacuation of Europe."²² He also expressed his grave concern about the fire that occurred at night at the Zaporizhia nuclear power plant. He also said in his speech: "This threatens to be a second and greater Chernobyl." Then he continued his words saying, "We do not know how the fire will end at the plant and when there will be an explosion or when it will not. It happens. No one will calculate it until the end"²³. Whereas the Ukrainians may be not capable to beat a large-scale attack; they may inflict important sufferers and losses. In short, the United States and its associates in NATO and Ukraine can enforce instant and hurting costs on any Russian conquerors. And for several years after that, Russia could face a strengthened NATO armed power.²⁴ Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has accused the West of "thinking about nuclear war". "Everyone knows that a third world war can only be nuclear," he said during an online press conference.²⁵

- **Economic sanctions against Russia**

²² In detail, what happened on the night of nuclear terror?, Sky News Arabia - Abu Dhabi March 4, 2022 <https://www.skynewsarabia.com>

²³ Nexis Uni, Zelensky seriously alarmed by fire at Zaporizhia NPP, March 4, 2022

²⁴ William Courtney and Peter A. Wilson, If Russia Invaded Ukraine, December 8, 2021, <https://www.rand.org/blog/2021/12/expect-shock-and-awe-if-russia-invades-ukraine.html>

²⁵ Russia and Ukraine: Kherson fell into the hands of Russia and Lavrov says a world war "will only be nuclear" March 3, 2022 <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-60603346> and available at <https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/LIVE-We-Will-Not-Let-Anyone-Destabilize-Us-Russia-Warns-20220303-0006.html>

In order to deter Russia for its war against Ukraine and its violation of the rules of international law, countries and international companies have imposed economic sanctions to express their dissatisfaction with the violence and destruction that is happening in Ukraine and what could happen as severe consequences of the Russian war, for that in the week following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, American and European allies took several steps to personally punish Putin and members of his government and cut off Russia's access to the global financial system. A set of economic sanctions targeting the financial system in Russia have entered into force. Unprecedented sanctions and classified as economic war, it is like using a devastating weapon in the theater of economic war. It is designed to push the whole of Russia into a deep recession, with the potential for an immediate price in terms of its financial and social stability.²⁶ House Speaker Nancy Pelosi praised Biden's recent moves to punish Putin, saying "Our nation and the world at large have witnessed President Biden's determination that democracy will prevail over autocracy. America's commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and to the Ukrainian people remains resolute. Congress stands behind the President's resolute leadership in strengthening the Allied response against Russia's premeditated and unjustified war against Ukraine". Biden has repeatedly signaled that no US forces will be committed to the conflict, and the Pentagon said earlier this week that there are no plans to consider a no-fly zone over Ukraine, despite a request from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.²⁷ The Ukrainian president has attacked the leaders of NATO for refusing to impose a no-fly zone over his entire nation. In fiery words, Zelensky said that the West's unwillingness to interfere had given Russia the "green light" to persist bombing towns and villages. The leaders of NATO believe that the imposition of a no-fly region will lead to a conflict with Moscow. Russian President said on March 6, 2022 that any country that takes such a step will be considered "participation in an armed conflict on the part of that country."²⁸ Moreover, public opinion polls show that Americans have little appetite

²⁶ Simon Jack - Faisal Islam, Russia and Ukraine: Is the Russian economy collapsing under the weight of Western sanctions?, February 28, 2022, BBC <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-60550368>

²⁷ Katherine Gypson, US Lawmakers Race to Agree on Russia Sanctions Legislation March 2, 2022 <https://www.voanews.com/a/us-lawmakers-race-to-agree-on-russia-sanctions-legislation-/6467928.html>

²⁸ Russia's invasion of Ukraine: President Zelensky attacks NATO for refusing to impose a no-fly zone, March 6, 2022 <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-60633848>

for a land conflict in Europe. In a public opinion poll conducted by CNN, 42% of Americans said they would support military action if sanctions failed. "It's time to drop the hammer, shut down the entire economy in Russia, and do more to help Ukraine's defenses," Republican Senator Jim Risch, the pinnacle Republican on the council Foreign Relations agency, said at a news conference Wednesday. Biden has announced that the United States will follow its European allies and close its airspace to Russian flights, as well as forming a task force to go after the assets of the Russian oligarchs²⁹.

NATO has decided to send hundreds of additional troops to Eastern Europe to protect its territory from a possible Russian attack, and the European Union says it will provide hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to contribute to arming Ukraine, and Russia has put its nuclear forces on "special alert" to face what it calls "aggression." NATO³⁰

Putin himself when he launched his invasion declared: "We are ready for any outcome"³¹

When the conflict erupted in Ukraine, oil company BP came under instant strain. The corporation owns a massive stake in the Russian power giant, Rosneft, but declared within days that the process would be scrapped. Apple halted all sales of its products in Russia, plus limited other services like Apple Maps and Apple Pay, even its stores are closed. "Companies don't want to be associated with the Russian system and what's happening in Ukraine," Weaver said. Their business in Russia may be gainful, but "the rest of the world matters more" when it comes to reputational threat like this. Jaguar Land Rover, Aston Martin, General Motors and Rolls-Royce are among the automakers that have halted delivery of vehicles to Russia due to the argument in Ukraine. JCB Construction Equipment Factory has also suspended all processes momentarily. Swedish fashion giant H&M has become the latest retailer to withdraw from the Russian market, and more

²⁹Katherine Gypson, opcit

³⁰ Russia and Ukraine: What is the purpose of establishing NATO and why does it not want to intervene militarily in the face of the Russian invasion?, March 1, 2022

<https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world>

³¹James Landale, Ukraine: How might the war end? Five scenarios, March 3, 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60602936>

companies are possible to follow suit, said Maureen Hinton of GlobalData, a trade consultancy. British fashion company Boho has also halted sales to Russia as well as closed its websites in the country.³²

The United States and other Western powers threaten to impose harsh economic sanctions on Russia if it invades Ukraine.

One measure currently being considered is to exclude Russia from the money transfer system known as Swift, a worldwide money-sending service used by several thousand financial institutions in more than 200 countries. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told MPs that preventing Russia from doing so would be a "strong weapon". This would make it very difficult for Russian banks to do business abroad³³.

In spite of warnings from the United States and its NATO allies that any Russian attack of Ukraine would have "grave economic consequences", military build-up of Moscow on the border continues.³⁴

In compliance with the European economic sanctions, France did not stand idly by watching that violent war, but rather seized two Russian ships and paralyzed three others. France has seized the Baltic Leader ship and the yacht Amore Vero, owned by Igor Steshin, head of the Rosneft oil company. The French authorities also kept three Russian cargo ships frozen in the ports of Fos-sur-Mer, Saint Malo and Lorient.³⁵

Britain also imposed several additional sanctions:

- Freezing the assets of Russian banks and excluding them from the British financial system.
- Pass laws to prevent Russian companies and government from taking money from British markets.

³² Russian invasion of Ukraine: which companies have canceled activities in Russia March 3, 2022 <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/business-60606859>

³³ James Landel, Russia and Ukraine: What sanctions might the West impose on Moscow?, January 28, 2022 <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-60157244>

³⁴ Jonathan Bell, opcit

³⁵ Telesurhd, March 3, 2022, <https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/LIVE-We-Will-Not-Let-Anyone-Destabilize-Us-Russia-Warns-20220303-0006.html>

- Suspend export licenses for goods that can be used for civilian and military purposes.
- Cessation of export of high-tech goods and oil refining equipment.
- Setting a maximum amount of money that Russians can deposit in British banks.³⁶

"This is the first batch... and we are preparing to impose more sanctions," the British prime minister said.³⁷

Some argue that the Russian leadership, which has decided to take very drastic steps, may have understood the results, or even looking forward to them consciously. Turned the page of collaboration with the West. This doesn't mean that isolationism will become the standard, but it does spot the end of a significant historical chapter in political communication. The new Cold War will not finish rapidly. After some time, the sound effects of the recent military process will likely start to diminish, and some form of relations will recommence, but the line has inexorably been drawn. Even in a convenient scenario, it will be several years before sanctions are raised and relations are restored selectively and gradually. Reform economic priorities will need a special approach that will catalyze progress in some ways, and slow it in others. The most effective part of Russian society should comprehend that their old way of life is over. When she determined to set her power to the test, at the same time, she became an agent of essential alteration for the whole world.³⁸

- **The reaction of China, known as Russia's ally, to its aggressive stance on Ukraine**

The question of Russia's collaboration with China is a significant issue, as both countries aspire to a superior role in the globe as great powers.

³⁶ Russia's invasion of Ukraine: What sanctions are imposed on Moscow?
February 28, 2022 <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-60558971>

³⁷ Russia and Ukraine: What sanctions are being imposed on Moscow?
February 23, 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-60488050>

³⁸ Fyodor A. Lukyanov, The end of an era the page of cooperation with the west has been 'Turned' March 1, 2022, <https://eng.globalaffairs.ru/articles/the-end-of-an-era/>

Analysts say China is positioning itself as a mediator between Russia and a war-divided Ukraine in order to be seen as a global leader and earn points in the West . Asked about Ukraine at a press conference last month, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said that respecting the sovereignty of all countries is China's "steadfast and principled position."³⁹

For instance, they equally have conducted joint nautical exercises in regions like the South China Sea, worked jointly through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to lessen the US military attendance in Central Asia, and follow an international agreement on information security⁴⁰.

The Valdai International Forum for Dialogue Report 2016 sees the existence of two main groups in the world, The international ones include “the United States of America, the European Union and their allies”, while The second includes “China, Russia, and a host of other countries supporting them.”⁴¹ Points out The report highlights potential synergies between the Russian military and Chinese economic power in the world when he underestimates the danger of conflict over Central Asia, but there is still doubt about what If the relationship between Russia and China, will cooperation prevail? For Russia, the basic logic of the current international system is the hegemony of the United States. While the United States seeks the consent and cooperation of allies and claims to operate on the basis of rules, standards, and norms independent of US agency, Russian leaders and analysts see US control of its allies and manipulation of global norms with concern about it⁴².

In response to a question about Ukraine at a press conference last month, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said that respecting the sovereignty of

³⁹ Ralph Jennings China Positions Itself as Mediator Between Russia, Ukraine March 2, 2022. <https://www.voanews.com/a/china-positions-itself-as-mediator-between-russia-ukraine/6467503.html>

⁴⁰ Declaration of Heads of Member States of SCO, Astana, Kazakhstan, China Daily, July 5, 2005

⁴¹ Oleg Barabanov, Timofey Bordachev, Fyodor Lukyanov, Andrey Sushentsov, Dmitry Suslov, and Ivan Timofeev, War and Peace in the 21st Century: International Stability and Balance of the Moscow, Type New: Valdai International Forum for Dialogue, January 21, 2016, p.8.

⁴² Radin Andrew and Reach Clint, Russian views of the international order, Rand Corporation, May 18, 2017, p.52.

all countries is China's "steadfast and principled position." "This is an opportunity to prove that China is not a reviewing force, that it respects international law, that it respects sovereignty. If so, it is likely that China will take a much stronger position on Ukraine," said Stephen Nagy, the senior official. Associate professor of politics and international studies at the international Christian University in Tokyo Thayer said successful mediation would help China in particular "to gain fame with Europe". He said that this relationship could lead to more trade between Eurasian countries. In 2020, China was the third largest export partner of the European Union and the largest import partner of the European Union.⁴³

- **Conclusion**

If geography is destiny, Russia is destined to be the world's superpower in Eurasia. The largest country in the world by far, stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Arctic Ocean and the Barents Sea, across a vast land area, two-thirds of it in Asia, and one-third in Europe. Its strategic location, rich natural resources, world-leading nuclear arsenal and one of the most powerful armed forces of any country give the Russian state its authority and geopolitical power, which provides Moscow with an opportunity to play an important, influential and global role, while we can say that Ukraine is confined to its geographical location due to its borders with Russia⁴⁴, and geographically we can also say that Ukraine is confined to its geographic location due to its borders with Russia.

Why shouldn't Russia be disturbed by Ukraine's accession to NATO to encircle Russia from all sides with military forces of more than 30 countries, and some of them are hostile to Russia I appreciate that Russia's strategies in Ukraine are a reaction to its fear of the treat and danger of NATO's economic expansion and encirclement and threat to its national security, while I do not subscribe to the logic that the goal behind this is to appear as a great power.

⁴³ Ralph Jennings, opcit.

⁴⁴ Mher D Sahakyan, Russia's Greater Eurasian Partnership Strategy: Objectives and Prospects, September 29, 2021, <https://www.asiaglobalonline.hku.hk/russias-greater-eurasian-partnership-strategy-aims-and-prospects>

Last but not least, if NATO joins the war between Russia and Ukraine, it may lead to a third world war and the world war of our time will be nothing but a nuclear war. Since Russia and NATO members, especially the United States and France, are terrifying nuclear powers, the conflict between them could escalate into the unimaginable, which would be a crushing catastrophe for the world and complete destruction of humanity, so international organizations and other countries should always encourage to continue efforts Diplomacy and not resorting to war to resolve the situation and try to settle the conflict amicably.

But if the matter does not go towards a friendly scenario, and if the war does not stop, and if all parties are stubborn to each other, does that mean that we are on the brink of a third world war?

Future events will answer that.

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