Ukraine-Russia War

Russia in Early Post-Cold War

- Relationships with former republics
  - Forming Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with former republics in 1991

  - Current members: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, *Turkmenistan*, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

  - Purpose:
    - Promotion of political, military, and economy cooperation
    - Maintenance of influence

15 Former Republics
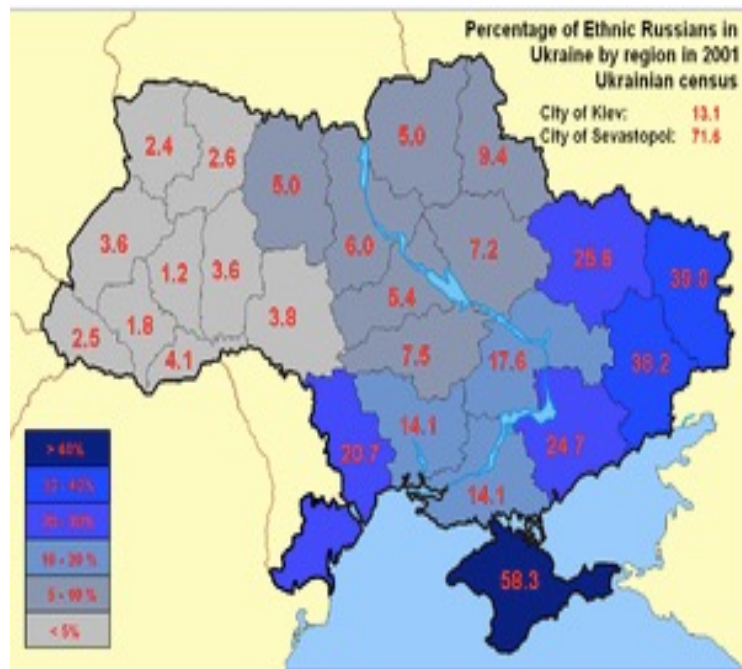
Russia's Challenge 1

- Nuclear missiles in the former Soviet Union
  - Belarus had 81 nuclear missiles
  - Kazakhstan had 1,410 nuclear warheads
  - Ukraine inherited around 2,000 nuclear weapons
    - Made it the third-largest nuclear power in the world at the time of the breakup of the Soviet Union

  - After dissolution of Union
    - Aim: Russia wants to control (prevent nuclear weapons leaving the former Union)
    - Method: CIS connection
      Russia wants pro-Russian government in the newly independent states
        - Belarus (pro-Russian government) vs. Kazakhstan vs. Ukraine (anti-Russian government)

Russia's Challenge 2

- Russians in former republics
  - About 15 million ethnic Russians living outside Russia

  - After dissolution of Union
    - Aim: Russia needs to protect the interests of ethnic Russians
    - Method: Russia wants pro-Russian government in the newly independent states
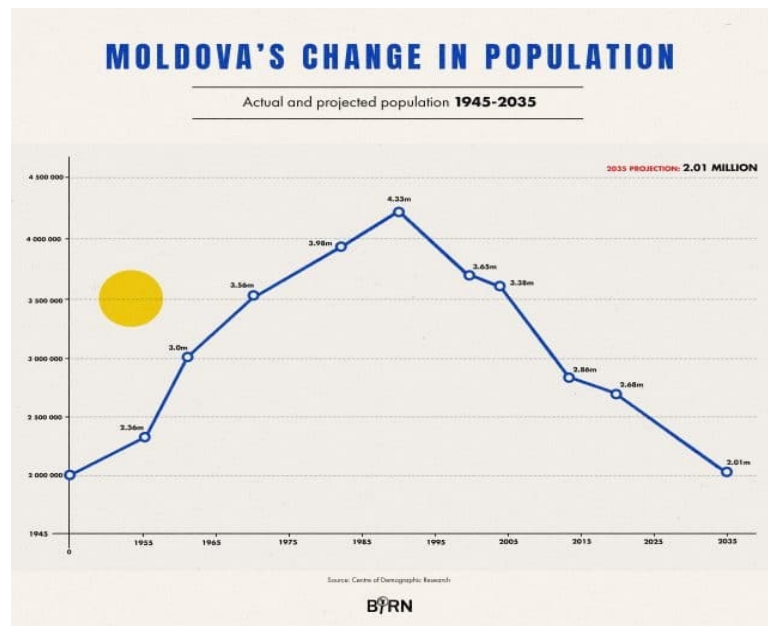
Sort descending ▲	Number of ethnic Russians	Percent of national population	As of (census data)
Armenia	14,074	0.5	2022[14]
Azerbaijan	71,000	0.7	2019[12]
Belarus	706,992	7.5	2019[5]
Estonia	306,801	22.5	2023[7]
Georgia	26,586	0.7	2014[a]
Kazakhstan	3,000,611	15.2	2023[3]
Kyrgyzstan	274,000	3.9	2023[8]
Latvia	445,612	23.7	2023[6]
Lithuania	146,000	5.1	2023[10]
Moldova	111,726	4.1	2014[11]
Tajikistan	30,200	0.3	2020[13]
Turkmenistan	242,000	5.1	2012[9]
Ukraine	8,334,141	17.3	2001[2]
Uzbekistan	720,324	2.1	2021[4]

Russia's Challenge 2

Percentage of Ethnic Russians in Ukraine by region in 2001 Ukrainian census

Russia's Challenge 2

Moldova Population (millions, published in 2020)

MOLDOVA'S CHANGE IN POPULATION

Actual and projected population **1945-2035**

2035 PROJECTION: **2.01 MILLION**

Source: Centre of Demographic Research

BIRN

- https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/29/putin-could-announce-russian-troops-will-enter-transnistria-region.html
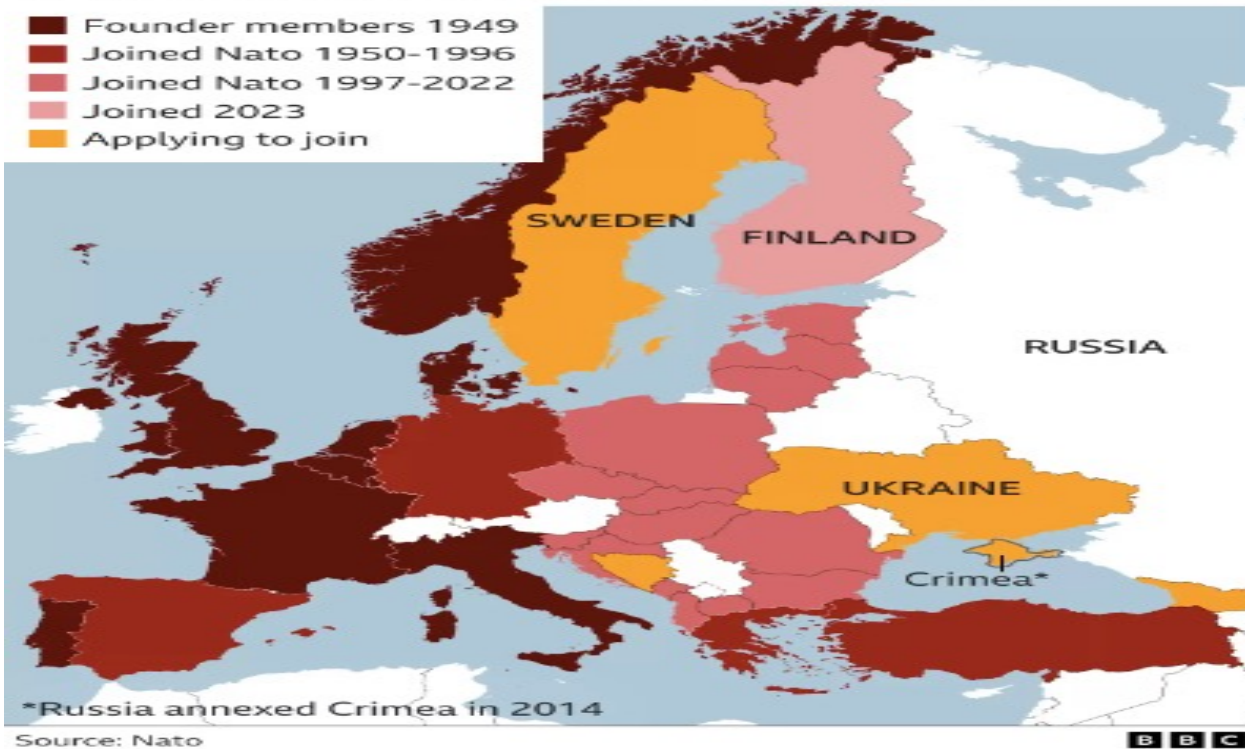
Russia's Challenge 3

- Formation of the Eastern Bloc during the Cold War
  - SU's need of buffer zone
    - Territories that the Soviet Union liberated from Germany as a result of major offensive (red color)
      - ➔ Official part of the SU

    - Satellite states: Territories with heavy political, economic, and military influence or control (peach color)
      - ➔ Not official part of the SU

Russia's Challenge 3

Nato's European expansion since 1949

Founder members 1949
Joined Nato 1950-1996
Joined Nato 1997-2022
Joined 2023
Applying to join

SWEDEN
FINLAND
RUSSIA
UKRAINE
Crimea*

*Russia annexed Crimea in 2014
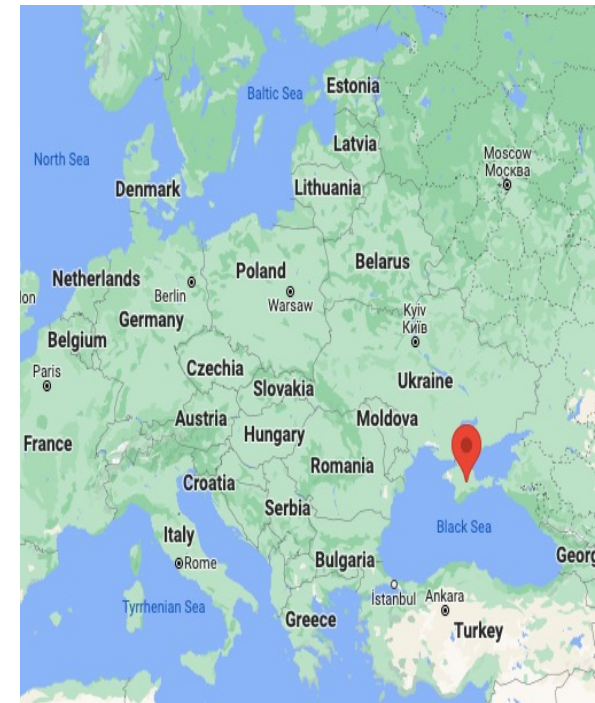Source: Nato

Russia's Challenge 3

Notes: From 1967-1992, the European Communities (EC) served as the legal predecessor of the EU. See text for more details on failed membership bids and those that withdrew from the EU.

Sources: European Union archives, EUR-Lex, the University of Luxembourg's Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe

New Cold War? Crimean Annexation (2014) and Ukraine-Russia War (2022)

- 1st Round
  - Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovych's refusal to sign the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement (November, 2013)
    - Implication of Agreement: economic and political cooperation between Ukraine and EU
    - Reaction: Large-scale civilian protest and the parliament vote for removal of Yanukovych, who fled the country
    - Yanukovych said that this vote was illegal and possibly coerced and asked Russia for assistance.
  - Russia invaded formally and incorporated Crimea

Russian Military and Foreign Policy

- Russia's Military Doctrine (December, 2014)
  - Article 12. The main external military risks are:
    - a) build-up of the power potential of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and vesting NATO with global functions carried out in violation of the rules of international law, bringing the military infrastructure of NATO member countries near the borders of the Russian Federation, including by further expansion of the alliance

  - Article 27. The Russian Federation shall reserve the right to use nuclear weapons in response to the use of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction against it and/or its allies, as well as in the event of aggression against the Russian Federation with the use of conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is in jeopardy.
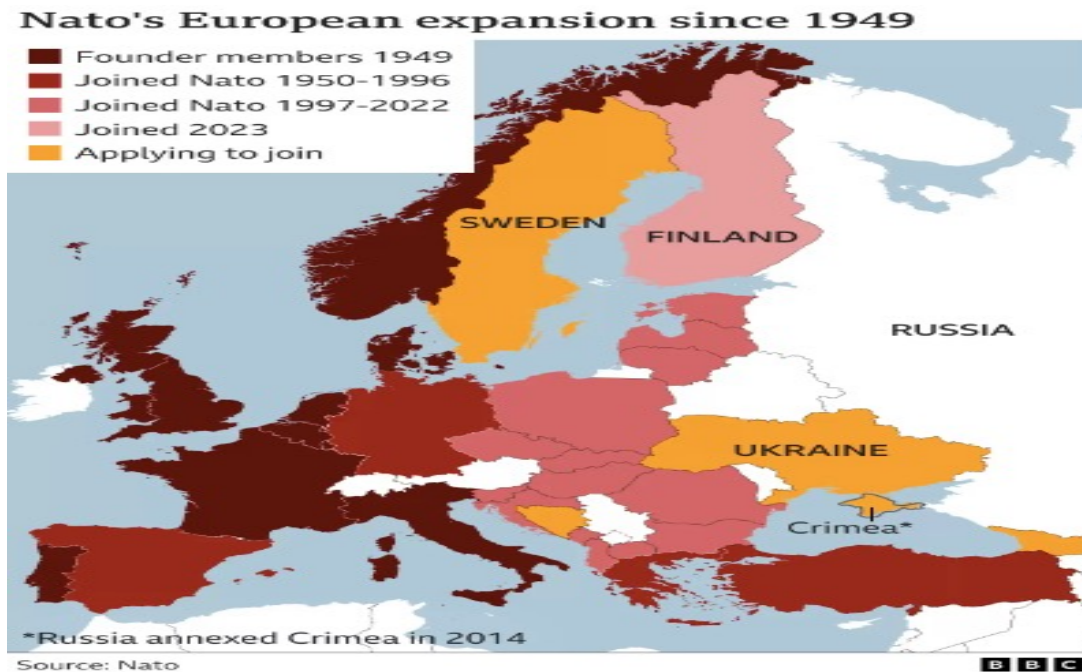
Russian Military and Foreign Policy: External military risks 1

- NATO Article 5
  - "The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all."
    - ➔ Purpose: Protection of NATO member states
  - Invoked once following the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S

- NATO's recent activities
  - Led a UN-mandated operation in Kosovo
  - Initiated a non-combat mission in Iraq

- https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_52060.htm

Russian Military and Foreign Policy: External military risks 2

Russian Military and Foreign Policy: External military risks 3

Russian Military and Foreign Policy: Russia's Possible Response

- https://www.cnbc.com/2024/02/29/putins-state-of-the-union-focuses-on-sovereignty-the-west-and-ukraine.html

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcbQnJHQAuY

New Cold War? Crimean Annexation (2014) and Ukraine-Russia War (2022)

- 2nd Round
  - Following Crimean annexation, the new government (led by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy) made joining NATO a priority

  - Russia's reaction
    - Vladimir Putin (2021)'s essay *"On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians"*
    - Russian troop on the border from 2021
      - Russia's demand: Ukraine would not join NATO and reduction in NATO troops and military hardware stationed in Eastern Europe
    - Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022

Neoliberal Efforts

The UN General Assembly passed a resolution by a large majority on Wednesday, calling on countries not to recognise the four regions of Ukraine which Russia has claimed, following so-called referendums held late last month, and demanding that Moscow reverse course on its "attempted illegal annexation".

The results were 143 Member States in favour, with five voting against, and 35 abstentions. The countries who voted against were Belarus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Russia and Syria.

A majority of those countries abstaining were African nations, alongside China and India.

The resolution "defending the principles" of the UN Charter, notes that the regions of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia are temporarily occupied by Russia as a result of aggression, violating Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence.

The General Assembly automatically took up the resolution for debate, triggered by Russia's use of the veto in the Security Council over it's attempted annexation.

UN News
@UN_News_Centre · Follow

BREAKING

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that condemns #Russia's "illegal so-called referendums" in

---

Russia on Friday vetoed a Security Council resolution which described its attempts to unlawfully annex four regions of Ukraine earlier in the day with a formal ceremony in Moscow, as "a threat to international peace and security", demanding that the decision be immediately and unconditionally reversed.

The draft resolution, circulated by the United States and Albania, was supported by ten of the fifteen members of the Council, with Russia voting against it. Four members abstained, Brazil, China, Gabon and India.

The draft described the so-called referendums held by Russia in the four regions of Ukraine which Moscow now regards as sovereign territory – Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhya – as illegal and an attempt to modify Ukraine's internationally recognized borders.

Withdraw now

It called on all States, international organisations, and agencies not to recognize the Russian annexation declaration, and called on Russia to "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces" from Ukrainian territory.

Neoliberal Efforts

- https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/un-approves-nonbinding-resolution-calling-for-russia-to-leave-ukraine