



UNSC CRIMEA ANNEXATION

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Ambassadors,

We welcome you to the 2018 edition of the SBS Model United Nations 2018. We welcome you to the Security Council. We hope that the three days of the conference will be full of intense discussion and deliberation.

We expect every ambassador to represent their country to the best of their abilities, and contribute fruitfully to debate. From each one of you, we expect impeccable diplomatic conduct- which includes diplomatic courtesy, effective lobbying and above all compromising on negotiable grounds. The committee will follow conventional 'Model United Nations' Rules of procedure, and will expect every ambassador to do the same.

The following document gives a background on the agenda: **"Situation in Ukraine and Crimea 9th March 2014"**

The document should not be taken at its face value, and should only be used for giving direction to your research. Moreover, links have been provided to help you during the course of your research.

This meeting of the Security Council, in which, we will be simulating a **Continual Crisis Committee (CCC)** with the overarching theme of the **Crisis in the Crimean Peninsula**. The meeting will begin as of **9 March 2014**. 9 March 2014 will be treated as the **freeze date** for this council, and ambassadors will be expected to research, understand and analyze (according to the foreign policies of their allotted countries) all events on and preceding this date.

Furthermore, researching on developments in the situation post 9th March will give ambassadors a perspective as to what were the consequences or culmination of actions taken by countries before the 9th, which they may use to devise a strategy for themselves. A CCC is quite different from a usual crisis committee as it has the ability to **skip time with different updates**. For example, if the meeting begins on 9 March 2014 on the basis of the *Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council and NATO Secretary general*, the next update

may bring the council members to a different date, say for example, the 15th of March. What the ambassadors need to understand is that the update does not set a new freeze date, but the developments between those two dates will be provided by the Executive Board, and may be different from the real events between 9th and 15th March 2014. The ambassadors are tasked with spontaneously analyzing the given information and modifying their stances and speeches accordingly. While doing so however, ambassadors **cannot make up new**

information to introduce to the council, but present actions/protocols that their government might initiate. With every new update, it is assumed to be a separate meeting of the National Atlantic Council, and Roll Call will be taken every time to establish Quorum. The Ambassadors will have the opportunity to introduce and vote on Resolutions (requires consensus), or Press Releases (requires only consensus, and then the assent of the President). Some variations of the Rules of Procedure that we will be following are:

Point of Order – Both factual and procedural Points of Orders will be allowed in Council. P.O.O.s will also be allowed during Moderated Caucuses. However, no P.O.O. shall interrupt the speaker. Logical fallacies do not constitute a P.O.O.; instead, they are to be used within your arguments. A P.O.O. cannot be raised to a Point of Information; however, any misleading facts in a Point of Information can be pointed out using a chit. A P.O.O. must first of all, quote verbatim (not the essence or the summary, but word to word) the incorrect statement, and then state the correct facts and **MUST** mention the source of the correct fact. Any P.O.O. not following the above format shall not be accepted.

Provisional Speakers' List – A PSL can be set up for any controversial topic that the ambassadors feel needs to be clarified before debate can move further. The motion for a PSL is a procedural motion and requires simple majority. Individual speaking time in a PSL is 45 seconds. No Points of Information or Points of Order will be entertained during a PSL. The Executive Board will ask for 6 speakers for the PSL. A PSL cannot be extended. Deviation from the topic of the PSL will not be appreciated.

Unmoderated Caucuses – Ambassadors are urged to use Unmoderated caucuses as often as required, because we must remember, this is a crisis session where negotiations need not necessarily be structured and moderated most of the time. This is where the Lobbying skills of the ambassadors will be tested. At the same time, all the unmoderated caucuses will be judged and ambassadors are expected to converse in the official language and maintain decorum (pursuant to foreign policy). It is very exciting to note that all of you will be part of a Security Council Crisis Session, in which we will be discussing a very recent and ongoing situation that has new developments every day. It is a situation in which the world has come close to an aggressive confrontation between the nations of the world, where every single country has its own foreign policy, and areas of interest where they cannot and will not compromise. As ambassadors, you will be expected to be thorough with your research and base your analysis and conclusions on the same

during debate. Please remember, a Council is only as strong as its individual ambassadors, and that the Executive Board is here merely to guide debate, not to take part in it.

We expect the two days to be an immense learning experience. Please feel free to revert to the Executive Board, for any queries you may have

Rudraksh Lakra –President

How to read the Study Guide

Study Guides, contrary to popular belief, are not supposed to contain all the information on a certain topic. A good study guide consists of information that an ambassador can use to gain basic information on the issue at hand and the links for further research that they must use to prepare for the final conference.

The first section is about the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The functions and powers of all councils and committees are outlined by their mandate, which also defines the scope of debate in council.

The second section marks out the acceptable as proof/evidence in the council

The third section talk about the time line of the crisis

The fourth section of the guide mention all the important instruments and actors.

PROOF/EVIDENCE IN COUNCIL

Evidence or proof is acceptable from sources:

News Sources:

a. **REUTERS** – Any Reuters article which clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by an ambassador in council.

(<http://www.reuters.com/>)

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 council. Some examples are, i. RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru/> ii. IRNA (Iran)

<http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm> iii. BBC (United Kingdom) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

iv. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China) <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>

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 <http://www.state.gov/index.htm> or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation <http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm>

b. **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** of various nations like India(<http://www.mea.gov.in/>), People's Republic of China(<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>), France(<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>), Russian Federation(http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/main_eng) c. **Permanent Ambassadors** to the United Nations Reports <http://www.un.org/en/members/> (Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Ambassador.

d. **Multilateral Organizations** like the NATO (<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>), ASEAN (<http://www.aseansec.org/>), OPEC (http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/), etc. 3. **UN**

Reports: All UN Reports are considered are credible information or evidence for the Executive

Board of the Security Council. a. **UN Bodies:** Like the SC(<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>),

GA(<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>),

HRC(<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx>) etc.

b. UN Affiliated

bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>), World Bank

(<http://www.worldbank.org/>), International Monetary Fund

(<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>), International Committee of the Red Cross

(<http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>), etc.

c. **Treaty Based Bodies** like the Antarctic Treaty System (<http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>), the International Criminal Court (<http://www.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ICC>)

Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org/>),

Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org/>), **Human Rights Watch**

(<http://www.hrw.org/>) **or newspapers like the Guardian** (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>),

Times of India (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>), **etc. be accepted.**

SOME IMPORTANT LINKS

<http://www.reuters.com/> - Reuters news agency. <http://en.rian.ru/> - Russia official news agency. <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm> – Iran official news agency. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/> - UK national news agency. <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/> People's Republic of China national news agency. <http://www.state.gov/index.htm> US Department of State. <http://www.mea.gov.in/> Ministry of external Affairs India. <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/> Ministry of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of China.

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/> Foreign Ministry France. http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/main_eng - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Russian Federation.

<http://www.un.org/en/members/> (Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Ambassador.)

<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm> North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

<http://www.aseansec.org/> The Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/> United Nation Security Council.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/> -United Nation General Assembly.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx> – Human Rights Council.

<http://www.icrc.org/en g/index.jsp>- The International Committee of the Red Cross.

<http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>- Atlantic treaty. <http://www.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ICC> - International Criminal Court.. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/commissions/CCPCJ/> The Commission on Crime Prevention and Justice.
<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/> ECOSOC.

About United Nations Security Council

Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations.

And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.

Under the UN Charter, the functions of the Security Council are as follows:

- To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- To recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- To formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- To determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and

to recommend what action should be taken;

- To call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- To take military action against an aggressor;
- To recommend the admission of new Members;
- To exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- To recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the

International Court of Justice.

Timeline of the crisis

Nov 21- 29, 2013

November 21, 2013: Ukrainian Parliament suspended preparations for the Association Agreement with the European Union and cited protection of 'National Security' as a reason. Hours before this decision by the Parliament, Members of Parliament rejected a bill that would have allowed jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko to leave the country – which EU had demanded as a condition for the deal to proceed. Several hundred Ukrainians gather on the capital's central Independence Square to protest. Speaking shortly after the government announced it was suspending preparations for signing the pact with the EU and renewing dialogue with Russia, Yatsenyuk said if Yanukovich refused now to sign with the EU bloc it would amount to "state treason and grounds for impeachment".

Nov 22: Jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko urged Ukrainians to protest against the switch away from the EU5, whereas Georgia planned to initial an agreement to strengthen ties with the European Union despite Ukraine's decision to pull out of a similar accord. **Nov 24:** Some 100,000 people rallied in Kiev against spurning the EU.⁷

Nov 25: Ukrainian police fired tear gas at demonstrators.

Nov 27: Ukraine signed off-shore oil and gas production-sharing agreement with Italian group Eni and France's EDF on Wednesday and Kiev's energy minister estimated the project could draw up to \$4 billion of investment.

Nov 29: At the EU summit in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, Yanukovich failed to sign the association agreement.

SUMMARY

On November 21, the Ukrainian Parliament suspended the preparations

for signing the Association Agreement with the European Union and rejected a bill that would have allowed the jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko to leave the country. Following this action, several hundred protestors gathered at the Independence Square in Kiev and Yatsenyuk said that not signing the Association Agreement and renewing talks with Russia was “state treason and grounds for impeachment”. The next day Georgia signed a similar deal despite the Ukrainian back out. Protests escalated and the Ukrainian police responded with tear gas. While the Ukrainian Energy Ministry signed an off-shore oil and gas production-sharing agreement with Italy’s Eni and France’s EDF, President Yanukovich failed to sign the Association Agreement in Vilnius on November 29.

Nov 30 – Dec 13, 2013

Nov 30: Riot police tried to break up the Kiev demonstration by force. Protest turned against Yanukovich and his government.

December 1, 2013: Some 350,000 people protested in Kiev and clashed with police. Crowds turned Independence Square into a protest tent city. Opposition leaders called on Yanukovich to resign while they distanced themselves from the violent clashes. Ukrainian nationalist protesters broke into Kiev’s city hall and occupied at least part of the building during mass protests.

Dec 2: Massive protests against Viktor Yanukovich hammered Ukraine’s financial markets, increasing the risk of a currency crisis while Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said the government was aware of plans to seize the parliament building in the capital Kiev.

Dec 4: Senior EU officials and ministers start visiting the protest square. Russia criticized

"aggressive actions" by Ukrainian demonstrators and the Western response to the protests, saying outsiders should not interfere in Ukraine's affairs.

Dec 5: Ukrainian police warned pro-Europe protesters they faced a "harsh" crackdown if they did not end their occupation of public offices in Kiev, while President Viktor Yanukovich's prime minister denounced them as "Nazis and criminals". Germany's visiting foreign minister used the occasion to warn Ukraine against violently cracking down on protesters. Russia's responded by accusing EU officials of "hysteria".

Dec 6: Yanukovich held previously unannounced talks in Sochi with Putin on "strategic partnership".

Dec 8: Some 800,000 people rallied in Kiev and protestors toppled a statue of Lenin. Opposition leaders denied any link to its removal, clearly concerned that such an act could harm their cause. The spokesman of Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov called the felling of the statue "barbarism", Interfax news agency reported. Ukrainian Security Service said it was investigating some politicians on suspicion of what it called "actions aimed at seizing state power".

Dec 13: Yanukovich's first face-to-face talks with opposition brought no breakthroughs in crisis even though all three Ukrainian opposition leaders were present.

SUMMARY

Protests continued to gather momentum and December 1 saw some

350,000 people protest in the Independence Square and turn into a protest tent city, while Ukraine Nationalists took over the Kiev City Hall. These massive protests resulted in hammering the Ukrainian financial market and increasing the risk of a currency crisis. Amidst all this, the Ukrainian PM Azarov warns that they know of the coup d'état being planned. Senior EU Officials and Ministers started visiting the

protestors on December 4th as Russia condemned the action as interference in Ukraine's internal matters'. Germany warned Ukraine to not use violence against protestors as the police threatened a 'harsh crackdown' on the nationalists who had taken over office buildings. On December 8th, the statue of Lenin at the Independence Square was toppled as 800,000 people rallied in Kiev as the Ukrainian Security Service continued on Azarov's assertion of attempts to 'seize state power' while investigating some politicians. For the first time after the protests started, Yanukovich met all three opposition leaders on December 13th, but to no avail and no compromise could be reached.

Dec 15, 2013 – Jan 7, 2014

Dec 15: EU suspended talks with Ukraine on the Association Agreement as some 200,000 people rallied in Kiev.

Dec 17: Yanukovich and Putin met for the second time since crisis began. Putin agreed to buy \$15 billion of Ukrainian debt and to slash by a third the price of Russian gas supplies to Ukraine. Germany's new Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier criticized Russia in his inaugural speech for exploiting Ukraine's economic plight to prevent it from signing a free-trade deal with the European Union. Russia planned to restart oil supplies to Ukraine's Odessa refinery after a three-year drought, in a sign Moscow is ready to support its neighbor after it spurned a trade deal with the European Union.

Dec 18: Tens of thousands of protesters gathered in Kiev, and called for Yanukovich to resign over bailout from Russia.

Dec 20: About 100,000 took to the Independence Square in central Kiev where the opposition formed a bloc called Maidan.

Dec 24: Ukraine receives first \$3 billion tranche of Russian bailout.

January 7, 2014: The U.S. Senate passed a non-binding resolution urging the U.S. president and Congress to consider applying sanctions including visa bans and asset freezes against any officials who ordered or carried out violence against protestors.

SUMMARY

Summary: *After the EU suspended talks with Ukraine on December 15, two days later Putin decided to buy \$15 billion of Ukraine's debt in Eurobonds, slashed the price of gas by a third and restarted oil supplies to Ukraine's Odessa refinery. Protestors were furious over this course of events and called for the Yanukovich government to resign and opposition formed a bloc called Maidan. Despite the protests, Ukraine received \$3 billion from Russia as the US Senate considered applying sanctions against Ukrainian Officials who ordered or carried out violence against the protestors.*

Jan 12 – Jan 27, 2014

January 12, 2014: At least 50,000 protesters marched in Kiev, reviving the movement after a Christmas and New Year lull.

Jan 15: Ukraine court banned protests in central Kiev.

Jan 17: Yanukovich signed new laws banning anti-government protests.

Jan 19: Thousands protested in Kiev defying ban, some clashed with riot police.

Jan 22: Three people died during protests as EU threatened action over handling of crisis. United States of America condemned the violence. Talks between opposition and Yanukovich failed.

Jan 23: Washington threatened sanctions if violence continued, just as the anti-government protests spread to Rivne and Lviv in Western Ukraine. There were further reports of the Ukrainian Police stripping protestors and taking pictures of them.

Jan 26: Police clashed with protesters in Kiev. Unrest spreads to traditionally proYanukovich east. Yanukovich offers important government posts to opposition, who say they will press for more concessions, including early elections.

Jan 27: Yanukovich and opposition agreed to scrap some of the anti-protest laws. Protesters tried to storm Kiev Cultural Centre but left the Justice Ministry after

the Justice Minister threatened to call for a 'state of emergency' if the occupation did not end. The US urged the Ukrainian President to not do so.

SUMMARY

After the Ukrainian Courts banned protests in Central Kiev and

Yanukovich signed laws banning anti-government protests, protestors clashed with the riot police in defiance of the ban. As talks between Yanukovich and the opposition failed for a second time on January 22, three people died during the violent crackdown by the police against the protestors. Both EU and the United States of America

condemned the violence. Protests spread to Western Ukraine as well as pro Yanukovich east. On January 26, Yanukovich finally yields slightly and offers

opposition key government posts, but the opposition refuses and presses for an early election. The very next day, agreement to scrap some anti-protest laws is reached between them and protestors continue storming the Kiev Cultural Centre.

Jan 28 – Feb 17, 2014

January 28, 2014: Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov resigned and the Ukrainian Parliament overturned anti-protest laws in a bid to restore calm.

Jan 30: Yanukovich went on sick leave amidst the political crisis, announcing that he was suffering from an acute respiratory ailment.

Jan 31: Still on sick leave, Yanukovich signed into law a conditional amnesty for those detained in the unrest, but the opposition refused conditional amnesty. Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch, an International Human Rights Advocacy Group slammed the Ukrainian Riot Police for its violence against the protestors.

February 2, 2014: Yanukovich returned to work after four days' sick leave and the government, under heavy pressure from the West, allowed an opposition activist, Dmytro Bulatov, to fly to Lithuania for treatment. The US and EU said they were in talks for developing an Ukrainian Aid Plan that would not require Ukraine to reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, yet help to shore up currency.676869

Feb 7: Moscow accused the United States of trying to foment a coup in Ukraine as the audio clip of a conversation between a senior U.S. State Department official and the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, was first posted on Twitter, then a second one between senior European Union officials was posted on YouTube. Washington responded by saying that

Moscow had leaked the audio tapes.

Feb 9: Pressure on Yanukovich grew as protests against him continued in Kiev and other parts of the country, and Russia linked disbursement of next tranche of a \$15 billion aid package to repayment of hefty gas bill owed to Russian Gas Companies by Ukraine.

Feb 14: Russia accused the EU of seeking Ukraine as a "sphere of influence" by putting the 'either or' question in front of Yanukovich. Protesters released under amnesty but streets still tense.

Feb 17: Russia injected \$2 billion in cash payments to Ukraine as protestors clashed with police near the Ukrainian Parliament. Meanwhile in Berlin, Chancellor Angela Merkel met two opposition leaders and the Amnesty Laws came into force.

SUMMARY

On January 28, the Ukrainian Prime Minister resigned with his cabinet of ministers, and the Parliament overturned anti-protest laws. The Ukrainian President went on sick leave for four days citing an acute respiratory ailment but on January 31, signed conditional amnesty laws for those detained during the protests. The EU and U.S. started working on a new Ukrainian Aid Plan as leaked tapes of senior U.S. and EU officials, sparked controversy over a western backed coup in Ukraine. Pressure on Kiev increased on February 9 as Russia said Kiev will receive the next tranche of Russian aid of \$15 billion only upon partial payment of the hefty bills Ukraine owed to Russian Gas Companies.

Feb 18- 22, 2014

Feb 18: At least 18 people died, including seven policemen, as protestors clashed with police in worst violence since demonstrations began, and meanwhile, Ukrainian opposition leader Vitali Klitschko arrived at President Viktor Yanukovich's office for talks.

Feb 19: As the death toll rose to 26, President Obama drew a 'red line' and told the

Ukrainian Armed Forces that they should not take part in the political crisis as the EU moved to impose sanctions on the officials who ordered or carried out violence against the protestors. The Swedish condemned the Ukrainian government for having 'blood on their hands' as Russia condemned the EU for not seeing fault with the opposition for the violence.

Feb 20: At least 47 died in clashes in Kiev. Foreign ministers of Germany, France and Poland met with Yanukovich for a political settlement to the crisis. Meanwhile, the EU slapped sanctions on Ukrainian Government officials linked to the violence which has claimed the lives of 75 protestors till date. The US was also in talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel who discussed the matter with the Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Feb 21: Opposition leaders signed the EU-mediated peace pact with Yanukovich to end the violence that killed at least 77 people.

Feb 22: Ukraine's parliament voted to remove Yanukovich, who fled his Kiev office, and denounced what he said, is a coup. He was barred from leaving the country by the Border Guard and was reported to be in Donetsk. As the military and police leaders said they would

not get involved in the conflict, Yulia Tymoshenko was released from jail. Arsen Avakov is named as the Interior Minister and Alexander Turchinov as the Speaker of the Parliament.

SUMMARY

In the most violent clash since the protests began, 18 people died as

protestors clashed with the police, just as the opposition and the government met for talks. The US warned the Ukrainian Armed Forces to stay on the sidelines of this political crisis as the EU moved for sanctions, while Russia condemned the EU for not seeing fault with the opposition for the violence. The Death toll rose to 77 on February 21 as the EU first slapped sanctions on government officials linked with the violence resulting in the deaths of protestors and then mediated a peace pact

between Yanukovich and the opposition leaders with a promise of an early presidential poll, restoring the 2004 Constitution limiting Presidential powers and formation of a national unity government among others. On February 22, the Verkhovna Rada voted to remove Yanukovich, who fled his office and called this a 'coup'. Tymoshenko was released from jail, and Turchinov was named the Speaker of the Parliament, while military and police leaders said they would not take part in the conflict.

Feb 24-28, 2014

February 24, 2014: Yanukovich was indicted for "mass murder" over demonstrator deaths and Moscow said it will not deal with leaders of "armed mutiny" against Yanukovich, referring to the interim government.

Feb 26: Ukraine named ministers for new government and disbanded the 'Berkut' Police. Russia put 150,000 troops on high alert as Washington warned Moscow against military intervention.

Feb 27: Armed men seized the Parliament building in Simferopol and raised the Russian flag as Ukraine's interim President Alexander Turchinov warned Moscow to keep troops within its naval base on the Crimean peninsula. Due to the intense political and economic crisis, Ukraine's currency Hryvnia fell to a record low against the US Dollar, and the interim PM Yatsenyuk said that reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund for a loan is necessary.

February 28, 2014: Unidentified Armed Men took control of two airports in the autonomous Crimea region, in what Ukraine's leadership called 'an invasion and

occupation by Russian Forces'. Ousted Yanukovich spoke to an audience in a southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don after a week on the run and said that he had been forced to

flee because of 'threat to personal safety and the safety of those who he loved'.

SUMMARY

On February 24, the Interior Minister, Arsen Avakov said that the former President Yanukovich was indicted for "mass-murder of peaceful citizens"

meanwhile Russian PM Medvedev and Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Minister raised questions regarding the legitimacy of the present leadership. Russia said it will not negotiate with the leaders of an “armed mutiny” against Viktor Yanukovich. On February 26, Ukraine declared its new ministers for the interim government and disbanded the ‘Berkut’ Riot Police. Russia put 150,000 troops on high alert despite White House’s warning against a military intervention. The next day, armed men seized the Parliament building in Simferopol in the autonomous Crimean region and raised the Russian Flag while the new President Turchinov told Russia to keep its forces inside their naval base in the Crimean Peninsula. The Ukrainian Hryvnia fell to a record low against the US Dollar.

On February 28, armed men took control of two airports in Crimea that Ukraine called an ‘invasion and occupation by Russian forces’ while Yanukovich surfaced in southern Russia after a week of being on the run.

March 1-8, 2014

March 1, 2014: Russian President Vladimir Putin demanded the Parliament’s approval of using force "in connection with the extraordinary situation in Ukraine, the threat to the lives of citizens of the Russian Federation, our compatriots" and to protect the Black Sea Fleet in Crimea. As the Russian Parliament approved his demand for use of military force, in Kiev, the new PM, Yatsenyuk warned that this would be ‘the beginning of war and the ending of all relations between Ukraine and Russia’. Ukraine put its troops on high alert and appealed to NATO for help.

White House warned Russia of economic, political isolation and the Western nations called

on Russia to respect Ukrainian Sovereignty. France, Britain and Germany asked for de-escalation in

Crimea.

European Ministers brought up the Budapest Memorandum (1994) and urged Russia to immediately explain its intentions. Russia said that it ‘reserved the right to protect its interests and those of the Russian speakers in Ukraine if they come under threat’. David Cameron, the British PM told the Russian President Vladimir Putin in a phone call that “there can be no excuse for outside military intervention in Ukraine” and called the emergency meeting of the United Nations Security

Council to discuss Ukraine, where Russia and the other members of the Council accused each other of meddling in Ukraine's internal matters. United States called for immediate deployment of international monitors from the United Nations as well as Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to Ukraine.

Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein froze the assets and bank accounts of 20 Ukrainians, including former President Yanukovich and his son, on 28 February.

In Balaklava, Russian military vehicles unloaded dozens of armed troops who did not bear any insignia but their vehicles had Russian Military plates, meanwhile, the newly appointed Crimean PM Sergey Askyonov said that he had indeed, appealed to the Russian President Vladimir Putin for more assistance. Russia in a subsequent statement said that it would not

ignore the request for help and the Russian Foreign Ministry stated that they had asked their consulate in Crimea to speed up the issuance of passports to members of the recently disbanded 'Berkut' Elite Riot Police that was the center of violent action against protestors in the Independence Square in Kiev.

March 2, 2014: The White House declared that the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry will visit Kiev, while threatening economic sanctions against Russia, including, but not limited to travel bans and asset freezes, banking sanctions as well as ejecting Russia from the G8 group of industrialized nations. Ukraine mobilized for war after the Russian Parliament approved Putin's demand to invade Ukraine. There were conflicting reports of the Ukrainian servicemen deployed in the Crimean peninsula leaving their military units en masse and handing over their weaponry and arsenals to local pro-Russia authorities. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry immediately denied the report, which was also circulated by other Russian media, calling it "a provocation." "The ministry said in a statement that despite the attempts of "armed men" to take control of the military units stationed on the Crimean peninsula, their personnel refused to surrender and remained loyal to Kiev authorities.

March 3, 2014: Russian share prices and ruble plummeted and the U.S. stocks tumbled when markets opened for the first time since Kremlin announced their right to invade Ukraine. Poland called for another NATO meeting to discuss Ukraine as the Russian Foreign Ministry condemned the comments made by the US Secretary of State John Kerry over possible Russian military action in Ukraine, as "unacceptable threats". The statement continued: "Washington also ignored that Kiev's newly established regime trampled on the February 21 [reconciliation] agreement, signed by foreign ministers of Germany, France and Poland, and formed the "government of winners" that de-facto declared a war on the Russian language and everything Russian."

At an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting to discuss the unfolding crisis, Ukraine's envoy asked for help, saying that Russia had used planes, boats and helicopters to flood the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea with 16,000 troops in the past week. As diplomats at the meeting asked Russia to withdraw its troops and called for mediation to end the crisis, Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin insisted his country's aims were preserving democracy, protecting millions of Russians in Ukraine and stopping radical extremists. He said ousted President Viktor

Yanukovich remains Ukraine's elected leader and has asked Russia to send troops. The Russian envoy read a letter from Yanukovich at the U.N. meeting, describing Ukraine as a country "on the brink of civil war," plagued by "chaos and anarchy." "People are being persecuted for language and political reasons," the letter said. "So in this regard, I would call on the President of Russia, Mr. Putin, asking him to use the armed forces of the Russian Federation to establish legitimacy, peace, law and order, stability and defending the people of Ukraine."

The European Union also condemned "acts of aggression" against Ukraine and demanded that Russian troops in Crimea return to their base within 48 hours while the United States of America suspended military cooperation with the Russian Federation including bilateral meetings, port visits and planning conferences, according to Pentagon spokesman John Kirby.

March 4, 2014: Russian President Vladimir Putin has said there is no need yet to send troops into Ukraine, but that Moscow is ready to protect its citizens. His comments came as armed men, who Putin said are not Russian troops but pro-Russian self-defense groups, surround army bases in Crimea. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday condemned Russia's "act of aggression" in Ukraine's Crimea region and said Moscow was looking for a pretext to invade more of the country.

The Infrastructure Ministry said that all loading and unloading activities in the ports of the autonomous Crimean region were operating with normal schedules despite the tensions

that continued to rise, whereas, the Ukrainian Border Guard said that Russians had taken over the Crimean side of the Kerch Strait and blocked it with two ships, and Russian armored vehicles were sighted on the Russian side of the Strait.

Some Internet and telephone services were severed after Russian forces seized control of airfields and key installations in Ukraine's Crimea region on Friday, but now lawmakers were being targeted, said Valentyn Nalivaichenko, the head of Ukraine's SBU security service. "Ukraine's telecommunications system has come under attack, with equipment installed in Russian-controlled Crimea used to interfere with the mobile phones of members of parliament", Valentyn told a news briefing.

As Ukraine was waiting for a "clear response" from Russia on a \$2 billion loan needed to cover its debt for Russian gas supplies, according to Yatsenyuk's speech, President Putin said that Starting April 1, Gazprom will no longer offer Ukraine discounted gas prices because it is more than a year and \$1.5 billion late on their debt payments to Russia's largest gas producer for deliveries.

March 5, 2014: Pro-Moscow activists recaptured the administrative headquarters of the eastern city of Donetsk and flew the Russian flag from its roof on Wednesday, hours after Kiev's authorities managed to fly their own flag there for the first time since March 1. The flagship of the Ukrainian Navy was diverted from returning to its home port in Crimea and will dock in Odessa instead, a military source told RIA Novosti.

The European Union offered a larger than expected package of aid to Ukraine on Wednesday, saying it was willing to provide \$15 billion in loans and grants over the next several years to help get the shattered economy back on its feet.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said the assistance, to be discussed by European Union leaders at a summit in Brussels on Thursday, would require widespread reforms by the new Ukrainian government and the signing of a deal between Ukraine and the International Monetary Fund.

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced plans earlier to bolster the decade-old NATO mission, which patrols skies over Baltic allies Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The upper house of Russia's parliament considered measures that allowed property and assets of European and US companies to be confiscated in the event of sanctions being adopted against Russia over its threatened military intervention in Ukraine. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said Wednesday that it would send 35 unarmed military personnel to Ukraine to dispel concerns about "unusual military activities" in the south of the country.

March 6, 2014: Crimea's pro-Russian leadership voted to join Russia and set the referendum for March 16, escalating the crisis. Ukrainian President Turchinov released a

statement saying that the referendum was illegitimate and a 'farce'. U.S. President Barack Obama said that the referendum would violate the Ukrainian Constitution and international law and ordered sanctions on those responsible for Moscow's military intervention in Ukraine. Meanwhile, there were discussions going on at high levels within the government as to how U.S. natural gas resources could be used as the country addressed the crisis in Ukraine.

EU leaders also condemned the referendum as illegitimate and suspended bilateral Visa talks with Moscow as they called upon Kremlin to withdraw their troops and the European Union held an emergency summit to try to find ways to pressure Russia to back down and accept mediation. Netherlands froze hundreds of millions of euros in Ukrainian assets. The U.N. assistant secretary-general for human rights, Ivan Simonovic, planned to visit western and eastern Ukraine soon, including the pro-Russian Crimea region. The announcement came after U.N. Ambassador Robert Serry had to abandon a mission to Crimea when he was stopped by armed men and besieged inside a cafe by a hostile crowd.

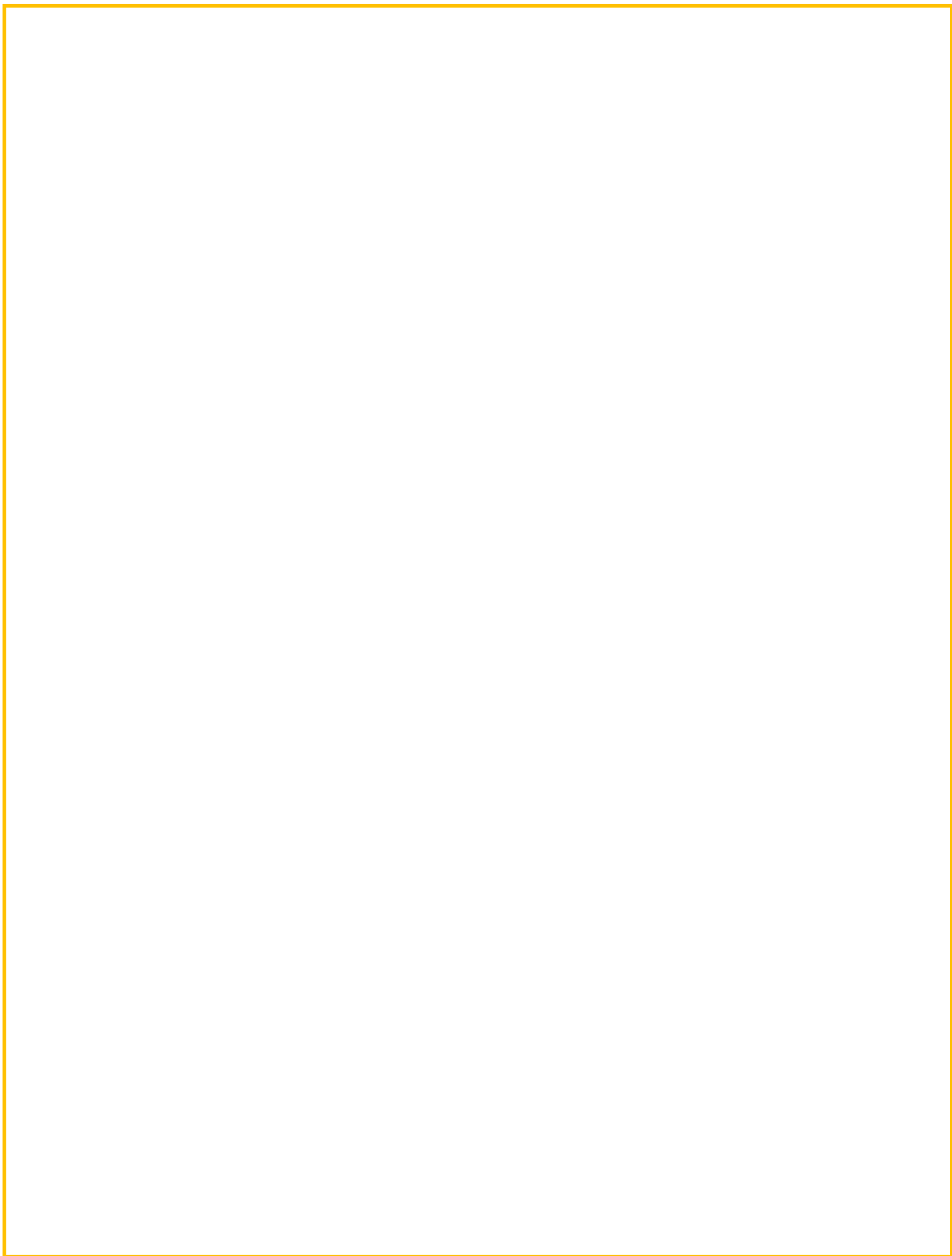
March 7, 2014: Russia said any U.S. sanctions imposed on Moscow over the crisis in Ukraine will boomerang back on the United States and that Crimea has the right to self-determination as armed men tried to seize another Ukrainian military base on the peninsula.

China maintained that sanctions will not prove useful as the Russian and U.S. President got off an hour long phone call with the conclusion that Russia and the United States were still far apart on the Ukraine crisis.

Foreign ministers from central Europe, the Baltics and Nordics condemned Russia's military intervention in Ukraine and a referendum planned by Crimea's government, and called for the EU to send an observation mission to Kiev.

March 8, 2014: Gunmen open-fired at an Ukrainian Border Patrol plane when it was near the administrative border with Russia-occupied Crimea and Ukraine's Navy had also been blocked by Russian ships strategically placed near the exit to Black Sea.

Warning shots were fired to prevent an unarmed international military observer mission from entering Crimea. Russian forces become increasingly aggressive towards Ukrainian troops trapped in bases.



SUMMARY

On 1 March, Crimean PM Askyonov requested for help from Russia

and the Russian Parliament approved Putin's request for the use of military force in Ukraine. US and EU condemned the action and warned Russia against military intervention as UK called for an UNSC meeting. On 2 March, the United States threatened sanctions and possible ejection of Russia from the G8 as Ukraine mobilized for war after Putin's request for invasion of Ukraine was approved by the Russian Parliament. The crisis in Ukraine and Crimea hit financial markets, including the Ruble and the Dollar on 3 March, as Poland called for a NATO meeting to discuss the crisis. Russia defended its actions in Ukraine and said Yanukovich was the only legitimate elected leader in Ukraine. EU gave a 48 hour deadline to Russia to withdraw its troops as US suspended military cooperation with Russia.

On 4 March, armed men surrounded Ukrainian Army Bases in Crimea, but Putin said Russia had not yet sent in any troops. US called this an 'act of aggression' by Russia. Ukraine reported that the Kerch Strait had been blocked by 2 Russian ships and that Ukrainian telecommunications had come under a cyber-attack. The EU offered \$15 billion in an aid package to Ukraine on 5 March, as UES announced that it would be bolstering the NATO Patrol Mission in the airspace over its Baltic Allies. OSCE said that they would be sending 35 unarmed military personnel as an observer mission to Crimea.

On 6 March, Crimea voted to join Russia and to hold a referendum on March 16. U.S. and EU leaders condemned the referendum as illegal and in violation of the Ukrainian Constitution and International Law. UN Ambassador Robert Serry was forced to abandon his mission in Ukraine after he was threatened by armed men. Russia threatened US that their sanctions would result in actions against them and that Crimea had the right to Self Determination, as EU called for an observer mission to be sent to Kiev. The unarmed OSCE observer mission was barred from entering Crimea on 8 March, and a Ukrainian Border Patrol plane was shot at near Crimea.

Factors leading to the crisis.

European Union, Ukraine and the Association Agreement

The European Union and Ukraine signed a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in 1994, which focused on economic and social issues as well as improvement of public governance and press and civil rights. It entered into force in 1998 and expired in 2008.¹⁶⁹ Through its European Neighborhood Policy, the EU sought close relations with Ukraine including economic integration and political cooperation in return for financial, economic and political assistance from the Union. The Association Agreement would commit Ukraine to cooperate and converge policy, legislation, and regulation across a broad range of areas, including equal rights for workers, take steps towards visa-free movement of people, the exchange of information and staff in the area of justice, the modernization of Ukraine's energy infrastructure, and provide Ukraine access to the European Investment Bank. Agreement was initialed on 30 March 2012 but the EU leaders said that it will

not be ratified until Ukraine addressed concerns over a 'stark deterioration of democracy and the rule of law', including the imprisonment of Ukraine's former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Yuriy Lutsenko. In February 2013, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy, Stefan Fuele, said that if Ukraine decided to become a part of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, their actions would be incompatible with the European Union agreements.

On 21 November, 2013, the Ukrainian Parliament rejected all six bills that would have allowed Yulia Tymoshenko to receive medical treatment abroad. This happened on the same day when the Parliament decided to suspend their preparations for the signing of the Association Agreement with the European Union in Vilnius on November 29. The decision resulted in mass protests in Kiev, which later spread to other parts of Ukraine and in the formation of the bloc by the opposition, called Maidan.

Russia and Ukraine

Energy Disputes

Ukrainian dependency on Russian natural gas has been an important factor in the 2104 Ukrainian Crisis. There have been serious energy disputes over natural gas supplies, price and debts between Ukrainian oil and gas company Naftohaz Ukrayiny and Russian gas supplier Gazprom. These disputes threatened natural gas supplies in numerous European countries dependent on natural gas imports from Russian suppliers, which are transported through Ukraine. Russia provides approximately a quarter of the natural gas consumed in the European Union; approximately 80% of those exports travel through pipelines across Ukrainian soil prior to arriving in the EU.

A serious dispute began in **March 2005** over the price of natural gas supplied and the cost of transit. Russia claimed Ukraine was not paying for gas, but diverting that which was intended to be exported to the EU from the pipelines. Ukrainian officials at first denied the accusation, 175176 but later Naftohaz admitted that natural gas intended for other European countries was retained and used for domestic needs.¹⁷⁷ the dispute reached a crescendo on **1 January 2006**, when Russia cut off all gas supplies passing through Ukrainian territory. On **4 January**

2006, a preliminary agreement between Russia and Ukraine was achieved, and the supply was restored. The situation calmed until **October 2007** when new disputes began over Ukrainian gas debts. This led to reduction of gas supplies in March 2008. During the last months of **2008**, relations once again became tense when Ukraine and Russia could not agree on the debts owed by Ukraine.

In **January 2009**, this disagreement resulted in supply disruptions in many European nations, with eighteen European countries reporting major drops in or complete cut-offs of their gas supplies transported through Ukraine from Russia. In **September 2009**

officials from both countries stated they felt the situation was under control and that there would be no more conflicts over the topic.¹⁸⁰ However, in **October 2009**, another disagreement arose about the amount of gas Ukraine would import from Russia in 2010. Ukraine intended to import less gas in 2010 as a result of reduced industry needs because

Of its economic recession; however, Gazprom insisted that Ukraine fulfill its contractual obligations and purchase the previously agreed upon quantities of gas.

On **June 8, 2010**, a Stockholm court of arbitration ruled Naftohaz of Ukraine must return 12.1 billion cubic meters (430 billion cubic feet) of gas to RosUkrEnergo, a based company in which Gazprom controls a 50% stake.

On **22 April, 2010**, Ukrainian President Yanukovich signed a deal with his Russian counterpart Medvedev allowing the Russian Black Sea Fleet to stay in the country for another 25 years in exchange for a discount in the natural gas prices.¹⁸²

On **17 December 2013** Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to lend Ukraine 15 billion dollars in financial aid and a 33% discount on natural gas prices and the deal relinquished Ukraine's Kerch peninsula to the Russian Navy. The treaty was signed amid massive, ongoing protests in as while in **August 2013**, a change in Russian customs blocked all imports from Ukraine coming to Russia.

Crimea and Sevastopol



On **February 5, 1954**, Crimea was transferred to the Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic by the Soviet Union. The status of Crimea remained unchanged until **20 January, 1991**, when a Referendum of Sovereignty took place in Crimea. 94% of the voters decided to establish the Crimean Autonomous SSR which was changed to 'Republic of Crimea' by the Crimean Parliament in **February, 1992**.

On **5 May, 1992**, the Crimean Parliament declared that Crimea would be

independent, but rescinded the declaration and on June 1, 1992, Crimean and Ukrainian parliaments agreed to a compromise in which Crimea is granted greater autonomy and special economic status.

On **July 9, 1992**, the Russian parliament declared Sevastopol to be a Russian city which was quickly disavowed by Russian President Yeltsin. Later the U. N. Security Council

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Developments in Ukraine

On February 21, 2014, opposition leaders and President Yanukovich signed an EU mediated peace pact to end the violence against the protestors in Ukraine. A day later, on February 22, Yanukovich fled his Kiev office as armed self-defense militia took over the building. The Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada declared that the President was constitutionally unable to carry out his duties and set an early date for elections for May 25. The Speaker of the Parliament resigned and was replaced by Alexander Turchinov, who had already been conferred the Presidential powers by the Parliament on 25 February. Yanukovich called the decisions by the parliament 'illegal' and said that it was a 'coup d'état' because he was forced to leave under threat of bodily harm.

Russia supports the statements made by Yanukovich in this regard and have refused to talk to the opposition, who they deem have formed an illegitimate leadership of Ukraine. The EU and the United States however, recognized the interim government and offered it support.

Legal Instruments

Constitution of Ukraine, especially Articles regarding the Powers of the Parliament, the President, Impeachment Procedure, Crimean Constitution, Referendum procedures.

?? Constitution of Crimea, regarding Referendum Procedures, Elections202

?? Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances (1994)

?? Partition Treaty on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet (1997)
for the legal limitations on troop numbers, deployment, positioning.

?? Charter of the United Nations for consideration of the matter under Pacific
Settlement of Disputes or under Chapter VII as a threat to peace, breach of
peace or an act of aggression.

Regards

Rudraksh Lakra

President

United Nations Security Council