

# Russia War on Ukraine: Changes in World Politics and Impact on India

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## Abstract

On February 21, 2022, Russia recognized the two self-proclaimed states of the Donbas region, including Donetsk and Luhansk. Three days later, Russia launched a full military invasion on Ukraine. This is Europe's biggest security crisis since World War II. In his hour-long speech, Putin said he wanted Ukraine to be demilitarized. But politically it is Russia's move to change the world order after the Second World War. By ignoring NATO and threats from the United States and other European countries, Putin showed the world that US hegemony is over and center of power is changed. The Russian president demanded that NATO "restore" its 1991 status and stop its eastward expansion. Ukraine's membership in NATO or the EU would mean that other former Soviet states would come under Western influence. Through this action Russia demonstrated its "return to the world" with hard power since the end of the Cold War in 1991 and also Putin has major interest in Ukraine. Putin often talked about his dream of **HOLY RUS** and dreams of Russian Empire. Russia also has geopolitical interests in Ukraine, which has many natural resources.

This struggle is not a simple border dispute, it is a force expressed in world politics. Another important point is that just as the USA attacked Iraq because of its interest in natural resources, Russia's annexation of Crimea and its intervention in Ukraine's sovereignty are also related to natural resources. Therefore, natural resources play an important role in world politics and conflicts. In this article, I will try to explain the main points of the Ukraine-Russia conflict, how power politics will change and how India should solve the problem, taking into account its preference for relations with Russia and Ukraine.

## Keywords:

War, Donbass and Eastern region, natural resources, Russian empire, security and threat, EU, NATO, nuclear weapon

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## I. Introduction

Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian ancestry originate from the Slavic state known as **Kievan Rus'** in the ninth century. Kievan Rus' is a confederation of East Slavic, Baltic and Finnic peoples of Eastern and Northern Europe, with Kiev as its capital. Ukraine was under the rule of different rulers such as the Ottoman Empire, the Russian Empire, and the Soviet Union. Ukraine, II. It was under Russian rule for most of its life, except for a brief period before World War II and another period in 1600. Additionally, for all of modern history Ukraine was under Russian rule. In 1900, both countries were Soviet republics and Ukraine was the second most powerful country after Russia. Ironically, Ukraine, which now wants to join NATO, the EU and Western countries, was one of the main enemies of the West at that time.



**Fig 1:** Region of **KIEVAN RUS** from wheremodern **Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus** all trace their cultural ancestry.

### **Ukraine and region of conflict**

Ukraine is located in Eastern Europe and borders Russia to the northeast, east and east. There is the Black Sea in the south. Ukraine also has neighbors with Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Belarus. With a surface area of 603,550 square kilometers and a population of 44 million, it is the largest country in Europe after Russia.

Ukraine is ideologically divided into two regions: Eastern Ukraine and Western Ukraine. Western Ukraine feels closer to the West due to the large number of Ukrainians and their skeptical attitude towards Russia. Although Eastern Ukraine feels close to Russia and the majority of its population is Russian, Russia is viewed through the lens of shared history.

### **Why is there a problem in Ukraine?**

Ukraine was forcibly Russified. In 1700, Russian leader Catherine the Great began to Russify Ukraine. The Russian people moved to the center of the earth. Schools were ordered to teach Russian, and from 1800 Ukrainian was banned. In 1930, many Ukrainians died due to a famine led by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, and the region was returned to the Russian people. This is why Russia's population dominates the eastern region. Over time, the Wagner Group gradually emerged, and rebel groups organized among themselves, were recognized as the main role in the state, and began to challenge the government for regional independence. It is in Russia's interest to have coal, iron, fertile lands and other valuable resources in eastern Ukraine that could help revitalize the Russian economy.



**Fig2:** The region of conflict within Ukraine and the annexed Crimea.

### **Causes of aggression between Ukraine and Russia**

The border dispute between Russia and Ukraine became a major security issue in Europe after World War II. Ukraine and Russia share centuries-old culture, language and relations. Many Russians believe that dividing Ukraine, which reflects its glorious history with Russia, was a mistake. Although it is part of the Soviet Union, it is the second most powerful region and is strategically, economically and culturally important.

#### **1. Ukraine maintains the balance of power and acts as a weak region**

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, both Russia and the West sought to expand their influence at the national level to maintain their power boundaries. In addition, Ukraine plays an important role between Russia and the West. Therefore, the United States and the European Union decided to remove Ukraine from Russian control.

#### **2. The importance of the Black Sea and the unification of Crimea**

The unique location of the Black Sea region provides Russia with many geographical advantages.

- ★ Russia has power and influence in the Mediterranean and maintains commercial and economic relations with Europe's major markets, making southern European countries more dependent on Russian oil and natural gas.
- ★ It is an important junction and meeting point for the entire Mediterranean.
- ★ The region is an important transportation route in terms of goods and energy.
- ★ Russia sees the Black Sea as the center of its security because it has many warm water ports.

**Russia's Interests in the Black Sea**



**Fig3:** energy lines on which Europe is dependent.

**Invasion of Crimea**

Catherine the Great annexed Crimea from the Ottoman Turks in 1783. In 1954, Ukrainian-born Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev annexed Crimea to Ukraine. But his situation has been troublesome ever since. Following the emergence of a pro-European government in Ukraine in 2014, Russia annexed Crimea. This is the first time since World War II that a European country has invited another country to join. The occupation gave Russia superior maritime advantages in the region, including access to the warm-water port of Sevastopol in Crimea.



**Figure 4:** The location of Crimea and the Russian intervention zone

### **Ukraine's turn to the west**

- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's leaning to the west is criticized by Russia's supporters and it was criticized as contrary to Moscow's interests.
- Russia wants assurance from the West that Ukraine will not join NATO due to Russian aggression. Ukraine called for accelerating accession to the union. Russia warned the West that this move would be considered a "red line".
- Ukraine joining NATO may pave the way for former Soviet countries to get rid of Russian influence and join NATO. Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia and Turkey are NATO countries that already have close relations with Russia.

### **Protests in Ukraine**

★ Pro-European Movement: In 2013, Viktor Yanukovich became the president of Ukraine, known for his corruption and public statements. Pro-Moscow. In 2013, it rejected an EU trade deal meant to integrate with the bloc and decided to accept a \$15 billion bailout package from Russia instead. Many Ukrainians feel like they have been sold out to Moscow. The Euromaidan (European Square) movement was a wave of protests and civil unrest, with public protests taking place on Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square) in Kiev, Ukraine.

★ Separatist Movement: The Donbas region in eastern Ukraine has been subjected to separatism by pro-Russian separatists since 2014. The Ukrainian government believes that Russia is responsible for the movement or that the movement is supported by the Russian government and has Russian armed forces. Separatist forces against the Ukrainian government make up 15% to 80%. < br>Minsk Agreement < br>Minsk One: The agreement was signed between Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists in Belarus in 2014. This is a 12-article agreement that includes disarmament, prisoner exchange, humanitarian aid and other provisions. The deal quickly fell apart and both parties reneged on the agreement.

★ Minsk 2: The aim is to end the conflict between the rebels and give borders to Ukrainian national forces. This was corrected by France and Germany. This is an agreement between Ukraine, Russia, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the leaders of two pro-Russian breakaway regions. But their rules are still illegal.

★ Putin Factor

★ Putin's Ambition: Putin wants the nationalist drum to beat because nine out of 10 Russians approve of their president after the annexation of Crimea. Putin is trying to restore Russia's great power image. Putin said, "It is a lie that there is a country in the history of Ukraine. Ukraine was created by Russia, especially Bolshevik communist Russia." said. He continued to curse Lenin and the Communist Party. He believed that Lenin was responsible for and created the 1924 Constitution of the Ukrainian Republic. He called not only for the victory of Russia, but also for the Russian Empire.

★ Not integrated into the European world: Russia is the largest country in Europe, but it is not always in Europe. After Putin became president in 2000, Russia applied to join NATO. Russia has just ended the Chechen war and its economy is very weak. NATO has no answer to Putin's claim that former enemies will become friends now that the Soviet Union is dead. NATO continues its opposition to Russia. According to the statement made by Lieutenant General Kay-Achim Schonbach, former German chief of staff at the Ministry of Science and Research, on January 21, 2022, "I do not think that Russia wants to incorporate a small piece of Ukrainian land into its own country. What it really wants is respect, and God, it is of little value It shows respect for someone who has little or no value."

### **West hypocrisy**

"The West promised in the 1990s not to expand to the eastern borders of Europe," Putin said. Now, regardless of the agreement with the West, the USSR had no case, and the USSR built against Russia rather than labeling it as the country to blame. During the Cold War, even Cuba's intentions with Russia were not allowed to join the Warsaw Pact, so the situation was different for Ukraine, which Russia saw as a threat on its doorstep. Geopolitical participation requires some form of political influence, and the influence of Russia's interests in Europe is ignored by the West. There is no doubt that the Russian government believes that the arming of Ukraine by the West has enabled the Ukrainians to finally suppress pro-Russian separatists in the east without giving them any freedom of expression. ). 2014 and 15. The West refused to comply with Russia's real needs, continued to recognize the "divided republic" and switched from covert action to military action. The West's aggression against Russia and other great powers that are not "our country" has been responsible for bringing this crisis to this sad state.

A way to punish Russia after Ukraine's aggression led to war. If Western intervention in Iraq and Yugoslavia was justified, and Western aggression was not met with the same punishment, why are Ukrainian Russian speakers not protected?

## **India's Role**

### **Impact on India**

The first and most important challenge was the evacuation of approximately 20,000 Indians from the war zone. The Russia-Ukraine crisis will increase the prices of edible oil, gasoline and oil. 74% of cooking oil is imported from Ukraine. Crude oil prices are rising and India imports many Russian oil products. It is not just a financial matter, India is engaging in economic, political and military relations with both countries. The trade volume between India and Russia reaches 8 billion US dollars, and Russia supplies half of its military weapons and arsenal to India. The trade volume between India and Ukraine is approximately 2.7 billion US dollars. India's energy projects will be affected and India will face many risks. Therefore, India needs to act balancedly at this sensitive stage.

### **India's stance**

In 2014, India joined the leaders of Western powers on the annexation of Crimea, condemning Russia's intervention and keeping little information about the problems. In November 2020, India supported its former ally Russia on this issue by voting against Ukraine in support of a United Nations resolution condemning its collaboration on the same human rights violations in Crimea. But after the war broke out, India had to balance the pressure of the advocate of force to punish violations of international law with the pressure of another force of thought to understand its legitimate concerns. India has taken a cautious stance towards the Russia-Ukraine conflict. However, after the military intervention, India raised this issue and called for a peaceful solution to the problem by encouraging diplomacy to ensure long-term peace and stability. India refrained from voting for two UN resolutions against Russia even after the war broke out. India abstained from the vote to make room for political action. India also told the UN Security Council that peace and harmony are needed at this time and any steps that could lead to violence should be avoided.

New Delhi and Moscow have had a trusting, positive relationship over time, especially with Russia being an important trading partner of India. On the other hand, India also needs the support of the USA and Europe to balance its ideological views. It was noteworthy that India abstained from voting on UN resolutions. The obvious reason for this is what former Ambassador Venkatesh Verma said: "Multipolarity requires us to hold our own and if there is a conflict between two or the other poles then we hide in one of them." This is stupid. India is too big a country to be crushed or forgotten."

Delhi must engage in constant dialogue with all parties and engage with all stakeholders, remembering that it is wrong to trespass into a country's territory. India still needs to make this clear. Coercive countries must "be with us or Narratives that it is against us are among the rare benefits. The best course of action for everyone should be to step back and focus on preventing war altogether, rather than dividing the world and returning to the Cold War. India reiterated its position that the situation should be resolved according to the Minsk 2014-15 agreement.

### **Response of Other countries**

The biggest surprise is the unity and solidarity between the West and the USA, which even Russia does not count. A series of sanctions against Russia and its close allies. The financial institution was disconnected and sanctions were imposed against the central bank. Remove Russia from SWIFT. All this is aimed at destroying the Russian economy. Debris was fired. The United States used a tool called "money weapons."

Japan may join US-led sanctions. Australia also described Russia's actions as impossible, overwhelming and incompetent.

US President Joe Biden said, "Russia is responsible for the death and destruction caused by this attack, and the world will hold Russia responsible." President Putin launched a relentless attack on Ukraine and chose the path of bloodshed and destruction. "Although he had previously denied that NATO countries would enter the war in this conflict, he later joined other European countries such as Germany and France and offered weapons and ammunition to Ukraine.

The EU representative said, "This is the biggest war in the world." In Europe . Since World War II. Dark times."

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African countries say they face new threats and imperialism.

Baltic countries have expressed concern about the possibility of Russian aggression and threats to their countries.

Neutral countries such as Switzerland, They say Russia has set a "red line" for the system " Consider the threat it has overcome.

Beijing supports Moscow. During the Cold War, the two countries worked together to counter the United States and limit its influence in Europe and Asia. Now they are trying to create a third party that is not affected by the US budget. China also supports Russia because of its trade with the USA. Russia's foreign exchange has increased exponentially in five years as it is held by the sale of raw materials such as crude oil and other natural resources to China. The relationship between the two parties increased by 35.8% in 2021.

## II. Conclusion

This struggle is what we can call "*the birth of a multipolar world*". The world is not under American hegemony. The United States is no longer as powerful as it once was, and the balance of power that existed after World War II, or more precisely after the end of the Cold War in 1991, no longer exists. After 30 years of ignorance, the USA asserted its leadership in Europe and the power game began again.

Both sides have made mistakes before and crossed many red lines, but Russia has taken it too far. Europe's security has been thrown into complete chaos. Ukraine has been seeking its security from NATO since 2002, and this attack shows the failure of Ukraine's security. Without evidence that Russia has chosen to "correct" its perceived "mistake," the current crisis is part of the collapse of the European security architecture. Moreover, a European order that does not meet Russia's concerns with a sincere dialogue will not be sustainable in the long term.

Hard power still plays a role. Putin showed the world that not only economic power but also military power affects bilateral relations and world politics, it just one needs courage to use it.

The country will not give up nuclear weapons. Ukraine received most of the Soviet arsenal in inheritance: 176 intercontinental ballistic missiles, 1,249 nuclear warheads, 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons, 44 strategic bombers, 700 nuclear-tipped cruise missiles, but all these were given upon along with 2 countries in Budapest memorandum in 1994. In return, Moscow guaranteed Ukraine's security and promised to respect its sovereignty and integrity. Although NATO and the United States promised military aid, the attack forced many smaller countries to rely on their own security and encouraged them to develop nuclear weapons. This also proves the practices of countries like India that have been condemned in nuclear testing were just and politically correct. Military planning improves the prevention of war and ultimately prevents war.

Imperialist leadership of countries such as Russia and China. This attack is evidence of a new war led by superpowers such as Russia and China. Claiming sovereignty over Ukraine based on history is as wrong as Britain claiming India, South Africa or Spain asserting its authority on Philippines. The imperialism of the past cannot justify today's expansion. This will make countries like China to claim the borders on base of the Qin Dynasty, leading to violence on the border.

This is the failure of peacekeeping organizations such as the United Nations. The United Nations has not declared any mediation challenging its existence. This also questioned the veto power of the Security Council and the five countries.

Warning for India: This is wake up call for countries like India which rely on USA and Russia for military weapons and ammunition. Recently, the United States and Europe are paying more attention to the Indo-Pacific strategy and India is indeed fighting China's aggression, this attack will turn world's eyes from India-china to Russia-Ukraine. The crisis will make Moscow more dependent on China and create a regional zone in which India cannot join. While India launched a diplomatic and political campaign against the winter Olympics games, Putin, Central Asian heads of state and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan were in Beijing to support Xi-zingping. As also said by former German Naval Commander Kay-Achim Schonbach stated, "The biggest threat to the world is not Russia, but China."

The war must be stopped immediately as the global economy is collapsing. The cost of a long war will be heavy, most importantly, there will be loss of life and suffering in Ukraine. Both sides need to return to the meeting, and the way to resolve the issue is to restart the peace process through MINSK. The West (the United States and other Western countries) should force both sides to renegotiate and fulfill the commitments of the Minsk Agreements, to restore peace .

***For things for future the world has entered into early stages of conflict. What starts in Europe will not stay in Europe- former ambassador Venkatesh Verma.***

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