



The situation in Ukraine

Security Council



From a separated world to global peace: the need
for a new look on institutions.



Forum: Security Council

Issue: The situation in Ukraine

Student Officer: Robert Schippers

Position: Deputy President

Introduction

This Research Report is treats the conflict in Ukraine as balanced as possible.

The Dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked the end of the Soviet Union as a federal socialist state, resulting in the independence of 15 former Soviet republics, including Russia. The process was driven by political and economic factors, such as loss of faith in the Communist Party, rising nationalism, and a failing economy, and was largely shaped by the reforms of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The enlargement of NATO to the east in the 1990s and 2000s had implications for the relationship between NATO and Russia and reordered the European security landscape. The 2014 Crimean crisis was a political and military conflict between Ukraine and Russia, which escalated into a full-blown war in eastern Ukraine. The official justification for the invasion was to demilitarise and 'denazify' Ukraine and protect the region, but these claims have been disputed. The invasion has resulted in significant casualties and displacement, trade embargoes on Russia, and an energy crisis in Europe.



Definition of Key Terms

Invasion

The use of force by a country to enter and ultimately take control of another country.

Pro-Russian separatists

Russia-backed groups of rebels, otherwise called paramilitaries. An unofficial force, resembling an army.

Trade embargo

Commercial or financial restriction by a country, individual or company placed upon a country, individual or company. Usually in response to political or humanitarian malpractice.

Oblast

Slavic term for a region or province, used to define administrative divisions in a country.

Quasi-state

A political entity that does not represent a sovereign, or institutionalised state.

Demilitarisation

The reduction of state armed forces, sometimes imposed on an entire nation, sometimes on a region.

War crimes

An act carried out during a war that violates the international rules of war. Examples are the murder or ill treatment of Prisoners of War (PoW's), plundering public or private property, wanton destruction of civilian buildings and killing members of a particular ethnic group, also known as genocide or ethnic cleansing.



General Overview

Dissolvement of the Soviet Union

The dissolution of the Soviet Union was the process of ending the existence of the Soviet Union as a federal socialist state. It took place in 1991 and resulted in the independence of fifteen former Soviet republics, including Russia. The process of dissolution was triggered by a combination of political and economic factors, including a loss of faith in the Communist Party, rising nationalism, and a failing economy. The process was peaceful and was largely driven by the reforms of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his policy of *perestroika* (economic restructuring) and *glasnost* (greater transparency and freedom of speech). The Russian federation expected the dissolution of NATO in response, although this expectation never became reality.

Western advances to the east

NATO's expansion to the east began in the 1990s and continued into the 2000s, with NATO growing from 16 to 30 members. The expansion was a major factor in the reordering of European security and had implications for the relationship between NATO and Russia. The enlargement of NATO was seen as a response to the changed security environment following the collapse of the Soviet Union and was aimed at promoting stability and security in the region. However, it has also been criticised by Russia as a threat to its national security and a violation of previous agreements.

Crimean war

The 2014 Crimean crisis was a political and military conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation that began in February 2014 after the Ukrainian Revolution. The crisis was sparked by the ousting of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and the subsequent Russian military intervention and annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. The annexation was widely condemned by the international community, with many countries refusing to recognize it as legitimate. The conflict escalated into a full-blown war in eastern Ukraine, with ongoing violence and human rights abuses still taking place. The situation remained unresolved and tensions between Ukraine and Russia remained high, ending in the climactic invasion of Ukraine.

Motivation for the invasion

The official justification for the 2022 invasion was to supposedly demilitarise and 'denazify' Ukraine and to protect the people in the region who supposedly were subject to bullying and genocide. These claims have yet to be proven. Later the goal to keep Ukraine neutral was added. The goal to 'denazify' Ukraine was also speculated to aim towards the displacement of Ukrainians. This was confirmed by the Russian news outlet Ria Novosti: 'denazification is inevitably also de-Ukrainization'. This was published in response to allegations made claiming Russia was committing genocide in Ukraine. The goal to keep Ukraine neutral was also disproven, as Ukrainian president Zelensky openly accepted not to join NATO, Ukraine even



proposed to become a non-aligned, non-nuclear state but negotiations broke down. Now they simply support the quasi-states in the Donbas and Luhansk oblasts.

Consequences of the invasion

The invasion has left as many as fourteen million Ukrainians displaced, it also led to a significant number of casualties. The exact number of casualties is unclear as estimations sometimes differ with a factor of six. Further consequences of the war are the trade embargoes levied on the Russian federation. This also led to an energy crisis in Europe, as the European nations were largely dependent on Russia for their energy supply.



Major Parties Involved

The Russian federation

The Russian federation feels the west is a lingering threat to their national security. The expansion and subsisting of NATO after the cold war added to this sense of danger, as the Russian Warsaw pact was dissolved along with the Soviet Union. Vladimir Putin also carries some irredentist views and wishes to reunite the former-Soviet states. This is hindered by the expansion of NATO. There is some speculation about why the war was started but one of the accepted reasons is to show the West they cannot keep expanding NATO. The invasion however resulted in applications to join NATO by Finland and Sweden.

The United States

The United States have been in continued conflict with Russia and formerly the Soviet Union since the end of the Second World War. This conflict ended in a power-shift, leaving the capitalist United States and the communist Soviet Union in a conflict for political influence. This conflict, also known as the Cold War, ended when the Soviet Union was dissolved. However, the conflict for world domination through political influence continued. This left diplomatic relations between the nations strained. The United States did not trust the Russian federation despite the discontinuation of the Warsaw Pact. The United States is currently the biggest supplier of military equipment to Ukraine.

Ukraine

The existence of Ukraine is severely threatened by the Russian federation, and it seems the expansion of the Russian sphere of influence will not stop in the Donbas. The Russian federation has also supported separatists in Crimea in 2014, this resulted in the annexation of the Peninsula.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

NATO has adopted a policy to support Ukraine in defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity within its borders. This is primarily done by military and humanitarian aid. Most NATO members seek to increase their cooperation in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Wagner Group

A group of mercenaries widely regarded as having fascist ideals, currently the biggest mercenary army controlled by Russia. This group is owned by oligarch Jevgeni Prigozhin, formerly Putin's chef. The mercenaries are led by Dmitry Utkin, whose call sign is Wagner, hence the name of the group.



Timeline of Events

2 September 1945	End of WW2, start of the cold war
4 April 1949	Establishment of NATO
14 May 1955	Establishment of the Warsaw pact
25 February 1991	Dissolution of the Warsaw pact
26 December 1991	Dissolution of the Soviet Union
5 December 1994	Budapest Memorandum
February 2014	Revolution of Dignity, removal of pro-Russian president
February 2014	Pro-Russian unrest in the east leading to a war in the Donbas and annexation of Crimea
September 2014	Minsk agreements signed
11 October 2021	Former Russian president supports Putin's refusal to meet with Zelensky arguing it to be pointless and calling Ukraine a vassal of the United States
24 February 2022	Putin announces special military operations in Ukraine, internationally recognised as a war



Previous attempts to solve the issue

UNSC Resolution 2166

This resolution was adopted by the United Nations Security Council on July 21, 2014, in the wake of the catastrophic loss of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine. The resolution firmly denounced the downing of the aircraft and called for a comprehensive, impartial, and independent investigation into the incident. Additionally, it required all nations to fully support efforts to bring those responsible for the crash to justice. The resolution demonstrates the global community's concern about the situation in Ukraine and its determination to hold those responsible accountable.

UNSC Resolution 2202

This resolution was adopted by the United Nations Security Council on February 17, 2015. It provides an update on the situation in Ukraine, including the security situation, humanitarian situation, and the implementation of the Minsk Agreements. The report highlights the challenges faced in resolving the conflict, including the continuing violence in eastern Ukraine, the slow progress in the political and security aspects of the Minsk Agreements, and the humanitarian situation in the affected areas. The report concludes by emphasising the need for continued support from the international community to help bring peace and stability to Ukraine.

Minsk agreements

The Minsk Agreements are a set of peace accords signed in the Belarusian capital city of Minsk on February 12, 2015, aimed at resolving the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. The agreements were signed by representatives of Ukraine, Russia, the separatist governments of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The agreements outline a series of steps to be taken, including a ceasefire, the withdrawal of heavy weapons, constitutional reforms in Ukraine, and the release of prisoners. Despite being signed, the implementation of the Minsk Agreements has been slow and sporadic fighting continues in the region. The Minsk Agreements remain a key element in international efforts to bring peace to Eastern Ukraine.

Peace negotiations

There have been many attempts to come to a solution for the situation in Ukraine through peace negotiations, regrettably none of these attempts were successful. Both sides blame each other for the lack of progress.



Possible solutions

Redistribution of Ukraine

To stop the war in Ukraine a consensus can be reached where Russia feels it has gained enough territory to have a buffer between itself and Europe, this solution would have the side effect of not holding anyone accountable for the destruction and death in Ukraine.

Enforce Neutrality

A different approach would be to restrict Ukraine from joining NATO, leading to the neutral buffer state between Europe and Russia. However, this has already been proposed but it has not led to a peaceful resolution.

Trade embargoes

Lastly, a deal can be made between Russia and the international nations to lift the trade embargoes if Russia ends the war in Ukraine and pulls back all its forces to the rightful border. This might not work because Russia might not be convinced this deal is worth it.

A mix of the solutions above might lead to the end of the conflict if both sides agree to talk.



Useful documents

UNSC resolution 2166

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2166.pdf

UNSC resolution 2202

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2202.pdf

Minsk Agreements

<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/a/a/123258.pdf>



Bibliography

WIP