

Forum: Security Council

Issue: The Russo-Ukraine War

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Introduction:

On 27 February 2014, Russian CCO forces crossed over the Crimea border, this initial incursion was a decisive and calculated move, later on occupying the entire state of Crimea, marking the first armed conflict in the past 75 years between Russia and Ukraine. This act was not an isolated skirmish but a fundamental breach of international law, shattering decades of post-Cold War security assurances and setting a dangerous precedent for the use of military force to annex a neighbor's territory.

Later on, in February 24 2024, Russian forces launched a special military operation towards Ukraine from Belarus, Crimea, and Southern Russia, stating to “de-nazify” and “liberate” the Ukrainian people, marking the official beginning of the Russo-Ukrainian War.

However, The United Nation Security Council has considered this special military operation as an act of violating Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity which is directly against the principles of the United Nation charter. The voices calling for essential economic and military sanctions are rising gradually; however, the fate of the people between these two regimes is yet undetermined.

Background:

Causes

Main Cause

In 2021, U.S. President Joe Biden expressed support for Ukraine's future membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Russia, fearing that a NATO-aligned Ukraine would pose a direct military threat and aiming to effects its influence within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), launched what the Kremlin termed a "special military operation" against Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

Historical Legacy Issues

Since the end of the Cold War, Russian leaders have consistently expressed opposition to the eastward expansion of NATO, which they view as a betrayal of informal assurances given after

the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In this context, the possible membership of Ukraine-a country deeply connected by history, culture, and family ties with Russia-has long been believed to be an absolute "red line" for Russia. This was more than a political issue; it cut to the heart of Russian national identity and its perceived sphere of influence.

Practice of war

Initial "shock and awe" strategy:

A multi-front invasion started with airborne assaults on Hostomel Airport near Kyiv, featuring rapid armored columns with targets set for the seizing of key cities; this was envisioned to decapitate the Ukrainian government and achieve a quick victory.

Massed Artillery and Siege Warfare

After the failure of the initial blitzkrieg, Russia turned to a brutal Soviet-style doctrine of overwhelming artillery fire. It has been used to devastating effect in the sieges of cities such as Mariupol and Sievierodonetsk, levelling urban areas ahead of the advancement of ground troops.

Missile and Drone Barrages:

Russia has mounted extensive, long-range missile and drone attacks, like those made by Iranian-made Shahed, against:

Ukrainian Energy Infrastructure:

This was a campaign to break civilian morale during the winter months by depriving them of power and heat.

Military and Logistic Hubs:

to disrupt the supply of Western weapons. Grain and port facilities: to harm the agricultural export economy of Ukraine.

Geographical/International Impacts

The Russo-Ukrainian War is a significant military conflict in Eastern Europe that largely remade the regional security landscape. The United Nations General Assembly denounced the annexation of Crimea as an infringement on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

In February 2022, the war dramatically escalated in the form of Russia's initiation of a full-scale invasion of Ukrainian territory, termed by the Kremlin as a "special military operation." The war was justified by Russia on the grounds of demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine, which arguments were categorically rejected by the international world. The invasion has been characterized by conventional warfare maneuvers on several fronts, blanket economic sanctions against Russia, and massive military support to Ukraine by the West.

The war has taken its toll in humanitarian terms, including mass killing of noncombatants, deliberate targeting of critical infrastructure, and the largest displacement of European civilians since World War II. Hostilities also still present fundamental challenges to the existing international legal order and international security architecture.

Major Parties Involved:

1. Commonwealth of Independent States ():

The Commonwealth of Independent States is a regional organization of post-Soviet republics established in 1991 on the dissolution of the USSR. Its founding objective was to manage the peaceful and orderly dissolution of the Soviet Union and to act as a forum for cooperation among the newly independent states.

Key Aims and Functions:

Original Purpose: To formally supplant the Soviet Union and to coordinate issues such as border management, asset division, and shared economic and military structures that arise from its dissolution.

Core Areas of Cooperation: Its work is essentially consultative, focusing on:

Economics: A free trade zone and economic policy coordination; Security: Activities involving regional security threats and cross-border crimes. Social & Political: These deal with inter-state cultural, humanitarian, and political issues.

2. The United States

The US is the single most significant provider of military, financial, and intelligence support to Ukraine. It plays a central role in sustaining Ukraine's war effort, through

coordination of international aid packages and the supply of advanced weaponry. Principal actors include the Biden Administration to direct the policy and the US Department of Defense that enables the delivery of key systems such as HIMARS, Abrams tanks, and long-range missiles.

3. The United Kingdom

The UK is the most significant European military donor to Ukraine, having spearheaded supplies of critical munitions and training early and throughout the conflict. It has often been at the front of first-movers, providing NLAW anti-tank missiles, long-range Storm Shadow cruise missiles, and other equipment. Key players include the UK Prime Minister, the Ministry of Defence, and the British Armed Forces; thus far, the latter has also trained tens of thousands of Ukrainian soldiers under Operation Interflex.

4. French Republic

France is one of the major European powers providing significant military and political support to Ukraine, with a special focus on advanced artillery and air defense systems. President Emmanuel Macron has been a central actor, calling for strong EU support and hosting international conferences for the coordination of aid. Among the items contributed by France, under the supervision of the French Ministry of the Armed Forces, have been Caesar self-propelled howitzers, SCALP long-range cruise missiles, and light armored vehicles.

Definition of Key Terms:

1. Wagner Group:

Definition and status: It is an unofficial, shadowy mercenary organization that is legally illegal in Russia but is financed and equipped by the state. Leadership closely linked with Yevgeny Prigozhin; businessman long linked to President Vladimir Putin

Usage and Deployment: Wagner has been used as a deniable instrument of Russian power projection in conflicts where the Kremlin wishes to avoid direct, overt military involvement. Its notable deployments include:

Ukraine: Major player in several of the worst high-casualty battles of the war, including taking the town of Bakhmut, recruited heavily from Russian prisons.

Syria: Troops fight in support of Assad, usually spearheading any advance, securing oil and gas fields.

Africa: Operating in countries like Libya, Mali, and the Central African Republic to provide security for regimes in exchange for lucrative mining concessions, extend Russian influence, and do it often with extreme brutality.

2. Ukrainian military and paramilitary forces:

Composition and Structure: The Army is a multi-component force and mainly consists of:

AFU stands for Armed Forces of Ukraine, or the professional, full-time military branch that consists of Army, Air Force, Navy, and Airborne Assault Forces.

TDF - Territorial Defense Forces: The military reserve component of the armed forces, mobilized for local defense, guerrilla warfare, and rear-area security. It was massively expanded after the 2022 invasion.

Role in the 2022 Invasion: The National Defense Army was instrumental in fighting back against the Russian invasion. Its pre-war preparation, high morale, adaptability, and speedy integration of TDF and civilian volunteers prevented the state from collapsing and allowed successful counter-offensive operations. Resilience and the ability to capitalize on international military support mark its characteristics.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

1. The Minsk Protocols (2014-2015)

Context: After Russia annexed Crimea and began its military actions in the Donbas, France and Germany brokered talks between Ukraine and Russia in the so-called "Normandy Format."

Key Agreements:

Minsk Protocol, September 2014: This was the first major ceasefire agreement. It included provisions for a ceasefire, prisoner exchanges, and humanitarian aid corridors. It collapsed quickly.

Minsk II (February 2015): A more elaborate 13-point agreement signed following the heavy losses of the Ukrainian forces in Debaltsevo. Key points included:

An immediate and complete cease-fire.

Withdrawal of all heavy weapons from the front line.

Full restoration of Ukrainian government control over the state border only after local elections are held in the occupied territories under Ukrainian law.

2. Post-Invasion Attempts (2022) Context:

Several negotiation tracks emerged in the first weeks of the full-scale invasion.

Key Events: Belarus/ Turkey Talks: The face-to-face negotiations were in Belarus and later in Istanbul, Turkey. It was reported that Ukraine seemed willing to discuss neutrality in return for security guarantees from other powers. Equally, Russia seemed to scale back its demands concerning "denazification."

The Bucha Massacre: These talks collapsed in early April 2022 after the discovery of Russian war crimes in Bucha and other towns near Kyiv.

The revelations hardened Ukrainian public opinion and government resolve, rendering concessions politically impossible. **Reason for Failure:** The discovery of atrocities destroyed any remaining trust, and Ukraine's successful defense of Kyiv put it in a stronger military position. That reduced the incentive to make concessions.