

## **Locate Russia-Ukraine Skirmish: (An Apprentice Understanding)**

**Rana Danish Nisar<sup>1\*</sup>, Huma Amin<sup>2\*</sup>, Hadeed Shahid Awan<sup>3</sup>, Waqar Haider<sup>3</sup>**

### **ABSTRACT**

The Russia-Ukrainian Skirmish is a warfare that is still running on among Ukraine and Russia. Russia began it in February 2014 in retort to the Coast-to-coast Mutiny in Ukraine. In August 2014, spotless Russian martial Lorries traversed the boundary into the Donetsk republic. An undeclared war began amid Ukrainian militaries on one side, and protestors amalgamated with Russian multitudes on the other, while Russia attempted to hide its involvement. The conflict stable into a stagnant skirmish, with frequent disastrous challenges at a truce. In 2015, the Minsk II pacts were contracted by Russia and Ukraine, but a number of quarrels banned them being fully employed. By 2019, 7% of Ukraine was classified by the Ukrainian regime as momentarily engaged zones. In 2021, there was a major Russian military build-up around Ukraine's borders. NATO alleged Russia of forecasting an incursion, which it deprived of. The present study in hand try to shed light on understanding briefly the Russian-Ukraine tussle and what the international laws says about it. In the setting of methodology, the writing nature is Empirico-analysis with desk research. The qualitative method along with descriptive and exploratory designs are used and it is directing secondary sources.

**Key Words:** Russia, Ukraine, International Law, Conventional War, Impacts

### **PREAMBLE**

Since the end of Cold War, the invasion of Ukraine by Russia contributes the biggest threat to security and peace in whole Europe. The leading role in Russia-Ukraine crisis, Russian president Vladimir Putin announce a bizarre following the justification for the “special military operation” in Ukraine. Vladimir Putin gave an unhinged speech laying out the grievances as justification but all these lead to the dispute over the NATO expansion and the European security shape of the Cold-War time period. Putin put his efforts in highlighting the issue of Ukrainian identity and the interlink of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. After the disintegration of U.S.S.R (United Socialist Soviet Republic) in 1991, the 15 republics were divided into separate countries having their own

---

<sup>1</sup> School of Politics and International Studies (SPIS), CCNU. (Correspondence Author)\*

<sup>2</sup> Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), UOS. \*

<sup>3</sup> Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), UOS.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), UOS.

identity and independence. Throughout Putin's time in office, Moscow pursued the policy towards the Ukraine and Belarus (Diffused way; Belarusian) presenting on the assumption that the external enemies and forces are promoting Ukraine's identity as a part of geopolitical agenda against them. Putin uses the historically minded time period which invokes the people's mind focusing or emphasizing on the organic unity of Russian Empire before 1991 and its people; especially Slavic, Orthodox core in the particular form of what Timothy Snyder historian calls the "politics of eternity" (Snyder, T, 2018, p.8). Politics of eternity is the belief of people in the uniform historical essence. Russian-Ukrainian-Belarusian unity explains and give the origin basis of the current situation and period of crisis by assigned salience of Putin and other elites of Russia to the idea of unity. It is notable that how Moscow risked the large-scale war in the Ukraine on its borders even when there was no military threat posed by the NATO or Ukraine. It provided with suggestion that one of the vocations of Moscow was to keep the Ukraine away from joining the NATO membership and circumscribe the thorough hankering to dominate the Ukraine politically, economically and militarily.

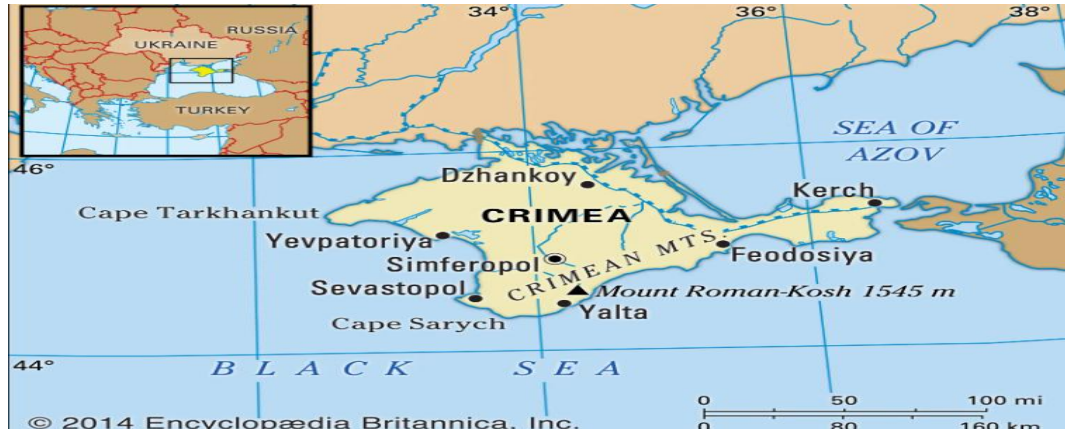
## **1. LOCALE OF RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN COMBAT**

Significant consolidations of the Ukrainian civic identity have witnessed by the events of "Revolution of dignity", Crimea annexation and the Donbas intervention since the years of 2014 (Kharkiv and Lviv 2014). The "Dignity Revolution" in the Ukraine was call forth by the pro-Europeans (Ukrainians) following the Pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovych regime fall (Motyl, A.J. 2010). Viktor Yanukovych was supposed to sign the Association agreement with the European Union but he offended it by favoring the Russian plans and agreements (Elizabeth, P. 2013). His act brought the Ukrainians to raise their voices in the form of large protest held in the Kyiv's maidan generally known as "Maidan Square Revolution" (Steven. P, 2019). It is collectively called the "Euromaidan" (Diuk, N. 2014) as the letter suggests that the Protestants were in the approbation of the European Association Agreement. Following the Revolution of Dignity, the opportunity to take over the Crimea was utilized by the Russians in February 2014. Russia took the chance and invaded the Crimea. Crimea Peninsula was deliberately annexed form the Ukraine by the Russian troops. This incident took place right after the end of Revolution of Dignity and become the wider part of the Ukraine-Russia war. The Russian troops took control of strategic positions in the territory of Crimea and seized the Crimean parliament (Steven. P, 2020). This brought about the annexation of Crimea. Initially the Russia refused the involvement of military, but later they admitted that the military assets were involved. Following the Crimea annexation, the military presence on the peninsula were soared by the Russia and made the security threats to solidify the new status-quo on the ground. Right after the annexation, the United Nations General

## Locate Russia-Ukraine Skirmish: (An Apprentice Understanding)

Assembly Resolution 68/262 was adopted on March 27 and the Crimea was entitled “territorial integrity of Ukraine (UN, 2014). The “annexation” label was strongly opposed by the Russian Government and the Vladimir Putin, the Russian President defended the referendum as a complying with the principle of the people’s Self-determination.

**FIGURE: 1 LOCATE CRIMEA**



Source: <https://britannica.com/place/Crimea>

Later on, in Eastern Ukraine rebelled-controlled territories, Luhansk and Donetsk which comprise the large region known as Donbas that borders the Russia became a target of Russian military. Affirmation of Pro-Russians also began at the same time of Russia’s annexation of Crimea. Two of territories Luhansk and Donetsk were controlled by separatist group of Pro-Russians for about a decade. When the clashes between the Ukrainian military forces and the pro-Russians broke out, Russians military troops became stationed just across the boarder to tackle the situation of the clash between Ukrainian troops and the rebel group of pro-Russians. This results in the seizing of the two regions and well liked to be known as Donbas. Annexation of Crimea and the Donbas further alienated the Ukraine form Russia.

**Figure 2: Donbas**



Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60938544.amp>

## **2. HYBRID WARFARE TO FULL CONVENTIONAL WAR**

The period of 2014-2021 brought many of the disputes between the Russia and Ukraine crisis. Even intelligences of United States warned about the Russia that Russians are intending to invade the Ukraine with the proof of increasing military presence of Russian troops on the borders in the Eastern Ukraine. Vladimir Putin then orders the Russian troops on the Eastern boarder of the Ukraine to serve as the “peacekeeping” function. In result of which the United States impose the sanctions on the Russia on the separatist region of the Ukraine (Luhansk and Donetsk) and the Nord stream 2 gas pipeline a few days later. The multiple meetings of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) were held to dissuade the Russia from attacking the Ukraine further but this was the time when the Putin announces the full conventional war in the Ukraine. It was the full-scale sea, air and land invasion of the Ukraine. The Russian invasion mostly targeted the Ukrainian military assets and cities across the Country. To cooperate all the situation, the United States increased the number of U.S troops in Europe. The United States, G7, EU, and the other countries began to condemn the actions of Russia and supports the Ukrainian forces by providing weapons and aids.

## **3. RUSSIAN STANCE ON UKRAINE:**

The initial aim of the Russian’s leaders was to takeover the Ukraine and dispose its government, ending its desire to join the Western defensive alliance NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). After its failure the Russians decided to capture the territories of Ukraine turning his ambition to eastern and southern Ukraine. After launching the full-scale invasion in Ukraine, Putin told the Russian people that his goal was to “demilitarize and de-Nazify the Ukraine”. He proclaims his aim to protect the people of Ukraine to what he called the eight years of bullying and genocide of Ukrainian’s government. Soon after that, another reason was added that “ensuring Ukrainian neutral status”. This results in many dissimilarities between the few of Russian leaders that were in favor of freeing the Ukraine because the Russia future and the Russia’s place in the world were at stake.

## **4. UKRAINIAN STANCE ON RUSSIA:**

After the disintegration of U.S.S.R, the Ukraine was declared an official state along with other parts separating form Russia. Russia wants to take the Ukraine back deliberately but the Ukrainians were having the full right to have freedom according to international law because Ukraine is a sovereign state. Thus, Russia is continuously manipulating the international law. Putin’s stubbornness is resulting in the severity of on-going Russo-Ukrainians crisis. Ukrainians wants to live in the sovereign state free from the involvement of Russians.

## **5. WHAT'S THE EU POSITION?**

The European Union strongly condemn the foolish act of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the grounds to take back the Ukraine as a part of Russia. Members of European Union also upbraid Putin's decision of Russia's groundless and unjustified military belligerence against Ukraine. Since the Putin's announcement of full-scale war, EU is continuously holding meetings and conferences to discuss the situation of Ukraine and to take action against the Russia. On different occasions and meetings, EU leaders and members urged that Russia should cease military invasion immediately by withdrawing all military tools and forces from Ukraine. They demanded that Russia should respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. EU underlined the basic right of the Ukraine that Ukrainians are having the rights to choose their identity and defend their country. In retaliation to Russian's military invasion, EU imposed sanctions on Russia. With the enhancement of Russia's act, EU continues to increase the sanction and results in massive expanded sanctions. EU adopted the six packages' sanctions on Russia which were designed to weaken the base of Russia's economy. The European Union also shown the coalition and strength to Ukraine and provided them with basic political, military, economical and humanitarian help.

## **6. UNITED STATES & UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS**

United States offers the membership of NATO to Ukraine which prompted the Russia to take over the control of Ukraine because it was not acceptable for Russia. This NATO membership for Ukraine give rise to the invasion by Russia that's why Russian troops were sent to the eastern Ukraine and the events of annexation of Crimea and the Donbas region took place. On the other hand, USA send their troops to Europe to make sure about the security issues and threats. America became one of the main reasons for combat between Russia and Ukraine. The NATO membership prompted Putin and in result of which Putin announces the full-scale war recently after the revolution of dignity, Crimea annexation and the Donbas. United States showed their support to Ukraine but not directly. US send its troops to Europe to assure the security demands which supported the Ukraine. Most of Americans blame the Russia for this act but few of them also blame the America for Russian's behavior towards the Ukraine. According to Realism, the role of US is nothing but to show and maintain his power over the world due to his offer of NATO to Ukraine prompted the Russia to invade it because Russians were too concerned about the Ukraine as it was a part of Russia before the disintegration of U.S.S.R. That is why America is not taking part in Russia-Ukraine war directly and leading the role behind the curtains by showing his hegemony.

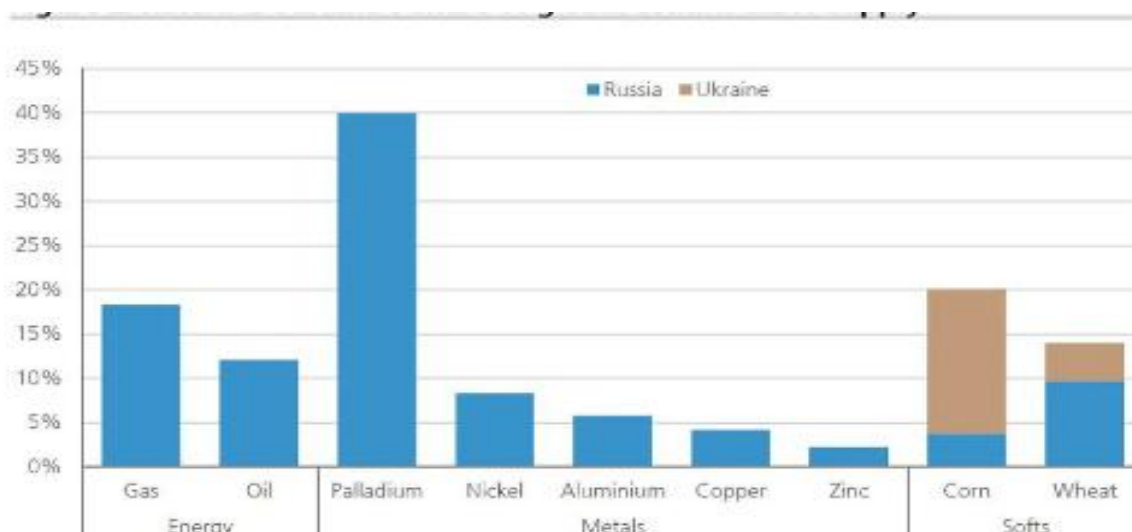
## **7. WHAT'S INTERNATIONAL LAW SAYS?**

Ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine causes hundreds of deaths, injuries, and more than 3.3 million people are forced to flee their homes and others are seeking refugees in the neighboring countries. Reportedly, Russia is targeting the civilians, infrastructure and the populated areas like shopping malls and kindergarten with inexplicit weapons and means like ballistic missiles and cluster munitions. Russians' invasion of Ukraine is illegal because it violates the article 2(4) of the UN charter (United Nations, n.d). This charter requires the UN members to refrain from the use of force against the territorial integrity and independence of any state. But the Russia go against the international law and UN charter. Russian president Vladimir Putin and other Russian leaders tried to justify their act under the article 51 of the UN charter but didn't support them in any fact or law. According to article 51 (United Nations, n.d), nothing shall undermine the intrinsic right of individual or collective security present in the charter if an armed force attack occurs against the United Nations member. But Ukraine did not violate the article and attack the Russia in any means. Putin also states that Ukraine was perpetrating "genocide" against the Russia in the regions of Luhansk and Donetsk but again it was not supported by facts and proofs. Following the false statements of Russia and Putin, Ukraine also filed a claim against the Russia in International Court of Justice (ICJ) proclaiming that Russia misinterpreted about the "Genocide Convention" in order to justify the Russian invasion. ICJ already knows about the two claims of Ukrainians relating to action of Russia (Crimea annexation and Donbas).

## **8. RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR & GLOBAL IMPACT**

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has affected the global economic trade. The European Union and United states have imposed sanctions on Russia following the illegal acts raised during the war. Currently, good exports of energy are not subjected to the sanctions on Russia but the EU is seeking the alternatives ways by suggesting that the refiners should avoid taking the oil supplies from Russia. The on-going war is increasing pressure in the system of world economy. Some of the analyst says that the price of oil supplies is not fully affected but it can be poised for further run upwards. One of the reasons of imposing sanctions on Russia by EU was to weak the base of its economy so that Russia can resist on focusing the war and invasion in Ukraine but the stubbornness of Putin is not allowing Russians to back out. Now this combat is affecting the global economy by higher commodity prices, financial sanctions disruptions in the supply-chain. These transference channels are causing world wide inflations (spike in oil supplies) especially in the Europe. UK and Germany have also reacted to Russian war acts by imposing sanctions on oil trade.

**Figure 3: Sharing of Russia-Ukraine Worldwide Supply**



Source: <https://www.imf.org>

## CONCLUSION

The regional and global security design would be earnestly weak to this Russia-Ukraine skirmish, which would also highlight the UN's vanity and the inarticulateness of the contemporary worldwide lawful charter. A Russian incursion of Ukraine might have immediate negative effects on everyone in the globe, not just the local participants. Additionally, it would be a socioeconomic problem. In the event of a major war, one out of every five individuals could be displaced and lose their jobs. The middle-of-the-road of Ukrainian wanderers would relocate to European nations in the imminent time owing to their financial might and wealth. Being a lesser state, Russian air forays would virtually downright destroy Ukrainian hamlets and municipalities. Millions of Ukrainians will potentially lose their households and other valuables, necessitating both financial sustenance as well as therapeutic and psychosomatic attention. If Russia completely marginalized intercontinental rubrics after a efficacious invasion of Ukraine, creating the image that it is a marionette state, it may have dreadful imports. The ridiculous and inner stabbing of Russia against Ukraine also uncovered the blemished rulebooks made by American and European leaders and scholars who maxim Russia as a sensible partaker in the world. Russia's confrontation against Ukraine has revealed the shortfalls and recklessness of the EU's formerly philosophies of "coast-to-coast neighbourhood" with Russia in terms of safekeeping. One of the thru possessions of the combat would be a privation of nourishment retreat. The EU's expedition to slacken its reliance on Russian hydrocarbon exports could be changed by a war with Ukraine. Extorting Putin with gasoline prices could have disastrous results. The UNSC and the international institutions should give this issue significant consideration as otherwise a horrific disaster could shatter world peace.

## REFERENCES

1. Diuk, N. (2014). Euromaidan:Ukraine's Self-Organizing Revolution. *World Affairs*, 176(6), 9-16.
2. Kiev, K, Lviv. (2014). The February Revolution. *the economist*. Retrieved July 14, 2021 from <https://www.economist.com/briefing/2014/02/27/the-february-revolution>
3. Motyl, A..J. (2010). Ukrainian Blues: Yanukovich's Rise, Democracy's fall. *Foreign Affairs*, 89(4), 125-136.
4. Piper, E. (2013). Why Ukraine spurned the EU and embraced Russia. *Reuters*. Retrieved February 22, 2021 from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-russia-deal-special-report-idUSBR9BI0DZ20131219>
5. Pifer, S. (2019). Ukraine: Looking Forward, Five Years after the Maidan Revolution. *Brookings*. Retrieved July 05, 2021 from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2019/02/22/ukraine-looking-forward-five-years-after-the-maidan-revolution/amp/>
6. Pifer, S. (2020). Crimea: Six Years after illegal annexation. *Brookings*. Retrieved May 22, 2021 from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/03/17/crimea-six-years-after-illegal-annexation/amp/>
7. Snyder, T. (2018). *The Road to Unfreedom Russia. Europe. America*. New York: Tim Duggan Books. p.8.
8. UN General Assembly. (2014). Territorial Integrity of Ukraine. *Refworld*. Retrieved March 20, 2021 from <https://refworld.org/docid/534502a14.html>
9. UN. (n.d). United Nations Charter Article 2(4). *United Nations*. Retrieved April 14, 2021 from <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>
10. UN. (n.d). United Nations Charter Article (51). *United Nations*. Retrieved April 14, 2021 from <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>
11. <https://britannica.com/place/Crimea>, Retrieved June 17, 2021
12. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60938544.amp> Retrieved April 8, 2021
13. <https://www.imf.org> Retrieved May 26, 2021