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# UKRAINE'S STRUGGLE FOR SOVEREIGNTY: AN OVERLOOKED POLITICAL CRISIS

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## ABSTRACT

A significant turning point in Ukraine's struggle for independence and territorial integrity occurred when Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. The occasions that followed the Euromaidan fights in Kiev in 2013 lighted a political and military emergency that eventually prompted Russia's attack and extension of Crimea. Russia's desire to keep its strategic interests in the Black Sea area and prevent Ukraine from joining the West drove the annexation. Economic sanctions were imposed on Russia as a result of the international community's widespread condemnation of the annexation. In addition, the annexation sparked an ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine that has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people and the exodus of millions of others. Concerns about Russia's intentions in the region and beyond have been raised by its aggressive behavior in Ukraine and disregard for international law. Ukraine's struggle for territorial integrity and sovereignty is reflected in the annexation of Crimea, whose resolution remains a significant obstacle for the nation and the international community.

**Keywords:** Russia-Ukraine War, Political Crisis, Sovereignty, Crimea, Annexation, Conflict, International Law, Emergency.

## INTRODUCTION:

Ukraine has struggled to establish its own national identity and political independence ever since it gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. However, the nation has been plagued by widespread corruption, political instability, and conflict with Russia over Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, among other deeply rooted political, social, and economic issues. The international community has largely ignored Ukraine's struggle for sovereignty because of other geopolitical developments that have dominated the news. Nonetheless, Ukraine's political and economic future is seriously in jeopardy because of this crisis, which presents a complicated situation. The absence of consideration given to this issue has brought about a restricted comprehension of the perplexing difficulties that Ukraine faces. The Russian intrusion into Ukraine is a significant philanthropic emergency influencing many individuals and an extreme financial shock of questionable span and extent.<sup>1</sup> This note gives a first evaluation of the expected effect of the contention on the worldwide economy, in view of the shocks seen up to this point, and the strategy suggestions. Prior to the conflict, it was anticipated that the global pandemic recovery would continue in 2022 and 2023, aided by ongoing progress in global vaccination efforts, favourable macroeconomic policies in the major economies, and favourable financial conditions. The world economy has experienced a new negative supply shock as a result of the war in Ukraine, just as some of the supply-chain challenges that have existed since the pandemic's inception appeared to be diminishing. The impacts of the conflict will work through a wide range of channels and are probably going to develop in the event that the contention extends further.<sup>2</sup> In certain regards, the immediate job of Russia and Ukraine in the worldwide economy is little. At current market prices, they represent only about 2% of global GDP and a similar percentage of total global trade, with the majority of nations only engaging in limited bilateral trade. Additionally, financial ties with other nations are typically minimal. Russia's and Russia's stocks of foreign direct investment in other economies make up between one and twelve percent of the global total. Since 1991, Russia has repeatedly interfered with Ukraine's sovereignty. The underlying causes of Euromaidan and the Orange Revolution are just two examples of Russian interference in its satellite state. Instead of having to fumble around with international law or economic dependencies, President Putin would rather have someone in charge of the Ukrainian government. This was the case with Yanukovych, whose

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<sup>1</sup> *Philanthropy's response to Russian invasion of Ukraine*, Available at Philanthropy's Response to Russian Invasion of Ukraine | Council on Foundations (cof.org), last accessed 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.

<sup>2</sup> *Russia-Ukraine war: Insights and Analysis*, Available at Russia-Ukraine War: Insights and Analysis | Harvard Kennedy School, last accessed 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

presidency saw the lease on Russia's naval base in Sevastopol (the Crimean Peninsula) extended until 2042, despite Yushchenko's earlier attempts to take this port, which is important to the economy and is strategically important. Discounts on the cost of Ukrainian gas imported from Russia were part of the deal. In addition, many of the oligarchs who control Ukraine's economy have business relationships with the Russian government, banks, businesses, and other entities and it was reported that the assets of the richest 100 Ukrainians were worth 23% of Ukraine's GDP. However, their impact on the ongoing conflict will be discussed later.<sup>3</sup> Putin ensures that his actions in foreign policy adhere to, or appear to adhere to, international law. Putin's future foreign policy decisions regarding Ukraine and its sovereignty are in doubt given the precedent set by the annexation of Crimea.

## **RESEARCH OBJECTIVE**

The study investigated how Ukraine was affected due to the war and what were the political and economic factors that were unpretentious. Russia's unjustified and unprovoked war against Ukraine has highly impacted energy and food markets. This has apparently caused a steep spike in prices of gas, oil, and diesel since Russia is one of the world's largest producer of oil and fuel. Certainly, the study's objective is:

- 1) To Find the impact of Russia-Ukraine war on the World.
- 2) To Find the effect of international law on these issues.
- 3) To Find how the Political crisis enraged due to the war and Ukraine's struggle for sovereignty.

## **RESEARCH GAP:**

Since 2014, the war between Ukraine and Russia as well as the political crisis have been significant issues in international relations. When Russia annexed Crimea and provided support for separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine, the conflict began. The situation remains unstable despite numerous diplomatic attempts to resolve the conflict, and the war continues to kill and destroy. The role of international organizations in resolving the conflict is one area in which research is lacking. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the

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<sup>3</sup> *How the war has robbed Ukraine's oligarchs of political influence*, Available at How the war has robbed Ukraine's oligarchs of political influence | Ukraine | The Guardian, last accessed 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023

European Union, and the United Nations have all been involved in the peace process, but their efforts have not been entirely fruitful. There is a need to look at the viability of these associations in intervening contentions and advancing harmony. The impact of the war on Ukraine's political and economic stability is another research gap. Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes as a result of the conflict, many people have died, and infrastructure and homes have been destroyed. The economy has suffered as a result of the government's inability to assist and support those affected by the war. The long-term effects of the conflict on Ukraine's political and economic stability must be investigated. Moreover, the job of media and publicity in the contention is another examination hole.<sup>4</sup> The media have been utilized by Russia and Ukraine to influence public opinion and justify their actions. The propagation of false information and propaganda has hampered efforts to resolve the conflict and exacerbated tensions between the two nations. The impact of media and propaganda on the conflict must be investigated.

## **ANALYSIS:**

International law has been significantly impacted by the 2014 Russia-Ukraine War. The use of force, the annexation of Crimea, and the protection of human rights in conflict zones are among the legal issues that the conflict has brought up. This paper will investigate the effect of the Russia-Ukraine Battle on worldwide regulation and contrast it with the impacts on global regulation. The breach of territorial integrity is one of the war's most significant effects on international law. This is clearly demonstrated by Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea. Forced annexation of territory is against international law and against the principles of territorial integrity and non-interference in other nations' affairs. The annexation violated international law's self-determination principles, despite Russia's claim that it was necessary to protect Russian-speaking people in Crimea. Questions about the use of force have also been brought up as a result of the conflict. The conflict started when separatists supported by Russia took control of Crimea and later expanded to other parts of eastern Ukraine. Despite Russia's denial of involvement, evidence suggested that Russian troops were directly involved in the fighting. The utilization of power in this contention brought up issues about the legitimacy of the utilization of power in global regulation. The use of force is against the Charter of the United Nations, with the exception of self-defense and when authorized by the Security Council.

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<sup>4</sup> *Russia's war in Ukraine: Identity, History and Conflict*, Available at Russia's War in Ukraine: Identity, History, and Conflict (csis.org), last accessed 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Russia's involvement in the conflict in this instance was not authorized by the Security Council, posing legal concerns about its actions. Human rights in the conflict zones were also significantly affected by the conflict.<sup>5</sup> Over a million people were forced to flee their homes and their human rights were violated as a result of the fighting in eastern Ukraine. The conflict has resulted in the destruction of hospitals, schools, and homes as well as the deaths of thousands of civilians. The circumstance has prompted philanthropic emergencies in the contention regions, with many individuals lacking admittance to essential necessities like food, water, and clinical consideration. The conflict raises concerns regarding the duty of states to safeguard civilians' rights in conflict zones. Worldwide compassionate regulation requires parties in a contention to recognize regular folks and soldiers and to shield regular citizens from hurt. The contention in Ukraine brings up issues about the sufficiency of this regulation in safeguarding the freedoms of regular people in present day clashes. The international community's response to violations of international law has also been affected by the conflict. The extension of Crimea prompted the inconvenience of authorizations on Russia by the US and European Association. The assents remembered a freeze for resources and travel boycotts for people and substances engaged with the extension. The sanctions were imposed in order to exert pressure on Russia to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and withdraw from Crimea. The effectiveness of the international community's response to violations of international law is questioned by the imposition of sanctions. While sanctions can be a useful tool for influencing state behavior, they can also have unintended effects, such as causing civilians in the countries being targeted to suffer. International law has been significantly affected by the Russia-Ukraine War. The questionable use of force, the violation of territorial integrity, and the impact on human rights have all had significant legal repercussions. The international community's response to violations of international law has also been questioned as a result of the conflict. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine serves as a reminder of how crucial it is to uphold the principles of international law in order to keep the world at peace and secure. The international community must continue to work toward securing the rights of civilians caught in the crossfire and finding peaceful solutions to conflicts. One of the most significant political crises since a war broke out in Ukraine nearly a decade ago is currently being witnessed all over the world. A political crisis that has engulfed Eastern Europe and even affected global politics has been sparked by the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The political emergency

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<sup>5</sup> UN General Assembly votes to suspend Russia from the Human Rights Council, Available at UN General Assembly votes to suspend Russia from the Human Rights Council | UN News, Last accessed 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

in Ukraine has rankled as it has expanded into a back-and-forth political game that has left regular people as the people in question. Since 2014, when Ukraine's former president Viktor Yanukovych was ousted from office amid widespread protests that were allegedly fueled by Russia, tensions between Ukraine and Russia have been high.<sup>6</sup> The situation that developed during this period prompted further conflicts between the two nations, finishing in the addition of Crimea by Russia. This development caused widespread condemnation from the international community and sent shockwaves throughout the world. The fact that the annexation of Crimea was deemed illegal and in violation of international law had a ripple effect throughout the world's diplomatic corridors. Russia was swiftly subjected to sanctions by the United States and the European Union, which exacerbated the political calamity in Ukraine.<sup>7</sup> Russia, on the other hand, maintained that the situation in Ukraine was a matter within the country and that it had no intention of getting involved. The conflict has been centered on Ukraine's struggle for sovereignty throughout the entire political crisis. Russia's annexation of Crimea was a clear sign that it did not intend to respect Ukraine's sovereignty. In addition, the alleged involvement of Russia in the conflict in the eastern regions of Ukraine has resulted in a severe political crisis that has made civilians the primary casualties. Since then, the conflict has gotten out of hand, and both Russia and Ukraine have asked their allies to help them. The contribution of outer powers like the US and the European Association has made the circumstance much more complicated, with each side attempting to beat the other for political influence. A humanitarian crisis has arisen as a result of the situation in Ukraine, with civilians caught in the crossfire of the conflict.<sup>8</sup> As a result of Russia's alleged support for separatist rebels in the eastern regions, the Ukrainian government has launched a brutal and bloody conflict that has resulted in civilian displacement and death. Additionally, the conflict has resulted in a division within the political class of Ukraine, with distinct groups advocating for distinct political ideologies. While others have taken a more assertive stance toward Russia, some groups have advocated for closer ties with the United States and the European Union. Resolving the conflict has become even more difficult as a result of the political tension that exists between these groups. Russia's annexation of Crimea resulted in widespread international condemnation, and the political crisis in Ukraine also had an impact on the global political stage. The West has blamed Russia for being forceful and taking on an expansionist

<sup>6</sup> Gierczak, Bartosz. (2020). *The Russo-Ukrainian Conflict*.

<sup>7</sup> Crimea: Six years after illegal annexation, Available at Crimea: Six years after illegal annexation (brookings.edu), Last accessed 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

<sup>8</sup> NATO and the Ukraine- Russia crisis, Available at NATO and the Ukraine-Russia crisis: Five key things to know | NATO News | Al Jazeera, Last Accessed 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

position towards Ukraine, while Russia has blamed the West for attempting to infringe on its area and weaken the district. The circumstance in Ukraine has since turned into a critical consideration forming worldwide governmental issues, with the contention becoming the overwhelming focus in conversations around worldwide security and global discretion. In response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, many countries in Eastern Europe have joined NATO and sought closer ties with the West. This has sparked a political spirit in the region. All in all, the political emergency that has been seething in Ukraine for very nearly 10 years presently has been energized by a battle for power among Ukraine and Russia. Civilians have been caught in the crossfire and external powers have attempted to outplay each other in the political game as a result of the conflict, which has had far-reaching consequences. The crisis has become one of the main factors influencing global politics and has been widely condemned by the international community. The political crisis in Ukraine continues to rage with no sign of resolution, putting the civilian population at the center of the conflict. The conflict has had a significant impact on the world as it has grown into a full-blown war. The conflict has brought about the deficiency of thousands of lives, the removal of millions of individuals, and financial and political precariousness in the district. The war between Russia and Ukraine and Russia's violations of international law will be the subject of this essay. The Russia-Ukraine war altogether affects the world. Russia's relationship with the West, particularly the United States and the European Union, has been strained as a result of the conflict. The West forced financial approvals on Russia, which has impacted its economy. Russia's access to international investment, technology, and financial markets has been restricted by the sanctions. The Russian people's quality of life has also deteriorated as a result of the sanctions. A humanitarian crisis has also arisen as a result of the war. Millions of people have been forced to flee Ukraine and neighboring countries as a result of the conflict. The dislodged individuals have confronted various difficulties, including an absence of admittance to essential requirements like food, water, and sanctuary. The conflict has additionally brought about the deficiency of thousands of lives, including regular folks, warriors, and separatists. The energy industry has also been significantly affected by the conflict. Ukraine is a travel country for Russian gas commodities to Europe. Due to the ongoing war, the political crisis in Ukraine has had significant effects on the country and the region. The conflict has led to the displacement of people, the imposition of economic sanctions, and political instability.<sup>9</sup> Despite sanctions and condemnation from the

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<sup>9</sup> *The geopolitical impact of the conflict in Ukraine*, Available at The geopolitical impact of the conflict in Ukraine - KPMG Global, Last accessed 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

international community, a peaceful resolution to the conflict has not yet been reached. In order to find a long-term solution to the crisis and restore stability to the region, it is essential for all parties involved to prioritize diplomacy and dialogue. Numerous international laws have been broken during the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The most flagrant infractions include:

1. Violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty: Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea was a clear violation of international law because it was an illegal takeover of sovereign state territory.
2. Utilization of military power: Russia's tactical mediation in eastern Ukraine abuses the rule of non-mediation in the issues of different states, as well as the restriction on the utilization of power under global regulation.
3. Abuse of human rights: Human rights violations, such as extrajudicial killings, torture, and forced disappearances, have been alleged against both Ukrainian and Russian forces.
4. Negligence toward the Minsk Agreements: Both sides have repeatedly broken the Minsk Agreements, which were meant to end the conflict. Examples of these violations include not removing heavy weapons from the front lines and continuing to shell civilian areas.
5. The Geneva Conventions were broken: Additionally, numerous violations of the Geneva Conventions occurred during the conflict, including mistreatment of prisoners of war, the use of prohibited weapons, and attacks on civilians and civilian property.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The Russia-Ukraine war started in 2014 when Russia attacked Crimea from Ukraine. This prompted a contention between the two nations, with Russia supporting nonconformist revolutionaries in eastern Ukraine. Millions of people have been displaced and over 13,000 people have died as a result of the war. The conflict has also had a significant impact on the economy, resulting in sanctions and reduced trade between the two countries. Russia's relations with the West have also been strained as a result of the war, as many nations have imposed sanctions on Russia for its actions in Ukraine. The war's aftermath includes the conflict in eastern Ukraine as well as the ongoing tensions between Russia and Ukraine. The war has also brought to light the significance of international diplomacy and cooperation in peaceful conflict resolution. The war between Russia and Ukraine has demonstrated the significance of

international diplomacy and cooperation in peaceful conflict resolution due to the conflict's significant regional and global effects. Over 1.6 million people have been forced to flee their homes as a result of the war, resulting in a humanitarian crisis in the region. Additionally, it has strained relations between Russia and the West, which has resulted in economic sanctions and political strife. To avoid further escalation and reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict, diplomacy, and international cooperation are required. This expects nations to cooperate to find an answer that is okay with all gatherings included. The Unified Countries and other worldwide associations can assume a critical part in working with exchanges and giving helpful guidance to those impacted by the contention.