



Russia-Ukraine Conflict & Its Implications for India: A Critical Analysis

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Abstract: Russia and Ukraine has close historical & geographical relations being part of USSR before 1991. Now their national interests are diverging which are further complicated by security dilemma & presence of external powers. India has always recommended peaceful resolution mentioning that this is not era of war.

Keywords: Russia, Ukraine, USA, India

Introduction

Russia and Ukraine are neighboring countries in Eurasian continent. Ongoing conflict among them & presence of USA & EU is further escalating it. It is affecting the entire world which is interconnected & interdependence. India is also affected by it.

Geographical Location of Ukraine

It is located in Eastern Europe. Borders of Ukraine are as under:

Direction	Bordering Country
West	Poland & Slovakia
South-West	Hungary, Romania & Moldova
South & South-East	Black Sea & Sea of Azov
East	Russia
North-East	Russia
North	Belarus

Table 1-Neighbouring Countries of Ukraine

Ukraine's Significance to Russia



Fig 1- Ukraine-Russia Proximity¹

- They have shared linguistic & cultural relations centuries.
- Ukraine was the second most powerful country in the Soviet Union, Russia being the first.
- Ukraine has been a centre for factories, industries and defence manufacturing.
- Ukraine also helpful for Russia for access to the Black Sea.
- Ukraine also provide to Russia crucial connectivity to the Mediterranean Sea.

Background of Russia – Ukraine Conflict

- In 1991, Ukraine gained independence after collapse of USSR.
- Until 1991, Ukraine was a member of the Soviet Union. After disintegration, Russia has tried to maintain the country in its orbit since then.
- In Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, a separatist insurgency started in 2014.

- Due to annexation of Crimea, Russia further gained a maritime advantage in the region.
- As a result, both the USA and the EU tried to safeguard the integrity of Ukraine's orders.

Causes for Russia's Aggression

The main causes for Russian aggression:

1. Geo-Political and Strategic Causes

- Russia claims that the eastward expansion in Europe by North Atlantic Treaty Organization which they call “**enlargement**”², has threatened Russia's interests and has asked for written security guarantees from NATO.
- NATO, led by the U.S., has planned to install missile defence systems in Eastern Europe in countries like Poland and the Czech Republic to counter Russia's intercontinental-range missiles³.

2. Economic Causes

- Russia is well aware of economic importance of Ukraine. It tried for **Eurasian Economic Community** (EAEC) membership for Ukraine⁴.
- Ukraine has huge market.
- Ukraine has advanced agriculture outputs.
- Ukraine is industrially developed.

Developments in Russia – Ukraine Conflicts

Russia started military build-up on Ukraine border. Russia has claimed that it is in response to NATO's eastward expansion in Europe. Russia mentioned that it is trying to protect its own security.

- 1,00,000 troops have been mobilised by Russia on border with Ukraine⁵.
- Russia tried to get ensured about non-joining of NATO by Ukraine.
- On the other hand, Ukraine was assured by U.S.A. of protection.
- Tensions between Russia and U.S.A. were resulted from this.

Demands of Russia

- Russia has demanded that further expansion of NATO should be immediately stopped.
- Russia also demanded that 1990s military deployments should be restored.

- Russia also demanded prohibition of deployment of intermediate-range missiles in the bordering areas.
- Prohibition of NATO's cooperation with Ukraine should be stopped.

West's Response

- The U.S.A. & U.K. have denied the change of "open-door policy" by NATO⁶.
- The U.S.A. mentioned about continuous induction of members.
- Providing of weapons & training to Ukraine will be continued by U.S.A.
- The U.S.A. has mentioned that it will keep discussion options open about deployment & reduction of missile & military exercises in Eastern part of Europe.
- Germany has also threatened to Russia to stop **Nord Stream** pipeline in case of invasion of Ukraine⁷.
- The U.S.A. also warned Russia about imposing further economic sanctions in case of Ukrainian invasion.

Implications for India

- India had to select between Russia & Western alliance.
- India's national interests are served with strong relations with Russia. India has to maintain strong strategic alliance with Russia.

Possibility of CAATSA sanctions on India cannot be denied.

Any agreement between Russia & U.S.A. might affect relation of Russia with China which will open a window for India to further deepen its relations with Russia. In interdependent world, it is not easy for any country to keep itself aloof from conflict in any part of world.

Indian Diaspora in Ukraine will also effected from any move in Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Stand of India

- India has voiced for "a peaceful resolution of the situation through sustained diplomatic efforts for long-term peace and stability in the region and beyond"⁸.
- India abstained from voting in the UN General Assembly on a resolution condemning Russia after the annexation of Crimea⁹.
- India also voted against a resolution sponsored by Ukraine in 2020 in General Assembly of UN condemning human rights violations in Crimea¹⁰.

- India has by and large been neutral & maintained status quo on Ukraine post-2014.

Conclusion

Russia Ukraine conflict is result of security dilemma. Both countries along with their supporters are trying to ensure their security which in turn increasing tensions between them. This can be solved through dialogue, diplomacy, confidence building measures & other peaceful methods. India has been strong supporter of peace mechanisms & suggested time-to-time about it for peace & prosperity in Eurasia in particular & World in general.

References

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³ ibid

⁴ ibid

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¹⁰ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-votes-against-ukraine-sponsored-resolution-in-the-united-nations/articleshow/79310215.cms?from=mdr>

