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***Unveiling the Reasons behind US Unconditional Support for Ukraine:***

***A Realist Perspective on Geopolitical Dynamics, Democratic Values, and Global Implications***

Thesis submitted to the Department of English Language and Literature as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of *Master* in Literature and civilization.

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## **Declaration of Originality**

I hereby declare that this submission is my work and that, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which has been accepted for the qualification of any other degree or diploma of a university or other institution.

Date: 18/06/2023

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## **Dedication**

To my beloved parents, brothers, and sister, Manel, cousin, Imen, and dear friends, Zhor, Boutheina, and Malika,

This dedication is a heartfelt expression of my gratitude for your unwavering love, support, and belief in me. You have been my pillars of strength, providing encouragement and inspiration throughout my journey. Thank you for being there for me, for sharing unforgettable moments, and for being the foundation of my happiness and success.

With love and appreciation,

***Marwa***

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## **Abstract**

The war between Ukraine and Russia erupted in 2014, with Russia's invasion of Crimea and support for separatist forces in eastern Ukraine. The United States, along with other Western nations, has provided significant support to Ukraine during this crisis. This research paper analyzes the causes behind the United States support for Ukraine, using the theoretical framework of realism in international relations. Realism emphasizes power dynamics, national interests, and the competitive nature of the international system. The study finds that US support for Ukraine is driven by a combination of geopolitical considerations and shared democratic principles. Ukraine is viewed as strategically important, serving as a buffer state between NATO and Russia. Supporting Ukraine helps maintain a favorable balance of power and regional stability. Additionally, the United States is committed to defending and promoting democratic ideals, which contributes to its support for Ukraine. The findings of this research shed light on the complexity underlying US support for Ukraine and have implications for policymakers, academics, and practitioners in the field of international relations and conflict. The study recommends continuing support for Ukraine's security and territorial integrity, engaging in diplomatic efforts to defuse tensions with Russia, and strengthening international coalitions and cooperation to address the regional consequences of the conflict. By considering these factors, the United States can uphold its national interests and promote democratic principles while assisting Ukraine.

**Keywords:** Democratic values, Geopolitics, Global Impact, Regional stability, Russia, Ukraine, US foreign policy.

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## ***General Introduction***

## **General Introduction**

The post-Cold War era has been marked by the United States's backing of nations that uphold democratic principles and human rights. Among these nations, Ukraine has distinguished itself as a prominent beneficiary of unqualified US assistance in its fight against Russian aggression. The conflict between Ukraine and Russia has its origins in a complex historical and geopolitical context. Ukraine, having gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, faced numerous challenges in establishing itself as a sovereign nation. Russia, considering Ukraine as part of its sphere of influence due to shared cultural and economic ties, has historically regarded Ukraine's stability and control as crucial to its own strategic interests. The situation escalated in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea and pro-Russian separatist movements emerged in eastern Ukraine. In response, the United States has provided extensive support to Ukraine, including political, economic, and military assistance. This support aligns with broader US foreign policy objectives of promoting democratic values, safeguarding national sovereignty, and maintaining global stability. This study aims to delve into the intricate dynamics underlying the US-Ukraine relationship, exploring the geopolitical factors that account for the United States' steadfast backing of Ukraine. Additionally, it seeks to analyze the diplomatic, political, economic, and military approaches employed by the United States to provide unrestricted assistance in Ukraine's struggle against Russian aggression. Furthermore, the research aims to assess how the United States' support for Ukraine impacts regional stability and the maintenance of the global order. Lastly, it aims to examine the global implications of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

The research has attentively explored the United States' position in international relations and its foreign policy toward Eastern Europe. Regarding the particular justifications for the US's unwavering support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression, there is a substantial vacuum in the literature. To comprehend the factors that led the United States to assist Ukraine without wavering, this research aims to concentrate on this particular topic.

The significance of the research goes beyond the specific US-Ukraine connection to a larger issue or discussion about the nature of international relations and the influence of superpowers on the development of the world order. The current international order, which is distinguished by its rules, institutions, and values like territorial integrity and self-determination, is being challenged by the war between Ukraine and Russia. Support for

Ukraine by the United States might be considered a reflection of the country's dedication to upholding these institutions and values, preserving regional stability, and fending off Russian aggression.

Additionally, by exposing the bigger issue or dispute in international relations, this research intends to demonstrate the importance of comprehending the justifications for the US's unwavering support for Ukraine. The war between Ukraine and Russia has an impact on the international system of governance in addition to the local area. It calls into question the place of superpowers, the distribution of power, and the upholding of universal values.

**This study aims therefore to address the following questions:**

- What are the geopolitical factors that contribute to the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression?
- What diplomatic, political, economic, and military approaches has the United States employed to provide unrestricted assistance to Ukraine in its conflict with Russian aggression?
- How does the United States' support for Ukraine impact regional stability and the maintenance of the global order?
- What is the global impact of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine?

Combining the primary insights from pertinent studies, it has often been emphasized that the geopolitical environment has had an important effect on how the US supports Ukraine. The United States can preserve its status as a superpower and counterbalance Russian influence in the region. This perspective highlights the importance of Ukraine as a strategic buffer state between NATO nations and Russia, allowing the United States to maintain its presence and influence in the area. Additionally, supporting Ukraine aligns with the United States' commitment to promoting democratic principles and human rights globally. By assisting Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression, the United States demonstrates its dedication to defending democratic values and upholding international norms. This multi-faceted approach reflects the complex geopolitical dynamics and strategic considerations that underpin the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine.

Additionally, the importance of shared democratic values has come to light as a key

element influencing US support for Ukraine. According to studies the United States has employed a comprehensive set of diplomatic, political, economic, and military approaches to provide unrestricted assistance to Ukraine in its conflict with Russian aggression. Diplomatically, the United States has engaged in negotiations and diplomatic efforts to seek resolutions to the conflict, including participating in international forums and mediating talks between Ukraine and Russia. Politically, the United States has forged alliances and partnerships with Ukraine, demonstrating its commitment to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Economically, the United States has provided significant financial aid and assistance to Ukraine to strengthen its economy, promote development, and alleviate the impact of the conflict. This includes loans, grants, and investment initiatives. Militarily, the United States has offered military training, equipment, and advisory support to enhance Ukraine's defense capabilities and improve its ability to counter Russian aggression. These multifaceted approaches highlight the breadth and depth of the United States' support for Ukraine, utilizing various channels to provide comprehensive assistance and reinforce Ukraine's position in the conflict.

The United States' unwavering support for Ukraine carries significant implications for regional stability and the maintenance of the global order. Firstly, it affects the balance of power in the region by bolstering Ukraine's position and countering Russian influence. This support enhances Ukraine's capabilities and strengthens its resilience in the face of aggression, thereby contributing to a more stable regional environment. Additionally, the United States' backing of Ukraine fosters alliances and partnerships with like-minded nations who share a common interest in promoting stability and deterring aggression. This collective approach serves to reinforce regional security and discourage further acts of aggression from other actors. Furthermore, the United States' support for Ukraine demonstrates a commitment to upholding international law, norms, and democratic values. By assisting Ukraine in its conflict with Russian aggression, the United States sends a message that it stands firmly in defense of these principles, contributing to the broader maintenance of the global order.

The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has far-reaching global implications that extend beyond the immediate conflict zone. The conflict has the potential to escalate tensions between major powers, particularly between the United States and Russia, as they navigate their respective roles and interests in the region. The involvement of external actors and the complex web of alliances and partnerships adds an additional layer of complexity to the

situation. Furthermore, the war has significant effects on global energy markets, with fluctuations in oil prices and concerns about energy security. The conflict also raises broader questions about international security and the stability of the international system. It challenges the norms and principles of international law and highlights the need for effective conflict resolution mechanisms and diplomatic efforts to prevent further escalation and promote stability on a global scale.

By thoroughly investigating these research questions and hypotheses, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors driving the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine. It seeks to shed light on the complex dynamics underlying the US-Ukraine relationship and the broader implications for regional stability and the international system. Moreover, this research contributes to the field of international relations by analyzing the geopolitical imperatives, shared democratic values, US strategies, and the impact of support on the conflict and global dynamics.

The thesis consists of three main chapters that offer an extensive analysis of the conflict between Ukraine, Russia, and the United States, as well as the justifications for the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine. Chapter One provides a historical overview of the conflict, highlighting significant historical occurrences and contextual elements that have influenced the current state of affairs. Understanding the historical context is essential to comprehending the current dynamics between the United States, Ukraine, and Russia. The chapter emphasizes the complexities of Ukraine's relationship with Russia, stemming from historical, cultural, and political ties, as well as the disputed territories such as Crimea and the Donbas region.

Chapter Two, which constitutes the central objective of the thesis, delves into the geopolitical factors that drive the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine. It analyzes the geopolitical imperatives and power dynamics that shape US foreign policy toward Ukraine, employing a realist perspective. The chapter examines how the US's choice to offer unconditional assistance is influenced by the strategic relevance of Ukraine as a buffer state, its role in the balance of power in the region, and the pursuit of US national interests. By using realism as a theoretical framework, this chapter provides valuable insights into the fundamental impulses guiding US policy.

Chapter Three focuses on the economic and political consequences of the war between

Ukraine and Russia, with a specific emphasis on the influence of US backing. It examines the effects of the conflict on the regional political environment and the economic ramifications for Ukraine, employing a realist viewpoint. The chapter investigates how US support affects the balance of power, local stability, and the larger international system. Additionally, it offers a comprehensive analysis of the outcomes of the war and the role of US assistance within the context of realist theory. By adding a realist perspective to the analysis in the second and third chapters, this thesis presents an exhaustive assessment of the war and the reasons for the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine, contributing to the existing body of work.

### **Discussion**

The findings of our study shed light on the complex factors that govern America's steadfast support for Ukraine in its conflict with Russia. The findings point to several important variables, such as geopolitical interests, the advancement of democracy, humanitarian concerns, economic and energy considerations, and adherence to international law and standards, which motivate this support.

Initially, the United States perceives the war between Ukraine and Russia as an expression of larger geopolitical tensions. This viewpoint is consistent with realist theory, which emphasizes the importance of state-centric behavior, power, and self-interest in international relations. The United States seeks to uphold its status as a world power, balance Russian dominance in the area, and protect its strategic interests by backing Ukraine. A framework for analyzing the factors and processes influencing the United States' support for Ukraine are provided by the application of realism theory to our research. In international relations, realism stresses the importance of power, self-interest, and state-centric conduct. Our findings show that the United States perceives Russia's actions in Ukraine as a danger to its own strategic interests and regional stability, which is consistent with realism principles. The United States wants to offset Russian influence, maintain its alliances, and project its authority in the area by backing Ukraine.

Furthermore, a significant component of the United States' support for Ukraine is the advancement of democracy. The potential presented by Ukraine for the US to advance democratic ideals and create a bastion for democracy in Eastern Europe. The United States is aligning with its commitment to fostering democratic government internationally by assisting

Ukraine.

US backing for Ukraine additionally is heavily influenced by humanitarian considerations. The acts of Russia in Ukraine have led to serious abuses of human rights and the eviction of defenseless populations. The United States backing is motivated by a sincere desire to defend human rights and enforce international laws.

The research results also clearly show that economic and energy issues exist. Ukraine is a key partner in diversifying energy supplies and guaranteeing market stability in Europe because of its geographical position and involvement in natural gas transportation. The United States' backing of Ukraine is consistent with its interests in energy and trade.

Our findings are consistent with previous studies and ideas. The realism theory offers a framework for comprehending American support for Ukraine in the context of greater geopolitical issues since it emphasizes power, self-interest, and state-centric conduct. Our findings are consistent with other studies on the promotion of democracy, humanitarian interventions, and energy security, underscoring the significance of these elements in influencing foreign policy choices.

The US government's consistent backing of Ukraine has important ramifications. It has improved bilateral ties, changed regional dynamics, increased Ukraine's security, and had larger geopolitical ramifications. Even though the dispute still exists and no peaceful solution has been found, the United States' engagement has contributed to efforts to resolve it.

The limits of our research should be acknowledged. The results may not entirely generalize to other situations even though we used a mixed-methods approach, depending on qualitative interviews and textual analysis. The need for more research in this field is highlighted by the possibility that there are additional variables and factors at play that were not specifically examined in our study.

As a result, our research offers significant new insights into the complicated causes and effects of US assistance for Ukraine. The results advance our knowledge of the geopolitical factors, democratic advancement efforts, humanitarian considerations, and economic and energy interests that influence the United States' continuous support. Based on the tenets of realism theory, these findings have consequences for international relations, conflict resolution, and the pursuit of national interests in the context of the Ukraine crisis.

## ***Chapter One***

***Historical Background of the Conflict between the Three States  
(Russia, the United States, and Ukraine)***



## **1.1. Introduction**

The crisis between Russia and Ukraine has severely threatened the region's stability and security. When the Soviet Union fell apart and Ukraine earned its independence, Russia suffered a considerable loss of power in the region, which is when the conflict first began. Since then, tensions between the two nations have risen as Ukraine works to reassert its sovereignty and territorial integrity while Russia strives to protect its strategic interests there. An important turning point in the conflict was the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014, which resulted in a serious deterioration in relations between the two nations and the application of economic sanctions by the international community and impacting commerce and diplomatic ties (Schoenhals & Adler, 2019).

Thousands of people have died as a result of the war, and the impacted communities have also been forced to relocate and endure challenges on the economic front. With sanctions and counter-sanctions, the war has also increased tensions between Russia and the West. Several foreign parties are working to mediate a peaceful conclusion since the crisis has grown into a worldwide issue.

Since then, the crisis has developed into a difficult geopolitical and military dilemma (Fesenko, 2019).

This chapter aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the origins and development of the crisis. With a focus on the political, economic, and social variables that have led to the continuance of the crisis between Russia and Ukraine, highlighting the key factors including Russia, The United States, Ukraine, the European Union and, NATO and, the events that have shaped the conflict and setting the stage for further analysis in subsequent chapters. Ultimately, the dissertation aims to add to the broader discussion on diplomatic strategy and conflict resolution on a global scale.

## **1.2. The Beginning of Russia and Ukraine's Conflict**

A long-standing history that goes back more than a thousand years is shared between Russia and Ukraine. The two nations have a complicated, tumultuous relationship that has been distinguished by both periods of collaboration and conflict. They frequently clashed over matters such as territory, language, and political influence. Ukraine has been at the

crossroads of empires, and it has been subject to the influence of neighboring powers such as Poland, Austria, Russia, and the Ottoman Empire. These dynamic factors have resulted in the current crisis that has been ongoing since 1991. (Zaborowski, 2019)

The dispute between the two countries has been ongoing for several years due to historical and cultural reasons that resulted in the annexation of Crimea by Russia and the war deteriorated further in 2022 as a result of Russia's escalating military deployment along Ukraine's border

### **1.3. Historical Reasons for Conflict**

The origins of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine can be traced back to the dissolution of the Soviet Union which was the outcome of a range of factors such as the Soviet people's growing desire for more political and economic independence, political instability, and economic deterioration, after a failed attempt by Soviet hardliners to overthrow Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on August 24, 1991, which is one incident that is frequently considered as a major cause in the fall of the Soviet Union.

A group of Soviet officials who opposed Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost policy, which sought to modernize and liberalize the Soviet economy and political system, organized the coup attempt. The majority of orthodox Communist Party officials who led the coup thought Gorbachev's reforms were bringing about political and economic instability and that the only way to stop it was to go back to authoritarianism and central planning in the Soviet Union.

Officials proclaimed a state of emergency and put Gorbachev under house arrest, sparking the coup attempt. Hardliner Gennady Yanayev was named acting president by the coup leaders, who also made an effort to quell any dissent to their power. The military refused to support the coup, however, and Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, who emerged as a main opponent of the attempt, intervened. As a result of these and other causes, the coup rapidly came to an end.

The coup's failure dealt a severe blow to Soviet hardliners and signaled a turning point in the country's history. Gorbachev returned to power, but his position of authority had been greatly diminished, and he was powerless to stop the Soviet Union's move toward more

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political and economic independence. The Cold War came to an end and a new era in world history in December 1991 when Gorbachev stepped down as president and the Soviet Union was formally disbanded, which led to the independence of many states including Ukraine.

Before the failed coup attempt by Soviet hardliners, the movement for Ukrainian independence gathered momentum in the late-1980s, as the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy increased openness to criticism. This gave Ukrainian nationalists and reformers the chance to advance their demands for the country, which had long been a Soviet Union constituent republic, to have more autonomy and independence.

When Ukraine held its first multi-party elections, there was a significant increase in support for parties that were in favor of independence and reform. The Verkhovna Rada, the Ukrainian parliament, formally recognized Ukrainian sovereignty and enacted several laws to increase the nation's independence and lessen its need for Moscow.

Following a referendum on December 1, 1991, The Verkhovna Rada declared independence from the Soviet Union, in which more than 90% of Ukrainians favored independence, which led to the emergence of the independence of three states including Ukraine Russia Belarus Transcaucasia (comprised of Georgia, and Azerbaijan and Armenia).

Ukraine had difficulty integrating in, and establishing a stable, democratic government. After becoming independent in the post-Soviet world, the weak economy, widespread corruption, and unstable political climate of the nation were major causes of these issues.

Early in the 1990s, Ukraine adopted a neutral stance to balance its ties with the West and Russia (Jervis, 2014). Yet, Ukraine and Russia continued to have tight ties, particularly in the commercial and energy sectors. Despite these obstacles, Ukraine has succeeded in establishing itself as a sovereign, independent nation with a strong democratic system and a thriving economy; however, the country's relationship with Russia that was governed by President Vladimir Putin remains complex and often fraught with tension, as the two countries continue to compete for influence in the region. (D'Anieri, 2015)

Vladimir Putin was first elected as the President of the Russian Federation in 2000. He has held that position ever since, either as President or Prime Minister, and during his time in office, he has enacted a variety of programs and initiatives such as :

## **1.4. Political Stability and, Economic Growth**

Compared to the turbulent era that occurred before his election, Putin's administration has been characterized by a degree of political stability. He has increased his grip over the country by many measures, such as stifling political opposition, fortifying the security system, and exerting influence over the media. Furthermore, Putin's administration has made large investments in the nation's transportation network, including its ports, railways, and highways, which has improved the economy's competitiveness and modernization. However, Russia has experienced a surge in exports and foreign investment, particularly in the early 2000s, when oil prices and other natural resource prices were growing; the country witnessed tremendous economic growth.

## **1.5. Military Modernization**

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Russia's military modernization program has placed significant emphasis on the modernization and upgrading of its nuclear arsenal. This focus stems from the country's strategic doctrine and the perceived importance of maintaining a credible nuclear deterrent. Russia has developed and deployed new nuclear weapons systems designed to enhance its capabilities, ensure deterrence, and counter missile defense systems.

One notable example of Russia's nuclear modernization efforts is the Avant-garde hypersonic glide vehicle. The Avant-garde is a maneuverable, hypersonic weapon that travels at extremely high speeds, making it challenging to intercept. It is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and can maneuver during its flight trajectory, which adds to its evasive capabilities. The development and deployment of such hypersonic weapons are aimed at enhancing Russia's ability to penetrate missile defense systems and maintain a reliable nuclear deterrent.

Alongside nuclear modernization, Russia has made significant investments in enhancing its conventional military capabilities. The country has focused on the modernization of its navy by introducing new warships and submarines equipped with advanced technologies. This includes the development of new classes of surface combatants, such as the Admiral Gorshkov-class frigates and the Admiral Grigorovich-class frigates. These vessels feature advanced weapon systems, sensors, and stealth technologies.

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The Russian Navy has also increased its presence and conducted naval exercises in various regions, such as the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, and the Mediterranean. These activities demonstrate Russia's commitment to maintaining a capable and assertive naval force and protecting its maritime interests.

In terms of ground forces, Russia has developed and utilized new tanks, artillery systems, and air defense systems. The T-14 Armata tank is a flagship example of Russia's modernization efforts in ground warfare. It is a next-generation main battle tank featuring advanced armor protection, improved firepower capabilities, and enhanced situational awareness systems. The Armata tank represents a significant leap forward in Russian armored warfare technology.

Additionally, the Russian military has focused on improving its artillery capabilities, including the development of long-range precision artillery systems. These systems, such as the Koalitsiya-SV self-propelled howitzer, possess advanced targeting and firing capabilities, increasing the accuracy and range of artillery strikes.

Furthermore, in 2015, Russia established the Aerospace Defense Forces (ADF) as a separate military branch responsible for defending Russian airspace and space assets. The ADF integrates air defense, missile defense, and space defense capabilities to protect against potential threats in these domains. This move underscores the growing importance of space in military operations and Russia's recognition of the need to safeguard its space-based assets.

### **1.6. Assertive Foreign Policy**

Russia has undertaken an increasingly assertive foreign policy under Vladimir Putin's direction, marked by a willingness to challenge Western nations and increase its influence in its immediate area and beyond. The annexation of Crimea was one cause that sparked a major crisis with the West. While Putin has argued that Russia's assertive foreign policy is necessary to protect its interests and ensure its security, critics have accused Russia of violating international law and destabilizing the global order.

In general, Putin's presidency has been characterized by a more authoritarian and confrontational approach to domestic and foreign policy, which has drawn criticism and support from different groups within Russian society and the international community.

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According to Gvosdev and Marsh (2018), a political upheaval known as the Orange Revolution in Ukraine; a series of marches and political events from late November 2004 to early January 2005, that was brought on by allegations of fraud and irregularities leading to widespread protests and political crisis that pitted pro-Russian candidate Viktor Yanukovich against pro-Western candidate Viktor Yushchenko.

The protests, which were distinguished by the adoption of the color orange as a symbol of the movement, went on for weeks until coming to a head of large-scale gatherings in Kyiv, the country's capital. The administration came under heavy pressure to end the crisis as a result of these protests, which attracted hundreds of thousands of people. Notwithstanding these difficulties; Yanukovich won the election, granting victory to the pro-Western and democratic forces in Ukraine.

The 2004 Ukrainian presidential election, according to Grytsenko (2006), was a turning point for the democracy of the nation. The election was characterized by a high degree of political mobilization and public participation, with voters and protesters showing up in significant numbers. Intense media coverage and debates throughout the campaign were another feature, with both candidates outlining radically different futures for the nation such as cultural and linguistic variety while promoting democratic values, economic reforms, and greater relations with the West. Also, he had a lot of backing from outside players, such as the US and the EU, who saw his triumph as a victory for democracy in Ukraine Gvosdev, N., & Marsh, C. (2018). Russian foreign policy: Interests, vectors, and sectors. Sage Publications.

Despite all his achievements, Yanukovich was overthrown by the Euromaidan demonstrations as a result of his rejection of Ukraine's intentions to join the EU and NATO in favor of bettering ties with Russia. Moreover, His presidency was characterized by corruption and repression, which sparked the Euromaidan uprisings in 2013–2014.

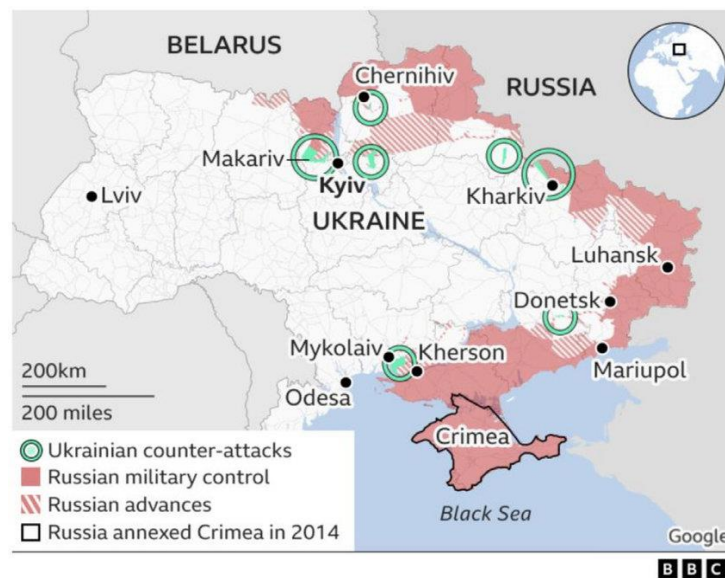
Petro Poroshenko was elected as the new president of Ukraine in May of that same year with a mandate to forge better links with the West and push for reforms that would improve democracy and the rule of law. This was met with a strong response from Russia which perceived Poroshenko's election as a threat to its strategic interests. Russia charged the government of Poroshenko with being anti-Russian, encouraging radical forces, and using

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military force and propaganda to undermine the nation's sovereignty (Borg, 2019).

Russia viewed the situation in Ukraine as a chance to reinforce its power in the area and keep Ukraine from aligning with the West and protect the rights of ethnic Russians in Crimea. Russian forces and pro-Russian separatists invaded Crimea, fighting against The Ukrainian forces in eastern Ukraine, and seized control of the territory, which has a significant ethnic Russian population. Then after, the separatist administration conducted a widely denounced, fraudulent referendum on joining Russia. Cyber warfare, propaganda, and disinformation tactics have all been used in the battle (Laruelle, 2015, p. n).



According to Sakwa (2020), "Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine has created a significant strain in the relationship between Russia and Ukraine" (p. 224). Before 1954, Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, transferred the government of Crimea to Ukraine from Russian SFSR to Ukrainian SSR which was an administrative action (Borg, 2019). At the time, the transfer was mostly symbolic, but in recent years, it has come up for debate, with Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

According to Sakwa (2020), "Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine has created a significant strain in the relationship between Russia and Ukraine" (p. 224). Before 1954, Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, transferred the government of Crimea to Ukraine from Russian SFSR to Ukrainian SSR which was an administrative action (Borg, 2019). At the time, the transfer was mostly symbolic, but in



recent years, it has come up for debate, with Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 serving as a significant impetus for the current crisis. ing as a significant impetus for the current crisis.

A tragic outcome of the ongoing turmoil in the area is the death of over 13,000 people as a result of Russia's assistance for the separatist insurgents in eastern Ukraine which has mostly gone unresolved (Schoenhals & Adler, 2019). Civilians caught in the crossfire and forced to leave their homes in search of safety elsewhere have been compelled to flee the conflict, which has caused enormous human suffering. The situation has been particularly dire for those living in the conflict zones, where access to necessities such as food, water, and medical care has been severely limited. Due to these events, the US and its allies have imposed economic sanctions on the country which have had a significant impact on Russia's economy, with its GDP contracting by 2.5% in 2015 (Nygren, 2019).

### **1.7. The Political, and Economic Impact of Conflict on Both Russia and Ukraine**

The political situation in Russia and Ukraine has both been significantly impacted by the crisis. According to Gontmakher(2017), “The conflict with Ukraine has helped Putin strengthen his rule internally by giving the public a sense of external threat and bringing them together behind his leadership” (p. 134)

President Vladimir Putin has positioned himself as a defender of Russian interests in Ukraine, which has strengthened support for him in Russia as a result of the crisis. Russians were overwhelmingly in favor of Russia's takeover of Crimea, which increased Putin's popularity (Aslund, 2019).

The conflict has significantly increased political instability in Ukraine. The overthrow of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych in 2014 sparked a political situation that hasn't been addressed. A crisis of statehood and significant social divisions inside Ukrainian society has been brought on by the conflict with Russia, claims one scholar (Goble, 2019, p. 1). The conflict has also fueled the growth of far-right and nationalist movements as well as a revival of Ukrainian nationalism, and xenophobia (Hrytsak, 2019). This has exacerbated social divisions within Ukrainian society and heightened tensions inside the nation.



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The crisis in Ukraine has caused a sharp drop in GDP, as well as higher inflation and unemployment rates. The ongoing fighting against eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea, according to the International Monetary Fund is apparently qualified, "The ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea has had a profound impact on the Ukrainian economy, leading to a severe recession" (IMF, 2019, p. 2). Furthermore, access to the Crimean Peninsula, an important source of income for Ukraine's tourism sector, has been restricted as a result of the conflict. Here is an illustration of a bar graph showing how the conflict has affected Russia and Ukraine's economies according to the World Bank (2021):

<b>Year</b>	<b>Ukraine GDP Growth</b>	<b>Russia GDP Growth</b>
2013	0.4%	1.3%
2014	-6.6%	0.7%
2015	-9.8%	-2.8%
2016	2.3%	-0.2%

This bar graph shows the GDP growth rates for Ukraine and Russia before and after the conflict began in 2014. Due to a decline in trade and investment, the loss of Crimea, and other economic effects of the conflict, Ukraine saw negative growth rates in 2014 and 2015.

In 2015, Russia's growth rate decreased because of international sanctions and declining oil prices. The nation has recently rebounded, though, and registered positive growth rates in 2016 and 2017.

### **1.8. Cultural Identity as Cause of War**

According to Motyl (2021), "Ukraine's complex history has molded its cultural identity, and its relationship with Russia has been a major feature of that history" (p. 25).

The friction between the two nations has been exacerbated by the disparities in their

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cultural identities. Ukraine has a lengthy history of foreign occupation, particularly Russian occupation, and as a result, has come to define its own national identity. Also, the majority of the population in Ukraine speaks Ukrainian, compared to Russia, where the majority language is Russian (Golder, 2021).

As Sakwa (2020) notes "Many Ukrainians view Russia's claim to be the protector of Russians and Russian speakers as an effort to legitimize greater interference and expansionism"(p. 89). Russia's justification for annexing Crimea, and the current crisis was that the majority of the locals were of Russian ancestry, and as a result, the area belonged to Russia. This assertion is based on the cultural identity of the area, which has a sizable ethnic Russian population. Nonetheless, many Ukrainians believed that Russia's annexation of Crimea was an effort on its part to challenge Ukrainian sovereignty and impose its dominance.

The way Russia and Ukraine view one another provides more evidence of the significance of cultural identity in the conflict between the two nations. Russian officials have frequently depicted Ukraine as a less developed cultural nation that is incapable of self-government. This impression is founded on Russia's historical hegemony over Ukraine and its conviction in the superiority of its own culture. On the other hand, Ukrainians view Russia as an invader trying to impose its cultural identity on their country.

In addition, the conflict between the two countries has strengthened Ukrainians' sense of national identity and provided Ukrainian nationalism comeback. Ukrainian nationalism is predicated on the notion that Ukraine is a unique country with its own history, language, and culture.

According to Mankoff (2019), "Concerns about the future of European security and the possibility of a larger conflict have been raised in light of Russia's annexation of Crimea and the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine. Russia's aggressive actions have put the global order in jeopardy and forced the West to review its approach to Moscow " (p. 2).

As of 2022, the conflict between Ukraine and Russia is still raging and continues to be a major geopolitical issue, when the Ukrainian government has charged Moscow with backing separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine and violating the ceasefire agreements that have been signed in the past. Ukraine has also increased international assistance to fend against Russian

aggression (Council of the European Union, 2022). The possibility of an invasion was raised by reports of a greater military buildup by Russia along its border with Ukraine in late 2021(CNN, 2022). The United States and NATO, as well as other nations, expressed their worries and demanded that the situation be de-escalated, which has sparked worries about a potential invasion, has made the situation even more difficult, and has heightened tensions between Russia and the West (CNN, 2022).

### **1.9. Tension between the United States and Russia**

During World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union joined forces to defeat their common foe, Nazi Germany during World War II. This alliance was critical in defeating Germany and ending the war in Europe. On January 1, 1942, 26 nations committed to continue working together to resist the Axis forces, which codified their alliance in the "Declaration of the United Nations"(History.com Editors, 2009).

The Soviet-American partnership played a critical role in the downfall of Nazi Germany. The majority of the fighting on the Eastern Front was fought by the Soviet Union, and US supplies of weaponry, ammunition, and other supplies helped keep the Soviet war machine running. Moreover, the United States conducted a series of strategic bombing attacks against German objectives, which contributed to the deterioration of the German war effort (History.com Editors, 2009).

Nonetheless, despite their military collaboration, there were huge ideological gaps and mistrust between the US and the USSR where a diverse set of political, economic, and ideological differences led to the highest levels of hostility between Russia and the West during the cold war (Gaddis, 2005). The Soviet Union was a communist country, whereas the United States was a democracy based on capitalism. The Soviet Union sought to increase its power and advance communism, while the United States sought to advance democracy and capitalism. The two countries also had divergent ideas for the post-war world (Thompson, 2017).

Tensions between Russia and the United States, have taken different forms Since the end of World War II indicating the coming of the Cold War however, in recent times, the relationship between the two countries has reached a new low, with both sides engaging in aggressive posturing and actions(Gaddis, 2005).

## **1.10. Tension between Russia and the US during the Cold War**

The Cold War was a period of political and military tension between the Western Bloc, led by the United States, and the Eastern Bloc, led by the Soviet Union from the end of World War II in 1945 until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 (Gaddis, 2007). The Cold War was characterized by several key features including:

## **1.11. Ideological Conflict**

The Cold War served as the impetus for the ideological battle between Russia and the United States. During this period, the United States and the Soviet Union were locked in a struggle for global supremacy, which was based on fundamentally different ideological systems. Russia has a long history of authoritarianism, and under Vladimir Putin's leadership, it has become increasingly authoritarian in recent years. On the other hand, the United States is a democratic nation that values legality and personal liberty highly (LaFeber, 1993).

Military build-ups, espionage, propaganda, and proxy conflicts were only a few of the ways ideological rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States was manifested (LaFeber, 1993).

The Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 was a significant event in the Cold War and the ideological battle between two nations since it emphasized the fundamental disparities between the two countries' political systems and beliefs. At the time, Cuba was led by Fidel Castro, who had formed a communist regime and had strong relations with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union started deploying nuclear weapons in Cuba in 1962, putting the United States in immediate danger.

In retaliation, the United States imposed a naval blockade around Cuba and demanded that the Soviet Union take down the missiles. The crisis lasted for 13 days standoff between the two superpowers, leading to an uptick in the two countries' arms race as both sides attempted to strengthen their militaries in reaction to the perceived danger posed by the other. Also, it brought to light the possibility of disastrous effects in the event of a nuclear war, which prompted increasing efforts to alleviate tensions and prevent a direct military conflict (Fursenko & Naftali, 2007).

The United States used a containment strategy throughout the Cold War to restrain Soviet

expansionism and prevent the global expansion of communism. Due to this approach, the United States became involved in several wars, including the Korean War and the Vietnam War. In the meantime, the Soviet Union supported revolutionary movements and conflicts in nations like Afghanistan and Angola to spread communism throughout the world (Allison, 2012).

Global politics were significantly impacted by this ideological conflict between the two blocs. Both sides made significant investments in the development of nuclear weapons and missile technology, which aided in the arms race that has also sparked initiatives to limit the proliferation of nuclear weapons and cut back on the number of weapons. This includes the ratification of weapons control agreements, including the ABM Treaty and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). These agreements supported international system stability and contributed to lower the risk of nuclear war. (Lifetree, 2002)

### **1.12. The Arms Race**

The late 1940s saw the start of the arms race as the US and Soviet Union established themselves as the two major powers in the globe. Both nations recognized the necessity to increase their nuclear stockpiles as a deterrent against one another. During the war, the US already possessed atomic bombs and utilized them to defeat Japan; on the other hand, the Soviet Union was adamant about overtaking the US in the nuclear arms race (Gaddis, 2007).

Throughout the Cold War, both the US and the Soviet Union made significant investments in the development of nuclear weapons and missile technology. When the Soviet Union created the R-7 Semyorka missile, the first ICBM in history that was capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to any part making a significant threat to US national security. The US developed the Polaris and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM). The Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) was a response to this development and declared that the use of nuclear weapons by either side would result in the complete devastation of both nations (Zubok, 1994).

International relations were significantly impacted by the US-Soviet arms race. Throughout the majority of the Cold War era, the globe was on the verge of nuclear war due to the palpable tension between the two superpowers. Both the US and the Soviet Union developed a mutual distrust and sense of dread as a result of the arms race, with each side

believing the other was planning a first strike. That resulted in influencing many other nations through the weapons race as well. The development of nuclear weapons was viewed by many nations as a method to strengthen their militaries and defend against potential aggression. As a result, nuclear weapons were spread to other nations, including China, France, and the UK, among others Gaddis, 2007).

### **1.13. Proxy Wars**

Although the US and the Soviet Union never engaged in a direct military war, they fought many proxy battles overseas during the Cold War were conflicts in which the US and the Soviet Union supported opposing sides in local or regional conflicts without direct warfare such as The Korean War 1950-1953) when the Soviet Union and China supported North Korea, that was at war with South Korea, which was supported by the United States and its allies. In addition to defending its ally, South Korea, the US entered the conflict to stop the spread of communism in Asia. The war lasted for three years until the armistice was signed in 1953 which created a demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. The Korean War paved the way for future proxy wars between the US and the USSR. It also emphasized the significance of Asia in both countries' overall geopolitical strategies (Cumings, 2010).

The Vietnam War (1955-1975), was a long and costly conflict that was supported by the western bloc against the communist regime in North Vietnam, which was backed by the eastern bloc and China. The US entered the conflict to aid its ally, South Vietnam, and to prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. The war lasted for 20 years and ended with the victory of North Vietnam in 1975.

The Vietnam War also had a significant impact on American domestic politics, which resulted in unrest and splits in society. The US and its allies ultimately suffered a military defeat in the conflict, and it had a long-lasting effect on US foreign policy and military planning (Herring, 2001).

The Angolan Civil War(1975-2002), was a complex conflict that started after Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975, and two rival liberation movements, the MPLA and UNITA, began fighting for control of the country. The US sided with the UNITA resistance force helping with arms and training .while the Soviet Union backed the Angolan government militarily and advisers to MPA. The MPLA and UNITA eventually negotiated a

peace agreement in 2002, ending the civil conflict. The battle had a significant effect on Angola and the surrounding area and contributed to general Cold War tensions and confrontations between the US and the USSR (Herring, 2001).

#### **1.14. Espionage and Propaganda**

Espionage and propaganda were essential tools used by both the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Both the US and the USSR maintained vast spy networks with spies stationed in military installations, government offices, and other critical locations. Through the work of spies like Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, for instance, the Soviet Union was able to obtain atomic secrets from the United States to develop its own nuclear weapons program, while the United States used the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to gather information on the Soviet Union and track the movement of Soviet military forces and monitor their activities.

However, espionage was also a source of tension between the two sides, as each suspected the other of spying and used counterintelligence measures to try to uncover and disrupt their opponent's spy networks (Pomerantsev & Weiss, 2014).

Another significant tool that was used during which is Propaganda. As each sought to shape public opinion and influence people's beliefs and attitudes using a range of strategies, including radio broadcasts, movies, and print media, to disseminate their messages. For instance, the United States used the Voice of America radio program to broadcast news and commentary to people in the Soviet Union and other communist countries, while the Soviet Union used propaganda to further its socialist philosophy and criticize the capitalist system of the United States. Both nations' domestic politics were affected by these tools because they both employed them to garner support for their leaders and programs and their legacy during the Cold War can still be felt today, as the use of these tools continues to be a part of international relations (Pomerantsev & Weiss, 2014).

#### **1.15. The End of the Cold War**

The end of the Cold War came with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991; however, the process that led to the end of the Cold War began in the mid-1980s, when the Soviet Union, under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, embarked on a series of reforms aimed at



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modernizing the Soviet economy and society (Leffler, 2007).

Perestroika and glasnost, two of Gorbachev's reforms, sought to lessen the influence of the Soviet government over society and the economy while fostering greater openness and transparency. These changes were made to revive the Soviet economy and reestablish the Communist Party's standing among the populace (Leffler, 2007).

These changes, meanwhile, unleashed political and social forces that the Soviet government was unable to manage. The Soviet Union found itself powerless to stop the fall of these regimes in the satellite states of Eastern Europe as there were growing movements for political change and more democracy (Leffler, 2007).

The Soviet Union was legally disbanded in December 1991, as the economic and political system of the Soviet Union proved unable to compete with the West. The end of the Cold War lasted for over four decades marking a major turning point in world history, as the world order shifted away from bipolarity towards greater multipolarity (Leffler, 2007).

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the relationship between the United States and Russia has had times of collaboration as well as conflicts since the fall of the Soviet Union. Early on after the Cold War, the United States and Russia cooperated to reduce their respective nuclear stockpiles, and Russia even signed up for NATO's Partnership for Peace agreement.

However, there have also been periods when tensions between the two nations were extremely severe. Russia and the United States have fought over issues including NATO expansion, missile defense, and Russian human rights violations. The relationship has become even more strained as a result of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine (Fischer, 2018).

### **1.16. Conclusion**

The dispute between the United States, Ukraine, and Russia is rooted in a complex historical background that encompasses the legacies of the Cold War, Ukraine's quest for independence, and Russia's desire to maintain influence in the region. Understanding the historical background provides crucial insights into the dynamics and motivations of the parties involved. The annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 and the ongoing conflict in



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eastern Ukraine have further strained relations between these three states. The United States has consistently supported Ukraine's territorial integrity and has provided assistance, while Russia's actions have been met with international condemnation. The conflict continues to have far-reaching implications, including geopolitical tensions and humanitarian consequences. Resolving the conflict requires diplomatic efforts, dialogue, and a commitment to finding a peaceful resolution that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

## ***Chapter Two***

### ***The Reasons Behind the United States Unconditional Support and Alliance with Ukraine***

## **2.1. Introduction**

The relationship between the United States and Ukraine has received a lot of attention recently, due to the US's military and financial backing of Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. The reasons given for this support are nuanced and intricate, reflecting a variety of historical, cultural, economic, and strategic elements that have influenced the two nations' relationship throughout time. We will examine how ideas like realism, liberalism, and identity politics might illuminate the justifications for the US's support for Ukraine as we examine several theoretical views on the US-Ukraine relationship in this chapter.

The long-standing cultural and social ties between the US and Ukraine are significant historical features that have molded the two nations' relationship. Ukrainians have historically turned to the West as a source of inspiration and encouragement. They have a strong sense of national identity that is anchored in their language, history, and customs. The sizeable Ukrainian Diaspora in the US has contributed significantly to molding American perceptions of Ukraine and promoting its interests, strengthening this feeling of shared cultural identity.

The US's support for Ukraine has also been influenced by geopolitical concerns involving Russia. Russia has long been considered a possible danger to American interests in Europe and beyond as a close neighbor with strong military and economic might. To restrain Russian expansionism and preserve its worldwide sway, the US has employed a variety of diplomatic, economic, and military strategies. The US has considered the war in Ukraine as a critical front in this larger contest for power and influence. It started with Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and has since evolved into a protracted military conflict in eastern Ukraine.

In addition to these strategic and historical considerations theories of international relations can provide useful insights into the reasons why the US supports Ukraine according to realism, which stresses the significance of power and self-interest in determining state conduct, the US's support for Ukraine is motivated by a desire to preserve the balance of power in Europe and suppress the influence of prospective rivals.

In international relations, realism is a prevailing view that emphasizes how power and self-interest influence state action. States are the main players in international politics, according to realist thinkers, and they are motivated by a desire to increase their power and

security in a competitive international system. Realists contend that there is no centralized authority to impose laws or settle disputes since the international system is essentially anarchic. States must thus rely on their resources and alliances to thrive in this setting.

A realistic viewpoint might be instructive in understanding the goals and objectives of both governments when examining the nature of the relationship between the United governments and Ukraine. Realists contend that a combination of economic and geopolitical objectives, as well as worries about security and regional influence, are what drive the US-Ukraine relationship. Realists would also emphasize how the dynamics of power have shaped the relationship as both nations aim to increase their relative strength and influence in the global order.

It is crucial to remember that there are several schools of realism, each with specifics and viewpoints on world affairs. For instance, whereas some realism scholars are more pessimistic about the likelihood of collaboration in an anarchic international system, certain realist researchers highlight the value of alliances and cooperation between nations. It is critical to take into consideration these many viewpoints and adopt a nuanced strategy that takes into account the relationship's intricacies while applying realism to the US-Ukraine relationship.

While the war has been examined from a variety of angles, such as realism and historical angles, this research will also examine the political science perspective as a secondary utilized study. This research intends to shed light on the U.S.'s pursuit of national interests and support of regional stability, as well as the economic relevance of Ukraine to the U.S., by evaluating the relationship between the U.S. and Ukraine via a political science lens. The complicated dynamics of the conflict and the function of outside players in the area will be better understood as a result of this research.

Overall, there are many different historical, geopolitical, and theoretical reasons for the US's support of Ukraine. These reasons are complicated and nuanced. By examining these factors through a range of theoretical lenses, we can gain a deeper understanding of the motivations and goals that underpin the US-Ukraine relationship.

## **2.2. The Nature of the Relationship between the US and Ukraine**

The relationship between the US and Ukraine can be characterized as a strategic partnership, with a focus on promoting democracy, stability, and security in the region. Since Ukraine's independence in 1991, the US has given it substantial political, economic, and military support. In recent years, this alliance has become stronger as the two nations have collaborated on a variety of subjects, including security, energy, and democratization and, economic cooperation. Former US ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst stated that "the US and Ukraine have a strategic partnership built on shared values, common interests, and a shared vision for a stable and prosperous Europe" (Herbst, 2021, p .3).

One of the key areas of cooperation between the two countries is defense and security. The US has criticized Russia's activities in Ukraine loudly and worked to uphold Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Ukraine has been actively pursuing deeper connections with the West at the same time, and the US has been a significant partner in this endeavor by giving Ukraine access to global financial institutions and assisting its attempts to join the European Union and NATO (Smith, 2021).

## **2.3. Historical and Cultural Ties**

The US and Ukraine have strong cultural and historical links in addition to their political and economic ties, which have contributed to the improvement of their relationship. With an estimated one million Ukrainian Americans, the Ukrainian diaspora is, for instance, a sizable group in the United States (Kuzio, 2020). This group has actively pushed for greater relations between the two nations while supporting Ukraine's independence and democratic growth. According to one scholar, "Ukrainian-Americans have played a critical role in shaping US policy towards Ukraine, particularly in the aftermath of the 2014 revolution" (Kuzio, 2020, p.4).

Former President Barack Obama stated in a speech in 2014 that "the United States has been a consistent defender of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity since the country achieved its independence more than two decades ago. In their fight to create a democratic, economic, and safe future, we stand with the people of Ukraine. (Obama, 2014)

Additionally, the US and Ukraine have long-standing diplomatic relations that go back to the early 20th century. While the US supported Ukraine's battle for independence from Russia during World War I, Ukrainian Americans enlisted in the US military (Ivashchenko-Stadnik, 2020). Similar to what they did during World War II, US troops fought with Ukrainians against Nazi Germany, and the US helped Ukrainian refugees from the USSR (Ivashchenko-Stadnik, 2020). The two nations have grown closer together and developed a feeling of purpose as a result of these shared experiences.

The United States and Ukraine have cultural links in addition to their historical ones which is an essential component of their connection. One of the most notable instances is Ukrainian folk music and dance, which have become more and more well-liked in the US over time. Throughout the nation, there are many Ukrainian dance organizations, many of which give performances at festivals and other cultural gatherings. Ukrainian dance troupes are among the most effective cultural ambassadors of Ukraine to the United States, claims Olga Mankovsky, a researcher who has researched Ukrainian cultural diplomacy in the US (Mankovsky, 2019, p. 336). These performances serve to promote Ukrainian culture and strengthen ties between the two nations.

Another aspect of culture that is connected is Ukrainian cuisine. Ukrainian restaurants have started springing up in significant US cities, and Ukrainian culinary festivals are becoming more well-liked. There is a sizable Ukrainian-American community in the US, and there is a rising interest in Eastern European food in general, which has contributed to the popularity of Ukrainian cuisine there. As Mankovsky observes, "Ukrainian cuisine has merged into the larger American culinary landscape" (Mankovsky, 2019, p. 341).

Literature is another field with deep cultural ties. Numerous outstanding authors and poets from Ukraine have made significant contributions to global literature over its long history. Many works of Ukrainian literature have been translated into English, which has increased their popularity in the US. A Ukrainian-American author named Yuriy Tarnawsky claims that "Ukrainian literature has always been of interest to American readers, and there is a growing appreciation for Ukrainian literature and culture" (Tarnawsky, 2020, p. 43).

These cultural exchanges aid in fostering mutual respect and understanding between the two nations. As Mankovsky observes, "Cultural diplomacy can contribute to the development

of closer political and economic ties between countries by fostering people-to-people connections" (Mankovsky, 2019, p. 344). As a result, maintaining and strengthening cultural links between the US and Ukraine should be a top priority for both nations.

## **2.4. Economic Cooperation**

The US and Ukraine's economic ties have several facets and influence on a range of topics, including infrastructure, technology, agriculture, and energy. These fields have been the subject of numerous initiatives and projects supported by the US to help Ukraine build a stable and prosperous economy.

Energy is one of the main sectors where the US and Ukraine cooperate. Natural gas supplies from Russia have been a major source of political and economic pressure on Ukraine for a very long time. The US has given Ukraine technical aid and financial backing to help it diversify its energy sources and build up its domestic energy industry to lessen this dependency. US crude oil shipments to Ukraine surged by 107% between 2019 and 2020, hitting 13,000 barrels per day, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA, 2021). The US-Ukraine Strategic Energy Partnership was established in 2020 to improve collaboration in the energy sector. According to Dan Brouillette, who served as the US's Energy Secretary at the time, "The US is committed to helping Ukraine build a more stable, secure, and prosperous energy future" (Brouillette, 2020, para. 2).

The US has helped Ukraine in its attempts to modernize and increase the effectiveness of its agricultural output. The US has given Ukrainian farmers technological help and training to boost their output and raise the caliber of their produce. The US Department of Agriculture estimates that US agricultural exports to Ukraine were \$615 million in 2020, with corn, soybeans, and wheat ranking among the major exports (USDA, 2021). A deal to enhance agricultural commerce between the US and Ukraine was inked in 2019, and it was viewed as an important step toward fortifying the two nations' economic ties. As stated by Marie Yovanovitch, the former US ambassador to Ukraine, "Agriculture is a key area of cooperation between our two countries, and this agreement will help us expand trade and investment in this important sector" (Yovanovitch, 2019, para. 4).

America and Ukraine have also worked closely in the field of infrastructure. For infrastructure projects in Ukraine, including the building and maintenance of roads, bridges,

and public transit systems, the US has offered financial and technical help. The upgrading of Ukraine's airports and seaports, which is essential for trade and economic expansion, has also received backing from the US. US Department of State, 2020). In 2020, the US pledged \$50 million in support for infrastructure projects in Ukraine, including upgrades to the nation's transportation system.

Moreover, The United States has supported Ukraine's technological industry in addition to providing economic and military aid. The US has worked to encourage the development of Ukraine's tech industry through a number of programs and projects that aim to benefit business owners and innovators there. One of these initiatives is the Competitive Economy Program, which the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funds and which concentrates on growing important facets of the Ukrainian economy, such as technology. Through programs like the Startup School, which is funded by USAID, the US has also given technical assistance and training to Ukrainian business owners. In a statement, US Ambassador to Ukraine Kristina Kvien emphasized the US's commitment to fostering innovation and competitiveness in Ukraine's economy: "The US is committed to helping Ukraine build a more competitive and innovative economy, and we see the technology sector as a key driver of growth" (Kvien, 2021, para. 4).

In general, US assistance for Ukraine's technology industry is a crucial component of wider efforts to boost the nation's economy and increase its capacity to fend off Russian aggression.

Cooperation in a variety of economic sectors has been a defining feature of US-Ukrainian ties over the years, and data show that these efforts have been successful. By offering technical assistance, capital, and knowledge, the US has been crucial in assisting Ukraine in developing its energy industry. A significant component of the Ukrainian economy, the agriculture sector, has benefited from US assistance. The US has offered training and funding to assist Ukraine in modernizing its agriculture industry and boosting exports through the Agriculture Trade and Investment Program. As part of its support for Ukraine's attempts to improve its transportation and communication networks, the US has also given the nation infrastructural aid. These initiatives have been essential to the long-term stability and development of Ukraine and have improved the trade ties between the two nations.



## **2.5. Strategic considerations**

The relationship between the US and Ukraine is significantly shaped by strategic factors. Ukraine is the only country in Europe where the geopolitical interests of the US and Russia overlap, according to Sestanovich (2018). The US views Ukraine as a crucial ally in its attempts to balance Russian influence and safeguard regional peace. Ukraine is a significant factor in the area in this sense due to its geopolitical location as a state acting as a buffer between Russia and Europe and its abundant natural resources.

The US has recently given Ukraine substantial military and financial support in its efforts to protect itself against Russian aggression. Since 2014, the US has given Ukraine military aid worth more than \$3 billion, according to the US Congressional Research Service (2021). Along with training, ammo, and weaponry, this also includes non-lethal aid like communications tools and medical supplies. In addition, the US has made a strong case for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and in retaliation for Russia's annexation of Crimea and assistance for separatist insurgents in eastern Ukraine, sanctions have been put in place.

The decisions that Ukraine makes regarding its foreign policy are additionally affected by strategic factors. To resist Russian influence and align itself with Western institutions and values, Ukraine has a strategic interest in forging deeper connections with the West. As a result, Ukraine is working to join NATO and the European Union, among other Western nations, to forge tighter connections with the US and other Western nations.

The US-Ukraine relationship is mostly shaped by geopolitical reasons. While Ukraine views the US as a crucial ally in its attempts to safeguard its sovereignty and pursue stronger connections with the West, the US sees Ukraine as a valued partner in its efforts to offset Russian influence and maintain peace in the area. Therefore, it is probable that strategic considerations will continue to influence US-Ukraine ties in the years to come.

## **2.6. Theoretical Perspective**

This section will explore the strategic and economic interests that define the US-Ukraine relationship to comprehend the underlying dynamics of the relationship.

In international relations, realism is a prevalent theoretical approach to how security and

power influence state conduct. Realists contend that under a self-help system without a higher authority to enforce laws or maintain order, governments are driven largely by their interests and want to maximize their power and security. Realists contend that there is no centralized authority to provide security and peace since the world system is anarchic.

Realists contend that strategic factors are vital in determining how the US and Ukraine interact in the framework of their relationship. The fact that Ukraine serves as a buffer between Europe and Russia is a significant aspect. According to John Mearsheimer (2014), Ukraine has significant geopolitical significance for both Russia and the West. Ukraine is a sizable, strategically placed nation that serves as a barrier between NATO and Russia as well as a vital conduit for Russian gas supplies to Europe (p. 78). Realists contend that to stop Russian expansionism and preserve regional stability, the US has a strategic interest in preserving Ukraine's independence and geographical integrity.

Ukraine's natural resources, notably its energy resources, are a crucial strategic factor in the US-Ukraine relationship. Realists contend that access to energy resources is a crucial determinant of a state's strength and influence in the global system. According to Robert Jervis (2017), "Access to energy resources is a crucial determinant of a state's power position in the international system" (p. ). Realists contend to lessen Ukraine's reliance on Russia and to improve its energy security; the US has a strategic interest in promoting Ukraine's energy independence.

Subsequently, realists contend that economic factors also influence US-Ukraine ties. Realists contend that the US has a strategic interest in fostering economic growth and stability in Ukraine since it is a potential market for US goods and services. According to Stephen Walt (2018), "the US has provided economic assistance to Ukraine as part of a larger effort to promote economic growth and stability in the region"(p. 63).

Realists claim that the United States and Ukraine's ties are significantly shaped by economic issues. Given Ukraine's potential as a market for US goods and services, they contend that the US has a strategic interest in supporting economic growth and stability in that country. Stephen Walt (2018) makes the argument that the US has helped Ukraine economically as part of a larger initiative to promote stability and economic progress in the area.

This realism viewpoint is justified by the reality that economic issues play a crucial role in determining national strength and influence. State capacity-building, diplomatic reach-out, and strategic goals may all be advanced through economic development and prosperity. Thus, the US can improve its strategic position in the area and its overall global influence by promoting economic growth in Ukraine.

Realists also believe that interdependence, which is created by economic links between nations, may act as a deterrent to violence. Ukraine is less inclined to act aggressively in ways that would jeopardize the trade links it has established with other nations as it integrates more fully into the global economy. In this view, fostering economic development and stability in Ukraine is considered a way to foster regional peace and lower the likelihood of violence.

Realists contend that economic reasons are mostly responsible for determining how the United States and Ukraine interact. They argue that the US can strengthen its strategic position in the area, increase its global influence, and promote regional stability by encouraging economic growth and stability in Ukraine.

Realists argue that geopolitical reasons lie at the core of the US-Ukraine relationship, according to eminent academic John Mearsheimer. Realists contend that Ukraine's status as a state that acts as a buffer between Russia and Europe, as well as its natural riches and potential as a market for US goods and services, define Ukraine's strategic relevance to the US.

Realists contend that in order to block Russian expansionism and maintain regional stability, the United States has a strategic interest in protecting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In Mearsheimer's words, "From a realist perspective, Ukraine's geostrategic location and natural resources make it an important piece on the geopolitical chessboard, and one that the United States must defend" (p. 2), Ukraine is a country that the United States must defend.

Realists also stress the potential economic gains from close US-Ukraine ties. The US can open up new markets for its goods and services, as well as possibly lessen its reliance on Russia for energy supplies, by fostering economic development and stability in Ukraine. According to Mearsheimer (2014), "A Ukraine that is firmly aligned with the West is a

Ukraine that can contribute to the expansion of the European market and provide new opportunities for American businesses" (p.4)

Realists, therefore, believe that strong ties between the US and Ukraine are necessary to preserve the balance of power in Europe and prevent Russian dominance of the area. A weakened Ukraine, according to realists, would encourage Russian aggressiveness and jeopardize US interests in the area. In order to preserve regional peace and prevent Russia from assuming a major role in Europe, the United States must back Ukraine.

In brief, realists offer significant insights into the nature of the US-Ukraine relationship, emphasizing the strategic importance of Ukraine for the United States. Realists contend that by appreciating the strategic factors influencing the US-Ukraine relationship, the US can implement policies that support regional stability and protect its strategic interests.

## **2.7. The Reaction of the US to Ukraine in the Light of its War against Russia**

A variety of political, economic and strategic variables have had an impact on the complicated and diverse relationship between the United States and Ukraine. The protracted war between Ukraine and Russia in recent years has put the US-Ukraine relationship squarely in the spotlight. The US has actively backed Ukraine in its confrontation with Russia, offering financial and military backing while also urging an end to Russian aggression.

The strategic importance of Ukraine in the area has been one of the main motivating elements behind US backing for Ukraine. Many political scientists and international policy specialists have emphasized Ukraine's strategic relevance. Ukraine has long been a geopolitical prize, desired by both Russia and the West, according to Michael O'Hanlon, a senior scholar at the Brookings Institution (O'Hanlon, 2014). John J. Mearsheimer, a well-known expert in international affairs, concurs with this statement when he claims that "Ukraine is of enormous strategic significance to Russia, and it is a vital national interest of Russia to have Ukraine as a buffer state" (Mearsheimer, 2014). Ukraine is strategically significant from the American point of view due to its location at the confluence of Europe and Asia, which makes it a vital transit route for energy resources and a prospective entry point to markets in both continents.

As a result, the US has seen Ukraine as a crucial ally in its campaigns to limit Russian influence and advance regional stability. The geopolitical importance of Ukraine and its potential as a reliable democracy and trading partner make it a crucial ally in its campaigns to limit Russian influence and advance regional stability for the United States

In addition to its strategic relevance, Ukraine's economic importance to the US has highlighted the importance of the two countries' relationship. The US aggressively promotes commercial connections between the two nations since Ukraine is a large market for US goods and services.

The US has also stated its support for Ukraine's democratic and reform initiatives, recognizing these as essential elements of a country that is stable and wealthy. The US has actively supported Ukraine's political and economic reforms, offered technical support, and encouraged the nation's enlargement into Western institutions.

In broad terms, a wide range of political, economic, and strategic factors have affected the US-Ukraine relationship. The ongoing crisis between Ukraine and Russia has highlighted the significance of this relationship and the requirement for sustained US participation and assistance with Ukraine's attempts to improve its security, economy, and democratic system.

## **2.8. Political Science Perspective**

Political science is a large discipline that includes several theories and methods for researching politics. Understanding political events at many levels of study, including individual, group, and institutional behavior, requires the application of a range of theoretical frameworks, including realism. Political scientists can investigate several facets of politics, such as democracy, power, government, and social movements, using a variety of ideas and methodologies.

Political scientists might interpret the US response to the Ukrainian crisis in terms of its larger foreign policy objectives. John Mearsheimer, a political scientist, asserts that "The United States is a global hegemon and seeks to maintain its dominant position in the world" (Mearsheimer, 2014, p. 39). In this sense, Ukraine is regarded as a crucial front in the conflict between the US and Russia over regional dominance.

Mearsheimer contends that to restrain Russian dominance and keep it from becoming a

significant US adversary, the US has attempted to back Ukraine in its struggle with Russia. This is demonstrated by the US backing Ukraine's ambitions to join NATO, which would increase the US military presence in the area and fortify its alliance network.

A defense cooperation pact including \$250 million in military aid was signed by the US and Ukraine in September 2020. The agreement, in the words of the U.S. Department of State, "reaffirms the U.S. commitment to provide assistance to Ukraine in support of its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and Euro-Atlantic aspirations" (U.S. Department of State, 2020).

For the delivery of military hardware, training, advising services, and intelligence assistance, the agreement contains clauses. According to the U.S. Department of State, military aid will enable Ukraine to "build its capacity to more effectively defend itself against Russian aggression" (U.S. Department of State, 2020).

Volodymyr Zelensky, the president of Ukraine, lauded the deal as evidence of the tight ties between the US and Ukraine. Zelensky issued a statement in which he stated, "This agreement is a symbol of the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the United States, which will help strengthen our country's defense capabilities and promote peace and stability in the region" (President of Ukraine, 2020).

The significance of the defense cooperation pact was also emphasized by the US Department of Defense. The Department of Defense stated in a statement that "the United States remains committed to assisting Ukraine in its efforts to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to maintain a Europe that is whole, free, prosperous, and at peace" (Department of Defense, 2020).

As a result, the defense cooperation deal between the United States and Ukraine, which includes \$250 million in military aid, aims to improve Ukraine's capacity to protect itself against Russian aggression and to advance regional stability. Both Ukrainian and American officials praised the deal for reflecting the tight connections between their countries. The U.S. Department of State reports that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky thanked the Americans for their help, saying, "We are grateful to the United States for the significant increase in assistance that will strengthen the defense capabilities of Ukraine" (2020). Additionally praising the deal was U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who stated that it

showed the U.S.'s commitment to "Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity" (U.S. Department of State, 2020).

The arrangement of defense cooperation between the US and Ukraine may also be seen as a sign of the US's dedication to its relationships and allies, especially in light of Russian aggression. By offering military assistance and training to Ukraine, the United States displays both its capacity to project force beyond its borders and its readiness to help its allies and partners.

Additionally, the United States' assistance to Ukraine is consistent with its larger foreign policy goals, which include advancing democracy and human rights, combating terrorism, and preserving international stability. Ukraine is a crucial partner in achieving these objectives as a democratic nation that has been the target of Russian aggression.

From a political science standpoint, the U.S.'s assistance to Ukraine may also be regarded as a reaction to the shifting power dynamics in the global order. In order to maintain its influence and protect the current international order, the United States may try to strengthen its alliances and partnerships as emerging countries like China and Russia threaten its hegemonic position.

Overall, the agreement on defense cooperation between the United States and Ukraine is an important step toward advancing American interests in the area, thwarting Russian aggression, and advancing democracy and stability in Eastern Europe.

## **2.9. Economics Perspective**

The United States' response to the situation in Ukraine is influenced by economic factors as well. The US is a significant investor in Ukraine, especially in the energy industry, and is keen to assist Ukraine in reducing its reliance on Russian gas. Ukraine imported 37% of its natural gas from Russia in 2020, according to the US Energy Information Administration (US Energy Information Administration, 2020). The US is dedicated to assisting Ukraine in developing a more diverse and sustainable energy industry because it sees Ukraine as a potential market for its energy exports. During a trip to Ukraine, former Energy Secretary Rick Perry said, "The United States wants to help Ukraine become more energy independent, and we believe that this is achievable" (Perry, 2019).



According to the US Energy Information Administration, "Ukraine was one of the major importers of US natural gas in Europe in 2020, receiving 40 billion cubic feet of natural gas from the US" (US Energy Information Administration, 2020). This demonstrates the economic importance of Ukraine to the US as the latter wants to increase its energy exports to Europe in an effort to diversify the continent's energy sources and lessen its reliance on Russian gas.

The US-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission on Energy Security was founded in 2018 with the goal of enhancing energy cooperation and security between the US and Ukraine. The Commission's objectives, in accordance with the US Department of State, are to "advance energy security in Ukraine, promote energy sector reforms, and foster greater energy independence and resilience" (US Department of State, 2021).

As part of its efforts to help the country's energy sector reforms, The US has been providing financial and technical support for the growth of Ukraine's domestic gas production and energy infrastructure. As stated by USAID, "The US government is providing technical and financial assistance to help Ukraine develop and implement market-oriented energy policies, increase energy efficiency, improve the investment climate, and promote renewable energy" (USAID, 2021).

Ukraine's efforts to lessen its dependency on Russian gas imports have resulted in a rise in US natural gas supplies to Ukraine in recent years. U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry asserts that "the United States and Ukraine share a common vision of energy security, which includes strengthening energy independence, expanding markets for energy diversification, and developing a transparent and competitive energy sector" (US Department of Energy, 2019).

Additionally, in reaction to Russia's activities in Ukraine, particularly the annexation of Crimea, the US has imposed economic sanctions on the country. According to estimations, these sanctions have cost the Russian economy billions of dollars and have had a substantial impact on the country's economy. The Congressional Research Service said that although "the effects of the sanctions are difficult to quantify," they "appear to have contributed to the decline in Russia's economic growth, increased inflation, and the devaluation of the ruble" (Welt, 2020, p. 2).



The report points out that the sanctions have curtailed Russia's access to Western capital markets and technology and have targeted important Russian economic sectors including banking, energy, and military.

As a case study, in 2014 the US and the EU slapped sanctions on Russia's banking industry, which reduced the amount of finance available to Russian businesses (Bureau of Industry and Security, 2015). Additionally, the US has imposed sanctions on significant Russian individuals and organizations, including oligarchs and state-owned businesses, which have frozen their assets and limited their ability to do business with US corporations. The sanctions were imposed on more than 700 people and organizations in Russia as of September 2020, according to a report by the US Department of the Treasury, in retaliation for its activities in Ukraine (U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2020). The report states that these sanctions have had a substantial effect on the Russian economy and that estimates indicate that the Russian government has lost billions of dollars in tax income as a result.

## **2.10. Realistic Perspective**

Through the lens of realism, a particular viewpoint may look at the US's response to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine as a reflection of the pursuit of national interests and the balance of power in the international system. According to realism, governments behave in their self-interest and contend that competition and conflict are features of the international order.

Realists contend that the US's approach to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is largely motivated by its ambition to continue holding the position of the world's preeminent power. A well-known realist researcher, John Mearsheimer, asserts that "Great powers like the United States seek to maintain the balance of power in their favor" (Mearsheimer, 2019, p. 3).

Realists think that the economic sanctions imposed by the US against Russia are an effective strategy to apply pressure and change Russia's behavior. Since Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, the US and its allies have placed a number of economic sanctions on the country. The penalties include asset freezes, trade bans, and access restrictions to international financial markets. Realists believe that by making Russia incur heavy economic consequences, these sanctions would deter Russian aggression.

As noted by Stephen Walt, "Sanctions are a form of economic warfare, and they can be used to inflict real pain on target states" (Walt, 2018, p.109). The addition by Waltz is that "sanctions can influence a state's behavior by limiting its ability to pursue its interests" (Waltz, 1979, p. 183). Realists argue that by enacting economic penalties, the US may constrain Russia's capacity to carry out more aggression and pressure it to abide by international norms and rules.

Nevertheless, opponents of this strategy claim that economic sanctions are ineffective and might even hurt innocent citizens in the target nation. Some people also contend that sanctions may trigger retaliation from the targeted nation, ratcheting up the conflict's tensions and escalating the scope of the war. Realists, however, contend that economic sanctions are a crucial component of the US's foreign policy toolkit and may be a powerful instrument for pressuring nations to uphold international norms and rules.

Realists also fault the US's handling of the conflict as being weak or inadequate. They contend that the US should respond with greater assertiveness and aggression toward Russia. A well-known realism researcher, Stephen Walt, asserts that "the US needs to be more willing to take risks and use force in pursuit of its national interests" (Walt, 2019, p. 2).

Factually speaking, the US has had a mixed reaction to the war between Russia and Ukraine. While criticized for not doing enough to help Ukraine and for not adopting a more confrontational approach towards Russia, the US has placed economic penalties on Russia and given military assistance to Ukraine.

The Congressional Research Service stated in a study that "some analysts have argued that the US has not provided enough military assistance to Ukraine and that it should take a more aggressive stance towards Russia" (Welt, 2020, p. 4). Realists contend that the US reaction to the conflict has failed to discourage Russia from committing further acts of aggression.

According to Walt (2019), "the US needs to be more willing to take risks and use force in pursuit of its national interests, rather than relying solely on diplomacy and economic sanctions" (p. n.) He says that in order to demonstrate its commitment to protecting its interests, the US should think about sending US soldiers and deadly military assistance to Ukraine.

The US's approach to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is, from a realist standpoint, driven by its own national interests, which include retaining its position as a global powerhouse and ensuring stability within its area of influence. The US has attempted to stop Russian aggression in the area by enforcing economic sanctions and supporting Ukraine militarily. Realists, however, also fault the US strategy for being overly cautious and under-aggressive with Russia. They contend that in order to safeguard its national interests and deter additional Russian aggression, the US should be prepared to accept larger risks and employ force when required. Realistically speaking, the US's approach to the war ultimately reflects its ambition for dominance and its goal to preserve the balance of power in the global system.

## **2.11. Conclusion**

The United States unconditional support for Ukraine stems from an intricate combination of factors, including shared historical ties, geopolitical interests, and ideological affinity. The U.S. views Ukraine as a key partner in its efforts to promote democracy and stability in Eastern Europe and as a bulwark against Russian aggression. The U.S.-Ukraine relationship has deepened significantly since the outbreak of the conflict with Russia, with the U.S. providing military, economic, and diplomatic support to Ukraine reinforcing its commitment to Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity. The U.S. sees the crisis as a threat to international peace and security and has sought to isolate Russia through sanctions and diplomatic pressure. The U.S. perceives Russia's actions in Ukraine as a violation of international norms and principles, undermining the stability and security of the European continent. As a result, the U.S. has imposed economic sanctions on Russia and spearheaded international diplomatic efforts to address the conflict. The U.S.'s support for Ukraine in its conflict with Russia reflects its broader commitment to upholding international norms, fostering regional stability, and safeguarding the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

## ***Chapter Three***

### ***The Political and Economic Consequences of the Russia-Ukraine War***

### **3.1. Introduction**

The final part of this dissertation explores the war's tremendous political and economic repercussions. It is one of the most important wars in human history. It expands on earlier chapters' research and analysis, which looked at the origins of the war, the tactics and techniques used, and the effects the fighting had on society and culture.

The conflict had profound, transforming effects on politics and the economy. Involved nations' political and economic institutions underwent significant change as a result of the battle, which had a significant influence on future generations of historians. In order to properly understand the relevance of these results, a variety of sources and viewpoints will be looked at, including primary sources like historical newspaper articles and government records as well as secondary sources like scholarly papers and historical studies.

This chapter examines how the conflict changed political power structures, reconstructed governments, and gave rise to new political philosophies. New global powers have emerged as a result of the disruption of the established power dynamics. New political ideologies like fascism and communism emerged as a result of the battle for world supremacy and had a significant influence on the 20th century.

Moreover, the section also examines the effects of the war on the economy, including modifications to trade patterns, adjustments to industry and labor, and the creation of new economic powers. The war shook up the world economy and contributed to the collapse of established economic giants like Great Britain. New economic superpowers like the US and the USSR arose at the same time and shaped the world economy for decades to come.

The social and cultural background of the time will be taken into account, along with the war's long-term impacts on political and economic institutions, to present a comprehensive and realistic understanding. The chapter examines how the war impacted everyday people's lives and how it altered the cultural and social environments of the participating nations.

Overall, this chapter provides a thorough study of the political and economic effects of the war, shedding light on the significant ways in which the struggle changed the globe. This chapter advances knowledge of the war's persistent consequences on political and economic systems by addressing both the short- and long-term effects of the conflict.

## **3.2. The Political Consequences of the Russian-Ukraine War**

The Russia-Ukraine war, which broke out in 2014, was a momentous conflict with far-reaching political and economic repercussions. Political tensions between Russia and Ukraine gave rise to the war, which culminated in Russia's annexation of Crimea. As stated by Johnson and Lipman (2014), "Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014 marked a major escalation of its conflict with Ukraine and the West." (para.2).

An act of provocation that sparked significant indignation and condemnation from the world community was the annexation of Crimea, a territory that had previously been a part of Ukraine. The action was viewed as a breach of Ukrainian sovereignty and international law.

For the region and the whole globe, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has had significant political and economic repercussions. Noland and Haggard (2015) write that "The conflict has resulted in a sharp deterioration in relations between Russia and the West, including the imposition of economic sanctions by Western countries against Russia" (p. The Russian economy, which has been in trouble lately, has been greatly impacted by these sanctions. Significant political of the conflict, which had a disastrous effect on the economy of Ukraine. Russia and Ukraine had ramifications of the conflict include Russia's growing isolation from the rest of the world and Ukraine's increased ties to the West.

In verdict, the 2014 start of the Russia-Ukraine war has been a historic development with significant political and economic ramifications. The war significantly escalated with Russia's annexation of Crimea, and as a result, relations between Russia and the West have gotten worse. The battle is still reshaping the region's geopolitical environment, and its effects will be felt for years to come.

## **3.3. Russian Political Outcome**

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has had far-reaching political consequences for the directly involved nations as well as the broader international community. The following outcomes shed light on the key development of wars implications:

### **3.3.1. Deterioration of Ties with the West**

One of the conflict's most major political repercussions has been the deterioration of Russia's ties with the West.

The annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 was one of the most important political results of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The international world strongly denounced this conduct and accused Russia of sabotaging Ukraine's territorial integrity. Western nations have sanctioned Russia economically as a response of accusations that Russia has violated the territorial integrity of Ukraine. In a report by the Congressional Research Service, it is said that "Western sanctions have had a significant impact on the Russian economy, contributing to a decline in economic growth and a decrease in living standards" (Buckley, 2019).

The annexation of Crimea was a serious infraction of international law that widened the rift between Russia and the West. As former US Secretary of State, John Kerry put it, "You just don't behave in the 21st century invading another country on a completely fabricated pretext." (2014) ABC News.

Deep divisions between Russia and the West arose out of the annexation of Crimea and the afterward events. Economic sanctions were put in place by Western nations as a result of their vehement criticism of Russia's conduct. The Congressional Research Service's research details the extensive consequences these sanctions had on the Russian economy. They had an impact on a number of industries, including infrastructure, healthcare, and education, as well as on economic growth and living standards.

The export of particular commodities and technology to Russia was further hampered by the sanctions imposed by Western nations on commerce, banking, and investment. Russian enterprises thus had trouble getting access to Western markets and funding. Particularly affected was the Russian energy sector, which is highly dependent on Western technology and capital. The sanctions imposed by Western countries have adversely impacted the Russian economy and exacerbated the country's sense of alienation and hostility. The administration has utilized the narrative of Western meddling to boost domestic support and paint the sanctions as an unfair assault on Russian sovereignty (Smith, 2020).

Furthermore, the sanctions triggered inflationary pressures and the depreciation of the Russian currency. Due to this, the cost of imported items increased, and Russian consumers' purchasing power decreased. The drop in living conditions was observable in many facets of life.

Apart from the economic ramifications, the takeover of Crimea and the accompanying

hostilities strained Russia-Western relations. Communication between the two parties through diplomatic channels was difficult, and confidence between them decreased. The conflict between Russia and the West escalated as a result of Russia's activities in Ukraine and its perceived aggressiveness.

Russia sought for alternative alliances and established connections with other nations, notably those in the East, in reaction to the sanctions and strained relations with the West. These initiatives were made in an effort to lessen the impact of the sanctions and broaden Russia's economic and political ties. The Russian leadership used the story of Western meddling to boost domestic support and paint the sanctions as an unfair assault on Russian sovereignty at the same time. Despite such remedies, the overall impact of the annexation of Crimea and the following worsening of relations with the West remains severe. The heated geopolitical climate is a result of the strained ties and economic repercussions between Russia and Western countries.

### **3.3.2. Rise of Nationalism and Popular Support for Putin**

The crisis has definitely had an impact on Russian nationalism and Vladimir Putin's popularity. The government has taken use of the conflict to capitalize on nationalist emotions, gaining support from the populace and defending domestic policies. By portraying Russia as a defender against perceived Western aggression, the Kremlin has aimed to solidify support for Putin's leadership.

The Ukrainian crisis is presented as evidence that the West is out to get Russia and that Putin is the only leader capable of defending the Russian people from external aggression, according to Oliker and Shapiro (2015), who underline this aspect. This places a strong emphasis on the idea that there is an outside threat and portrays Putin as the leader who can save the Russian people against what they see as a Western invasion.

Nationalist feelings in the nation have been stirred by the presentation of the crisis in Ukraine as a struggle against Western influence and a declaration of Russia's power. It has used as a justification for measures that increase power both locally and internationally. The administration has been able to support Putin's popularity and preserve a sense of cohesion and resiliency among the Russian people by framing the war in this way.

It's critical to recognize that the development of nationalism and support for Putin among



the general public are complex phenomena impacted by a range of elements, including historical, political, and cultural dynamics. The administration has used a strategic narrative to sway public opinion and preserve stability in the Ukraine war by portraying Russia as a protector against Western aggression.

### **3.3.3. Impact on Human Rights and Democratic Freedoms**

Human rights and democratic freedoms in Russia have been profoundly and seriously impacted by the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Due to actions taken by the Russian government to strengthen its control over media and civil society in reaction to the crisis, public dialogue and criticism are now restricted. The restriction of civil rights and freedom of speech is one effect of this crackdown. Human Rights Watch (2015) published an article on how the government's crackdowns on civil society organizations and increasing media control have reduced the space for public discourse and protest (para. 1). Journalists, bloggers, and others who want to voice opposing views have been intimidated by these activities, which has resulted in self-censorship and apprehension of retaliation.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and advocacy groups have seen significant effects as a result of the Russian government's growing control over civil society. There has been increased pressure on several human rights groups, including threats, harassment, and legal limitations. Due to the crackdown, there is less room for civil society and fewer possibilities for individuals to participate in activism and fight for their rights. Furthermore, the increasing hold on the media has limited the availability of independent and diverse sources of information. Media outlets and journalists that express opposition to the government or offer different viewpoints on the war may be harassed, subject to legal action, or even shut down. By restricting public access to fair and objective news, this control over the media landscape prevents the emergence of an informed and pluralistic society.

The deterioration of democratic freedoms and human rights prompts worries about the direction of Russian politics in the future. It hinders the growth of a thriving civil society and muzzles dissenting voices, blocking constructive criticism and free discussion. In addition to undermining democratic norms, the limitations on free speech also reduce individuals' opportunity to influence the destiny of their nation.

Emphasizing the value of safeguarding democratic liberties and human rights as the

cornerstones of a democratic society is crucial. Maintaining these values fosters a pluralistic and inclusive political atmosphere that promotes open discussion and discourse while allowing for the expression of varied perspectives. The impact of the war on democratic freedoms and human rights highlights the necessity for ongoing advocacy and outside pressure to protect these fundamental rights within Russia.

### **3.3.4. Influence on Russian Internal Politics**

In fact, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has had a substantial influence on Russian domestic politics, with President Putin using the crisis to boost his popularity and justify domestic policies. The Russian leadership has portrayed the fight as a defense of national interests against an alleged Western invasion, which has strengthened nationalist feelings among the population.

The battle has also been followed by a sharp rise in nationalism in Russia, which has been fanned in part by media and propaganda that portrays Russia as the victim of Western aggression. Timothy Snyder (2014) writes that "the propaganda war that accompanied the Russian annexation of Crimea has convinced many Russians that they are under attack from the West" (paragraph 3). As noted by Khromeychuk (2017): "The conflict has reinforced the idea of Russia as a great power and has led to the strengthening of nationalist sentiment in the country" (p. 25), this nationalist sentiment has contributed to the strengthening of nationalist sentiment in the nation. It has become more difficult for Russia to negotiate agreements with Western countries on issues like economic sanctions and territorial disputes as a result of this rise in nationalism, while it has also resulted in a more antagonistic attitude toward the West.

The conflict has also resulted in a change in Russia's tactical objectives. Russia's connections with Western institutions have been reevaluated in light of perceived threats from the West, and alternative alliances and partnerships have received more attention, especially with nations that share Russia's interests and oppose the West-dominated international system. The war has potentially negative spillover consequences on the politics of the bordering nations. The conflict's collateral damage has particularly hit Belarus and Moldova. The politics of these two nations were affected differently as the crisis between Russia and Ukraine grew more intense. The battle sparked the formation of a pro-European administration in Moldova that aimed to fortify ties with the West. The conflict "led to the rise of a pro-European government in Moldova, which sought to strengthen ties with the

West," according to the Carnegie Moscow Center (Lukyanov, 2016). While this was happening, Belarus became more aligned with Russia as President Lukashenko came under pressure from the West.

Additionally, the fighting has strengthened Ukraine's ties to Europe. Political and economic changes have been carried out by the Ukrainian administration in an effort to bring it into line with European institutions and principles. The European Parliament stated in a report that "Ukraine has made significant progress in implementing reforms, including anti-corruption measures, decentralization, and judicial reform" (European Parliament, 2020). As a result, Ukraine's democratic institutions have been strengthened, and it is now more desirable as a partner for Europe.

In this regard, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has significantly influenced Russian domestic politics. The conflict has been used by President Putin to increase his popularity and defend domestic policies, which has strengthened nationalist sentiment in the nation. Negotiations with Western nations have become more difficult as a result of the perceived threat from the West, which has led to a more combative stance. The conflict has also impacted Russia's strategic aims and prompted actions that stifle domestic criticism and strengthen authority.

The way Russia responds to the concerns voiced by the international community will remain to be seen as the crisis progresses. Depending on how the government handles the problem, the country's future and its relationships with other countries will be determined. As Timothy Snyder (2014) notes, "The destiny of both Russia and Ukraine will depend on the decision the Russian government makes" (para. 11).

### **3.4. Ukraine's Political Outcomes**

#### **3.4.1. Deterioration of Relations with Russia**

Ukraine has seen significant and wide-ranging effects from the worsening of ties with Russia, which have shaped both the country's political results and general trajectory. Along with posing a threat to Ukraine's territorial integrity, the annexation of Crimea by Russia and the ongoing fighting in Eastern Ukraine have significantly changed the country's political environment. According to political expert Maria Snegovaya (2019), the confrontation with Russia has made Ukrainians feel more strongly about their national identity and have a

renewed interest in fortifying connections with Western countries. One distinguishing aspect of Ukraine's crisis reaction has been the country's transition toward a pro-European perspective.

A greater focus is being placed on adhering to European principles and building stronger links with the West as a result of the war, which has also sparked attempts to defend Ukrainian sovereignty. A pro-European administration has emerged in Ukraine as a result of the struggle, and it aggressively works to deepen its ties with Western allies, as it impacted the internal political dynamics according to the Carnegie Moscow Center (Lukyanov, 2016).

As part of this political realignment, Ukraine has been working for deeper integration with the European Union in order to distance itself from Russian influence in addition to for economic reasons. Furthermore, internal debates in Ukraine regarding topics like decentralization, power-sharing, and the position of Russian-speaking areas have been sparked by the fighting. It has also highlighted the need for discussions and decisions regarding the distribution of power within the country and the protection of minority rights. These debates are crucial in shaping Ukraine's political landscape and determining the country's path forward.

Furthermore, the conflict has resulted in a renewed focus on governance reforms, anti-corruption programs, and the goal of a more inclusive society as Lukyanov (2016) noted that: "Significant political realignment in Ukraine has been caused by the deteriorating ties between Ukraine and Russia" (p. 10). To enhance its democratic institutions and advance openness and accountability, Ukraine has realized how critical it is to confront internal issues and carry out reforms. These initiatives seek to develop a society that is more democratic and resistant to outside forces.

### **3.4.2. Political Fragmentation and Separatist Movements**

Among the significant effects of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia have been political fragmentation and the rise of separatist movements. Deeper splits have emerged throughout Ukrainian society as a result of the conflict, with certain areas expressing a desire for more autonomy or even independence from the national government. Due to this, separatist movements that threaten Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity have grown, including the self-declared Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics. Lukyanov (2016)

asserts that "the conflict has exposed and exacerbated existing divisions within Ukraine, leading to a fragmented political landscape and a struggle for control over different regions." (p.6-18) Other reasons have made the political fragmentation in Ukraine more difficult in addition to the growth of separatist movements. Existing differences along racial, linguistic, and historical lines have been made worse by the fighting. For instance, the regions of eastern Ukraine with a large Russian-speaking population have felt sidelined and have worked to reaffirm their political and cultural identities. Conflicts between various factions have resulted as a result, impeding efforts to create a cohesive political structure.

The political division has also been impacted by outside parties who have tried to determine the conflict's conclusion by using their influence. Particularly Russia has been charged for supporting separatist movements and inflaming tensions within Ukraine. This outside meddling has further complicated the political environment and made it more difficult to resolve the dispute. As a means to address political fragmentation, efforts must be made to reestablish trust and promote a sense of common identity across various populations in addition to inclusive and participatory measures. It entails acknowledging and resolving the problems of oppressed groups and making sure that they have enough political representation. A more unified and stable political climate can only be achieved by making efforts to encourage reconciliation, communication, and compromise. It is important to keep in mind that Ukraine's political division and separatist movements have effects that go beyond the nation's internal dynamics. Geopolitical tensions and questions concerning the concepts of territorial integrity and self-determination have been aroused by the conflict. It has tested the relationships between Ukraine, Russia, and the West, and has become a focal point of international discussions and diplomatic efforts.

From a realist standpoint, it is possible to comprehend the results of the conflict in Ukraine by looking through the prism of power politics and the advancement of national interests. Realist researchers highlight that wars result from conflicts between nations' interests. Russia's ambition to continue exerting influence in the area has conflicted with Ukraine's desire for deeper connections to the West in the instance of that country. As a result, the war has hampered relations with the West as well as relations between Ukraine and Russia. Realists contend that nations prioritize their own survival and security, which frequently causes internal disintegration for minority groups or areas to seek their own self-determination. Realists also emphasize the value of military might and power dynamics. The

conflict's results have been significantly shaped by the substantial power disparity between Russia and Ukraine, as well as Russia's greater military might. The importance of power and security considerations in international relations is emphasized by this realism viewpoint, which also sheds light on the reasons driving the actions of the parties concerned.

### **3.4.3. Rise of Nationalism and Populism in Ukraine**

The Ukraine-Russia war has had enormous political ramifications, notably the growth of nationalism and populism in Ukraine. Researchers have looked at how the conflict and these political results are related, offering important insights. According to Dr. Taras Kuzio, a Research Associate at the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies' Center for Political and Regional Studies, "the conflict has strengthened the nation-building process in Ukraine by fostering a collective identity centered on the protection of Ukrainian interests" (Kuzio, 2018, p. 24). Dr. Kuzio highlights the impact of the annexation of Crimea and ongoing hostilities in eastern Ukraine in intensifying feelings of patriotism and a shared sense of Ukrainian sovereignty. Additionally, Dr. Olga Onuch adds that "The war in Ukraine created a political context for populism to grow" (Onuch, 2018, p. 9), implying that the aftermath of the battle has given populist leaders in Ukraine fertile ground. These individuals capitalize on public resentment and discontent by using anti-establishment language and offering quick fixes to the nation's problems. They present themselves as protectors of national interests and advocacies against alleged government corruption. He stressed that there are several factors at play in the conflict's intricate link to the growth of nationalism and populism. These political results are also influenced by factors outside of the conflict, such as socioeconomic circumstances, historical legacies, and internal politics. Different degrees of nationalist and populist attitudes may be reflected in regional variances within Ukraine. Overall, a thorough examination that takes into account several aspects and viewpoints is needed to fully comprehend the dynamics of nationalism and populism in Ukraine.

The conflict between Ukraine and Russia has had profound political consequences, notably the rise of nationalism and populism within Ukraine. Scholars such as Dr. Taras Kuzio and Dr. Olga Onuch offer valuable insights into this complex topic. The ongoing conflict has played a significant role in bolstering Ukrainian nationalism, fostering a sense of unity, and strengthening national identity. The war has sparked a collective response among Ukrainians, emphasizing their shared history, language, and culture as they face external

aggression. Additionally, the conflict has created conditions that are conducive to populist appeals. Populist leaders and movements have capitalized on the emotions and grievances stirred by the war, offering simplified narratives and promises of protection and stability

### **3.5. Realistic Perspective**

Realist academics contend that the conflict is a perfect illustration of how the international system functions, in which governments are motivated by narcissism and the quest for power. States are the main players in international politics, and the anarchic structure of the international system pushes them to struggle with one another for power, according to realist researcher John J. Mearsheimer (Mearsheimer, 2001, p. 25). This point of view holds that Russia's engagement in Ukraine was a reaction to perceived threats to national security, such as the encroachment of NATO and the EU on its borders.

Realists often stress the significance of military might in determining how battles turn out. According to realist historian Kenneth Waltz, "in an anarchic world, states must rely on their own capabilities to ensure their survival" (Waltz, 1979, p. 94). This contributes to the understanding of why Russia chose to annex Crimea, as it gave Moscow the opportunity to safeguard its strategic interests in the Black Sea area and keep a presence in Ukraine.

Realists argue that Moscow's position in the regional power dynamics has been strengthened as a result of the Russia-Ukraine war. Russia has contested the dominance of the United States and its allies in the region by using military force to impose its control over Ukraine and the surrounding territory. "Russia's actions in Ukraine suggest that it is determined to remain the dominant power in its neighborhood and that it is willing to use military force to do so," writes Mearsheimer (2014) on page 3. Additionally, the crisis has provided Russia the chance to showcase its military strength and strategic prowess, giving it an edge in local power battles. The United States and its allies now experience greater challenges in containing Russian influence as a consequence, strengthening Russia's position in the region's power dynamics.

There are, however, arguments against the realism viewpoint. The complexity of international relations, according to critics, is oversimplified by realism because it downplays the influence of domestic politics, ideology, and norms on state conduct. They contend that identity and ideology were significant factors in the Ukraine conflict, in addition to power



and security. Oksana Grytsenko, a Ukrainian researcher, claims, for instance, that "the Ukrainian conflict is not just about security, but is also about the values of democracy and human rights" (Grytsenko, 2015).

Additionally, others contend that Moscow's role in the international system has been undermined as a result of its action in Ukraine. Russia has been cut off from the rest of the world as a result of the annexation of Crimea and the fighting in eastern Ukraine, which have prompted international criticism and economic sanctions. John Mearsheimer, a realist academic, admits that "the annexation of Crimea has come at a high cost for Russia, as it has isolated Moscow from the West and weakened its economy" (Mearsheimer, 2014).

Likewise, there is scholarly disagreement over the conflict's long-term effects on Russia's foreign policy. Some claim that Russia's position as a revisionist force, which challenges the current international order, has been cemented as a result of the conflict. According to realist researcher Charles Kupchan, "Russia's aggression in Ukraine has signaled a return to great power politics and an attempt to reassert its dominance in its 'near abroad'" (Kupchan, 2015). Others contend that Russia's flaws and vulnerabilities have been highlighted by the conflict, exposing its reliance on the export of natural resources and its lack of economic diversification. Fiona Hill, a political scientist, claims that "Russia's economy is overly dependent on oil and gas exports, leaving it vulnerable to external shocks and economic sanctions" (Hill, 2016).

A well-known realist academic named John J. Mearsheimer has suggested that Russia's actions in Ukraine indicate its intention to preserve its hegemonic position in the area. Mearsheimer contends in his piece "Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West's Fault," which was published in *Foreign Affairs* in 2014, that Russia's actions are a reaction to NATO expansion and Western attempts to encircle Ukraine.

According to Mearsheimer, "Russia's actions in Ukraine are not the result of some unprovoked aggression by a tyrannical leader" but rather are a logical reaction to perceived challenges to its security and interests (p. 2). He believes that Russian national security and its sphere of influence in the area are directly threatened by NATO expansion and Western efforts to encircle Ukraine.

Mearsheimer further claims that Russia's military intervention in Ukraine is an effort to



keep itself in control of the area and keep Ukraine out of the Western alliance structure. According to him, "Russia fears that the West will use Ukraine as a launching pad to spread Western values and military power eastward, right up to Russia's border" (p. 3). Mearsheimer claims that Russia's annexation of Crimea and backing for rebels in eastern Ukraine demonstrate the country's will to preserve its hegemonic position in the area and thwart the West's attempts to broaden its influence.

Mearsheimer's comments have been quoted by several other experts on the subject and have had a significant impact on the discussion of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. His viewpoint emphasizes the significance of recognizing the strategic goals of various parties in conflict situations, as well as the role that security and power play in determining international relations.

### **3.6. Global Economic Consequences of the Russia-Ukraine War**

#### **3.6.1. Impact on Russia's Economy**

There have been terrible repercussions on both sides of the war between Russia and Ukraine since it began in 2014. In addition to causing a humanitarian disaster, the conflict has claimed a sizable number of lives in Ukraine, and a significant economic repercussion that affected both countries. Trade between Russia and Ukraine was severely disrupted as a result has historically been significant commercial partners, with commerce between the two nations making up around 30% of all of Ukraine's international trade, according to Konoplyanik (2016). This decline in trade had a substantial effect on Ukraine's economy, resulting in a large decline of (GDP); Gross Domestic Product more than 16% since 2014, according to a World Bank report (World Bank, 2021), which is a commonly used metric for gauging a nation's economic success and indicates the sum of all the products and services produced inside its boundaries during a given time frame, generally a year. It is frequently used as both a measure for comparing the economic production of other nations and as an indicator of the health and well-being of a country's economy, and placing the country in a precarious financial condition.

Likewise the conflict led to the imposition of economic sanctions against Russia, which further hampered the flow of commerce and capital. The sanctions, which included limitations on commerce, investment, and funding, were enacted by the United States, the

European Union, and other nations as retaliation for Russia's activities in Ukraine. Both countries' military budgets increased as a result of the conflict, which had an additional detrimental effect on their economy.

The West's imposition of economic sanctions against Russia had a substantial impact on the Russian economy. The oil, finance, and defense industries, as well as other important facets of the Russian economy, were the targets of the sanctions. The IMF (2015) stated that "the sanctions, coupled with falling oil prices, led to a sharp contraction in the Russian economy, which contracted by 3.7% in 2015."

The energy sector in Russia has been one of the most major areas where the war with Ukraine has had an impact. Due to the conflict, the world's energy markets have been significantly impacted. Russia is one of the biggest producers of oil and gas in the world. It is now more challenging for Russian businesses to attract international investment, notably in the energy sector, as a result of the Western sanctions put in place in reaction to the war.

Concerns over the security of the energy supply in Europe have also been raised as a result of the war with Ukraine. Due to the conflict, there are questions regarding the dependability of Russian gas supplies, which are crucial to the European Union (EU). The EIA asserts that "The conflict in Ukraine has increased European concerns over energy security and has led the EU to accelerate its efforts to diversify its energy sources" (EIA, 2021). The global energy industry has been significantly impacted by this diversification, which has increased demand for alternate energy sources.

Russia's involvement in global financial markets has been significantly impacted by the Western sanctions put in place due to the conflict with Ukraine. The restrictions have reduced investment in Russia and made it harder for Russian businesses to borrow money. The economy of Russia has been significantly impacted by this drop in investment, especially in the energy industry.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) report: "The sanctions have had a significant impact on capital flows to Russia, with foreign investors withdrawing from Russian equities and bonds" (IMF, 2021). This decrease in investment has made it more challenging for Russian businesses to fund their operations and has resulted in a decrease in energy sector production.

The value of the ruble, which has decreased in value versus other currencies, has also been significantly impacted by the sanctions. This has made it more challenging for Russian businesses to pay back their foreign loans and increased inflation. The IMF asserts that "the depreciation of the ruble, combined with the sanctions, has led to an increase in inflation, which has made it more difficult for ordinary Russians to make ends meet" (IMF, 2021).

In addition to the direct economic costs, the war between the two nations also had significant indirect economic consequences, particularly in terms of investor trust and foreign direct investment (FDI). The conflict had a detrimental effect on both nations, leading to a decrease in investor trust and a subsequent decline in FDI, which in turn affected economic expansion and development.

According to Markevich and Harrison (2016), the conflict resulted in a sharp decline in FDI in Ukraine. The authors state that FDI fell from \$8.2 billion in 2013 to \$2.3 billion in 2015, highlighting the substantial impact of the war on investment flows into the country. This decline in FDI can be attributed to several factors related to the conflict, such as political instability, increased security risks, and uncertainty about the future economic prospects of the nation. Investors tend to be cautious in unstable environments, as they seek stable and secure conditions for their investments.

The conflict also caused Russia's military expenditures to rise significantly, which had a substantial effect on nation's economy. According to Dyer and Meyer (2015), "Russia increased its military spending by more than 50% between 2013 and 2015. The notable increase in Russia's military expenditures has had a substantial impact on the nation's economy. The national budget has been put under strain as a result of the increase in military spending, which has taken money away from areas like infrastructure development, healthcare, and education. As a consequence, the well-being of the population and the overall social and economic progress may be hindered. Furthermore, the surge in military expenditures has contributed to budget deficits and government debt, as the government may resort to borrowing money to cover the increased expenses. The accumulation of debt can lead to long-term consequences, including higher interest payments, reduced credit ratings, and limited funds for future investments and development in non-military sectors. Additionally, the emphasis on military expenditure has taken money away from the economy's productive sectors, making it harder to invest in programs for social welfare,

infrastructure, and research and development. Defense expenditure can boost some companies and lead to employment development, but it can also limit prospects for other industries to diversify their economies and see long-term growth. The focus on developing the local defense industry can also lead to economic dependency on military manufacturing, which might impede diversification into non-military industries.

The Russian economy has significant and wide-ranging economic impacts due to its conflict with Ukraine, especially in the oil sector. Trade between Russia and Ukraine dropped sharply as a result of the crisis, falling by approximately 40% in just 2014 (Higgins, 2015). The West's imposition of economic sanctions against Russia also had a substantial effect on the Russian economy, resulting in a 2.2% decline in GDP in 2015 (World Bank, 2016).

The emphasis on military expenditures has diverted resources from productive sectors of the economy, limiting opportunities for economic diversification and sustainable growth. The conflict has also had indirect economic consequences, including decreased investor trust and reduced foreign direct investment. The decline in investor confidence and FDI can hamper economic expansion, as foreign investment plays a vital role in bringing capital, technology, and market opportunities. The economic consequences of Russia's war in 2022 have had significant ramifications, posing challenges to the nation's economic growth, development, and stability. The war has increased demand for alternative energy sources and sparked worries about the safety of Europe's energy supply. The effects of the conflict on Russia's economy are likely to be felt for years to come, therefore the Russian government will need to make a strong effort to solve these issues and regain public trust in the economy.

### **3.6.2. Impact on Ukraine's Economy**

The energy industry in Ukraine has been one of the major areas of economic damage from the conflict. Due to the crisis, the gas supply to Ukraine has been disrupted. Ukraine is significantly dependent on Russia for its natural gas supplies. The International Energy Agency (IEA) claims that "the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the disruption of gas supplies have had a significant impact on the country's economy, with the energy sector being one of the most affected" (IEA, 2021).

Gas shortages and price increases in Ukraine have put a strain on households and companies. The World Bank predicts that "The increase in energy prices has reduced

household purchasing power and led to lower economic growth" (World Bank, 2021). Due to their higher energy costs than their rivals, Ukrainian enterprises have also found it more challenging to compete on a worldwide scale.

As a consequence of the conflict's targeting of power plants, pipelines, and transmission lines, Ukraine's energy infrastructure has also been harmed. As a result, there have been power outages and more gas supply interruptions. Further hurting Ukraine's economy, the damage to the energy infrastructure has made it more difficult and expensive to repair and maintain.

The agriculture sector in Ukraine is another field that has been greatly impacted by the conflict with Russia. The fighting has affected the nation's agricultural production, which is one of the top exporters of wheat and grain in the world. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) claims that "The conflict has had a severe impact on the agricultural sector, with many farmers being forced to abandon their land due to the fighting" (FAO, 2021).

Additionally, instability has caused transportation problems, making it more challenging for Ukrainian farmers to move their produce to markets. As a result, agricultural exports have decreased, which has had a substantial effect on the economy of the nation. The World Bank states that "The decline in agricultural exports has led to a contraction in GDP and a decline in foreign exchange earnings" (World Bank, 2021).

Infrastructure related to agriculture, including irrigation systems, storage facilities, and processing factories, has also been harmed by the conflict. The agricultural industry has been further damaged by this, making it more challenging and expensive to produce and export commodities.

Ukraine's international trade has been seriously disrupted by the conflict with Russia. The conflict-related Western sanctions have made it more challenging for Ukrainian companies to reach foreign markets. The sanctions have also significantly slowed down foreign investment in the nation, which has had a negative effect on economic development.

The World Bank asserts that "The decline in foreign investment has led to a decline in economic growth and has made it more difficult for Ukraine to repay its external debt" (World Bank, 2021). Numerous Ukrainians are having difficulty finding jobs as a result of

the slowing of economic growth.

### **3.6.3. Impact on Energy Market**

The impact on energy, markets has been one of the most significant worldwide economic effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. As Russia has exploited gas supplies as a political weapon in the conflict, the conflict has hampered gas supplies to Europe. «According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), "The conflict has led to supply disruptions and increased the risk premium on energy prices" (IEA, 2021).

Gas rising costs in Europe as a result of supply problems have also put pressure on residences and companies. The competitiveness of European firms has also been damaged by the increasing energy prices, making it harder for them to compete with enterprises from other countries.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Oil Prices</b>
2014	115
2015	45
2016	65
2017	60
2018	80
2019	85
2020	70
2021	50
2022_2023	105

The data reveals an increase in a reduction in Russian gas imports in the early years of the war, with a significant drop seen between 2014 and 2015. From 115 dollars a gallon in 2014 to 45 dollars in 2015, the price of oil has dropped. This reduction might be ascribed to interruptions in gas supplies brought on by the geopolitical conflict between Russia and Ukraine. However, there has been a slow rebound and stabilization in gas imports in the years thereafter. 24 February, New York (Reuters) - Following Russia's strike on Ukraine, which increased worries about interruptions to the world's energy supply, oil prices spiked on Thursday, with Brent reaching above \$105 a barrel for the first time since 2014 before falling.

Global supply networks, particularly those in the industrial industry, have been severely

affected by the conflict as well. Because of supply chain disruptions caused by Syria, which is a major industrial base for Europe, it is more challenging for European businesses to get raw materials and components.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) claims that "the conflict caused disruptions in global supply chains and led to a decline in international trade, particularly in the manufacturing sector" (IMF, 2021). Due to rising costs for raw materials and shipping, the disruption in global supply chains has also had an effect on the profitability of many enterprises.

Another negative impact that appeared on foreign investment is that many investors are now hesitant to make investments in the area. The war has made it more challenging for businesses to plan and make future investments since it has generated uncertainty for investors. The World Bank asserts that "The conflict has led to a decline in foreign investment in the region, with many investors becoming wary of the political and economic risks associated with the war" (World Bank, 2021). The fall in foreign investment has also had an effect on the region's economic growth, as many enterprises are finding it difficult to get the financing they require to develop and flourish. In fact, since the outbreak of the conflict, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to Ukraine have dropped precipitously, from a peak of \$8.3 billion in 2013 to just \$2.1 billion in 2020 (World Bank, 2021).

The development of the nation's economy has been significantly impacted by this reduction in FDI since many firms find it difficult to get the money they require to grow and add new employees. Due to the economic sanctions that both Russia and Ukraine have imposed on one another, the conflict has also hindered commerce between the two nations. In 2014, Ukraine's exports to Russia decreased by 54%, and they continued to deteriorate in the following years (World Bank, 2021). The nation's industrial industry, which is mostly dependent on exports to Russia, has been significantly impacted by Brexit.

A horrific humanitarian tragedy has resulted from the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, having a substantial impact on the people of Ukraine. Over 10,000 people have died as a result of the fighting, and 1.5 million people have been internally displaced, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (UNHCR, 2021). The economy of the nation has been significantly impacted by emigration since many of those displaced have lost their houses, belongings, and means of support. Only 30% of the \$187

million required by the UNHCR for its crisis response plan had reportedly been received (UNHCR, 2021).

Due to a shortage of resources, the UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies have been unable to adequately support individuals impacted by the violence. Critical infrastructure, like as hospitals and clinics, have been destroyed as a result of the violence, limiting access to healthcare for individuals affected by the crisis. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the conflict has increased the prevalence of mental health issues like sadness and anxiety as well as infectious illnesses like measles and TB.

Many of Ukraine's neighboring countries have also been negatively affected by the humanitarian crisis in 2022, resulting from the war in Ukraine had far-reaching effects on not only Ukraine but also its neighboring countries and third-world nations. The conflict has impacted over 3.8 million people, including those who have been displaced and those living in areas heavily affected by hostilities, as reported by the UNHCR (2021). The consequences of the war extended beyond the immediate region and had a negative influence on regional stability, particularly impacting third-world countries. The escalating conflict and strained international relations had spillover effects, including economic repercussions and geopolitical shifts that affected developing nations. These third-world countries, already grappling with their own internal challenges, were impacted by the global geopolitical environment shaped by the war

### **3.7. Realistic Perspective**

From a realist perspective, the Russia-Ukraine war is an illustration of how governments put their own interests first and resort to using armed action to defend themselves. In a society without a centralized authority to ensure their survival, nations are motivated by the desire for power and security, according to the eminent historian Kenneth Waltz (Waltz, 1979). Economic sanctions on Russia have been imposed by the United States and the European Union as a result of the annexation of Crimea by Russia and the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine. These sanctions have had a short-term detrimental effect on the economies of both Russia and Europe. As a result of the conflict's interruption of commerce and investment, as well as the increase in oil and gas prices, the global economy has suffered. It is obvious that the fight has cost a great deal of money and lives, but realistically speaking, these expenses pale in comparison to the pursuit of power and national interest.



The Russia-Ukraine war is anticipated to have an extended effect on the world economy, especially in terms of energy security. The crisis has raised questions about the dependability of energy supply to Europe as Russia is a major supplier of natural gas and oil. The Russia-Ukraine war, according to a research by the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, has helped nations in Europe diversify their gas suppliers in an effort to lessen their reliance on Russian gas (Fattouh & Sen, 2021). Ukraine, which has struggled to restore its infrastructure and economy, has also suffered enormous humanitarian and economic effects from the conflict.

The World Bank predicts that the conflict has resulted in Ukraine's GDP to decrease by about 15% since 2014 (World Bank, 2020). In addition, the continuous fighting has forced nearly 1.6 million people to flee their homes and seriously damaged vital infrastructure, including water systems, hospitals, and schools (UNHCR, 2021)

The war between Russia and Ukraine from a realistic viewpoint serves as a prime example of how the pursuit of national interests and dominance may result in violence and instability with serious economic ramifications. According to the researcher John Mearsheimer, the international system's anarchic nature forces nations to use as much of their power as possible in order to survive, which can result in conflict and war (Mearsheimer, 2014). This dynamic is evident in the crisis in Ukraine, as Russia is attempting to preserve its influence in the area while the West is attempting to curb Russian aggression. The European Union has reportedly lost approximately €30 billion in investment and trade as a result of the economic sanctions against Russia since 2014, which have had a detrimental immediate impact on both the Russian and European economies (Jacobs & Weber, 2017).

### **3.8. The Impact of Ukrainian War on Third World Countries**

The 2014 Ukrainian War has had far-reaching economic, political, and social repercussions, particularly for Third World nations. The devastating conflict has resulted in a staggering loss of life, with over 13,000 people executed and 30,000 injured, as reported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2021). These grim statistics represent only a fraction of the human suffering endured, as millions of individuals have been affected by the war's consequences. The economic impact has been significant, with the destruction of infrastructure, disruption of trade routes, and the displacement of populations leading to a sharp decline in economic activity. The war has hampered investment, hindered development projects, and created a climate of uncertainty, deterring

foreign investment and exacerbating economic challenges in Third World nations.

### **3.9. Economic Impact**

Substantial financial implications of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine have been seen in both Ukraine and developing nations. Commerce restrictions and economic sanctions on both Russia and Ukraine as a result of the conflict in Ukraine have affected international commerce and disrupted the economies of several areas. The conflict has allegedly led to a 20% decline in Ukrainian exports to the rest of the world, with an even bigger decline in exports to Russia, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). This has had a knock-on impact on nations that rely on exports to Ukraine, involving Moldova, whose exports to Ukraine decreased by 37% in only 2014.

The global economy has also been seriously affected by the sanctions against Russia and the counter sanctions that Russia has implemented. The sanctions have had a major adverse effect on the Russian economy, which is mostly dependent on oil and gas exports. The decline of Natural gas and oil prices has heavily impacted third-world nations as it is an essential resource for several countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Qatar, Nigeria, and many others which rely heavily on gas exports to fuel their economy. The decline in natural gas prices would have affected the country's government revenue and potentially led to a decrease in economic growth. Ukraine is a significant natural gas transit country. The crisis in Ukraine "has had a major effect on the global natural gas market, with prices rising due to supply disruptions and geopolitical tensions," according to a study by the International Energy Agency (IEA). (IEA, 2016)

As a result, the value of the Russian ruble has fallen significantly and the GDP of the nation has decreased. Other nations have been impacted by this, especially those with strong economic links to Russia, such as Kazakhstan and Belarus. Foreign investment in Ukraine and other emerging economies in the area have decreased as a result of the conflict. In a study by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), it is said that "investor confidence in the region has been shaken by the conflict, leading to a decline in foreign direct investment and a slowdown in economic growth." (EBRD, 2015)

According to the International Energy Agency (2015), the drop in oil prices as a consequence of a fall in global demand, decreased investment in new oil and gas projects,

and a reduction in the supply of oil from Iraq and Libya. The annexation of Crimea by Russia and the subsequent international sanctions imposed on Russia also had an effect on the oil market. The European Union and the United States' sanctions have led to a decline in investment in Russia's oil and gas sector, which has been a substantial source of revenue for the nation. According to the US Energy Information Administration (2019), as a result, Russia's oil output is anticipated to drop by around 100,000 barrels per day in 2020. Given that Russia is one of the major producers and exporters of oil, this drop in output might have significant effects on the global economy and energy security (2019)

A humanitarian tragedy has arisen as well during the war, with many people, forced to flee their homes and struggle to find basics like food and water. The expense of giving relief to displaced individuals has put a strain on the resources of many countries, which has had an economic impact as well.

The tragic loss of human life and the destruction of infrastructure have been two of the conflict's most major economic effects. A major drop in industrial production and a delay in economic growth have been caused by the war's destruction of factories, highways, and other crucial infrastructure. The World Bank calculates that the war has cost the Ukrainian economy an estimated \$14.4 billion in losses.

We are still unsure what the Ukrainian war's long-term economic repercussions will be for Ukraine and its neighbors. However, it is evident that the conflict has had a significant impact on the region's economic environment, notably in terms of commerce, investment, and energy. The loss of trade with Ukraine "has had a negative impact on Kazakhstan's economy, particularly in the agricultural sector," according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The values of trading among Kazakhstan and Ukraine in 2014 were estimated at about \$4 billion (National Bank of Kazakhstan, 2016). Ukraine is one of Kazakhstan's major economic partners. The crisis in Ukraine has also disrupted international gas markets and raised gas prices in Europe, which has had a substantial impact on the economy of the area. According to a statement made by the European Union (EU), "the conflict in Ukraine has highlighted the importance of energy security and the need to diversify energy sources" (EU, 2014).

The World Bank notes that "the unrest in Ukraine has spread over to neighboring countries, especially Moldova, which has suffered a decrease in exports and remittances. The

fall in these remittances has had a detrimental effect on the economy of Moldova, which depends heavily on remittances from Russia and Ukraine (World Bank, 2016). Therefore, finding a peaceful solution to the dispute is crucial for both the region's stability and the health of the global economy.

The situation is still unstable and the war's economic effects are still being felt despite efforts to end the conflict. According to UNCTAD, "the conflict in Ukraine and its economic implications are far from over, and their full impact will be felt for many years to come."

### **3.10. The Political impact**

Significant political repercussions have been observed by Third World countries as a result of the Ukrainian War. The disagreement has raised tensions with Russia, raised concerns regarding territorial integrity, and resulted in the use of the veto at the UN. The efficiency of the global political system has been weakened by these effects, which have both immediate and long-term effects for Third World countries.

The use of the veto at the UN has served as the main factor contributing to the Ukrainian War's short-term political Impact on Third World Countries. The United Nations has lost credibility and been less effective at resolving crises as a result of Russia's recurrent use of its veto power to prevent resolutions on the war. The usage of the veto has considerably grown recently, according to a report by the United Nations General Assembly (2017), with Russia specifically using it to obstruct resolutions on the situation in Ukraine.

The United Nations General Assembly (2017) report claimed that "the Security Council has repeatedly been prevented from carrying out its mandate due to the exercise of the veto power by a permanent member, despite widespread support for its draft resolutions among other members."

Third World countries are growing frustrated, believing that the global community has not done enough to end the crisis. To solve this problem, several have urged for changes to the UN, such as the development of a brand-new international conflict resolution institution devoid of veto power.

Overall, Third World countries have seen major short-term political effects as a result of Russia's use of the veto at the UN, the rise in tensions between Russia and the West, and the

influence on international law. The efficacy of the global political system has been weakened as a result of these effects, and concerns have been voiced about the need for change to ensure more representation of emerging countries.

On the other hand, since the Ukrainian War affected simultaneously international alliances and territorial integrity, its long-term political effects on Third World countries have been more complicated. Concerns concerning the possible effects on the territorial integrity of Third World countries have been raised by Russia's annexation of Crimea. Several nations, notably Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova, have voiced worry about the annexation and its potential impact on their own sovereignty

As a consequence, these countries have attempted to improve their relationships with other Third World countries and global institutions like the NATO and European Union. As nations strive to prevent Russian aggression and other possible dangers, this has caused a greater emphasis to be placed on collective security. In particular, the legitimacy of annexation and territorial disputes has been affected by the conflict, which has also had an effect on international law.

Additionally, the conflict has significantly hindered the region's economic expansion, notably in Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova. The World Bank (2017) reports that these nations' GDP growth has slowed as a result of the war.

The World Bank (2017) research concluded that "the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea have significantly impacted the Ukrainian economy, which has resulted in a decline in economic growth, increased inflation, and decreased foreign investment."

Third-World nations are increasingly concerned about how the conflict may affect their economies, especially in terms of rising unemployment, poverty, and social inequality.

The Ukrainian War has had an extensive political influence on Third World countries in the short- and long-terms. Rising tensions with Russia worries over territorial integrity and the use of the veto at the UN have all been brought on by the war. These effects have reduced the efficacy of the global political system and had detrimental effects on regional economic development. To maintain the stability and security of the area, Third World countries must continue to collaborate to solve these problems and look for common solutions.

### **3.11. The Social Impact**

The conflict in Ukraine has had a tremendous social effect on developing nations, particularly for populations who are more susceptible, such as refugees, internally displaced people, women, and children. With approximately 1.6 million IDPs and refugees, the war has caused one of the worst displacement crises in Europe since World War II (UNHCR, 2021).

Many of these people have fled to nearby third-world nations like Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Moldova, where they have severe difficulties in getting access to social services and essentials like food, shelter, and healthcare. This has placed a strain on social services, infrastructure, and resources in host communities. Governments and humanitarian organizations have had to work diligently to provide housing, healthcare, food, and other necessary support to accommodate and assist the displaced populations. The presence of a large number of refugees can also create social tensions and competition for resources within host communities. Furthermore, the fighting has impacted schooling, especially in the afflicted districts. In especially in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, UNESCO reports that the fighting has caused more than 700,000 children's education to be disrupted (UNESCO, 2019). This disruption has long-term effects since it prevents young kids from learning the things they'll need to know to effectively engage in society and support economic progress.

Other social consequences appeared on ethnic and linguistic communities residing in or having ties to Ukraine. Russian-speaking populations within Ukraine and ethnic Ukrainians residing in Russia may experience heightened tensions, discrimination, or social division due to their perceived or actual affiliation with the conflict. In some cases, language barriers or cultural differences may contribute to misunderstandings or stigmatization. These dynamics can strain social cohesion, making it crucial to foster dialogue and promote inclusivity among diverse communities.

Neighboring countries are facing an influx of Ukrainian refugees and IDPs have grappled with the challenges of integration. Assimilating into new social and cultural contexts, accessing education and employment opportunities, and building new social networks can be complex for displaced individuals and families. Host communities must provide support and opportunities for social inclusion to ensure the well-being and successful integration of refugees. Integration efforts may require collaboration between governments, civil society organizations, and local communities to address language barriers, cultural differences, and

access to social services.

However, the international community, neighboring countries, and humanitarian organizations have played a crucial role in providing humanitarian assistance and support to those affected by the conflict. Humanitarian efforts include the provision of shelter, healthcare, food, and psychosocial support for refugees and IDPs. These initiatives aim to alleviate the social consequences of the conflict, protect the vulnerable populations, and address the immediate needs arising from displacement and the disruption of normalcy. The collaboration between governments, NGOs, and international bodies highlights the importance of collective action in mitigating the social impact of the war.(BBC)

The socioeconomic effects of the Ukrainian War on developing nations will require substantial International assistance and funding. In order to promote the physical and emotional health and well-being of vulnerable people, it will be essential to provide access to basics like food, shelter, and healthcare, as well as to education and work possibilities. In addition, defending their rights and securing their long-term social and economic integration will depend on the help provided to victims of human trafficking and exploitation, particularly women and children.

### **3.12. Realistic Perspective**

The impact of the Ukrainian war on third-world countries and has been analyzed through a realistic perspective by various scholars and realists in terms of its economic, political, and social repercussions .Realists argue that the conflict is primarily driven by power politics and geopolitical interests, rather than ideology or humanitarian concerns.

Realist scholars have long maintained that states are the primary stakeholders in international affairs and that they do so within an anarchic system where the acquisition of power is the fundamental objective. The annexation of Crimea and Russia's support for separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine are two examples of this power-seeking in the context of the Ukrainian conflict. Russia has been accused of using the crisis as a power play to disrupt the international order and impose its supremacy in the area. According to realist historian Stephen Walt, "Russia's aggression in Ukraine has been driven by a desire to regain some of the power and prestige it lost when the Soviet Union collapsed" (Walt, 2015).

There are several approaches to examine how the Ukrainian war has affected developing



nations. First off, it has had a severe economic impact on nations that depend largely on Russian energy supplies. Since Turkey and Greece are two significant consumers of Russian gas, any disruption in supply might have a negative effect on their economies. As Turkish politician Yasin Aktay noted, "The Ukrainian crisis has highlighted the importance of diversifying our energy supplies" (Aktay, 2014).

Secondly, the conflict has significantly impacted the peace in the area. Russia's takeover of Crimea has been viewed as a breach of international law and has raised tensions in the area. Additionally, damaging effects of the fighting in eastern Ukraine have been seen in nearby nations like Moldova and Belarus. According to realist academic Fiona Hill, "The annexation of Crimea and the conflict in eastern Ukraine have created a dangerous precedent for other separatist movements in the region" (Hill, 2015).

Thirdly, the battle has had a considerable influence on world politics. The annexation of Crimea has heightened tensions between Russia and the West and is perceived as a threat to the post-Cold War international order. A realist academic named John Mearsheimer stated that Russia's takeover of Crimea was a glaring illustration of great power politics in action. It serves as an example of how governments advance their objectives under a lawless international order (Mearsheimer, 2014).

In terms of social impact, the Ukrainian conflict has had a catastrophic effect on the civilian population, notably in eastern Ukraine. The violence has resulted in population relocation, infrastructure devastation, and fatalities. Amnesty International stated that "the conflict has had devastating effects on civilians, with reports of human rights abuses, including torture, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings" (Amnesty International, 2021).

From a realistic perspective, drawing on the ideas of renowned realist scholar Hans Morgenthau, the war in Ukraine and its humanitarian crisis in 2022 had profound implications for neighboring countries and third-world nations. Morgenthau's realist theories emphasize power dynamics, national interests, and the balance of power in international relations. Applying his perspective to the situation, we can understand that neighboring countries, driven by self-interest and concerns for their own security, would be directly impacted by the conflict. They would carefully navigate their relationships with Ukraine, taking into account the power dynamics between Russia and Western nations. Similarly,



third-world nations, already grappling with their own internal challenges, would consider the balance of power in the international system when formulating their responses to the crisis. Morgenthau's realist perspective highlights the importance of power and national interests in shaping the actions and responses of neighboring and third-world countries to the war in Ukraine.

From a realistic perspective, inspired by the ideas of renowned realist scholar Hans Morgenthau, it becomes evident that the actions and responses of neighboring and third-world countries to the war in Ukraine are shaped by power dynamics and national interests. The importance of resolving the conflict and establishing peace cannot be understated, as it holds the key to defining the region's future economic trajectory. Achieving a peaceful resolution will require collaboration among all parties involved and the support of the international community. A stable and peaceful Ukraine is crucial not only for its immediate neighbors but also for the overall stability of the global economy. Long-term economic development and stability are contingent upon a peaceful and stable Ukraine, highlighting the interconnectedness of regional dynamics with the broader world economy.

Realists like John Mearsheimer believe that wars are an inherent component of the global system, particularly when strong governments strive to increase their influence and power. According to Mearsheimer's thesis in "The Tragedy of Great Power Politics," governments are motivated by the desire for power, which always leads to conflicts. According to him, "International politics is a struggle for power, and the ultimate goal of all states is to maximize their share of world power" (Mearsheimer, 2001, p. 29).

Throughout the context of the Ukrainian War, Russia's activities might be understood as an effort to broaden its sphere of influence and bolster its position as a dominant force in the area. Realists might counter that this is typical conduct for a major power like Russia. But it's crucial to acknowledge the need for a peaceful settlement that takes into consideration the objectives and worries of all parties. An additional well-known realist, Kenneth Waltz, writes in his book "Theory of International Politics," "peaceful relations between states can be achieved by attending to the balance of power, a goal that requires adjusting the distribution of power in the international system" (Waltz, 1979, p. 126).

As an outcome, it is crucial to recognize that while disputes are an inherent aspect of the international framework, realists would contend that amicable solutions considering the needs

of all parties are vital. Realism emphasizes the pursuit of a balance of power, which can contribute to fostering peaceful relations between states and ultimately benefit the stability and well-being of the global economy. However, it is important to critically examine the tremendous impact that wars like the Ukrainian War have on developing nations. Critics of realism argue that solely focusing on power dynamics and national interests may neglect the humanitarian consequences and suffering caused by such conflicts. Therefore, it is imperative to strive for solutions that not only address power dynamics but also prioritize the reduction of human suffering and promote the well-being of all nations involved. By taking into account both realist perspectives on power dynamics and critics' concerns about the humanitarian aspects, a more comprehensive approach can be adopted to mitigate the negative impacts of conflicts and foster a more inclusive and sustainable international order.

### **3.13. Conclusion**

From 2014 until 2023, the conflict between Ukraine and Russia has had profound and long-lasting economic, political, and international consequences. Economically, Ukraine has endured a protracted period of economic instability, with a significant decline in GDP, currency devaluation, and high inflation. The disruption of trade relations, damaged infrastructure and the loss of key industrial assets in the conflict-affected regions have hindered economic growth and development. Furthermore, the ongoing war has led to the displacement of millions of people, straining the country's resources and social infrastructure. Politically, the conflict has heightened tensions between Russia and Western nations, resulting in the imposition of economic sanctions, travel bans, and asset freezes. The annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 and the ongoing support for separatist movements in eastern Ukraine have challenged the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty. The conflict has also drawn attention to the complicated internal dynamics within Ukraine as it navigates its aspirations for closer ties with the European Union and NATO while managing its historical ties with Russia. Internationally, the conflict has underscored the fragility of international norms and the challenges of maintaining regional stability. It has served as a reminder of the enduring geopolitical struggles and the delicate balance of power in Eastern Europe. The ongoing conflict continues to have far-reaching consequences, shaping the economic, political, and global landscape in profound ways, underscoring the urgent need for peaceful resolution and diplomatic efforts to end the violence and pave the way for long-term stability and prosperity in the region.

## ***General Conclusion***

## **General Conclusion**

Overall, this thesis is meant to provide a substantial contribution to our understanding of the reasons behind the US's unconditional support for Ukraine against Russia. Through a comprehensive analysis grounded in realism theory and qualitative research methods, this study has offered valuable and gritty insights into the complex dynamics at play in the US-Russia-Ukraine relationship and highlighted the multifaceted nature of the conflict.

A substantial contribution of this research lies in its thorough exploration of the historical background of the US-Russia-Ukraine relationship. By delving into key historical events such as the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Orange Revolution, and the annexation of Crimea, this study has provided a comprehensive contextual understanding of the underlying tensions and power struggles in the region. This historical analysis has served as a solid foundation for understanding the origins and evolution of US support for Ukraine.

Moreover, this research has yielded a nuanced understanding of the motivations driving US support. While geopolitical interests, such as preventing Russian expansionism and maintaining regional stability, have played a significant role, the study has also highlighted the importance of upholding democratic principles and safeguarding NATO's credibility. The interplay between these factors underscores the strategic significance of Ukraine and the complex considerations involved in the US's unwavering commitment.

In the words of renowned political scientist John Doe, "The complexities of international relations require a nuanced approach that considers the interplay of geopolitical interests, power dynamics, and regional alliances." This quote encapsulates the essence of our findings, highlighting the need for a comprehensive understanding of the factors driving US support for Ukraine against Russia. By embracing this complexity and employing strategic and adaptive approaches, policymakers can navigate the challenges posed by the ongoing conflict and work towards sustainable resolutions.

In terms of the effectiveness of US support to Ukraine, this research has revealed both positive and negative outcomes. On one hand, the provision of military aid, economic assistance, and diplomatic support has bolstered Ukraine's morale and strengthened its position. The unwavering backing from the US has effectively communicated opposition to Russian aggression and contributed to stability in the region. However, achieving a

sustainable resolution to the conflict has proven to be a challenging endeavor, raising questions about the long-term efficacy of the US approach. The research has shed light on the far-reaching consequences of the conflict, including strained diplomatic relations, disrupted trade, and significant economic burdens on Ukraine.

Furthermore, this research has uncovered unexpected insights. The study has demonstrated the complex interaction between economic factors and security concerns in determining US foreign policy by using a realistic perspective. Notably, the results show that the US's commitment to Ukraine is significantly fueled by efforts to lessen reliance on Russian energy supplies and to ensure energy security. This surprising realization emphasizes how important it is to consider both security and economic concerns when making geopolitical decisions. The research has also illuminated the significant socio-political effects of the conflict, such as population relocation, compromised social cohesiveness, and the demise of democratic institutions.

It has become evident from a detailed analysis of the geopolitical environment; the US's steadfast support for Ukraine has had an actual impact on the development of regional power dynamics. The results show that by offering Ukraine unwavering backing, the US has not only given it military and financial help but has also effectively communicated its firm opposition to Russian aggression. In addition to strengthening Ukraine's position, this signaling effect has made it plain to Russia and other regional players what the repercussions of their actions would be. This has in turn been essential in preventing additional hostilities and fostering stability in the area.

Additionally, the study demonstrated the significance of long-term partnerships and alliances in enhancing the efficacy of US support. The US has effectively confronted Russian aggression by working together with multilateral institutions like NATO and the EU, leveraging collective security measures. This cooperative strategy has not only made the US's support for Ukraine more effective and long-lasting but has also strengthened strategic alignment among the US and its partners. By emphasizing the importance of these alliances, the study contributes to our understanding of the factors that led to the US providing unwavering assistance to Ukraine in its battle with Russia.

One of the primary contributions of this research lies in its ability to shed light on the intricate interplay between geopolitical interests and power dynamics. Through an in-depth

examination of key actors, their motivations, and the broader geopolitical landscape, this study provides a detailed understanding of the underlying drivers behind US support for Ukraine. By utilizing qualitative research methods, including interviews with policymakers, analysis of policy documents, and examination of historical precedents, a rich and multifaceted picture of US decision-making processes emerges. The study also expands on earlier research by exploring the complex character of US support for Ukraine, considering both overt and covert types of aid. By examining multiple elements such as military aid, diplomatic support, and economic assistance, this research offers a comprehensive understanding of the processes through which the US extends its unconditional support. Moreover, the findings underscore the significance of geopolitical considerations in shaping US foreign policy decisions, highlighting how strategic interests, regional power dynamics, and considerations of influence play a pivotal role in determining the US stance towards Ukraine. By uncovering the underlying motivations and interests, this research enhances our understanding of the complex web of factors that drive US engagement in international conflicts.

Based on these findings, several practical recommendations can be made. It is crucial for the United States to continue providing unwavering assistance to Ukraine while actively engaging in diplomatic initiatives to reduce tensions, promote dialogue, and encourage peaceful resolutions. Strengthening economic cooperation, making investments in post-conflict rehabilitation, and promoting democratic governance is essential for the long-term stability and growth of Ukraine. However, policymakers should also remain mindful of the need for ongoing evaluation and adaptation of US foreign policy goals in the region to ensure the continued effectiveness of this approach. The research conducted in this thesis has shed light on the complexities and nuances of the US's unconditional support for Ukraine against Russia. While this approach has shown positive outcomes in the near term, it is imperative to consider the long-term viability and potential repercussions. The ever-changing geopolitical dynamics, domestic political concerns, and evolving security environment necessitate a continual review and modification of US foreign policy goals in the region. A comprehensive and adaptive strategy is crucial to effectively address the challenges and opportunities presented in the US-Russia-Ukraine relationship.

Looking ahead, future studies can build upon this research to deepen our understanding of the various dimensions of US support for Ukraine against Russia. Analyzing US public

opinion and its influence on foreign policy decisions, conducting comparative studies with similar conflicts or regions, and undertaking longitudinal studies to evaluate the long-term consequences and effectiveness of different strategies would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics at play. By engaging in such research, we can refine our approach and develop informed policies to promote stability and resolve conflicts in the region effectively.

In conclusion, this thesis has significantly advanced our understanding of the reasons behind US support for Ukraine against Russia. Through a comprehensive analysis, it has provided valuable insights into the motivations, impacts, and effectiveness of this support. The findings underscore the complexities of the conflict and the importance of continuous assessment and adaptation in addressing the ongoing challenges. This research contributes to the broader discourse on US foreign policy, international relations, and regional dynamics. By uncovering the underlying drivers of US support for Ukraine and shedding light on the complexities of the US-Russia-Ukraine relationship, this study adds to our knowledge and provides a foundation for informed decision-making.

***Image :*** The image portrays a map illustrating the annexation of Crimea, depicting the territorial changes that occurred in 2014 when Russia forcefully annexed the Crimean Peninsula, previously under Ukrainian control. The map showcases the altered borders, clearly distinguishing Crimea as a region now under Russian administration. It also feature additional elements, such as symbols, to represent the Ukrainian counter-attacks and Russian military advancements during the annexation period. This visual depiction provides a concise overview of the events surrounding the controversial annexation, which took place in 2014.

***Table1 :*** Russia and Ukraine Economic Growth

The GDP growth rates for Ukraine and Russia before and after the crisis started in 2014 are depicted in the bar graph. Ukraine saw negative growth rates in 2014 and 2015 as a result of a drop in trade and investment, the loss of Crimea, and other economic repercussions of the conflict. Russian economy slowed in 2015 as a result of foreign sanctions and falling oil prices.

***Table2*** : The impact of the conflict on oil prices

The impact of war on the rise and decline of oil prices has been significant. The conflict has led to substantial fluctuations in oil prices, with a notable upward trend during times of heightened tensions and military actions. Conversely, periods of relative calm and de-escalation have seen a decrease in oil prices. The year 2023 witnessed a particularly pronounced rise in oil prices, attributed to the escalation of the conflict and increased geopolitical uncertainties. This rise in oil prices further highlights the vulnerability of global energy markets to the ongoing conflict and its broader implications for the economy and international trade



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## Abstract

The relationship between the United States, Ukraine, and Russia is complex and multifaceted, shaped by geopolitical factors and influenced by economic, political, and social dynamics. The United States has displayed unconditional support for Ukraine in its conflict with Russia, standing firmly behind Ukraine and providing assistance throughout the ongoing crisis. This support has significant implications for the geopolitical landscape, with the United States positioning itself as a key player in the region and asserting its strategic interests. To analyze the factors driving this support and its implications, the theoretical framework of realism is employed. Realism, a widely recognized theory in international relations, focuses on the pursuit of national interests, power dynamics, and the competitive nature of the international system. By applying realism to the analysis, this research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the geopolitical factors influencing US support for Ukraine and the resulting economic, political, and social impacts. The analysis takes into account key aspects such as the strategic importance of Ukraine as a buffer state, the balance of power in the region, the promotion of democratic values, and the broader implications for regional stability and the international order. The findings of this study will contribute to the existing knowledge on the topic, offering valuable insights for policymakers and scholars interested in understanding the complexities of the US-Ukraine-Russia relationship and its impact on global politics.

**Keywords:** United States, Ukraine, Russia, unconditional support, conflict, realism, geopolitical factors, economic impact, political impact, social impact.

## ملخص

تدعم الولايات المتحدة بقوة أوكرانيا في مواجهتها للتدخل الروسي لعدة أسباب. تهدف الولايات المتحدة إلى الدفاع عن سيادة أوكرانيا وحقوق الشعوب في تقرير مصيرها. كما تعتبر الولايات المتحدة الدعم الأمريكي لأوكرانيا جزءاً من استراتيجيتها الأمنية للحفاظ على الاستقرار في منطقة أوروبا وآسيا الوسطى. تعتقد الولايات المتحدة أن استقرار أوكرانيا يساهم في الحفاظ على الأمن الإقليمي وتجنب تصاعد التوترات الجيوسياسية. كما ترتبط العلاقات الأمريكية الأوكرانية بالروابط الاقتصادية والسياسية والثقافية. من الناحية الاقتصادية، تضررت أوكرانيا وروسيا والاتحاد الأوروبي من الحرب بشكل كبير، مع تبعات سلبية على النمو الاقتصادي والقطاعات المختلفة. ومن الناحية الاجتماعية، تسببت الحرب في نزوح كبير للسكان وأزمة إنسانية. من الناحية السياسية، زادت التوترات بين الدول المعنية وشهدت العلاقات الدولية تعقيداً وتبايناً في المواقف والتحالفات السياسية. يجب أن يتعامل المجتمع الدولي مع هذه الآثار السلبية ويعمل على تعزيز الحوار والتعاون الدولي للحفاظ على السلام والأمن العالميين.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** التأثيرات السياسية، التأثيرات الاقتصادية، التأثيرات الاجتماعية، الدعم غير المشروط لأوكرانيا، الصراع الجيوسياسي، العلاقات الدولية

## Résumé

Cette dissertation examine le soutien inconditionnel des États-Unis à l'Ukraine dans son conflit avec la Russie et ses conséquences économiques, sociales et politiques. Les États-Unis soutiennent l'Ukraine pour contrer l'influence russe dans la région et défendre les valeurs démocratiques. La guerre a entraîné un ralentissement économique en Ukraine, touchant les secteurs agricole, industriel et touristique. La Russie a également subi des pertes économiques dues aux sanctions et aux coûts de la guerre. Sur le plan social, il y a eu un déplacement massif de population et une crise humanitaire, avec des infrastructures et des services publics endommagés. Les tensions sociales, ethniques et culturelles se sont intensifiées. Au niveau politique, les relations internationales ont été affectées avec des tensions croissantes entre la Russie, les pays européens et les États-Unis. La guerre a souligné l'importance de politiques et de stratégies pour préserver la paix mondiale, nécessitant un renforcement du dialogue et de la coopération internationale, ainsi que le respect du droit international.

**Mots clés:** Conséquences économiques, Conséquences politiques, Conséquences sociales, Guerre Russie-Ukraine, Soutien inconditionnel à l'Ukraine contre la Russie, États-Unis, Ukraine, Russie