

WORKSHOPS IN ECONOMICS

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION TO THE RUSSIA/UKRAINE CRISIS?

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History of Ukraine-Russia relations

Ukraine and Russia have a long history, beginning with the Kievan Rus', which shaped both nations. Over time, Ukraine was controlled by various empires, including Russia and the Soviet Union.

After Ukraine gained independence in 1991, its relationship with Russia remained complex, marked by historical ties, economic dependence, and territorial disputes. Ukraine became politically divided, with pro-European views in the west and pro-Russian in the east, while Russia continued to exert influence, particularly in energy, trade, and territorial matters.

Key events leading to the current crisis



Crimea Annexation

March 2014



War in Donbas

April 2014



Russian military build-up

December 2021



Full-scale Invasion

February 2022

The role of International actors



European Union (EU)

Political & Economical support to Ukraine through sanctions on Russia, humanitarian aid and efforts to mediate peace talks with Russia since 2014



NATO

Support to Ukraine by military aid, training and intelligence sharing, while opposing Ukraine's NATO membership



United Nations (UN)

called for respect for international law, provided humanitarian aid to civilians, and advocated for peace, despite Russia's veto power limiting direct action.



United States

provided significant military and financial aid to Ukraine, imposed economic sanctions on Russia, and worked with European allies to isolate Russia diplomatically.

CHALLENGES IN RESOLVING THE CONFLICT

POLITICAL & TERRITORIAL DISPUTES

- Ukraine defends its territorial integrity.
- Russia asserts historical and strategic claims over Crimea.

PERSISTENT MILITARY TENSIONS

- Ongoing clashes in the Donbas and surrounding areas.
- Incidents like the MH17 tragedy and the buildup of Russian forces heighten instability.

ECONOMIC DEPENDENCIES & SANCTIONS

- Ukraine's heavy reliance on Russian gas, gives Moscow significant leverage.
- Sanctions imposed by the EU, US, and others deepen polarization between the parties.

DEEP-ROOTED MISTRUST

- Years of failed negotiations and involvement of multiple actors have eroded confidence.

UNPREDICTABLE LEADERSHIP

- Vladimir Putin's unilateral decisions and nationalist rhetoric create strategic uncertainty that undermines trust-building.



Possible Negotiation Strategies

Diplomatic Solutions

- Ceasefire Agreements
- Peace Talks
- Mediation



Security Guarantees for Ukraine

- NATO Membership
- Neutral Status
- EU Membership



Economic Incentives and Rebuilding

- Sanctions Relief
- Rebuilding Fund
- Trade Agreements



Role of Third-Party Mediators

- European Union
- China
- United Nations
- Turkey



LONG-TERM PEACE AND STABILITY / PREVENTING FUTURE CONFLICTS

Ensuring Peace Agreements Last :

First Step : Jeddah (SA) Summit, 7 days ago.

Ceasefire proposition accepted by Ukraine, proposed to Russia today.

Russia's condition to end war :

- Ukraine must withdraw from four regions
- Ukraine can't become a NATO member
- No US peacekeepers can be sent if conflict is resolved.

Strengthening Ukraine and Prevent Future Conflicts, a Paradox ?

- EU involvement would be seen as a threat for Russia
- No EU nor NATO admission
- Demand for demilitarization from Russia
- An extent of NATO's article 5 could be a solution if all members agreed
- Participation of the UN Blue Helmets (under certain condition...)

Rebuilding Ukraine for Long-Term Stability :

- International Financial Aid & Investment
EU, U.S., IMF, and World Bank pledging billions
for post-war recovery
\$1 trillion estimated cost for Ukraine's
reconstruction

- Private Investment: Capitalism's Role
BlackRock & JP Morgan have heavily
invested in Ukrainian land
Called "the biggest contract since WWII"

- Concerns Over Economic Dependency & Sovereignty :.
Rare Earths Agreement with the U.S.
Foreign ownership of land and resources could limit Ukraine's
long-term self-sufficiency



Conclusion

Peace is More Than a Ceasefire – Long-term stability requires political agreements, security guarantees, and economic rebuilding.

Preventing History from Repeating Itself : international engagement and compromises from every actors are needed for a lasting resolution

The Cost of War : Beyond politics, the war has led to economic devastation, humanitarian crises, and millions displaced.

Debate Question

Security vs. Diplomacy : How can Ukraine defend and secure itself without escalating tensions with Russia?



THANK
YOU.

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