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India's stance on Ukraine-Russia conflict

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Abstract

Untangling the social, historical, and political factors that led to this war, this article looks at a different interpretation of Russia's motivations. Additionally, it examined triangular diplomacy, which focuses on the various interpretations among the European Union, the United States, and considering how the US and EU responded to crises that were ostensibly similar, it is explicitly cooperative. It also adopts a "360" perspective, concentrating on how the US and EU interacted with Russia in their dealings with that country as well as how Russia and Ukraine responded. Thus, the US, a traditional great power if exceptional, is contrasted with the EU, a very unconventional player in foreign policy.

The possibilities for exploring long-term peace and stability in the region have only become more precarious as a result of this flagrant military aggression, which is categorically condemned by India. We demand that this war end right away and that all parties return to substantive diplomatic negotiations.

Keywords: Ukraine, Russia, USA, European Union, conflict, negotiations

Introduction

In 9th century there was a state called kievian rus dominating Slavic people. In 1900's the Russia and Ukraine were soviet republics. Ukraine had defense industries, large agricultural lands and housed soviet nuclear arsenal. In 1991, Ukraine became independent and gave 700 nuclear tipped cruise missile and 2000 tactical nuclear weapons in exchange Moscow guaranteed security and promised to respect its sovereignty.

They signed the Budapest agreement with Belarus, UK, US, Kazakhstan. In November 2013, victor yanukovych president of Ukraine was a pro-Moscow. He rejected kiev-EU trade deal which could help in integration with EU in compensation of this he bailed out \$15 billion from Russia, many people felt that they were sold to Moscow. Protest began in Independent Square which demanded agreement. The EU deal protestors were supported by west this lead to topple of victor's government. Russia lost its puppet. Moscow annexed Crimea in 2014, focus then shifted to Donbas region in 2014 where Russia legitimately attacked Donbas to help Ukraine, west stepped in with a series of talks with Russia and provided equipment's to Ukraine. In 2014, MINSK ACCORD was signed between the territories respecting ceasefire and military withdrawal, Ukraine agreed for elections in rebel areas .Still 8 years Minsk Accord is not implemented.

Ukraine has population of approx. 44 million with GDP of \$155.6 billion, per capita income of \$3,727. This country is known as bread basket of world.

Now, 70% people reject the thought of one people, 72% consider Russia a hostile state, 33.3% are ready to take arms against Russia, 21.7% are ready to start civil resistant against Russia, 67% Ukrainians want to join EU, 59% people want to join NATO.

Missile strikes have been reported in cities including Kyiv, Lviv, Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia, in what appears to be the most widespread set of Russian attacks since the early weeks of the war.

Russia has partially reopened the bridge linking it to Crimea, which is an important supply route for Russian forces fighting in Ukraine.

Ukrainian troops have continued to progress after breaking through Russian defenses in the southern Kherson region.

In Donetsk, Ukrainian forces are pushing east, having taken the town of Lyman.

Changing world order

USA is not reliable: Rapid withdrawal from Afghanistan and now lack of military support for Ukraine. Similar situation might arise for other countries like Taiwan, Japan, Indo-Pacific nations and even India.

Lack of coordinated approach from the west:

- Beijing, France and Italy were reluctant in imposing SWIFT sanctions on Russia.

Energy dependence of Europe:

- Many European countries have not voiced opinion against Russia due to their excessive dependence for their energy needs
- EU imports 39% of its total gas imports and 30% of oil from Russia.
- Central and Eastern European countries imports almost 100% gas from Russia.

Rise of Beijing

- Conceding the defeat without even throwing up a fight has emboldened the Russia-China 'axis'
- The power has tilted in favor of these two powers defining a new international order.
- China would be observing Russia's military and tactic moves in this invasion and learn from it. It could prepare itself for all possible outcomes after analyzing impacts of sanctions and military actions of west and Russia.

Impact on India's Defence imports

- CAATSA waiver for S400 import from Russia could be impacted.
- 60% of India's defence imports of new and spare parts are from Russia.
- Ukraine deal of upgrading 100 An-32 transport aircrafts of IAF is delayed.

Shift of Focus to Europe from Indo-Pacific

- This invasion will divert Europe's attention to its neighborhood and away from the Indo-Pacific and possibly delay its engagements with the Quad.

Exposed ineffectiveness of UN and UNSC:

- Ineffective diplomacy which could avoid war.
- Russia acted unilaterally citing its security concerns.
- US and West acted unilaterally to impose sanctions on Russia without any effort to cool down situation.

Use of non-state actors

- Russia using armed militia from Donbas region.
- Ukraine has given arms to its civilians and invited foreign nationals to fight against Russia.
- The participation of "non-state actors" in a foreign war poses serious security concerns in the longer run.

Impact on Global Financial Order:

- Unilateral sanctions from West to exclude Russian economy from Global financial order run against the mandate and spirit of the international financial order set up under the World Trade Organization.
- It will lead to fragmentation of Financial System and might give rise to a Non-Dollar based parallel financial

system.

India's position on war

India's position on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has been steadfast and consistent, President Ram Nath Kovind has said, emphasizing that the current global order is anchored in international law, UN Charter, and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states.

Unlike many other leading powers, India has not yet criticized Russia for its invasion of Ukraine and it abstained from the votes at the UN platforms in condemning the Russian aggression.

In their first in-person meeting since the Feb. 24 invasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told President Vladimir Putin earlier this month that "today's era is not an era of war" - the clearest position New Delhi has taken on the conflict. India is worried the war is pushing Russia closer to China, which has fraught relations with New Delhi, the analysts said. India also hopes its more robust approach would help it meet criticism by Western allies that it is too close to Moscow.

Russia accounted for \$5.51 billion of the \$12.4 billion that India spent between 2018 and 2021 on arms imports. Throughout 2021 and 2022, a Russian military build-up on the border of Ukraine escalated tensions between the two countries and strained their bilateral relations, eventually leading to Russia initiating a full-scale invasion of the country. Ukraine broke diplomatic relations with Moscow in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Streets bearing the names of Russian figures and monuments symbolizing Russian and Ukrainian friendship were removed from various locations across Ukraine. In March 2023, the Ukrainian parliament banned toponymy with names associated with Russia, from being a marginal player, Russia has become India's third-biggest oil supplier since the war, with purchases jumping about 10-fold from a year-earlier because of cheap prices. The value of India's coal imports from Russia, meanwhile, has risen four-fold during the same period.

India has experienced a shift in foreign policy as India promotes peace over wars and being a third world country, India has to bear huge losses because of which India is on neither side. India is following the policy of Neutrality with Multilateralism instead of earlier policy of isolation as a proof India is abstaining from UNSC votes and also keeping up with United States, has only one ally in South Asia which is emerging as a separate power.

India has emphasized the importance of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine while also acknowledging Russia's concerns. India has also expressed its support for the Minsk agreements and the OSCE's efforts to resolve the conflict. However, India's close ties with Russia have made it cautious in criticizing Russia's actions. India has emphasized the need for a multilateral approach to the conflict and has refrained from taking sides, recognizing the potential impact on regional stability.

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