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Russia-Ukraine Conflict

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“The tension between Russia and the West over Ukraine, which has been simmering for many years since the so-called Maidan revolution in 2014, is now threatening to explode. Ukraine has become the main flashpoint in Moscow's relationship with the West, with Russian troops massed near its border and NATO forces ready to respond if Russia attacks its neighbor, Ukraine¹. Russia's aggression on its border with Ukraine has triggered one of Europe's worst security crises since the Cold War. Moscow has denied plans for military intervention, but it has presented NATO with a list of security demands, including the exclusion of Ukraine and other former Soviet republics from membership in the organization. In response, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg stated that Russia has "no right" to intervene, while the EU, UK, and the US have all condemned Moscow's aggressive posture. Although Ukraine has proclaimed its determination to recapture both Crimea and the Donbas territories from Russia, the US claims that an invasion is imminent. In response to Russia's threat of nuclear war, if Ukraine joins NATO, the West has threatened Russia with severe international sanctions.

Keywords: NATO, cold war, Russia, Ukraine.

¹ Rounak Bagchi, 'Explained: How large is Russia's military build-up around Ukraine?' (*The Indian Express*, 15 February 2022) <<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-russia-military-build-up-ukraine-7772177/>> accessed 16 February 2022

INTRODUCTION

If we talk about the era before the Russian empire then there was some instance when Russia and Ukraine were parts of the same empire at some point, Ukraine was part of the Lithuanian or Polish Empire. The two countries (Russia and Ukraine) had been linked since the 9th century when Kyiv become the capital of the ancient state of Rus. Russia and Ukraine were joined by a treaty under the control of the Russian tsar starting in 1654. Both countries speak closely related languages and later formed the slav core of the Soviet Union (Belarus + Ukraine + Russia) with Belarus.² Many Russians feel a connection with Ukraine that they do not feel with other former Soviet republics in the Baltics, Caucasus, and Central Asia. In 1921, Vladimir Lenin's red army invaded Ukraine. After the communist revolution, USSR was established in 1922. One of the countries was the Ukraine soviet socialist republic. USSR was the confederation of 15 republics, with Russia as the leader, this bloc disintegrated in 1991.

Putin alluded to this in a long essay in June 2021 in which he said, Russians and Ukrainians were one people who shared a single "historic and spiritual space" and that the emergence of a "wall" between them in recent years was tragic. Kyiv rejected his argument as a politically motivated and oversimplified version of history. After 1991, some Ukrainians breathed a sigh of relief when they thought about their independence from USSR. They bid adieu to Moscow and parted as friends and it looked towards the EU intending to join them that they wanted to become an independent European country like others. But on the other hand, some people harbour a lot of sympathy for the Russians, considering themselves Russian. They believed that Russian and Ukrainian are ethnically similar. The latter category of people was now president of Russia, Vladimir Putin, who said, "25 million Russian people in newly independent countries suddenly found themselves cut off from Russia, part of which he called "a major humanitarian tragedy."

² Ukraine-Russia crisis: What to know on hopes of averting war' (*Financial Express*, 15 February 2022) <<https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/ukraine-russia-crisis-what-to-know-on-hopes-of-averting-war/2434869/>> accessed 16 February 2022

Putin claims Ukraine and Ukrainian are an independent part of Russian history and culture the people living in eastern Ukraine, the area lies beside Russia's border, there are a lot of pro-Russian folks there.³ As a result, Russia is beginning to back separatists in that region. In Luhansk and Donetsk, provinces of Ukraine, Russia is facilitating a proxy war that has resulted in the deaths of over 14,000 people. Even after supporting the separatist group, Russia saw that the connection with Ukraine NATO is continuing their relationship. They aren't willing to part ways. So, Russia has started building up a military now, more than 100,000 troops have been stationed at the border. The tanks and missiles are ready not only at the eastern border but also at the north and north-eastern border as well. On top of this Russia alleges Ukraine of genocide in eastern Ukraine? But if we are to talk about the overall country, a little more than the majority of people are in favour of joining the European Union.

RUSSIA VS THE WEST

Here, the politics have broadly been classified into three parts -

First: Pro-western/pro-north Atlantic treaty organization/pro-European union /liberal democracy (anti- Russian culture) - servants of the people, European solidarity, Batkivshchyna, radical party, holos, civil position, self-reliance, Ukrainian democratic alliance for reform, Ukraine strategy, strength, and honour, are major pro-western political parties in Ukraine. Former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (2014-2019) was a supporter of European unity. Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's current president, is a member of the "servant of the people" political party.

Second: Regional and local interest- follows the ideology of regionalism, new emerging political parties who are still figuring out the nerve of the Ukrainian public and trying to build their foundation.

Third: Pro-Russian/ pro- soviet/ Eurosceptic/ not very liberal - Proposition, Successful

³ 'NATO Weighs New Combat Units for Central, SE Europe' (*US News*, 16 February 2022) <<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-02-16/nato-says-russia-still-adding-troops-to-ukraine-build-up>> accessed 16 February 2022

Kharkiv, All-Ukrainian union, Cherkashchany, bloc Svitlychna together, Bila tserkva together, native Zakarpattia, Opposition platform for life. Ukrainian former President, Victor Yanukovich (2010-2014) was a member of the political party's "opposition for life."

BUT WHY RUSSIAN PRESIDENT IS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH UKRAINE AND WHY HE HAS CHOSEN TO BRING THE CRISIS TO A HEAD NOW?

Russia opposes Ukraine joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Ukraine's recent actions have demonstrated its desire to join NATO. According to Russia, if Ukraine joins this military alliance, it will pose a threat to Russian security and stability because it will be surrounded by NATO countries and western allies. Reclaiming Ukraine as part of Russia's sphere of influence, which Ukraine, NATO, and the United States have all stated, they will never accept. Putin claims that Ukraine's growing ties with NATO may qualify it as a launch site for NATO missiles aimed at Russia. According to Putin, Russia must establish "red lines" to avoid repeating the same mistakes. It seeks Western legal guarantees, including the cancellation of NATO's membership promise to Kyiv (Ukraine's capital). The United States, the European Union, and other global platforms are concerned that Moscow will soon invade and seize Ukrainian territory, as it did with Crimea in 2014. Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, stated that to counter military threats from across the border, Moscow must deploy hypersonic weapons comparable to those used by the United States. He added that Moscow had reason to be concerned about a recent exercise conducted by NATO and Ukrainian forces along its border. NATO has been conducting provocative naval exercises in the Black Sea and deploying more troops in the Baltic States.

On the one hand, European countries block Russia geographically, while on the other hand, Japan is a member of both the G-7 and the quad group. Russia also shares a long border with Finland. Although Finland is not a member of NATO, it has contributed to NATO-led operations. Vladimir Putin once called the dissolution of the Soviet Union "the greatest geopolitical disaster" of the twentieth century. He devoted his presidency to re-establish Moscow's influence throughout the post-Soviet space, defying the West and attempting to re-assert Russia's status as a global power. Keeping the rest of the world guessing about a

potential invasion of Ukraine is consistent with those goals. Putin held a separate video⁴Conference with US President Joe Biden spoke with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and met with French President Emmanuel Macron. He also spoke with Finland President Sauli Niinisto. All of this was done to ensure that Ukraine would not join NATO.

WARSAW PACT AND NATO

North Atlantic treaty organization is a military alliance founded in April 1949 by the North Atlantic Treaty (also known as the Washington Treaty). It was established to guarantee collective security against the Soviet Union by the United States, Canada, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Norway, but the Soviet Union imploded in 1991. It was founded by the United States, Canada, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Norway to provide collective security against the Soviet Union, but the USSR disintegrated in 1991. Greece and Turkey joined NATO in 1952, and North Macedonia is the most recent member. Article 5 of the treaty states that if one member of the alliance is attacked in Europe or North America, it is considered an attack on all NATO members. The Warsaw Pact was signed in 1955 as a counterbalance to NATO. This pact was a defense and political alliance between the Soviet Union and the nations. NATO has expanded eastward since the Cold War's end to include 14 new countries, including states from the former Warsaw Pact and three Baltic nations that were once part of the Soviet Union. Russia saw this as a dangerous encroachment on its borders, and it continues to claim that it was a betrayal of western promises made at the beginning of the 1990s, which the US and its allies deny.

UKRAINE'S ATTEMPTS TO JOIN NATO

Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe. In 1991, NATO- Ukraine commission was set up, so that Ukraine and NATO could partner with one another about 10 years later, in 2008, Ukraine wanted to solemnize the friendship. In 2008, the NATO summit was underway and

⁴ Robert Szwed, 'Framing of the Ukraine-Russia conflict in online and social media' (*NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence*, 18 May 2016) <<https://stratcomcoe.org/publications/framing-of-the-ukrainerrussia-conflict-in-online-and-social-media/175>> accessed 14 February 2022

Ukraine stated it wanted to become a part of NATO along with Georgia and other NATO countries were pleased with this but the procedure had to be followed. Ukraine and Georgia were asked to work on their membership action plan (MAP) to get membership in NATO. In 2017, the Ukrainian parliament even adopted legislation that stated that getting NATO's membership is a major objective for Ukraine for the foreign and security policy of Ukraine. On 16th December 2021- there was a meeting between the president of Ukraine and the chief of NATO in Brussels, where Ukraine reiterated its commitments to eventually join NATO, despite Russia's objection. According to a survey from April 2017, 53% of the Ukrainians were in favour of joining the EU and 46% favoured NATO and 27% of Ukrainian were against joining NATO.

WHY IS UKRAINE IMPORTANT TO RUSSIA?

Russia lost control of 14 former Soviet republics following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, but the loss of Ukraine was the most painful. Geographical reasoning- Russia's need for a warm-water port is no longer unfounded. Most of its arctic are frozen for several months of the year. For four months of the year, Vladivostok, Russia's greatest port on the Pacific Ocean, is ice-bound and surrounded by the Sea of Japan, which is dominated by the Japanese. By seizing Crimea, Russia gained the right of entry to its only hot water port, Sevastopol, which is the gateway to the Black sea.

Since 1991, Ukraine and Russia have had numerous disagreements with each other –

- The fate of the Soviet Union nuclear weapons system;
- Naval feet division in the Black Sea;
- Resolving energy and other debts;
- Peninsula of Crimea.

As a result, both countries have an agreement in which Ukraine allows Russia to use black seaports and other facilities in Crimea. This was supposed to expire in 2017, but it was extended for another 25 years until 2042. The public was outraged because it amounted to allowing Russia to control Crimea, in exchange for cheap gas. The United States never supported Victor Yanukovich's policies. Financial reason- Ukraine is also a gateway to Europe. Russia exports gas to Europe via pipelines, which pass through Ukraine. Because Russia is surrounded by European states and NATO allies geographically, its security is jeopardized if Ukraine joins NATO. Providing access to Russia's security to the west. On 10th May 2004, ten countries joined the European Union. ⁵It was unique because eight out of ten countries were former communist countries, either because they were a part of the Soviet Union or because they were influenced by it. There are three such countries known as the Baltic countries: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, all of which share a border with Russia. These countries are not only members of the EU, but also NATO.

USA'S INTEREST IN UKRAINE

The United States has always had an interest in Ukraine; when Ukraine parted in 1991, the United States quickly recognized Ukraine and extended its full support. In 1994, the United States assisted Russia and Ukraine in reaching an agreement on the elimination of the Soviet nuclear weapons system in Ukraine, as well as ensuring Ukraine's security. In 1986, the United States assisted Ukraine in cleaning up the nuclear waste from the Chernobyl disaster. The United States added Ukraine to the Non- Proliferation Treaty in 1994. In 1997, NATO and Ukraine formed a partnership. In 2003, Ukraine deployed thousands of troops to Iraq and supported the US-led invasion of Iraq. Joe Biden had taken a greater hawkish stance than his predecessor, encouraging the Ukrainian authorities in Kyiv to take a greater belligerent political and army stance in opposition to Moscow. Under the Trump administration, the United States supplied sophisticated navy hardware that was once earlier solely available to NATO member nations in Europe. Nonetheless, the United States offers 90 percent of all

⁵ Thomas Kingsley & Joe Somerland, 'What are the issues between Ukraine and Russia? The crisis explained' (*Independent*) <<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-ukraine-conflict-fighting-why-b2016271.html>> accessed 16 February 2022

foreign army aid to Ukraine.

POLICIES OF VICTOR YANUKOVYCH (FORMER PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE)

Victor Yanukovich was a member of the political party and the leader of “the opposition for life”. This party was formerly known as “the communist party of the Soviet Union” when the USSR was not disintegrated, it was renamed as “the party for a region” in 1997. It was later merged with another political party and became known as the “opposition platform for life”. Yanukovich amended the Ukrainian constitution in October 2010 and reinstated seven provisions that existed before 2004. It ruled that the reforms that limit the president's power in favour of the legislature were unconstitutional. It means that Ukraine has once again become a presidential republic. In April 2010, the Yanukovich government signed a landmark agreement with the Russian government in Kharkiv, at a time when Dmitry Medvedev was Russian president and Putin was Russia's prime minister. Under this agreement, Russia agreed to reduce the price of natural gas sold to Ukraine by 30%. In exchange, Russia demanded that Ukraine extend the lease of the Russian naval base in the Black Sea at Sevastopol, Ukraine, for another 25 years. Ukraine was on the verge of joining the EU in 2014. Before Ukraine became a member of the EU, the EU required it to meet specific criteria. The condition was essential to demonstrate that Ukraine is a democratic country⁶. One of the conditions was that their opposition leader, Yulia Tymoshenko, be released from prison. Ukraine agreed to all of the terms. An association agreement was about to be signed. On the other hand, Russia was exerting considerable pressure to prevent this from occurring. Russia altered the customs regulations to exert pressure on Ukraine. The import from Russia to Ukraine has been halted. Putin also threatened Ukraine, saying that if it joins the EU, it would no longer be able to trade with them. If Ukraine does not join NATO, Russia had offered Ukraine a 15-million-dollar loan and low gas prices as a reward. Then-Ukraine President Victor Yanukovich capitulated to Putin's pressure and agreed to sign a deal. In response to this type of bribe and refusal, thousands of Ukrainian students gathered at Independence Square (in Kyiv) to protest.

⁶ Parveen Swami, ‘Ukraine crisis is India’s problem too, not just big powers’ fight for influence’ (*MSN News*, 16 February 2022) <<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/opinion/ukraine-crisis-is-india-e2-80-99s-problem-too->

On November 30th, the Ukrainian government used violence against protestors to remove them, which infuriated the protestors. On January 16th, the Ukrainian president passed a shameful law restricting freedom of assembly and the activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It attempted to contain the protests by passing laws in an undemocratic manner in its parliament; they voted solely by show of hands, without consulting the parliamentary committee, and without allowing MPs to examine the laws, leading to the 2014 Ukrainian revolution, popularly known as "revolution of dignity," in which citizens protested against their government. Protesters demanded that the president should step down. Bribery accusations have additionally been levelled towards the president. The Euro Maidan movement witnessed violent battles between protestors and police, ending in Yanukovich's resignation in February 2014. Fearing of enlargement in the West have an impact on Ukraine, Russia intervened by using annexing Crimea, which had previously been part of Ukraine.

CRIMEA INVASION

Russia invaded Crimea, which used to be a section of Ukraine, in response to growing Western impact in the Country (Ukraine) in 2014. Russia had additionally begun to foment a separatist motion in eastern Ukraine, which is domestic to many ethnic Russians. NATO, the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and Ukraine were concerned, it was due to the fact that Russia seized Crimea, an important region of Ukraine. Victor Yanukovich's selection to reject an association agreement with the European Union in favour of nearer ties with Moscow sparked mass protests that led to his ouster in 2014 and armed men without delay commenced occupying key services and checkpoints in the Crimean peninsula. In retaliation, Russia dispatched an army to invade Crimea. Crimean was efficaciously invaded by way of Russian Troops. Crimea was once an autonomous sustaining area of Ukraine that functioned almost as a separate country. Ukraine had responded by claiming that this is a violation of international laws.

Following Russia's annexation of Crimea. Russia held a referendum in Crimea to exhibit that they are now not invading but as a substitute sending the military to ask the people what they want, Whether the Crimean residents wanted to be a part of Russia or Ukraine, the official end result of this referendum was that 97% voted in favour of Russia, with an 83% voter turnout, however, this referendum was now not acknowledged via any international agency and is considered illegal. The United Nations continues to believe that Crimea is a legit part of Ukraine. In May, a Russian news site mentioned that the Russian president's human rights council had accidentally posted the actual results of the referendum on their website, which was once shortly removed. The results confirmed that the voter turnout was only 40%, with only 50% balloting in prefer of joining Russia. This means that only 20% of Crimeans voted in favour of Russia. Since 1st January 2016, the EU and Ukraine have been implementing their deep and comprehensive free trade settlement (DCFTA) on a provincial basis. This agreement states that both events will together open their markets for goods and offerings based on predictable and enforceable rules.

AFTERMATH OF 2014 CREMIA INVASION

Following the invasion, bilateral monetary ties between Russia and Ukraine reached a breaking point when Ukraine stopped buying gas from Russia and began buying it on the open European market. After 2014, Russia erected a high-security fence along the Crimean border with Ukraine and began developing a giant quantity of infrastructure, the entire Crimean vicinity is now under Russian control. Ukraine's president has noted that Crimea is Ukrainian territory and that freeing it is also Ukraine's goal. Putin, on the different hand, believes that it is Russian territory. On 5th September 2014, France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine came up with the end settlement in Belarus known as Minsk I agreement. According to the first Minsk agreement, Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists reached a 12-point cease-fire agreement in Belarus, consisting of prisoner exchanges, humanitarian resource deliveries, and the withdrawal of heavy weapons. As a result, the settlement fell aside quickly, with each event breaking it. Russia, Ukraine, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the leaders of two Pro-Russian separatist

areas signed a 13-point agreement in Minsk in February 2015. This agreement also failed. After all of this, Ukraine's president, Yanukovich, was impeached. The Ukrainian authorities were deposed. Elections were held once more, and Petro Poroshenko used to be elected as Ukraine's new president.

PETRO POROSHENKO

He agreed to use the Steinmeier formula (proposed by the former German President- Frank Walter Steinmeier as an alternative to the Minsk agreement) According to this agreement, Ukraine is required to grant self-government status to the territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk region only after holding local elections; however, this did not occur because Ukraine had its own set of conditions. As Ukraine knew that this vicinity includes separatist and pro-Russian and if the elections were performed, this location will go to Russia and Ukraine can't afford to lose these regions as it has already lost Crimea.

WHAT IF, UKRAINE WERE GRANTED NATO MEMBERSHIP?

Massive migration from Ukraine to European Union member states. People want a better life and better economic opportunities, which EU countries will provide. The United States and NATO are aware that Russia is already inside Ukraine. When Ukraine joins NATO, they will have no choice but to intervene and deploy their troops as NATO allies to wage a full-scale war against Russia, as Article 5 of the NATO treaty states that a war against a member country is considered a war against all NATO countries. The United States has just left Afghanistan. The USA will not risk sending its troops to Ukraine to fight the Russians and even if it does, what reason will it give? It was attempting to protect Ukraine? Their citizens' right to be free. What was the USA doing for the last 8 years? If the Russia-Ukraine conflict escalates, gas prices in Europe will rise, affecting the financial markets of all EU countries. Russia has stated unequivocally that elections should be held and the Donetsk region has given autonomy. Russians are discussing the elections, which are a symbol of democracy, and how the United States can take all of NATO's forces and attack Russia.

REPERCUSSIONS ON WEST

Europe depends on Russia for roughly one-third of its natural gas, giving Putin leverage in any dispute with the West and one of the principal pipelines runs through Ukraine. Controlling the Ukrainian territory through which the pipeline passes would improve the Russian pipeline protects Russia's capability to "weaponize" electricity supplies. The Nord Stream pipeline 1 connects Europe to Russia via Ukraine; in the case of any military conflict, Russia can withhold the gas. Because Russia is unlikely to attack Ukraine directly, the EU is compelled to manage Ukraine's frequently tense gas ties with Russia. Russia believes that constructing more pipelines around Ukraine, will put additional strain on the USA. This initiative consisting of the development of new pipelines such as Nord Stream 1, South Stream, and Nord Stream 2 Energy is being weaponized in this way to deprive Ukraine of strategic assets while additionally strengthening Russia's role. The United States has threatened to sanction the Nord Stream 2 pipeline connecting Russia and Germany.

If implemented, it will have an impact on the five foremost European energy groups that have a large stake in the pipeline. As an end result of the Russian-Ukraine conflict, the United States and the European Union will need to seek alternative gasoline supplies. If the Russia-Ukraine conflict escalates, gas prices in Europe will rise, affecting the financial markets of all EU countries. Germany has only offered Ukraine medical assistance. Germany's navy chief resigned after praising Vladimir Putin and saying he (Putin) deserves respect. Germany is not actively opposing Russia because it is aware that the crisis will have an impact on Europe's financial markets and the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which is being built between Germany and Russia. Putin has issued a dire threat of nuclear war in Europe if Ukraine joins NATO. 'Russia has deployed hypersonic missiles in the Baltic, within range of NATO capitals. Russia is the only country that has a hypersonic missile; even the United States does not have one. Another contentious issue at hand is the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which was recently built along the Baltic Sea to transport natural gas from Russia to Europe while avoiding Ukraine. The pipeline, which is not yet operational, could have a number of economic consequences for Ukraine.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS: IMPLICATION ON INDIA

- Impact on India's Western Policy - Russia's invasion and the breakup between the United States, its allies and Russia will force India to choose between the Western Union and Russia. India could not overlook the fact that Western operations and strategies around Russia seem far from altruistic and seem to be motivated by the idea of the Cold War since the collapse of the Soviet Union.
- Impact on defense relations with Russia: India may face CAATSA sanctions as a result of the S-400 procurement. India could be pressured to end all defense relations with Russia. This is difficult to assess as the Indian Army relies on Russian spares and equipment for the foreseeable future.
- Slowing relations with China: The US-Russia agreement may require Russia to reduce its involvement with China. This could support India's efforts to restore its recently improved relations with Russia.
- Benefits of the INSTC Project: If the relationship between the United States and Iran is accompanied by similar warming, this will open the door for India, Russia, and Iran to participate in the International North-South Transport (INSTC) project launched by the United States, there is a possibility. By sanctions against Iran and Russia. India has expressed concern about Russia's acquisition of Crimea but also recognizes the deep civilized and historical ties between Crimea and Russia.
- Impact of altering geo-economic conditions: The mission for Ukraine is that the world is turning into extra and greater economically and politically interdependent. Improving relations between Russia and China will affect India.⁷

⁷ Julia Yelnikova & Aleksandra Kuzior, 'Overcoming The Socio-Economic Consequences Of Military Conflict in Ukraine And The Impact Investment Of Post-Conflict Recovery Of Anti-Terrorist Operation' (2020) 4(3) Socio-Economic Challenges, 132-142

- National Interest with Russia: Maintaining proper relations with Russia helps India's national interest. India has to maintain a strong strategic relationship with Russia, as the permanent members of the UN Security Council lack the leverage it affords to defend its vital countrywide interests. As a result, India has been excluded from Western insurance policies aimed at setting apart Russia

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDIA

- India needs to recommend political and diplomatic options that protect all countries' legitimate interests in the region while additionally ensuring long-term peace and stability in Europe and elsewhere.
- This established India's backing for Russia in the Ukraine crisis, which includes Crimea.

India has to not spoil ties with any country and think in a lengthy-term perspective. Russia is also India's buying and selling partner.

WAY FORWARD

The United States and Japan have already issued notifications to their residents living in Ukraine and have requested that they return to their respective international locations for the time being. India observed and issued a notice to Indians living in Ukraine to register with the Indian embassy in Ukraine. Later, the ministry of external affairs issued a notice for Indian residents of Ukraine to return to India. This step of the Indian government is heavily criticized as students in Ukraine called this move of government "very late. "Russia is conducting a sophisticated disinformation marketing campaign in which it refers to Ukraine as a synthetic state with no proper self-determination.

As a result, reaching a peaceful settlement is extraordinarily difficult. Ukraine sees Crimea as a long-term problem, however, Russia claims Crimea has always been Russian and declared itself Russian in a referendum. Ukraine has set up a "Crimea platform to maintain the issue on the international agenda, tackle human rights concerns, and preserve Crimea's global non-recognition. There are no plans to retake Crimea by force. The Ukrainian strategy is to focus on

achieving a long-term truce and working with its Normandy Format allies, France and Germany, to persuade Russia to withdraw assistance for its proxies and permit for the region's gradual protected reintegration into Ukraine.