



Background Guide

Balancing the duality of combat measures taken upon Russia and its impacts on the Russia-Ukraine conflict

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Welcome Letter From The DAIS

Distinguished and honorable delegates,

Welcome to the Model United Nations of Xiamen 2024! My name is Sooho Choi, a grade 11 student of Manila Xiamen International School. It is my great honor to welcome you all to the UNSC committee as this year's president.

The MUN is a profound opportunity for students to debate constructively, to engage with the issues of the global community. However, one of the most valuable things MUN brings is the critical thinking skills. By addressing many points revolving around the matter, participants are able to process the perspectives of other delegates, formulating their own judgements and interpretations. Through these procedures, I hope the participants can develop thinking processes, their tool in navigating through the vast sea of information and opinions the modern society has brought about.

I am Erik Ng, a grade 11 student currently studying at Manila Xiamen International School, and I will be the vice president of the UNSC committee this year. I hope The Model United Nations can encourage all of you to approach this experience with openness and courage. This is a conference for growth and discovery, and I sincerely hope that each and every one of you will leave with important lessons learned and cherished memories.

Our topic this year will be: "Balancing the Duality of Combat Measures Taken upon Russia and Its Impacts Regarding the Russo-Ukraine Conflict." Every one of you is invited to consider not only the immediate political and humanitarian issues but also the broader consequences on global stability and welfare. As you delve into this matter, we encourage freely express and exchange varying perspectives, aspiring mutual advancements eventually.

As the conference date approaches, we look forward to your passion and commitment alive in our sessions. We wish delegates will challenge themselves, exceeding their past limits through the experience. Good luck!

Sincerely yours,

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Committee Introduction

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is a United Nations bureau that falls under the six principal organs of the UN. For the ultimate objective of maintaining international peace and security, the UNSC examines any diplomatic situation that could suggest a potential threat to the diplomatic stability, and takes the central role in facilitating discussions to formulate and execute adequate measures in terms of adjusting such issues towards its peaceful settlement. Predominantly, the issues UNSC supervise imply more than a simple disagreement of the stakeholders. In addressing such matters, the ethical deliberation, independence or stability of the involved parties in the aftermath, managing the global impact and more must be taken into consideration. Therefore, the range of UNSC's influence extends far beyond authorizing military interventions in extreme situations that demand direct involvement, to economic sanctions, materialistic support, legally binding operations and various diplomatic efforts.

UNSC, as one of the founding committees of the United Nations, was established in the year of 1945 to promote international cooperation and obviate hostility under the immense tension subsequent to the violent power clash of the Second World War. The committee comprises of 15 total members, 10 among them being non-permanent members from different regions to ensure geopolitical diversity, and 5 permanent member states: China, United States, United Kingdom, France and Russia, that hold veto power, an authority to object proposals. Ever since the coordination of their first mission on 1948, deployment of UN forces to investigate and monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its adjacent neighbor states of Arab, the Security Council has authorized over 70 peacekeeping operations, currently administering 11 ongoing missions across the globe, including the most volatile regions such as Mali, the Republic of South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These missions are working toward the stabilization of post-conflict areas, protection of civilians in armed conflicts, political transitions, and facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Where the UNSC resorts to economic sanctions, it does so as oppose to direct force in an attempt to make threatening states, groups, and individuals concede. Currently, the UNSC oversees fourteen sanction regimes focused on fighting terrorism, human rights abuses,

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aggression, and nuclear proliferation. Other UNSC efforts that include sanctions for such reasons involve peacekeeping missions, asset freezes, trade, and travel restrictions, all aimed at ensuring that global peace is enforced. Through its cooperation with agencies, such as the WFP and OCHA, the UNSC also provides humanitarian support.



Topic Introduction

• Balancing the Duality of Combat Measures Taken upon Russia and Its Impacts Regarding the Russo-Ukraine Conflict

The Russo-Ukraine conflict has fully scaled into a geopolitical crisis, replete with human suffering, economic disruption, and an energy crisis, especially in Europe, since February 2022. On the other side, global sanctions led by the UNSC try to weaken Russia's war capability but also have severe economic impacts, above all on energy prices and inflation. This sets up a dilemma between pressuring Russia and managing global economic and humanitarian fallout.

1. Human and Material Costs of the War:

The war in Ukraine has become extremely devastating, as thousands lost their lives-both civilian and military-and millions displaced. As many as 9,700 Ukrainian civilians have been killed up to October 2023 alone, while the military casualties have already crossed 350,000. Major cities like Mariupol, Bakhmut, and Severodonetsk lie totally in ruins as whole blocks in eastern and southern parts of Ukraine have been reduced to ashes due to heavy bombardment by the Russian artillery. Several critical infrastructures also got devastated in this war.

By 2023, over 6 million people had fled Ukraine, making this Europe's worst refugee crisis since WWII and internally displacing another 4 million. The Ukrainian economy contracted by more than 30%, with devastating losses to industry, agriculture, and exports. The loss of infrastructure exceeds half a trillion dollars and includes homes, factories, roads, and power grids. The rebuilding will require massive international aid, posing a long-term challenge for Ukraine and the global community.

2. Energy Crisis and Global Impact:

One of the immediate global consequences of the war between Russia and Ukraine is the disruption in energy supplies, especially to Europe, hitherto relying on almost 40% of its natural gas and 27% of its crude oil from Russia. In response, the UNSC and other nations also imposed sanctions on Russia's energy sector as a means to constrain its war-financing capability and further exacerbated the energy crisis worldwide.

- **Gas and Oil Sanctions**

The European Union, the U.S., and others have banned or restricted Russian oil imports, frozen Russian energy assets, and cut Russian banks out of SWIFT-this is how international transactions are conducted. At the beginning of December 2022, the EU banned seaborne Russian crude oil and put an export price cap of \$60 per barrel on it. This cut Russia's revenues from oil by almost 55% in early 2023. Its gas exports to Europe declined by more than 80% due to supplies Russia cut in retaliation. Thus, there was encouragement toward an acute energy crisis with high prices for gas in Europe-a consequence that spilled over into global energy markets.

- **Impact on Global Energy and Industrial Situations**

The European Central Bank notes that in the first two weeks after the invasion, the prices of oil, coal and gas went up by around 40%, 130% and 180%. Gasoline prices at the pump surged as high as 20-30% in several European countries, with prices topping more than €2 per liter in countries like Germany and the Netherlands.

The rise in energy costs has had a snowballing effect on the economy, driving up the prices of goods and services. At the close of 2023, the Eurozone recorded inflation around 8%, seen only once in the last 40 years-fully dominated by energy prices.

Factories across Europe and Asia have been forced to shut down partially or fully due to high energy input costs. Germany was Europe's largest industrial economy, which recorded a 1.2% decline in industrial output in 2022, mainly attributed to energy shortages and high prices.

- **Supply Chain Disruptions and Food Insecurity**

Aside from energy markets, the war has hit the world supply chain terribly, particularly in agriculture. Ukraine is among the world's largest producers of wheat, corn, and sunflower oil, and its war has disrupted its export of such vital commodities. Combined with sanctions on Russian grain and fertilizer exports, global food prices soared, reaching record highs in 2022. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that global food prices increased by 14% between 2021 and 2022, with some regions, such as the Middle East and Africa, experiencing even sharper increases due to their dependence on imports from Russia and Ukraine.

- **Inflation and Cost of Living**

By the end of 2023, it was apparent that inflation had skyrocketed globally due to increases in energy and food prices. In the Eurozone, this rate reached a high of 10% in 2022—a rate that had not been felt in four decades—caused by soaring energy costs; it reached 11.1% in October 2022 in the United Kingdom alone, where energy bills have spiraled historically on house occupants.

The situation is not very different in developing countries, either, as higher food and fuel prices have hit them like any other nation. In Sri Lanka, Lebanon, and Egypt, inflation mounted to 45%, promoting citywide protests and political turmoil. According to an estimate by the United Nations Development Programme, the cost-of-living crisis in the entire world could push an additional 100 million people into poverty, reversing years of progress in reducing global inequality.

Conclusion:

The war by Russia against Ukraine, followed by the internationally imposed penalties on Russia, has plunged the world into crisis: palpable human suffering and destruction in Ukraine, and global economic repercussions. Sanctions meant to deplete Russia's war machinery have created shortages and price spikes for gasoline and energy, feeding inflation and deepening the cost of living especially for the most vulnerable. Especially, the international community, the UNSC has to walk a tightrope in using sanctions against Russia without aggravating global economic and humanitarian spillovers. Solving this interwoven problem must be critical to preserving global stability, securing energy supplies, inflicting less harm on those worst affected by these spillover effects.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, And Strong Institutions

This topic therefore aligns with SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. While these sanctions were levied as action against the Russo-Ukraine conflict in the interest of international peace and justice, they also contribute to the global energy crisis, threatening the stable development of Russia and the impacted nations. The balancing of such impacts needs the strengthening of institutions toward the management of conflict, while advancing towards substantial lives of civilians, thereby contributing to long-term stability and security.



Current Situation: Impact on Different Regions within Ukraine

1. Eastern Ukraine: Donetsk, Luhansk; briefly, Donbas

The area of Donbas, for which Donetsk and Luhansk are named, has been the epicenter of very heavy fighting since 2014; it saw, however, unprecedented destruction in 2022 after the full-scale invasion by Russia. Cities such as Mariupol, Severodonetsk, and Bakhmut were almost totally destroyed.

Humanitarian Disaster: As it had a pre-war population of 430,000, Mariupol was thoroughly devastated, with over 90% of the infrastructure destroyed; these included residential buildings, hospitals, schools, and factories. In the estimations, more than 8000 civilians have been killed just during the 2022 Mariupol siege. Since 2022, around 2 million civilians have fled from the Donbas region.

- **Economic Consequences:**

Historically, the region of Donbas had represented Ukraine's industrial heartland, hosting coal mines and steel plants that significantly contributed to the nation's economy. As of the midway point through 2023, most such enterprises have either been destroyed or abandoned. Losing that crucial economic belt has brought alarming repercussions on employment, with local economic shrinkage estimated at over 70%.

- **Political Position and Peoples' Lives:**

It has divided the region, with people either leaning toward Russian control or Kyiv. And with all these wars, naturally a political quagmire has emerged, with living for the remaining civilians really not easy, with periods of lack of electricity, water, or health care.

2. Kyiv Region

Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, was one of the major focal points of the first wave of the

Russian invasion, but Ukrainian troops were able to push back. While the fighting did not reduce the city to rubble as in the east, there are some clear scars from the war.

- **Physical Damage:**

Missile strikes reached as far as civilian infrastructure, damaged utilities, and historical landmarks. The suburbs were the most hit-for example, Bucha and Irpin-along with mass casualties among civilians that happened, and more than 400 bodies have been found after the withdrawal of Russian troops.

- **Economic Impact:**

The economy of Kyiv has been seriously disrupted. The capital hosts the seat of government and all the financial institutions, with a serious decline in business activities. Inflation has jumped considerably, with consumer prices surging by more than 20% this year. Yet, the government kept the services up and running, and Kyiv became a center for internally displaced persons and international aid efforts.

- **Political Importance and Resilience:**

Kyiv is evidence of Ukrainian resistance after aggression. The leadership of the head of state, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, from the capital keeps morale high but does not yield to hopeful resilience. Yet, since life would never be the same, amidst air raid sirens daily ringing, curfew, and food shortages have almost become routine.

3. Western Ukraine: Lviv and Environs

Western Ukraine has avoided quite direct combat, yet cities like Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, or Uzhhorod have their own problems, mainly due to the inflow of refugees.

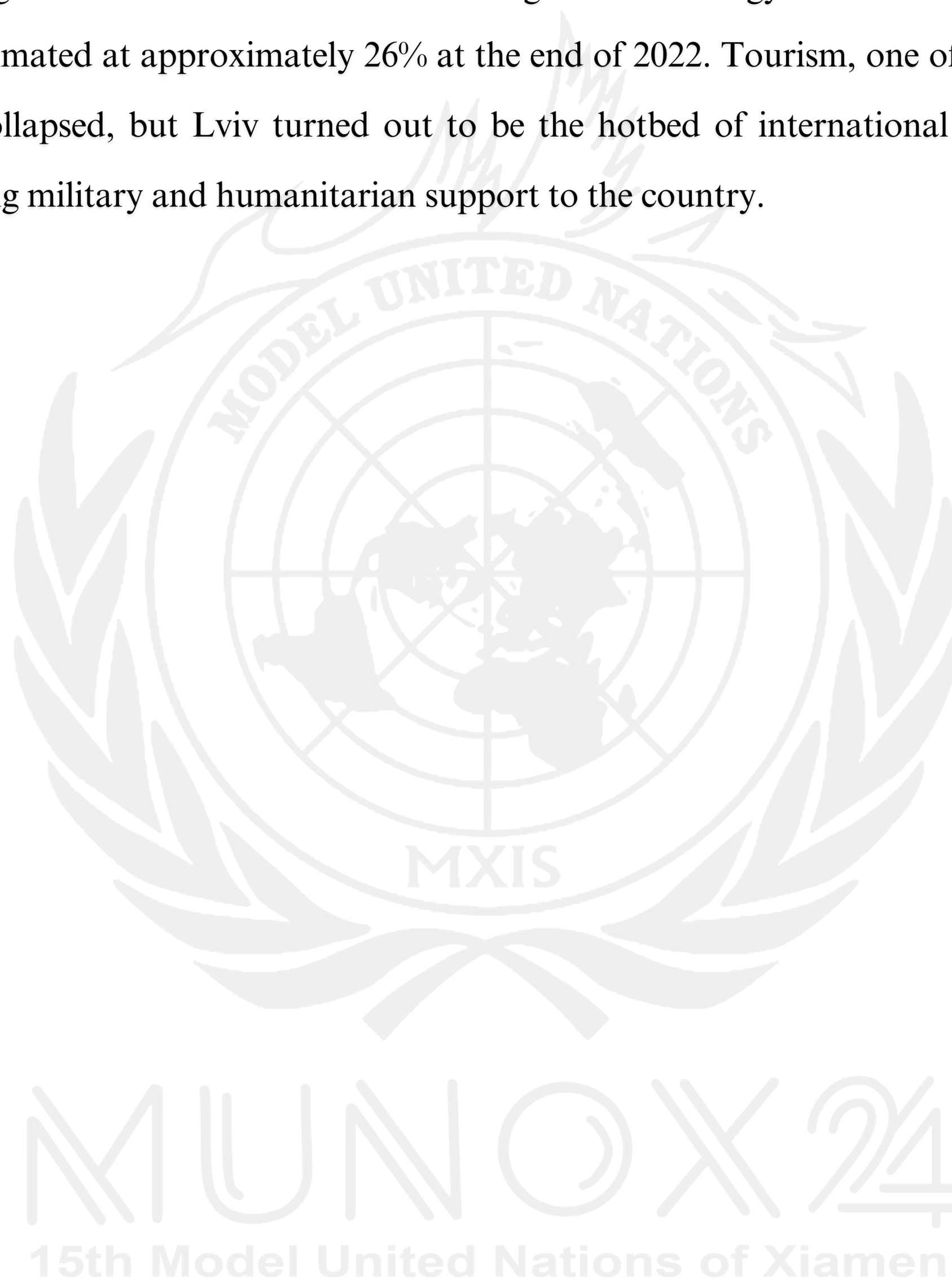
- **Refugee Influx and Humanitarian Response:**

The population of Lviv, with the proximity to the Polish border, swelled with hundreds of thousands of displaced people who fled into the city from the eastern and southern parts of the country. Lviv added more than 200,000 displaced persons to its pre-war population of about

720,000 residents. As it is now, generous demand presses on housing, healthcare, and schools-so very substantial international humanitarian efforts in support.

- **Economic Strain and Resilience:**

While physical destruction has spared Lviv for the large part, the war brought it to a crawl. The skyrocketing inflation due to hostilities and huge rises in energy costs battered households; inflation was estimated at approximately 26% at the end of 2022. Tourism, one of the key sectors in the region, collapsed, but Lviv turned out to be the hotbed of international diplomacy and logistics regarding military and humanitarian support to the country.



Current Situation: Impact on Different Regions in Russia

1. Western Russia: Belgorod and Kursk

Places like Belgorod and Kursk, also in western Russia, which border Ukraine, have become staging grounds for military operations. But like the other cities of eastern Ukraine, they too have had to suffer through cross-border attacks that met their people with newer challenges.

- **Physical Damage:**

Infrequent Ukrainian shelling and drone strikes have targeted infrastructure in these regions, including power lines and transportation networks. Belgorod is a city of 330,000, but the repeated attacks on villages and military supply points have meant the forced evacuations of civilians and damage to homes there.

- **Economic Impact:**

Factories have assumed a war-flavored economy to produce goods that can be used in the war instead of civilian goods. Even the large business-agriculture factor has been impacted through labor shortages related to conscription. Western-imposed sanctions have caused inflation and shortages of basic goods as well. Russian inflation surged to 12% by late 2022, described as one of the contributing factors to economic hardships seen in the countryside.

- **Political Standing and Lifestyle:**

Belgorod and Kursk are basically pro-government, with minds influenced by Russian state media and ties to Ukraine. Lately, as the war drags on and the economy begins to bite harder, a semblance of frustration is growing among residents.

2. Moskow and St. Petersburg

While a direct conflict has yet to engulf Russia's two largest cities, the war's economic and social impacts have been huge.

- **Economic Impact:**

Both Moscow and St. Petersburg felt the deepest impact of international sanctions. The evacuations of more than a thousand multinational companies out of the Russian market, following single losses of jobs and capital flights since 2022, have surged inflation to a spike and shed off value of the ruble, hence reducing ordinary Russians' purchasing power.

- **Political Stand and Social Effect:**

Despite all these, Moscow certainly remains extremely supportive of President Putin, although there is a growing opposition in the city's younger and more liberal populations. Public dissent against this has been brutally suppressed, with thousands arrested for protesting against the war. It is this feeling of isolation as international connections dwindle with which life in these cities is bathed.

3. Siberia and Far East

Though far from the front lines, sanctions and a disruption to energy exports have economic consequences for Russia's Siberia and Far East because of the conflict.

- **Economic Impact:**

The energy sector, a lifeline for the region, has suffered as European markets have rejected Russian oil and gas. Although there are some improvements and positive trends in exports to China and India, the overall figure has seen a decline in revenues. Mining industries in Siberia have fired some employees and reduced wages because of reduced global demand for raw materials coming into Russia from companies.

- **Lifestyle and Social Challenges:**

Conscription levels have been very high in the Far East, which has resulted in labor shortages in rural areas. Many families have lost loved ones in this war, further deepening the emotional toll on these remote communities.

Bloc Positions

United States of America

The United States has taken the lead in the opposition to Russia's actions in Ukraine, reflecting a commitment to the protection of democratic values and sovereignty. The U.S. has been at the forefront of sanctioning Russia since the beginning of the conflict, enacting a wide range of economic measures targeting key sectors of the Russian economy, such as finance, technology, defense, and energy. In 2022, the U.S. provided more than \$13.6 billion in military and economic aid to Ukraine, with as much as \$44.9 billion more approved for 2023. The penalties have cut off Russia from the global financial system, including cutting major banks off from SWIFT and freezing Russian assets abroad.

Thus, U.S. sanctions against Russia have far-reaching implications for the world economy, especially in terms of energy. Soaring energy prices, in particular, hit Europe and are creating public discontent and political challenges. Yet, the economic aftermath of the sanctions has not moved the U.S. stance to date, with its sustained contention that the sanctions have weakened Russia's capability to perpetuate military action. The United States will continue to call upon the international community to uphold sanctions and support Ukraine while balancing economic fallout for its allies.

Besides that, there are humanitarian concerns the sanctions may have on the Russian civilians, from which the U.S. tries to soften the blow by partial exemptions for vital products, but this has remained a point of international debate.

Russian Federation

It is within the framework of these strategic interests in the region that Russia's involvement in the conflict with Ukraine is informed by unease over NATO's expansion, along with its own desire to retain influence over former Soviet territories. Since the annexation of Crimea in 2014, Russia has supported separatist movements in eastern Ukraine. Events escalated into a full-scale invasion in February 2022, for which there was international outrage and further sanctions

imposed upon Russia. Since the invasion, Russia has been subject to some of the most comprehensive sanctions in modern history, targeting nearly all parts of its economy. They include sanctions against major Russian banks, exclusion from the global financial network SWIFT, and restrictions on Russia's ability to trade key resources such as oil and natural gas.

This has consequently shrunk Russia's economy, although it has somehow managed to retain some economic stability through the expansion in trade with countries like China and India. In 2022 alone, Russia sent over 1.7 million barrels of oil to China per day, some of the losses which compensated for those sustained from the European market.

These sanctions have also been taking a heavy toll on the Russian populace with inflation and economic hardship on the rise. Nevertheless, the Russian government framed these sanctions as an opportunity to bolster its domestic industries and reduce dependence on the West. Politically, Russia still denies any wrongdoing in Ukraine, saying it acts in the name of national security and the protection of the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine.

Ukraine

Ukraine For the past several years, Ukraine has been at the epicenter of quite possibly one of the most depressing geopolitical crises Europe has ever seen since World War II. Since the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 and the beginning of Russian-backed separatist actions against Donetsk and Luhansk, Ukraine has served as a sight for perpetual chaos. The full-scale Russian invasion, launched this February, led to a wave of destruction throughout the country. Millions of civilians were displaced, and infrastructure across the nation was severely affected. Under the leadership of President Volodymyr Zelensky, the Ukrainian administration has further pursued a firmly pro-Western policy, therefore supporting diversification foreign and economic policy and closer integration with NATO and the European Union. From the beginning of hostilities, Kyiv enjoyed substantial military and financial aid from Western states, headed by the United States and the European Union. Pressiba. Only in 2022, the volume of military-economic aid provided by the U.S. exceeded \$13.6 billion US dollars; later on, several more packages were signed. At the same time, the unprecedentedly far-reaching and profound sanctions against

Russia were adopted by the EU, while substantial financial and humanitarian support was offered to Ukraine. For instance, the European Peace Facility allocated €3.1 billion of military aid to Ukraine, the first step in a fundamental change in the course of EU foreign policy.

The war has also drastically cut off energy and food supplies internally within Ukraine and globally. Ukraine is among the world's largest exporters of grain, and it has disrupted global supply chains, leading to shortages and price hikes most recently, particularly in countries dependent on Ukrainian wheat supplies, as in North Africa and the Middle East. The conflict has also heightened Europe's energy crisis since the continent was very dependent on Russian gas. Thus, Ukraine tried to weaken its dependence on Russian energy import, and Europe accelerated its transition to alternative energy sources.

The European Union (EU)

The European Union has been one of the most affected by the sanctions imposed on Russia because of its heavy reliance on Russian energy. Before the conflict, Russia supplied over 40% of the EU's natural gas and 25% of its oil.

By 2023, the EU had targeted over 1,200 Russian entities under sanctions and levied a near-total ban on the importation of Russian oil, causing significant economic disruption throughout Europe. To be sure, energy shortages-which have increased gas prices by over 600% since the outbreak of the war-have hit certain countries, such as Germany and Italy, much harder than others due to their dependence on the energy sources emanating from Russia.

The EU has responded by increasing diversification efforts on energies supplies, offering new deals to the U.S., Qatar, and Norway for LNG importation. The EU's other "green revolution" is an accelerated transition toward renewable energy. Over €210 billion has been allocated for the REPowerEU plan, which is expected to break dependence on Russian fossil fuel supplies by 2027. Meanwhile, Eurozone inflation rose to 9.1% in 2022, and winter months will see many EU member states ration energy. The EU also provided quite intensive military and financial support to Ukraine. In 2022, the EU approved an additional €3.1 billion under the

European Peace Facility to supply Ukraine with arms-a profoundly historic shift in EU foreign policy-and received over 5 million Ukrainian refugees, the largest influx of displaced people in Europe since World War II, with most of this humanitarian burden borne by Poland, Germany, and Romania. However, the EU remains deeply divided on the future of sanctions, as some member states-most notably Hungary and Greece-continue to call for reductions given the economic cost, while others, like Poland and the Baltics, push for more far-reaching measures. This internal split underscores the more general challenge the EU faces in balancing moral and strategic support for Ukraine against the economic consequences of continued sanctions.



Questions To Consider

1. How might the root of the issue, the clash between Russia and Ukraine be better addressed?
2. Through what methods might the UNSC effectively coordinate international efforts and assistance to Ukraine without feeding into a global economic destabilization?
3. What are some of the other diplomatic and economic strategies that can help reduce dependence on Russian energy?
4. How might other related parties of the issue be involved in cooperation?
5. How might the UNSC address humanitarian impacts on both Ukrainian civilians and those Russian citizens who would be affected by sanctions?

For Further Research

Center for Preventive Action (CPA) article – War in Ukraine

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>

International Monetary Fund (IMF) article – The Long-Lasting Economic Shock of War

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