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The Russia-Ukraine War 2022 and Its Effects on the International Security Framework—Realist Analysis

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Abstract

The given research paper studies the implications of Russia-Ukraine war on the international security architect and using Realist paradigm in international relations. The focus of the study is to examine how a military conflict may reshape alliances, change defense strategies, and change a balance of power of major state actors like China, US, EU and Russia. The research studies the possible outcomes of the war like realignment of alliances, growing militarization, energy security concerns and new challenges in security domain. The study uses qualitative methods of research analyzing policy papers, academic sources, and concerned official statements. While recognizing uncertainty of international relations, the paper aims to predict far-reaching implications of Russia-Ukraine conflict in the international security spectrum.

Keywords: Global Security Architecture, Russia-Ukraine War, Realist International Relations, Balance of Power, Defense Strategies

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Introduction

The invasion on Ukraine happened in February 2024, has changed the fabric of global security arrangements. The bold act of invasion by Russia has all-encompassing implications, casting long shadows over complex web of international alliances. The Russia-Ukraine conflict is deeply entrenched in history of the region. It has also its links with the struggle for global dominance. It also redirecting the contours of global diplomacy. The United States in a different situation of geopolitics in which it has to ensure strong support for Ukrainian independence, which is under the threat of Russian hegemony. The response of the Western alliance is two pronged i.e., on the one hand they are extending military aid and on the other slapping sanctions against Russia. This strategic collaboration overwhelm the tide of hostility, and in the same way avoiding the danger of direct military engagement.

Russia in its quest for dominance by means of invasion has not only jeopardizes its relations with European nations, and compels

these nations to rethink their strategies. They are now under the security umbrella of NATO, thinking about their own security arrangements. This new trend shows a new era of European security policy.

China on the other hand, envisioning future on long-term basis, has taken steps in a way to balance relations with Russia. It places its balanced position to keep both sides satisfied with diplomatic neutrality. It supports for the territorial integrity of the Ukraine along with the deepening partnership with Russia and economic engagements with the West. The war may transform China's geopolitical options further revive its role in the global power play.

Beside China, EU is facing a range of challenges e.g., economic, energy and security. The invasion has demoralized the member states, damages its unity. The situation further aggravated with the consistent flow of energy from Russia and huge influx of refugees. Together with, the drift of migrants looking for comfort within the EU's borders has become a measure for the bloc's capability for compassion and support.



In core, the war in Ukraine consider as a turning point the records of international security, with the latent source to reshape the very strengths of global alliances, defense postures, and the delicate balance of power. As scholars dissect the ramifications of this conflict, it is evident that its legacy will be indelibly etched into the future narrative of international relations, challenging the established doctrines and forging new paradigms in the crucible of shared adversity. The resolution of this conflict may well set the stage for a reimagined global order, where historical alliances are examined, and coalitions emerge from the ordeal of united effort.

Hypothesis

“The Russia-Ukraine war will lead to a strengthened NATO alliance, with increased cooperation and possibly an expansion in membership, as states seek greater security assurances against Russian aggression.”

Literature Review

The war in Ukraine has sent shockwaves through the international system, fundamentally altering the landscape of global security. Scholars are grappling with the conflict's extensive consequences, with several key arguments emerging: Scholars have begun to contend with the war's extensive consequences. Mearsheimer (2023), a chief advocate of Realist International Relations (IR) theory, claims that the conflict exposes the intrinsic rivalry for power and security among states (Mearsheimer, 2023). Likewise, Allison (2023) highlights the reoccurrence of great power rivalry, with the US and Russia sealed in a repeated brawl for power (Allison, 2023). This new rivalry requires a review of present alliances, as Ikenberry (2023) highlights in his analysis of NATO's reinvigoration and the potential for a more united Western alliance (Ikenberry, 2023). Realist thinkers like Mearsheimer (2023) argue that the war exposes the inherent competition for power and security among states, highlighting the resurgence of a classic great power rivalry between the US and Russia (Mearsheimer, 2023). This perspective emphasizes the inherent struggle for dominance and the difficulty of maintaining stable multipolarity. Allison (2023) further reinforces this notion, suggesting that the conflict reflects a return to a Thucydides Trap scenario, where a rising power (China) challenges an established one (US), potentially leading to inevitable conflict (Allison, 2023).

Away from the direct alliance dynamics, the war has important effects for individual states' foreign policies. As Tsygankov (2023) postulates, the conflict has activated a security dilemma within Europe, encouraging states to rank national security and potentially leading to increased defense spending and military modernization (Tsygankov, 2023). This trend is further augmented by the loss of trust in Russia, as Hoffnung (2023) argues, making the outlook of long-term security cooperation with Russia highly unlikely (Hoffnung, 2023). This renewed rivalry necessitates a reevaluation of existing alliances, as Ikenberry (2023) observes. NATO's revitalization and the potential for a more unified Western alliance are significant developments, signaling a potential shift in global power dynamics (Ikenberry, 2023).

Tsygankov (2023) argues that the war has activated a security dilemma within Europe, prompting states to prioritize national security and potentially leading to increased defense spending and military modernization (Tsygankov, 2023). This trend is further fueled by the erosion of trust in Russia, making long-term security cooperation highly unlikely (Hoffnung, 2023).

The war's consequence extends outside traditional military power dynamics. The global energy market obtains an important shockwaves, leading to distresses about energy security and the potential for further economic unpredictability (Yergin, 2023). As Fiori (2023) proposes, this highlights the need for an appraisal of energy dependence and a support for larger energy freedom and diversification (Fiori, 2023). Moreover, the threat of nuclear hurrying looms large. As Mearsheimer and Walt (2023) point out, the lurking threat for a broader conflict including nuclear weapons poses an existential threat to international security, needing an altered emphasis on non-proliferation efforts (Mearsheimer & Walt, 2023). The global energy market has been harshly disturbed, rising fears about energy security and the potential for further economic instability (Yergin, 2023). This requires a reassessment of energy dependence and a thrust for greater energy diversification, as supported by Fiori (2023). Conceivably the most frightening result lies in the amplified risk of nuclear proliferation. Mearsheimer and Walt (2023) warn that the potential for a wider conflict involving nuclear weapons poses an existential threat to global security, demanding renewed focus on non-proliferation efforts (Mearsheimer & Walt, 2023).

In conclusion, the Russia-Ukraine war presents a multifaceted and complex challenge to the existing global security architecture. Appreciative the long-term effects of this conflict requires a all-inclusive investigation that reflects the potential for readjusted alliances, increased militarization, energy security concerns, the emergence of new security challenges, and the ever-present threat of nuclear escalation. This research, grounded in Realist IR theory, aims to provide such an analysis, utilizing diverse sources to illuminate the potential trajectories of the global security landscape in the wake of this defining conflict.

Research Questions

1. **What incentives might compel non-member states to pursue NATO membership as a security assurance against Russian aggression in the post-Russia-Ukraine war era?**
2. In what ways are current NATO members likely to evolve their defense policies and contributions to reinforce the alliance's collective security in response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict?
3. What strategic challenges and opportunities could NATO encounter in its potential expansion and enhanced cooperation as a direct consequence of the Russia-Ukraine war?

METHODOLOGY:

The qualitative approach considers appropriate due to various advantages. It allows for a comprehensive understanding of complex phenomena like the Russia-Ukraine war. It enables researchers to probe into the impulses of various actors, including their developing interests and the ever-changing undercurrents of international relations. Expert opinion and policy analysis can deliver deep insights into the decision making process of major players such as the United states, Russia, EU and China and one can predict potential future trajectories of this ongoing conflict. (Bleek, 2023).

Nevertheless, it is important to recognize the innate limitations of this research methodology. Interpretations of data and the creation of narratives are integrally subjective, influenced by the researcher's personal biases and theoretical framework. It can lead to misinterpretation. Besides, the generalization of findings inferred from this method might be specifics of the case under examination. The specific conditions of Russia-Ukraine war such as the historical animosity and geographic location. Lastly, access to trustworthy and wide-ranging data, mainly about sensitive information or internal decision-making processes, can be challenging, and potentially deterring a fully comprehensive analysis (Mearsheimer, 2023). For example, understanding the full decision-making calculus behind Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2024 would probably want access to confidential intelligence reports and in-house deliberations within the Russian government, which would be highly controlled.

CRITICAL EVALUATION OF DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

The Realist paradigm offers a valued lens for examining the power dynamics and national interest motivating the actions of major players in Russia-Ukraine conflict, it is important to study alternative perspectives referring with the events occurring on the ground. Realist are of the view that great power rivalry will renew, world will move to multipolarity and increased militarization.

Liberal IR theory emphasizes within the framework of cooperation, the role of international institutions and interdependence of states both of these drivers shape global security. In this volatile context, there is a potential remains for strengthening international institutions, renewal of the commitment towards collective security are the drivers shaping state behavior. In this context, the role of United Nations in mediating the conflict, promoting collective security to ensure long-term frameworks for peaceful coexistence (Walt, 2023). Recent efforts by UN Secretary-General to facilitate a ceasefire and humanitarian corridor in Ukraine aligns with this perspective. (Guterres, 2022) There are some potential ramifications of Ukraine conflict and its long-term implications on liberal international order (Klare, 2023). The war shows a resurgence of great power rivalry threatening the promotion of democracy, human rights and free trade. The response of the West should be unity in opposing Russia and supporting Ukraine. The internal polarization in the United States will harm the liberal world order against the rise of imperial Russia (Klare, 2023).

The other is constructive IR theory revolves round shared identities, social norms and ideational features drive state's behavior. This theoretical framework suggests Russia-Ukraine conflict may lead to shift in international norms regarding acceptable interstate conduct, use of force and responsibility to protect civilian populations (Tsygankov, 2023). For example, wide spread condemnation of Russian invasion and leads to enormous sanction of the world may be consider as evidence of normative shift. (American Journal of International Law, 2022)

DIVERSE ACTOR ANALYSIS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

To grasp the enduring consequences of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, it is essential to analyze the reactions of a diverse range of stakeholders, not just the leading nations. It includes regional players, non-state actors and domestic politics. Along global players, there are regional players like Turkey, Poland and some Baltic States playing crucial role in security configuration. Poland, for example, has become key transit point for military aid to Ukraine (Ministry of National Defense - Gov.pl, 2023). The other actors are non-state actors include International Organization, NGOs, and even transnational corporations can influence significantly over the course of conflict and its long-term consequences. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) works in humanitarian assistance in conflict zone Ukraine (International Committee of the Red Cross, 2024). Along with these NGOs, private companies such as Elon Musk's SpaceX provide communication infrastructure via Starlink satellite internet system (SpaceX, 2022). The internal political dynamics of major powers can influence their foreign policy decision making and set their long-term strategic objectives for example the public opinion and upcoming elections particularly in US. Public pressure has significantly influence Biden administration's decisions about military aid to Ukraine. (The Conversation, 2024)

THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FACTORS

Away from the immediate conflict, a complete analysis must reflect the broader perspective:

The conflict impacts on economic interdependence, supply chains, and global energy markets will significantly influence global security architecture. The disruption of energy supplies from Russia has led to the rising energy prices worldwide, influencing both businesses and consumers. It has main implication for global economic stability and has the potential to exacerbate existing inequalities.

In the military field, the developing technologies can redesign effect and power dynamics of the nature of imminent conflicts. In Russian-Ukraine war, the wide use of cyber warfare strategies, the use of drones and advance arms display growing significance of technological advancements in modern warfare. Additionally, the contact between potential mass shift, resource shortage and environment insecurity can deepen security challenges. The war conflict has disturbed global food deliveries, rising concerns about



food security in such a helpless region already facing the challenges of climate change.

STATE LEVEL ANALYSIS

The conflict is a crossroads that is changing global security landscape. In the milieu of realist paradigm states, give great worth to national interest and security. The state level study discloses important long-term effects. **There is a power swing** when one detects the lack luster military performance of Russia and Western sanctions tainted its image as a major power. This can lead to a multipolar world with potentially encouraged Europe and China that is more self-confident. The war gives new life to NATO, uniting US leadership in alliance and in turn strengthens West's collective security pose. Russia's attack on Ukraine undermines trust in international agreements. This could lead to increased security dilemmas and arm race. The West intervention in Ukraine creates uncertainty for states about potential intervention in their internal conflicts. The conflict may leads to realignment of alliances because states earlier hesitant to sides, but now may be in pressure either to choose Russia or the West. It is possible that formation of bloc would emerge such as US-led VS China-Russia. In the context of energy dependence and food security of Europe exposed that prompts diversification efforts and competition for resources. The Russia-Ukraine war has noteworthy long-term implications for global security architecture from a realist standpoint. Power shifts, a decay in trust, possible rearrangement of alliances, and resource security concerns will all reshape the international landscape for years to come.

FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

Firstly, Russia-Ukraine conflict will take the world towards potential reconfiguration of alliances and the emergence of new partnerships in response to the changing global security landscape. The United States will increase security cooperation in Asia and strengthened NATO. (Liu & Shu, 2023). **Secondly**, Determining the option of a revitalization in arms rivalry, particularly between the United States and Russia, is vital for accepting its influence on global efforts to prevent the spread of weapons. The significant rise in military skills by both nations since the start of the conflict stresses the threat of revive an arms race. (Cordesman, 2022). **Thirdly**, The Russian-Ukraine conflict raises the surge of cyber threats. It attacks their infrastructure along with other vulnerable domains. (Mueller et al. 2023). **Fourthly**, The conflict highlights the facts that use of military power may alter the international values, encourage interference in the other state's internal affairs, and the question of the protection of civilians. However, there are voices to held the aggressor responsible in the international court of justice for the crimes against humanity, are the indications that a change in international values is underway. (Tellis, 2024)

This study also examines the changing effects caused by non-state entities, NGOs, and social media networks on international security aspects. It also places its stress on information, peace building and humanitarian aid. (Mueller et al. 2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Russian invasion suggests that lasting international peace and security is very essential objectives to pursue. There is a need to enhance the role of UNO and its allied organizations with the development of new mechanisms for conflict resolution for ensuring global peace and stability. To prevent conflict, there is must to engage states involved in the conflict. At first to ensure ceasefire and provide acceptable conflict resolutions. The world must attempt to address the root causes of the conflict. The flow of energy resources should continue to all nations and diversified therefore world can halt arm race for energy pursuit. Building an effective cyber system is the responsibility of the states to safeguard digital infrastructure. Above all, there must be consistent effort to take the world to non-proliferation treaty. There is a grave threat lurking over the world in the form of nuclear catastrophe.

CONCLUSION

The understanding of the war and its complex effects on security can help us to discover informal a formal ways to deal with the impacts. The recommendations outlined above highlight potential avenues for mitigating the negative consequences of the conflict and promoting a more stable and secure international order. By acknowledging the limitations of qualitative research, critically evaluating different theoretical perspectives, considering the roles of various actors, and assessing the broader domestic and international context, this research can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the long-term implications of the Russia-Ukraine war for global security architecture. These suggestions aim to reduce the war's harmful impacts and help create a safer, more stable world.

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