

CA 2023

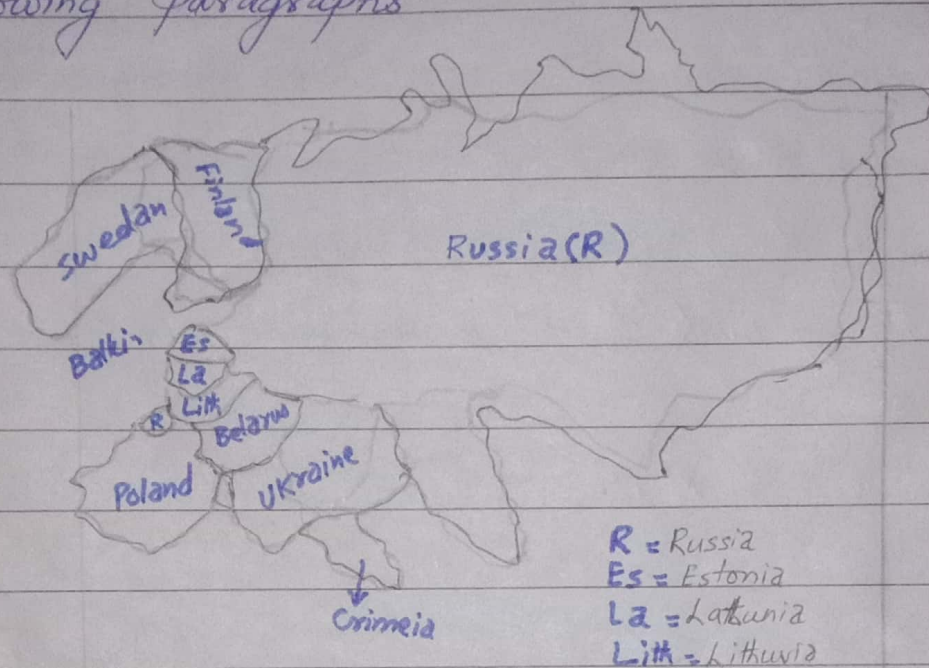
Discuss the core causes of Russian invasion of Ukraine which have considerable consequences on the world. Explain its devastating impact on Pakistan and its severe lesson for the country's survival.

1. Introduction

1- Introduction

Due to historical ethnic and lingual links, Kyiv - the capital of Ukraine is also called as the "mother of Russian cities". However, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has been doing efforts to shrugg off Russian imperial legacy while Russia is determined to maintain its geostrategic and economic influence there. Ukraine, located in the southwest of Russia, is of great significance for Russia for being the second largest erstwhile Soviet Republic and few hundred kilometers away from Mosco. To compel Ukraine to avoid increased partnership with the West and remain under her influence, Russia has been employing various political, economic and military measures against Ukraine since ~~along~~. However, to curb the imminent entry of Ukraine into NATO and European Union Russia launched Special Military operation by invading Ukraine on 22 February 2022. Since then, the Russo-Ukraine conflict has brought serious global consequences in sociopolitical and economic domains and Pakistan is also one of the serious affectee. The core

Causes of Russian invasion, its considerable consequences on the world and its devastating impact on Pakistan are discussed in the following paragraphs.



2- Core Causes of Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Ukraine and Russia share historical lingual, cultural, ethnic and religious links and the former started doing efforts to escape the latter's centuries old influence after Soviet Union dissolution in 1992. With passage of time, demographic changes occurred with increasing proportion of anti-Russian population. Thus, presently only 30 percent of Ukraine's people are pro-Russian residing

predominantly in the South and Southeastern Ukraine. To keep her strategic influence intact, Russia continued employing various coercive political, economic and strategic measures in Ukraine. Following core causes ultimately led to Russian invasion of Ukraine.

i- Increasing Westernization of Ukraine

The West has always been focused to enhance its influence in the Eastern Europe and it has entered into multiple economic and strategic pacts with the various states of Eastern Europe. Similarly, these states also have strategic gains in gaining cooperation with Europe and West at large. Ukraine has also such gains in focus and thus, its government entered ~~into~~ various pacts with Europe keep its public aspirations in eyes. Increased unfettered bilateral trade, growing cross-border people's flow and loosening mutual visa regime are few significant steps taken by them. However, this increasing westernization of Ukraine always remained a matter of compromise for Russia over her interests.

P.T.O.

ii- Expanding NATO in the Eastern Europe and Encirclement of Russia

Throwing promises of not expanding NATO in Eastern Europe, made with leadership of the erstwhile Soviet Union, in 1990s, into oblivion, the NATO started its expansion by allowing the first entry of Czech Republic into NATO in 1999. NATO also started military cooperation with Ukraine in the form of joint military exercises and enhancing their capability in the form of training and arms supply. The apprehensions of Russia increased with coming of President Zelensky in power in 2019. He declared Russia an aggressor and attaining NATO membership as one of its foreign policy goals. Thus, Russo-Ukraine tensions increased with intensifying of proxy and cyber wars.

iii- Resurgence of Russia

On one hand, the ambitions of Ukraine were increasing for increased relationship with the West and NATO while the latter's focus for enhanced role was on rise in Ukraine. On other hand, Russia was

receiving her geostrategic calculation to gain her influence across the Eastern Hemisphere. Therefore, Russia employed multiple coercive measures against her Eastern European neighbours and also Europe and its allies to contain their solidifying bulwark against Russia. Some are following.

2008 → Attack on Georgia
(Georgia promised to adopt neutrality)



Using oil and gas supply as tool to pressurize European Union and Eastern European countries to not compromise her interests.



2014 → Annexation of Crimean Peninsula
(An autonomous region under Ukraine)
Exit of Russia from G-8



Economic Sanctions, Cyber War and Proxy War against Ukraine

Civil War in South and South Eastern

parts of Ukraine

iv- Russia's Special Military Operation and Invasion of Ukraine

In the purview of ongoing westernization of Ukraine, increasing encirclement of Russia by NATO and enhanced presence of Ukraine NATO in Ukraine, Russia sought the solution in military incursion in Ukraine. Thus, President Vladimir Putin announced the start of Special Military Operation attacking Ukraine from different sides on 2 February 2022.

3- Consequences of Russian Invasion of Ukraine for the World

Russian invasion of Ukraine resulted in multiple consequences for the entire world in political, economic and social domains which are described in following lines:

i- Political Consequences for the World and Jeopardizing Global Peace

Russo-Ukraine conflict is not just bilateral war but it has revived the Cold War

bitter animosity changing Ukraine into battle ground of proxy war between the European Union and United States of America and Russia. Similarly, it has also resulted in division of the entire world into pro- and anti-Russia blocs. The United Nations (UN) has also condemned Russia by passing resolution. Instead of deliberation and negotiation, G-7 countries and European Union are opting for arsenal supply to Ukraine against Europe. Ukraine has been demanding for more arms supply instead of arbitration and intruding Russian defense system by drone attacks inside Russia. Thus, any miscalculation may lead to probable nuclear conflict if political solution for peace is not sought.

ii- Economic Consequences for the World

Russia is the second largest export of crude oil while Ukraine and Russia together provide 29 percent wheat to the world according to the World Bank. Ukraine, alone, provides percent to the least developing countries

according to World Food Program. Therefore, their recent conflict gave birth to multiple economic setbacks for the entire world. Oil and gas prices soared rising to record level higher while food insecurity exacerbated. Energy geopolitics took new turn on the global stage with importers started finding new exporters and vice versa. Russia cut off oil and gas supply to Europe while sanctions on her reduced export destinations for her. America cannot fulfill his local needs while Middle East is unable to meet the global needs. Therefore reduced food supply and oil imports from Russia-Ukraine resulted in global economic crunch.

iii. Social Consequences of Russia

Invasion of Ukraine for the World

Besides political and economic consequences directly, Russian invasion of Ukraine resulted in serious consequences for the entire world, too. Millions of people of Ukraine are made refugees & exerting socio-economic

burden on neighbours and the Europe as well while millions have been displaced internally. Similarly, Russia has also been confronting social setbacks at home. Due to political crisis and economic set back, the entire world has been facing multiple social crisis like refugees, unemployment, social discomfort and reduced opportunities.

4. Devastating Impacts of Russian Invasion of Ukraine on Pakistan

War has never been a solution to any issues and it has wider repercussions for the entire world besides those at loggerheads. Pakistan, a developing country, also became a victim of devastating impacts of Russian invasion of Ukraine which are elaborated in following lines:

i- Political Impacts and Diplomatic Limitations for Pakistan

Due to its strategic location and economic underperformance, any global event brings multiple impacts and reduces diplomatic options for Pakistan. Therefore,

Russo-Ukraine conflict also brought same impacts to Pakistan. It has limited space to choose ally and foe because leaving Russia and joining with Ukraine meant engaging former and also all-weather friends, China. Moreover, it has also lead to reduce economic and diplomatic relations with Russia and increased options for India-Russia strategic nexus.

On other hand, joining with Russia means engaging European Union, America and ultimately International Monetary Fund. Moreover, Russia being veto power can also exacerbate situation for Pakistan at multinational forum. Therefore, this conflict resulted in a number of political and diplomatic impacts on Pakistan.

ii- Economic Impacts of Russian Invasion of Ukraine on Pakistan

The reduced gross domestic product (GDP) of Pakistan in fiscal year²⁰²²-2023 to 0.29 percent is attributed to the economic repercussions of Russo-Ukraine conflict besides political crisis at home. Pakistan being net

importer of oil and gas was woresly hit by the upsurge in global oil market. Similarly, it also resulted in reduced grain imports from Russian and Ukraine leading to increased prices of food. Similarly, exports to Ukraine also declined. Being, aid- and debt-based economy, IMF tightened its debt policy for Pakistan due to heightened tension among global powers and to compel Pakistan in own interests. Therefore, net GDP reduced while Balance of payment crisis worsened until the bailout package by IMF and supply of Russian oil in Yuan in July 2023.

iii - Miscellaneous Devastating Impacts of Russian Invasion of Ukraine on Pakistan

The political and economic ~~pa~~ impacts led to other miscellaneous devastating impacts on Pakistan. Pakistan has defense ties with Ukraine importing tanks since late 1990s and the conflict jeopardized this ~~ex~~ import. Similarly, economic repercussions

resulted in reduced economic growth, increased unemployment and loss of opportunities. Similarly the world attention diverted from Afghan crisis to Russo-Ukraine Conflict. Therefore, this conflict brought multiple devastating impacts for Pakistan.

5- Neutrality of Pakistan-Conclusion

Russo-Ukraine conflict resulted in catastrophic global consequences and it can further prove perilous for global peace if no adequate measures were taken for negotiation and deliberation for peace by global powers.

Like the rest of the world, Pakistan has also been facing the socio-economic and political consequences. However, in these testing times, Pakistan has not been moving an inch from its neutral position. It has repeatedly been stressing for table talk - the only possible amicable way forward for this conflict.