

Q) The provisions of F-16 and other strategic weapons by US/NATO to Ukraine, would result in the escalation of the war. How do you see this situation and what are the options with Russia and NATO to defuse the alarming situation?

Introduction

Russia started its invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The operation was named as "Special Military Operation" and Russia predicted that it would defeat Ukraine within 2 weeks. Now it has been more than a year and the war is nowhere near to be ended. A lot of people have died on both sides and a lot of assistance has been provided to Ukraine. However, the current situation seems worse as no party seems to be backing off and it can easily escalate into a nuclear war, if a deal is not brokered between both of them.



Map



Weapons Supplied to Ukraine Uptil Now

United States along with all countries of NATO have supplied Ukraine with lots of military assistance in the form of Tanks, drones, Ammunition, anti-aircraft missiles & even attacking helicopters. Since the invasion Ukraine has received around \$7.8 billion dollar aid from U.S. (Council on Foreign Relations 2023). U.S till now has supplied Ukraine 31 Abram tanks, 1000 Scan Eagle drones, 2 Mi-17 helicopters, 6000 anti-aircraft rockets, 8 NASAM systems and 40000

missiles. Furthermore, all NATO countries have supplied tons of weapons to Ukraine, as Germany has supplied Ukraine with its Leopard Tanks. France has supplied SCALP cruise missiles. The United Kingdom has also supplied lots of weapons and ammunition.

Consequences of Supplying More Weapons to Ukraine

① Risk of a Nuclear War.

Supplying more and more weapons to Ukraine will not eventually end the war, but it can increase the scale of war and eventually turn it to a nuclear one. Recently, Ukraine has launched a counter-offensive strategy on Russia to take back its territory and in response to this Russia has moved its Nuclear missiles to Belarus which makes them more close to Ukraine and other NATO countries. More recent Russia has put its deadliest Nuclear missile 'Sarmat' on combat duty. This shows

that the threat of a nuclear war is increasing.

② Threat of a 3rd World War

With every other state sending weapons to Ukraine to fight Russia is increasing the chances of a third world war. Russia is slowly recognizing its enemies and allies and once it gets tired of the on-going war, it can likely attack the states supporting Ukraine or even launch its nuclear missiles.

What Options Russia and NATO have to defuse the situation?

① Russia can end the war and hand back the claimed territory to Ukraine.

Russia has annexed Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia during the war. In order to deescalate the alarming situation, Russia can hand back these territories back to Ukraine and end the war once

and for all.

② NATO can stop its supplies of weapons

NATO in order to diffuse the situation can stop shipping more weapons to Ukraine. More weapons means that the fighting will continue between the two states and this would further escalate the situation.

③ NATO can broker a deal between Russia and Ukraine.

NATO has been the largest contributor to the war and one of the reasons why the war started at first place. NATO with the help of other neutral countries can broker a deal between Russia and Ukraine and create a win-win situation for all to end the ongoing conflict.

④ NATO can help Ukraine to defend and rebuild liberated areas

The fourth option would be that NATO

helps Ukraine to build its defenses stronger and rebuild its liberated areas while including western institutions. Along with this slowly include Ukraine in the NATO and once included Russia would likely drop the war as according to Article 5 of NATO "a war against one state is a war against all members". This way the alarming situation can also be diffused.

Conclusion

The war between Ukraine and Russia started on February 24, 2022 and no one had expected that the war would go on for such a long time. However, the continuous supplying of weapons by NATO to Ukraine ~~to~~ will only escalate the on going war, which would have further negative consequences for the world.