

Discuss the Core Causes of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which have considerable socio-economic, Political, & Strategic consequences on the World. Explain its Devastating impacts on Pakistan & its severe lesson for the Country's Survival?

### Introduction-

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On 24 February, 2024 Russia invaded Ukraine. The war between Russia and Ukraine is the worst crisis faced by Europe after the end of WWII. This crisis has grave implications for the whole world. Russia attacked Ukraine owing to NATO's expansion towards former Soviet states, Security concerns for Russia, Economic Implications and Ukraine's request to join the NATO. Apart from developed economies, the war has worse impacts on developing nations, Particularly Pakistan. It has aggravated the economic and social

uses of poor nations. The world leaders must sit together to prevent further escalation of the crisis.

## Causes of Russian attack-

### Ethnic and Linguistic divide-

Ukraine is ethnically diverse nation.

Approximately 12 million ethnic Russian

live in Ukraine. Furthermore, Ukraine is

divided into Eastern and western

Ukraine. Eastern Ukraine is Pro-Russian

while western Ukraine is Pro-Europe.

Eastern Ukrainian want to become

part of Russia. Economically their condition

is poor. Russia has pledged to protect

the rights of ethnic Russians.

### NATO Expansion-

The Russia - Ukraine conflict has deep

roots in history. This is due to

clash between two powers Russia

and NATO. After the dissolution of

Soviet union, it was assured by

NATO, not to invade former Soviet

states. On February 9, 1990, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's famous assurance, not one inch eastward, in his meeting with Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev.

After ten years, NATO violated, its verbal agreement.

## Russian Sovereignty at Risk-

On May 1, 2004, 10 countries that were part of former Soviet Union, become part of EU. These states share border with Russia including Japan, Finland, Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania.

This incident raised concerns in Russia, as NATO creates its military bases and sends troops to its allies territories. Ukraine share long border with Russia.

## Euro maidan movement-

The western group of Ukraine wanted a trade contract with the European Union, but Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich, who was pro-Russian, rejected

this demand. They staged protests against President and the parliament impeached President Victor Yanukovich.

This movement is known as Euromaidan movement. The new President signed free trade agreement, which resulted in protests in Eastern Europe.

### Annexation of Crimea.

In eastern part of Ukraine, the pro-Russian protested against the impeachment of President Yanukovich and in favour of Russia. As a result, Russia took advantage of the situation sent its troops to Crimea.

A referendum was arranged which resulted in annexation of Crimea.

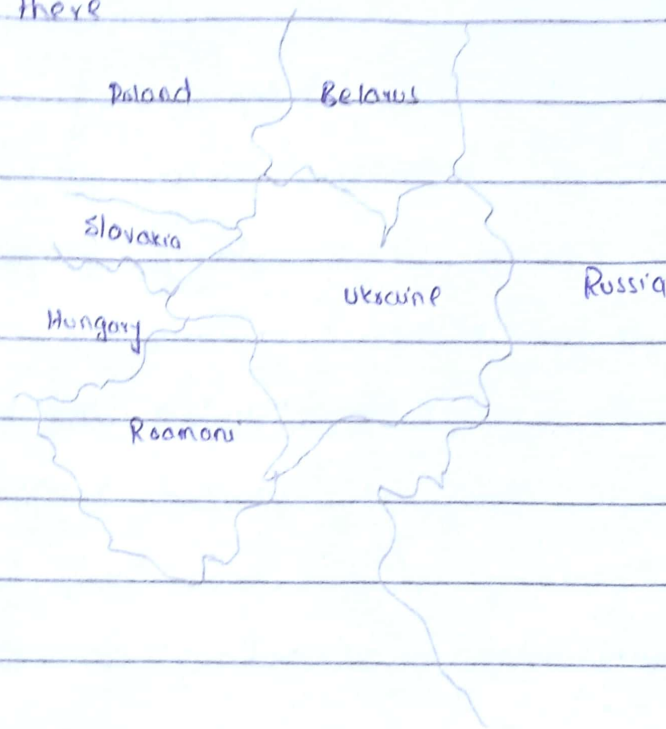
### Economic importance of Ukraine.

Ukraine is economically important for Russia. 25% of Russian economy is energy based. Russia exports its energy to Europe through Ukraine.

Two pipelines, Brotherhood and Soyuz

## Ukraine as a buffer Zone:

Russia owing to its security, wants to use Ukraine as a buffer zone state against NATO aggression. Russia has political interests in the region and wants its strong influence there.



## Impacts of war on Pakistan:

### Positive Impacts:

#### Autonomous Foreign Policy-

Throughout history, Pakistan's foreign policy has been influenced by western powers. In Russia-Ukraine conflict,

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Pakistan remained neutral. Pakistan abstain to vote against Russia at UNGA. Moreover, the official visit of former PM, Imran Khan is a good sign of autonomous foreign policy.

### Shift from Geo-strategic to Geo-Economic-

Historically, Pakistan's foreign policy remained a security driven policy.

In the present times, Policy makers have realized the importance of

Geo-Economic policy. If Pakistan successfully shifts its policy, it will be beneficial for its economy.

India ~~buy~~ purchases oil and other imports from Russia at low cost.

Pakistan can also benefit from Russian market.

### Negative Impacts:

Increased prices of edible.

Owing to this crisis, Pakistan's trade with both Ukraine and

Russia has been affected negatively.

Pakistan's \$800m trade with Ukraine

haunted to which a major chunk was

Ukrainian imports primarily wheat.

Similarly, Pakistan's \$711m trade with

Russia haunted out of which major

chunk was Russian imports.

### Increase in Oil Prices.

Russia was the largest exporter of

energy to Europe. Owing to this

crisis, Russia refused to supply its

energy to Europe. In result, European

states had to look other markets

in Gulf states. This supply and

demand imbalance increased energy

prices affecting poor countries like Pakistan.

### Skyrocketing Inflation-

Owing to increased oil and wheat

prices, poor economy like Pakistan

has to face skyrocketing inflation.

According to Food and Agriculture

Organization of the UN, countries

like Indonesia, Madagascar and Pakistan are among those that remain the most affected.

### Diplomatic Implications:

In Russia-Ukraine crisis, Pakistan has adopted neutral foreign policy.

Pakistan has learnt lessons from its poor experiences in camp politics.

Pakistan wants to maintain strategic balance among major world powers.

If this conflict, further aggravates,

Pakistan may find it difficult to remain neutral due to increasing western pressure.

### Industrial and defence Impacts.

Ukraine is the main importing country for Pakistan, Apart from food items,

Pakistan imports steel for its industry and defence equipment

from Ukraine. The conflict will impact

Pakistan army's effort to upgrade its fleet.



## How Pakistan can survive -

### Peaceful Resolution of Disputes -

Pakistan should utilize its diplomatic channels effectively to strengthen its relations with neighbours. Pakistan is located in a volatile region of the world. The peaceful resolution of disputes is mandatory for its survival.

### Balanced relations with world

### Powers -

Pakistan, owing to its bad experience with camp politics, should adopt balanced foreign policy. In the past, this camp politics has costed Pakistan heavily.

Pakistan should balance among major world powers such as US, China and Russia, for its national interests.

### Eradication of Terrorism is necessary for Pakistan's survival.

Terrorism, being a social evil has costed Pakistan heavily. A national consensus must be built to eradicate

this evil. Pakistan must secure its borders and eradicate resurgent groups particularly in Balochistan. The separatist groups in Eastern Part of Ukraine, are reason of disputes. Therefore, Pakistan through negotiations and by using force should protect its interests.

### Diversification of Exports.

Pakistan must focus on diversifying its exports base, to address economic woes. In the rapidly changing world, it's difficult for an economy to survive without

### Conclusion:

The Russia - Ukraine conflict is deep rooted in history. This is the outcome of conflict between two rival powers.

This conflict has given rise to humanitarian crisis including killing of innocent civilians, displacement and starvation.