

Question # 4

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

I. Introduction:

Russia invaded Ukraine on 24th February 2022. This war was primarily rooted in the expansion of NATO and European Union since 1990's which had taken pace in the recent past. Russian invasion of Ukraine has many socio-economic, political and strategic consequences on the world. It has many devastating impacts on Pakistan. However, there is a lot to learn from this war.

II. Overview of Russian invasion of Ukraine.

After the cold war era Soviet Union got weak and Russia emerge as a success state. During this birth of European Union occurs. NATO which was actually established to secure Western Europe against the Soviet's dominated East Europe. NATO's gradual enlargement and US intend to give membership to the East European states in NATO and provide them security umbrella.

The enlargement of NATO come near to Russian border. Russian are very concerned about border security. NATO forces came right to the Russian border something that Russia was unwilling to accept. Then Mearsheimer a political scientist predicted that If West went the plan to expand

NATO towards Russian borders then the War is imminent.



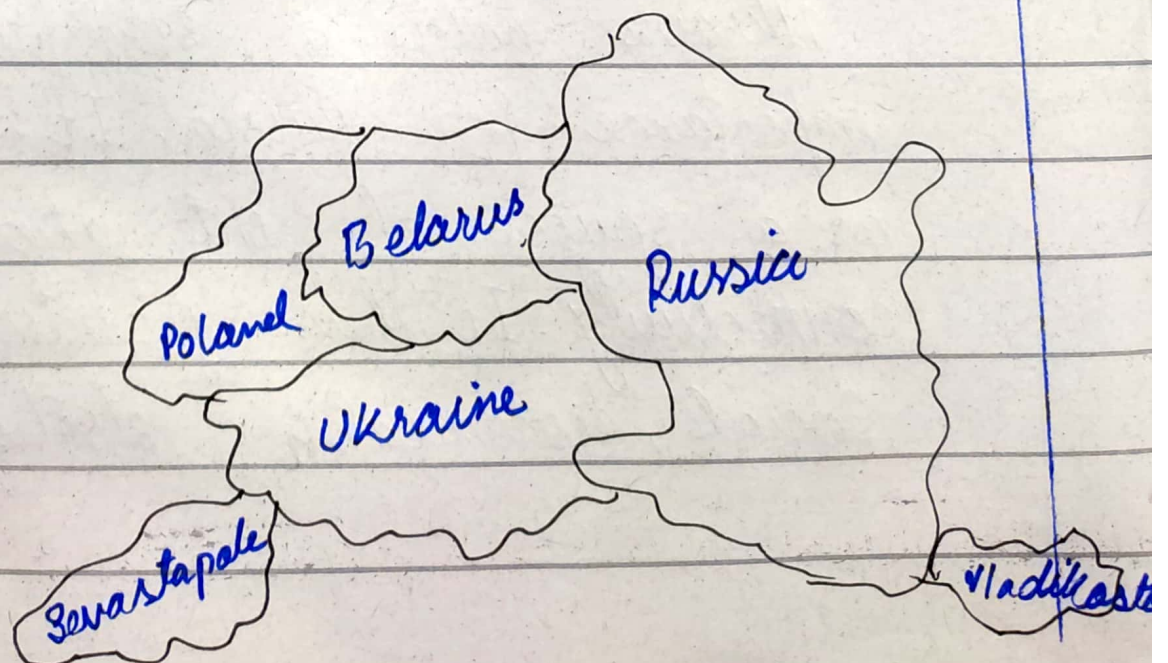
Russia - Ukraine Map

III . Causes of Russian invasion of Ukraine :
Ukraine holds a significant importance for Russia. It acts as a source of international connectivity. It has political, social, economical and strategic

importance for Russia.

i) Political Reasons:

Ukraine has a deep sea port "Sevastapol" which is biggest warm water port of Europe. Sevastapol was the part of Russia till 1954. USSR gifted this port to Ukraine. Russia demanded this port after 1991 but Ukraine denied. So, in order to get this Russia attacked Ukraine in 2014 and captured it back. The invasion of Ukraine will give access to international trade route.



ii. Social Reasons :

Both the countries have historic family ties with each other. Russia, Ukraine and Belarus are Slavic countries & emerged from Russ dynasty. Capital of Russ dynasty is Kyiv. So, socially Russian and Ukrainian are alike. Around 12 million Dispora of ethnic Russian is living in Ukraine since 2001. Moscow claims that Ukraine has failed to provide basic rights to these ethnic russians. It is duty of Moscow to protect the rights of these people.

iii. Economic Reasons :

a. The territory of Crimea and the port of Sevastopol :
Russia wanted access to

warm waters to expand its trade with international community but the ports that Russia has ~~are~~ is cold water port. Due to these cold water ports, Russian trade was affected. The largest port of Russia is "Vladivostok" is a cold water port and is situated in the East-most territory of Russia. However, the major cities of Russia are concentrated on the Western side of Russian border.

Hence, Russia was looking for a warm water port near Europe and "Sevastopol" was the best choice.

The territory of Crimea was gifted to Ukraine in 1954 by Russian leader "Nikita Khrushchev". Now the nationalist Russian wanted that territory back.

b. Extensive trade relations between Ukraine and Russia

Historically Ukraine and Russia were large trading partners of each other and in fact Russia was the largest trading partner of Ukraine but slowly and gradually China replaced Russia as largest trading partner of Ukraine. Russia wanted its own trading partner back. For that, Russia proposed an agreement known as EAEU (Eurasian Economic Union) in which Russia wanted to have six countries. [Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan]

c. Energy Relations between Russia and Ukraine:

Russia is the largest energy

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exporter in the world and Europe happens to be largest buyer of that energy. Russia is dependent on Ukraine to pump its gas to its customers in Europe.

Two important gas pipelines namely "Soyuz" and "Brotherhood" pass through Ukraine. In fact Russia pays annually \$2 billion dollars as transit fees to Ukrainians for allowing these pipelines in its territory.

iv. Political Reasons

Russia always wanted to have its political influence in Ukraine because if a Russian supported government remains in Ukraine, it will be beneficial for Russia in the longer run. That's why Russia supported Viktor Yanukovich as

as the president in Ukraine and even offered EAEU to Viktor. On the other hand, people of Ukraine were more inclined towards Europe. Hence, they started a movement against Yanukovich in 2014 known as "EURO Maidan". Due to this movement, Viktor had to resign. So, Russia realized that a pro-western government is about to come in power in Ukraine. Hence, an attack on Crimea took place in 2014.

V. Security Reasons

a. NATO's expansion toward Ukraine

The intention of NATO to give membership to Ukraine and Ukraine desire to join NATO pose the threat on Russia. To counter this threat Russia invaded Ukraine.

IV. Consequences of Russia-Ukraine war on world:

The conflict is a major blow to the global economy that will hurt growth and raise prices. Russia and Ukraine are major commodities producers, and disruption have caused global prices to soar, especially for oil and natural gas.

Ukraine is known as bread basket of Europe. Ukraine and Russia make up 30 percent of global exports. Thus, their food will conflict will result in food insecurity. Economies reliant on oil imports will see wider fiscal and trade deficits and more inflation pressure. Though some exporters Middle East and Africa may benefit from higher price

In longer term, the war may fundamentally alter the global economic and geopolitical order i.e energy trade shift.

VI. Devastating Impacts on Pakistan

a. Rise in Inflation:

One of the major impact of Russia-Ukraine war is inflation. The record high inflation was recorded in Pakistan in year 2023. The price of basic commodities were recorded sky high.

b. Rise in Energy Crisis:

Pakistan's major energy is reliant on fossil fuel. Pakistan import the fossil fuel. Due to decline

in global fuel exports. Pakistan suffered the most.

C. Food Insecurity:

Ukraine is known as bread basket of Europe. Pakistan has been importing wheat from Ukraine. Due to Ukraine and Russian conflict the export of the food (wheat) is negligible so due to this conflict Pakistan is facing food insecurity.

VII. Lesson's for Country's Survival

One of the most important lesson that can be learned is that Ukraine should not have given up its nuclear arms. Ukraine had a nuclear arm that could be used by the Ukraine as a deterrence. In case of Pakistan,

Pakistan should not give up its nuclear arms at any cost. The second lesson is Pakistan should make friendly ties with its neighbouring countries.

VIII. Conclusion:

In nutshell, one can say that Russian invasion of Ukraine has multifaceted implications on the world. These implications varies from socio-economic, political, and strategic. This conflict will bring a shift on global dependence. Russia is very sensitive for its border. The ~~expans~~ expansion of NATO made the war inevitable.