

Question:

What do you know about the causes of Russia-Ukraine war and analyze its consequences for European and global security.

I. Exordium:

The Russian-Ukraine war, which escalated into a full scale war in February 2022, is one of the most significant conflicts in Europe since WWII. It has not only reshaped regional stability in Eastern Europe but also challenged global security architecture, energy markets, and international law. The war stems from complex interplay of historical grievances, economic interests, and ideological motivations.

II. History of the Conflict:

When the USSR fell in 1991, it did not just end communism - it redrew the political map of Europe. Ukraine was one of the fifteen republics that made up USSR. Upon dissolution, Ukraine didn't just walk away quietly, it declared its own independence and held a referendum. Over 90% of Ukrainians vote to leave USSR, and that included large

majorities in Russian-speaking areas like Donetsk and Crimea.

Key Turning Points:

- 2004 - Orange Revolution was one of the first big signs that Ukraine was choosing its own path. Ukrainians protested a rigged election and rejected a pro-Russian candidate Viktor Yanukovich.
- 2013 - 2014 - Euromaidan (Independence Square) crowded with the rally of protestors. Ukraine's president backed out of an EU agreement under Russian pressure. Following this chaos, Russia annexed Crimea in March 2014, violating international law and supported separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk.
- On 24 February, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine that caused 14 thousand people died and 1.4 million people were displaced.

III. Causes of Russian-Ukraine

War

Russian-Ukraine war did not come out of nowhere. It was rooted in the emotional, political, and historical shockwaves of 1991. Russia

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saw that breakup as a temporary mistake to be corrected.

A. Identity - Based Causes

① Clash of National identities:

In July 2021, Russia President Vladimir Putin made some argument in his 5,000 word essay "On the historical unity of Russians and Ukrainians", that Ukrainians and Russians are "one people". As Ukraine's rise as an independent state threatened that claim so Russo-Ukrainian conflict support this cause.

② Russian Irredentism:

Russia seeks to reclaim territories it considers historically Russian - including Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. It reflects Putin's irredentist ideology for restoring the Russian world.

B. Geopolitical Causes:

③ NATO Expansion:

Ukraine's growing ties with NATO and NATO expansion in neighboring countries of Russia such as Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia (three Baltic countries) has threatened Russian security and strategic depth. In this way, Ukraine is a gateway to Europe that sits on Black sea.

④ East-West Rivalry:

Ukraine became the frontline of a renewed Cold war-like confrontation between Russia and the Western Bloc. Control over Ukraine symbolizes the domination in Eastern Europe.

C. Economic Causes:

⑤ Water, Gas, and Resource Corridors:

Ukraine's natural resources have always been a strategic factor in war. Russia also use Ukraine's route for export of gas to Europe. NORD 1 and NORD 2 pipelines are the Russia's major exports to Europe that is disrupted by Ukraine.

⑥ Western Sanctions:

Since 2014, Russia is facing sanctions from European countries that includes: bankruptcy of Sberbank, 7 Russia banks out of SWIFT, exports decreased. By controlling ukrainian territory, Russia is attempting to secure economic advantage.

D. Ideological Causes:

⑦ Russian Nationalism:

Vladimir Putin used the war to reinforce the domestic control and legitimize his long rule. war rhetoric revive the image of Russia as a resurrected great power.

⑧ Failure of Diplomacy:

The breakdown of Minsk I and II agreements, that allowed elections in the Donetsk and Luhansk region but implementation remained incomplete, created a security dilemma pushing both sides toward militarization rather than negotiation.

E. Strategic and Military Causes:

⑨ Separatist Regions in Donbas:

Donetsk and Luhansk became Russian-backed separatist zones. Russia also sent 100,000 troops on Ukraine's borders as Ukrainian President Zelensky urged for NATO membership. In this way, Moscow is strengthening foothold inside territory.

⑩ Crimean Land Bridge:

To weaken Ukraine, Russia sought to create land corridor connecting mainland of Russia to Donbas to Crimea. In this way, Russia can secure easier military movements and long-term control of the Black Sea region.

IV. Consequences for European and Global Security

NATO Expansion and strengthening

- ✓ Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to a dramatic shift in European security politics, with historically neutral Finland and Sweden applying for and joining NATO.
- ✓ European countries, particularly Germany and Poland, have significantly increased their military budgets.
- ✓ The United States has reinforced its troop presence in Eastern Europe, particularly in Poland and the Baltic sea, to deter the Russian aggression.

Energy Crisis:

Russia-Ukraine war is an act that delivered a massive shock to global energy markets and a crippling blow to the European Union. The primary energy consumption of European countries is fulfilled through Russian crude oil and coal imports that accounted for 23% and 43%. 35% of natural gas is also imported from Russia to Germany and Italy.

Increased Risk of Nuclear Miscalculation

Russia used nuclear threats several times during the war. Europe strengthening the nuclear preparedness and emergency plans. The fears of nuclear escalation returned for first time since the

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old war.

New Global Blocs of Power:

The war deepened the division between West (US, EU, UK) and Russia-China partnership. While many Asian, African, and Middle Eastern states stayed neutral. Russia has pushed for the expansion of BRICS to counter western dominance in global affairs.

Economic Disruptions and Sanctions

Since western countries targeted Russian banks, oil, gas, and imports now Russia is adjusted by trading with China, India, and Iran. The result of this economic disruption is the instability of global markets, disturbed supply chain, and increased inflation.

Weakening of International Law:

Russia's invasion violated the principle of territorial integrity. Many countries said that United Nation and International laws failed to stop the war as they failed in Israeli genocide in Palestine. In this scenario, countries are preparing themselves for the war regardless what international law can do.

Critical Analysis:

The Russo-Ukrainians war is the long-lived conflict of ideologies since 1991. Critics call it the initiation of Third world war as world order is reshaping into western and eastern blocs. If no settlement is reached, the war may become like frozen conflict in which Europe will live with long-term tension, and Ukraine will face economic destruction. Due to war, a wave of disturbance exists in Europe and cause Europe become more militarised, NATO become stronger, energy and food crises spread world wide, and global power politics entered a more competitive place. Countries like Finland and Sweden have broken their years of neutrality and willing to join NATO as a pre-caution of long-war-to-be-happen.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Russia-Ukraine war is a major event in Europe after Cold war that has potential to cause another war like conflict across Europe.