

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

1- Introduction:

Russia launched a full scale war on Ukraine in.

The attack was launched from Eastern Ukraine, South Eastern part and Belaruse. Russia deployed its airforce, navy, artillery and infantry with more than 2 million troops to attack on Ukraine. It captured South and Southeast. The invasion on Ukraine was done with several purposes such as which include Ukraine's bid for NATO membership, increasing sanctions on Russia, and westrenization of Ukraine. The war leads to severe conse-

quences ~~in~~ on the world in general and Pakistan in particular.

2. An Overview of Russian Invasion on Ukraine:

Russia and West being arch rivals since World War II and Cold War, try to increase their influence by making alliances with other countries. The West tries to increase its influence with the former USSR countries; Ukraine being one among them. Over 70% of Ukraine's population is Westernized. ~~Moreover~~ Similarly, West's increasing ties with Georgia and Crimea infuriated Russia to annex the regions. Thus, Russia in fear of increasing West's influence, launched a full scale war from all sides to annex the country.

3. Core Causes of Russian Invasion on Ukraine:

There were various causes of Russian attack on Ukraine which include:

1) NATO's Expansion in Europe:

Russia attacked Ukraine due to NATO increasing influence and membership in Europe. NATO was meant to deter Russian influence in the region. The westward mobility of Ukraine was increased with NATO. At that time, it was predicted by Europe: "It is a clear signal that Moscow would annex Crimea". The same pattern of behaviour was adopted by Russia on Ukrainian invasion.

2) Ukraine Drops its NATO membership bid:

As Ukraine applied for its membership in ~~Ukraine~~^{EU} and NATO, it was an

alarming situation for Russia. NATO's support for Ukraine has been 'symbolic' to showcase 'unity' — as stated by one of NATO members.

~~3) West to lift sanctions on Russia:~~ 34) Western Sanctions on Russia:

The West particularly the United States and European Union (EU) have posed heavy sanctions on Russia. Trade blacklisting and embargos on Russia by West have weakened Russia's economy to a great extent.

40) Ukraine's Military and Troops in some regions:

Russia wants Ukraine to withdraw its troops from **Donestk**, **Kherson**, **Luhansk** and **Zaporizhzhya**. Russia fears that these areas would also be Westrenized and it would pose

a great threat to its geostrategic and geoeconomic ambitions.

5) Westrenization of Ukraine

↳ Central Ukraine is overwhelmingly westrenized with over 70% population pro-West. Moreover, the support in the form of loans and weapons provided by the West to Ukraine also triggers Russia to invade it.

"The meeting of G7 in Italy made a decision to provide \$50bn ^{loan} to Kyiv, backed by \$322bn of frozen Russian Central bank assets."

Such support to Ukraine infuriates Russia to continue the escalation.

6) Increased Weapon Provision to Ukraine by the West:

Ukraine: The West provides weapons to Ukraine to use it against Russia.

The meeting of "G7" also permitted

Ukraine to use Westren weapons to attack Russia."

4- Impacts of Russo-Ukraine war on Pakistan:

Russia-Ukraine war pose adverse impacts on Pakistan. The war impacts the socio-economic ~~and~~ conditions of the country. Some of the impacts include:

1) Price Hike of Hydrocarbons

As the world is facing highest ever price hike since 4 decades, the situation directly impacts Pakistan. Pakistan is an importer of oil and gas from Russia, ~~and~~ due to war situation and sanctions, Pak^{istan} has to import expensive gas from other countries. As Russia is the second largest producer of Gas according to IAEA, the sanctions have restricted it to supply hydrocarbons. Thus, global price hike has trickle down impact on Pakistan's economy,

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2) Restricted investment in Energy and Infrastructure:
Pakistan and Russia have signed many treaties regarding investment in energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan. But, Russia is unable to materialize many due to economic hurdles. Both countries also collaborate in many other areas as both are strategic partners in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

3) Import barriers from Ukraine:
As Ukraine is entangled in its war with Russia, settling refugee problems and other key matters, it is unable to support the countries like Pakistan. Pakistan acquires military hardware from Ukraine involving tanks and aircraft engines.

4) Agriculture Sector reliant on

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imported goods from Ukraine:

Pakistan imports agricultural goods like wheat and sunflower oil from Ukraine. The hindrance in imports pose a challenge in maintaining a fiscal discipline in the country.

5. Critical Analysis:

As Russia's nuclear doctrine clearly states "any aggression against its territory by a non-nuclear state supported by a nuclear power could justify nuclear retaliation."

Thus, Ukraine ~~states~~ expanding its ties with NATO where the concept of collective security prevails, Russia strictly complies to its nuclear doctrine while ~~attae~~ launching an attack on Ukraine.

6. Conclusion:

To wind it up, Russia Ukraine

war is ~~a~~ escalating day-by-day due to Russia's strict adherence to its nuclear doctrine and Ukraine's pro-Western narrative. The war ~~causes~~ is a result of several causes which pose a great deal of threats for Pakistan. Pakistan needs to reduce its dependency on both countries, or else balance ties with them.

