

Q: How do you see the chances of the end of Ukrainian war when the demands of Russia and ~~Ukraine~~ NATO are conflicting and poles apart and when Trump 28 points given to Ukraine to accept peace plan. Elaborate.

I. INTRODUCTION

"The crisis is largely the result of the west's efforts to turn Ukraine into a western bulwark on Russia's border. It was perceived as a threat that had to be averted.

— John
Mearsheimer

The ongoing war in Ukraine, which began in 2022 has seen many changes over the years. The invasion slowly morphed into a full blown war, with both sides employing heavy resources and sustaining losses. Until recently, efforts to end the conflict were initiated. As such, a peace plan was drafted by the Trump government as a bid to end the

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war and put the matters to rest. However, the plan has been met with contention, especially from Europe, who view it as unfriendly. So far, no significant advancement towards peace is visible.

II. CONFLICTING DEMANDS OF BOTH NATIONS

(i) RUSSIAN DEMANDS

(a) Ukraine to be excluded from joining NATO

This is one of the core demands of Russian President, one which also led to the onset of the war. Russia saw European countries near its border joining NATO and perceived it as a threat. Finland and Sweden both joined NATO, until 2024, which further caused alarm. Thus a core argument is the increasing number of alliances joining the western organization.

(b) Recognition of Crimea and retention of Eastern Ukraine

Another main demand is the retention of Crimea by Russia. It was

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annexed in 2014. in a bid to ensure Russia's access to the Black sea.

Furthermore, Russia want to keep the areas it has gained control over. These areas include that of Luhansk and Donbas, which are currently under Russian influence.

(C) Removal of sanctions and release of Russian assets

Since the start of the war, the EU and US collectively applied sanctions to limit the Russian energy trade. Oil and gas trade is an important source of revenue for Russia. Similarly, G7 and allies froze roughly \$300 billion of Russia assets in other countries, along with the bank accounts, serving yet another blow.

(ii) UKRAINE'S REACTION

Ukraine refuses to accept the demands, especially that of keeping the areas under control of Russia. Europe is maintained on fighting the war as it presents a huge security crisis in case Russia wins.

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III. TROMP 28 POINTS

The US president released an initial document outlining the peace plan. Some of the main aspects of the plan are as follows

- Cap on Ukraine's military at 600,000 troops (30% cut)
- Restrictions on Europe deploying troops to Ukraine for security
- Non-aggression pact between Russia, Ukraine & Europe
- European fighter jets to be stationed and limited to Poland
- Ukraine's territorial ~~and~~ concessions and no NATO membership.

VI. EUROPE'S REACTION

"No agreement may weaken the security of Poland or all of Europe"

— Poland's Prime Minister

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(a) Draft described as Russia-centric

A big contention with the plan is that no European or Ukrainian counterpart was involved in the making of the draft. This was made primarily by the United States with Russian input. Therefore the plan is considered widely against Europe's interests.

(b) Russian trap to weaken Europe's defense

The concessions by the ~~E~~ plan from Ukraine are seen as a sign of weakness. It reiterates Russia's claim on Ukrainian land and creates problems for Europe's security. By ceding the land, it will allow Russia to exert its control over the region and open the ~~the~~ doors for any future expansion.

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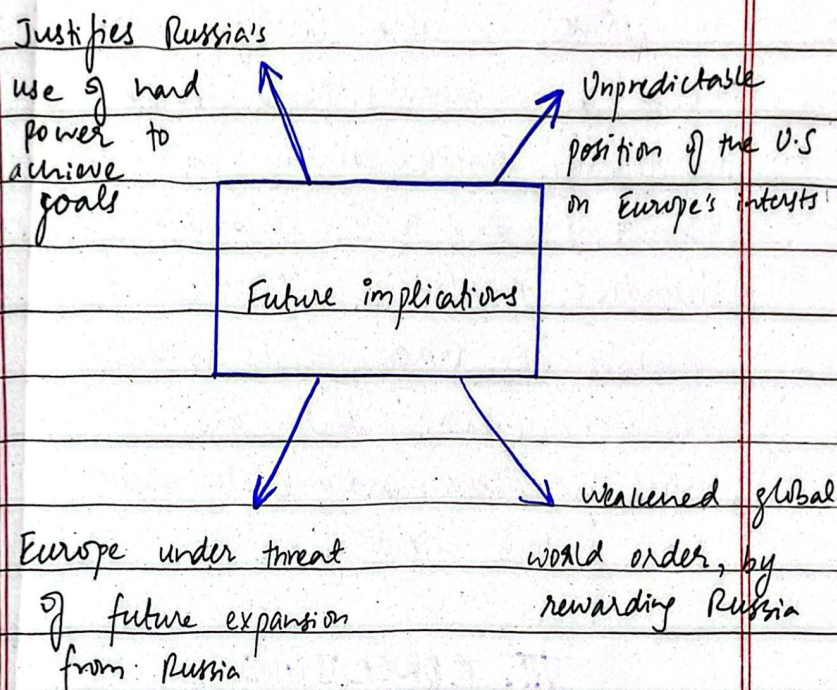
(c) Blocks Ukraine's path for collective security

Another major contention is the fact that the plan blocks Ukraine's path to NATO. Without any future access to a collective security pact, Europe will always see a threat at its borders and will have to stay active militarily.

(d) US seen as a mediator between NATO and Russia

Instead of portraying a strong image as leader of NATO, the plan displays the United States position on Europe's interests. It signals and reinforces Trump's strategy of strengthening and diverting resources back towards the Atlantic and western hemisphere. Trump is looking to strengthen his position back home. Thus, the plan seems rushed and not in favour of Europe's interests.

V. FUTURE IMPLICATIONS AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS



The plan plays a major role in highlighting some critical aspects. It sends the message of the rewards of hard power by rewarding Russia. It weakens the global world order and allows others to follow in the same manner. Europe pushed into an uncomfortable position amidst its overlying dependence on American security.

VI. WAY FORWARD

Certain steps need to be taken to resolve the issue. Firstly, Europe needs to be taken on board for the negotiation process. Secondly, the concessions need to be debated according. A solid plan for the security of Europe needs to be presented, without which, an agreement seems hardly likely and the conflict might go on.

VII. CONCLUSION

The Russia Ukraine conflict has been going on for quite some time. Both have suffered immense losses, and seen loss of life.

Trump's plan presents a potential path to peace but contains several controversial points. Until, those disagreements can be resolved, a path to peace seems difficult.