

Part II

Q77 02

How do you see the chances of success of US-Russia negotiations on Ukraine? Critically evaluate the hurdles and give practical recommendations to end the dangerous war.

Introduction

The war in Ukraine was started in February 2022 by Russia. Since then, thousands of people have been killed, millions of people have been displaced and Europe has faced an energy and food crisis. US and its allies strongly support Ukraine. However, the negotiations between US and Russia continue, but still peace is out of reach.

Chances of Success of US-Russia Negotiations on Ukraine

The US-Russia have been engaged in diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict in Ukraine.

Short-Term Chances (Low)

Despite US-Russia negotiations, both sides (Russia and Ukraine) are

unwilling to compromise core demands. As Russia wants complete recognition of its annexed territory of Ukraine, whereas Ukraine demands protection of its sovereignty. However, US as the supporter of Ukraine, rejects the demand of Russia. Moreover, the NATO expansion issue still unresolved. Hence the chances of success of US-Russia negotiations on Ukraine seem complex.

Long-Term Chances

Shared interests may lead to the success of negotiations. The shared interests of Russia and Ukraine may include preventing nuclear escalation, restoring stability in global markets. Moreover, chances might increase if Russia gets partial recognition of annexed territory, Ukraine receives security guarantees and international community enforces peace framework and the economic pressure on Russia from US may force compromise.

Hurdles To End The Dangerous War

1) Geopolitical Rivalry

a) NATO Expansion:

Russia sees NATO's Eastward expansion as a threat to its security.

b) US-Russia Competition:

Both countries (US and Russia) want to maintain global influence, which makes negotiation and compromise harder.

2) Territorial Dispute

a) Annexation of Crimea (2014)

Russia refuses to return Crimea. Whereas Ukraine and International Community rejects its annexation.

b) Occupied Territories (Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia):

Russia wants recognition of its occupied territory of Ukraine. While Ukraine demands complete withdrawal.

3) National Security Concerns

a) Ukraine's NATO membership:

Russia strongly opposes the Ukraine joining NATO.

b) Ukraine's sovereignty:

Ukraine wants to freely choose its alliances.

4) Military Escalation

a) Ongoing Fighting:

The intense battle, destruction, and civilian casualties deepen hostilities.

b) Arms Supply:

Western military supports Ukraine, while in response Russia has increased its military mobilization and making negotiations less likely.

5) Economic Interest

a) Sanctions on Russia:

Western sanctions on Russia push it closer to China and failed to achieve the aim to force Russia compromise.

b) Energy & Grain Security:

Both countries (Russia and Ukraine) are major energy and food exporter.

The disruption impacts global market, which further complicated negotiations.

6) Lack of Trust

a) Broken Agreements:

The failed previous agreements (Minsk Agreement), making both sides skeptical.

b) Propaganda & Misinformation:

The media wars exacerbates the hatred and distrust, making it difficult the war resolution.

7) Global Polarization

Western Block vs. Russian Allies:

The US, EU, and NATO, vs. Russia with China. Iran and others further complicate peace talks.

UN Ineffectiveness:

UNSC, the main body responsible for peace, but Russia uses its veto to block the resolution, which paralyzes the UN.

Practical Recommendations to end the dangerous war

Confidence-Building Measures

More prisoners exchanges and humanitarian corridors for civilians would be the possible way to build confidence. Moreover, continuing grain export deals to ensure ^{global} food security further maintains the measures.

Ceasefire

Ceasefire should be the foremost concern, and must be ensured and monitored by UN or OSCE observers. This will pave the way to stop civilian suffering and build minimum trust.

Security Guarantees for Ukraine

A European-led security umbrella with US technical support (air defense, intelligence) should guarantee the security for Ukraine. If Russia breaks the deal, sanctions should return automatically.

Economic Package

The Russian frozen assets should be used to help rebuild Ukraine, it will give financial support to Ukraine.

to recover without waiting for decades, and it will put pressure on Russia to follow the deal. Hence it makes the peace agreement credible.

Conclusion

The war is very dangerous for Ukraine, Russia, Europe and even global peace. Right now, chances of a complete peace deal are low. However small steps like ceasefire, prisoner swaps and nuclear safety can reduce violence. The best way to stop fighting first then move step by step towards a bigger and complete political settlement.