

The war in Ukraine - research and opinions

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Introduction

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The Ukrainian crisis is one of utmost importance in which its effects have caused many civilians, not only in Ukraine, but also those living in Europe to flee. Without a doubt, it is making an even bigger impact on those across the world with its devastating and heartbreaking news that it brings forth to the world on a daily basis. Its social interactions across the internet has formed a corrupt group of people trying to believe in “right” and “wrong”. As people pressure Ukraine to fight on, others believe playing it safe and giving power to Putin is the more strategic option causing a discord amongst thousands. Putin has been dragging on the war for months and refuses to give up on behalf of Russia. Ironically enough, his aggressive motives increase but without gaining any territory. As the war seems to heave on, peace talks can arise much easier and Putin would realize he is wasting numerous resources and crucial time on a pointless effort. Despite the ongoing conflict in the eastern region, talks of reconstruction have started to arise. The reconstruction of an independent and free Ukraine is connected to a surfacing level partnership with the West. The Funding, planning, and modernization of Ukraines economy will involve critical assistance from the West. Putin’s aggressive tactics vs. Zelensky’s moral courage is truly amazing. Putin has presented himself as completely unstoppable and he is willing to go past any conception of decency to attain his goal. On the contrary, Zelensky has proved himself as a national hero. His persistence and personal bravery is

a big sign of hope for the citizens. To keep their country stable and independent, his leadership grows each day as he inspires millions of others and intimidates his opponent by not backing down.

The Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine

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The Russo-Ukrainian War is an ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. Russia is also involved with pro-Russian separatist forces. It all began with Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in 2022. This event is viewed by some experts as part of a renewed geopolitical rivalry between the great powers. In 2014, armed conflict in eastern Ukraine erupted following Russia's annexation of Crimea. On February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale military invasion into Ukraine. As a result of this, many humanitarian crises have emerged, both locally and globally. These humanitarian actions are important because millions of people have been displaced into neighboring countries or displaced internally, while hundreds of thousands more are trapped in cities desperate for a safe escape.

There are many local impacts of the war in Ukraine. Some main issues include high casualty rates, damages to infrastructure, internal displacement, poor health and safety of women/children, increased mental health issues, and the spread of disease.

A major topic of every war, casualties make a war more real in the eyes of many outsiders. As with wars in the past, the Russo-Ukrainian conflict has caused many casualties. According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), there have been more than 10,000 deaths in Ukraine since the conflict escalated on February 24, 2022, when Russia launched an invasion on Ukraine. This number is likely an underestimate as it is very difficult to record deaths in a war zone. Sadly, casualties are common throughout all wars; however, the number of civilian casualties in Ukraine needs to be addressed. As of July 17, 2022 the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has reported 11,862 civilian casualties in Ukraine, including 5,110 killed and 6,752 injured. Again, these totals are

considerably lower than the actual numbers due to the challenges in checking information throughout a war. Matilda Bogner, head of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, stated, “In total, we estimate [in addition to the confirmed deaths] that at least 3,000 civilians have died in besieged or contested cities because they couldn't get medical care and because of the stress on their health amid the hostilities" (Bogner, 2022). In addition to such indirect deaths, direct deaths are common in Ukraine. The leading cause of civilian deaths in Ukraine is shelling and air strikes, but large numbers of civilians have been killed in attacks at close range, often in sieges of Ukrainian cities. The mayor of Mariupol, Vadym Boychenko, said in late April that the death toll among his city’s civilians may have been as high as 20,000. Under the Geneva Convention and other international treaties, deliberately attacking civilians or the infrastructure vital to their survival is considered a war crime, though Russia has denied all accusations.

In addition to the high casualty numbers, the Russo-Ukrainian war has caused heavy damage to Ukrainian infrastructure. Russian armed forces engage in urban warfare which causes damage to civilian infrastructure. As of June 10th, the destruction and damages of residential and non-residential buildings and infrastructure caused by the war in Ukraine had reached an estimated total of USD \$103.9 billion, while the overall economic losses were up to USD \$600 billion. At least 44.8 million square meters of housing, 256 enterprises, 656 medical institutions, 1,177 educational institutions, 668 kindergartens, 198 warehouses, 20 shopping centers, and 28 oil depots have been damaged, destroyed or seized, according to a report by the KSE Institute. There have been many damages to transportation in Ukraine as well. Ukraine’s railways have suffered damages worth USD \$2.7 billion, and Ukrainian citizens have lost an estimated 105,000 private cars. Businesses have also suffered throughout the war, as Russian shelling affected 20 malls, over 250 factories and industrial enterprises, and almost 3,000 retail locations.

Along with the direct effects, the Russo-Ukrainian war has caused the world’s fastest-growing displacement crisis since World War II. From Feb. 24 to June 21, 2022, 8,007,014 refugees had left the country, according to UNHCR. Additionally, 7.7 million people are internally displaced as a result of the conflict, which is equivalent to 17.5 percent of the entire Ukrainian population. “Internally displaced people, the majority of whom are women and children, have lost everything they had – their homes and belongings, their livelihoods, their support networks, and in many cases their loved ones. Many of them face shortages of food,

water, basic items and energy, and lack access to health services and medication” (UN, 2022). Older people and those with disabilities are often among the last to flee conflict zones and face many challenges when doing so. They are forced to live in poorly equipped temporary shelters and may struggle with chronic health conditions without access to proper health care and rehabilitation centers. On top of those who have been internally displaced, approximately 13 million people are estimated to be strained in the affected area or unable to leave due to the escalation of the situation. Many of these people are forced to live in danger without life-saving assistance due to ongoing attacks and insecurity.

The escalation of Ukraine-Russo War had caused a irretrievable and uncountable loss, when the life of innocents were threatened by the unpredictable and indiscriminate bombing and attacking, it gave an opportunity to other people to committed serious crime. The country had been suffering from the brutal invasion by another country and it caused a vacuum in their legal operation agency. The offender will use this situation to commit crime on others, especially women and children. There have been numerous reports of rape and other forms of gender-based violence. According to the report from United Nation, the Human Rights Monitoring Team of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had received reports of 124 alleged acts of sexual violence across the nation since the 3rd of June. The crisis also increased the insecurity and instability of pregnancy and children in Ukraine, in the description of UNFPA, there were at least 265000 pregnant women in Ukraine, and 8000 of those were due to give birth in the coming 3 months. The hospital may receive attack unpredictably and the children are the most fragile groups will also be the random target of bombing, with women giving birth in basements and bomb shelters without adequate medical support and professional nursing help. The women in Ukraine also had been threatened by the incremental sexual crimes and human trafficking cases. The Journalist Katya Adler specifically indicated this issue in her report, she explained that “Trafficking rings are notoriously active in Ukraine and neighboring countries in peace time. The fog of war is perfect cover to increase business(Adler, 2022)”. She also pointed out that the increasing cases of organized crime including sex and organ trafficking, and slave labour in not only menace, the refugees are exploited and oppressed by individuals too.

The social isolation and quarantine caused by the covid incrementally worsened the mental health of the people. Due to the serious escalation of the Ukraine-Russo War, tons of mental health issues had been covered by the fear and horror of war. The fear, anxiety,

depression, grief, and even survivor's guilt had increasingly spread through the nation. The brutal invasion of Ukraine had stripped the sense of identity for some people in Ukraine, they felt frustrated and hopeless about the current stalemate and had made a few efforts to change it. The feelings of children have been ignored and are more subjected to these negative feelings, especially the anxiety caused by the separation. The last invasion of Ukraine by Russia and rebels in east Ukraine in 2014 found a high prevalence of PTSD, approximately "27% of experimental samples had the symptom of PTSD and 21% of experimental samples had depression among the 1.5 million internally displaced Ukrainians"(Javanbakht, 2022).

Since the beginning of this war, many were concerned about whether it would expand into a third world war. The impact of the war in Ukraine is a human tragedy for the people living in Ukraine, but the economic implications are global. Among these, food and trade are the most immediate global impacts of the war.

This is simply because Russia and Ukraine rank among the top seven global producers and exporters of wheat, corn, barley, sunflower seeds, and sunflower oil. Additionally, Russia is a major supplier of fossil fuels, such as crude oil and natural gas, especially to the EU. However, the EU has decreased its oil imports from Russia by 90% hurting their economy in hopes that there is also damage done to Russia's (Markos, 2022). By disrupting the imports and exports of these supplies prices surge with negative consequences on global trade and welfare, exporters gain from higher commodity prices and increase production and shipments, replacing part of the decrease in exports from Ukraine and Russia (Arvis et al, 2022), harming importers at a higher rate because they consume these commodities and use them as inputs to produce other goods and services for export. Specifically, the global impact of the wheat market will be deeper due to Ukraine's regularly high exports affecting many low-income economies that import wheat, leading to spillover effects on other food markets. Due to this, food prices are continuously on the rise and the price of wheat, specifically, has surged by more than 40% since the beginning of the conflict.

Furthermore, due to the Ukraine-Russo war, there is an overwhelming amount of food stuck at the ports of Ukraine - unable to enter or leave the country. "Exports from Ukraine have stalled, future harvests are in question, global prices of agricultural commodities have spiked, and most exposed are the countries that rely on agricultural exports from Ukraine and Russia to feed their citizens or fertilizer from Russia and Belarus to produce their own food" (Welsh,

2022). This is an alarming issue as the freight rates are increasing. Restrictions on airspace, contractor uncertainty, and security concerns are complicating all trade routes going through Russia and Ukraine. This is such an imminent issue as the two countries are a key geographical component of the Eurasian Land Bridge. Due to this, in 2021, 1.5 million containers of cargo were shipped by rail west from China to Europe. Currently, it has increased to 8% of all cargos stuck in an already congested trade route. (UNCTAD, 2022).

Moreover, the Russo-Ukrainian War has also sparked global food shortages. In a Ukraine Food Security Report, conducted by the World Food Programme in March and April of 2022, it was found that $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Ukrainian population is food insecure, and over a third of households reported having no income or being dependent on assistance as their main source of income. This effect has rippled worldwide due to congested trade-routes and global trade insecurity. According to UNCTAD, the price paid for the transportation of dry bulk goods, such as grains, increased by nearly 60 percent solely between February and May 2022. Furthermore, “all countries will be affected by this crisis, but developing countries already hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, rising debt and climate change will be hit especially hard by disruptions in food, fuel, and finance. Soaring food and fuel prices will affect the most vulnerable in developing countries, putting pressure on the poorest households which spend the highest share of their income on food, resulting in hardship and hunger” (UNCTAD, 2022). An instance of the global price increase can be depicted in the increase of both corn and wheat, which are staple foods across many households: “Wheat futures traded in Chicago have jumped about 12% since the start of this year, while corn futures spiked 14.5% in the same period” (Tan, 2022). These price hikes are particularly harmful towards many African countries, which rely heavily on wheat and other food from Ukraine and Russia, whilst battling numerous other economic hardships, meaning they don’t have strong access to resources or plentiful financial assets.

Additionally, there is a growing problem regarding refugees. According to data from the UNHCR, which was updated on July 26th, 2022, a total of 9,926,884 refugees have crossed the border from Ukraine since February 24, 2022. Furthermore, according to the revised Ukraine Situation RRRP, 90% of refugees are women and children. Unfortunately, women and children arriving in a foreign country with few assets and no social network may face dangers from human trafficking, exploitation and sexual violence. In addition to these threats, the separated families will need to cover living expenses in two locations, while refugee mothers will have to

shoulder child care responsibilities and earn an income by themselves. This has a strong effect on not only the mental health and morale of these refugees, but on their safety and access to resources.

There are many possible ways to help support the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. One main option is to donate to a charity. There are a variety of charities that are constantly working to provide humanitarian aid and other relief to the people of Ukraine. Some of the many credible charities include: World Vision, which supports people affected by the crisis in Ukraine by providing food, educational supplies, and shelter, and International Medical Corps, which delivers life-saving health services to Ukrainian communities affected by violence and poverty. Save the Children, another credible charity, aims to safeguard in Ukraine and surrounding countries through educational, health, and security programs, and Action Against Hunger provides food and essentials to displaced Ukrainians and Ukrainian refugees in neighboring countries. Though donating to a charity may be the best option, there are other ways to support Ukraine. One such way would be to send humanitarian supplies, though it would most likely be better to send money to trusted organizations, because they can buy supplies at much cheaper prices. Another way to help out is simply joining a protest in your city. Although the results may not be direct, such protests can accomplish a lot. Lastly, there are many organizations in need of help, so volunteering or helping professionally is another option to aid the crisis.

Moral Courage

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The terms morals and ethics are often intertwined with each other, but mean different things. In philosophy, the terms mean the distinction between right and wrong. However, in other areas of knowledge, morals and ethics are not always the same. The difference is that ethics serves as a set standard of what is right or wrong, often placed by outside groups, while morality serves as an individual's sense of what is right and wrong. Ethics and morality can often be combined with each other, as if there are certain societal expectations or regulations that one may

not necessarily agree with (Morals vs Ethics, 2015).

Standing up for your ideals and values can be a difficult roadblock to overcome. Moral courage is gathered after completing such a task. Moral courage can be defined as the “pinnacle of ethical behavior” (Murray, 2020) in the face of threats to reputation, shame, retaliation, etc. Aristotle defines moral courage as the balance between rashness and cowardness (Lachman, 2007). While moral courage requires a necessity for achievement, it can lead to destruction as well if one replaces their courage with arrogance. The possession of moral courage can occur in circumstances that initially seem easy to interpret in right versus wrong scenarios, which later lead to dilemmas in which decisions have to be made (Lachman, 2007). Commonly, the goal behind moral courage is to make one act in a manner that expresses their values. A successful tactic that leaders use to gain success and traction is rallying people to herd behind them. In fact, the practice of observing a morally courageous individual, naturally influences people to coincide and think the same as that particular individual. As a result, by following a morally courageous individual, people start building up their own courage and altering their ethical behaviors in a manner shaped around their influencer’s ideals.

Additionally, the environment around an individual can affect their moral courage. Depending on who you are with, the circumstance might be that someone may alter their ideals or just remain reserved to spreading their own opinions. These interactions adjust your moral standards and your perceptions of topics.

Along with moral courage, a moral compass is a set of internal values and beliefs that dictate decisions and subsequent actions, allowing for a distinction between what is right and what is wrong. When making a decision, one’s own moral compass plays a great part in their judgment. The culture, society, and life experiences of a person all serve as components that determine one’s moral compass. While a moral compass is determined by societal interactions and individual values, it serves as a method to overlook self-centered motives and to focus more on what is better for the society (Ponio, 2022). By incorporating surroundings and a variety of beliefs, a moral compass eliminates the need to focus on one person when making decisions.

Looking at the Russian invasion on Ukraine, there are a multitude of ethical points that stand out, which can help determine the moral compass and moral climate for both Russia and Ukraine. Russia’s intentions in invading Ukraine have not fully come up to the surface, as Putin’s motives seem to be unclear. However, Putin’s justification for the Russian invasion is that

Ukraine was never truly independent, and it served as a threat to Russia. In Putin's perspective, Ukraine is interacting more with the West, which can potentially harm Russia in the future if Ukraine allows for hosting Western military bases. Ukraine has been claimed to be a threat to Russia, due to its growing cooperation with NATO. However, the invasion itself proved that Russia violated Ukraine's independence and choice to determine their own political stance.

Additionally, Ukraine had to act as a way of self-defense, along with the definition of success from Ukraine's stance (DeCosse, 2022). Success to Ukraine ranges from a proper fight against Russia, the increasing chances of negotiation, or maybe even for self respect and patriotism. However, in the invasion, Russia has killed close to 3,000 of Ukrainians in a span of two months from the initial invasion, while over thirteen million civilians have fled their homes in April (Sloss, 2022). Russia is using the tactic of Siege Warfare, as Russia is clear with their intentions of hurting and terrorizing the Ukrainian population.

On the other hand, Ukraine's united resistance is influenced by their moral compass. The Ukrainian citizens place value on their national identity and patriotism which has led them to put their best efforts in defending their country. The decision for regular citizens to take up arms is influenced by their moral compass, as they believe protecting their country is right.

As previously mentioned, morals are a person's own beliefs while ethics are beliefs that are held and recognized globally. In order to determine if Vladimir Putin is morally courageous, he needs to exhibit actions that protect and promote his own beliefs, but those beliefs do not need to be considered ethically correct. In an interview given in July 2017, Putin stated that his highest moral value was "life itself", which he defined as a "biological condition" (Putin, 2017). This means that the ability to simply exist is Putin's highest moral value and priority as a leader, and it is how he is able to twist the truth to his actions in order to morally justify them to the public. His faith in a "biological condition" is also what allows him to continue to defend the fighting because of his firm belief that Ukrainians are Russian and need to be under Russian rule, as well as "protecting" the Russian people from bordering a possible NATO country.

Putin is able to demonstrate moral courage in his belief in "life itself" in the Ukrainian-Russian War through his refusal to cease fighting. Putin has taken numerous measures to ensure that fighting will not be stopped for any means, which are apparent in both the media and the battlefield. Putin is infamous for belittling and humiliating reporters, but it became apparent right before determining that the war would begin that the Russian President also has no

issue manipulating and twisting the words and minds of government officials. Putin publicly humiliated Sergei Naryshkin, the head of Russian foreign intelligence, because he tried to voice his opinion that the war would not go in Russia's favor on live television (Rachman, 2022). He continues to bomb Ukraine under the guise of poverty and that people are suffering because they are no longer a part of Russia. He is able to justify these actions according to his own morals because although people are dying, his thinking is that the war is for the good of life for both Russian and Ukrainian people. It's extremely likely that Putin continues to fight for a reason not yet known, or that his public reasoning for the war is a lie, or perhaps because he thought he could easily take back Ukraine without outside sources interfering or caring enough to stop him. However, from a morality viewpoint, Putin is fighting to enforce his morals, and subsequently is showing moral strength in his refusal to surrender, which makes him morally courageous. However, by no means are his methods or beliefs ethical, and he certainly is not ethically correct.

After examining the concept of moral courage and its prevalence to society today, Volodymyr Zelensky serves as a paragon of a morally courageous individual: an individual who acts in unison with their moral compass. The roots of Zelensky's moral courage can be understood through the political philosophy of communitarianism. According to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, communitarianism dictates that individuals have a responsibility to their communities, as their communities have shaped their identities (Bell, 2020). The beginning of Zelensky's moral courage started with his immediate family, his parents. In an article published by Times of Israel, Zelensky explained how his morals came from his two Jewish parents, who told him to never lie (Cramer, 2022). Even with the mere example of his parents teaching him to never lie, the takeaway is that Zelensky has always allowed his community to shape his actions. Thus, when Zelensky works to fulfill his obligation of leading his country in the present, his efforts to protect Ukraine, his country and community, allow him to act not only as a communitarian, but also as a morally courageous individual.

Amidst a war from Russia in the present, Zelensky's community-oriented, moral courage appears at center stage for the rest of the world to observe through the media. Zelensky has continuously put his country first, even when facing danger to his own life. For example, Zelensky refused the US' offer to leave Ukraine, proclaiming "I need ammunition, not a ride" (Braithwaite, 2022). Similarly, among his immediate work community, Zelensky is described in a Forbes article as "someone who is willing to share the spotlight", (Randall, 2022). Zelensky

succeeds in inspiring his nation, as he is able to provide room for the voices of others; INC describes Zelensky as an individual whose “focus on others over fear or ego is an example to leaders of all stripes everywhere” (Stillman, 2022). By acting with community-oriented morals amidst adverse risk, Zelenskys serves as an example of a morally courageous individual.

Moving on to the comparison between Putin and Zelensky; we see two vastly different approaches to handling the conflict. Zelesnky has emerged as a national hero, He is navigating point-to-point with a clear end in sight. The goal in mind is to turn back the Russian invasion and protect Ukraine’s independence. He is communicating brilliantly with his own people and citizens across the world, seemingly getting better as the days pass. He is using established channels — and undoubtedly back-door ones — to talk to leaders around the world and enlist their support, aid, and resources (Walsh, 2022). On top of all of this, Zelensky shows us courageous leadership is alive and well on the global stage. His work on behalf of his country is raising the bar, not only for other national leaders, but for many ordinary people, who see with new clarity and focus on what is right. Some would credit his acting experience as a big part of his natural charisma that helps him thrive in this role (Wilson, 2022). Putin takes a more vicious approach but still supports what he believes is best for his country. He asserts his dominance and uses fear tactics to drive his ideals, but by doing so he is able to achieve the goals he believes are right. Putin teaches us that the international community is willing to allow geopolitical thuggery in exchange for short-term material gain, such as access to fossil fuels. Both leaders have all eyes on them and are serving as an inspiration for the world. Putin and Zelensky's approaches are far from the same, but that's the beauty of studying moral courage.

What are the ethical responsibilities of NATO and of the international community?

Authors: Kenneth Rhee, David Chen, Anna Lieggi, Melissa Yasui, Yuval Pollack

Citizens around the world had protested once the Russia-Ukraine War began and many begged their governments to intervene on behalf of the Ukrainian people. While logistical and political issues have gotten in the way of military aid, the international community does have an

ethical responsibility to protect the Ukrainian people. While many doctrines and Resolutions establish an ethical responsibility to protect citizens, the most clear duties of the international community are “those provided in Chapters VI through VIII of the U.N. Charter,¹¹ [which requires the U.N.] to help protect populations against mass atrocity crimes when a state is “manifestly failing” to protect its population” (Genser, 2018).

The U.N. has repeatedly established a precedent for intervening when human rights are being violated and through their endorsement of the R2P doctrine at the 2005 World Summit, intervening in places where human rights abuses are being committed is now required by International Law. R2P is the “Role to Protect” doctrine which the U.N. established to prevent mass atrocities, including genocide, war crimes, and other actions that fall under crimes against humanity. It comprises three main sections that each serve a purpose in mitigating conflict. The first pillar is a state’s responsibility to protect their own citizens, which is done through the international community urging states to take action against conflict in their country. If the first pillar fails, the second pillar is about the international community aiding a country that has failed to protect their citizens. The international community’s responsibility to help a state can be through economic assistance, medical supplies, or various other non-military means. If both pillars fail, the third pillar is in place which establishes the international community’s responsibility to protect the citizens if the state is failing. The third pillar is usually carried out through military means; this includes the deployment of troops, weapons, and organized military operations.

R2P has been utilized in many operations overseas, more specifically in the Middle East and Africa, and through these instances its effectiveness has been proven. When R2P is used with the support of the State in power or the support of neighboring states it is proven to be very effective. However, the effectiveness of R2P is also dependent on whether military groups have been established in nearby areas and how quickly they can be deployed. The U.N. R2P intervention in Côte d'Ivoire met all of those criteria and is viewed as a success by the international community. After political instability in the area from shifts in power between the previous president and the recently elected one, a semi-civil war had broken out. As a result of this conflict, the Security council adopted, “Resolution 1975, which reiterated UNOCI’s “all necessary means' ' mandate to “protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence . . . including to prevent the use of heavy weapons against the civilian population” and imposed

targeted sanctions against Gbagbo and his inner circle for the “obstruct[ion of] the work of UNOCI” and the “commi[ssion of] serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law”⁹¹ (Genser). U.N. troops were able to operate successfully since they were given the authority to intervene in instances where human rights abuses were being committed without having to wait for other authorities to approve their actions, something that risks valuable time. This specific intervention established the precedent for swift military action by the U.N. in instances where human rights abuses are occurring. Ukraine meets the criteria that would lead to a successful U.N. intervention as Zelensky would be open to receiving aid, neighboring countries have already expressed support, and the U.N. has troops in the area that could be deployed. Russia’s actions in Ukraine are crimes against humanity as they continue to bomb cities, hospitals, and people’s homes. By refusing to intervene in the conflict, the U.N. is avoiding their legal and ethical responsibility to aid citizens around the world.

According to NATO’s website, their basic points state that “NATO’s purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.” As Ukraine is not one of its thirty member countries, it does not owe them any military protection. Any action to officially acquire Ukraine as a member of NATO could be seen dangerously by Putin and potentially trigger a third world war involving nuclear weapons, which would have disastrous consequences and is an outcome that must be avoided. NATO recognises this as well as the threat the Russian Federation poses to international security in their 2022 Strategic Concept, calling Russia “the most significant and direct threat to the Allies’ security and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.” NATO does not aim to engage in any military confrontation, and instead is responding appropriately by supporting Ukraine in non-confrontational ways and leaving the option for communication open in aims of peace. Their support for Ukraine includes supplying weapons, humanitarian relief, and billions of dollars in further fiscal support. Despite previous partnerships, it does not consider Russia to be one of their partners due to recent aggression and hopes to settle this situation. NATO has stationed armed forces in countries near Russia’s Eastern side such as Estonia, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia in order to deter further Russian Expansion. Furthermore, Allies planned to bolster their Response Force by nearly 260,000, aiming to have a total of 300,000 troops ready to relieve the effects of war and fight if necessary (Graham, 2022). Starting in February of 2022, the Allies have also imposed harsh economic sanctions on Russia, which slowly is crippling their economy

and contributing to inflation. As the war drags on longer and longer, it will become harder for Russia to adequately supply themselves to fight and Putin will be forced to either cease his attack or consider diplomatic options with the rest of the world.

The international alliance NATO does not technically owe Ukraine itself any protection as Ukraine is not a member of NATO. Although Russia may be the country that NATO was aimed at stopping – including the spread of communism, it is still well-known that the point of NATO was for member states of their organization to be the ones that they would be willing to protect. Whilst some people may argue that NATO's neglect to the Ukraine conflict may project weakness onto their organization, as it shows they are unwilling to fight the Russian military, most experts and NATO themselves understand that direct involvement will likely make the conflict much larger than it actually is. When considering what action NATO should take, they should also take into account a few possible consequences of their actions – if they aren't directly fighting in the war against Russia, then it's very likely that Russia will be able to win the conflict by means of their superior military. On the other hand, if NATO does end up taking action, then it would drag all 30 member-states into the conflict, as they have all agreed to protect each other in the case of an attack. "When one member declares war, all nations are at war". This means that if NATO chooses not to attack, then they would in a way be able to demonstrate themselves as sticking to their own morals. Because ethical means doing the right thing whilst following morals aligns more with doing what you personally think is the correct course of action, NATO being unwilling to divert actual troops to the conflict can still secure their stance as a moral agent in this conflict. NATO only has a responsibility to members that are a part of the military alliance. Since "NATO's essential and enduring purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of all its members by political and military means", if the conflict does end up coming to their country's borders, then it may be time to act. But until that happens, NATO can still preserve its stance as a moral agent through only economic action against Russia.

NATO's purpose is to "safeguard the freedom and security of all its members by political and military means," according to their official website. Ukraine is not officially a member of NATO so the organization does not have to help Ukraine during their crisis. The United Nations was made for "maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights' ". While NATO and the International Community does not have any specific official reason or obligation to help

Ukraine, they do have an ethical responsibility. The term ethical means involving questions of right and wrong. Russia and Ukraine have been in conflict for many years and it all led up to Putin's invasion of Ukraine. While there are many reasons as to why Putin invaded, it all conflicts with the ethics of NATO and the International Community. According to Mark F. Cancian, a Senior Advisor of the International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, "Putin's decision to attack a neighbor and inflict terrible suffering on its citizens was deeply immoral. The citizens of Ukraine had freely chosen independence and their government. Putin had no right to override that choice, regardless of his reading of history" (Cancian). Putin's attack on Ukraine is brutal and unethical. NATO and other countries cannot sit back and watch the whole conflict unfold since it will undoubtedly continue, worsen, and perhaps even spread. Thus, NATO and the International Community have an ethical responsibility to combat Russia's forces and help Ukraine.

Overall, while many have wanted and pleaded with different governments to help Ukraine during its crisis, there are many obstacles that have come in the way. Recently, the ethical and official obligations of Nato and the international community have come into question. The U.N. has intervened in situations where human rights have been violated with their R2P doctrine through various means including non-military and military means. The refusal of U.N. to intervene in the conflict between Ukraine and Russia although it meets the criteria that shows that employing R2P would be effective reflects the avoidance of the U.N of their ethical responsibility to help citizens globally. Furthermore, NATO promises its members freedom and security but seeing as Ukraine is not a member, NATO is not required to help. Additionally, adding Ukraine as a member could be seen as a threat to Russia and trigger a dangerous third world war. This is why NATO is not doing anything military related but is instead helping Ukraine non-confrontationally. In conclusion, NATO's actions demonstrate it sticking to its morals as its only responsibility is to its member states although ethically, not getting involved military wise may be seen as the wrong decision.

The war and the international community- can we chart a new path for peace?

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Summary: The war in Ukraine has dragged on for months, killing tens of thousands of people. Russia is still refusing to give up, but does not gain any territories. Could the UN somehow change everything and stop the war? No, there is nothing that the UN could have done to stop Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The UN is already doing the best they could by sending armaments, and financially sanctioning Russia, doing anything more would result in a world war. But as the war drags on longer, it will become much easier for peace talks to occur, Putin would realize it is pointless to waste more resources and time trying to conquer all of Ukraine.

Introduction: On February 24, 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine. Causing thousands of deaths and damage to many of the country's infrastructure, and the person behind all of it is Putin. President Valdimir Putin wants to regain the sovereign nations of the former Soviet Union. With the invasion of Ukraine many raise the question of where other stressed areas in former Soviet Union republics may be headed—and what NATO would be doing in the future to prevent another country being invaded.

In this project held by UCI youth ethics during the summer of 2022 help sought out is there potential for the United States and its partners to rethink their approaches to the region and chart a new path for peace? We created many scenarios and effectiveness on what NATO or Ukraine could do to try and stop the conflict. Is there potential for the United States and its partners to rethink their approaches to the region and chart a new path for peace?

A. How is war spreading in Ukraine and across the world?

As Ukraine's relationship with the European Union and NATO strengthens, Russia sees this allship as a risk to their own security and personal economic growth. The war began with intensive cyberattacks, beginning in mid-January of 2022 and slowly lessened in April (Harding,

2022). The cyberattacks were less effective as Putin had intended at the start of the war, so he became more violent. On February 24, 2022 Putin stated that there would be a “special military operation”, essentially restarting the violence of the war (EkoGraf, 2022). Russia started its invasion of Ukraine through missiles and airstrikes hitting all across Ukraine, and targeting major cities such as the capital Kyiv (Harding, 2022). Directly after the military attack from Russia, Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, enacted martial law and banned all Ukrainian men ages 18 to 60 years old from leaving Ukrainian borders (Gilbert, 2022). Many Ukrainians have fled the country seeking refuge in neighboring Ukraine allied lands. The fear of war spread across Ukraine and soon after, the entire world.

The conflict in general is a major setback to the global economy because it led to rise of prices of goods and inflation to occur, which negatively impacts the economy. And COVID-19 has already declined the economy drastically, but through this crisis it hurt the economy even more (Rescue.org, 2022) in Europe, Asia, Africa. Russia and Ukraine are two large producers of natural gasses and oils, and the war caused a tremendous rise in prices in different types of fuels and with it a decline in the standard living of people around the world.

Countries around the world who are allies with Ukraine are working towards providing military, economic and human rights aid to help with the tragedies of this war. The fear of the war spilled across the borders and into neighboring territories.

B. Putin's motives

The invasion of Ukraine, or also the first war ever in Europe since WW2 started because of one person, Putin. By invading Ukraine, Russia gains no benefits. Everyone knows that the UN is going to sanction Russia, making the Russian ruble useless, so why did Putin invade Ukraine? In Putin's eyes the collapse of the Soviet Union was the worst atrocities in history, so reclaiming the “lost lands” could give him glory to his name. Since Putin held all the power in Russia, he can do whatever he wants.

C. What has been done so far by the international community?

There are many countries providing aid to the Ukraine crisis and many of these follow in the economic, military, and humanitarian support. Although many countries avoid direct involvement towards the Russia-Ukraine war, countries around the world are contributing to

protect Ukraine. The world leaders are supporting the share of their own countries' GDP (Armstrong, 2022), while also providing military aids with weapons and other equipment (Buchholz, 2022). In order to avoid a bigger war many countries are not able to join and fight along with Ukraine; however, in hopes of finding peace and help to Ukraine many international communities find ways in providing aid with financial and military factors. Not only are the international community helping with the budget to support the war, but also for the people as well. Many countries are allowing Ukraine refugees to come to their country while agreeing to let the refugees to work and study. According to Lowery, the UNHCR monitors the Ukraine refugee situation. As of April 4, there are 4.2 million refugees coming in and showing no signs of stopping (Lowery, 2022). It is unsafe to live in their homes during the war and so it is necessary for the international community to offer more refugees to stay until the war is over.

D. Some ideas related to how to end the war

There are some possibilities of ending the Ukraine-Russian war and so we will be listing what these ideas are and how effective or likely it is in ending the war. The first option that is already done is sending weapon shipments to Ukraine. Ukraine is a small nation that does not prioritize military power, so sending weapons would be very needed. This will be very effective and likely in ending the war because if countries do join the war this would cause a World War III, which is not what everyone wants. Another option is having Ukraine join NATO; however, this will not be effective and the likelihood of ending the war because if Ukraine does join NATO then that means WWIII. Since this would cause Putin to launch the nuclear bombs for Putin will know that he can't win against NATO. This method should not be used because it will bring harm to the world as a whole. Regardless, another possibility of ending the war is educating the Ukrainian soldiers and pilots more on battlefield intelligence. This would be very effective and likely to end the war since it means Ukraine would be able to win against Putin. If the U.S. helps support the defense abilities of NATO countries or allies, such as helping with the cost of soldiers from Europe this can also lead to ending the war. While, many believe that meeting world leaders to negotiate peace would help bring the crisis to an end; however, it is not. For Putin would likely stand his ground and not agree to the peace treaty. Lastly, others may think why not invade Russia? But, this could be like WWI all over again. There are many possibilities of ending the war, but also there are many consequences to these options. It is up to the world

leaders to make the best decision that does not bring harm to the people and end the war with peace.

E. Conclusion

While there are many different strategies that the UN could make, not all are ideal choices. Sending UN troops to Ukraine would definitely take back all the territories that were lost, but with the threat of a nuclear war from Russia, that is not possible. Ultimately the only path for peace would be patience, the war will slow down and then Russia would maybe consider peace negotiations.

Rebuilding Ukraine

Author: Xavier Zhao

Though the war is likely far from over, the idea of reconstruction in Ukraine afterwards has already been considered by Western leaders. In many cases, the West provides little aid to nations after warfare. If this were to happen in Ukraine, the government would be left weak and decentralized, civilians would potentially grow to resent the West, and aid provided to Ukraine during the war may be lost (Cavanaugh, 2022). If the reconstruction of Ukraine is to be most effective, it must start now.

Reconstruction of Ukraine during the war will have to be done strategically. For the agricultural sector, one of Ukraine's largest, temporary infrastructure is critical, as it will allow the nation to export millions of pounds of grains (The Editors, 2022). As for the long term, the industry needs to be modernized, such as by introducing new technologies and supporting modernized infrastructure for transportation. Considering that Ukraine has the resources and capabilities to rebuild infrastructure internally (Cavanaugh, 2022), it should be one of the first priorities. After the war, building modernized infrastructure in place of the outdated infrastructure will be crucial for Ukraine's future. In many areas of Ukraine, especially the west, fighting is scarce, providing a chance for the West to modernize and make these areas independent. By doing this, the displaced can start coming back and efforts can be focused on

more heavily-stricken areas of the country. One final step is for the West to start planning the reconstruction and future growth of Ukraine after the war.

As for the funding of Ukraine's reconstruction, a few methods have been proposed. Ukrainian leaders put the cost of reconstruction at \$750 billion while, on the higher end, the European International Bank in June estimated the cost at \$1.1 trillion (ZeroHedge, 2022). The European Union has started planning the establishment of a fund to help. This would give hundreds of billions to Ukraine over the next few years. Additionally, the fund may include loans that will only need to be paid back after reconstruction (Valero, 2022). A final option would be to use the frozen assets of Russian oligarchs. Ukrainian officials estimate this is in the range of \$300 to \$500 million Euros, nearly half or almost the whole cost of reconstruction (ZeroHedge, 2022).

Conclusion

Author: Gina Kim

Russia's prominence within the global picture as one of the most influential countries has compelled the rest of the world to direct their focus on the Russo-Ukrainian War. As expected, the presence of a war has led to substantial humanitarian efforts sweeping across nations, where millions of people have flooded sources of aid, for those currently displaced due to the crisis, with unending support. Despite this, the significant loss of life just scrapes the surface of how exposed the people of Ukraine have become to additional dangers and complications during their predicament. Specific, more vulnerable, demographics have been experiencing fiercer dangers that are now set to become more active due to the distractions war poses. Additionally, economic disturbances due to destruction of the country only serve to further cripple the war effort when expenses for artillery and ammunition are vital in being able to continue to fight against the invasion and for independence.

For months, analysts have meticulously anatomized the compounding factors and reasons involved in President Vladimir Putin's confrontation against Ukraine once its neighboring country announced its desire to join NATO. Among these discussions, much focus has also

forked off to the respective leaders of Russia and Ukraine: Putin and Zelensky. Media coverage has compared each individual's character and their choice of actions throughout this existing conflict. However, no matter the interpretation, it is clear that the effects of a superpower invading a much smaller country has caused a multitude of turbulent changes for the citizens of Ukraine. Despite the brunt of warfare that Ukraine is shouldering, the popular opinion formed about Zelensky's unfaltering leadership and vitality has undoubtedly helped in igniting public support, as well as uniting the country during its disjointment. Throughout the course of this war and as events continue to unfold, many more probabilities and questions will surface and prompt more deliberation in hopes of reaching a conclusion to this crisis which has affected the world.

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