

UKRAINE TRAGEDY: REVANCHIST AGGRESSION OR IDEOLOGICAL COMBAT

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ABSTRACT

Ukraine prospective admission into a 74 year old military alliance NATO and NATO's eastward growing footprints were considered by Russian government as threat to its national security and of the region so they preempted, and on 24 February 2022 invaded Ukraine, thus creating a fiasco which now has turned into an uncontrollable bloodstained and infra structure demolishing battlefield at the crossroads of transcontinental Russia and East European Ukraine, despite international controlled peace efforts & mediation. Although Ukraine, being the part of former Soviet Union, has strong economical, political and cultural ties with Russia but due to Russian invasion such close ties are turning to animosity and bitter relations which are likely to be carried forward to the coming generations of Russians and Ukrainians. Recently on 17 March 2023 the Hague seated International Criminal Court (ICC) declared Vladimir Putin, the Russian President, as a war criminal to issue an arrest warrant. The ICC believes on the basis of available witnesses and evidence that Russia got into multiple war crimes at Ukraine, including but not limited to unlawful deportation of children from Ukraine to Russia. This clash gives a signal that to support Ukraine the US dominated west is at crossroad with Russia by helping Ukraine through sophisticated war heads and financial aid. Deplorably, the revanchist aggression has turned into ideological combat between Russia and Europe on the battle ground of Ukraine. Consequently, the world seems transforming into multipolar world.

Keywords: NATO, Ukraine, Russia, Euro-Atlantic Security, International Criminal Court (ICC), Global Mediation, Crimea Annexation.

INTRODUCTION

This article explores the necessity to step away from the East West dichotomy, which is majorly discussed and focused by the professional authors and scholastic writers when the writings are rendered on Russia-Ukraine crisis, to move for a better and peaceful future of the region and global world. The larger picture of North-Asian situated Russia's invasion to East European Ukraine is when analyzed in US led Europe wide context, then the security fear, internal weaknesses, retarded economic domestic growth, devastating youth and scarcity of trade and business opportunities for Russia surface to grab the attention from the ashes of war. On the other hand, war experience of Ukraine narrates ruthless story of occupation, invasion, genocide, abduction and infra structure demolition.

It is therefore to avoid the misconceptions; the miscalculates of both Russia and Ukraine should be compared to each other through the same spectrum of judicious approach which may bring win-win situation for the fighting countries and the international world. Otherwise, the word will remain in the same fix as of now, as there is a strong international peace keeping institution, the United Nation (UNO), which got established after learnings from the hostilities of World War-II for global peace assurance but in this

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Ukraine Tragedy: Revanchist Aggression or Ideological Combat

war the role of UN is not strongly affirmative or substantially result leading. Rather, individual countries, namely China; Israel, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Turkey are taking lead to get this war settled with minimum damages and as early as possible.

Prima facie, this article does not give a single specific solution of the problem but steers to a more logical, adaptable and real crisis management through intelligent, compliant and fast paced solution-oriented road map.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This article examines those core issues of Russia-Ukraine war which generally are masked with the conspiracy of silence because the initiatives to manage this war and subsequent outcome are proposed by majority of those countries which were not occupied by the invading foreign forces or faced the real threat of genocide and abduction during the last great World War II. Contrarily, this crisis has backfooting with the usable past of both nations which is strongly interwoven and connected with present and affecting future of both progenies, region, and the globe.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

To maintain sanctity and accuracy of the sequence of the events occurred during this conflict the qualitative & quantitative data replicated in this article was collected through analyzing and sorting various online and printed surveys, appraising interviews of difinally and global political leaderships; questioning the critical and analytical observations given by the diplomatic and military focus groups; evaluation of feedback forms collected from jurists and news media geo-political investigators; monitoring of social media broadcasts, v-logs and website blogs through net surfing; and finally the non-prejudiced pedantic scholarly peer's review of gathered information to draw a fair, do-able and result oriented conclusion

Problem Statement

Russia-Ukraine clash could change the geo-political conditions and become a nuclear flash point if not effectively mediated for some reasonable peace accord.

Theoretical Framework

Ukraine's post war destiny will regulate the US lead Western Europe's authority in the world.

Geo-Economical Importance

The present war stressed Ukraine is located ⁽¹⁾ at intersection of two continents, Asia and Europe, being situated in the north of the sea of Azov and Black sea south of eastern Europe as the second largest country in its geography after Russia, having 600,000 sq.km and a population of 43.79 million (2021 census) adjoining with seven important countries, vis a vis; Russia, Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Belarus and Slovakia. The capital city 'Kiev' has 2.9 million inhabitants and is a hub of major scientific, cultural, industrial and educational activities in eastern Europe. It has arable land, (mercury) cinnabar, coal,



manganese, titanium ore, salt, bauxite, Sulphur, Kaolin, graphite, nickel, timber and fertile soil along with oil, gas, seed oils, petroleum etc.

The data of world bank annual report for 2021 reveals that Ukraine contributes 51 percent of global exports and leading importers were India, European Union & China. Moreover, it is attributed the bread basket of Europe because of having rich black arable land 'Chernozem' which is 70 percent of total land in Ukraine to produce high agriculture products, allegedly enough to feed half of a billion mouths. The available data ⁽³⁾ shows that it produces 18 percent of sunflower, safflower and cotton seeds which is of importance to global trade being more than half of the total sunflower oil export, 13 percent of corn seeds yielding revenue of 4.77 billion USD per year, seed oils attracting revenue of 3.75 billion USD, 12 percent barley, 8 percent of wheat & baking used meslin generating 3.11 billion USD, over 32 million hectares of its cultivated farmland. Moreover, it earns 3.36 billion USD only through its iron ore exports, alongside the export of steel, coal, paper making & transport machines, fuel and petroleum products, chemicals, electrical machinery, harvesting & agriculture equipment.

It is claimed to have substantial non & conventional hydrocarbon reserves 9 bote (billion tons of oil equivalent) and 1 trillion cubic meters of natural gas reserves and enjoys the 26th ranks for natural gas and 61st position for oil products among peer countries. Despite, being known having oil & gas reserves it still needs to import 5 percent of domestic need and demand from Russia, Germany, Belarus.

Ukraine, Western Europe & Russia Interconnections:

Ukraine, being a past soviet socialist republic for very long time, has strong bonds with Russia in culture, economics and political system. Further, Russia to establish a pro-Russian regional and global security order seized Crimea in 2014 to assure that Ukraine does not come closer with West as their associate in European Union and NATO. However, the majority of Ukraine populace has shown tilt to be the part of western Europe by giving landslide victory (76 percent) in elections of May' 2019 to their current President Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy (a renowned comedian), hailing from newly formed political party called 'servant of the People', being a strong Ukrainian voice to enter into EU and NATO. Since independence in 1991 the biggest cause of its systemic economic under performance despite having huge internal resources is bad governance and all type of corruption eroding all governmental institutes and state. Its GDP growth in thirty years, since inception to date, has gone up very little from 1,418 to 3,659 USD, compared to its neighbors like Poland & Russia whose GDP during the same period went up from 2,459 USD to 45,695 USD and 3,099 USD to 11,585 USD respectively. The shadow economy reflects that the country's tax base is wind-swept and tax rules are person specific rather than system specific because they are at the choice of tax official rather than rules driven, thus causing political and personal harassment to foreign and local investors. The monopoly, state owned enterprises, less investment calls, lack of competition are some other threats to Ukraine economy.

The current Ukraine crises deepens as it continues to grapple with poor governance, business monopolies, financial corruption and bottomless regional splits. Ukraine has long played a crucial but discounted role in the global security order. At present, this crisis is leading the start of transformed superpowers dispute that is very likely to get in the near future and involving other nations too. The recent Russian aggression over Ukraine has caused it and Europe vulnerable to currency inflation & financial war risk.

During the past nine years of Russia-Ukraine conflicts the USA & Europe took initiative and showed support to the territorial veracity and protection of the Ukraine political system but till now that could not be proved significant or sufficient.

Ukraine Post Independence Glitches

The Ukraine was the second largest and powerful republic of fifteen soviet socialist republics in USSR, being the epicenter to many of the of the then USSR agricultural production, defense industries and military bases, including but not limited to the Black Sea Fleet and multiple atomic power plants and installations. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Since its independence in 1991 Ukraine has struggled to be a sovereign state but with a sturdy angling towards the western institutions, vis a vis EU (European Union) and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). The Kyiv most of this time has struggled to balance its external relations and to connect deep internal disunions. Most of its population in western parts of the country extend more support and integration with western Europe, contrary to the majority of the populace settled in the eastern part of Ukraine which favors and wants closer ties with Russia.

Ukraine Tragedy: Revanchist Aggression or Ideological Combat

Since 1991 after the Soviet Union (USSR) disintegration the Russian government decided to keep ties with new independent Ukraine to assure regional stability and hinder polarization in the area. It was 1994 when Ukraine opted to dismantle the soviet legacy of nuclear weaponry and decided to sign the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NNPT) and in return Russia, UK & USA agreed at Budapest to maintain the territorial integrity of Ukraine. It was 1999 when Russia agreed to endorse the 'Charter of European Security' to assure the natural right of each partaking country to sign their security, treaties and or specific agreements.

During 1993-94 due to war in Abkhazia, the first Chechen war, constitutional crisis in Russia and other regional security threats many of the east European countries decided to enter NATO which angered Russia as to them it was agreed that NATO would not expand eastbound subsequent to the dissolution of Soviet Union. Later, it was 2008 when Ukraine & Georgia sought to enter into treaty of NATO at Bucharest summit but not to annoy Russia the western European allies of NATO deferred their inclusion in the treaty with an assurance that in future they may be considered for inclusion. This action of Ukraine and Georgia triggered Russian rage and their foreign minister Sergei Lavrov directly threat NATO to be dealt severely if they ever decided to include Ukraine & Georgia in any NATO defense treaty.

It was November of 2013 when Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich decided not to enter into the EU association agreement against the unicameral parliament (RADA) majority decision; rather, shown its government's intentions to be with the Russian influenced Eurasian Economic Union. This resulted the wave of famous civil unrest 'Euromaidan' causing clashes between the pro-EU populace and the pro-Russian masses in the eastern and southern part of Ukraine. Consequently, Yanukovich was removed. Sequentially, non-uniformed Russian soldiers took over the strategic locations and infrastructure in Crimea and clutched the Crimean parliament. Subsequent to the parliament seizure in March 2014 Russia politically maneuvered the situation and annexed Crimea through a disputed referendum.

It was 2014 when Crimea got invaded by Russia which subsequently began arming and abetting separatists in the Donbas region in the country's southeast. Since after the World War II this Russian invasion to Crimea was the first time for any European state to seize the land of another European state, as Russian federation being the largest country happens to be located pancontinental and traversing between eastern Europe and northern Asia. This was also the murkiest blood-stained combat event since the Balkan Wars of the 1990s, as more than fourteen thousand people died in the conflict. The annexation of Crimea by Russia shifted the global security order from unipolar US supremacy to multipolar competition between other great powerful nations.

In April 2014 this annexation by Russia led forces gave rise to another political unrest which turned into war of Donbas and caused the emergence of two quasi sates 'Donetsk People's Republic' and 'Luhansk People's Republic'. Meanwhile, two failed attempts were made in September 2014 and February 2015 to ease the conflict and bring peace in the war influenced region. Furthermore, The Normandy contact group comprising of France, Russia, Ukraine and Germany could not succeed to establish peace because except Russia the other three republics wanted to adopt the model of Minsk which is territory of Belarus having its own Charter, escutcheon, anthem, high tech park and largest modern scientific educational institutions; contrary Russia wanted a dialogue between Ukraine and the two quasi rebel states.

Later wards, in 2021 the offer of President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy for high level discussions, was rejected by Russia on the plea that until Ukraine remains the helot of US lead western Europe any discussion on peace will be ineffective.

To cater its desire to infiltrate deeper in Ukraine the Russia ignited the fire of bigotry of Russian nationalism and further annexed, internationally unrecognized, more area inside Ukraine called 'Novorossiya' or 'New Russia'. The global political analysts classify Putin's speech after annexation of Crimea as the de-facto manifesto of 'Greater Russia irredentism' to merge split parts of former Soviet Union into the present Russian geography. It was July 2021 when Putin wrote an article 'On the historical unity of Russians and Ukrainians' to establish that Russian & Ukrainians are one nation not the two of many. This article was termed vague, unreal and partisan view of history of today's Ukraine by European political analysts.

The aftermath of the war which began in February of 2014, between Russia and Ukraine and Crimea became the casualty, got bushed on 24 February 2022 when the President Vladimir Putin's announced special military operation for the demilitarization and debunking of Ukraine; consequently,

Russia attacked and captured major geography and critical establishments in Ukraine, causing damages to the sovereignty of Ukraine and instigating Europe's largest refugees crisis post the second world war.

Effects on Ukraine – Pakistan Trade

The mutual trade between Ukraine and Pakistan formally started on 16 March 1992 and got drastically increased due to demand and supply factor alongside good relations between the two countries. During the last two decades Pakistan's export got substantial climb at an annual rate of 14.9 percent; in 1996 the Pakistani exports to Ukraine were around 2.97 million which escalated well and by 2021 reached to 95.3 million. However, post 2021 Pakistan could not significantly exported to Ukraine due to its internal dooming economy and geo-political disturbances alongside the increased intensity of Russia–Ukraine crisis and development of signs of war.

Pakistan as a state got negatively affected due to Russia Ukraine conflict and consequential war because its economy has a major contribution of Ukrainian products. This war puts under threat food security of Pakistan because wheat as a grain and its flour are basic and chief food constituents consumed in Pakistan, and the last time Pakistan imported about 39 percent of domestic use wheat from Ukraine on reasonable rates, in good quality and big quantity.

The authentic international statistics reveal that during the year 2021 due to healthy trade and policies Ukraine ranked 44 in the Economic Complexity Index and 47 in total exports by earning 69.1 billion USD.

Russia – Ukraine war also sternly impacted the global fuel prices, effecting Pakistan too. Pakistan's economy experienced record gush in LNG rates because the logistic network of LNG got disturbed due to international trade restrictions in the war affected region and choking of trade routes due to military presence and fire power in the war zone. Further many LNG companies supplying to Pakistan stepped away from their trade contracts to exploit lucrative European markets to earn better rate of payment and margin of profits, this factor pushed Pakistan to purchase LNG on very high cost to meet its domestic essential needs.

Moreover, in addition to LNG the other petroleum products like fossil fuel, coal, oil which Pakistan used to import from Ukraine also came under threat and resulted a complete halt; ultimately exploiting domestic needs and pushing Pakistan to look for alternate which were high in price and causing expensive logistic arrangements. Consequently, Pakistan faced recurrent and long power issues and wraths, inflated utility bills and obstructions to other related products and services.

The trade ban on Russia is causing commotions in international businesses and worldwide inventory management, resulting rising prices of food, fuel, and fertilizers that is insinuating food security and national economy for many underdeveloped countries including Pakistan.

This price shudder has taken up the flimsy economy of Pakistan at that time when it was struggling to recover the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic and battling the threat of climate change which constituted the strong heat wave in March'22 and subsequent disastrous floods in August'22. This price escalation hit hard the Balance of Payments and Current Account Deficit of Pakistan. Pakistan being a net importer of oil, LNG, edible oil and now of wheat likely to get retarded economic growth during the financial year of 2023.

Consequently, the current account deficit went up to 17.7 billion USD in the financial year 2022 contrary to the last financial year deficit of 3.1 billion USD. Conversely, if the unprecedented effect of increased price of fuel and edible oil is taken out then the deficit boils down to 7.7 billion USD. The influence of fuel, electricity elevated price and deficiency of wheat growing volume alone took food inflation from 16.6 percent to 28.6 percent between September 2021 & September 2022 (YoY); moreover, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) got amplified from 9 percent to 23.2 percent during this period. The bilateral trade during the year 2021 between Ukraine & Pakistan was 800 million USD, inclusive of 739 million USD imports which equals to 1.3 percent of total Pakistan imports.

Similarly, the bilateral trade during the year 2021 between Russia & Pakistan was 711 million USD, inclusive of 537 million USD imports which tantamount to 1.3 percent of total Pakistan imports. To conclude, the Russia Ukraine war damaged the bilateral trade and business for Pakistan, Russia and Ukraine. Moreover, unto 2020 from 1991, Ukraine clinched arms contracts of about 1.6 billion USD in value with Pakistan. Consequently, to defend its border Pakistan purchased more than 320 Ukrainian build T-80UD series military tanks with a copiously designed ecosystem for their maintenance, ammunition and

Ukraine Tragedy: Revanchist Aggression or Ideological Combat

spare parts. Due to Ukraine-Russia war, upcoming defense deals and related supplies of spares and goods between Pakistan and Ukraine also got in jeopardy for an unpredicted period of time.

In 2022, as a good will and compassionate gesture Pakistan shipped philanthropical relief assistance to support the population of Ukraine that got affected by Russia and Ukraine war. Pakistan flung its air force C-130 Hercules aircraft to Poland to further sent this aid to Ukraine amidst to support Ukrainian civilians.

Global Cost of the War

This war has caused immense financial, geo-political, humanitarian, infra structure and emotional losses to Ukraine; nevertheless, Russia has also paid plenty and substantial fatalities in consequences to this war. It was predicted by the world bank and EU in their recent reports that an estimated amount of 349 billion USD will be required for repair and reconstruction of schools, bridges, roads, residential & office buildings, airport, hospitals, demining of land, civic amenities etc in Ukraine which is more than 1.5 times of Ukraine GDP before start of war in 2021.

Russia is the major exporter of fertilizers and petroleum but due to war could not continue its trade agreement, inventory management and trade routes so facing heavy trade losses and financial damages. Consequently, the outside world is also facing shortages, high pricing, availability, supply chain of fertilizers, petroleum and grains. The war has set off geopolitical realignment in the region. It has brought tremendous economic hardships to both nations, region and the world. It triggered the expansion of NATO and the countries like Finland and Sweden which were behaving impartial and neutral are now seeking to join NATO. It will be interesting to see whether this war affects the impartiality of the other remaining four neutral European countries, namely; Ireland, Switzerland, Malta and Austria. Due to this war the African and Middle Eastern nations are chief sufferers of the shortage of barley, cooking oil, wheat, corn etc because both fighting states were major exporters of these grains.

The war in Europe fought by Russia, which is a nuclear power, is of serious consequences in driving the world towards a major shift. This war is causing diplomatic shifts and tilts of the outside world due to influence of US, European union, UN and Russia thus resulting geo-political polarization of neutral countries.

US led European Union imposed discrete and financial sanctions on Russia consequent of Russian invasion to Ukraine and subsequently influenced countries in Europe and outside world, despite their need to import from Russia, not to purchase oil and petroleum products from Russia which is largest producer of these products, resulting unprecedented global high prices and short supplies during recent days.

To encounter the nuclear and convention war power of Russia, the NATO members & US together have provided billion-dollar worth state of the art war heads, tanks, missile, anti-tank rockets etc to Ukraine; consequently, all fighting forces are making the region vulnerable to disasters and uncontrollable damages. Putting aside the uncountable loss of human lives and food cost; this war has also serious economic costs for Ukraine and Russia due to inflation, shortages, uncertainty, unprecedented raise of foreign and domestic debts etc.

The World health Organization claims that climate pollution of the war involved region is another big challenge to the region itself and outside world. The Ukraine and Russia war conflict has crumbled massive swaths of cultivation, pastures and woodland because this war burned down forests and destroyed national parks, agriculture and farming lands. This war has harmed industrial and residential facilities; caused substantial air, water and soil contamination due to which residents are subjected to poisonous chemicals, contaminated water, fumes and toxic environment. The agriculture land in the combat zone of military conflict is not suitable to grow agriculture and food products, because the vegetation and in-habitat of this area has drawn up and amassed many health harming pollutants.

Moreover, around eight million Ukrainian people have permanently deserted their homeland and seeking refuge in other European and western countries because of this war, thus causing the highest involuntary relocation of humans after the world war-II. This war brought huge devastation to country's infrastructure resulting more than 4 million people displaced to temporary shelters and are made to live without access to pure drinking water, hygiene, basic utilities and education. The escalation of prices is not only hitting hard the common people but also creating an adverse effect to the local industry and trade worldwide; subsequently resulting unemployment, closure of businesses and industry. The shocking economies are managing to recover the raise of some unprecedented oil price

increases which aggravated when in March 2022 per barrel price of oil got up by 59 percent as compared to the last financial quarter of December 2021.

This war has increased the threat of nuclear collisions because Russia itself is a renowned global nuclear power; then again, the Ukraine being the part of former Soviet Union is a hub of lethal and nuclear war heads. Consequently, the global media reports that about 130 UR-100-N intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) with six warheads each, 46 RT-23 Molodets ICBMs with ten warheads apiece, as well as 33 heavy bombers, totaling approximately 1,700 nuclear warheads are in possession of Ukraine being inherited from the legacy of former Soviet Union.

This war disordered the world-wide financial management and goods logistics which were in a recovery phase after the COVID pandemic. The prices of grains, fertilizers, petroleum, natural gas have escalated to an unpredicted level as both Ukraine and Russia majorly contribute to supplies of petroleum, sunflower oil and wheat. Nonetheless, Russia holds the position of world's top fertilizer producer. To conclude it appears that if this conflict continues then oil prices will remain high and the gas prices will further go up by 50 percent. The world has noticed that alone in Europe, the energy prices got an unprecedented increase of 2.5 times if compared to last year because of their major reliance on Russian produced gas and energy. Further, from June'21 till April'22 the prices of palm oil and wheat went up by 56 percent and 100 percent respectively. Undoubtedly, the Russian forceful invasion to Ukraine is plunging into a serious and dangerous collapse of Euro-Atlantic security. The global tactical analyst and strategist although are unsure that how this war is going to evolve but still are predictive and suggestive through calling on various forums and writings in this context. Nonetheless, many global diplomats, international political leaders, members of civil society, universal humanitarian agencies all are working innovatively and determinedly to make peace in the war influenced Ukrainian territory and neighborhood.

To be honest, if the outcome of the war is assessed based on military strength and fire power of both countries then a clear Ukrainian victory over Russia is highly doubtful; without being prejudice to the bravery, sacrifices and courage of Ukrainian soldiers. Similarly, Russian victory in this war is only possible at extremely high human and material costs as well as high risks of ecological disaster. Russian victory even if got after massive human, environment and infra structure losses will not be conclusive; rather, will be tail gated by ferocious and protracted gorilla war fare on Ukrainian territory by the Ukrainian freedom fighters with possible danger of spilling it over and amalgamated with terrorist attacks supported by allies of Ukraine. If this happens then it will be very disastrous in nature and results because the geo-military relationship of Russia with US lead Western Europe would be impeded with bitterness and constant danger of further escalation, including the use of nuclear weapons. Such resentment if get passed to coming generations of both sides then the result would be a far reached animosity.

International Criminal Court (ICC) Warrants and Russian Defiance:

On 17th March 2023 it was disclosed, on behalf of Hague seated International Criminal Court (ICC), through the international electronic and print media that ICC has issued an arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin accusing on war crimes in Ukraine and unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children.

Simultaneously, the ICC has also issued another warrant accusing Maria Lvova Belova, the Russia's commissioner for children's rights, for similar crimes. It is thought provoking that in 2016 Russia came out of the Rome Statute and is not the member of ICC; despite, it was decided to issue warrants of the President Vladimir Putin and Commissioner Maria!!!

On 14 February 2023 Nathaniel Raymond, the director of humanitarian research lab at Yale's School of public health that is managed under the sponsorship of US State Department alleged involvement of 43 different level Russian delegates in Ukrainian child trafficking, from 43 facilities, for their political brain washing.

The commissioning of ICC has an interesting history which will be relevant to share for the apprehension of readers. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was adopted on 17 July 1998 by the vote of 120 to 7, with 21 votes abstaining. The seven countries, namely; China, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Qatar, Israel and USA voted against the treaty. Later, on 1 July 2002, the Rome Statute were formally adopted to administer, and the International Criminal Court was officially established, comprising of 18 judges who were elected in February 2003 by the Assembly of States Parties, later on 11 March 2003 they took oath in the opening meeting of the ICC.

Ukraine Tragedy: Revanchist Aggression or Ideological Combat

Moreover, the UN Commission of Inquiry (UN-CI) on Ukraine informed that they have enough evidence to believe that Russia is giving Ukrainian children to Russian foster families and forcing Russian citizenship on these children due to which most of them will be forced to live permanently in Russia under duress, although such handovers were pre-agreed but on temporary basis. The Ukrainian government claims that 16,221 children were trafficked from Ukraine. Such forced extraditions being in breach of international humanitarian law tantamount to war crime.

The other war crimes highlighted by UN-CI which were committed by Moscow comprised of rapes, killings, widespread torture etc. The large number of burial sites and mutilated civilian bodies showing signs of physical torture are reported to be found in those parts of Ukraine which were occupied by Russian troops. The report further identifies that in April 2022, more than 400 dead and or mutilated bodies of Ukrainian civilians were found in outskirts of Kiev at Bucha town. Further, in September 2022, at Iziurm in Kharkiv, some mass graves were found engulfing 450 dead bodies of Ukrainian civil and military personnel.

Moreover, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has also alleged that between March to November 2022 Russian troops committed 400 war crimes in the Kherson region during their siege of that region; Russian forces carried out an air strike on hospital and a theatre in Mariupol which was being used as a refuge for children.

The official response of Moscow against the allegations of war crime and subsequent warrants was, 'outrageous'. The spokesperson Dmitry Peskov reacted to the ICC warrants as 'null and void' while the former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev associated the warrants to toilet paper. It is not much expected of this move because the ICC is a court and not a law enforcement agency so they cannot arrest any suspect including of these cases, further they can only exercise jurisdiction within the member countries while Russia is not the signatory of ICC forum.

Conversely, it may only affect the international travelling of the Russian president to those countries who want to take cognizance of ICC warrants. However, nothing can be predicted definitely, as in recent past no one also had ever thought that Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader would end up in the Hague based court trial against war crimes in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo.

Possible Solutions of Conflict

It is now becoming necessary to find a peace solution and diplomatic road map urgently to stop this war with the threefold goals; to sanctify Ukrainian freedom and territorial cohesion; provide an 'off-ramp' to Russia to stop its incursion; and to reorganize synchronization with peace in the war affected area by crafting such security measures which may provide sagacity of sanctuary to all stake holders, including but not limited to Russia and Ukraine. Readers may question that under current fiery situation such negotiated solution would still be possible?

The right response would be 'yes'. Although no solution will be perfect, but some or more of the following suggestions despite being ostracized will be a healthier choice because flawed peace road map would be more desirable than the deadly combat in a nuclear and sophisticated deadly war heads era. *Prima facie*, Russia anticipated that Ukraine will not retort back on invasion, rather may show passive acceptance to hostility because of military supremacy of Russia. They may have predicted no meaningful involvement of other countries, as well. This grave miscalculation led to a protracted conflict, with seemingly no end in sight.

However, solution of this conflict must be a win-win situation where both fighting governments may save their integrity and face value among their populace by establishing their victories based on logical grounds. Such support and policies to be arbitrated by strong global mediators that ultimately are required to sustain the democracy, dialogue and diplomacy and to defeat aggression in the region.

The withdrawal of Russia from Ukraine even after reasonable negotiation based agreement will give opportunity to Ukraine to contend for their victory claiming that they have made a nuclear power to leave their country after a reasonable resistance and strong negotiation. They may further claim that to suffocate Russia and to control exports they have kept the south-eastern part of Ukraine where major seaports are situated and subsequently connect main trade routes. The Russian may build any strong argument, to satisfy their people, on the basis that they have saved their national economy and military influence from an unending lengthy war results, like that of Afghanistan where the wasting of blood and money caused the disintegration of Soviet union (USSR) into many pieces.

Similar to the Cyprus-Turkey and North-South Korea the Ukraine may further be divided into Ukraine led territory of the southeastern region (estimating 40,000 square kilometer of the Ukraine land) and the Russian led two quasi states of 'Donetsk People's Republic' and 'Luhansk People's Republic' subsequent to war of Donbas, while keeping internationally recognized extensive demilitarize zones.

There are instances when hostility and rivalry got ended unexpectedly like Anwar Sadat and Israel, the Good Friday agreements in Northern Ireland and Rwanda, so the world leadership and global peace guarding institutions should continue to struggle for a result that can lead to an early and nonviolent solution of this confrontation. Otherwise, the conflict between Ukraine and Russia will escalate into a large-scale conflict involving other nations of the world.

Ukraine proclaimed to join NATO for its stable and proactive security from the regional extortions and powerful neighbor invasions, subsequently this intention of Ukraine to join NATO fired back because the presence of US lead NATO forces in this region was a red flag for Russia and inclusion of Ukraine in NATO was an invite for NATO to establish their combat bases and deployment of sophisticated armory including but not limited to M1 Abrams tanks, deployment of advance missiles system like ground-launched small-diameter bombs (GLSDB) having ability to hit targets at a distance of 150km etc in the close vicinity of Russia; consequently, Russia reacted and attacked Ukraine.

Considering the geopolitical concerns and regional volatility, the global peace making institutions and political leadership of neighboring countries to advocate comprehensive independent legal classification security arrangements (i.e. Sui Generis) or declaring Ukraine a 'buffer zone' for its security, to get off the Ukraine from NATO membership chase, which is the bone of contention between the two fighting countries. Such arrangements are already successfully enforced by international community in Niue and Cook Island, Isle of man, Macau, British Virgin Island, Bermuda, Falkland, Cayman, Jarvis, Baker, Howland, Taiwan, Gibraltar etc.

Such an arrangement is crucial to protect Ukraine's sovereignty, as this will also reduce Russia's professed security dilemma. This would certainly have to include a clause that prohibits the deployment of certain types of armaments on Ukraine's territory by any neighboring or regional or global power. This solution may be a difficult choice for Ukrainian leadership to become a buffer zone but such or similar arrangement is required for effective peace making and for the preservation of the Ukrainian as well as Russian sense of security.

Interchangeably, as the Ukrainian leadership has signaled to discuss alternative security guarantees so instead of NATO membership, if Russia gets convinced, then Ukraine's sovereignty may also be maintained while remaining outside of NATO alliance, by assuring security guarantees exhibited in Article 5 of the NATO accord to Ukraine. These agreements later be ratified by the UN Security Council under Chapter VII, and this seems to be a more practical and competent peacemaking tool if compared to Budapest Memorandum.

Ukrainian constitution may be reformed in line with the highest international standards of minority protection to give reasonable autonomy for people in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions alongside protection of Russian language in Ukraine, which is the popular demand of this area. Moreover, the agreement should explicitly determine that these two regions will never hold the total of Ukraine captive towards European orientation.

This is not going to be an intricated idea for Ukrainian government because in past they ratified many clauses of Minsk agreements (series of international agreements to end Donbas war between armed Russian separatist groups and Ukraine army under Russian influence) that pitched much similar. Later an international supervising system may be adopted to ensure compliance.

There is another and better option for Ukraine to join European Union (EU) after achieving the 7 pointer reforms agenda, given by Brussels to Kyiv, on 17th June 2022, to remain qualified its candidate status for accession to the EU; instead of making efforts to get immediate membership of NATO. This will not only help Ukraine to be secured from foreign aggressions but will enhance internal management of its populace by applying high standards of civil administration and economic reforming policies required to become and remain the EU member. Such a serious future promising EU admission would be a great motivation for Ukraine to accept the provisions of any other peace plan. This will also reveal and establish that whether the Russian fears to attack Ukraine, as claimed by them, was related to their own security or instigating war against Ukraine was in fact rummaged with different motive. Nevertheless, Ukraine while

Ukraine Tragedy: Revanchist Aggression or Ideological Combat

making efforts for European integration must adopt those measures which convince Russia that this course does not magnify any security threat to Russia.

China has suggested to all stake holders of this war to recognize the significance of the principle of 'Territorial integrity' while seriously considering the '10 pointer peace formula' given by Ukrainian President Zelenskyy to conclude the detrimental war on Ukraine. The peace formula besides other negotiating point asserts on the nonnegotiable restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity; the withdrawal of all Russian troops, cessation of all hostilities and the establishment of a special tribunal to prosecute Russian war crimes.

The annexation of Crimea by Russia may be neutralized by floating an idea that world acknowledges the claim of Ukraine over Crimea and assures its support for a sovereign Ukraine but for now explore a temporary de-facto acceptance of the status quo to normalize regional economic and people-to-people relations which are presently under fire. Later when the war ashes get cold, as happened in the case of East and West Germany, the annexed Crimea may be doctored with Ukraine after referendum or some other internationally approved peaceful intervention.

There is an immediate need of cease fire in the war zone though international institutional formalized facilitation considering the regional and global effects of this war. Therefore, it is logical for either the Chairman in Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) or UN Secretary General to use their influence and diplomacy to regulate the option of global contact groups and send them out in teams of experienced mediators and envoys to negotiate win-win solution with in-war stake holders to assure an immediate or earliest cease fire to gain time and openings to negotiate complete end of all aggressions. Once the cease fire is established then the starting of humanitarian corridors and demilitarization around significant infrastructure like nuclear power stations, water filtration stations, seaports, refugee camps etc to be launched with care. Afterwards, the cease fire to be supervised by the international community like the OSCE-Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in Ukraine or the International Committee of the Red Cross or any of the auxiliaries of United Nations (UN). Later, when the war spoils settled then direct channels of communication between the two army and civilian leadership be facilitated.

Such talks could create enough time and openings to negotiate a more comprehensive cessation of fighting and aggression. Mediation efforts should continue to achieve complete peace between Russia and Ukraine.

CONCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS

To establish peace among Ukraine and Russia an unbiased and effective leadership, mediation, imagination, and compromising approach is mandatory. Simultaneously, effective mediation on European security, including but not limited to arms control, confidence and security building measures alongside minimum peaceful coexistence between Russia and the West on mutually decided principles is required. Eventually Russia, Ukraine and West must learn to live at peace as it is very difficult to change neighbors and foes as compared to friends. Whatever the end of the war be, the world will see reformation of universal powers and the regression of a unipolar world. This conflict seems steering towards a multipolar world that any one superpower cannot control despite being very strong in military establishment and or wealth.

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