

Conflicting behavior in US-Russian Relations: A Case Study of the Ukrainian Crisis

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Abstract

This case study examines the Ukrainian crisis as a manifestation of the US-Russian geopolitical rivalry, analyzing the competing interests, historical ties, and strategic moves of both nations. The research explores the political, economic, and humanitarian impacts of the conflict on Ukraine, as well as the country's strategies for survival and sovereignty. The study also discusses the implications of the crisis for global stability, particularly in the realm of destructive technologies, and proposes pathways to mitigation, including arms control agreements, norms and standards for cybersecurity, and ethical guidelines for AI and autonomous weapons.

Introduction

The Ukrainian crisis is a crucial geopolitical event of the 21st century, which describes the relation between the USA and Russia as conflicting. In fact, it marks the core of the problem, crisis, not merely a regional conflict of interest but also coming out as foreign policy disputes and struggle of hegemonic world powers with conflicting ideologies. As it could be seen it signifies confrontational behavior of two World States, the United States and Russia and consequences in terms of a third Party – Ukraine. This first part provides background on the humanitarian crisis, US-Russian rivalry over Ukraine and impacts for Ukraine. In doing so, it provides background for further analysis of the processes driving the relations between US and Russia and their impact on the Global security. (Atlantic Council, 2023) Ukrainian crisis has started in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimean Peninsula and the unrest in the eastern Ukraine. Yet, its premises can be found in half a century of the Cold War confrontation between Russia/West and internal Ukrainian crises around political stability, state-building, and economic transformation. The crisis has transformed itself into a protracted struggle that has claimed so far thousands of lives, displaced millions of people and destabilized the region. In particular, Ukraine has been a symbolic ground for competition of the candidates for world dominance – the United States and Russia. For Ukraine itself, therefore, the crisis is a matter of survival and of statehood and national identity in the geopolitical contest of the modern world. Analyzing the policies that the United States and Russia have been using in regard to Ukraine it is possible to identify their different aims and values. The United States has attempted to defend the territorial integrity and state's identity of Ukraine at the same time weakening aggression of Russia by means of sanctions, military and political assistance. Russia, for its part, has pursued policies that sought to preserve its influence in Ukraine and fended off what it regards as the western intrusion into its vital interests. At the same time, Ukraine has inherited the role of the mediator and a victim of geostrategic confrontation between two superpowers agents at once. This chapter will introduce the general description of the subject, present in detail the American, Russian, and

Ukrainian Kenneth Lee policies, and establish the effects of the American-Russian conflict on Ukraine. Thus, it is proposed to methodologically attempt to outline the specifics of the processes occurring in the context of the Ukrainian crisis and its significance for modern interstate relations.

Overview of the Topic

The Ukrainian crisis has been denied as a proxy war between the United States and Russia, thus as a continuation of the confrontation between the two systems of political and economic values: liberal democracies and authoritarian regimes. But even in this case the general or simplistic portrayal of events obscures the true historical, cultural and political antecedents of the conflict. In order to comprehend the extent of the crisis, it is crucial to analyze the national and transnational factors contributing to construction of Ukraine as one of the pivots of American-Russian confrontation. The situation in Ukraine has always been strategic and symbolic given geography of Europe and historical relation with Russia. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine has declared its independence to aspire to statehood as an independent state. However, the country had many problems, such as weak economy, political corruption and even internal conflicts between the country's west which wanted to join EU and the east which wanted to stay Russian. (Congressional Research Service, 2024). To Russia Ukraine is significant in many ways, both, politically and emotionally. Ukraine has ancient, proud roots that place it solidly within the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. Its desolation in 1991 was considered as the great diplomatic and geopolitical losses for Russia. Potential move for Ukraine joining the EU and NATO has been seen by Russia as a direct threat to its security and leadership in that region. As a result, Russia has tried to maintain Ukraine on its geopolitical orbit, undermining Ukrainian efforts to integrate with Western institutions such as the European Union and NATO, and has included the sending of troops to Crimea in 2014, and support for separatists in eastern Ukraine. The positive perspectives for the United States are that Ukraine could become an example of a democratic success story, as well as a strategic partner against Russian interference. The US has supported Ukraine economically, politically and militarily and at the same time sanctioned Russia for its aggression. These policies are reflection of other US goals such as promoting the rules-based international order and check Russia's dominance in Eastern Europe. The Ukrainian crisis also raised questions about great power's competition, the management of regional conflicts and the growing interdependence and effects of globalization. It has also revealed shortcomings of past and present international politics, it shed light on the inefficiency of the contemporary conflict regulative mechanisms and traditional geopolitical animosities as factors conditioning the modern world.

Official Policies of the United States, Russia, and Ukraine

The official policies of the United States, Russia and Ukraine in the context of the Ukrainian crisis are the result of the differences in interests and priorities of all three countries. In this sense these policies have not only help determine the direction of the conflict but also regional and potentially global developments.

United States Policies

Subsequently, Ukrainian political and economic transformation and relations with the USA have been focused on developing cooperation on the grounds of the policy of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine while countering Russian aggression. Diplomacy, economic pressure and military support have comprised of this approach towards the nation. After Russia seized Crimea in the March of 2014, driven by the US and its allies' placed sanctions on significant industries of the Russia economy, namely energy, finance, and defense. These

sanctions were supposed to force Russia change its behaviours and abide by the norms of the international community (Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, 2024). Moreover, to sanctions the United States has supplied Ukraine with large amount of equipment, weapons, training, intelligence data. Supplying anti-tank missiles and drones has helped to strengthen Ukraine's defense and show America's support in their conflict. It has also endeavored to provide a diplomatic solution of the conflict by supporting the Minsk provision and by negotiating with Russia.

Russian Policies

Russia pursued policy towards Ukraine motivated by the striving to control its neighbor and oppose the Western advances. As a state actor Russia has acted in a way that can be explained by detailed strategic, historical and ideological factors. The events of occupation of Crimea in 2014 were painted by Russia as a reaction to the desire of Crimean population to be part of Russia, by holding a voting in the context of the illegitimate referendum. Nonetheless, this action was considered by the international community as unlawful intervention in Ukraine's sovereign and territorial integrity (U.S. Army War College, 2023). Russia has funded separatist movements in eastern Ukraine and has even offered soldiers and money to prolong the conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk. These actions have been accompanied by a wider story of standing up for the rights of Russian speakers in Ukraine and against what Russia considers is an illegitimate Western puppet regime in Kyiv. Besides its activities in Ukraine, Russia has embarked on a wider overall policy of pushing down the advances of the West in the area. This has included attempts to weaken NATO and the EU through various measures that involves spreading fake news and information wars, not to mention hacking attacks directed at Ukraine and other southeastern European nations.

Ukrainian Policies

Ukraine has forged a policy towards the crisis that was based on its defense of sovereignty, the restoration of territorial integrity, and the integration with the Western institutions. After the 2014 Maidan Revolution, which saw President Viktor Yanukovich ousted by pro-European forces, Ukraine took a pro-European tack, signing an Association Agreement with the EU and embarking on "reforms to build a more democratic system, closer to European standards, and to strengthen the economy." Ukraine has been seeking international support, in part because of Russian aggression, with particular focus on the United States and its European allies. It's been critical in providing the resources to continue to bolster Ukraine's defensive capabilities and address the humanitarian and economic fallout of the crisis. Ukraine, meanwhile, has also attempted, using international legal instruments, to force Russia to account for its actions in terms of the International Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights. But it has also struggled with deep internal problems including corruption, political instability and economic difficulties. The implementation of reforms and keeping public support for its policies have been complicated by these challenges.

Impact of US-Russian Relations on Ukraine

The sequence of violence of the Ukrainian crisis has been strong and numerous for both the United States and Russia. The political, economic, and humanitarian impacts of these impacts can be also observed in Ukraine's broader strategic orientation (Rafał Śpiewak et al., 2023).

Political Impact

And the Ukrainian crisis has had a enormous influence on the trajectory of Ukraine's politics: we

see the country moving more in tow with the West. The US and its allies have given Ukraine support to continue democratic reforms and to continue to pursue integration with Western institutions. But the crisis has also made political polarization in Ukraine worse, with some urging reconciliation with Russia, others clamoring for more assertive approaches.

Economic Impact

It also had a considerable toll on Ukraine's economy: real damage to infrastructure; loss of industrial capacities in the conflict affected regions; and reduced trade with Russia. During the same time, international financial assistance and economic reforms have been a lifeline for Ukraine that limped back to relative stability and encouraged to pursue long term development goals. But reliance on external aid has also made us vulnerable and summoned serious doubts over debt sustainability.

Humanitarian Impact

It has been devastating in humanitarian terms, with millions of displaced people in need of our help. The continuing armed conflict in eastern Ukraine has proven catastrophic with civilians caught in shells, landmines and no access to basic services. Humanitarian aid has been provided by the international community, but the scale of the crisis is still huge (Rahbari, Arshadi Khamseh, & Sadati-Keneti, 2023).

Strategic Impact

Comes after the crisis has essentially rewritten Ukraine's strategic footprint by sealing a deal to pursue closer ties with the West. Part of that shift is an effort to modernize its military, enhance national security and develop resilience against Russian aggression. However, the scale of the long conflict has also brought to the fore the dilemmas of reconciling both support for external interests with the requirement for domestic stability and national unity. Finally, the Ukrainian crisis depicts how great power competition can affect a third country. Ukraine stands at the center of a complex and sometimes volatile geopolitical situation as the conflict continues, confronted by conflicting behavior between the United States and Russia (Tasente, 2023).

Research Questions

The threats posed by the Ukrainian crisis are deeply challenging to the nature of great-power competition, the durability of international norms, and the experience of smaller states accosted during geopolitical rivalries. This section enumerates the main and subsidiary research questions that are addressed in this company's study.

Primary Research Question

The primary research question focuses on the overarching issue of the Ukrainian crisis:

- What roles and impacts do the two international actors, United States and Russia play in the context of the Ukrainian crisis?

Strategic goals, behaviors and interaction between two superpowers: impacts of the two superpowers on Ukraine and the world order systematicity.

Secondary Research Questions

The secondary research questions delve into specific aspects of the crisis, providing a more granular understanding of its complexity:

- Where did US-Russian rivalry bring the world? What historic, cultural and political conditions have shaped the Ukrainian crisis?
- What has changed in the Ukrainian approach to the crisis and which steps and approaches

have been used by Ukraine in regard to great power competition?

- Other sections of the present work are dedicated to discussing the possible future developments of the relations between the United States of America and Russia concerning Ukraine and its impact on the stability of the world. US-Russian rivalry?
- How has Ukraine's response to the crisis evolved over time, and what strategies has it employed to navigate the challenges posed by great-power competition?
- What are the potential future scenarios for US-Russian relations concerning Ukraine, and how might they affect global stability?

Such questions are intended to help offer an essential framework for viewing the circumstances of the crisis, its causes and effects.

Theoretical Framework

Taking this perspective this study uses realism and structuralism theoretical Framework for analyzing the Ukrainian crisis. These theories give an understanding of reasons for actions of states and their cooperation or conflict in the multipolar world an important aspect of which is power politics.

Overview of the Applied Theory (Realism and Structuralism)

John Mearshiemer is the main proponent of the theory Realism. He talks about power, competition and survival in this theory. It based on hegemony and domination.

Realism is an international relations theory that argues that power, interest, anoint competition is a good way of explaining state behavior. Realism suggests that states exist in a system which is of international anarchy, and the main objective is to exist or survive. In this respect, it defines the state interaction, where actors, especially great powers like the USA and Russia, act competitively to enhance security.

Structuralism pays emphasis on the structures that exist and govern the relations in the international system. Mearsheimer also emphasizes the role of economic, social, and institutions in the study of the behavior of states and dynamics of international politics. Structuralism helps explain the nature of the Ukrainian crisis as a result of the structural factors causing systemic prejudice and a legacy of violence. Thus, using the combination of these two theoretical frameworks, this study attempts to analyze both the Ukrainian crisis as a micro-actor strategy and the influence of macro-social factors.

Relevance of the Chosen Theory to the Ukrainian Crisis

As for the Ukrainian crisis, the influence of realism is described in the actions and policies of the United States and Russia. Both superpowers have engaged themselves in type of policies that serve their regard and security interests irrespective of the sovereignty of Ukraine. For example, Russia's recent actions in Crimea and in Ukraine as a whole and support of separatists are aimed at preserving its interests and preventing threats from NATO enlargement. In the same vein, military aid to Ukraine, and sanctions applied on the Russia, displays United States' effort in ensuring that Russia does not continue with its aggressive nature, and supports the principles of the rules based international order. Structuralism also brings another dimension to the canvass, having identified a number of systems causes of the crisis. It seems that Human history and divided loyalty between Russian and European roots, Ukrainian thin economy, and internal conflicts have an important input into this conflict. At the same time, structuralism forces to focus on systemic features of the world politics which have aggravated the Ukrainian problem to a large extent. Thus, syncretizing both realism and structuralism, this study gives a rich picture of

the Ukrainian crisis, thus identifying both the short-term geopolitics of the conflict and the underlying structures conditioning the latter. This theoretical system can be used as a framework for studying activities and cooperation of the United States.

Discussion and Analysis

US Perspectives and Actions

America has therefore developed a complex policy towards Ukraine especially since the crisis that started in 2014 following invasion of Ukraine's Crimean region by Russia followed by the conflict in eastern region of that nation. All these policies stem from a large concept towards the support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and check on the aggression of Russia. Such components of US policy include but not limited to economic measures, provision of security aid and political diplomacy.

Key Policies Toward Ukraine

Economic sanctions have been one of the principle means through which the United States has sought to influence Russia. Since 2014, several sanctions have been placed on Russia by the US, these are personal and organizational sanctions accompanied with sectorial sanctions regarding the energy, defense and finance sectors. These measures are intended to inflict upon Russia maximum blows to its economy and diplomacy and show the outrage about the violation of the legal norms. Financial assistance that US has provided to Ukraine is programs and loan guarantees that have helped the country's economy to be restored and that have promoted the reforms. The other core element within the U.S. policy has been military help. The US has been arming Ukraine with anti-tank missiles, drones and radars, training, and intelligence support. These measures aim at strengthening Ukraine's positions in the defense against further aggression from Russia. Also, the US has upped its military deployment in Eastern Europe in order to assure allies in NATO and to act as a military precaution. Internationally, diplomatically, the United States of America has been central to the mobilization for support for Ukraine. These are providing Ukraine with support in the international actions like those within the UN, supporting EU's actions in imposing sanctions on the Ukrainian state, and participating in the negotiations of the Ukrainian conflict. The America officials have also called for respect of Ukraine's state sovereignty and the country's territorial borders in bilateral and trilateral diplomacy.

Geopolitical Objectives and Strategic Interests

The United States' policies in Ukraine are not primarily deliverance of human right or democracy because it has other aspirations and motivation. One of the primary goals speaks about confrontation with Russia in Eastern Europe and maintaining the existing after Cold War world order. Saying that Russia became an aggressor in Ukraine, the US sees these as a direct violation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-use principles of the international system. Another major goal is to support democracy and democratic institutions in Ukraine under the general program of supporting democracies in the world. To this aim, the United States encourages political and economic transitions in Ukraine as the examples of democratic successes in contrast to authoritarianism. The United States also aims at preserving NATO and other Western organizations' credibility. Supporting Ukraine in its hour of need make a loud statement to friends and foes alike that the US will not shirk its responsibilities to a friend in need. This becomes particularly significant given reports of possible aggression by Russia from its recent partners within NATO especially from Eastern Europe. Lastly, the US has its own economic benefits of inspiring the Ukrainian protest, but more so this has economic significance to the US because Ukraine is a key asset in the energy market. Being a transit country for most of

Russia's natural gas exports to Europe, Ukraine easily holds strategic importance for Europe. Thus, by helping Ukraine build a more independent and diversified energy supply system and less dependent on Russian gas, the United States and Southeast European countries seek to improve energy security not only in Ukraine but in Europe as well.

Russian Perspectives and Actions

Key Policies Toward Ukraine

The event of the Russia – Ukraine conflict has been as a result of a number of military, political and economic strategies that Russia has been using to ensure that they retain hegemony over Ukraine. Such policies stem from Russia's interests and its view of Ukraine as within her neighborhood orbit. First, the flight of Ukraine's President, Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014, and Moscow's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula later in March 2014 could be perceived as Russia's turning points in its Ukraine policy. With the pretext of the referendum, which was held in Crimea in March 2014, the Russian leadership, to legalize the/control the annexation process viewed by the global community as unlawful takeover of Ukrainian territory, thereby breaching Ukraine's territorial integrity. Next Russia converged support to the separatists in the eastern Ukraine with logistics and funds, munitions, and personnel. This support has sustained the persisting conflict in the areas of Donetsk and Luhansk. However, apart from military forces, Russia has also used economic power to force change in Ukraine. They tendered undue interference in Ukraine's internal affairs and aggressively applied political and economic external pressure: trade sanctions, energy blackmail, attempts to subvert Ukraine's economic foundations. For instance, Russia has threatened to cut supplies of natural gas to Ukraine many times due to political and economic issues that was in violation of the doctrine. Russia has also invested a lot of effort in propaganda and disinformation operations concerning Ukraine and the global public. All these actions' ultimate goal is discrediting the Ukrainian government, disseminating Russo-centric views, and sowing discord among Ukrainians and between Ukrainians and the western partners.

Geopolitical Objectives and Strategic Interests

The nature of Russia's actions in Ukraine contains multiple interconnected geopolitical aims and interests. One of the major goals is to avoid Ukraine's transition to the EU and NATO plans of various institutions and organizations. Hoaxing such integration has been seen by Russia as a direct push towards its security and influence within the region as it would result in the relocation of Western military and economic might closer to Russia's soil. Another consideration that benefits Russia is to keep control over Crimea and have a direct access to Black Sea. The Russian annexation of the Crimean Peninsula can also be seen as having a particular importance for crystal growth from the Russian military-strategic point of view: it provides Russia with the big naval base on the Black Sea, and becomes the basis for the further strengthening of the Russian position in the Mediterranean. Russian also wants to defend the Russian speaking population of Ukraine as the rights of minorities are violated. Moscow has packaged its operations in Ukraine as the protection of these people, an approach that helps to explain the actions to the population at home. Furthermore, Russia's invasion of Ukraine is the upgrade of its Foreign Policy agenda, which aims at regaining the international status of a super power. The Russia's challenge to the west in Ukraine is to assert leadership, credentials and prowess to counter west in protection of its interests. Last of all, international attitude towards Ukraine is also affected by Russian domestic factors. The conflict serves the Kremlin as a means to strengthen nationalism and to divert people's attention from internal problems, including an economy stagnation and voices of protest. This, in turn, strengthens the support for the government and its versions of the existence of Russia as a powerful state of a new type.

Ukrainian Perspectives and Reactions

Political and Economic Impacts of US-Russian Conflicts

Thus, this conflict unlocked political and economic consequences between Ukraine and its power players United States of America and Russia. In a political aspect, the crisis has brought changes in the Ukrainian domestic and foreign politics. The Ukrainian crisis began in early 2014 with protests on Maidan Square, ending with the overthrow of the pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich. Since then, Ukraine has steadily oriented further towards the west, for instance, by signing the Association Agreement with the EU, and aspiring to join NATO (Verma, 2023). Nevertheless, the conflict clearly increased the level of political division between different regions of Ukraine. As to the EU integration majority is in favor of the process, there are significant regional and cultural differences: some eastern and southern regions are more friendly to Russia than to Europe. These have led to several problems with regards to governance and national cohesion, owing to this polarity. The blow effect economically has been terrible for Ukraine since the start of the conflict. Loss and the conflict in eastern Ukraine worsened its economic situation, downsize industrial production, and lost market in Russia and damaged infrastructure. On the other hand, liberalization, international financial support and systemic changes have accelerated possible stabilization and development. Nevertheless, as has been pointed out earlier, its dependency on external assistances has introduced both weaknesses and issues on the entity's debt stability. It also demonstrated Ukraine's energy interest dependent on Russia. Objectives aimed at diversification of the energy supply and improvement of energy security were established as important priorities for Ukraine with the support of the United States and European partners.

Ukraine's Strategy for Survival and Sovereignty

Since then, Ukraine has developed a comprehensive defense policy to stem the crisis and protect the county and its sovereignty. The following are part of this strategy, building up national defense, seeking for international support and carrying out domestic reforms. Ukraine has laid significant importance on the vitalization of national defense. The government has raised military budgets, transformed its armed forces and looked for sophisticated equipment and education from their counterparts in the West. Those efforts helped Ukraine to strengthen its positions and be ready to repel Russian actions and protect its sovereignty and state borders. Another of the key activities that Ukraine has been implementing has been the search for the international support. Even since becoming an independent state, Ukraine has sought the help of the United States, EU and other partners in offering political, military and economic aid. The funds have been critical in responding to Russian aggression and strengthening the capacity of Ukraine on the global arena. At home, Ukraine has carried out measures to curb corruption, enhance the efficiency of governance, and build up democracy. These reforms are necessary for the development of Ukraine and for the preservation of support from the international community as well as for the declaration of the commitment to the values of the West. Ukraine has also used International legal tools to ensure justice against Russia for their actions. Suits done to other places including the International Court of Justice are realized aiming at issues like human rights abuses, boundary lines and compensation. In conclusion, the outcome of the attitude of Ukraine to the US-Russian conflict testifies to the clear desire of the country's leadership to survive in a very rough and hot-suffused political environment. Although the effects of the war are quite significant traumatic ones, they reflect the Ukrainian strategies for survival and sovereignty that prove the readiness to protect the country as an independent and a democratic state. (Rahbari, Arshadi Khamseh, & Sadati-Keneti, 2023)

Conclusion

Summary of Findings

The Ukrainian crisis has reminded that the US-Russian relationship, in particular since the end of the Cold War, is complicated and intense. This case study shows how the United States and Russia have acted in competing geopolitical interests, historical ties, and calculated strategic moves in a conflict that has moved Ukraine to the center stage as a battleground as much as a symbol of larger ideological and power struggles. Its policies and actions in Ukraine from a US perspective do fit into a broader strategy to counter Russian influence, to uphold the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to reinforce western alliances. The core of the United States' approach to Ukraine includes economic sanctions, military aid and diplomatic efforts designed to help the country pursue democratic aspirations and become integrated into Western institutions. What these are about, however, is not just Ukraine, but a much bigger contest over the international order and the credibility of NATO allies' commitments. However, Russia's view is based on an historical, cultural and political relationship with Ukraine. Ukraine is not just a neighboring state for Russia, but an element of its sphere of influence and its own buffer zone against NATO enlargement. The policy of Russia: — the annexation of Crimea, — support for separatists in the east of Ukraine, — economic pressure — is caused by a desire to prevent Ukraine's Western integration and of asserting its status as a great power. Domestically, Russia has also had reasons to act as it has, including pummeling nationalism and deflection from internal threats. The US-Russian conflict — its political, economic and social impacts and Ukraine's perspective and reactions — has been quite touching the root of Ukraine's sovereignty and development. The crisis has forced Ukraine closer to the West and torn it apart from within. Ukraine has weathered challenges – armed attacks, military addiction, political crises – despite reforms, defense modernization and outreach for international support. This case study findings stress that the Ukrainian conflict is part of a more general US-Russian tension. It is a crisis that underscores profound differences about what are now international norms, what is a sphere of influence, and the balance of power. It also suggests that, in the absence of a settlement to such disputes, the means available through international mechanisms are narrow, and that the real costs to countries caught in the crossfire are the large.

Possible Future Scenarios for US-Russian Relations and Global Impacts

The future direction of US-Russian relations — and their influence on global stability — are not known. Though mutual distrust runs deep and the crisis has increased risk of escalation it has also palpably shown how its actors are interdependent in dealing with shared problems. Future scenarios are possible of remaining at loggerheads or of relations thawing gradually or being outside the bounds of control from the outside. All these scenarios are of high sensitivity to global security, governance and technological development.

Destructive Technologies

They have stated that the most critical area of US-Russian relations impacting the global future is in the field of destructive technologies. Advanced weapon systems, cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence and the trend toward autonomous warfare can radically reshape the character of conflict and bring new risks to international stability.

Arms Race in Destructive Technologies

The arms race between the US and Russia of destructive technologies has been intensified by the Ukrainian crisis. Both countries have spent heavily modernizing their nuclear arsenals and hypersonic missiles that can passively evade traditional defense systems and deliver a target with unparalleled speed and precision. Avanguard hypersonic glide vehicle of Russia and Conventional

Prompt Global Strike (CPGS) program of United States are the perfect examples of this competition. Rapid proliferation of such technologies makes an escalation miscalculation more likely. For instance, hypersonic weapons reduce decision making time in a crisis, possibly to preemptively strike based on incomplete or inaccurate information. In addition, the deployment of these weapons would in turn prompt similar developments by other states in discharging this systemic threat to the international security environment.

Cyber Warfare

Another critical dimension of destructive technologies, and one with very significant implications for US-Russian relations, is cyber warfare. The countries have both accused each other of carrying out cyberattacks against each other to disrupt critical infrastructure, influence elections and steal sensitive data. In the Ukrainian crisis, cyber operations have been shown to play an important part in 21st century conflict, where Russia used cyberattacks to weaken Ukraine's government and economy. Generally, lacking clear international norms and agreements governing cyber warfare, the risks have been exacerbated. There has been some limited dialogue on cybersecurity between the United States and Russia, but to date, it has not led to serious agreements or measures building trust. With cyber growing and changing, a new commodity emerges large scale cyberattacks with catastrophic consequences is now a pressing concern.

Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems

Another area of competition between the US and Russia is in the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomous systems into military operations. Using AI technologies for warfare can dramatically accelerate decision making, facilitate better targeting accuracy and reduce the necessity for human action. Nevertheless, the deployment of autonomous weapons systems has ethical, legal and strategic questions. The military applications of artificial intelligence (AI) have been equally at the forefront of research activity in both the United States and Russia, involving large investments. Lacking international treaties on weapons of autonomous development and usage, the likelihood that these weapons will be misused either intentionally in warfare or by accident is increased. These kinds of scenarios are dangerous to the global stability.

Dual-Use Technologies and Global Implications

Dual use destructive technologies, technologies with many destructive technologies are many destructive technologies can be used for both military and civilian purposes. AI and machine learning have a transformative potential throughout healthcare, transportation and climate modeling, for example. But the use of these technologies by the United States and Russia for military purposes could hinder their beneficial applications and widen the gap between developed and developing countries. Implications for nonstate actors extend beyond the competition over destructive technologies. The more accessible their use, these technologies become, the more their acquisition and use by terrorist organizations or criminal groups become a risk. This points to the importance of international cooperation in terms of governing the spreading, development and proliferation of destructive technologies.

Pathways to Mitigation

An affirmative response to these risks calls for the United States, Russia and the international community, to engage in proactive measures. Some possible paths to mitigation may include:

- **Arms Control Agreements:** Revival and expansion of arms control agreements, especially those covering new types of destructive technologies – such as hypersonic

weapons and autonomous systems. Rather this could fit into existing frameworks, such as the New START treaty and extend beyond international participation.

- **Norms and Standards for Cybersecurity:** Agreement on non-targeting of critical infrastructure and election systems and in general norms and standards in terms of such international cybersecurity. Information sharing and joint exercises could also help to lower the risk of escalation.
- **Ethical Guidelines for AI and Autonomous Weapons:** Promoting and fostering global standards for both the creation of AI and the utilizing of autonomous weapons. As one of the approaches it could involve integration of governments, academia, and industries to ensure that those technologies are properly utilized.
- **Strengthening Multilateral Institutions:** Promoting the reinforcement of the policy function of the international organizations like the United Nations in solving the problems with destructive technologies. This could involve setting up of agencies or sub-committees that focused on the issue to track progress within countries and ensure implementation of provisions as provided in the international treaties.
- **Promoting Transparency and Dialogue:** Among them there is an increase in communication and disclosure between the United States and Russia regarding the creation and employment of destructive technologies. Theoretical diplomacy and cooperation in scientific fields might help to harmonize offender negotiations and establish confidence.

Conclusion on Destructive Technologies

A major obstacle to global stability is the competition between the US and Russia in destructive technologies. By raising the specter of the arms race and heightening skepticism — the Ukrainian crisis has magnified these risks. Not only is it premised on some severe challenges, but it also presents an opportunity to restart efforts to tackle these challenges through dialogue, cooperation and innovative solutions. That future of US-Russian relations in this domain will have very far-reaching implications not only for the two countries but for the whole international community.

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