
Trump New Approaches (Ceasefire Agreement) toward Russia-Ukraine Conflicts and Its Implications for Regional Security

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Abstract

The research article focuses on Donald Trump's new approaches toward Russia-Ukraine war and what will be the respond of the European Union of this new policy. The analysis is based on the 1983 regional security complex hypothesis proposed by Barry Buzan, Ole Waever, and Jaap de Wilde. The study utilized the ex-post facto research design. Therefore, information was acquired from secondary sources such as textbooks, newspapers, journal articles, and the internet. Analyzed evidence from these sources enabled the formation of a reliable pattern from which conclusions could be inferred. The study indicated that Why the U. S Presented wants to resolve the problem of Russia- Ukraine conflicts and what are the benefits for the United States of a ceasefire agreement? Additionally, a significant amount of Russia's gas (Nord Stream) is carried through Ukraine and transferred to other European countries and it was impacted and banned by the US and imposed sanctions on the Russian financial system, leading to the exclusion of Russian lenders from SWIFT. However, it is important to note that transfers involving Russia's energy exports were not harmed.

The study suggests that it would be advisable for the West and NATO to refrain from persuading Eastern European nations to join the military organization. Additionally, they should exercise restraint in their involvement in the political and economic affairs of Eastern Europe. Furthermore, the international community, led by the United States, should ensure that sanctions are targeted and not driven by sentimental reasons and that sanctions were lifted by the United State toward new approaches of Trump.

Key Words: Ceasefire policy Europe Union, Russian, Ukraine and USA

Introduction:

Although the Russian Federation and Ukraine have a shared history and culture, their civilizations have encountered various disagreements, conflicts, and ongoing challenges in diverse manifestations. During the post-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) era, Ukraine took steps to enhance its autonomy, while the Russian Federation aimed to establish dominance over the former Soviet territories, which it viewed as its surrounding nations. The pursuit of these foreign policy objectives by both states has resulted in security concerns and the emergence of

several crises. Historians hold different points of view regarding the establishment of the first Ukrainian state. Some argue that it emerged between the 9th and 10th centuries within the Russian Principality of Drevni in the Kiev area, while others contend that it was a Russian state rather than Ukrainian (Sönmez, Bıçakçı, & Yıldırım, 2015, s. 658). This illustrates the common historical background, contrasting ideological beliefs, and differing perspectives on national identity among the Slavic populations of Russia and Ukraine. After the Tatar destruction of the Principality of Kiev, many regional administrations took control of Ukraine's geography in 1240. Russia and the Ottoman Empire were highly influential. The Crimean Peninsula, which stretches from the Black Sea coast of Ukraine to its centre, was under Ottoman dominion for a significant period before being under Russian governance until 1917. Following the 1917 October Revolution, it became evident that many regions in Ukraine made unsuccessful attempts to establish an independent nation state. Nevertheless, Ukraine continued to be a constituent country inside the Soviet Union from 1920 until 1991.

The significance of energy security in security plans has increased due to events that occurred in the 1970s. The natural gas disputes between Russia and Ukraine in the 2000s have highlighted the necessity for regional countries to priorities and strengthen their energy security strategy. The wars have caused disagreements among the regional governments regarding their ways to ensuring the security of the energy supply (Erkan, 2015). The actions and movements that occurred in Ukraine in November 2013 laid the groundwork for the current conflict. The Russian Federation deployed military forces to the Crimean region, where a significant Russian minority resides, as the unrest escalated, further intensifying the situation and transforming it into a full-blown crisis. The incorporation of Crimea into the Russian Federation, which occurred after a vote in March 2014, caused significant global indignation and resulted in multiple institutions putting sanctions on Russia. The Ukrainian Crisis is intricately linked to other regional security concerns, and the ongoing events in this area have the capacity to impact other conflict zones and create fresh opportunities for countries in the region. The crisis has impacted the security dynamics of the entire area, revealing different types of relationships between states, such as friendliness and animosity, based on their responses. During the analysis stage, we utilise this knowledge in the context of the Regional Security Complex Theory. In addition, both countries have undergone investigation inside the same security complex, which has included the scrutiny of the cultural and historical institutions that are common to both sides of the conflict, specifically Russia and Ukraine. (Lazar 2014) Russia has consistently seen Ukraine as a crucial part of its territory. This theory holds some validity considering that Kievan Rus served as the cultural foundation of imperial Russia during the period spanning from the ninth to the thirteenth centuries. Moreover, Ukrainian Territory had been under the dominion of various empires, particularly the Russian empires, until 1917, when a temporary self-governing authority was established. Ukraine became a part of the Soviet Union again in 1919, under the name Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Despite Russia's prolonged domination over the country, some prominent personalities from Ukrainian culture, such as the 19th-century poet Taras Shevchenko, actively advocated for an independent Ukraine (Dr. Tamunopubo, Dr. Emmanuel C. MacAlex-Achinulo, 2022).

After the collapse of the USSR in 1991, Ukraine was bestowed with independence and established itself as an autonomous nation. Ukraine is one of the many states that seceded from the USSR. However, in the years after their independence, both states have been engaged in violent hostilities. The primary determinant impacting their affiliation is the demographic composition of Ukraine, encompassing individuals of diverse ethnic backgrounds, especially those of Russian descent (Gautam, 2023). Since the collapse of the USSR, Ukraine has mostly abstained from engaging in any political, economic, or security endeavors with Russia. Since achieving independence in 1991, Ukraine has predominantly pursued a foreign policy focused on the United States and the European

Union. Conversely, the Russian Federation does not recognize Ukraine as a separate entity. Due to cultural, historical, religious, and ethnic commonalities, Ukraine is considered a crucial part of Russia. Since Ukraine achieved independence, the relationship between the two countries has been greatly strained due to various issues. These include the handling of nuclear weapons from the USSR, the territorial status of the Crimean Peninsula, the distribution of the Soviet Union's portion of the Black Sea fleet, the cost of natural gas, the presence of Russian minorities in Eastern Ukraine, the status of naval ports in the Sea of Azov, and numerous other matters. After gaining independence, Ukraine had two significant revolutions that resulted in the downfall of regimes aligned with Moscow: the Orange Revolution in 2004 and the Revolution of Dignity in 2014 (DEMİR, 2022). Following the Euromaidan movement and the 2014 Revolution of Dignity, a government with pro-Western leanings assumed power. Subsequent to the coup, Russia executed a premeditated tactic by launching an invasion of Crimea in 2014 and instigating a revolt in the Donbas region, which is predominantly Russian speaking. The aggressive activities, in addition to Russia's seizure of Crimea, have endangered both the political and territorial unity of Ukraine. Ukrainians fervently sought protection and stability from NATO. Following his inauguration as president of Ukraine in 2019, Zelensky developed a stronger relationship with the United States and NATO. He actively promoted Ukraine's membership in NATO as a way to ensure the country's independence. In addition, the United States, NATO, and the European Union persistently enhanced Ukraine's infrastructure, provided military training, and prepared the nation for potential Russian aggression. The lessons drew inspiration from the Georgian and Crimean crises that occurred in 2008 and 2014, respectively (DEMİR, 2022). In 2022, Russia initiated a "Special Military Operation" against the country. However, this action does not fully account for its conflict with sovereign and independent Ukraine (Johannesson & Clowes, 2020). As time passes, the conflict becomes increasingly intricate, even if a swift conclusion was expected. While there are other causes of conflict that are up to debate, it may be argued that Russia's economic interests are the primary factor. Russia's economy relies heavily on its energy exports, mostly petroleum, which it transports through Ukraine to several European nations. Ukraine, although serving as a physical obstacle to trade between Russia and Europe, is able to engage in trade with Europe due to its extensive network of pipelines and abundant domestic energy sources. Russia harbored apprehensions about its neighboring country because to the potentiality of its accession to the European Union, which subsequently became the primary rationale for the crisis in Ukraine (Johannesson & Clowes, 2020). The Russian invasion of Ukraine at a different historical juncture is not a result of the imperialist posture of the Russian leadership, regardless of the underlying cause. The presence of conflicting ideologies of this magnitude has the capacity to disrupt the stability of the global community and, if significant nations deviate from each other, to ignite a global conflict (Gautam, 2023).

Significance of the Study:

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine presents a significant risk to regional security because to its impact on political stability, economic cooperation, and security dynamics not just in Eastern Europe but further beyond. Military intervention hampers efforts towards economic integration by severing energy supply chains, disrupting investment streams, and impeding regional commerce routes. From a political standpoint, it creates obstacles between neighboring countries and prompts individuals to question the unity of regional organizations like the EU and the Eurasian Economic Union. The conflict is causing an increase in militarization and a shift in alliances in the region, leading to destabilization. To develop effective policies that promote integration and stability, decision-makers in the region must possess a comprehensive understanding of these intricate consequences.

Theoretical Framework:

Regional Security Complex Theory, created by Barry Buzan, Ole Waever, and Jaap de Wilde in 1983, underpins this study. The theory proposes examining international security from a regional perspective to justify global regions. Advocates define the security complex as a coalition of states whose major security issues are sufficiently linked that their national security cannot be legally analyzed separately. Enmity and amity, distinct and lasting patterns of government security partnerships, constitute regional security complexes. Friendship can range from camaraderie to the expectation of protection or assistance. However, enmity is a distrustful and fearful relationship. Border, ideological, and historical disputes may cause these relationships. Major regional powers clash violently in a conflict framework. This shows that nations view each other as a danger and form alliances to address security issues. The second is a security regime, where states view each other as threats yet take steps to alleviate tensions. The third variant is a multilateral security community where governments do not expect or want violent behavior from others. The premise is that collaboration and integration can solve the security problem by uniting a chaotic set of governments. The regional security complex hypothesis views security as a social construct and suggests that securitization links member nations and affects their security. The Copenhagen School emphasizes securitization. Building a political society's shared knowledge to see something as a severe threat to a valued object and justify immediate and extraordinary actions to mitigate the threat.

The Main Causes of the Russian-Ukraine War

Western nations hold Russian President Vladimir Putin responsible for the Ukrainian crisis and the ongoing conflict. Putin is said to want to conquer Ukraine and other states to enlarge Russia and resemble the former USSR. Sweden and Finland should join NATO to strengthen their military influence in Eastern Europe and resist Russia's expansionist goals, as Ukraine is its major goal. Putin sees Russia and Ukraine as a single nation with a shared history and considers Ukraine a "artificial state" rather than a nation. Putin also views the Soviet Union's collapse as the century's greatest geopolitical disaster, which contributes to the issue. He also claimed in his address that Russia was Ukraine's sole ancestor. Putin notably wanted to invade Ukraine (Mearsheimer, 2022). Putin recognised Ukraine's sovereignty in his July 12, 2021 speech. He denied that Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, to acquire their land. As a foundation for Western and ally strikes against Russia, Ukraine intimidates and unsettles Russia.

The US's attempts to include Ukraine in a Western-led border defence against Russia show the conflict's true origin. This plan has three goals: integrating Ukrainian territory into the EU, transforming Ukraine into a liberal democracy with a focus on Western values, and joining NATO. At NATO's annual conference in Bucharest, Romania in April 2008, Georgia and Ukraine were admitted, implementing the plan. Russian officials acted quickly and forcefully to demonstrate the threat to national security and their opposition to NATO membership for either country. In addition, the Russian President warned Ukraine that joining the alliance would have irrevocable consequences. Russia would take over Crimea and other eastern territories, causing their collapse. These acts led to the 2014 Ukrainian crisis, in which Russia annexed Crimea and worsened the conflict between pro-Russian separatists and the Ukrainian government in Donbas (Falahi, 2022). NATO has trained over 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers due to its recruitment efforts. Trump also gave Kyiv defensive weapons during his term. Thus, other NATO nations upped their military aid to Ukraine. NATO-Ukraine military exercises have begun. NATO's plan is "NATO's endeavours involved providing training and weaponry to Ukraine." Washington and Kyiv were seen together

to achieve common aims. NATO membership has never appealed to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He supports NATO's expansionist ambitions and maintains a hard line towards Moscow. Additional actions included closing pro-Russian TV stations and accusing Putin's associate of treason (Arbab & Rahim, 2022). Based on this analysis, the US and its allies have failed to include Ukraine in NATO for eight years from the 2014 Ukrainian crisis and the February 2022 invasion. Thus, the topic was no longer under consideration, and NATO's expansion may not have exacerbated the war. Russia has long identified Kiev aspirations to join the bloc as one of the main causes of the conflict. Kiev NATO membership is excluded from US-Russian efforts to achieve peace in the Ukrainian conflict, EU Secretary-General Mark Rutte has confirmed. Speaking on Bloomberg TV on March 14, 2025, following his meeting with US President Donald Trump, Rutte said any security guarantees for Kyiv should be discussed after a peace agreement or ceasefire is in place. Ukraine has long sought a seat in NATO as a security guarantee to end the conflict with Russia. Moscow, however, has cited Kyiv's ambitions within NATO as a root cause of the conflict and called for Ukraine's neutrality as the basis for any settlement. Asked by Bloomberg anchor Annmarie Hordern whether Trump intended to provide Kyiv with security guarantees in its quest for peace, Rutte sidestepped the question, saying they would be necessary to "maintain a peace agreement," meaning it was premature to discuss them in the absence of an agreement. He responded affirmatively when the reporter specifically asked him whether Trump had already taken Ukraine's NATO membership off the table (RT, 15 March, 2025).

Nord Stream and Sudzha gas metering station:

Germany postponed Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline certification after Russian President Vladimir Putin admitted aiding rebel territories in eastern Ukraine and sent soldiers there. The pipeline carrying Russian natural gas directly to Europe was suspended on February 22, 2022. Scholz (2022) says his government will not recognise two self-proclaimed pro-Russian breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine's Donbas. He also advises reassessing Nord Stream 2. Scholz (2022) also planned to formally petition Germany's Economy Ministry to stop this pipeline's certification. He stressed that Nord Stream 2 must be certified to operate. After recent events, the Ministry of Economy's skilled departments will reevaluate supply security (Scholz, 2022). Germany has been chastised for its slow response to Russia's threat to Ukraine. US investors are backing a plan to activate Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, the Financial Times reported, citing sources. The conduit between Russia and Germany, which has never been put into operation, could now be used as leverage in ongoing peace negotiations in Ukraine, the newspaper suggested. The deal is being worked out by Matthias Warnig, former CEO of Swiss operator Nord Stream 2. Russia has consistently insisted it is a reliable energy supplier. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in January that Moscow was interested in resuming gas supplies to the EU, provided there were buyers. Brussels has moved to eliminate its energy dependence on Moscow after the escalation of the Ukraine conflict in 2022, and has increased its purchases of more expensive LNG from the US. Despite this, EU countries continue to buy both the pipeline fuel and LNG from Russia. The FT reported in January that EU officials were considering the possibility of resuming Russian gas imports via a pipeline as part of a possible peace deal in Ukraine, with supporters saying it could lower energy prices in Europe and boost the bloc's industrial sector (RT, 02 March, 2025). March 21, 2025. Ukraine has once again demonstrated that it is not a reliable partner in diplomacy, let alone peace. On March 19, 2025, following the US-brokered agreement in which Moscow and Kyiv committed to a mutual moratorium on any attacks on each other's energy infrastructure, Ukrainian forces reportedly launched a deliberate strike against a gas metering station in Russia's Kursk region. This was neither an accident, nor a miscommunication, nor a spurious attack: it was a calculated breach of trust and another blatant signal that Ukraine cannot

be reasoned with (Romanenko, 21 March, 2025). The Russian Investigative Committee has declared the attack on the Sudzha gas metering station on the border with Ukraine a terrorist act and has opened a criminal investigation, according to a statement. The incident, which occurred in the Kursk region, took place on March 21, 2025. The facility had previously been used to deliver natural gas from Russia via Ukraine to European consumers. Ukrainian military personnel, who had illegally invaded Russian territory, carried out targeted shelling of the station. The facility sustained significant damage, the Investigative Committee said in a statement posted on Telegram on Friday. The authorities pledged to identify and bring to justice those involved in this crime (RT, 21 March, 2025).

The Intervention of US Between Russia and Ukraine War

The Wall Street Journal reported earlier Monday that Washington had stopped funding new arms sales to Ukraine and was considering freezing arms shipments. U.S. President Donald Trump has asked the Defense Department to suspend all military aid to Ukraine following his public spat with Vladimir Zelensky, news agencies reported on March 3, 2025, citing U.S. officials. Trump has repeatedly accused Zelensky of undermining his efforts to broker a peace deal between Kyiv and Moscow. Their public spat culminated in an unprecedented spat during a meeting in the Oval Office on 28 February, 2025 after which Trump said Zelensky was disrespectful to the United States. Zelensky has insisted that a ceasefire must be tied to security guarantees from the United States and other Western countries. Trump, however, has declined to commit to specific guarantees and has ruled out making Ukraine a member of NATO or contributing U.S. troops to a possible peacekeeping mission (Youssef, 03 March, 2025). The American president keeps repeating that if Washington wants access to Ukrainian natural resources, it is because "the United States has provided Ukraine with far more aid than any other nation, hundreds of billions of dollars," and that "we are here for about \$350 billion (Marsden, 2 March, 2025). Zelensky's visit to the White House on February 28, 2025, was abruptly cut short after a heated exchange with the US president and vice president in front of the media. During the tense meeting, Donald Trump and J.D. Vance accused the Ukrainian leader of "playing with World War III" by refusing to negotiate peace with Russia. They also criticized him as ungrateful and disrespectful despite the significant military aid Washington has provided to Kiev. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov added that Kiev was not genuinely interested in a diplomatic resolution to its conflict with Russia (RT, 03 March, 2025).

US wants peace deal to end Russia-Ukraine Conflict

Russia has blamed Kiev for the collapse of 2022 peace talks and accused it of making unrealistic demands, insisting that Ukraine must abandon its aspirations to join NATO and become a neutral state, as well as recognize Crimea and four other former Ukrainian regions as part of Russia. Now the U.S. and Ukrainian negotiators are planning a meeting in Saudi Arabia, U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff told reporters on Thursday, March 6, 2025. His statement comes after a public falling out between Trump and Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky, whom the U.S. president has accused of not wanting to make peace with Russia (RT, 2025). The White House has asked the State and Treasury departments to develop proposals to ease some sanctions against Russia. The plans would be part of U.S. President Donald Trump's efforts to improve diplomatic and economic relations with Moscow and help end the conflict in Ukraine. The proposed sanctions relief could include specific Russian entities and individuals, including some business leaders, the outlet reported (RT, 03 March, 2025). The February 28, 2025 meeting, at which the United States and Ukraine were supposed to sign a rare earth agreement, attracted a lot of attention and its deliberations sparked strong opinions, especially in Europe. Adopting a judgmental attitude was seen as a moral requirement, while the White House considered a non-judgmental attitude as a necessary condition for the success of the negotiations. Zelenskyy ignored

previous White House directives, said he did not want to compromise, and maintained a wary attitude towards the White House's ability to secure peace. Instead, he seemed to be seeking emotional support for the war trauma of his people and himself, while the White House was considering such a quest in the context of the meeting (Turkia, March 4, 2025). Ukrainian Prime Minister Shmyhal said the US and Ukraine had prepared a final version of the deal, although Zelensky's aide Mykhaylo Podolyak said only a framework agreement was to be signed. But nothing was signed during the visit, which instead degenerated into a heated exchange between Trump and Zelensky in the Oval Office. At one point, an angry Trump said Zelensky was not grateful enough for US support during the war and was "playing with World War III." He said Zelensky had to "make a deal or we're out," adding: "You don't have the cards." Zelensky said there should be "no compromises" with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Shortly afterward and well ahead of schedule the Ukrainian president was seen leaving the White House. The White House later announced that the deal had not been reached and said Trump had decided to cancel the signing ceremony himself. The US president wrote on his Truth Social platform that Zelensky had "disrespected the United States in his precious Oval Office". He added: "He can come back when he is ready to make peace". It is not yet clear when the deal will be signed (Gregory, 5 March 2025). Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky received a clear message during his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump on February 28, 2025: Additional financial support depends on Ukraine's willingness to negotiate peace, U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said. His comments followed Zelensky's heated confrontation with Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance. He added that not only did the visit end abruptly without the signing of the mining deal, but it also raised concerns about the future of U.S. military aid to Ukraine. According to the Washington Post, the Trump administration is currently reviewing its financial and military commitments to Kiev. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that while Washington seeks peace for Ukraine, some European allies appear to prefer prolonging the conflict to further weaken Russia (RT, 2 March, 2025). On March 3, 2025, Trump responded on social media to an AP article quoting Zelensky, who was quoted as saying on Sunday: "A deal to end the war is still very far away, and no one has taken all those steps yet." Zelensky insisted that any peace agreement must be "fair, honest, and, most importantly, lasting." President Donald Trump said that Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky did not want peace with Russia and was exploiting American support for his own gain. Trump and Zelensky disagreed over negotiations with Russia and the terms of a possible ceasefire, with the Ukrainian leader insisting that the United States must first provide security guarantees to Kyiv. "That is the worst statement Zelensky could have made, and America will not tolerate it for very long!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "This guy does not want peace as long as he has America's support," he added (RT, 03 March, 2025). Trump's new approach to Russia is a question mark for Sino-Russian relations. For years, Washington has dreamed of a separation between Russia and China. But Trump's new approach is unlikely to achieve that goal. The Sino-Russian partnership rests on solid fundamentals: a vast shared border, complementary economies, and a shared interest in countering Western dominance. Moscow may scale back its efforts to actively weaken the United States and focus instead on strengthening its economic and security ties with Beijing. China, for its part, will be the hardest hit by Trump's new American empire. The United States will no longer rely on alliances to contain Beijing, but will instead use direct economic and military pressure. While this may make life more difficult for China, it does not necessarily mean it will succeed. China has been preparing for economic decoupling for years, and Beijing may find opportunities in a more divided Western world (Kashin, 08 March, 20225). By accepting Washington's ceasefire proposal, Ukraine achieved major short-term goals, including restoring damaged relations with President Donald Trump, even as the underlying issues at the heart of the conflict with Russia remain unresolved. On 13 March, 2025 Washington resumed

military aid and intelligence sharing, giving Kyiv a boost after more than eight hours of talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on ending the war with Russia (Hunder, 13 March, 2025). US President Donald Trump confirmed talks between Washington and Russian President Vladimir Putin on March 13, 2025, regarding an end to the Ukrainian conflict. The White House later clarified that US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff had spoken with the Russian president during his visit to Moscow. The US president welcomed the talks but expressed concern about the fate of thousands of Ukrainian troops trapped by Russian forces in the Kursk region and urged Putin to allow them safe passage. He concluded his message with a plea for their survival and a prayer. He added: "He had very productive talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday, and there is a good chance that this horrible and bloody war will finally come to an end." BUT, RIGHT NOW, THOUSANDS OF UKRAINIAN SOLDIERS ARE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY THE RUSSIAN ARMY AND IN A VERY DIFFICULT AND VULNERABLE SITUATION." I firmly asked President Putin to spare their lives. It would be a horrific massacre, the likes of which have not been seen since World War II. "God bless them all!!!" Trump wrote (Khalil, 14 March, 2025). The Putin agreement, according to the Trump agreement, stipulates that if he stops fighting for 30 days, what does that mean? That everyone there will leave without a fight? Should we let them leave after committing mass crimes against civilians? Putin asked. Trump acknowledged that "thousands of Ukrainian soldiers are completely surrounded by the Russian army and are in a very critical and vulnerable situation (RT, 14 March, 2025). On March 14, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump delivered a speech at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., adding that his predecessor, Joe Biden, "should never have let this war happen." He added, "First of all, you don't go after someone who is much more powerful than you, even with money. We gave them a lot of money and a lot of equipment. We make the best military equipment in the world, but even with all that... it's unbelievable. The U.S. president again implored Moscow to spare the lives of Ukrainian soldiers surrounded in the Kursk region of Russia Trump said (ISNA, 15 March, 2025). Putin said. "If Ukrainian troops lay down their arms and surrender, they will be guaranteed to be alive and treated with dignity," Putin added in a speech broadcast on March 14, 2025, during his talks with a U.S. envoy on a ceasefire. Trump said that "thousands" of Ukrainian troops were "completely surrounded by the Russian military and are in a very critical and vulnerable situation." President Trump firmly asked President Putin that their lives be spared. "This would be a horrific massacre, not seen since World War II," he said. Ukraine's military leadership has denied the allegations, although President Volodymyr Zelensky has admitted that his forces are under increasing pressure (News, 15 March, 2025). On the other hand, Ukrainian President Zelensky said on social media that Washington and Kyiv were calling for an immediate 30-day truce, but Putin expressed doubts about this plan, saying that important questions remained. Zelensky claimed that the United States could exert enough pressure on Russia to stop its invasion because, he asserted, Putin "will not end the war alone." "America's strength is enough to achieve this. Strong measures are needed. Strong pressure must be exerted on the only one who wants to continue this war" (News, 15 March, 2025). On March 21, 2025, Trump briefly addressed reporters outside the White House and said they had "good discussions" on Ukraine, without elaborating. U.S. President Donald Trump denied allegations that Russia had rejected his proposal for a ceasefire in Ukraine. He reiterated his optimism that the conflict would end. A reporter asked Trump if he had presented a target date for a ceasefire to Russian President Vladimir Putin. "It's not a target date, but I think we'll have a ceasefire. I think we'll get there fairly quickly," he replied (RT, 21 March, 2025). Former Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba has said that US President Donald Trump sincerely believes he can achieve "great things" with Russia. The former diplomat rejected claims that Trump was acting like a Kremlin agent by criticizing Ukraine (RT, 02 April, 2025).

European Union Policy toward Russia- Ukraine War

NATO keeps about 4,000 military members in multinational battalions spread throughout nations including Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia. Tanks, air defence systems, intelligence and surveillance teams all help to support these forces. Considered as combat-ready, the NATO military presence acts as a trip wire to trigger reinforcements should a Russian strike. Under supervision from the Ramstein airfield in Germany, NATO keeps an air policing mission in these states where it flies aircraft patrols over the four nations. Comprising ships stationed in the Baltic Sea, four multinational naval units patrol to guarantee the security of NATO allies and international waterways. NATO keeps a multinational land force of about 4,000 troops stationed in nations including Romania and Bulgaria. France has dispatched additional soldiers. American troops are stationed in several military bases in Bulgaria and Romania. The Allies send fighter detachments routinely to Bulgaria and Romania to help with national air policing. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni told reporters on the sidelines of a summit of European leaders in Brussels that Ukraine should receive NATO-level security guarantees without formally joining the U.S.-led military bloc. She rejected the idea of deploying European peacekeeping troops, arguing for a “more sustainable” solution. Meloni’s remarks come as Washington seeks a quick resolution to the ongoing military conflict between Russia and Ukraine. She stressed that any security guarantees should be backed by European, not European, forces. “Extending the same coverage as NATO countries to Ukraine would certainly be a much more effective solution than joining NATO,” she said. She said the approach would be different from full NATO membership but could still provide important security guarantees. She added that she was apparently referring to extending NATO’s Article 5 protections to Ukraine without requiring formal membership in the bloc. Article 5 states that an attack on one member is considered an attack on all (TVPWorld, 2025). The plan drawn up by France and Britain to end the conflict in Ukraine calls for a month-long ceasefire followed by the deployment of Western European peacekeepers to Ukraine, French President Emmanuel Macron said. Kiev supporters held an emergency summit in London on Sunday, in response to Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky's disastrous trip to Washington. Zelensky's visit to the White House was abruptly cut short on February 28, 2025, after his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance descended into a row in front of the media. Macron told Le Figaro newspaper on March 2, 2025, that he did not believe a peace deal could be reached following the U.S.-Russia talks, saying Russian President Vladimir Putin would seek to humiliate Ukraine, including by demilitarizing it. According to the French president, Paris and London have drawn up their own alternative plan to stop the fighting. “We want peace, but we do not want it at any price, without guarantees,” he explained (Irish, 05 March, 2025). A possible plan drawn up by France and Britain to end the conflict in Ukraine involves a month-long ceasefire followed by the deployment of Western European peacekeepers to Ukraine, French President Emmanuel Macron said, adding that France and Britain want to stop the fighting between Moscow and Kiev, but not at any cost (BBC, 2025). European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced 150 billion euros (\$157.76 billion) to lend to EU governments as part of a rearmament plan prompted by Russia's war in Ukraine and fears that Europe could no longer rely on American protection. The “ReArm Europe” project aims to make the EU “more secure and resilient,” von der Leyen said in a speech on March 4, 2025. “This is a new instrument. It will provide €150 billion in loans to member states for defense investments,” she emphasized. The EU must start “spending better and spending together” to develop its military capabilities, as the whole of Europe is currently going through a dangerous period. “Europe's security is really under threat,” the European Commission president asserted. She added that the loans should enable member

states to develop "pan-European capabilities" in areas such as air and missile defense, missile and munitions production, drone and anti-drone systems manufacturing, cybersecurity, military mobility, etc (Gray, 04 March, 2025). Hungary accused Ukraine of threatening its sovereignty after Kyiv launched a drone strike on the Druzhba pipeline on March 12, 2025. Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said that Russian crude oil deliveries through the pipeline had been temporarily halted following an attack on a metering station. Szijjarto emphasized that the Druzhba pipeline is a vital part of Hungary's energy infrastructure, stressing that if it ceased to function, oil deliveries to Hungary and Slovakia would be "physically impossible." He added that "these attacks on our energy infrastructure targeting Hungary are unacceptable," the foreign minister said. "Hungary's energy supply is a matter of sovereignty, and we expect everyone to respect it (RT, 13 March, 2025). In February 2025, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen also urged the United States to play a more active role in Ukraine, calling for the deployment of American troops there. Previously, she had claimed that peace in Ukraine could be "more dangerous" than if conflicts persisted, citing the alleged threat of a Russian attack on an EU country in the future. Moscow has repeatedly dismissed these claims as "absurd." US President Donald Trump has ruled out sending US troops to Ukraine and refused to commit to supporting a European or British military presence in the country as part of a negotiated settlement of the conflict (RT, 13 March, 2025). On March 14, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump acknowledged that "thousands of Ukrainian troops were completely surrounded by the Russian military and were in a critical and vulnerable situation" in the Kursk region, and urged Moscow to "spare" their lives. In response, Putin offered the servicemen a security guarantee and lenient treatment if they surrendered. However, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrei Sibiga stated in an interview with Japan's NHK on March 16, 2025, that the continued operations of Ukrainian forces in the Russian Kursk region would be an important factor and a key discussion point for future peace negotiations, despite the massive encirclement of troops, according to Moscow and Washington. He added that Kiev had achieved its main objectives during the offensive, but that its continued presence on Russian territory provided leverage for future peace negotiations. As General Syrsky officially announced, "we are continuing the operation in the Kursk region and we will continue to do so" (24, 2025). Professor Jeffrey Sachs stated in an interview that Starmer and Macron are fomenting war and are deeply unpopular in their respective countries. They therefore reflect no patriotic impulse within society; on the contrary, they advocate an approach that the population does not appreciate. Macron's popularity is around 18%, Starmer's is no more than 25%. The population does not support them; Europe does not want to fight. When political leaders emerge and propose peace, they will be widely welcomed. This would be a way out of the current chaos (Lukyanov, 11 March, 2025). German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock reaffirmed Berlin's commitment to Ukraine during a surprise visit to Kyiv on April 1, 2025, and announced an additional €11.25 billion (\$12.1 billion) in military aid to support the country. "In the face of the impasse between the United States and Russia, she said it was absolutely crucial that Europeans demonstrate their full support for Ukraine, and that Germany would now support them even more," Baerbock said in a statement after arriving in Kyiv (staff, 01 April,). Sweden announced on March 31, 2025, new military aid to Ukraine worth 16 billion kroner (\$1.59 billion), the largest ever granted to the Nordic country. Defense Minister Pal Jonson said at a press conference that the aim was to help Kyiv strengthen its position in negotiations aimed at ending the war. The bulk of the 9 billion kroner aid will consist of new equipment, which will be acquired through processes led by the Swedish Defense Materiel Administration (Reuters, 1 April, 2025). The Ukrainian military has launched new attacks on Russian energy facilities, despite claiming to respect a US-brokered truce regarding such strikes, the Russian Defense Ministry said on April 2, 2025. Two incidents were recorded in Russia's Kursk

region, where Ukrainian drones targeted a substation and damaged a power line in the area. These attacks caused material damage and left some 1,500 customers without power (RT, 3 April, 2025).

Efforts of the International Community and Southern Countries are called upon to play a role in resolving the conflict in Ukraine

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told American podcaster Lex Fridman that peace could only be achieved if Ukraine and Russia "sit down at the negotiating table." In a March 16, 2025, interview with popular American podcaster Lex Fridman, who is of Russian and Ukrainian descent, Modi emphasized that having Kyiv's leaders negotiate only with their allies would not lead to a peaceful resolution. "Ukraine can hold countless talks with its allies, but they will not bear any fruit. Rather, the talks must include both sides," Modi said in a podcast broadcast on March 16, 2025. He added, "Initially, it was difficult to find peace. But today, the current situation provides an opportunity for constructive and productive discussions." Modi emphasized that India's close diplomatic ties with Russia and Ukraine put it in a unique position to facilitate dialogue. He said: "I have close relations with Russia and Ukraine. I can sit down with President Putin and tell him that this is not the time for war. And I can also say in a friendly way to President Zelensky: 'My brother, no matter how many people are on your side in the world, there will never be a resolution on the battlefield. Peace can only be achieved when Russia and Ukraine sit down at the negotiating table (RT, 16 March, 2025). Slovak Foreign Minister Juraj Blunar said in an interview with RT that major non-Western powers could play a vital role in European security after the Ukrainian conflict. "Southern countries should benefit from Ukrainian security guarantees," he said on March 18, 2025, on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue, a conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics being held in New Delhi. Countries such as China, Brazil, and India have submitted peace proposals and are interested in participating. Unlike other EU members, Slovakia does not believe that the Ukrainian conflict can be resolved in Kyiv's favor through continued military support. He added that the new approaches of US President Donald Trump, who seeks to restore dialogue with Russia and end hostilities through compromise, are particularly encouraging. If peace is achieved in Ukraine, it will benefit the entire world, meaning that "all stakeholders, such as India, China, Brazil, the Global South, and the European Union, should be at the negotiating table and ensure this peace for the future (RT, 18 March, 2025). Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a press conference in Beijing on March 11, 2018, that China supports any action "contributing to a peaceful resolution" of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, as U.S. and Ukrainian officials met in Saudi Arabia to discuss ways to end the war. Beijing "hopes that all parties will reach a just, lasting, and acceptable solution," he added, adding that China is also willing to continue working with the international community to play a constructive role in the political resolution of the crisis (Ajans1, 12 March, 2025). The French president called on Russia to demonstrate its commitment to peace by accepting a US-backed 30-day ceasefire proposal after talks with his Ukrainian counterpart on March 11, 2025. "President (Volodymyr) Zelensky showed courage by accepting the US proposal for a 30-day ceasefire. It is now up to Russia to demonstrate its true commitment to peace," Emmanuel Macron said during his meeting with US President Donald Trump. He reiterated the need to end the war, while stressing that "atrocities and sabotage" must also stop. "These are all conditions that Russia must meet. He said he has confidence in President Trump's commitment to this cause," he added. Macron urged all parties to present a "concrete peace plan," a "peace plan that offers solid security guarantees for Ukraine." A peace plan that ensures lasting peace in Ukraine and Europe. A peace plan that prevents Russia from further attacks. "Ukraine is ready for an unconditional 30-day ceasefire." "However, for its implementation, Russia must stop setting conditions," he said. He held a video conference on Saturday with leaders, including Zelenskyy and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, to work on strengthening support for Ukraine and establishing lasting peace (Cakirtekin, 18 March, 2025).

Jeffrey Sachs, a professor at Columbia University (New York), stated in an interview prepared especially for the program "International Review" (Russia 24), that the Ukrainian conflict had never been at the heart of US political thinking, public policy, or national strategy. It was a game. A game the Americans intended to win. They believed NATO could expand indefinitely and that Russia would do nothing to prevent it. The most striking thing is that while American leaders call for an end to armed confrontation, Europe displays an excessive enthusiasm for war. Western Europe is now behaving with a madness that is simply outrageous. In any case, the evolution of mentalities, debates, and public statements represents a major turning point after thirty years of ideological monopoly in the United States. These changes are not yet complete, unanimous, or understood by all, but they nevertheless reflect the evolution underway. First, Ukraine is suffering a complete military defeat, and there is nothing the United States can do about it without risking an incredibly dangerous escalation. Second, Trump and his team simply have no interest in this conflict. He added that Ukraine would become the European Afghanistan. The United States would play its part, provoke, and then leave. And Ukraine would suffer what the Afghans experienced: bloodshed, war, and betrayal at the hands of an American ally (Lukyanov, 11 March, 2025). Witkoff told Fox News' Sean Hannity on March 18, 2025. The United States and Russia have agreed that Moscow and Kyiv should suspend attacks on each other's energy infrastructure, according to President Donald Trump, noting that Putin accepted his proposal to suspend strikes on Ukrainian energy infrastructure for 30 days and supported a ceasefire at sea (TR, 19 March, 2025).

Trump raised the possibility of the United States owning Ukrainian power plants

On March 19, 2025, President Trump called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and expressed his opinion on nuclear power plants. "The United States could take control of Ukraine's nuclear power plants. Zelensky said the United States could be very helpful in managing these plants with its expertise in electricity and utilities," the White House said in a statement. "American ownership of these plants would be the best protection for this infrastructure and would support Ukraine's energy infrastructure (RT, Trump wants US ownership of Ukraine's energy facilities – White House, 19 March, 2025)." The idea surprised officials and energy experts in Kyiv. Mr. Zelensky appeared to reject it on March 20, 2025, stating that nuclear power plants were public and could not be privatized, while welcoming economic cooperation with the American side. He added that the issue of American ownership of the plants was not directly addressed during the call. He further explained that only one of Ukraine's four nuclear power plants, the Zaporizhzhia plant, now under Russian control, was discussed during the conversation. Mr. Trump has previously demanded access to Ukraine's mineral resources, and the White House statement echoed an argument he has already applied to a potential minerals deal: that US economic involvement in Ukraine is its best security guarantee, as Russia would be less likely to target a country where America has economic interests (Méheut, 20 March, 2025). The Ukrainian president said after their call that "we only talked about one plant, under Russian occupation," referring to Zaporizhzhia Europe's largest nuclear power plant. The White House said it had "moved past" the idea of seizing Ukraine's mineral wealth during the negotiations and was now focusing on a long-term peace agreement, White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said. Kyiv was "ready" to suspend attacks on Russia's energy grid and infrastructure. Zelenskyy indicated that he did not yet consider a ceasefire to be in place, saying instead that one could be established quickly, and that his team would present the Americans with a list of the types of facilities it should include. Zelenskyy also indicated that he expected the ceasefire to apply to civilian infrastructure as well as energy facilities (Guardian, 20 March, 2025). Trump suggested the United States take operational control, or even ownership, of the nuclear power plants, which currently produce about two-thirds of Ukraine's electricity. "He said the United States could be very helpful in ensuring the

continued operation of these plants," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Wednesday, March 19, 2025. "American ownership would provide the best possible protection for this infrastructure and meet Ukraine's energy needs." She added that managing Ukraine's nuclear power plants could facilitate peace efforts (Times, 20 March, 2025). Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Washington was ignoring Kyiv's violations of the US-brokered moratorium on attacks on energy infrastructure as part of the conflict with Russia. Last month, in March 2025, US President Donald Trump successfully urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to suspend strikes on energy sites. While Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky has publicly endorsed the moratorium, the Russian Defense Ministry has reported attacks on Russian infrastructure since the agreement was announced on 18 March, 2025 (RT, 2 April, 2025).

Ukraine-Russia War: Implications For Regional Security

The long and terrible struggle that ensued when Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, has captured the attention of people across the globe due to the threat it poses to international stability. Concerning security measures in particular, the conflict has caused major shifts in the way national and international politicians think. Several European countries' continental energy strategy have changed as a result, and alliances have been restructured between EU member states and those outside the bloc (Brighi and Guisti 2023). Asia has also seen the effects of the conflict, which have shifted regional power dynamics. Global food security (Hall 2023) and economic security are intertwined in this conflict, making it a major security risk with far-reaching implications. Concerning ramifications for European nations and other parts of the globe, this war's global scope affects several factors, including economic stability and food security. Ukraine is Europe's largest country by land area. Ukraine's geopolitics are key. H. Mackinder's "Heartland Theory" places Ukraine in the Eurasian Heartland. Russia sees Ukraine as a strategic barrier and buffer zone between them and Europe because to its location. Ukrainian strategic relevance is also shown in Russian Near-Abroad Policy. Ukraine has been home to several tribes and principalities. From the mediaeval time to the present, it has been home to multiple states. The founding of Kiev in the 9th century was a major event in Russian history. This incident gave Ukraine a distinctive place in Russian history. Throughout history, Ukraine has been a battleground between numerous power centres. European and Russian regional powers have always seen the Ukrainian regions as a key transit point and a protective barrier. Since the 12th century, Russian has used "Ukraine" to refer to a country's border. This use is intentional. This issue is important to many Russians' views on Ukraine. Most Russian scholars and people perceive Ukraine as part of Russia's history and narrative rather than as a separate nation. Russians who view Ukraine as part of their hinterland consider an independent Ukraine a transitory state. The two major European security complexes and the Post-Soviet territory in Eurasia are divided, therefore this is not a coincidence. Ukraine is strategically important because of its proximity to Russia, which has energy resources and is vital to the transition. Ukraine may grow by refurbishing and expanding Soviet-era power plants, despite ranking 29th in energy reserves with 29 billion cubic metres. Russia typically exports energy to EU countries via Ukraine pipelines due to its strategic location. Seven pipelines link Russia and Ukraine. Ukraine strategically positioned itself in the centre of the European distribution channel and uses it for policy. Ukraine has often clashed with Russia over its position. (Al & Özdil, 2017, p. 162) Ukraine supplies 80 percent of Europe's pipeline gas. This accounts for 50% of Russia's gas exports. Russia tries to prevent Ukraine from joining NATO and the EU. Page 52, Keskin The Western alliance values Ukrainian geopolitics, according to strategist Brzezinski. Brzezinski supported for EU and NATO expansion into eastern Europe, including Ukraine, in the 1990s. Brzezinski highlighted France, Germany, and Poland's unique roles in Europe through collaboration. This alliance's effectiveness would be enhanced by incorporating Ukraine's large

population. According to Sönmez, Bıçakçı, and Yıldırım (2015), this collaboration will provide the foundation for Western European security systems and broaden Europe's geographical breadth. Buzan claims that Ukraine, Moldova, Eastern Slavic Belarus, and Russia have the lowest and greatest security intensities in the Post-Soviet Area. He claims that these states are more resilient than the Caucasus and Central Asian post-Soviet subregions. The region where these governments were created is crucial to Russia. Despite Ukraine's relatively calm environment, Russia is growing concerned about regional security threats. Ukraine's identity issue for Russia is the key reason. Unlike the autonomous southern Caucasus and Central Asian nations, Russia considers Ukraine an indivisible part of its territory. Eastern Europe is Russia's main regional link. Ukraine, which sometimes expresses anti-Russian views, and Belarus are part of this Post-Soviet Region. (Buzan & Waver, 2003,416).

Conclusion:

Ukraine's Soviet-era nuclear power plants formed the backbone of its energy grid during the war, supplying up to two-thirds of the country's electricity. While Moscow has relentlessly attacked Ukrainian thermal and hydroelectric power plants to cripple its grid, it has avoided striking nuclear facilities, which could have triggered a radiological catastrophe. In this context, the Ukrainian government has launched plans to build new nuclear reactors, arguing that this is the only viable solution to ensure long-term energy security that is why the America's business interests could come into play. Trump's ceasefire agreement between Russia and Ukraine has sparked considerable controversy. In February 2025, a meeting between Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelensky ended abruptly without a clear resolution. Trump wanted Ukraine to agree to a ceasefire with Russia, while Zelensky insisted on strong security guarantees against future Russian aggression before committing to a ceasefire. The benefits of this agreement for the United States could help ease tensions between the two countries, potentially leading to improved diplomatic relations. By brokering a ceasefire, the United States could increase its influence in the region and potentially counterbalance Russian and Chinese interests. This ceasefire could lead to increased trade and economic cooperation between the United States and Ukraine, as well as a potential reduction in the economic burden of supporting the Ukrainian war effort. However, its critics argue that the agreement could also have significant drawbacks: by legitimizing Russian aggression by agreeing to a ceasefire without adequate security guarantees, Ukraine could legitimize Russian aggression and undermine its own sovereignty. If the United States is perceived as pressuring Ukraine to sign a ceasefire without adequate concessions from Russia, this could undermine the United States' credibility as a reliable ally. Furthermore, the ceasefire agreement signed by Trump between Russia and Ukraine has significant implications for regional security. If implemented, this agreement would likely be unstable and unfair, and could lead to further conflict in the region. A ceasefire without resolving the underlying issues could exacerbate tensions between Russia and Ukraine, as well as between Russia and other European countries, creating regional instability, as other countries may feel emboldened to pursue their own expansionist ambitions. Moreover, the EU and NATO may need to play a more active role in maintaining regional security, which could lead to increased military spending and deployments. This agreement could have broader implications for global security, potentially encouraging other countries to pursue aggressive policies and on the other hand NATO diplomats said that Washington's signals announcing a possible withdrawal of its forces from Europe, combined with US President Donald Trump's efforts to merge with Russia, have sparked fears among member states. Washington's rapprochement with Moscow and the sidelining of the EU in negotiations could weaken the US-led military bloc. The US and Russia have held several high-level meetings in Saudi Arabia and

Turkey aimed at ending the Ukrainian conflict and improving diplomatic relations, and a new round of talks is expected.

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