

Security Council

LmunA 2021

Research report

Forum: Security Council

Issue: Preventing further build up on the Ukraine-Russia
conflict

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Introduction

After almost 100 years of Russian and soviet governments Ukraine finally became independent in 1991. In the following years of their independence Ukraine remained a pro-Russian country especially in the Donbas region and the Crimea, because the high number of ethnic Russians.



The Donbas area is a area at the eastern border with Russia and the Crimea peninsula lies south of Ukraine in the black sea and is connected by bridge to mainland Ukraine.

When in 2014 the Euromaidan revolution started to cut the ties with Russia and ultimately join the European union. this revolution also triggered the pro Russians groups in the Donbass area to protest and riot, because they wanted to remain closely tied to Russia, preferably even be part. In this revolution Vladimir Putin decided to annex the Crimea. This was done by unmarked Russian troops. In that same time frame the pro Russian separatist, backed by the Russian government, started to take control over parts in the region. To this date it remains a tactical political playing field which is costing lives every year.

Definition of Keywords

Euromaidan

was a wave of demonstrations and civil unrest in Ukraine, which began on the night of 21 November 2013 with public protests in Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square) in Kyiv.

Annexation

When a country takes possession of a country or a piece of land without permission or by force.

Crimea

Crimea is a peninsula located at the south of Ukraine surrounded by the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

General overview

Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union until its 1991 collapse, and since then Russia has sought to keep the neighbour in its orbit. The separatist conflict in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, known as the Donbas, short for Donetsk Basin, erupted in April 2014. That came a few weeks after Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula following the ouster of a Moscow-friendly president by a popular uprising in the capital of Kyiv.

Armed rebels in the mostly Russian-speaking eastern region seized government buildings and proclaimed "people's republics" in the Donetsk and the Luhansk regions, and the Ukrainian military and volunteer battalions moved to put down the unrest.

Ukraine and the West said Russia sent troops and weapons to the east to support the separatists. Moscow has denied those claims and insisted that Russians fighting alongside the rebels went there on their own.



Amid the hostilities, a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet traveling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was shot down on July 17, 2014, over eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board. Dutch prosecutors allege it was shot by a Russian Buk missile from an area controlled by the Russia-backed separatists. Russia denied any involvement. There are just starting the criminal trail as a result of the investigation done by the Joint Investigation Team (JIT).

for its annexation of Crimea, which wasn't recognised by most of the world, and its support for the separatists the United States and the European Union imposed sanctions on Moscow. The restrictions have halted the transfer of Western technology and blocked Russia's access to global capital markets. Russia retaliated by banning most Western food imports. However the Kremlin has repeatedly vowed that no Western sa

Flight MH17 reconstructed with its original parts

After a series of Ukraine's military defeats, France and Germany helped broker [a peace deal](#) that was signed in February 2015 in the Belarusian capital of Minsk.

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The agreement was a diplomatic coup for Russia, obliging Ukraine to grant broad autonomy to the rebel regions and declare an amnesty for the rebels. It stipulated that Ukraine would regain full control of its border with Russia in the rebel-held territories only after they elect local leaders and legislatures. Many in Ukraine saw the deal as a betrayal of national interests and opposed it.

This agreement helped end large-scale hostilities, but the cease fire did not help prevent sporadic skirmishes and efforts at a political settlement have stalled. Ukrainian officials have repeatedly pushed for revising the Minsk deal, calls that Russia has rejected.

While the separatists have asked Russia to incorporate the rebel territories, Moscow has ignored the demand, apparently figuring that those eastern regions would eventually help draw Ukraine back into Russia's orbit and thwart Kyiv's aspirations to join NATO and the EU. Russia has granted its citizenship to more than 600,000 people in the rebel-controlled regions.

Political novice Volodymyr Zelenskyy was elected president of Ukraine by a landslide in April 2019 on promises to end the fighting and root out the country's endemic corruption. He pushed successfully for a series of prisoner exchanges and sought to secure a lasting truce by pulling back troops and heavy weapons from the line of contact.

In December 2019, the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany met in Paris and reaffirmed their commitment to the 2015 peace deal, but no progress has been reached on a political settlement.

Unfortunately the lack of a lasting resolution to the conflict has fomented new tensions. The Ukrainian authorities say cease-fire violations have become more frequent in recent in the recent months, with nearly 30 troops killed this year. They also accused Russia of fuelling tensions by deploying 41,000 troops near the border with eastern Ukraine and 42,000 to Crimea, where Russia maintains a large naval base.

This has led to the largest concentration Russian troops since 2014 stated by the NATO. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said the build-up in the past months was part of readiness drills in response to what he described as threats from NATO.

Russia also has cast it as a necessary security precaution amid what it described as Ukraine's provocations along the line of control. Kremlin officials have strongly warned Kyiv against trying to use force to retake the east, saying Russia could be forced to intervene to protect civilians if they face a threat of massacre.

The newly rise of tensions is the something to keep a close eye on, because it could easily escalate to a unprecedented level.

Major parties involved

The Russian federation

Russia is one of the two countries that are in conflict. The conflict started with the annexation of Crimea by Russia. The international community has questioned the validity of the Crimean status referendum that has taken place after an armed insurrection. The international community also accused Russia of providing weapons to the pro-Russian separatist in the Donbas area.

Ukraine

The Ukrainian parliament has taken many measures in order to get back Crimea and regain control over the Donbass area. None of these attempts have been particularly successful, even with the military and political help Ukraine has received from other nations.

The United States of America

The United States has provided political, financial and military assistance to Ukraine, conducted joint military drills and regularly sent its ships into the Black Sea in a show of support. The Biden administration has raised the pressure on Russia, announcing an array of new sanctions.

Germany

Germany is one of the brokers for creating the Minsk treaty and mediates to create new ones.

France

France is the other broker for the Minsk treaty and also mediates to create new ones in the future

The NATO

The NATO is supporting Ukraine by sending troops and warcraft. This from interest of retaining a buffer state.

Timeline of key events

November 21, 2013	Yanukovich (Ukrainian president) Withdraws From EU Talks.
November 2013 – February 2014	Euromaidan protests lead to government collapse.
February 2014 – March 2014	Russia seizes the Crimea, holds illegitimate referendum.
April 2014	Russia backs pro separatist war in the Donbass area.
July 17, 2014	Passenger plane MH-17 is shot down with Russian Buk rocket.
September 5, 2014	First Minsk Agreement Signed.
February 11 – 12, 2015	Second Minsk Agreement Signed.
April 21, 2019	Volodymyr Zelensky Elected.
22 July, 2020	A new ceasefire was arranged .
April 16, 2021	The new Biden administration announced new array of sanctions against Russia

For more in depth time line click [here](#).

Previous attempts to solve the issue

As stated before the Minsk Protocol, is an agreement to halt the war in the Donbas region of Ukraine, signed by representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, the Donetsk People's Republic, the Luhansk People's Republic and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on 5 September 2014. It was signed after extensive talks in Minsk, Belarus, under the auspices of the OSCE. The agreement, which followed multiple previous attempts to stop the fighting in the Donbas, implemented an immediate ceasefire. It failed to stop fighting in Donbas, and was thus followed with a new package of measures, called Minsk II, which was agreed to on 12 February 2015. This too failed to stop the fighting, but the Minsk agreements remain the base for any future resolution to the conflict.

possible solutions

The sanctions that are currently imposed on Russia have not been enough to resolve the issue. In order to achieve this, more measures should be taken. Firstly, stronger sanctions could be imposed on Russia by, for example, targeting more important Russian officials who have not been sanctioned yet because of their position close to the president. This has not been done due to possible retaliation from Russia. Next to stronger sanctions, Ukraine could be supported with more military and economic aid.

You could also look into more peacefully options for example a referendum under the people on Crimea if they want to be independent held by the UN to ensure it legitimacy.

You could also look for a solution in creating a new treaty with better terms for both parties.

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