Committee: Security Council

Issue: The situation in Ukraine

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INTRODUCTION

Before diving into the conflict in Ukraine, first of all, there must be a clear understanding of the country's diversity. Ukraine borders Russia on the eastern side, therefore the cities in this region and the people living in these cities are friendlier towards Russia. Even the language mainly spoken in these cities is Russian. Seeing this pro-Russian stance, the people and the popular political parties in this region have an anti-European Union (EU) policy.

In opposition to this, the western side of the country borders EU member states such as Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania are in favour of joining the union. Obviously, this also means that people living in these cities and political parties, which are popular in these cities, have an anti-Russian stance. Contrary to the eastern side, the people living in this region mainly speak Ukrainian, as they do not see themselves as a part of Russia or define themselves as Russian descendants. Although the capital Kyiv is located in the north-central part of Ukraine, the city is much more lenient towards the policies of the western region. Finally, every delegate should know the last three presidents of Ukraine. Viktor Yanukovych was pro-Russia, as stated previously. Following him, Petro Poroshenko came into power who was anti-Russia. Finally, the current president of Ukraine's policy is a bit complicated. He is not a politician but, instead, he is an actor. He became famous from the TV show, "Servant of the People" where he played, funnily enough, the president of Ukraine.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Annexation

The act or an instance of annexing, or adding to something larger, especially the incorporation of new territory into the domain of a city, country, or state.

Referendum

A general vote by the electorate on a single political question which has been referred to them for a direct decision.[1] This democratic system occurs when the parliament of a government cannot decide upon an important matter and/or the issue is directly connected to people living in a region. As a result, the question at hand is asked to the people and there is a vote. The votes given are not given to political parties or politicians, but, instead, are answers to a "yes or no question".

Cyberattack

An attempt by hackers to damage or destroy a computer network or system.[2]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Euromaidan Protests (2013- March 2014)

The protests first started in Ukraine with the controversial decision of then-president Viktor Yanukovych to end talks with the EU. When the protests first started, it was just a harmless demonstration where people who genuinely thought that joining the EU would bring prosperity to their country denoted their concerns regarding the recent event. However, it only took a few days for it to turn into rioting and fighting against armed forces. The injuries and the causalities during the protests sparked even further hatred. These protests are now known as "Euromaidan Protests". A very dark milestone during the protests is November 30th, 2013 where armed forces attacked people staying in the Independence Square during the night and injured at least 79. This event resulted in many following protests however, the

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[1] https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/referendum

[2] https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/cyberattack

most notable one was probably the "March of a Million" which took place in the now iconic Independence Square. Keeping in mind that Kyiv has a population of 2.8 million people, this is an incredible number. The protests regarding Yanukovych ended after February 22nd as he fled to Russia. However, the issue was just starting as just a year later, a referendum took place in Crimea which resulted in a vast majority vote in order to join Russia and only two days later, Russia annexed Crimea. The world stage mostly condemned Russia for this act and Ukraine even called it a war crime.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the country, the eastern regions were also protesting. However, the protests were the exact opposite to the ones in Kyiv. People were out in the streets in order to show their support to the overthrown government of Yanukovych. As stated previously, people living in Eastern Ukraine have stronger ties with the Russians and are generally more welcoming towards them, so seeing that the president, who shared similar beliefs and ideologies with them, they were just as furious as people in Kyiv. This is why the issue in Ukraine is usually referred to as a civil war.

After the annexation of Crimea

After the annexation of Crimea, the already negative relations between Russia and Ukraine became even worse. Both sides have logical reasoning as to why they should claim the land. Russia states that the referendum results were in their favour and there is a huge Russian population living in Crimea. Also, there is a Russian naval base in Crimea and it is a great access point to the Black Sea which would expand Russia's interests even further. However, on the opposite side of the spectrum, Ukraine claims the land as their own because Crimea has been a part of Ukraine ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union and that there is no feasible reason for it to become Russian territory. With the lead of Ukraine and the EU, a big portion of the world stage deem the acts of Russia as illegal. Furthermore, the United Nations' resolution regarding the issue that will be further elaborated in the upcoming parts of the report holds huge importance because of its content.

2015-present day

As stated previously and will be elaborated further on, after the referendum and the annexation, UN took initiative to halt the conflict going on. Afterwards, there were also other international steps taken in order to solve the issue. The initial one was the first of the two Minsk agreements which was between the two nations taking part in the problem. However, because this step was not enough to solve the problem, five months after the first agreement, there was another step taken towards peace in the region under the name of Minsk-2. This time France and Germany were also present alongside Russia and Ukraine. As of 2019, the issue still seems far from being solved. Russia is continuing to ignore the outside world and Ukrainians all over the country are still protesting for what they believe.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Ukraine

Ukraine's involvement in this issue should be pretty obvious. They are the hosts to the conflict and all the protests going on. As stated previously in the introduction, Ukraine is politically divided into two where opposing ideas are present in the western and the eastern parts of the country. Throughout the conflict, the world stage has always been behind Ukraine supporting them in every move meanwhile condemning Russia. However, the ongoing 6 years of protesting have deeply wounded Ukraine, most notably its economy. This is perhaps why people on the western side insist on joining the EU, thinking that such an involvement in the union would bring economic prosperity above all else. Furthermore, Ukraine is the target of constant cyber-attacks which, they claim, is done by the Russian Federation which is an accusation obviously denied by their eastern neighbours.

Russia

In the eyes of the world stage, Russia is seen as the aggressor in this issue however, they deny all accusations targeting themselves. Although their annexation of Crimea has been condemned by many other countries and organizations, Russia has great motivation to support their actions. They rightfully show the referendum that was held in Crimea as an

evidence for their legitimacy. However, they should not be seen as the scapegoat in this issue as they have also been taking action towards stability in the region, most notably with the two Minsk Agreements.

The United States of America

The US is active in the issue mostly with their aid to Ukraine in the form of financial and military aid. However, US military forces are not actively fighting in the region but, instead, are training Ukrainian rebel forces to fight against the Ukrainian armed forces but, of course, there are many accusations and claims suggesting higher US involvement both military and political which are denied by the US government.

The United Nations

The United Nations' stance on this issue is very clear and straightforward. As stated in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262 (further elaborated in the upcoming parts of the report) they support the sovereignty of Ukraine. However, a problem with the UN is that this issue will probably never be discussed in the security council unless an extraordinary event occurs as the P5 members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) hold the veto powers and there is a high chance that either Russia and/or the US will veto any possible resolutions that are against their policies. This was clearly observed on May 20th, 2019 when the Security Council voted not to put this issue in their agenda.

The European Union

Seeing that the protests in Kyiv and the western regions of Ukraine is to join the EU, and relations between the EU and Russia are not so positive, it is safe to say that the relations between the EU and Ukraine are at an all-time high. Furthermore, EU have been giving substantial financial aid in order to fix the broken economy of Ukraine, which is actually one of the biggest reasons why most Ukrainians wish to join the EU.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
November 21st, 2013	Protests in Ukraine starts.

February 22nd, 2014	Viktor Yanukovych loses his power as the president of Ukraine.
March 16th, 2014	A referendum takes place in Crimea which results in a majority pro-Russian vote.
March 18th, 2014	Russian annexation of Crimea
March 27th, 2014	United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262 is adopted.
May 25th, 2014	Petro Poroshenko is elected as president of Ukraine.
September 5th, 2014	Minsk-1 Agreement is signed.
February 11th, 2015	Minsk-2 Agreement is signed.
April 21st, 2019	Volodimir Zelenskiy is elected as the president of Ukraine.

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262- This resolution adapted in the United Nations General Assembly holds a huge significance in this issue. It is crucial that all delegates read this resolution before the conference, as it clearly states that the UN does not recognize the referendum and deems Russia's annexation of Crimea as illegal. Throughout the resolution, Crimea is referred to as Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Also, there are clauses stating that the integrity and the sovereignty of Ukraine should be preserved. A hundred member states voted in favour, 11 voted against and 58 abstained this resolution. Also, there were 24 members who were absent.

Furthermore, as stated previously, the most important agreement regarding this issue are the two Minsk Agreements.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stated that the best solution possible for this issue is the implementation of the Minsk Agreements. He believes that the best

possible way to find a feasible solution for this issue is through negotiations between Ukraine and Russia.

Furthermore, although there has not been a clear action taken in this area, there have been talks regarding the deployment of UN peacekeepers to the region. Even the previous president of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko stated that the involvement of UN peacekeepers could be the "decisive factor"[3] in the conflict on February 20th, 2019.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Although the ideas for solutions in each clause will be parallel with the policies of the delegations submitting them, there must be a common topic: Obtaining peace in the region. There are many different ways this can be achieved, and this section is all about how to find reach these solutions.

First of all, the question of the possible involvement of UN Peacekeepers has been an ongoing topic of discussion for quite some time. However, UN Peacekeepers have always been a controversial topic of discussion so the delegates that will include them in their clauses should come up with strong supporting ideas.

This ongoing crisis has damaged Ukraine's economy greatly and this is actually the reason why most people want to join the EU. Some of the clauses submitted could be about prospering the country's economy.

Furthermore, another huge issue Ukraine suffers from is cyberattacks. Although these accusations are constantly denied by the Russian Federation, this issue should definitely be addressed. There should not be huge accusations or condemnations but, instead, there should be clauses which tackle the issue of cyberattacks and cyberterrorism in general.

Finally, UN-organizations, especially those which are working on human rights, should be active in the area seeing that there have been thousands of deaths since the issue first kicked off.

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[3]https://www.rferl.org/a/poroshenko-wants-un-to-move-ahead-with-peacekeeping-mission-in-eastern-ukraine/29781516.html

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