



Russian-Ukrainian Invasion Through Geopolitical

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Abstract

Russia invaded Ukraine because the geopolitical location owned by Ukraine is very strategic to expand influence into Eastern Europe. One factor that makes Ukraine a strategic geopolitical location is that Ukraine can join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). If it joins NATO, the NATO treaty states that if there is an attack on one or more NATO countries, it will be considered to be attacking all countries that are members of NATO. NATO members to date number 30 countries, including France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States. However, to date and shortly, Ukraine is unlikely to join NATO yet. This fact is being used by Russia to invade Ukraine. Russia considers the invasion of Ukraine to be a form of guarding national security. The geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine affect oil prices. This is because Russia is one of the largest oil exporters in the world and a member of OPEC+. This increase in oil prices exacerbates the inflation problems that are being experienced by countries in the world, especially developed countries such as the United States, The United Kingdom, and the European Union.

Keywords: *Economic Impact, Geopolitics, Invasion, NATO, Russian-Ukraine.*

INTRODUCTION

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has become a worldwide concern. Even though since the Cold War, Ukraine and Russia were fully united in a federative state called the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was the strongest communist country of its time. After Germany's defeat in World War II, the Soviet Union wielded considerable influence in Eastern Europe. The influence exerted by the Soviet Union made countries in eastern Europe become communist countries. In 1991, the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact collapsed. That same year, Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union in a referendum. This was approved by Boris Yeltsin, President of Russia at the time. Relations between Russia and

Ukraine have heated up again since 2014 when there was a revolution against Russia's supremacy.

Viktor Yanukovych, the pro-Russian President of Ukraine, was succeeded in being overthrown by anti-government masses. The revolution also opened Ukraine's intention to join the European Union (EU) and NATO. This infuriated Russian President Vladimir Putin over the prospect of establishing a NATO base on his border. Several Eastern European countries are increasingly closely related to NATO, like Poland and the Balkan countries. When Yanukovych stepped down, Russia took the opportunity to use the power vacuum to annex Crimea in 2014. Russia also provided support for separatists in Eastern Ukraine, namely Donetsk and Luhansk to oppose the Ukrainian government (CNBC, 2023).

The attack issue has been heating up since November 2021. A satellite image shows a new gathering of Russian military forces on the border with Ukraine. Moscow is estimated by the West to mobilize 100,000 troops along with other heavy military equipment. Western intelligence says that Russia will attack Ukraine soon. In December 2021, the President of the United States, Joe Biden warned Russia about Western economic sanctions if it attacked Ukraine. Russia denied carrying out the attack at the time. Russia is concerned about NATO moves and is making detailed security demands of the West. One of them is asking NATO to stop its military activities in Eastern Europe and Ukraine. Russia requested that the alliance never accept Ukraine or other ex-Soviet countries as members. 2012).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous research conducted by Rizky Widiasta entitled "*Bingkai Identitas Dalam Konflik Geopolitik: Intervensi Militer Rusia di Ukraina*" explained that the shared identity that a country has with other countries, namely Russia and Ukraine can be crucial which can result in unilateral actions against other countries. Then, Previous research conducted by Connie Rahakundini Bakrie, Mariane Olivia Delanova, Yanyan M Yani entitled "*Pengaruh Perang Rusia Dan Ukraina Terhadap Perekonomian Negara Kawasan Asia Tenggara*" explained and analyzed the effect of the Russian and Ukrainian wars on the economies of countries in the Southeast Asian region. Furthermore, previous research conducted by Emanuel Sani de Ornay, Nur Azizah entitled "*Kepentingan Keamanan Nasional Rusia Dalam Serangan Militer Terhadap Ukraina Tahun 2022*" explained the factors that influence Russia in carrying out its 2022 military attack policy in Ukraine and its relationship with its national interest in self-

defense. While this research looks at the conflict between Russia and Ukraine based on the geographical location of the two countries, the invasion by Russia is a form of threat if Ukraine chooses to join NATO membership. Russia sees that if this happens, it will threaten the stability of the country's security. This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods, namely using various literature reviews from journals, books, and news. The theory used in this study is Friedrich Ratzel's geopolitical theory.

METHODS

This research will try to explain the conflict between Russia and Ukraine through a geopolitical perspective using Friedrich Ratzel's geopolitical theory. Ratzel laid the foundations of a geopolitical superstructure, namely that the strength of a country must be able to accommodate the growth of its geographical conditions and position (Baehaqi, 2013). Thus, the essence of political understanding is the use of physical force in order to realize the national desires or aspirations of a nation. This is in line with the politics of power struggles and power struggles with the aim of expansion (Geopolitik Indonesia, 2012). The author will provide a correlation between the theory used and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Further analysis will be discussed in this study by explaining the impact of the Russian invasion on Ukraine discussed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

UNDERSTANDING GEOPOLITICS

The Geopolitics – “Geopolitics is the analysis of the interaction between, on the one hand, geographical settings and perspectives and, on the other, political processes. The settings are composed of geographical features and patterns and the multilayered regions that they form. The political processes include forces that operate at the international level and those on the domestic scene that influence international behavior. Both geographical settings and political processes are dynamic, each influences and is influenced by the other”. This definition in general also covers the idea of critical geopolitics with the inclusion of domestic factors as influential in international politics. However, it needs to be understood that within the critical geopolitical strand, ‘geopolitics’ is understood to be a plurality rather than a singularity, which implies that there could be multiple geopolitical visions of a particular event or phenomenon of international importance and consequently multiple interpretations.

RUSSIAN-UKRAINE INVASION

The Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has yet to find a bright spot, is a concern and focus for the international community. This started from Ukraine's desire to become part of NATO membership. Russia also refuses that it considers Ukraine's joining NATO as an external threat (existential threat) to Russia and the existence of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), namely the military alliance that houses Russia and its 8 allied countries, including Georgia and Armenia. As time goes by, tensions have increased with Russia's actions in positioning troops on the border line with Ukraine (Setiadi, 2022). Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the order for military operations in eastern Ukraine, after successfully recognizing the independence of the two breakaway territories from Ukraine. The Russian invasion began with a massive attack on the City of Kiev, Ukraine. The current Russia-Ukraine conflict when viewed through a geopolitical lens, the main issue can be said to lie in the competition between Sea Power and Continental Power. Sea Power can be interpreted as the strength of the North Atlantic military alliance called NATO (Mulyadi, 2022). While Continental Power here is Russia. In a geopolitical view, the Rimland concept developed by Nicholas John Spykman emphasizes the importance of carrying out containment of the world's strategic region known as Eurasia, to strengthen international political hegemony. Eurasia is a region that stretches from the tip of Western Europe to the tip of East Asia. While the Rimland is a region around Eurasia.

Therefore, some geopolitical experts say that Russia has a geopolitically strategic position, so it is only natural that Russia since the imperial era has always maintained its independent position in international politics, such as Russia never intending to join NATO or keeping Ukraine from joining NATO. If Ukraine joins NATO it will pose a geopolitical threat to Russia. NATO continues to expand its territory, especially on the European continent. Its territory is not far from Russia, such as the countries of Central Europe, Eastern Europe, the Baltic countries, and the Balkan countries. The West Movement is a form of Rimland's concept of "Containment of the heartland". In a geopolitical view, it is natural that one of the world's super powers (Russia) tries to prevent threats to its territory. In this case Russia is trying hard with its military power, to prevent NATO expansion which is getting closer to Russia's borders. As is known, Ukraine is a country directly adjacent to the European part of Russia, so this is a big threat if Ukraine succeeds in joining NATO. Geopolitically it will threaten Russia. Therefore, Russia continues to remind the West not to try to include Ukraine into NATO

membership. However, over time the movement of the West and Ukraine is getting closer and heading in that direction.

The support provided by the West succeeded in getting pro-Western politicians to lead Ukraine as part of their plans. You can imagine, if Ukraine succeeds in joining NATO, it will be very easy for the West to instill large-scale military forces, even nuclear-powered military equipment that is adjacent and directly adjacent to Russian territory. This is a very serious threat to Russia. Not only that, on the other hand, if Ukraine joins NATO, it could threaten Russia's history. In the concept of geopolitics, historical and cultural factors are also important components. As is known since the days of the Soviet Union, Russia and Ukraine are one nation. Even in a number of regions of Ukraine, Russian is the main language of the majority of the local population. Ukraine's joining NATO can be a historical and cultural threat to the Russian nation, given that there are a number of fundamental differences between Russia and the West. Therefore, Russia will continue to fight for its sovereignty even by using military force, until the West does not encourage Ukraine to join NATO.

Ukraine is a country with a national identity that is classified as East Slavic (Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians) and has two main ethnicities (native Ukrainians and Russians) who share a common language and culture. It is the Slavic people who always support the national vision with discourses that say that people with Russian ethnicity are not just any minority because their language and culture are part of the local identity that has been part of Ukraine for hundreds of years. In short, these East Slavic nationalists see Ukraine as a unitary state that has been formed authentically by two main ethnicities that are historically and culturally very close together so that the presence of the Russian ethnic community in Ukraine has a strong presence because their language and culture are considered something of value. Russia-Ukraine is like a double-edged sword, which comes from one root as if to give an indication that Ukraine is in the shadow of Russia. Different from other European countries which have abandoned imperialism so as to be able to clearly distinguish policies between the imperial era and the nation state, Russia still feels that it has not been able to leave the imperial pattern of the former empire era which had an obsession with military power and territorial expansion. It is for various historical reasons that Ukraine's position as a complementary region is very meaningful for Russia.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine certainly had a global geopolitical impact. Prior to the invasion, the price of crude oil had been creeping since March 2021 and penetrated US\$ 86 per

barrel in January 2022. The increase in oil prices was caused by fundamental factors, namely the surge in global demand which was not in line with sluggish and limited production levels. As soon as Russia invaded Ukraine, world oil prices soared to US\$ 100 per barrel and Asia-Pacific, European and Wallstreet stocks immediately collapsed. The prolonged political crisis is certainly a serious threat to the global economy and oil prices will continue to soar. Natasha Kaneva, Head of Global Commodities Strategy J.P. Morgan any disruption to Russia's oil supply could lead to an increase in oil prices to US\$120 per barrel and a halving of Russian oil exports would push Brent oil prices to US\$150 per barrel. Russia is the world's third largest oil producer and second largest natural gas producer. Russia exports 70% of gas to Europe via the Ukraine pipeline. With a 12% share, Russia is one of the world's largest global oil producers. Russian oil exports are transported via the Transneft pipeline system through Belarus and Ukraine that connects Russian oil fields to Europe and Asia. From the facts above, it can be seen that Russia is a key player in the geopolitical constellation in Europe and Asia.

One of the significant impacts due to the Russian invasion was energy on the European economy. Europe relies on gas supplies from Russia. Due to the surge in gas and oil, coal prices continued to rise to US\$ 270 per metric ton on the ICE Newcastle exchange. This provides an advantage for coal issuers. However, seen from the other side, it is the opposite, detrimental to various industrial sectors that rely on coal fuel. The impact is clearly visible in several European countries, China and India which use coal as a fuel for electricity generation. The European Union immediately acted by imposing economic sanctions on Russia. The European Union (EU) freezes assets and blocks banking assets. In addition, access to technology is the main key to the Russian economy. This can lead to inflation in the Russian region. The European Union and Russia are the largest trading partners with a total value of 174.3 billion Euros in 2020. Imports by the EU of 95.3 billion Euros are dominated by fuel and mining, especially petroleum (Shulman, 2004). The way the European Union, as Russia's largest investor, is by imposing economic sanctions, in order to put pressure on Russia to immediately stop its invasion. The impact of the invasion for now is only regional scale. However, it cannot be denied that if this crisis continues to prolong, it will affect the global economy, shake up financial markets, drive up the price of oil and other commodities.

Impacts that have the potential to cause damage globally depend on two things, especially the response of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the extent to which Russia achieves its invasion goals. Until now, NATO has been passively responding to Ukraine, even though Ukraine has expressed its desire to join NATO. The UN-formed resolution urged Russia

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to withdraw its troops from Ukraine, but Russia responded by attacking the largest nuclear power plant in Ukraine. There are still great hopes for the countries that are members of the G7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States). The G7 countries have global economic capacity and influence. The global economy of the G7 countries dominates 64% of the world's economic power, so there is a possibility that the G7 countries can put pressure on Russia through diplomacy (Vera, 2002). The Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, said that the steps taken by Russia as an "act of brutal war" were considered only rhetoric, that NATO would not deploy its troops. The United States, which is relied on for its military role, also emphasized that it would not send its fleet to Ukraine unless Russia carried out an attack on a NATO member country.

THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

The Russian invasion of Ukraine, which began with the annexation of the Crimea and support for separatist movements in two eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, has now culminated in a direct full-scale military assault on the entire country. Whatever one makes of the rights and wrongs of this conflict – and the invasion is certainly a massive breach of international law. By its very nature, events are not best understood as they unfold, but a number of things are already clear. First, until recently the West greatly under-estimated Vladimir Putin's willingness to take radical measures to secure what he regards as Russia's vital national interests. The Russian ex-Soviet political leadership had always treated Ukraine's entry into the Western orbit as the geopolitical castration of Russia. This caused an asymmetry in the strategic importance of Ukraine to Russia and the West; it always mattered much more to Moscow than to Washington (or London, or Brussels).

Sanctions and warnings only had a limited impact on a belligerent who sees the conflict as a just war against Western (or American) encroachment upon its vital interests. In other words, Western deterrence failed. So did the European engagement strategy. The limits of EU and member state diplomacy were stark. President Macron of France's summitry led nowhere; the longstanding German policy of enmeshing Russia in mutually beneficial trading relationships has run into the ground. One of the reasons why the sanctions against Russia will lack 'bite' is the staunch refusal by Berlin to exclude Russia from the international payments system SWIFT. This responsibility for this rests not only with the current coalition government,

but also with Angela Merkel. Whatever one thinks of her approach, the objective cost to German standing in Europe, and to the former Chancellor's reputation, has been colossal.

Unlike other crises, though, we have not seen a western warning failure. Putin's decision to invade Ukraine was not a surprise. After the shock capitulation in Afghanistan, attention and criticism in the West focused on the lack of anticipation of such a swift collapse, and a failure of understanding and insight. In this case, the insight and anticipation was there. The US and UK governments, and Baltic and Central and Eastern European countries in particular had been warning in precise language publicly (and it has to be assumed in more detail privately) of Putin's intentions. This warning was sounded very clearly and consistently throughout the autumn and winter of 2021. This contrasts with a historical parallel of the build-up of Soviet Bloc forces around Czechoslovakia in 1968, also presented as exercises. In that case, the analytical community was divided on whether it an exercise or a prelude to invasion.

In this case, it wasn't. Putin, however, has also made two serious mistakes. First, the decision to launch an open full-scale invasion of Ukraine lost him the chance to confuse western audiences using the playbook that had worked so well in 2014. It also severely reduced the room for maneuver for pro-Russian tendencies in the country. Secondly, Putin grossly underestimated the Ukrainian willingness to fight back. Despite being completely outgunned, the regular army and various militia formations have put up a formidable resistance. Moreover, even his harshest critic would agree that President Zelensky of Ukraine has showed himself to be not merely personally highly courageous but also very skillful communicator. Even if conventional Ukrainian forces are crushed quickly, which is not a given, a prolonged insurgency and civil unrest is a virtual certainty. Politically and strategically therefore, Putin risks catastrophic failure. In short, so far the invasion has exposed two failures. The West failed to deter Putin, and Putin underestimated the Ukrainian will to resist.

As the initial Russian invasion slowed, long-range missile strikes caused significant damage to Ukrainian military assets, urban residential areas, and communication and transportation infrastructure. Hospitals and residential complexes also sustained shelling and bombing attacks. In late March 2022, Russia announced that it would "reduce military activity" near Kyiv and Chernihiv. By April 6, Russia had withdrawn all troops from Ukraine's capital region. In the aftermath of the Russian withdrawal from Kyiv's surrounding areas, Ukrainian civilians described apparent war crimes committed by Russian forces, including accounts of

summary executions, torture, and rape. On April 18, Russia launched a new major offensive in eastern Ukraine following its failed attempt to seize the capital.

By May, Russian forces took control of Mariupol, a major and highly strategic southeastern port city that had been under siege since late February. Drone footage published by Ukraine's far-right Azov Battalion revealed the brutality of the Russian offensive, which had reduced the city to rubble and caused a massive humanitarian crisis. Indiscriminate and targeted attacks against civilians in the city, including an air strike on a theater and the bombing of a maternity hospital, also amplified allegations against Russian forces for international humanitarian law violations. Since the summer of 2022, most fighting has largely been confined to Ukraine's east and south, with Russian cruise missiles, bombs, cluster munitions, and thermobaric weapons devastating port cities along the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. The Russian seizure of several Ukrainian ports and subsequent blockade of Ukrainian food exports compounded an already acute global food crisis further exacerbated by climate change, inflation, and supply chain havoc. Prior to the conflict, Ukraine had been the largest supplier of commodities to the World Food Program (WFP), which provides food assistance to vulnerable populations. In July, Russia and Ukraine signed an agreement to free more than twenty million tons of grain from Russian-controlled Ukrainian ports.

The first grain shipments to leave Ukraine since the Russian invasion departed from Odesa on August 1; they arrived in Russian-allied Syria on August 15, although their originally presumed destination had been Lebanon. In mid-August, the southern shift of the war's frontline sparked international fears of a nuclear disaster at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant along the Dnieper River. The largest nuclear plant in Europe, the Zaporizhzhia facility was seized by Russian forces in the earliest stages of the war. Escalating tensions between the plant's Ukrainian staff and its Russian occupiers have also raised uncertainty regarding its continued safe operation. Fighting in the territory surrounding the facility also raises concerns that the plant could be critically damaged in the crossfire: shelling of the plant's switchyard has already led to a city-wide black-out in Enerhodar, where the plant is located. Representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, visited the plant in early September to assess the threat of a nuclear accident.

In a report on the findings of its inspection, the IAEA called for "a nuclear safety and security protection zone" around the plant and for "all military activity" in the adjacent territory to cease immediately. As of early September, Ukrainian forces have been able to make strong

advances in the northeast and mounted a revitalized southern counteroffensive. Although Russia continues to hold onto much of Ukraine's southeastern territory, Ukraine claims to have retaken significant territory in the Kharkiv region, surprising Russian forces and cutting off important supply lines. Russia has indicated that it plans to send reinforcements—about ten to twenty thousand soldiers—to the eastern front to combat the new Ukrainian offensive. Russia also announced a partial mobilization on September 21 to refurbish the Russian army, prompting thousands of Russians to flee amid antiwar protests, and moved to annex four occupied territories: Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia.

In his speech announcing the illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory, Putin also made an overture of possible nuclear escalation, claiming that the United States had set a precedent by dropping nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. By July 2022, the UN Human Rights Office recorded over five thousand civilian deaths and over six thousand civilian injuries since Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The violence has internally displaced nearly seven million people and forced over six million to flee to neighboring countries, including Moldova and Poland, a NATO country where the United States and other allies are helping to accommodate the influx of refugees.

IMPACT OF RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE ON GLOBAL ENERGY SITUATION

Russia and Ukraine are major players in the global energy markets, in fact Russia is one of the world's top three crude oil producers. It is the second largest producer of natural gas in the world with largest gas reserves, making it the largest gas and oil exporter as well. Hence, Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has disrupted the global energy situation which was already volatile due to post-lockdown energy demand exceeding supply. Oil and gas prices have reached their highest levels in almost a decade as a result of this geopolitical turmoil, prompting several nations to reevaluate their energy supply and policies. The impact was greatest between December 2021 and June 2022 as energy costs increased by 58.3%. Since the invasion, oil and gas were continued to be transported from Russia to Europe, even through the pipelines that cross Ukraine.

This energy crisis has significantly benefitted Russia and other oil and gas producing states. The European Union, United States and other parties have imposed economic sanctions on Russia, along with their plans to gradually wean themselves off of Russia's fossil fuels.

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However, despite the fact that Russia is bombarding Ukraine with bombs, its gas and oil are still being exported to Western countries that have denounced the invasion

Impact on Europe

The European Union imports 90% of its natural gas needs, 41% of which originates from Russia. The EU also imports 46% of its coal and 27% of its oil from Russia. Since the start of the war in Ukraine, the supply of Russian oil and gas entering Europe has risen sharply. In March alone, Europe sent over €22 billion (US\$24 billion) to Russia for oil and gas. Since the beginning of April, Russia's imports have costed Europe at least €1 billion daily. Physical gas supplies were only cut off in late June as a result of Russia's decision to reject supplies to nations like Finland, which has asked for NATO membership, and to Bulgaria and Poland, both of which refuse to pay in Roubles. In each of these cases, the depleted little supplies were rapidly restored. But on July 11, Russia also shut down the important NordStream 1 pipeline for scheduled repair, potentially cutting off Germany's supply by as much as 60%.

If Russia chooses not to revive the pipeline, it will be more challenging to replace those supplies. Berlin's government has accelerated the execution of the next stage of its emergency response plan due to the risk. But as nations put their plans into action to diversify their energy supplies and lessen the influx of Russian oil and gas, things may alter in the upcoming months. By the end of the year, Poland, for instance, will stop importing any Russian coal, gas, or oil, while Austria and Germany are building the framework for gas rationing. Germany, which imports more than one-third of its oil and more than half of its natural gas and coal, is one country where the energy problem is particularly severe. Germany's immediate issue is to lessen its dependence on natural gas in the electricity generation sector, a task made more difficult by the nation's decision to abandon nuclear energy.

Following February 24, price hikes of 60% for oil and a startling 400% for natural gas have been seen in Europe over the previous year because of the anticipation that western economic sanctions and Russian reprisal would restrict trade and ignite a fierce competition for existing supplies. Oil supplies can still be managed because Russian crude oil shipments can still reach receptive customers in Asia and Africa, but manipulating the natural gas market is more difficult because it is dependent on specific infrastructure like liquefaction plants and pipelines. Putin is keen to take advantage of the geopolitical weakness that Europe's energy security challenge presents.

Impact on United States

The US imports very little energy from Russia and is a net exporter of fossil fuels. Therefore, the US's decision to restrict energy imports from Russia has no effect on the country's energy security.

Disruption of Supply Chain

The immediate disruption of the logistical supply chains of oil and gas to Europe as a result of the damage of infrastructure in both Russia and Ukraine is more significant than in Russia. The energy supply has been disrupted by Russia's siege of Ukraine's largest cities, bombardment of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant, and intentional destruction of vital assets. Following the battle, shipping products in the Black Sea region has greatly increased in difficulty and cost, particularly as a result of the shutdown of all Ukrainian ports.

Impact on Other Global Players

Given that the majority of the world's energy needs—nearly 50% in 2022—will be met by oil and gas, the supply gap poses a challenge to the international community. Oil, gas, and other fossil fuel prices have increased at a never-before-seen rate as a result of the war's interruption of the energy supply. As of July 5, 2022, the cost of a barrel of oil in the OPEC has risen to US\$114.3. Also rising from US\$ 2.55 in January 2022 to US\$ 3.27 in July 2022 was the price of gas globally. Energy costs are a significant factor to the cost-of-living crisis and inflation, and the economic downturn since consumers in Europe and other countries are paying more as worldwide prices have increased.

Alternatives to Reduce The Dependence on Russia

To negotiate the necessary purchases, the European Commission established a single buyer mechanism and reached an agreement with the US to import 15 bcm from the US daily. Germany abandoned its approval of a recently constructed gas pipeline from Russia on February 22 and is instead preparing to import liquefied natural gas from nations like Qatar and the United States. While Italy, the Netherlands, and the UK are all stepping up their efforts to construct wind power, Belgium is reconsidering its decision to abandon nuclear power. By 2027, the EU has promised to stop importing gas from Russia. To achieve this goal, the EU can either expand pipeline imports from non-Russian gas suppliers like Azerbaijan or restart certain coal power plants. The latter would indicate that 'Fit for 55's' goals of achieving net zero would

temporarily be postponed. The production of fertilizer plants across Europe has been reported to be reduced, and 31 nations have consented to release oil from respective strategic reserves. By increasing efficiency, some gas can be avoided, while other gas can be replaced by increasing the production of renewable energy. However, even taking into account these options to replace supply and lessen demand, there will still be a sizable difference between the two. The present market worries stem from this. The IEA has been keeping an eye on the effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the world energy markets ever since the conflict began. In order to ease market pressure and send a clear message that there won't be a shortage of supplies as a result of Russia's invasion, member nations of the International Energy Agency (IEA) have agreed to take the extraordinary step of releasing oil from their emergency reserves on two separate occasions. One of the releases, which also included more barrels from the United States Strategic Petroleum Reserve, was the biggest stock release in IEA history.

Effects on The Global Economy and Geopolitical Environment

Inflation: After a decade of extremely low inflation, the annual inflation rate in the 27 EU member states reached 9.8 percent in July, the highest level in the previous 25 years. Wholesale gas prices were approximately 200% higher before the invasion of Ukraine; benchmark gas prices are currently trading at over €250 per MWh and reached a peak of over €340 per MWh in July, more than 10 times higher than a year ago. Similar patterns in wholesale electricity pricing had been seen.

Recession and the impact on forex: After Russia stopped supplying gas through its main pipeline to Europe, the euro fell to a 20-year low below USD 0.99. An economy already dealing with a rise in inflation risks suffering more harm due to the euro's weakening against the US dollar.

Financial repercussions and potential reputational consequences: Western businesses are under increasing pressure to sever their ties with Russia. Following the invasion of Ukraine, a number of businesses made a variety of declarations about ending contracts and divesting. For these businesses, the financial effects are significant.

Higher shipping costs: The cost of transporting crude from Russia is rising as a result of sanctions placed on the nation, which increase the hazards associated with moving cargo along such routes. Meanwhile, the cost of other passages is rising as a result of a rush to find substitute sources.

Changes in energy policy, including the growth of renewable energy sources and the energy mix: Especially in those nations that are strongly dependent on Russia, where a new strategy is required, the current energy crisis is quickening the energy transition and necessitating additional investment in renewables. By the end of 2022 and to zero by the end of 2030, the EU has set a goal to reduce its gas imports by two-thirds through RE-Power EU.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES TO THE INVASION

As the world comes to terms with Russia launching a military attack on Ukraine, attention turns to how the international community will respond and how far it will go in punishing Vladimir Putin. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called the attack a “reckless act by President Putin” and a “terrible day for Ukraine and a dark day for Europe.” He added that the EU, G7 and NATO would coordinate closely. European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen called Russia’s actions a “barbaric attack” and said she will present EU member states with “massive and strategic” sanctions against Russia for approval. “These sanctions are designed to take a heavy toll on the Kremlin’s interests and their ability to finance war. And we know that millions of Russians do not want war,” she added.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says that Russia’s actions were “a catastrophe for our continent.” French President Emmanuel Macron, who has led many of the diplomatic efforts to deescalate, reacted by saying “France stands in solidarity with Ukraine. It stands with Ukrainians and is working with its partners and allies to end the war.” While Europe has largely stood united, there has been a notable silence from Hungarian leader Viktor Orban, who has a close relationship with Putin and has behind the scenes been accused of disrupting Europe’s unity in response to the crisis. Outside of Europe, US President Joe Biden warned of incoming “consequences the United States and our Allies and partners will impose on Russia for this needless act of aggression against Ukraine and global peace and security.” NATO and European security sources have previously told CNN that the US has been coordinating the unified response to the crisis and will likely take the lead as the International community is expected to dramatically increase sanctions on Russia.

Western allies around the world have also committed to work with their partners in response to Russia. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said the “situation is tense. We will continue to work in collaboration with the international community, including the G7

nations.” Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has said Ukraine has his country’s “unwavering support.” In Africa, the response was muted with only a handful of governments on the continent speaking out in the aftermath of the attacks. “The Nigerian position is that dialogue should be prioritized over force,” a spokesman for President Muhammadu Buhari told CNN. South Africa said the ongoing crisis “could have regional and global ramifications” if allowed to deteriorate.

“All parties have much to gain from a negotiated outcome and much to lose from unnecessary and violent conflict,” the country’s Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, said in a statement. Uncomfortably for Putin, China has not expressed particular support for Russia. China is Putin’s only major ally and has in recent years developed a close relationship with Russia, supporting it at the UN. However, China has thus far refused to criticize Russia and said it would begin importing Russian wheat, a move that could ease the impact of Western sanctions on Russia. China’s ambassador to the UN, Zhang Jun, only went so far as saying all parties needed “stay cool headed and rational,” he added that it was “especially important at the moment to avoid fueling tensions.” Governments all over the world are currently holding meetings to discuss how far sanctions should go against Russia in response to this huge escalation. A first wave of sanctions came from the US, EU and UK, though they were limited in scope and criticized for not going very far. It is very likely that fresh sanctions will go further and will target Russia’s broad economy in a less compromising manner.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, the author can conclude that the Russia-Ukraine conflict when viewed through a geopolitical lens, the problem lies in the competition between Sea Power (NATO) and Continental Power (Russia). Geopolitically, Russia has very strategic geographical conditions or known as the Rimland concept, namely the area around Eurasia. Thus, it is natural that since the imperial era Russia has always maintained its independent position in international politics, such as Russia never intending to join NATO or keeping Ukraine from joining NATO. In a geopolitical view, it is natural that one of the world's super powers (Russia) tries to prevent threats to its territory. In this case Russia is trying hard with its military power, to prevent NATO expansion which is getting closer to Russia's borders. If Ukraine joins NATO, it will certainly be a serious threat to Russia. The West very easily

implants its military forces and nuclear-powered devices in areas directly adjacent to Russia. Apart from that, Russia-Ukraine also has quite close historical relations and can threaten the culture of the Russian nation, considering that there are a number of fundamental differences between Russia and the West. It is unavoidable that the Russian invasion will also affect the global economy. The prolonged political crisis is certainly a serious threat to the global economy and oil prices will continue to soar. Conflict can be avoided if the West is willing to never make efforts that can push Ukraine towards the western bloc, especially NATO and even the European Union.

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