

14-16 MARCH 2025

DEMUN



Forum:	Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)
Issue:	Negotiating a Settlement in the Russian-Ukrainian War
Student Officers:	Sabreen Kirati & Albane O'Donnell
Position:	Members of the Press and Organization Team

Introduction

Nearly three years into the war and the horrific violence continues unabated. It has grown rampant and indiscriminate, fueled largely by both sides' deep commitment and dogged approach. This relentless warfare persists to the detriment of civilians and disgruntled troops. Indeed, according to figures from the UN Human Rights Office, OHCHR, 12,456 civilians were killed in Ukraine from February 2022, when the war first broke out, through December 2024. Similarly, there has been a distressing rise in child casualties as more “boys and girls were killed or wounded in the first three quarters of 2024 than in all of 2023,” according to the OHCHR. As for the soldiers' death toll, in July 2024, the Economist reported that between 462,000 and 728,000 Russian soldiers had been killed, injured, or captured by mid-June, citing documents by the US Department of Defense. On the Ukrainian side, a platoon commander quoted by the Reuters news agency estimated that only 60-70 percent of the several thousand men in the brigade at the start of the war were still serving. The rest had either been killed, wounded, or signed off due to old age or illness.

However, these figures are only estimates and actual numbers are likely higher. Governments at war are deliberately coy about their casualties and other information that may provide the enemy with vital intel. This discretion gives way to exaggerated death tolls, warped reports of missions, and, ultimately, propaganda. The latter is being used as a potent weapon by both Russia and the Western-backed Ukraine, who attempt to sway public opinion by disseminating lies or concealing the truth.

Therefore, despite the dire circumstances and the urgent need for an effective solution to end the war, disinformation heavily stymies negotiations on a viable settlement. Moreover, the volatile political landscape in other nations, notably the United States, could impact talks of a ceasefire. Indeed, recently inaugurated 47th US President Donald Trump's plans on how to solve the conflict in 24 hours remain unclear. One thing is certain, however: the Trump administration will espouse a different approach to the Russian-Ukraine conflict as opposed

to the leaving government led by Joe Biden. Nevertheless, the ambiguous nature of prospective solutions to the conflict has led Ukrainian leaders to tread carefully. Mykhailo Podolyak, advisor to the head of President Zelensky's office, stated, "There's a lot of talk about negotiations, but it's an illusion."

Furthermore, it is crucial to keep short-term goals and long-term ambitions in mind when negotiating a ceasefire to ensure a sustainable solution. While several potential ideas have been floated, the bulk of the international debate is centered on bolstering Ukraine's shaky position. Beyond a simple ceasefire, the nation needs guarantees of its security and protection, especially to stave off any future Russian attacks. As Orysia Lutsevych, head of the Ukraine Forum at Chatham House, put it, "It has to be a ceasefire plus. It would be suicide for Zelensky just to accept a ceasefire and not to have any answer [on] how Ukraine is protected."

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) is focused on a broad range of issues, including the effects of atomic radiation and reviewing peacekeeping operations. This year, SPECPOL will spotlight the Russian-Ukrainian war and will attempt to find a settlement to the ongoing conflict. The countries in the committee will have to square the needs of Ukraine and Russia with the demands of the rest of the world in order to reach a feasible agreement. Additionally, a holistic approach to the problem, that considers economic, social, and political concerns will be a more sustainable solution. Delegates must remember that their decisions will greatly shape and influence the geopolitical landscape for years to come.

Definition of Key Terms

Settlement

An official agreement intended to resolve a dispute or conflict, often outlining the terms for peace, reparations, and territorial adjustments. These settlements can significantly reshape political boundaries and influence international relations for years to come.

Immigrants

People who move to another country, often for economic opportunities or better living conditions. In the context of war, this may include those displaced by conflict.

Asylum seekers

Individuals who leave their home country due to persecution, conflict or violence and seek protection in another country under international law.

Peace Agreement

A formal arrangement between conflicting parties to end a war and establish terms of lasting peace. At a minimum, a peace agreement should stop the violence; ideally, it should address the roots of conflict and create or revive mechanisms for non-violent resolution of conflicts.

Territorial integrity

The principle that a state's borders should not be violated. The violation of such rights would consist of incursion by the armed forces of another State into its airspace and, where they exist, internal waters and (except in the exercise of navigational rights) archipelagic waters and territorial sea.

Reparations

Compensation imposed during negotiations for damage caused during a conflict. It can be seen as an act of process of making amends with the wrong. According to the United Nations, adequate, effective, and prompt reparation is intended to promote justice by redressing gross violations of international human rights law or serious violations of international humanitarian law.

De-escalation

A reduction in the intensity of a conflict or situation. Through the use of communication or other techniques during an encounter, de-escalating stabilizes, slows, or reduces the intensity of a potentially violent situation without using physical force, or with a reduction in force.

Sanctions

Measures that aim to influence the behavior of a state, a group, or individuals. They are restrictions limiting the freedom of a state, usually restricting trade (which qualifies as an economic sanction), a group or individuals are imposed through a unilateral decision by a state or a collective decision by several states. Sanctions are intended to be temporary and reviewed regularly, in light of developments. Once their goal has been achieved, these penalties are removed.

Peacekeeping

The deployment of forces to maintain peace after a ceasefire or agreement. It is a tool used to manage and resolve armed conflict and political violence, assisting societies in transitioning from war to peace by creating conditions for conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

An area in which military activity is prohibited by agreement. A DMZ often lies along an established frontier or boundary between two or more military powers or alliances. These zones can thus be utilized as sanctuaries.

Major Parties Involved

Ukraine

Ukraine's role in the Russian-Ukraine War is primarily that of a defender, fighting to protect its territorial integrity and sovereignty under Russian aggression. Since the full-scale invasion of 2022, Ukraine has mobilized its military and civilians, launched counter-offensives, and sought extensive international support, including weapons, financial aid, and sanctions against the Moscow Administration. Diplomatically, President Zelenskyy has strengthened alliances with Western nations and pursued NATO and EU membership while also taking legal action against Russia for war crimes. Its role extends beyond the battlefield, encompassing political, diplomatic, and economic efforts to secure long-term independence and stability.

Russia

Russia is responsible for the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Under President Vladimir Putin, Putin's Regime seeks territorial expansion aiming to block NATO's eastward expansion. However, Russia's ambitions extend beyond the battlefield, pursuing a range of political goals targeting regional dominance and the reassertion over the control of former Soviet satellites. Militarily, Russian Forces employ large-scale ground assaults, missile strikes, and drone warfare, often targeting civilian infrastructures. On the diplomatic front, Russia justifies its actions through propaganda, portraying the war as a response to NATO expansion and a mission to "protect" the Russian-speaking population. Despite facing severe Western sanctions and economic pressures, the Russian Federation continues its war efforts with support from allies such as Belarus, Iran, and North Korea, leveraging natural resources and military production to support its offensive.

United States of America

Allocating nearly 180 billion dollars since February 2022, the United States of America stands as the second largest financial supporter. With the majority of its funding directed towards industries producing weapons and military equipment, the US has emerged as the leading provider of military aid, significantly impacting Ukrainian defense capabilities. Diplomatic efforts have also played a crucial role, with the U.S. rallying NATO allies and imposing sanctions on Russia to weaken its war efforts. Furthermore, the US has been actively participating in efforts to negotiate a



peace treaty, with President Donald Trump expressing his intent to end the war in Ukraine swiftly and his readiness to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

European Union (EU)

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, The EU has reacted swiftly and decisively to Moscow's aggression by adopting restrictive measures, which are having massive and severe consequences for Russia. The EU has stepped up its political, humanitarian, military, and financial support for Ukraine's economy, society, and future reconstruction. According to EU data, EU member state support to Ukraine totaled nearly €134 billion, as of early January 2025. This capita is mainly directed towards humanitarian, financial, and emergency aid to refugees, coupled with military assistance. On top of that, the European Union in collaboration with the United States has been proactively discussing strategies to resolve the conflict. Similarly, the EU has implemented a series of sanctions designed to weaken Russia.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

NATO condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's brutal and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine - which is an independent, peaceful, and democratic country and a close NATO partner. Indeed, while not being a Nato member, Ukraine is a NATO partner country, which means that it cooperates closely with NATO but it is not covered by the security guarantee in the Alliance's founding treaty. Since Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea in 2014, NATO has helped to reform Ukraine's armed forces and defense institutions, including equipment and financial support. Allies have also provided training for tens of thousands of Ukrainian troops, and together, NATO Allies account for 99% of all military aid to Ukraine. Ukrainian forces have also developed their capabilities by participating in NATO exercises and operations.

Iran

Iran, a nation that has in the past experienced the bitter taste of war at the hands of a powerful neighbor, has thrust itself into the Ukraine saga by assuming the mantle of Russia's diplomatic and military enabler. Not only does this estrange Iran from the Ukrainians but it is also a clear betrayal of the principles that allegedly underpin the country's ideological identity, including anti-imperialism, noninterference, and respect for the sovereignty of nations. Shortly after the full-scale Russian invasion began on February 24, 2022, Iran



was one of the few nations that officially sided with the Moscow Administration, supporting both diplomatically and militarily. It has consistently voted against United Nations resolutions condemning Russia and has regularly supplied Shahed-136 and Shahed-131 kamikaze drones, which Russia has used to target Ukrainian infrastructure. Beyond drone deliveries, reports suggest Iran may also provide ballistic missiles, further deepening its military partnership with Russia. Iranian personnel have reportedly trained Russian forces on drone operations, reinforcing this alliance. This cooperation strengthens Iran-Russia ties while countering Western influence, though it has led to increased sanctions from the U.S. and EU. Despite initial denials, Iran later admitted to supplying drones but insisted the deliveries occurred before the war began.

General Overview

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine began on February 24, 2022, when Russian military forces entered the country from Belarus, Russia, and Crimea. However, there had already been eight years of conflict in eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian Government forces and Russia-backed separatists before the violent and dramatic escalation.

In November 2013, the Ukrainian Government of President Viktor Yanukovich suspended a planned association agreement with the European Union, despite having pledged to sign it. Instead, Yanukovich chose to strengthen Ukraine's ties with Russia triggering a slew of *Euromaidan* protests in the capital, Kyiv. These demonstrations were met with a violent crackdown in early 2014, and, in February of that year, some European foreign ministers mediated a compromise, involving a unity government and early elections. However, on February 21, 2014, President Yanukovich fled Kyiv. Parliament declared him unable to fulfill his duties, effectively removing him from office and, temporarily, installing a new government led by, Vitaliy Yarema, a leading opposition figure. The *Euromaidan* protests played a crucial role in the lead-up to the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War, influencing Ukraine's political orientation and relations with both Russia and the European Union. Indeed, the demonstrations marked a decisive shift in Ukraine's policy, bringing the nation closer to the West. After Yanukovich's departure, Ukraine pursued closer ties with the European Union and moved away from Russia's sphere of influence. However, the protests also left Ukraine deeply divided, engendering political turmoil. Indeed, many in the western

regions of the country supported the pro-European stance, while much of the eastern and southern regions, home to a significant Russian-speaking population, were more aligned with Russia.

Toward the end of February 2014, unidentified military figures, later confirmed to be Russian personnel, surrounded the airports in Crimea, a majority-Russian peninsula in Ukraine. The Crimean Autonomous Assembly was then seized by pro-Russian forces. In March 2014 the assembly issued a declaration of independence and a subsequent referendum on the Peninsula's union with Russia was held. According to Russian election officials, 95.5% of voters supported a union with Russia. Despite, the results of the referendum not being internationally recognized and severe international condemnation, Russia has, since then, maintained its control over Crimea, an annexation seen by Ukraine as a violation of its sovereignty. Around the same time, pro-Russian separatist forces also took control of parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine (the Donbas) in 2014, leading to a violent conflict with Ukrainian forces. Although it denied direct involvement, Russia was accused of staunchly providing military support to these separatists. Efforts were made to end the Donbas war, notably the Minsk Agreements (2014/2015). They called for a ceasefire, the withdrawal of all foreign armed groups, and constitutional reform recognizing the special status of Donetsk and Luhansk. However, these agreements were not enough to quell the conflict as fighting continued to break out and both parties accused each other of ceasefire violations.

Ukraine's ties with the West were cemented through several agreements such as the Comprehensive Assistance Package (CAP) signed with NATO on July 9, 2016. The CAP is a multi-faceted support framework aimed at strengthening Ukraine's military and defense capabilities, helping it to modernize, align with NATO standards, and enhance its overall resilience in the face of ongoing security threats. While it isn't the same as full NATO membership, the CAP helps Ukraine integrate further with NATO institutions, providing greater cooperation on defense and security issues. However, ultimately joining NATO as a full member is of paramount importance to Ukraine as typified on June 8, 2017, when the Ukrainian Parliament voted to restore NATO membership as the country's strategic foreign policy objective. An amendment to Ukraine's constitution aiming to do just that entered into force, on February 21, 2019. On April 21 of the same year, Volodymyr Zelenskyy was elected president of Ukraine in a landslide victory. From the outset of his presidency, Zelensky intended to pursue deeper integration with the European Union and NATO, aligning Ukraine more closely with Western political and economic institutions. On June 12, 2020, Ukraine was granted NATO Enhanced Opportunity Partner status. This positions Ukraine in an exclusive group of countries that have a deeper, more integrated relationship with NATO. The

Enhanced Opportunity Partner status enables Ukraine to access greater military cooperation, security assistance, training, and strategic consultation with NATO, ultimately, bringing Ukraine closer to full NATO membership. On September 14, 2020, President Zelenskyy approved Ukraine's new National Security Strategy, intending to join NATO, supporting the nation's aspiration to join the alliance, and reflecting its growing role in NATO-led activities.

However, Ukraine's affiliation with NATO is considered one of the sources of conflict with Russia. Indeed, on February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, marking a significant escalation of the conflict. To underpin and justify the onslaught, Russia cited reasons such as NATO's eastward expansion and the protection of Russian-speaking populations in Ukraine. Indeed, three days before the incursion, on February 21, President Putin recognized the independence of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic. He then ordered Russian troops into the territories for what he described as "peacekeeping duties." The Russian invasion resulted in massive casualties and displacement of civilians. It also triggered severe sanctions on Russia from Western countries and an outpouring of international support for Ukraine. For instance, former US President Biden called Russia's invasion a "premeditated attack" while the European Council held an emergency session to condemn Russia's "unprovoked and unjustified military aggression." Meanwhile, Moscow's stock exchange plummeted by an unprecedented 45 percent while military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine mushroomed. For instance, global aid to Ukraine has reached a staggering 253 billion euros committed as of Jan. 15 2025, or about \$278 billion, according to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. However, additional aid for Ukraine has stalled in the U.S. Congress after hardline Republicans expressed their opposition to further financial support for Ukraine's war effort. President Joe Biden warned that the refusal to pass an aid package would be "playing into Putin's hands" and military analysts predicted that a halt to U.S. aid would hurt Ukraine's prospects for winning the war. But, as of late 2024, the war remains deadlocked, with heavy casualties on both sides and significant destruction in Ukraine. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) verified a total of 40,838 civilian casualties during Russia's invasion of Ukraine as of December 31, 2024. Of them, 28,382 people were reported to have been injured. However, OHCHR specified that the real numbers could be higher. Furthermore, international diplomatic efforts to negotiate a ceasefire have not yet yielded a lasting resolution. Despite several rounds of peace talks, the conflict persists and the casualties mount. The first meeting was held four days after the start of the invasion, on 28 February 2022, in Belarus, and concluded without result. World leaders, today, are pushing for ceasefire talks and an end to a war that has caused a major humanitarian crisis.



However, the ripple effects of the conflict can be felt across the globe. For instance, outside of Ukraine, the war continues to have a major effect on the global markets and food supply. The impact of the armed conflict on grain exports has worsened a global hunger crisis, with catastrophic impacts throughout the world. Indeed, in 2021, Ukrainian grain fed 400 million people around the world. For the first 5 months of the war, Ukraine was unable to export its grain through its primary shipping routes through the Black Sea. Therefore, the dire hunger crises in several grain-receiving countries across the Middle East and Africa were exacerbated. The Russian-Ukrainian war has also disrupted global energy markets, particularly in Europe, which has been heavily dependent on Russian energy exports. Oil, coal, and gas prices spiked in the immediate aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and have been volatile ever since. Indeed, in the first two weeks after the invasion, the prices of oil, coal, and gas went up by around 40%, 130%, and 180% respectively. Moreover, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has effectively upended global security and stability. Indeed, the conflict has led to renewed debate about NATO's role and expansion. Finland and Sweden, known for their military neutrality, both applied to join NATO in May 2022, following Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Finnish ex-Prime Minister Alexander Stubb said joining the alliance was a "done deal" for his country as soon as Russian troops invaded Ukraine last year.

The Russian-Ukrainian war has shattered geopolitics and taken a dire toll on both nations. The future of the conflict remains uncertain, with both sides entrenched and diplomatic efforts ongoing. However, it is clear that a settlement must be reached to safeguard sovereignty and welfare.

Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of Event
June 2023	The Kakhovka Dam is destroyed, flooding parts of southern Ukraine and causing significant ecological and humanitarian damage. Both sides blame each other
December 2022	Russia targets Ukraine's energy infrastructure, causing widespread power outages during winter. Ukrainian resilience is praised as international aid increases.
April 2022	Ukrainian forces retake Bucha, revealing mass civilian killings and atrocities. The international community condemns Russia for potential war crimes.
March 2022	Ukrainian forces defend Kyiv, forcing Russian troops to retreat from the cities' outskirts by late March. Russia focuses on



	capturing eastern and southern Ukraine. Civilians flee war zones, creating Europe's largest refugee crisis since WWII.
24 February 2022	Russia invades Ukraine, marking a new, more destructive phase of the conflict. Major cities such as Kyiv (the Ukrainian capital), Kharkiv, and Mariupol face heavy bombardment.
November 2021	Western intelligence reports warn of potential large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, with 100,000 troops deployed near the border.
April 2021	Russia begins amassing troops along Ukraine's borders, raising fears of a possible invasion.
18 March 2014	Russia formally annexes Crimea, sparking international condemnation and sanctions.
27-28 February 2014	Russian forces take control of strategic sites in Crimea, a region that has been part of Ukraine since 1954. Russia claimed to protect Russian-speaking citizens, but the annexation was widely condemned as illegal.
1991	Ukraine gained its independence from the USSR.
1922	Ukraine became a communist satellite state of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) and was then named the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Early Negotiations

In the initial months of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, several diplomatic efforts were made to reach a peaceful resolution. A promising round of negotiations took place in Istanbul, Turkey, in late March 2022. Ukraine expressed willingness to adopt neutrality—meaning it would not seek NATO membership—if given strong security guarantees from other nations. In return, Ukraine insisted on the withdrawal of Russian forces and the restoration of its territorial integrity. For a brief moment, the Istanbul talks seemed to offer a potential diplomatic off-ramp. Reports suggested that Russia's leadership, including President Vladimir Putin, might have considered scaling down its offensive in exchange for Ukrainian neutrality. However, as Russian forces withdrew from the Kyiv region, evidence of war crimes in Bucha and other occupied areas emerged, leading Ukraine to harden its position and reject further compromises.



Peace for Land

In early October 2024, former NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg floated the idea of a settlement that involved Ukraine giving up some territory to guarantee that the rest of the country survived as an independent nation. Ukraine would become a NATO member and would only de facto relinquish the territory currently occupied by Russia. However, the Ukrainian leadership cannot publicly entertain proposals of territorial concessions in exchange for peace. The official line is that any settlement that did not restore Ukraine's 1991 borders would be unjust and a gross violation of the international order.

Sanctions

Numerous sanctions have already been enforced by Ukrainian allies, seeking to undermine Russia's economic stability, restrict its access to crucial financial and technological resources, and hinder its ability to sustain military operations. As the primary tool used by Western nations to pressure Russia into ending its war against Ukraine, they have not been enough to force Russian Forces into abandoning their pursuit of Ukrainian territories. Indeed, over the past years, Moscow has been able to adapt and find ways to bypass the sanctions, such as using shadow shipping networks and alternative payment systems. In addition, many countries such as India and China have continued to trade with Russia softening the economic impact.

China's 12 Points Peace Plan

On the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Chinese government published a document entitled "China's Position of the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis". Advertised as its proposal for ending hostilities between Russia and Ukraine, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented a 12-point peace plan calling for a ceasefire, consideration of Russian security interests, humanitarian provisions for Ukraine, prisoner exchanges, and the removal of unilateral sanctions, among other things. So far, the proposal has drawn mixed reviews. Analysts claim that this is nothing more than a means for absolving China of blame for not doing more to halt Russian aggression. Only the government of Kazakhstan has expressed its support for the proposal. As for the warring parties themselves, both have avoided issuing formal government responses.



Possible Solutions

Diplomatic Negotiations & a Ceasefire

A negotiated ceasefire is the first critical step toward de-escalating the war in Ukraine. However, for it to be effective, it must go beyond a simple pause in fighting and include concrete mechanisms to ensure long-term stability. Both Ukraine and Russia would need to agree on the terms of such a ceasefire, including provisions for territorial control, the withdrawal of forces, and security guarantees. To prevent further escalation, the ceasefire would have to be monitored and enforced by an internationally recognized body, such as the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), or a NATO-led peacekeeping force. Additionally, humanitarian concerns must be prioritized, ensuring the safe return of displaced civilians and securing access to humanitarian aid for affected regions. Once a ceasefire is in place, it should serve as the foundation for broader peace talks. These discussions must focus on resolving territorial disputes, addressing economic sanctions, and planning post-war reconstruction efforts. Establishing a long-term security framework for Ukraine while also considering Russia's strategic concerns—such as its opposition to NATO expansion—could be a key point in diplomatic efforts.

Ukraine Becoming a NATO Member

Eventual NATO membership is the optimal way to ensure Ukraine's sovereignty and security. As the prospect of Ukraine joining NATO was one of the driving factors behind Russia's invasion, Ukraine's accession to NATO is not to be negotiated with Russia but should be between the United States, its NATO allies, and Ukraine. This NATO defense can be built on the foundation of its resources, fighting spirit, cutting-edge military technology, and the battle-hardened army. Furthermore, the presence of a demilitarized zone, and patrols by international forces, as an additional strategic advantage gained through NATO membership, enhances regional stability and security.

Neutrality for Peace

One possible solution to the conflict could involve Russia abandoning any territorial claims in exchange for Ukraine agreeing not to join NATO. Under such an agreement, Russia would fully withdraw its forces from all occupied Ukrainian territories, including Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson, as well as Crimea, returning them to Ukrainian sovereignty. In return, Ukraine would commit to a neutral status, formally



pledging not to seek NATO membership while maintaining the right to independent defense agreements with other nations. This compromise could be reinforced by international guarantees ensuring Ukraine's security, potentially through a coalition of Western countries offering military and economic support without NATO expansion.

Punitive Economic Measures

Not all solutions have to be contingent on diplomacy or political alliances- finally reaching a settlement could involve taking the economic path. This idea has mostly been mooted by US experts who outline how President Trump's administration can use a mix of sanctions, export controls, and other methods of applying pressure on the Russian economy to force Moscow to stop the war in Ukraine. Essentially, the solution consists of expanding punitive economic measures to hurt the Russian economy, effectively crippling Moscow's resources. Former US President Biden already signed a proclamation, on June 27, 2022, to raise the tariff rate on \$2.3 billion worth of Russian imports to 35%. The tariff increase took effect for import entries made on or after July 27, 2022. However, current President Trump has announced that he would do Russia, whose economy is floundering, a "very big favor" if the belligerent nation chose to settle. Writing on his social media platform Truth Social, President Trump warned that it was only "going to get worse" without a deal. He stated that he had no other choice but to put "high levels of taxes, tariffs, and sanctions on anything being sold by Russia to the United States, and various other participating countries." However, Trump has not specified where more economic penalties might be aimed, or when. Currently, the main Russian exports to the US are phosphate-based fertilizers and platinum. Russian imports to the US have plummeted since 2022 and there are all sorts of heavy restrictions already in place. Speaking to the BBC, Trump's former special representative for Ukraine, Kurt Volker said the Russian economy could take "substantial" damage if Trump chose to preserve or strengthen the toughest US sanctions so far, which he said were only levied as Trump's predecessor Joe Biden left office. "Russia really didn't feel as much pressure as they could," he commented. Indeed, responding to Trump's threat of harsher sanctions, the Kremlin said it remains "ready for an equal dialogue, a mutually respectful dialogue." Ultimately, experts agree that if Russian President Putin does not engage in negotiations, the US should levy sanctions on Russia. Trump's firm call to "make a deal" must not go unheeded.



Appendices

Appendix A



Volunteers load bodies of civilians killed in Bucha onto a truck to be taken to a morgue for investigation- *Rodrigo Abd/AP*

<https://www.euronews.com/culture/2022/04/19/20-of-the-most-powerful-photographs-taken-in-the-first-weeks-of-the-russia-ukraine-war>

Appendix B



People crowd as they try to get on a train to Lviv at the Kyiv station, Ukraine- *Emilio Morenatti/AP*

<https://www.euronews.com/culture/2022/04/19/20-of-the-most-powerful-photographs-taken-in-the-first-weeks-of-the-russia-ukraine-war>

Appendix C

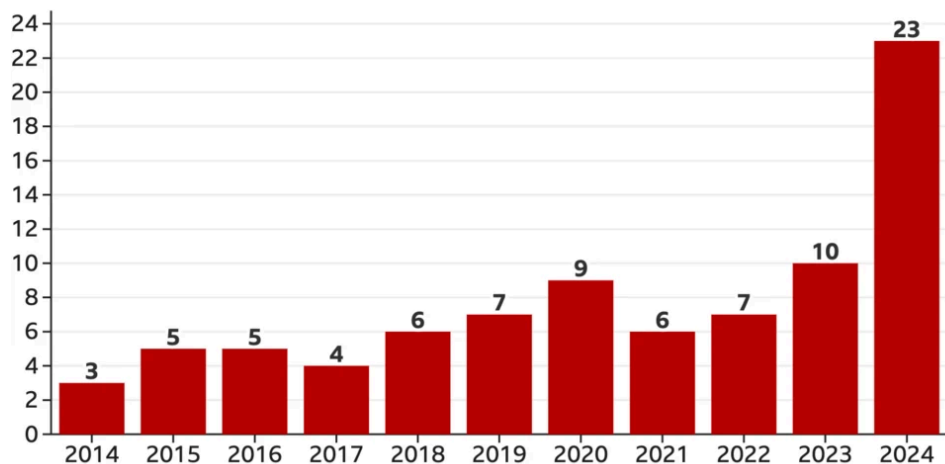


<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2ldpnyewx1o>

Appendix D

Number of Nato countries meeting its spending target

Nato requires members to spend 2% of GDP on defence



Source: NATO • Data as at 12 June 2024, based on 2015 prices and exchange rates.

* Figures for 2023 and 2024 are estimates

B B C

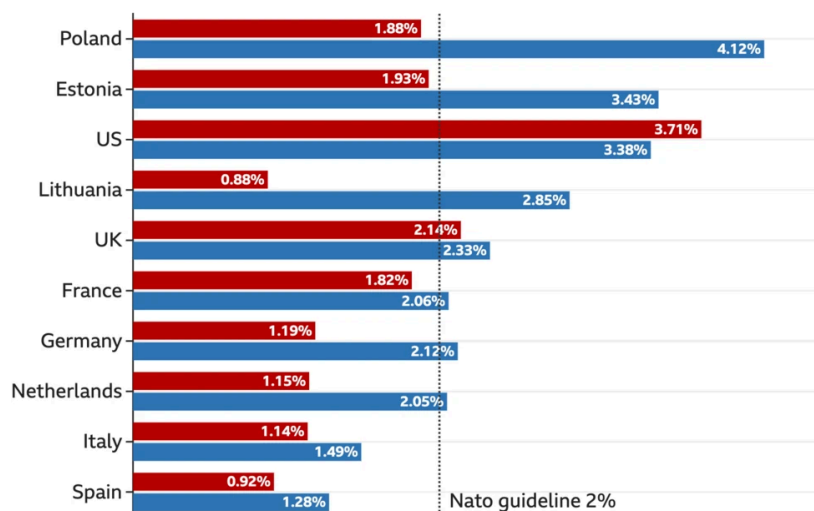
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18023383>

Appendix E

Defence spending as % of GDP

Comparison between 2014 and 2024 for selected Nato countries

■ 2014 ■ 2024*



Source: Nato • *Figures for 2024 are estimates

B B C

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18023383>



Appendix F

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Who controls what in Ukraine?

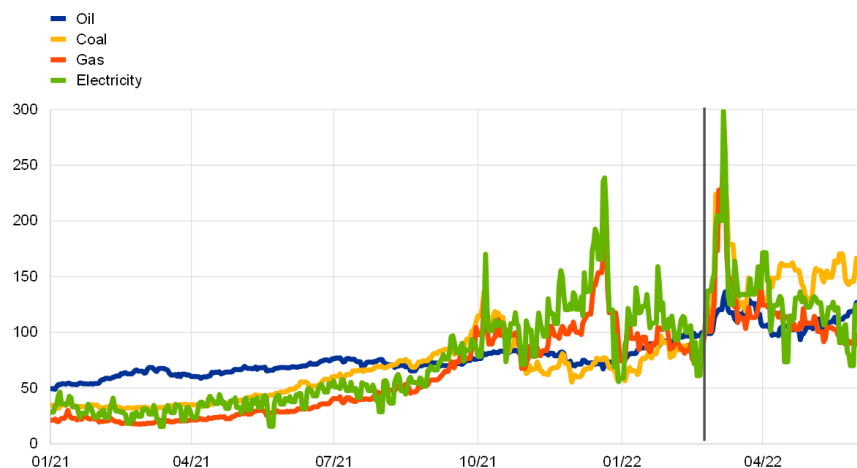
Day 1,077 - February 5, 2025 | 9:00 GMT



<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/2/6/north-koreans-disappear-amid-heavy-russian-casualties-in-ukraine-war>

Appendix G

Energy prices before and after the invasion of Ukraine



[https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/economic-bulletin/focus/2022/html/ecb.ebbox202204_01~68ef3c3dc6.en.html#:~:text=Energy%20commodity%20price%20volatility%20began.%25%20respectively%20\(Chart%20A\).](https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/economic-bulletin/focus/2022/html/ecb.ebbox202204_01~68ef3c3dc6.en.html#:~:text=Energy%20commodity%20price%20volatility%20began.%25%20respectively%20(Chart%20A).)

Appendix H



https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_231639.htm

Bibliography

Vox. "Putin's War on Ukraine, Explained." *YouTube*, YouTube, 2 Mar. 2022, www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVu8QbxafJE&ab_channel=Vox. Accessed 18 January 2025.

Ray, Michael. "Russia-Ukraine War". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 18 Jan. 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/event/2022-Russian-invasion-of-Ukraine>. Accessed 18 January 2025.

Gathmann, Sandra. "Ukraine-Russia War, Two Years on | Start Here." *Al Jazeera*, 23 Feb. 2024,

www.aljazeera.com/program/start-here/2024/2/23/ukraine-russia-war-two-years-on-start-here. Accessed 18 January 2025.

Mearsheimer, John J. "The Causes and Consequences of the Ukraine War." 16 June 2022, <https://www.cirsd.org/en/horizons/horizons-summer-2022-issue-no.21/the-causes-and-consequences-of-the-ukraine-war>. Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute, Florence, Italy. Accessed 19 January 2025.

United Nations. "New Year Sees Uptick and Expansion of Fighting on Ukraine's Frontlines." UN News, 16 Jan. 2025, news.un.org/en/story/2025/01/1159106.

Gadzo, Mersiha. "Record High Deaths in the Russia-Ukraine War: What You Should Know." Al Jazeera, 16 Oct. 2024, www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/10/16/russia-ukraine-wartime-deaths.

Government of Canada, "Countering Disinformation with Facts - Russian Invasion of Ukraine." Global Affairs Canada, 15 Jan. 2025, www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/response_conflict-reponse_conflits/crisis-crisis/ukraine-fact-fait.aspx?lang=eng.

Ash, Timothy, et al. How to End Russia's War on Ukraine, 3 Oct. 2023, www.chathamhouse.org/2023/06/how-end-russias-war-ukraine.

Adams, Paul. "The Endgame in Ukraine: How the War Could Come to a Close in 2025." BBC, 2 Jan. 2025, www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2ldpnyewx1o. Accessed 2025.

"What Is Nato, Which Countries Are Members and Will They Increase Defence Spending?" BBC, 8 Jan. 2025, www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18023383. Accessed 2025.

Center for Preventive Action. "War in Ukraine." Council on Foreign Relations, 7 Feb. 2025, www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine. Accessed 2025.

NATO. "Comprehensive Assistance Package (CAP) for Ukraine." North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 18 Dec. 2024, www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_231639.htm. Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.

Walker, Nigel. "Conflict in Ukraine: A Timeline (2014 - Eve of 2022 Invasion)." House of Commons Library, 22 Aug. 2023, researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9476/CBP-9476.pdf. Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.

NATO. "Relations with Ukraine." North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 3 Oct. 2024, www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_37750.htm. Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.

"Ukraine and the EU Signed the Joint Security Commitments." Official Website of the President of Ukraine, 27 June 2024, www.president.gov.ua/en/news/ukrayina-ta-yes-pidpisali-spilni-bezpekovi-zobov'yazannya-91813#:~:text=For%20the%20first%20time%2C%20these.political%20assistance%20for%20ten%20years. Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.



Wolf, Christopher, and Elliott Davis Jr. "Countries That Have Committed the Most Aid to Ukraine." US News & World Report, U.S. News & World Report, 23 Feb. 2024, [web.archive.org/web/20240410151034/https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/these-countries-have-committed-the-most-aid-to-ukraine](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/these-countries-have-committed-the-most-aid-to-ukraine). Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.

Psaropoulos, John T. "Timeline: Week One of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine." Al Jazeera, 2 Mar. 2022, www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/2/timeline-week-one-of-russia-invasion-of-ukraine. Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.

"Number of Civilian Casualties in Ukraine during Russia's Invasion Verified by OHCHR from February 24, 2022 to December 31, 2024." Statista, Jan. 2025, www.statista.com/statistics/1293492/ukraine-war-casualties/. Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.

International Rescue Committee. "Ukraine War: What Are the Impacts on the World Today?" International Rescue Committee, 15 Aug. 2023, www.rescue.org/article/ukraine-war-what-are-impacts-world-today. Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.

Chatterjee, Phelan. "How Sweden and Finland Went from Neutral to Nato." BBC, 11 July 2023, www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61397478. Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.

VOA Russian. "What Economic Measures Can Us Use to Force Russia to End War?" Voice of America, Voice of America (VOA News), 7 Feb. 2025, www.voanews.com/a/voa-russian-what-economic-measures-can-us-use-to-force-russia-to-end-war-/7967169.html. Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.

Rainsford, Sarah, and Robert Greenall. "Trump Tells Putin to End 'Ridiculous War' in Ukraine or Face New Sanctions." BBC, 23 Jan. 2025, www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjw4q7v7ez1o. Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.

Curtis. "U.S. President Biden Raises Tariffs on Russian Imports." Curtis, Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP, 28 June 2022, www.curtis.com/our-firm/news/u-s-president-biden-raises-tariffs-on-russian-imports. Accessed 08 Feb. 2025.

