

Russia Ukraine War-2022

Dr. Rajesh Kumar Chouhan

Associate Professor in Political Science, Government College, Bundi, Rajasthan, India

ABSTRACT

On 24 February 2022, Russia began an invasion of Ukraine, in a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War that began in 2014. It is the largest military attack in Europe since World War II.

Following the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity in February 2014, Russia annexed Crimea and Russian-backed separatists seized part of south-east Ukraine, starting the war in Donbas. In 2021, Russia began a large military build-up along its border with Ukraine, leading to an international crisis. During this period, the president of Russia, Vladimir Putin, espoused Russian irredentist views, questioned Ukraine's right to statehood, and accused NATO of threatening Russia's security, demanding that Ukraine be barred from ever joining the alliance. Putin also baselessly accused Ukraine of committing genocide against its Russian speakers. The United States and others accused Russia of planning to attack or invade Ukraine, which Russian officials repeatedly denied as late as 23 February 2022.

KEYWORDS: Ukraine, Russia, war, Putin, NATO, military, invade, attack, Volodymyr Zelenskyy

INTRODUCTION

On 21 February 2022, Russia recognised the Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic; two self-proclaimed states in the Donbas controlled by pro-Russian separatists and recognised by no other state. The next day, the Federation Council of Russia authorised use of military force outside Russia's borders, and Russian troops entered both territories. On 24 February, about 5 am EET (UTC+2), Putin announced a "special military operation" to "demilitarise and denazify" Ukraine. Minutes later, missiles and airstrikes struck throughout Ukraine, including the capital Kyiv, shortly followed by a large ground invasion from multiple directions. The president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, enacted martial law and general mobilisation.[1,2]

Multi-pronged assaults were launched from Russia proper, Belarus, and the two occupied territories of Ukraine (Crimea and Donbas). Four war theatres developed: the Kyiv offensive, the Northeastern Ukraine offensive, the Eastern Ukraine offensive, and the Southern Ukraine offensive. Russian forces approached or besieged a number of key settlements, such as Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Mariupol, and Sumy, but met stiff military and local

resistance, and began to experience logistical and other challenges that hampered their progress.

The invasion was widely condemned internationally. The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution which condemned Russia's invasion and demanded a full withdrawal. Many countries imposed new sanctions which have triggered a financial crisis in Russia. Various countries gave humanitarian and military aid to Ukraine. Protests occurred around the world; those in Russia have been met with mass arrests and increased media censorship, including banning the terms "war" and "invasion". Some companies withdrew their products and services from sale in Russia and Belarus.[3,4]

A consequence of the war is the Ukrainian refugee crisis, the world's fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II, as well as the first major humanitarian crisis in Europe since the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s. In the first two weeks of the invasion, more than 2 million Ukrainians fled the country, primarily to Poland, but also to Hungary, Romania, Moldova, and Slovakia. Refugees are primarily women and children, as men aged between 18 and 60 years have been prohibited from leaving the country by the government.

How to cite this paper: Dr. Rajesh Kumar Chouhan "Russia Ukraine War-2022" Published in International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-6 | Issue-3, April 2022, pp.565-568, URL: www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd49572.pdf



IJTSRD49572

URL:

Copyright © 2022 by author(s) and International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development Journal. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0) (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>)



Discussion

On 24 February, shortly before 06:00 Moscow Time (UTC+3), Putin announced that he had made the decision to launch a "special military operation" in eastern Ukraine. In his address, Putin stated there were no plans to occupy Ukrainian territory and that he supported the right of the peoples of Ukraine to self-determination. He said the purpose of the "operation" was to "protect the people" in the predominantly Russian-speaking region of Donbas who, according to Putin, "for eight years now, have been facing humiliation and genocide perpetrated by the Kyiv regime". Putin also stated that Russia sought the "demilitarisation and denazification" of Ukraine. Within minutes of Putin's announcement, explosions were reported in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa, and the Donbas region. An allegedly leaked report for Russia's spy agency FSB claims that the intelligence agency was not warned about Putin's plan to invade Ukraine.[5,6]

Immediately following the attack, Zelenskyy announced the introduction of martial law in Ukraine; the same evening, he ordered a general mobilisation of all Ukrainian males between 18 and 60 years old. Russian troops entered Ukraine from the north in Belarus (towards Kyiv); from the northeast in Russia (towards Kharkiv); from the east in the DPR and the LPR; and from the south in Crimea.

Russian equipment and vehicles were marked with a white Z military symbol (a non-Cyrillic letter), believed to be a measure to prevent friendly fire.

The war has caused a major refugee and humanitarian crisis within Europe not seen since the 1990s Yugoslav Wars, and this has been cited as the fastest growing such crisis since World War II.

Because of the continued military build-up in Russia along the Ukrainian border, many neighbouring governments and aid organisations had been preparing for a mass displacement event in the weeks before the invasion. In December 2021, the Ukrainian defence minister estimated that an invasion could force three to five million people to flee their homes. As of 28 February 2022, the UN said more than 500,000 refugees has fled Ukraine; this subsequently rose to over 2,00,000 as of 12 March. Most refugees were women, children, elderly, or people with disabilities. Most male Ukrainian nationals aged 18 to 60 were denied exit from Ukraine. Some Ukrainian teenagers remained in Ukraine to join the resistance against the Russian invasion. More than 66,200 Ukrainian men returned from abroad to fight.[7,8]

Results

On 28 February, Ukrainian and Russian negotiators started to hold rounds of talks in Belarus for reaching

a ceasefire and ensuring humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of civilians. After three rounds of talks, an overall deal was not reached.

On 5 March, Russia declared a brief, five-and-a-half hour ceasefire in Mariupol and Volnovakha, to open humanitarian corridors for civilians to evacuate. Ukraine blamed Russian forces for repeatedly breaking the ceasefire by shelling the two cities; the Russian defence ministry stated the firing came from inside both cities against Russian positions. The International Committee of the Red Cross declared that the effort to evacuate civilians had failed.[9,10]

On 7 March, as a condition for ending the invasion, the Kremlin demanded Ukraine's neutrality, recognition of the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014, as Russian territory, and recognition of the self-proclaimed separatist republics of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent states.[360] The same day, Russia declared a temporary ceasefire in Kyiv, Sumy, and two other cities, starting from 10:30 Moscow Time (UTC+3). The ceasefire had been announced to allow civilian evacuations from the four Ukrainian cities. The Russian army had announced the opening of several humanitarian corridors and exits in Ukraine.

On 8 March, Zelenskyy suggested a direct meeting with Putin to end the invasion and expressed willingness to discuss Putin's demands. Zelenskyy said he is ready for dialogue, but "not for capitulation". He proposed a new collective security agreement for Ukraine with the United States, Turkey, France, Germany and Russia as an alternative to the country joining NATO. Zelenskyy's Servant of the People party said that Ukraine would not give up its claims on Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk.

On 10 March, Foreign Ministers Sergey Lavrov and Dmytro Kuleba met for talks in Antalya, Turkey with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu as mediator in the first high-level contact between the two sides since the beginning of the invasion.[11,12]

Many NATO member states in Eastern Europe triggered security consultations under Article 4.[510] The Estonian government issued a statement by Prime Minister Kaja Kallas saying: "Russia's widespread aggression is a threat to the entire world and to all NATO countries, and NATO consultations on strengthening the security of the Allies must be initiated to implement additional measures for ensuring the defence of NATO Allies. The most effective response to Russia's aggression is unity." On 24 February, Stoltenberg announced new plans that "will enable us to deploy capabilities and forces, including the NATO Response Force, to where they

are needed". Following the invasion, NATO announced plans to increase military deployments in the Baltics, Poland, and Romania.

After the 25 February UN Security Council meeting, Stoltenberg announced that parts of the NATO Response Force would be deployed, for the first time ever, to NATO members along the Eastern border. He stated that forces would include elements of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF), currently led by France. The US announced on 24 February that it would be deploying 7,000 troops to join the 5,000 already in Europe. NATO forces include the USS Harry S. Truman's Carrier Strike Group 8, which entered the Mediterranean Sea the previous week as part of a planned exercise. The carrier strike group was placed under NATO command, the first time this had occurred since the Cold War.

During the Cold War, Finland and Sweden had remained neutral buffer states between NATO and the USSR, and the majorities in both countries opposed joining NATO. While both states stoutly retained their neutral status after the Fall of Communism, with the increasing threat of Russia in the second decade of the 21st century, support for joining had begun to climb. As Russia began to build forces on Ukraine's border in the leadup to their invasion, both countries increased their cooperation with NATO. On 25 February, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova threatened Finland and Sweden with "military and political consequences" if they attempted to join NATO, despite their ongoing commitment to neutrality. Both countries had attended the emergency NATO summit as members of NATO's Partnership for Peace, and both had condemned the invasion and had provided assistance to Ukraine. A public petition asking the Parliament of Finland to hold a referendum to join NATO reached the required 50,000 signatures, prompting a parliamentary discussion on 1 March. Finnish public opinion on joining NATO shifted after the invasion, with 53% in favour in the most recent poll compared to 30% in January. Swedish public opinion saw a similar shift, with 51% in favour in the most recent poll compared to 42% in January.[13,14]

Conclusion

More than 30,000 technology workers; 6,000 medical workers; 3,400 architects; 4,300 teachers; 17,000 artists; 5,000 scientists; 1,200 students, faculty and staff of Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO); and 2,000 actors, directors, and other creative figures signed petitions calling for Putin's government to stop the war. Russian human rights activist Lev Ponomaryov started a petition to protest the invasion, garnering more than 750,000

signatures by 26 February. Some Russians who signed petitions against Russia's war in Ukraine lost their jobs. The founders of the Immortal Regiment commemoration movement, in which ordinary Russians annually march with photographs of veteran family members to mark World War II's Victory Day on 9 May, called on Putin to cease fire and described the use of force as "inhuman".

On 3 March, the multinational oil company Lukoil, the second largest company in Russia after Gazprom, called for a ceasefire and diplomatic means to solve the conflict.[15]

Protests in support of Ukraine were worldwide. In Prague, about 80,000 people protested in Wenceslas Square. On 27 February, more than 100,000 gathered in Berlin to protest against Russia's invasion. During the 2022 Belarusian constitutional referendum, protestors in Minsk chanted "No to war" at polling stations. On 28 February, instead of the traditional Cologne Carnival parade Rose Monday, which had been cancelled a few days earlier due to COVID-19, more than 250,000 (instead of the anticipated 30,000) gathered in Cologne in a peace march to protest against the Russian invasion; many protesters used the slogan "Glory to Ukraine".

Apart of the protests, there were also reported instances of Russophobia and discrimination against the Russian diaspora as a result of the war.[15]

References

- [1] "South Ossetia recognises independence of Donetsk People's Republic". Information Telegraph Agency of Russia. 27 June 2014. Archived from the original on 17 November 2016. Retrieved 31 January 2022.
- [2] Alec, Luhn (6 November 2014). "Ukraine's rebel 'people's republics' begin work of building new states". The Guardian. Donetsk. Archived from the original on 26 January 2022. Retrieved 31 January 2022.
- [3] "Obshchaya informatsiya" *Общая информация* [General Information]. Official site of the head of the Lugansk People's Republic (in Russian). Archived from the original on 12 March 2018. Retrieved 11 March 2018.
- [4] Lister, Tim; Kesa, Julia (24 February 2022). "Ukraine says it was attacked through Russian, Belarus and Crimea borders". Kyiv. CNN. Archived from the original on 24 February 2022. Retrieved 24 February 2022.
- [5] Murphy, Palu (24 February 2022). "Troops and military vehicles have entered Ukraine from

- Belarus". CNN. Archived from the original on 23 February 2022. Retrieved 24 February 2022.
- [6] Rodionov, Maxim; Balmforth, Tom (25 February 2022). "Belarusian troops could be used in operation against Ukraine if needed, Lukashenko says". Reuters. Archived from the original on 25 February 2022. Retrieved 25 February 2022.
- [7] "Missiles launched into Ukraine from Belarus". BBC News. 27 February 2022. Archived from the original on 2 March 2022. Retrieved 27 February 2022.
- [8] "Ukrainian Official Says Belarus Has Joined the War, as Russia Pummels Kharkiv". Time. 1 March 2022. Archived from the original on 2 March 2022. Retrieved 1 March 2022.
- [9] Barnes, Julian E.; Crowley, Michael; Schmitt, Eric (10 January 2022). "Russia Positioning Helicopters, in Possible Sign of Ukraine Plans". The New York Times. Archived from the original on 22 January 2022. Retrieved 20 January 2022.
- [10] Bengali, Shashank (18 February 2022). "The U.S. says Russia's troop buildup could be as high as 190,000 in and near Ukraine". The New York Times. Archived from the original on 18 February 2022. Retrieved 18 February 2022.
- [11] The military balance 2021. Abingdon, Oxon: International Institute for Strategic Studies. 2021. ISBN 978-1032012278.
- [12] France-Presse, Agence (7 March 2022). "20,000 foreign volunteers in Ukraine 'to join fight against Russia'". South China Morning Post. Archived from the original on 9 March 2022.
- [13] "Russia says 498 of its soldiers killed, 1,597 wounded in Ukraine – RIA". Reuters. 2 March 2022. Archived from the original on 2 March 2022. Retrieved 3 March 2022.
- [14] "Up to 6,000 Russians may have been killed in Ukraine so far, U.S. official estimates". CBS News. 9 March 2022. Archived from the original on 10 March 2022. Retrieved 9 March 2022.
- [15] Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ukraine) [@MFA_Ukraine] (12 March 2022). "Losses of the Russian armed forces in Ukraine, March 12" (Tweet) – via Twitter.

