

IMUN 2022 Research Report

Security Council – Democracy vs. Autocracy

The Question of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine

In 1991 Ukraine declares its independence from the Soviet Union, after a majority decision of 92%, signing an accord with Belarus and Russia to dissolve the old country (Bigg). In 1994, under the Budapest Memorandum, Ukraine gives up most of its military arsenal, including all nuclear weapons to Russia, to secure that its own sovereignty is recognized by that country (Bigg). IN 1995, 1996 and 1997, Ukraine joins the European Council, rewrites its constitution, and signs a Treaty of Friendship with Russia – guaranteeing that both countries would respect each other’s borders (Bigg). Following very turbulent years in Ukrainian’s politics, with a debate weather or not to adopt western ideas, the year of 2004 nearly brings a civil war along with the elections, which were deemed rigged and later annulled, thanks to the efforts of the protesters known as Orange Revolutionaries (Ray). The defeated candidate Yanukovych ends up rising to power in the 2010 elections and immediately strengthens diplomatic relations with Russia, achieving better prices for Russian natural gas at the cost of a greater Russian control over the Crimean port – his opposition, the former government is sentenced to prison, charged with abuse of power.

In late 2013 Yanukovych meets with the Russian President, Putin, a few weeks before the EU Eastern Partnership summit, having both decided that Ukraine were to suspend relations with the EU to prioritize Russia. Hundreds of thousands pro-Western protesters gathered in Kiev from November 30th to December 8th demonstrate against the government’s decision, the result was the destruction of statues and multiple casualties. 2014 brings more violence and protests, which resulted in over 20 deaths; on February 20th 2014, government snipers open fire on protestors and multiple Ukrainians are killed – the EU imposes sanctions (Ray). Putin is granted approval to use military force to protect Russian interests in Ukrainian territory (Ray). On March 6th of that same year, the self-appointed government in control of Crimea votes to be annexed by Russia, and two weeks later, with 95% of the votes, Putin signs all the necessary treaties with Crimean officials; The EU imposes sanctions (Ray). In early April pro-Russian separatists declare the independence of Donetsk and Luhansk, resulting in conversations between both countries, the US and the EU (Ray). Paramilitary groups organize innumerable assassinations of Ukrainian politicians and other incidents (Ray). The chaos resulted in fifty thousand IDPs and one hundred thousand Ukrainian refugees. Russia keeps

fueling the separatist regions despite international sanctions; Ukraine seeks membership in NATO (Ray). Roughly 2500 people were killed since the beginning of the hostilities between the regions (Ray).

Under the excuse of military training, Russia gathered troops near Ukrainian borders and later demanded NATO to cease its operations in Eastern Europe (Conflict). On February 21st, Putin gave a speech in which he announced the start of what he called a “special military operation” (Mankoff). Armed offensives caused violence to escalate in multiple regions within the country and innumerable attacks were carried out against military bases and cities (Conflict). Peaceful negotiations were pointless and therefore multiple international sanctions were put in place (Conflict). Citizens have accused Russian soldiers of different war crimes, including executions, torture, and rape (Conflict). As of September 7th 5,718, civilians were killed, including 372 children, and over 6.9 million people were internally displaced (DiCarlo).

Delegates should focus on the necessary measures to put an end to the conflict in the most peaceful manner possible, seeking at the top of their priorities to ensure the rights and safety of all endangered persons. War refugees and IDPs should also be at the center of the debate. Furthermore, delegates are also encouraged to discuss further measures or sanction to be imposed.

Works Cited

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