

Ming Yang

Mr. Rutherford

Oxford Scholar

14 November 2022

### **The Ukrainian War Takes its Stance**

There are many ways to which a war can start. There are several causes, including intermediate and immediate causes. Taking World War I as an example, the intermediate causes are that increasing authoritarianism in Germany is starting to challenge Europe and the coming to realization of nationality in Europe. The immediate cause would be the assassination of an Austrian archduke in 1914 by a Serbian terrorist. As *The Diplomatic Courier* puts it, “Think of building a bonfire, piling up the logs is a deep cause; adding kindling and paper is an intermediate cause; and striking a match is a precipitating cause. But even then, a bonfire is not inevitable” (3). Therefore, the start of the Ukrainian War can be obviously seen as the sending of Russian troops to invade Ukraine on February 24, but intermediate causes could have been Russia’s refusal to view Ukraine as a legitimate state or Ukraine’s rejection to a pro-Russian government when the 2014 Maidan uprising took place.

The possible solutions to this problem have been widely debated, and there are many different opinions and ways to possibly end this war. One solution depends on the decision of the individual world leaders, which will then impact citizens and soldiers. If a commander apologizes for his intrusion because he had been misinformed by his own country, then his soldiers are very much likely to stop fighting. Another solution stems from the soldiers themselves. If the soldiers determine that they are fighting a war in which the objectives will not

be achieved or if they realize that they are fighting for their leader's survival instead of their own interest, they may join the enemy or desert the battle. Putin's life is also at stake with the war. If the Ukrainians do not surrender with the bombing of Kijiv like Putin anticipated for them to, then Putin must enter into some kind of deal with Ukraine. It is assumed that if he doesn't enter into a deal, there is nothing but death awaiting him if he does not obtain absolute victory. In my opinion, I think it would be most effective for the commanders and political leaders to realize that this is an unbeatable war, and that their interests will not be met without the long term dragging on of this dreadful and unpredictable war. This can happen through America's support of Ukraine by sending them war munitions and supplies, strengthening the Ukraine war efforts and their ability to fight back.

Throughout the diverse responses provided by the American public, most people state that the U.S. should continue to, if not increase its efforts in sending weapons and supplies to Russia. It is also anticipated that the U.S. should increase its economic sanctions on Russia. Many citizens are unsatisfied with Biden's way of handling the situation, suggesting that he should take more of a leadership role in the world and increase the U.S.'s efforts in restricting and penalizing Russia for its wrongful actions. To the U.S., stopping the Ukrainian war is rather important, for reasons such as stopping Russian aggression, protecting Ukrainian lives, protecting NATO allies, and protecting democracy. According to the CBS News Poll, the public splits their opinion in the actions the U.S. should take between 78% who believe that the U.S. should keep economic sanctions on Russia, 72% who believe that the U.S. should send weapons and supplies to Ukraine, 63% who believe that the U.S. should send troops to protect NATO

allies, and 25% who support the U.S. in sending troops to Ukraine. Therefore, the U.S. should take a more profound approach in backing Ukraine up by sending supplies and restraining Russia so that it does not succeed in resurrecting the “Russian world.”

The Ukraine war has resulted in many world crises, from shortages of resources to reductions in the world economy. Automobile manufacturers in Europe, hotel resorts in Georgia and the Maldives, and food consumers are being actively affected by this war. The war in Ukraine has decreased the rate of world trade, lowering global GDP. Manufacturers see a sharp decline in their exports while crop and resource exports see a surge in the demand for fossil fuels and crops. Since Russia and Ukraine account for 25 percent of the world’s wheat exports and 14 percent of corn shipments, the rise of the Ukrainian war sees the potential start of a food crisis. Energy prices such as gasoline prices are also soaring since Ukraine and Russia are both high natural resource producing and exporting countries. The war will also cause tourism to suffer as the tourism industry in countries who depend on Russian and Ukrainian travelers will stall and become stagnant. In this way, the Ukrainian war has put worldwide issues such as resources and food shortages, declining economy, and stagnant industries at stake.

Political scientists have come to the conclusion that the withdrawal of Russian troops from northeastern Ukraine does not signal Russia’s intention to negotiate peace. Instead, it changes Russia’s expectations of a swift victory to a more pessimistic view on fulfilling its original war aims. Hein Gomans, professor of political science at the University of Rochester predicts that the latest sham referenda in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions in the south will not speed up the end of this war. In fact, he expects for the war to last another year, where both

sides will likely have strategies to test before they realize that negotiation is necessary. He gives a vision of the best Russia could return to, which he identifies as “...the status quo before February 24, and internationally overseen plebiscites in Luhansk, Donetsk, and Crimea” (20). In the case that Russia wins the war, the security network in Europe would likely crash, with consequences for NATO, Germany, and the Middle East. Policies that have established peaceful cooperation will be overthrown and other dictators would likely follow Putin’s example. However, we can also hope for a better outcome, in which Russia obtains better results than before the war such as more defensible borders, continued presence in the West, along with funding and training. These would lead to a peaceful and stable Europe and create a sense of defense towards Russia.

### Works Cited

1. By. "What Caused the Ukraine War?" *RSS*,  
<https://www.diplomaticourier.com/posts/what-caused-the-ukraine-war>.
2. "Here's How the War in Ukraine Is Impacting World Trade and Investment." *World Economic Forum*,  
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/05/war-ukraine-world-trade-investment/#:~:text=The%20war%20in%20Ukraine%20is%20causing%20worldwide%20disruptions,as%20i mpacting%20consumers%20of%20food%20and%20fuel%20globally>.
3. Knispel, Sandra. "When Will the War in Ukraine End? and How?" *News Center*, 18 Oct. 2022, <https://www.rochester.edu/newscenter/when-will-the-war-in-ukraine-end-536402/>.
4. Roach, Jennifer. "Eastman Musician Has 'Hidden Passion' for Fabrics with Flow." *News Center*, 7 Nov. 2016,  
<https://www.rochester.edu/newscenter/how-to-end-the-ukraine-war-514522/f>.
5. Salvanto, Anthony, et al. "CBS News Poll - War in Ukraine: What Should the U.S. Do Now?" *CBS News*, CBS Interactive, 10 Apr. 2022,  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ukraine-russia-war-what-should-us-do-opinion-poll-2022-04-09/>.