



**SECURITY COUNCIL**  

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**UNITED NATIONS**

## **BACKGROUND GUIDE**

### **JODHAMAL YOUTH CONCLAVE'23**

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## **LETTER FROM EXECITUVE BOARD**

We welcome you all to United Nations Security Council being simulated at JYC'23. Model UN conferences help an individual to grow holistically as it covers various aspects like debating, researching, getting geopolitics clear. It improves the style of living of a person and also helps a student to grow and develop. It helps in getting exposure which is required to survive and imparts world knowledge as well.

We are looking forward to an intense discussion which will lead to a productive committee. It depends upon how the delegates do their research and use their knowledge in order to have a fruitful session. It's our request that kindly go through the background guide so that you can get an idea about the agenda. Don't consider this guide as a complete research medium, since internet is not a small platform. Don't be restricted to it. It's appreciated if you bring new discussion points which are not mentioned in the guide. Consider this paper as a beginning and research to the fullest.

It's advisable to not to limit yourself to your research and combine your research and logic as it makes a wonderful combination. It leads to better debate and discussion. Don't be restricted to your research and take initiative to enhance the discussion as this is a debating session and not a declamation session.

So, we wish you all the best and research well. For any queries, delegates can directly contact us.

Regards:

**Aviral Kapoor**  
(Chairperson)

**Navaj Anand**  
(Co-Chairperson)

**Suvan Gupta**  
(Vice-Chairperson)

**Amey**  
(Rapporteur)

## **ABOUT THE COMMITTEE: -**

The topic under discussion for this year in the UNSC is:  
“Articulation of NATO’s role with special emphasis to the current Russian-Ukrainian conflict”.

The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; and
- to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

In preparation for the conference, each delegate shall use their research to draft and submit a position paper upon their discretion, which shall reach the email id of the chairperson given on the front page of this background guide or a hard copy of the same before the 1st committee session commences.

The committee will use both verbal and non-verbal (writing) modes of communication, with English being the normal verbatim.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,  
Chairperson

## INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA

### WHAT IS NATO?

As per the NATO themselves, NATO describes itself as four prominent alliances, with very specific purposes.

#### 1. A POLITICAL AND MILITARY ALLIANCE.

Security in our daily lives is key to our well-being. NATO's purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.

POLITICAL - NATO promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict.

MILITARY - NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations. These are carried out under the collective defence clause of NATO's founding treaty - Article 5 of the Washington Treaty or under a United Nations mandate, alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organisations

#### 2. COLLECTIVE DEFENCE.

NATO is committed to the principle that an attack against one or several of its members is considered as an attack against all. This is the principle of collective defence, which is enshrined in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty.

So far, Article 5 has been invoked once - in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001.

#### 3. THE TRANSATLANTIC LINK.

NATO is an alliance of countries from Europe and North America. It provides a unique link between these two continents, enabling them to consult and cooperate in the field of defence and security, and conduct multinational crisis-management operations together.

#### 4. THE 2022 STRATEGIC CONCEPT.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states – 28 European and two North American. Established in the aftermath of World War II, the organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty, which was signed in Washington, D.C., on 4 April 1949. NATO is a system of collective security: its independent member states agree to defend each other against attacks by third parties. During the Cold War, NATO operated as a check on the perceived threat posed by the Soviet Union. The alliance remained in place after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and has been involved in military operations in the Balkans, the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa.

#### **ABOUT THE CONFLICT**

The world continues to fall further into an economic crisis as Vladimir Putin escalates the Russia-Ukraine conflict. This agenda that we discuss in the UNSC sessions of JYC'23 has been a game-changer in Global Politics. The West has already taken up its side and has pressed heavy sanctions against Russia in an attempt to crush its economy. Countries like India and China have had a neutral stand, whereas Belarus sides with Russia. The world is on the verge of World War 3.

The Security Council remains actively engaged on the situation in Ukraine. However, the frequency with which the Council has convened meetings on Ukraine has steadily declined since the start of the war on 24 February 2022 . In March, the Council held six formal and informal meetings on Ukraine. This dropped to four in April, with meetings more narrowly focused on the war's detrimental effects on specific vulnerable groups—including women, children and refugees. The number of meetings continued to fall in subsequent months, reaching four in May and three in June.

On 6 June 2022, the Council held an open briefing on conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking in the war in Ukraine. There was also a briefing on Ukraine on 21 June, which focused on “incitement to

violence leading to atrocity crimes”. On 28 June 2022, at Ukraine’s request, the Council convened for an open meeting to discuss the recent shelling of areas in Ukraine’s centre, including a 26 June 2022 missile launch on Kyiv. The assault, which was the first such attack on Kyiv in weeks, hit a residential building, killing one person. Council members also discussed a 27 June 2022 attack on a crowded shopping mall in the central Poltava region, which resulted in at least 20 deaths. The UN condemned the attack on 27 June 2022 as “utterly deplorable”. (For more information, see our 3 June and 20 June What’s in Blue stories.)

In addition to these briefings, the war in Ukraine has been referenced during several other Council meetings. Notable in this regard was the high-level open debate on “strengthening accountability and justice for serious violations of international law” on 2 June 2022 and the annual meeting on strengthening EU-UN cooperation on 16 June 2022. Hostilities in Ukraine remain concentrated in Donetsk and Luhansk as Russian forces pursue control of the entire Donbas region in eastern Ukraine.

In Luhansk, Russian troops made slow but considerable advances in June, and now control over 90 percent of the region. Russian forces most recently captured the city of Sievierodonetsk, where hundreds of civilians had reportedly taken shelter from Russian shelling at the Azot chemical plant. In Donetsk, Russian forces continue to advance south the southern Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, Russian troops appear to be seeking to maintain defensive positions against Ukrainian counterattacks.

The intense fighting in the eastern and southern parts of Ukraine continues to prevent vital aid from reaching those in need.

On 13 June 2022, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric said that the UN and humanitarian partners have been unable to reach critical areas affected by the war, including Mariupol, Kherson and Sievierodonetsk because of “insecurity and bureaucratic obstacles”, despite continued engagement to negotiate access.

He noted that the last time a UN convoy with supplies reached Sievierodonetsk was on 5 April. In the south, a critical shortage of medicines persists in Kherson, and Mariupol is said to be at risk of a major cholera outbreak.

## NATO IN THE POST COLD WAR ERA

After the Cold War, NATO was reconceived as a “cooperative-security” organization whose mandate was to include two main objectives: to foster dialogue and cooperation with former adversaries in the Warsaw Pact and to “manage” conflicts in areas on the European periphery, such as the Balkans.

In keeping with the first objective, NATO established the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (1991; later replaced by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council) to provide a forum for the exchange of views on political and security issues, as well as the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program (1994) to enhance European security and stability through joint military training exercises with NATO and non-NATO states, including the former Soviet republics and allies. Special cooperative links were also set up with two PfP countries: Russia and Ukraine.

The second objective entailed NATO’s first use of military force, when it entered the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995 by staging air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions around the capital city of Sarajevo.

The subsequent Dayton Accords, which were initialed by representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, committed each state to respecting the others’ sovereignty and to settling disputes peacefully; it also laid the groundwork for Stationing NATO peacekeeping troops in the region. A 60,000-strong Implementation Force (IFOR) was initially deployed, though a smaller contingent remained in Bosnia under a different name, the Stabilization Force (SFOR).

In March 1999 NATO launched massive air strikes against Serbia in an attempt to force the Yugoslav government of Slobodan Milošević to accede to diplomatic provisions designed to protect the predominantly Muslim Albanian population in the province of Kosovo. Under the terms of a negotiated settlement to the fighting, NATO deployed a peacekeeping force called the Kosovo Force (KFOR).

The crisis over Kosovo and the ensuing war gave renewed impetus to efforts by the European Union (EU) to construct a new crisis-intervention force, which would make the EU less dependent on NATO and U.S. military resources for conflict management. These efforts prompted



significant debates about whether enhancing the EU's defensive capabilities would strengthen or weaken NATO.

Simultaneously there was much discussion of the future of NATO in the post-Cold War era. Some observers argued that the alliance should be dissolved, noting that it was created to confront an enemy that no longer existed; others called for a broad expansion of NATO membership to include Russia. Most suggested alternative roles, including peacekeeping.

By the start of the second decade of the 21st century, it appeared likely that the EU would not develop capabilities competitive with those of NATO or even seek to do so; as a result, earlier worries associated with the spectre of rivalry between the two Brussels-based organizations dissipated.

During the presidency of Bill Clinton (1993–2001), the United States led an initiative to enlarge NATO membership gradually to include some of the former Soviet allies. In the concurrent debate over enlargement, supporters of the initiative argued that NATO membership was the best way to begin the long process of integrating these states into regional political and economic institutions such as the EU. Some also feared future Russian aggression and suggested that NATO membership would guarantee freedom and security for the newly democratic regimes.

Opponents pointed to the enormous cost of modernizing the military forces of new members; they also argued that enlargement, which Russia would regard as a provocation, would hinder democracy in that country and enhance the influence of hard-liners. Despite these disagreements, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland joined NATO in 1999; Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia were admitted in 2004; and Albania and Croatia acceded to the alliance in 2009.

Meanwhile, by the beginning of the 21st century, Russia and NATO had formed a strategic relationship. No longer considered NATO's chief enemy, Russia cemented a new cooperative bond with NATO in 2001 to address such common concerns as international terrorism, nuclear nonproliferation, and arms control. This bond subsequently frayed, however, due to regional aggression by Russian Pres. Vladimir Putin.

After Russia invaded Georgia in 2008, NATO strengthened ties with the latter country and established the NATO-Georgia Commission "to help Georgia achieve its goal of membership in NATO." In 2014 pro-Russian Ukrainian Pres. Viktor Yanukovich fled Ukraine after months of popular protests, and Russia responded by invading the Ukrainian autonomous republic of Crimea. Russia illegally annexed Crimea and fomented

uprisings in Ukraine's Donbas region in an effort to reassert control over its neighbor.

Ukraine checked the Russian-backed campaign in the Donbas, and NATO reaffirmed its support for Ukraine's democratically elected government and its internationally recognized borders.

Events following the September 11 attacks in 2001 led to the forging of a new dynamic within the alliance, one that increasingly favored the military engagement of members outside Europe, initially with a mission against Taliban forces in Afghanistan beginning in the summer of 2003 and subsequently with air operations against the regime of Muammar al-Qaddafi in Libya in early 2011.

As a result of the increased tempo of military operations undertaken by the alliance, the long-standing issue of "burden sharing" was revived, with some officials warning that failure to share the costs of NATO operations more equitably would lead to unraveling of the alliance.

At the time, however, most observers regarded that scenario as unlikely. Later, the burden-sharing issue was raised once more by U.S. Pres. Donald Trump, who repeatedly criticized other NATO members for failing to devote a sufficient portion of their budgets to defense spending. Trump questioned the relevance of NATO and discussed withdrawing the United States from the alliance; even the suggestion of such an action was seen as a boon to Putin. Trump's national security team moved to reassure allies that the U.S. remained committed to NATO, however, and, by the end of Trump's term in 2021, the U.S. troop presence in Europe was almost entirely unchanged.

By the end of that year, Russia had begun a massive military buildup along the Ukrainian frontier under the guise of joint maneuvers with the Belarusian army. In February 2022 there were as many as 190,000 Russian troops along the Russo-Ukrainian border, in Belarus, in Russian-occupied Crimea, and in the Russian-backed separatist enclave of Transdniestria in Moldova. On February 24 Putin announced the beginning of a "special military operation" and launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Although the Russians made some early gains, their advances soon stalled against a spirited Ukrainian defense.

Ukrainian Pres. Volodymyr Zelensky appealed to Western countries for military aid, and individual NATO members began a massive transfer of hardware to bolster the Ukrainian arsenal. The administration of U.S. Pres. Joe Biden took a leading role in marshaling the response to the greatest threat to European security since World War II.

The speed and unity of NATO's reaction to Russian aggression in Ukraine dramatically dispelled any doubts about the continued relevance of the alliance. Sweden and Finland, two countries with a long history of neutrality, announced their intention to join NATO in the wake of the Russian invasion, and the U.S. deployed additional military assets to Poland and the Baltic states. In June 2022, at the first annual NATO summit since the invasion, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg announced "the biggest overhaul of our collective deterrence and defense since the Cold War."

In addition to formally inviting Sweden and Finland to join the alliance, Stoltenberg declared that NATO's rapid reaction force, a collection of air, sea, and land units maintained at a state of high readiness, would increase from 40,000 troops to more than 300,000.

### **NATO IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

Ten years ago, the idea of writing a substantial paper about NATO's role in the Greater Middle East would have been implausible. Indeed, at that time NATO was only tentatively involved in southeast Europe.

let alone southwest Asia. and the organizations own future remained highly uncertain. In August 1995, after four years of hesitation and debate over the issue of extending the zone of operation of what had once been a strictly defensive alliance, NATO intervened militarily for the first time in Bosnia. However, this only occurred after organizations like the United Nations (UN) and the Western European Union (WEU) were seen to have failed, and the mission was not regarded as a precedent for Alliance action in the Middle East or Asia.

At the time, few could have envisaged that a decade later NATO would be deploying over 10,000 troops to Afghanistan, training Iraqi military forces in Baghdad and increasing its political and military cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

That, however, is precisely the situation today. Over the past several years, this once entirely "North Atlantic" institution has:

- Invoked its article 5 defense clause for the first time ever, following the September 11 attacks in the United States;
- Deployed a peacekeeping force of nearly 9,000 troops to Northern Afghanistan and committed to expand that mission geographically (to the south) and quantitatively (by another 6,000 troops);

- Launched a 9-million-euro training operation for Iraqi forces involving contributions from all 26 NATO members;
- Created the NATO Response Force (NRF), a grouping of some 20,000 forces and equipment that can be called together at short notice and deployed anywhere around the world;
  
- Deployed the NRF in an earthquake relief operation in Pakistan;
- Established an air-bridge to supply soldiers from the African Union (AU) to a peacekeeping mission in Sudan;
  
- Launched the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) to develop its political and military relations with members of the GCC;
  
- Expanded its Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) to facilitate political dialogue with Middle Eastern countries including Egypt;
  
- Enlarged the scope of political discussions in the North Atlantic Council to include briefings on a range of Middle Eastern and global issues; and
  
- Established a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response (CBRNR) team to help deal with possible weapons of mass destruction contingencies.

Many of these operations are limited in scope and political discussions in and about the Greater Middle East are still in their early stages. Nonetheless, the trend toward greater Alliance involvement in the region is clear and NATO's role in this area is likely to continue to grow. NATO is in the process of fitfully transforming itself into a global security organization in terms of its missions, its participation and possibly even its future membership.

NATO will not become a security alliance for the Middle East – as it was for Western Europe – with US and European bases scattered throughout the region. Nonetheless, despite all the differences among NATO members and the obstacles to a NATO role in the Middle East region, the fact remains that the United States and Europe will continue to have significant common security interests there, and NATO remains the best mechanism for coordinating their policies and operations. Those who have for years predicted NATO's demise will, in all likelihood, continue to be confounded.

## **Timeline of events after the Russo-Ukrainian Conflict started**

Here is a timeline of events that have taken place in Russia and Ukraine after the war has started so that delegates can get a broader understanding of the topic:

February 24: Russian President Putin declares war on Ukraine, with Russian forces attacking Ukraine from three fronts. The Russian president calls the invasion a 'special military operation' to 'demilitarize and denazify Ukraine.

February 25: Russian artillery firing on Kyiv and its suburbs as the Ukrainian forces battle the Russians on the northern, eastern, and southern fronts.

March 1: Russian forces target a TV tower in Kyiv, killing five people, and intensify the bombardment in Kharkiv.

March 2: Russian forces begin the siege of Mariupol. The Russian troops reach the centre of 15 Kherson and capture the first large urban centre and by this time approximately 1 million refugees have fled Ukraine.

March 4: The Russian forces seize Europe's biggest nuclear power plant located in. NATO rejects Ukraine's appeal for no-fly zones fearing escalation of conflict.

March 8: Civilians flee the northeastern city of Sumy in the first successful humanitarian corridor agreed. (Approx. no. of people escaping is 2 million as estimated by a UN agency)

March 9: Ukraine accuses Russia of bombing a hospital in Mariupol, evoking denial by the Russians who alleged that the Ukrainian fighters had occupied the building.

March 13: Russia fires missiles at a base in Yavoriv near the Polish border.

March 25: Ukrainian forces launch an offensive to recapture towns outside Kyiv after Russia signals it is aiming to conquer more of the eastern region.

April 3: Ukraine accuses Russia of war crimes following reports of mass graves and bodies of people shot at close range in Bucha but Moscow denies the charges and alleges images of bodies were staged.

April 8: Ukraine claims Russian missile attack on a train station in Kramatorsk killed 52 civilians trying to flee the offensive.

April 14: Moskva, Russia's lead warship in the Black Sea sinks due to Ukraine's continuous missile strike.

April 21: Vladimir Putin declares Mariupol liberated, three days after the Russian forces launched an eastern assault in the Battle of Donbas.

April 28: Ukraine claims that Russia fired two missiles into Kyiv during UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's visit to the war-torn country.

May 7: At least 60 people are feared dead after a bomb strikes a village school in eastern Ukraine. May 10: The Ukrainian forces claim to have recaptured villages from Russia in Kharkiv.

May 13: Ukrainian military shares video clips claiming it destroyed parts of a Russian armored column. A day later, Ukraine launches a counter-offensive near the eastern Russian-held town of Iziur.

May 18: Finland and Sweden formally apply to join the NATO alliance.

May 20: Ukrainian fighters defending Mariupol's Azovstal Steelworks surrender to Russian forces.

## **EFFECTS OF THE WAR**

Far from Russia's war in Ukraine, stores are running out of cooking oil, people are paying more at the gas pump, farmers are scrambling to buy fertilizer and nations are rethinking alliances. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has triggered many problems.

Ukraine and Russia are key exporters of wheat, and barley, particularly for African and Middle Eastern countries. Russia is also a major producer of fertilizer and petroleum. Disruptions to the flow of these goods due to the

war are driving up food and gas prices, causing shortages and pushing millions of people into hunger.

The world's second-largest producer of wheat has boosted exports of grain across the globe to offset supply disruptions from Ukraine and Russia. Higher fuel and food prices from the war exacerbated Sri Lanka's economic crisis. Annual inflation hit 29.8% in April. More than 5.8 million people have fled Ukraine in one of the fastest-growing refugee crises in recent history. Humanitarian groups are worried about this and have sprung into action.

The U.N. refugee agency has projected that some 8.3 million people might leave Ukraine. People are facing challenges in getting food, housing, transportation, education, and money facilities.

The country of Romania has admitted more than 880,000 Ukrainian refugees, mostly women, and children. A 21st-century war in Europe — led by nuclear power — is pushing the world toward a realignment. It has shaken up prominent global players such as the European union and the United Nations and forced countries to take sides in new ways that have led to escalating tensions and momentous diplomatic shifts.

Russia is the second-largest producer of natural gas and the third-largest producer of oil. The European Union is particularly dependent on Russian energy; it is now preparing to phase in an oil ban on the other countries. The war is sweeping the global petroleum and gas trade as countries ban or cut Russian energy imports, sanction Russian companies, face Russia's demands for payments in 17. rubles and search for alternative sources.

The White House ordered an unprecedented release of up to 180 million barrels of oil from strategic reserves in a bid to offset the war's impact on soaring fuel prices. The U.S. also banned imports of oil, gas, and coal from Russia. Russia has more nuclear weapons than any other country in the world. Its military attack on Ukraine has notably reenergized NATO, a military and political alliance of the United States and European countries. Urgently, countries around the world have escalated military spending or have begun a consequential reevaluation of their defenses. The attack on Ukraine prompted both Finland and Sweden to break with their policy of not providing arms to countries at war by sending assault rifles and anti-tank weapons to Kyiv.

For Sweden, it's the first time offering military aid since 1939, when it assisted Finland against the Soviet Union. The countries also have sought to join NATO.

Provided above are most of the effects that have taken place due to the war. We also expect the delegates to be well versed in the decisions that have been taken by their countries and how the nations in this world are affected by this conflict in order to come up with effective measures to bring this conflict to an end.

### **Bloc Positions**

The Ukrainian Support: Ukraine's allies have most obviously emerged in the form of Western Countries. NATO and the EU have been the most vocal supporters of the Ukrainian cause. More support came from NATO and US allies in the East, Latin America, and Africa, with Australia, Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, Argentina, Brazil, Turkey, South Korea, Georgia, Indonesia, and Israel.

Taiwan: in particular has played a huge role by pulling out the world's biggest chip company, TSMC, out of Russia, creating a great chip shortage in the nation. Finland, a neutral neighbor of Russia, is also a keen supporter of Ukraine with more than 67% of its population supporting the idea of joining NATO.

#### **United States:**

The United States always had an interest in Ukraine. When Ukraine got separated in 1991 the United States quickly recognized Ukraine and extended full support in 1994.

It helped Ukraine and Russia come to an agreement on the elimination of soviet nuclear weapon systems in 18 Ukraine and ensure security and safety for Ukraine.

The country has pledged to admit up to 100,000 Ukrainians and others displaced by the war, creating a new program for Ukrainian refugees to come directly to the U.S. Since 2021 the USA has invested more than \$4.6billion in its security. It has also provided Ukraine with military assistance. Joe Biden, the president of the United States has also sent around 12000 troops to help Ukraine in war. Russia is also one of the countries which have always suppressed Russia and its measures.

The USA has also provided aid of \$33 billion to the country to help it in the war. The United States sees this as a war between the people of Europe and Russia.



### **United Kingdom:**

Since the Ukrainian revolution the United Kingdom has actively supported Ukraine and publicly condemned Russia. It has provided Ukraine with the assistance of about 1.3 billion pounds (\$1.60 billion) in the war.

The UK further provides humanitarian aid which focuses to help the most vulnerable people affected by this war. The UK also has decided to provide Ukraine with more than 800 anti-tank missiles and other military equipment too.

The US along with other countries has taken a stand against Russia, as a result, Russia was removed from the Human rights council. UK also said that the steps taken by the Russian president are affecting people all over the world in some way or the other.

### **France:**

France has been actively involved in criticizing Russia for invading Ukraine. The country claims that the Russian Invasion has given rise to serious humanitarian issues in Ukraine. France has released €100 million to finance the most urgent humanitarian supplies, such as medication, respirators, tents, and blankets.

It has set up a humanitarian air bridge through Poland to deliver these supplies to authorities in Ukraine or directly to the neighboring countries taking in refugees. France has also been one of the leading countries in pressing heavy sanctions against Russia.

The country aims to isolate Russia from the international financial system and France's economy. This is an effective stance considering that France doesn't have any good relations to maintain with Russia and that this is an opportunity to weaken Russian influence in Europe.

### **The Russian Support :**

Another faction of states has ended up sympathetic to the Russian cause. Syria, PRC, North Korea, and Iran all have been strong supporters of Putin's advance with Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad calling it a "correction of history".

In particular, Central Asian countries have taken a pro-Russian neutral stance. The Russian Federation's key partners in the Caribbean and Latin America, Cuba, and Venezuela have been quick to blame NATO for its provocative actions that made the invasion inevitable for Russia's self-defense.

A European friend and perhaps the only to Putin is Belarus, 19 whose leader Alexander Lukashenko allowed Putin to use Belarusian territory to

stage his invasion. Belarus relies on Russia for it as well as stages provocative actions on neighboring NATO members.

### **Belarus:**

Belarus has actively supported Russia even from before the war began. Belarus allowed the Russian Armed Forces to perform weeks-long military drills on its territory, which the Russians did not leave after they were supposed to finish.

The country did not oppose being set up as a base of operations for the Russian military. The country also authorized Russian missile launchers stationed in its territory to launch explosives into Ukrainian soil.

Belarusian military is also accused of fighting alongside the Russian military in Ukraine, but Belarus has denied all claims. The West is pressing sanctions on Belarus as well. According to the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Belarus's participation in the military conflict is unpopular among the general population, and there were protests held on 27 February but were quickly dispersed.

### **The Non-Aligned.**

A number of nations have taken a neutral stance on the conflict. The main reason for this is that these nations are primary consumers of Russian crude oil and natural gas or they inherit military aid as well. At the same time, these nations have well-woven ties with the west that can't be risked being spoiled. The most obvious nation amidst this mix is India which has continuously abstained from resolutions against Russia at the security council.

Moreover, to join India in this fix are the UAE, Bangladesh, Egypt, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Armenia. Though it is estimated that PRC is supporting Russia, China has not shown much interference in this conflict thus many nations recognize it as a neutral state.

### **India:**

India's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine has been distinctive among the major democracies and US strategic partners. Despite its discomfort with the war It has maintained neutrality on the issue.

The world's biggest democracy has bristled at Western pressure to join anti-Russian sanctions and continues to buy Russian oil and weapons. India has long had friendly ties with Russia and wants to avoid alienating Moscow, in part because it fears pushing Russia closer to China.

India has condemned civilian killings in Ukraine but has not denounced Russia's invasion. India abstained 5 times from voting in the UN security council, General assembly, and human rights Council. India also stands

shoulder to shoulder with the United States in opposing The Chinese assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region while at the same time it has continued to maintain its relationship with Russia too. 20

### **China:**

China has been quite passive throughout the conflict.

In the General Assembly Meet, the country abstained from voting against Russia. China and Russia share contiguous borders of 4,209 km long. Both countries are trading partners, especially in oil, gas, coal, and arms. Above all that, the USA is standing against Russia, and China is in no intention to abide by the USA. The country accuses the west of pressing “illegal and unilateral sanctions”. Based on high moral ground, cognition, and experience, China’s view of the Ukraine war can be described as an apolitical stance or pacifist. This position has encouraged China to be one of the largest contributors to UN Peacekeeping operations even in African countries.

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