

A CRITICAL STUDY OF INDIAN POLITICS ON RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR: FUTURISTIC PERSPECTIVE



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Abstract

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has been one of the most significant geopolitical crises of the 21st century. The conflict began in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea and provided support to separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. Since then, the conflict has escalated into a full-blown war, causing the deaths of thousands of people and displacing millions.

This research paper examines the India's standpoint on the Russia-Ukraine war, analyzing India's interests and priorities in the region. India has traditionally maintained good relations with both Russia and Ukraine and has sought to balance its strategic interests in the region. India has refrained from taking sides in the conflict and has instead focused on diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution.

The paper evaluates India's role in the conflict, including its engagement with Russia and Ukraine, its involvement in international organizations such as the UN and its position on economic sanctions. The paper also discusses India's energy security interests in the region, given its dependence on Russian oil and gas.

Overall, the paper argues that India's stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict is driven by a desire to maintain stability and security in the region, while avoiding taking sides in the conflict. India's approach has been guided by its long-term strategic interests in the region, including energy security and regional stability.

Keywords: Conflict, Indian stand point, NATO, Russia-Ukraine, war.

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1. Introduction

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has garnered widespread attention and concern from the international community. India, as a major global power and a member of the UN Security Council, has a significant role to play in shaping the outcome of this conflict. The relationship between India and Russia has been historically strong, rooted in shared values and strategic interests. However, as the conflict in Ukraine continues to escalate, India's position on the matter has become increasingly complex and nuanced. This research paper will delve into the Indian standpoint on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, exploring the various factors that have influenced India's stance on the issue. It will examine the historical and strategic ties between India and Russia, as well as India's economic and political interests in the region. The paper will also analyze India's relations with Ukraine and its other international partners, and how these relationships have impacted India's position on the conflict. Furthermore, this paper will take a futuristic perspective on the issue, exploring how India's stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict may evolve in the coming years. It will examine the potential implications of India's position on the conflict for its relations with Russia, Ukraine, and other international partners. Additionally, the paper will consider the possible scenarios that could emerge from the conflict, and how India's response to these scenarios could shape the future of its foreign policy. Overall, this research paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the Indian standpoint on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and to explore the implications of this stance for India's foreign policy in the coming years.

Present Scenario of Russia-Ukraine War

The result of Russian attack on Ukraine which causes the largest crises in Europe after World War 2. The war like condition in Ukraine has started a geopolitical issue as well as economic problems in Ukraine as well as in whole world. As Russians attack the Ukraine and the common people were killed by the invasion on 24 February, 2022. All these leads to the refugee crises in the country where people are forced to leave their home and migrate to other places. As a result of this invasion Finland and Sweden are also trying to be the part of NATO. As a result of this war the international trade has been affected. Ukraine is known as food basket of world because it supplies food grains like maize, barley and wheat to the world. Russia supplies major part of gas to Europe. Because of this war the supply of gas is not there in Europe and there are energy crises in Europe. As a help turkey and UN has allowed the Ukrainian grain to pass via black sea port. Russia is chief producer of petroleum and fertilizer. According to world health organization approx eight million people has left their houses and migrated to European region since the 2nd world war. Russia has

also by force shifted a lot of people. Hospitals and schools of Poland and Germany have been filled by people who are migrated from Ukraine. In the war of geopolitics, NATO, UN and European union are forcing the other country to take a side of country whom they support either Ukraine or Russia. This result in increase in tension in diplomatic relationships between different countries. For example, turkey which is part of NATO keeps its trade on with Russia. Russia Is one of the largest producers of oil and petroleum, because of various sanction on Russia, Russia is unable to trade, due to this the price of oil and gas increases in international market and many countries suffers from it. Russia is a country having one of the largest nuclear reserves. So, a condition like this can trigger the world war, so it's the duty of other countries to act effectively and try to create peace and harmony.

India's Standpoint on the Russia-Ukraine War

India's diplomatic strategy has demonstrated during the past ten years that it is capable of navigating a complicated and chaotic world and, when appropriate, taking advantage of geopolitical and benefits from the shifting global landscape. India's primary security and development interests are intimately correlated with its foreign policy. India's foreign policy gradually changed, even if it remained faithful to its stance of strategic autonomy, particularly as New Delhi managed its interactions with major powers. India's major power relations, particularly with the United States and the European Union, were put to the test by an unrelenting war in Ukraine. India was under heightened international pressure to stop importing Russian oil as the West moved to impose economic sanctions and isolate Russia politically. India's reaction to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which included condemning the killing of civilians without using derogatory language and abstaining from UN votes, did not significantly depart from this customarily circumspect neutrality. The West has reacted sharply to India's position. India's irreversible turn towards the West was a topic of intense discussion among the world's strategic experts prior to the outbreak of war. After the war started, though, many questioned why the biggest democracy in the world did not denounce Russia. New Delhi has resisted adopting an aggressive stance against Moscow despite intense pressure to denounce Russia for its invasion of Ukraine last year. India has shown a willingness to make pro-peace and diplomatic pronouncements in the year since the invasion. Most of the time, this position hasn't been that shocking. Numerous factors have been cited by experts as supporting India's reasoning. The fact that India and Russia have a long-standing economic, geopolitical, and diplomatic relationship that New Delhi is reluctant to sever is probably foremost among them. Russia is not just India's most significant defense supplier—and has been for many years—but the two

countries have also shown their close relationship by supporting one another on a number of UNSC decisions. India has always taken the attitude that it should not interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries, particularly when those affairs involve land disputes, political unrest, and constitutional abuses. India has avoided taking a position at the UNGA, but at the same time, India has avoided supporting Russia. At one point, there was a lot of pressure on India to choose a side, but that pressure has since subsided. India has underlined the importance of diplomacy and communication while upholding its autonomous stance, which places a high priority on its energy supply and food supplies, ever since the Russia-Ukraine war broke out on February 24. India has continually asked for an early end to hostilities as well as a return to diplomacy and discussion between Russia and Ukraine, as highlighted by Ruchira Kamboj, permanent representative of India to the UN during the UNSC meeting, 2022. India reiterates its opposition to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and its desire for engagement, diplomacy, and an end to the conflict. It is crucial that Russia hears these remarks from nations with strong diplomatic clout like India. India embraces the UN Charter's tenets and is strongly dedicated to multilateralism. India's stand on this particular conflict is based strongly on neutrality while prioritizing the fact that its external policies do not negatively impact its people or even the domestic policies. The external affairs minister in 2022 said the government's aim in a difficult global situation is that the welfare of the Indian people is ensured, however challenging the circumstances. "Indian foreign policy is there to serve the Indian people; we will do whatever it takes to discharge that responsibility,". India would always urge communication and diplomacy as the only workable course of action. Its goal has been to establish a stable peace.

How India Justifies Its Position on Russia Ukraine War

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has been a major geopolitical challenge for the international community. The crisis began in 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea, a region that was previously part of Ukraine. Since then, the conflict has escalated into a full-fledged war, with both sides accusing each other of aggression and human rights violations. The crisis has also sparked tensions between Russia and the West, with the United States and Europe imposing economic sanctions on Russia in response to its actions. In this context, India's position on the conflict is significant, given its status as a major regional power with close ties to both Russia and Ukraine.

Historical Ties Between India and Russia

India's relationship with Russia dates back to the Soviet era, when the two countries shared a common ideology

and worldview. India was one of the leading members of the Non-Aligned Movement, which sought to maintain neutrality and independence in the midst of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. During this period, India received significant military and economic support from the Soviet Union, which helped to strengthen its position in the region. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, India and Russia continued to maintain close ties, despite the changing geopolitical landscape. The two countries have cooperated in areas such as defense, energy, and space exploration, and have also shared a common interest in promoting a multipolar world order. Russia has been a key supplier of military hardware to India, and has helped to modernize India's armed forces.

India's Growing Relationship with Ukraine

In recent years, India has also sought to strengthen its relationship with Ukraine, which has emerged as an important player in the region. India has expressed support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and has emphasized the need for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. India has also signed several bilateral agreements with Ukraine in areas such as defense, science and technology, and trade. India's support for Ukraine is driven by a number of factors. Firstly, India sees Ukraine as an important market for its exports, particularly in the areas of pharmaceuticals, textiles, and engineering goods. Secondly, India has a significant diaspora in Ukraine, which provides a basis for cultural and people-to-people ties. Finally, India views Ukraine as a potential partner in the region, given its strategic location and resources.

India's Position on the Conflict

India's position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict is guided by its longstanding principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. India has consistently maintained that the conflict should be resolved through dialogue and negotiations, and has refrained from taking sides or making any statements that could be perceived as taking a stance. India's balanced approach towards the conflict has been appreciated by both Russia and Ukraine. While India's close ties with Russia provide it with significant leverage, its growing relationship with Ukraine also allows it to play a constructive role in promoting dialogue and de-escalation. India has also been a vocal critic of Western sanctions against Russia, arguing that they are counterproductive and harm the prospects for global peace and stability. India has also played a role in promoting peace and stability in the region through its participation in multilateral forums such as the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). These forums provide a platform for India to engage with both Russia and Ukraine, and to promote a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Why India is not intervening or justifies its position to not intervene.

India's foreign policy is based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. India has traditionally been cautious about getting involved in conflicts that do not directly affect its national interests. The Russo-Ukrainian War is a regional conflict that does not involve India's immediate security concerns. India maintains good relations with both Russia and Ukraine, and it does not want to take sides in the conflict. India has strategic partnerships with both countries, and any intervention in the conflict could strain its relationships with either or both of them. India has its own internal security challenges, including border disputes with China and Pakistan, and it cannot afford to divert its resources and attention to a conflict that does not directly affect its national security. India has been focusing on its domestic development and economic growth in recent years, and it does not want to get embroiled in a conflict that could have a negative impact on its economic ties with Russia and Ukraine.

India's Need of Oil

India is one of the world's largest importers of crude oil, with more than 80% of its oil requirements being met through imports. The country's rapidly growing economy and rising population have led to an increase in energy consumption, particularly in the transportation and industrial sectors. This has made it imperative for India to secure a reliable and affordable supply of oil to sustain its economic growth. The ongoing Russo-Ukrainian conflict has created uncertainty in the global oil market, with the potential for supply disruptions and price volatility. As one of the world's largest oil importers, India is likely to be impacted by any disruptions in the global oil supply chain. To fulfil the need of India's huge market which is consuming a lot of crude oil India is taking crude oil from Russia at discounted rate. This is one of the most important factors that India is not in favor to vote against the Russia. India maintained its non-alignment policy.

Critical Analysis

Since the nation gained independence, India's foreign policy has undergone numerous changes during the administrations of prime ministers from various political parties. The foundation of India's foreign policy was established by the first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. The globe was then in the midst of the Cold War, which saw the East, headed by the Soviet Union, quickly dividing from the West, led by the United States and Britain. India consequently recognized a pressing need to create policies about its relationships with the two opposing blocs under such conditions. During this time, India also emerged as an important figure in supporting the non-aligned movement in a critical manner. India's perspective on the world has undergone numerous significant shifts throughout the years. In the 1950s, it was part of

the Non-Aligned Movement; amid the Cold War, it had a strong connection with the Soviet Union. In order to challenge Chinese dominance in Asia, India and the United States have subsequently formed the Quad, a strategic alliance that also encompasses Japan and Australia. Additionally, India briefly pursued the BRICS nations to join a group of developing nations that included Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa, but that alliance now appears to be quietly disintegrating. The broad lean towards the United States in the current government's policies, which has an impact on India's long-standing history of non-alignment, has drawn significant criticism from observers. The systems used to make foreign policy decisions have been slow to react to new prospects. In order to be effective in new fields like energy, cyberspace, the economy, etc., diplomacy in India requires the comprehensiveness that is crucial. The overemphasis on terrorism in India's foreign policy has also drawn criticism. In recent times, India has sought support from the international world in every venue for its anti-terrorism effort, but in the process, it has disregarded other significant concerns that it should be worried about, such as the economy, climate change, poverty, etc. India's strategic inclinations evolved as things progressed. For instance, how the fall of the USSR prompted the Look East policy. Due to this, there is a sufficient lack of confidence among major developed and emerging countries regarding their foreign policies' coherence and vision. As discussed in the section 'Indian Standpoint: Past and Present', we know that India has refrained from denouncing Russia's incursion. It has increased its subsidized purchases of Russian gasoline and frequently voted against the war in UN votes. India has also declined to impose sanctions alongside the West. This has led to increased criticism from analysts. India's foreign policy, as analyzed is in difficulty now after a largely successful start. The deficiencies of India's foreign policy are strongly related to the nation's economic downturn between 2017–2018 and the gradual rise of majoritarianism. A part was played by India's growing geopolitical gap with China and Trump's unstable, isolationist views. Talking about the Russia-Ukraine war and India's foreign policy standpoint on the issue, we saw that India maintained its neutrality towards the conflict. Since the start of Russia's invasion on Ukraine, the United States has pressed India to take a stand, with President Joe Biden admitting early on in the conflict that India's attitude on supporting anti-Russian activities was "shaky." Additionally, during a discussion with Modi and others in May, Biden reportedly alluded to the countries' disagreement over Ukraine when he said, "This is more than simply a European issue. It is a worldwide problem. With the changing times and the evolution of Global politics, we have seen that India's actions directed towards the external affairs and foreign policy are under constant observation. During these times of constant global

change, we see India still holding on to its stand of neutrality which gets constantly criticized as the world is still trying to get India to take a firm stand, which is also true in the recent case of Russia-Ukraine war. In this particular case India is trying to strike a balance by not supporting war as we observed when PM Modi said "This is not an era of war", during his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the SCO summit in Uzbekistan in 2022, but also not taking a strong stance against Russia as it kept its national interest in mind. Ukraine has made it known that it disapproved with India's stance on the conflict. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba criticized India's energy imports from Russia in August of last year, alleging that "Ukrainian blood" had been involved and that Kiev anticipated "more practical support" from New Delhi. India finds itself in an extremely difficult circumstance as a result of the conflict. There is no simple, immediate solution in this situation; Russia is a historical partner with which India maintains close strategic relations. Additionally, Russia's assault is a flagrant breach of the country's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and international law of Ukraine. The conflict has also strained India's relations with its allies in the west, as most of the countries in the Global South and India have stayed out of the trans-Atlantic powers' economic conflict with Russia, which is being spearheaded by the United States. As was previously indicated, India is attempting to maintain its neutrality and strike a balance in the issue by refusing to criticize Russia, maintaining defense and trade links, expressing its displeasure with the war, and calling for respect for the sovereignty and territoriality of all countries. But as the battle continues, this juggling act can be seen as passivity. The foundation of India's approach to the conflict is its strategic neutrality. However, being neutral does not entail doing nothing while waiting for the war to end. In addition to advocating for the preservation of international law and the territorial integrity of all states, it should speak out more forcefully in support of the victim and highlight the concerns and goals of the Global South. It should also strive for a practical and long-lasting resolution to the dispute.

Impact of Russia-Ukraine War on South Asian Region

Russia and Ukraine began conflict on February 24, 2022, which had an effect on the Indian economy and had consequences and impacts on several regions and elements. Significant effects have been felt outside of the immediate area as a result of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Due to its strategic importance, South Asia is not exempt from the effects of the war. This study examines how the conflict between Russia and Ukraine affected South Asia. Security, economic, and diplomatic ramifications are the three main topics of the study. This study has shown that the conflict between Russia and Ukraine

has a big influence on South Asia, and that area must take action to lessen such effects. Since 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea, there has been a war between Russia and Ukraine. The violence has had a big influence on the area, but its ramifications go beyond the local area. South Asia, a crucial geopolitical region, is currently feeling the effects of the conflict. The region has complicated ties to both Russia and Ukraine, and the ongoing conflict has sparked worries about how it could affect South Asia's security, economy, and diplomacy.

Security Implications

Serious security ramifications of the Russia-Ukraine conflict exist in South Asia. Terrorism, insurgency, and interstate disputes are just a few of the security issues the area is now dealing with. The battle has made the region's security situation even more complicated. Concerns about Russia's objectives in the region have been raised as a result of its involvement in the conflict. Particularly India has expressed alarm over Russia's encroaching proximity to India's bitter enemy Pakistan. India is concerned since Pakistan has been outspoken in its backing of Russia in the crisis. Additionally, the war has given extremist groups a chance to take advantage of the circumstance and intensify their operations in the area.

Economic Implications:

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has huge economic repercussions for South Asia. As a result of the region's heavy reliance on energy imports, any disruption in the supply chain could have negative economic effects. Concerns about the security of energy supply have been raised because Russia is one of South Asia's main oil and gas suppliers. An interruption in the arms trade might have huge economic repercussions because the region is also a significant market for Russian weapons. The war's economic effects go beyond the commerce in energy and weapons. The conflict has also contributed to a slowdown in the world economy, and South Asia, an emerging market, is not exempt from its effects.

Diplomatic Implications

The crisis between Russia and Ukraine has diplomatic implications for South Asia. The region has complicated ties to both Russia and Ukraine, and the prolonged conflict has put regional authorities in a difficult position. Other powerful nations have used the crisis as a chance to increase their influence in the area. The crisis has given China, in particular, the chance to increase its influence in South Asia. China has been attempting to do this for some time. India is concerned about China's attempts to mediate between Russia and Ukraine because it perceives China's engagement as a threat to its strategic interests. Significant implications of the Russia-Ukraine conflict exist for South Asia. Due to the prolonged fighting, the region is experiencing security, economic, and diplomatic

difficulties. Concerns about Russia's motives in the conflict and about its increasing closeness to Pakistan have also been voiced in India. Since the area depends significantly on energy imports, any disruption in the supply chain could have negative economic effects. Other powerful nations, including China, have taken advantage of the turmoil to increase their influence in the region. To lessen the effects of the conflict and safeguard the region's security, economic, and diplomatic interests, South Asia must take the appropriate steps.

Impact of Russia Ukraine War on India.

The conflict between Russia Ukraine could potentially have several impacts on India both directly and indirectly India abstained from casting a vote at a United Nations (UN) meeting. India has been impartial during the UN discussion.

Energy Price

India depends significantly on imported energy, thus any slowdown in the flow of Russian oil and gas could result in higher energy costs. India's economy, which is already having difficulty because to the pandemic, could be impacted.

Geopolitical Implications

Historically, India has had positive connections with both Russia and Ukraine. India might be obliged to pick a side if the war worsens, which could have long-term geopolitical repercussions for the nation.

Defence Relation

India and Russia and Ukraine have defense cooperation. India may need to reassess its defense ties with both nations if the war worsens, which could have an effect on its defense readiness.

Impact on Global Order:

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine may affect the world order more broadly. India, a developing power, may help determine how the world community reacts to the issue.

Overall, India will likely be significantly impacted by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, therefore the nation will need to carefully manage its connections with both nations to limit any potential bad effects.

2. Conclusion

In addition to being the second-most populous nation in the world, the largest democracy, and one of the fastest growing nations, India has formal diplomatic connections with the majority of countries today. India therefore upholds the foreign policy tenet that "in international relations, neither a permanent friend nor a permanent foe exists; only the interests do." India was compelled to adapt to new challenges and realities. Even then, the fundamental principles of its foreign policy stayed largely unchanged. It is important to take this under consideration that India has always maintained a neutral stand in dealing with all its foreign policies and relations with all the countries globally. Looking at India stand on the current situation of Russia and Ukraine conflict. The same principle of the neutrality is reflected. India is not taking any strong stance on the issue and maintaining diplomatic relations with both countries. This approach might not seem good or influential to many globally, but India has defended its position by stating that India has is always going to prioritize its national interest.

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