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### RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE: A RENEWED CHALLENGE TO US PIVOT IN THE REGION

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#### ABSTRACT

This study delves into the multifaceted issue of Russian aggression in Ukraine and its implications for the United States' strategic pivot in the region. The objective of this study is to analyze the evolving dynamics of the conflict and their impact on the US pivot strategy. The background highlights the historical context of Russia-Ukraine relations and the broader geopolitical significance of the region. Methodology involves a comprehensive review of scholarly literature, geopolitical analyses, and recent developments. It also incorporates an examination of diplomatic efforts, military actions, and regional responses. Results indicate that Russian aggression has posed a renewed challenge to the US pivot strategy, altering the balance of power and destabilizing regional security. The study recommends a nuanced approach, emphasizing diplomatic engagement, coordinated international response, and bolstering the security of Ukraine and neighboring nations. Addressing this challenge requires a delicate balance between deterring Russian expansionism and promoting stability in the region while safeguarding broader global interests.

#### INTRODUCTION

The years-old conflict between the major global powers after the cold war has resulted in the invasion of Russia in Ukraine, was in the global media in

February 2022. Russia had a sense of shame of losing the status of Soviet Empire since eighties and has been struggling to regain the power status, she had at the time of USSR while the US was pushing hard to maintain and enjoy the status of solo-power in the world, which she undoubtedly enjoyed till the rise of China as economic power since the second decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Moreover, the United States never treated Russia as the successor state of the disintegrated superpower of the Soviet Empire, resulted the closure of the honeymoon period of the two big powers. The arguable unipolar nature of the current International System has been continuing since the collapse of USSR, and US had been enjoying the unparalleled status of economic, military and diplomatic power as the sole proprietor after the cold war era. The rise of China as the parallel economic power and other developments in world affairs in recent years, resulted as a challenge to the US hegemony and its absolute power to dictate its terms in the International System, which is considered as a direct threat to the vested interests of the United States' ambitions for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One of the most recent challenges to US interests is the audacious move of Russia of launching a military attack on the state of Ukraine. This move by Russia has caused unrest in world politics in general and to the Europe and US in particular, in term of economic challenges for which they are already striving hard to cope with after the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the other hand, Russia always believed that the separate identity of the state of Ukraine has only been fabricated as a result of the demise of USSR, whereas in reality the states of Russia and Ukraine share a common history and civilization since Ottoman period. According to Russia, this organic history deems it necessary for the two states to stick together and work together as international actors. That is why Putin has long claimed that Russians and Ukrainians comprise "one people" whose common history implies that they should also share a common political fate today (Mankoff, 2022). Thus, it is an important factor in the Ukraine-Russian relationship that in many parts of the Ukraine, people are inclined toward Russia but the pro-West political government is adamant to ignore this factor. Although the ratio of the pro-Russian public has been reduced after the conflict in Crimea but still the long and deep ties of relations between the two countries can't be ignored.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union at the end of the cold war, Ukraine and Russia maintained irritable yet manageable relations, but after the conclusion of the treaties, Ukraine even gave up its nuclear arsenals to Russia. The relations became intense in 2014 when Russia used the hard power and military force to annex Crimea and also supported the armed pro-Russian separatists in the Donbas region.

Since then, the anti-Russian sentiment has flourished in Ukraine and the political alignment of the Ukrainian governments has added to the severity of the situation. As a result, attitudes within Ukraine toward Russia have hardened to a considerable degree, and the appeal of Western institutions such as the European Union and NATO has grown. Russia had major concerns regarding the expansions of NATO since the very beginning and has always been vocal in expressing resentment towards the expansion of this military alliance towards

the borders of Russia seemingly giving a clear impression of Russian containment.

In the recent scenario, the inclination of Ukraine to join NATO has set Russia on tough ground. It can never be acceptable for Russia to allow Ukraine to side her enemy nations even on political grounds let alone the fact that Ukraine joins a military alliance of all rival states of Russia and gives an open pass to the US and its allies to visit the borders of Russia with their heavy military aid.

### ***Problem Statement***

US has been enjoying the status of an unparalleled military, economic, technological and diplomatic hegemon since the end of cold war. Since then, the nature of the International System has been effectively unipolar for some years. This era marked the unquestioned say of the US in all essential world matters and also the self-assigned role of the US as the policeman of the world whose decisions of invading countries for the cause of bringing peace and then leaving them in a state worse than before, have none the less remained unquestioned and unaccounted for. The developments in world affairs in the last few years have proven a serious challenge to US supremacy. This includes the economic challenges from China and the role of Russia as an open challenger to the US policies at various events. Russian attack on Ukraine and how this will affect the state of the international affairs and American supremacy and its ability to dictate its terms to the world.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

According to Henry A. Kissinger, the former US secretary of state, the blame for the Russian-Ukraine crisis lies on both Russia as well as the western allies including and led by America. According to him the role of Ukraine should not be forced as an ally to one party between the US and Russian cold conflict rather Ukraine must act as a bridge for reconciliation and connection among both and must balance the pro sentiment for both sides (Kissinger, 2014). Putin's had the same claim before the current conflict started.

He wanted the US and NATO to promise that they would never allow Ukraine to become a member of the alliance on the grounds that Ukraine should be a buffer, neutral state. Russia had also called for NATO to cease all military activity in Eastern Europe, as it considered these activities a threat to the region's security. But Western leaders rejected those demands and added fuel to the already hot fire of the conflict (Al Jazeera, 2022).

According to the authors of a research article discussing the collapse of the Soviet Union Gorbachev's relationship with Yeltsin was the most important element in the Soviet Union's eventual collapse (Marple, 2004). Yeltsin may not have had a long-term strategy to destabilize Gorbachev and the Soviet Union. He, like his rival, had risen through the ranks of the party organization. They appeared to share identical aims at times. However, Yeltsin had ruthlessness and will-power that the Soviet leader lacked.

Russia- Ukraine conflict has been long read by warnings ignored, assurances broken and geo- political moves made (Zambakari, 2022). The conflict in a

socio-empirical setting is put under the focal point of the European Union's parlous dependence on Russian energy, and Moscow's capacity to shirk the cursing issues of Western authorizations. contemporaneously, Russia has expanded its trouble to China, a willing abettor in the disturbance of the West's plans." Battle in Ukraine" looks at the developing understanding among Russia and China, a consequence of occasions in Ukraine, which has corroborated China's advancing situation as the US's. utmost noteworthy adversary. The authors argue that a state's balancing strategies are shaped by the position of trouble perception regarding its rival (He, 2012). The advanced the peril perceptiveness, the more probable it's for a state to pick positive adjusting. The lower the peril perceptiveness, the more probable it's for a state to pick negative adjusting. He proposes that the hegemon gives security as a public decent to the global frame in a unipolar world where the kindly low-p erilpartiality of the frame renders positive negating methodologies contrary with state schemes after the Cold War.

This article looks at the cognizant exertion by Russian policymakers and pundits to cultivate a multipolar world intended to oppose American control of the global framework. Considering Moscow's strategies, In light of Moscow's policies, we conclude that American foreign policy has become counterproductive by sparking balancing behavior on the part of other great powers (Ambrosio, 2001).

### ***Research Questions***

This article will focus on finding answers to the following research questions:

1. How the Russian attack will pave the way to challenge the established unipolarity of the US?
2. How the Russian attack has opened doors for regional powers to bring back a multipolar world?

### ***What is meant by unipolarity?***

Measuring and determining the polarity of the global system means to find out the relative positions of state actors in the hierarchy of power in the International System. Polarity is a theoretical term used to apply an approximate threshold to the distribution of capabilities of state actors in an International System. The more unambiguously the poles i.e., the competing state actors in a real international system pass the threshold, the more confident analysts can be that the properties attributed to a given system structure, in theory, will obtain in practice (Ikenberry, 2009). According to Birthe Hansen unipolarity is defined as an international system with 'only one great power in existence' (Hansen, 2000). Waltz understands a great power as a state with a qualitative edge relative to the other states based on the aggregate score on the size of the territory, population, economy, military, resource endowment, political stability and political competence (Waltz, 1979).

## DISCUSSION

### *History of US-Russia relations*

With Communism defunct, the Soviet Union disintegrated on December 25, 1991. Russia was formed from the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic. It was now an independent state that acquired the USSR's endless class in the UN Security Council and came the USSR's successor state. Still, chroniclers will really continue to bandy the primary causes of the Soviet Union's collapse for numerous times. Some argue that the fall of the Soviet Union heralded the end of the prolonged Cold War fight between the Soviet bloc and the West, with the ultimate triumphing (Marples, 2004). Clearly, the United States came the world's sole global power. Experts advise that whenever there's an extremity between Russia and the United States, a Cold War mindset will resurface in the language and conduct of foreign policy elites. Despite the fact that the Cold War has been over for further than two decades, elites and the general public on both sides sometimes return to their preconceived sundries and impulses, and can not feel to shake the mistrust and dubitation of the other that characterized relations for important of the twentieth century.

The fast growth of NATO membership in Eastern Europe sparked real outrage. Russians believed NATO's initial purpose was no longer required after the Cold War ended. It believed that its significant eastward movement would escalate NATO's traditional role in restraining Russian aims. Russia claimed that US ambitions are to secure access to Central Asian oil and natural gas, as potentially hostile intrusions into its sphere of influence. Russia was a vocal opponent of the NATO military action against Serbia and Montenegro over Kosovo, which began in March 1999 and was spearheaded by the United States. Furthermore, despite Russia's resistance to NATO's continued eastward expansion, then-President Bush pledged his complete support for Ukraine and Georgia joining NATO in early 2008 which enraged Russia. The inclusion of Ukraine in NATO, according to Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Karasin, would produce a "deepcrisis" in Russia-Ukraine ties, as well as harm Russia's relations with the West.

The dispute over George W. Bush's intentions to make a "third point" for US bullet defenses in Poland and the Czech Republic in March 2007 contributed to the most significant debilitation in Russian – US ties in decades (Weitz, 2010). Still, tallying to US officers, the bullet defense system was aimed to guard the US and Europe against practicable nuclear bullet assaults by Iran or North Korea. Russia, on the other phase, eyed the new system as a practicable peril and reacted by trying a long- range multinational ballistic bullet (RS- 24) that it claims can beat any protective system. Putin advised the US that the consolidated pressures might enkindle a disagreement in Europe. Indeed when President Barack Obama shifted the original phase of the budgeted deployments closer to Iran and down from the ICBMs deposited in intermediary Russia, Russian leaders ventilated company about Washington's intentions for Europe (Weitz, 2010). Despite the fact that the April 2010 Ballistic Missile Defense Review, like other US government documents and statements, claims that American bullet defenses aren't leveled at Russia, numerous Russian judges

buy they're leveled at establishing a forth-grounded structure that the US could ultimately exercise to neutralize Russia's nuclear interference.

Bilateral ties between the two countries grew tense during the Russia-Georgia war in March 2008, when President Bush rebuked the Russian government by stating "Bullying and intimidation are not acceptable ways to conduct foreign policy in the 21st century" (Staff, 2008).

In 2013, hundreds of thousands of pages of classified US government records and mass surveillance records were copied and distributed by a contractor of the US government, Snowden which made many large companies in the US vulnerable to security and privacy (Olesen, 2015). He escaped to Russia, where he was given political asylum in July 2013. The decision to provide refuge aggravated tensions between the two nations, leading to the postponement of an Obama-Putin summit set for early September 2013 in Moscow.

When Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 based on a controversial referendum, the US government submitted a resolution in United Nations declaring the referendum illegal which was vetoed later. However, almost six sanctions were imposed by the US as well as by the EU over Russia due to the annexation which affected Russia's finances, economy and GDP. Many journalists supported the annexation of Crimea. According to a research article favouring Russia's annexation of Crimea (Salushev, 2015), the inflammatory acts of American diplomats and politicians during the height of the Ukraine crisis validated a long-held opinion among Russian conservatives that the West will never accept or appreciate the significance of Russia-genuine Ukraine's economic, social, and cultural ties. Similarly, during the Syrian Civil War, the US imposed sanctions on the Syrian government but Russia, as Syria's ally, continued and increased its support for Syria which again started tensions between US and Russia.

### ***Challenge to US-supported NATO expansion***

US point of view and European allies is such that recognizing the sovereignty of the state of Ukraine, it should have a free will to decide the political, economic and security-related future of the state. And thus, there is no ground to entertain the Russian demand for restraint of NATO from giving membership to Ukraine. Whereas the point of view of Russia is that this expansion of NATO to the doorsteps of Russia will highly increase the security risks for Russia. Moreover, Russia proclaims that the organic history and origin of the Russians and Ukrainian make them "one people" and thus calls for a single political stance. Moreover, before the conflict, Russia advocated their belief that Ukraine was not like any other country that can be allowed to take sides freely. The geographical and strategic importance of Ukraine calls for the role of the state as a buffer state and must act as a bridge between the two conflicting parties of Russia and Western allies led by the United States.

But the ignoring of these security concerns of Russia and the conflict of interest between Russia and the US allies has become the fuel for the current conflict. Russia has shown its muscles as a way to counter the US policy of dictating

terms. Even the sanctions applied with an aim to deter the Russians and force them to leave Ukraine have so far proved fruitless to waver Russia from its grounds. The US response in this regard has been limited to sending food packages for the aid of Ukrainian affected by war and thus, proves how effectively Russia has challenged American supremacy.

### *Challenge to US-supported sanctions*

The US responded to the Russian aggression with the application of robust and comprehensive sanctions on Russia to which the EU states the US allies effectively agreed. But an interesting development here calls for attention. The voting in the session of the Security Council regarding the Russian-Ukraine conflict showed interesting developments in the International scenario. Where the US, Japan and Germany supported the resolution for sanctions, and Russia expectedly vetoed the resolution, the states of China, India, UAE, Israel and Mexico abstained from voting. The most important among these abstinences were China and India.

China offered an explanation for abstaining from voting maintaining a point of view that the security concerns of Russia must not be ignored in regard to the NATO expansion and the role of Ukraine must be of a bridge among both parties rather than an ally of one side. Simultaneously, China also expressed solidarity for Ukraine recognizing the sovereignty of the state and demanding that Russia and Ukraine should take to the table talks to find a peaceful solution and end the military aggression.

Thus, the stance of China is evidence of indirect rather than direct support for Russia. Russia's aggression and violation of International law do not allow China an easy choice to openly support Russia. China has been working on a policy of politico-economic cooperation for the national interest and in favour of economic endeavours for a long time and this policy requires among other things the stability of International relations for the successful completion of these projects. Moreover, taking sides in this war can have an immense impact on the International affairs of China and the perception of China in the International scenario. One of the important factors that have made China prominent in International affairs is its economic strength which has increased at par with the American economy. Compromising the economic relations for the support of Russia in this endeavour is not at all reasonable for China. Thus, China acting in its own interests and is supporting Russia on the points which increase stability for Chinese plans but not the ones that would destroy the initiatives of China. For example, China welcomes Russian military interventions that preserve stability, like recently in Kazakhstan. But a war that destroys a country seen as a major hub for the Belt and Road Initiative and that provokes a global economy is not at all in the interest of China. Thus, these developments show how the great powers of the world are working to maximise their own interest against the long preserved interests of the US hegemony.

Similarly, the abstinence of India has been justified as an act according to the National Interest of the country and in regard to the maintenance of relations with Russia. India also completed the import of oil at discounted value from

Russia and supported this act as an act of national interest. Thus, both China and India have acted in their own interests and do not support the aggressive sanctions to be applied to Russia. But both countries have also held an opinion to support the dialogue to resolve the conflict.

### *Unipolarity to Multipolarity*

The stance of the various state actors in the Russian-Ukraine conflict proves how the different regional powers are acting in their own interests and pursuing the stance that is congenial to the increase of their own respective power and national interest. This is a clear indication of how the unipolar configuration of the world is disintegrating and paving way for a multipolar world.

For example, Russia has evidently emerged as a great regional power in the current era. The influence of Russia over countries across the globe comes from the strength of the Russian defence industry which is the key point in Russian foreign policy. The basic underlying strategy for the stretching of Russian relations with many countries around the globe is the arms sale and private military contracts. This policy has already proved effective in gaining influence over India in South East Asia, Vietnam and Africa. The proof of this success can be seen in the abstinence of India from voting in the Security Council regarding the sanctions on Russia. In addition to the defence industry, Russia is also utilizing the mineral resources of the state and these resources form a large portion of the export economy of Russia. In the time of the current crisis, Russia is also trying to get a breakthrough in breaking the petro-dollar tool of the US by offering to take payments of the oil exports in Russian currency which can also become economical for the importers in this time of global economic crisis.

Other than Russia, one of the most prominent state actors in current world affairs is China, with its rapid economic growth is now threatening the US as an economic hegemon. Moreover, China is playing a crucial role in the endeavours of organizations like BRICS comprising of an economic and strategic alliance of the five developing countries and emerging economies of the world namely, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The members of BRICS belong to different continents and thus, help in expanding the influence of the policy of International cooperation in China. One of the significant achievements of this organization is the formation of the New Development Bank which is to serve as an alternative to the Western-led World Bank for funding development projects in the BRICS states on favourable terms. In recent developments, China is also acting as a bridge between the BRICS and the GCC countries to expand the sphere of this cooperation for economic as well as political opportunities. In addition to this, the Belt and Road Initiative of China comprising of an extensive plan of building alternative trade routes for China that will develop an expanded, interdependent market for China, and grow China's economic and political influence. This project is expected to be completed by 2049 and is anticipated to act as a hallmark in world affairs.

Another significant development of the International System is the concept of Mutually Assured Destruction. Due to the acquisition of Nuclear weapons by



all great regional powers, it is ascertained that a war started among any of the nuclear powers will result in chaos and destruction not only for the warring parties but also for the entire globe. Therefore, the revolution in military power due to the introduction of nukes has largely limited the scope of exercising military power.

Thus, the developments like the aligning of the Russian and Chinese interests in world affairs, the narrowing difference in the economic strength of the US and China, the loss of influential control of the US in South Asia and the defeat of the US in securing peace in the war started in Afghanistan at the hand of an effectively unorganised group in Afghanistan and the unsuccessful American wars in Iraq, Yemen, Syria and Lybia are all a clear indicator of the loosening grip of US in the world affairs. Thus, the decline in US supremacy in economic and strategic powers, the balance of terror due to the nukes acquired by different powers and the corresponding rise in the number of power hubs in different regions of the world is a step toward a multipolar International System with competition among different and diverse state actors including US, China, Russia, EU, India, GCC and other regional powers in all parts of the world.

The Russian attack on Ukraine has served as an event to disclose the independent decision making power of all the great regional powers in face of US unipolarity. The countries like India, China, UAE, Mexico and Israel abstaining from voting in the session of the Security Council on sanctions on Russia. Russia having the power to veto the resolution against itself is an evidence of how the US does not have an unquestionable influence over the largest forum of the world for imposing sanctions. Moreover, India acting in the national interest to stay in business with Russia against the prescribed sanctions of the US is yet another development that expresses how the different hubs of power in the world are acting in individual interests and these events opened the door for the unrestricted exercise of power by all the poles of the current world. Moreover, it is evident from the developments in the Russian-Ukraine war that the sanctions applied by the Western alliance have not proved fruitful to deter Russia from this aggressive move. The Chinese policy has also stated that they do not support the alienation of a state from the global economic system through the use of such aggressive sanctions. Therefore, combining the impact of all the events resulting as a consequence of this attack, the Russian attack can be regarded as a hallmark event that indirectly started the expression of multipolarity in the International System.

## **RESULTS**

### ***Change in Power Structure***

The confrontation between Russia and Ukraine has shown the world's complicated power structure. While the United States formerly dominated the global system, it now confronts increased competition from Russia and China, while assumed allies like Turkey, India, and even certain EU states like Hungary have carved out their own separate positions in the war. True, the West may still use powerful economic instruments like sanctions to put pressure on Russia, but the US and NATO's security connectedness to Ukraine in the form

of weaponry and logistical assistance is unprecedented. The intensity of Russia's very recent engagement in Ukraine, as well as Moscow's assessment that the US and NATO would not interfere directly to halt it, is arguably the clearest evidence yet of how the multi-polar world order has advanced.

### *Unrest in Russia*

Certainly, there is a situation under which the Ukrainian crisis strengthens the United States' worldwide influence. In this scenario, Russia would suffer enormous losses and fail to achieve any of its military objectives in Ukraine, while Putin's regime's future would be jeopardized due to massive economic pressure from the West and rising domestic unrest. The US may utilize its standing as a significant economic, security, and technological power to mobilize its allies in Europe and beyond to assist Ukraine's fight against Russia. Even under this situation, governments like China will fight back against the US's global stance, while others like India and Turkey will stick with their own sensible course. If war prolongs, it will create unrest in Russia and economic crisis which be a threat to Putin's regime.

### *Global Economic Crisis and Consequences*

Russia's irruption of Ukraine might have global and domestic profitable consequences, adding query, rattling goods requests, and indeed driving up affectation as gas and food prices increase internationally. Russia is a major patron of oil painting and natural gas, and prices of both have risen dramatically in recent weeks as a result of the geopolitical extremity. It is also the world's largest wheat exporter and a major food supplier to Europe. Although the United States laterally significances from Russia, product dearth due to conflicts also have a major impact, raising prices for raw accoutrements and artificial products at least temporarily during times when important of the world is passing high affectation, including the United States of America. Global disasters can surprise US consumers and force them to limit shopping and other profitable activities. However, the Federal Reserve may find it delicate to decide how fast and aggressively to boost adopting prices, If the downturn becomes severe. Impacts on oil painting and Gas force oil painting and gas are the major and immediate profitable consequences of the conflict in Eastern Europe. Russia produces 10 million barrels of oil painting per day, counting for about 10 of global demand and is Europe's largest supplier of natural gas used to toast power shops, homes and businesses. Although the USA significances little or no Russian oil painting, power commodity requests are worldwide, which means that charge variations in a single area of the globe have an effect on humans copping power in different parts of the globe

### *Digital Competition*

Some other threat to American monetary pastime is the ability of hacking. Russia may retaliate digitally in reaction to US sanctions, disrupting virtual lifestyles at a time whilst the net has emerged as important to financial survival. He stated, "The Russians are the greatest within side the global at this. "And we don't have any concept of how deeply they have got penetrated our systems.

### *Strategic Implications*

Nevertheless, such a shift in the global order is not always harmful to the United States or the West as a whole. After all, it was during the unipolar era, when the United States was the dominant global force with overwhelming economic and military strength, that it permitted itself to be drawn into protracted and arduous confrontations such as those in Afghanistan and Iraq. The United States has found out the hard way that such a show of force may be extremely expensive and have terrible strategic effects. While such battles and army interventions helped to form the worldwide government, additionally they taught America a critical lesson about the bounds of sturdy army force.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is summed up that in last decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century determined US as hyper power but the power having no mission. In post 9/11 multiple power hubs emerged and the power structure was totally changed. As the war is going on, the issue of whether the Russia-Ukraine war hurts the United States' position in the globe, time will answer. This will be partly determined by how the war unfolds on the ground and what the eventual outcome is. And though, more essentially, the answer depends on which nation - the United States, Russia, China, or others competing for influence in the world - will frame interoperability flows in the most diplomatic possible way, combining as many partner nations as possible inside this globalized world to its desired future of the world order. However, the US has lost its worth in Asia due to several other wars. What is evident is that the world's multi-polar character is here to remain, and this dynamic and complex fight over geopolitical connectedness will progressively determine the world's power structure.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### *Enhanced Diplomatic Engagement*

A key recommendation is for the United States to prioritize robust diplomatic efforts, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to address Russian aggression in Ukraine. Engaging in direct talks with Russia while collaborating with international partners can help de-escalate tensions, seek common ground, and negotiate a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

#### *Strengthened Military Support*

The US should provide increased military support to Ukraine and its neighboring countries to bolster their defense capabilities and deter further Russian aggression. This could involve the provision of defensive weapons, military training, and intelligence sharing to enhance the regional security posture and reinforce the US commitment to the region's stability.

#### *Multilateral Sanctions and Pressure*

Coordinated international efforts to impose targeted economic sanctions on Russia can serve as a potent tool to discourage further aggression. The US

should work closely with its allies and partners to develop a unified approach that increases the cost of Russian expansionist actions, potentially compelling a reconsideration of its aggressive policies.

### ***Promotion of Norms and Values***

The United States should actively promote democratic norms, human rights, and the rule of law in the region, emphasizing the advantages of an open and inclusive society. By supporting civil society initiatives and fostering people-to-people connections, the US can undermine the appeal of Russian influence and enhance the resilience of countries in the face of aggression.

### ***Robust Information and Cybersecurity Measures***

Given the significance of information warfare and cyberattacks in modern conflicts, the US should collaborate with regional partners to strengthen their information and cyber defense capabilities. By sharing expertise, intelligence, and technological resources, the US can help counter disinformation campaigns and protect critical infrastructure, thereby reducing vulnerabilities to Russian interference.

### ***Must Stop NATO Expansion***

US must stop NATO's expansion in Europe which is a real threat to the states like Russia. NATO's access to the doors of Russia actually threatened Putin to opt the preemptive strike, once Ukraine becomes the member of NATO, then the attack would be considered on the alliance.

### ***War Expansion***

Since 1945 Europe facing a huge crisis. It is said that Europe has seen the peace time and after near about hundred years' war is knocking at the doors of the Continent. Might be the 3<sup>rd</sup> World War starts from old sectors as the first one. In result whole Europe will suffer again the casualties of war and damages. These recommendations collectively aim to address the challenges posed by Russian aggression in Ukraine while safeguarding the broader interests of the United States and its allies in the region. They emphasize a comprehensive and proactive approach that combines diplomacy, deterrence, cooperation, and values-based engagement.

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