

Joe Biden's Ukraine Approach: Reassurances, Deterrence, and NATO Concerns in U.S Foreign Policy



Natasha	Lecturer, School of Integrated Social Sciences, University of Lahore, Sargodha Campus. natasha.imtiaz@siss.uol.edu.pk
Nawazish Ali	Ph.D Scholar at Department of International Relations, NUML Islamabad. Nawazish_jm@yahoo.com
Hajra Murad Ali	Ph.D Scholar at Department of International Relations NUML Islamabad. Hajrawisal03@gmail.com

Abstract: *This study examines the multifaceted essence of President Joe Biden's approach towards Ukraine, which is reflected by an intent to assure the Ukrainian security while constraining the escalation of conflict that may trigger a widespread war with Russia. U.S is providing assistance to Ukraine, ranging over diplomatic, economic, and defense spheres while contends with the reservations about Ukrainian NATO membership. The paper further analyzes the scenario wherein EU member states have divergent outlooks towards Ukraine's NATO membership. If Ukraine integrates into NATO during ongoing war, it will question persistently regarding the credibility of NATO's enlargement policy and instigate further divisions among NATO members. U.S along with its Western allies have imposed a series of sanctions on Russia. However, deploying troops on the ground in Ukraine is a threshold that the U.S has been reluctant to cross. The research concludes that the scenario appears to feature a poignant enigma, where diplomacy tactfully intermingles with aspiration, reinforcing the complex fusion of international relations.*

Keywords: NATO. EU, U.S, Russia-Ukraine War.

Introduction

The context of U.S-Ukraine partnership is marked by a complicated blend of political, fiscal and strategic elements. The association between the two countries has remarkably unfolded since the liberation of Ukraine after the Soviet Union downfall in 1991. In the beginning, diplomatic relations were established and Ukraine was recognized as an independent state by U.S. Over the entire period of 1990s, U.S provided substantial backing to Ukraine in terms of economic growth, democratic reforms and defense sector. U.S was crucially involved in facilitating Ukraine's shift towards market-based economy and integration of country into the international community.

Ukraine has been trapped in conflict since 2014. The supporters in Ukraine are split up into pro-Russian and pro-Ukraine groups. In 2014, massive protests in Ukraine overthrew the pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich who refused to join European Union. In the crisis, Russia endorsed Yanukovich, whereas the Europe and U.S favored the demonstrators. This was subsequently followed by Russian takeover of Crimea and the beginning of armed warfare in Eastern Ukraine. In response, U.S unequivocally backed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, opposed to Russian actions. (Yaseen et al., 2022)

Afterwards, US-Ukraine engagement have been centered on resisting Russian aggression and

collaborating with Ukraine in its quest to establish democratic institutions, improve security and strive for economic development. Russia attacked Ukraine in February 2022, escalating the conflict that erupted in 2014. Russia-Ukraine war remains a serious foreign policy concern for United States since Joe Biden undertakes the Presidency in January 2021. President Biden has shown a high level of dedication to Ukraine in resolving its current dispute with Russia. Ukraine has effectively performed defensive as well as offensive operations, supported by substantial defense backing, mainly from Europe and United States.

Since the year 2014, U.S has provided higher than \$46.7 billion of defense support to Ukraine. The assistance has been provided in the form of training as well as equipping Ukraine to protect its national sovereignty, ensure border security and boost cooperation with NATO. Onwards January 2021, security assistance of over \$44.5 billion has been provided to Ukraine to reaffirm the absolute dedication of U.S towards Ukraine's geographic integrity. (U.S. Department of State, 2022). Other than providing substantial economic and military support to Ukraine, U.S has made efforts to unify the international community in favor of Ukraine and sanctions were also imposed on Russia in an attempt to discourage further aggression.

In spite of that, U.S and its major allies in Europe are reserved about directly meddling in conflict with Russia and uncertain to grant NATO membership to Ukraine. Thousands of troops have been deployed in Eastern Europe by U.S to hinder the Russian belligerence and buck up the NATO allies. However, it has been made evident that these troops are not going to fight in Ukraine. Russia-Ukraine confrontation has already tightly stretched the Russia-U.S relations. Furthermore, the frictions between Russia and its neighboring NATO member states are likely to rise. The emergence of such riskiness could possibly trigger a broader conflict in Europe, thereby invoking the involvement of U.S based on its commitments of alliance security.

The likeliness of direct U.S-Russia

confrontation would also proffer its repercussions for future collaboration in important domains including cybersecurity, counterterrorism, nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control, international financial stability and energy security. Therefore, giving emphasis to the imperative of preserving regional and international stability, U.S refrains to engage in military engagement and spark a major war with Russia. (Center for Preventive Action, 2023) Yet, still intending to endorse Ukraine's sovereignty and look for a peaceful settlement of the dispute. This strategic outlook of U.S foreign policy incorporates the diplomatic reassurances to Ukraine, consolidation of deterrence initiatives against Russia along with the careful handling of NATO apprehensions.

Literature Review

In the scenario where Russia joins NATO, it would simply turn Russia into another big European country as a NATO ally. Russian NATO membership would decisively end its desire to regain its previous superpower status and its level would be similar to France, Germany or any other nationalist power. NATO is a military coalition and considered to be following U.S tactics. Hence, Russian membership of NATO would imply that Russia is an ally of U.S which practically seems impossible. (Bohm, 2010).

Ukraine's membership of EU or NATO will never be accepted by Russia at any cost. Russian invasion of Ukraine can be associated with its perceived threat from the increasing influence of EU in Ukraine. Unless Ukraine did not step down from its intention to join EU and NATO, the scenario may be troublesome for the entire region. EU is already apprehensive about the economic turbulence in Europe due to ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. (Faiola, 2022)

Ukraine as a previous Soviet Union's member, has a border that encompass both Russia and Europe. In conformance with the Article 5 of NATO, the attack on one-member state serves as an attack on every member of the alliance. It is a categorical and significant component of the

founding document of alliance. It means that if Ukraine becomes a NATO member, Russian attack on Ukraine would pull US and all other NATO members into the conflict. (Guyer, 2022)

In the current times, Crimea has become a subject matter of geopolitical unrest. Segregation in Crimea is a multifaceted challenge, driven by the combination of historic, ethnic, and political aspects. Its strategic location is important as it is a route to Black sea. Inter-ethnic conflict exists in this region and group into pro-Russian and pro-Western blocs. After Crimea, Donbas is another important region of Eastern Ukraine which has a strong ethnical and linguistic association with Russia. The conflict between leading pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian Government is ongoing in the region since 2014. (In Praksa & Let, 2015)

U.S President Joe Biden is attentive to a significant strategic threat, reemerging from Russia. The Biden Administration has, unequivocally, focused on nationalized and global consequences of the current Russia-Ukraine war. Monocratic inclusion of the Ukrainian territory into Russia by President Putin, and implicit ultimatums to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine, indicate the necessity for strong U.S leadership is becoming more and more important. (Hawkins, 2022)

Responding to Russian actions in Ukraine, U.S military presence in Europe has been increased. An endeavor has been undertaken to expand the reach of NATO so as to deter farther Russian aggression and particularly defend the Eastern and Central European allies. Congress advocated the enhanced deployment of military forces and the U.S strategy of NATO's defense and deterrence. Senate gave its endorsement for the approval of Sweden's and Finland's membership of NATO in 117th Congress. (Belkin et al., 2023)

Research Questions

- 1- What economic, diplomatic and defense measures have been implemented by Biden administration to support Ukraine during Russia-Ukraine war?

- 2- What geopolitical concerns shape President Biden position on the issue of Ukraine's NATO membership?

Methodology

Qualitative research technique is utilized in this paper as it allows to observe issues on a deeper level and analyze them. Existing literature on the issue including books, research papers, magazines, academic studies, newspaper articles, reports of think tanks and other institutions and web sources are utilized as secondary sources. Official statements of different authorities and information provided by official sources of state departments are used as primary sources.

Reassurances in Biden Ukraine approach

Reassurance strategies are commonly practiced by influential alliances or states in international relations to reassure smaller or vulnerable states. The aim of reassurances is to upgrade security, minimize the possibility of warlike actions, and enhance stability. Responding to the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine, U.S went above and beyond to equip Ukraine with humanitarian and financial assistance, essential security and taking unprecedented measures to deter Russia for its combative acts.

i- Diplomatic Efforts

Aggressive military action of Russia against Ukraine has been considered as unjustified by U.S and many other countries worldwide. In March, 2022, the General Assembly of U.N. voted 141-5 to demand "immediate, complete and unconditional" withdrawal of Russia from Ukraine. (Aggression against Ukraine : Resolution / Adopted by the General Assembly, 2022) In consideration of Russian endeavors to seize more territories of Ukraine in fall 2022, the U.N. General Assembly by the vote of 143-5 asserted that Russian actions had "no legitimacy under International law" (Territorial Integrity of Ukraine : Defending the Principles of the Charter of the United Nations : Resolution / Adopted by the General Assembly, 2022)

Sanctions impositions and similar pursuits of Congress and Biden Administration since February 2022 comprise of the acts targeting the

assets of Russian government, vast economic sectors, international trade, certain entities and individuals. These sanctioning actions include the transaction restraints with the Central Bank of Russia, ban on the import of Russian oil and energy products to U.S, ban on the entry of several Russian officials armed personnel into U.S. (U.S. Department of State, 2022). In addition, restrictions have been imposed against the new share investment and resource allocation for various firms for instance Gazprom, largest energy company of Russia; Sovcomflot, largest freight and maritime company; and Russian Railways. (U.S. Department of the Treasury, 2022).

Resistance of Ukraine refuted the predictions of its immediate collapse. The U.S embassy in Kyiv carries on working in favor of U.S foreign policy. Diplomatic efforts of U.S were further authenticated when President Biden visited Kyiv in February 2023, a year after full-scale assault of Russia.(Dickinson, 2023) Standing with President Zelensky, the Joe Biden guaranteed long-term U.S assistance for Ukraine. He acknowledged that the freedom is beyond price and U.S will be committed to Ukrainian leadership throughout the period of war and struggle.” (Hunder, 2023) A strong message was given to the world regarding U.S commitment to Ukrainian support and International law. Moreover, with respect to the prediction that how Russia-Ukraine conflict might end, U.S diplomacy beyond any doubt is activated to work with Ukraine and more than fifty states are functioning to reverse the Russian invasion.

Diplomats concentrated on the implementation of economic sanctions and ousting the resources and income required by Russia to fan the war flames. U.S and internationally coordinated efforts give Ukrainians the encouragement to preserve their country. In the succeeding period, the challenge for U.S on diplomatic front is to help Ukraine to secure success in the war while keeping away from direct confrontation with Russia or any prolong entanglement.

ii- *Economic and Military assistance to Ukraine*

Since February 2022, Ukraine has turned into the predominant beneficiary of U.S assistance in the wake of Russian assault in its territory. This is out of the common that a European State held the primary position to receive U.S aid since the Truman administration when enormous amount of money was directed in the form of Marshall plan to rebuild Europe after World War II. More than \$75 billion in aid has been allocated to Ukraine by U.S Congress and Biden administration. The aid comprises of economic, security and humanitarian support. Since the launch of Russian brutal and premeditated invasion on February 24, 2022, U.S has provided more than \$ 44 billion up till now solely for the Ukrainian security sector. (Baldor & Lee, 2023)

After two years of Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Biden administration had provided Ukraine with a considerable portion of defense capabilities, including air defense system, Anti-armor and Small Arms, Abrams battle tanks, anti-aircraft missiles, coastal defense ships, advanced surveillance, radar systems and other countless capabilities. In July 2023, U.S agreed to supply cluster munitions to Ukraine. Moreover, U.S supported by its European partners, formed the Ukraine Defense Contact Group: a bloc of 50 allied states that has advanced the mutual effort of security assistance provision to Ukraine. (U.S. Department of State, 2022)

U.S has also engaged in collaboration with the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to aid Ukraine which includes vitalizing food security, energy security, and assistance for marginalized groups and displaced citizens within the country. In association with the G7, U.S has also instituted the platform of Multi-Agency Donor Coordination, for the enhancement of monetary support coordination for Ukraine’s urgent financial needs, reconstruction endeavors and future economic recovery. (Kennedy et al., 2023)

In December 2023, U.S unveiled a new package of war equipment for Ukraine. It aims to deliver up to \$175 million of armaments and equipment consisting of guided missiles for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS),

high-speed anti-radiation missiles and anti-armor systems. President Joe Biden clearly expressed that Russia won't stop even after defeating Ukraine and would invade the NATO states in the neighborhood and U.S is legally obligated to defend them. Security related assistance to Ukraine is a smart investment of U.S in its national security. It assists to prevent a wider war across the region and prevent potential aggressiveness elsewhere. (U.S. Department of State, 2023)

iii- Support for Democratic Reforms in Ukraine

Corrupt practices have been a widespread in the politics of Ukraine and the country has been trapped in numerous kinds of corruption. The society, economy and governance has been seriously impacted by such practices. Viktor Yanukovich, who undertook the Ukrainian President role from 2010 to 2014, was extensively reputed to be associated with corrupt activities. He was convicted with the charges of nepotism, power abuse and misuse of funds with emphasis on his tremendous expenditure on Mezhyhirya mansion. The revolution of 2014 roused the pro-Russian leadership of Yanukovich and fostered the aspirations of Ukraine for a European trajectory.

Ukraine is doing its outmost for the eradication of corruption, yet still ranked as the second most corrupt European country, after Russia, according to the reports of Transparency International. (World Corruption Perceptions Index - 2022, n.d.). Combating corruption is not the only necessary condition for Ukraine to obtain the membership of EU although essential for the overall growth and stability of the country. Western pressure has prompted the Ukraine to initiate the process of forming different accountability organizations. Elimination of corruption is indeed imperative for Ukraine to retain consistent assistance from U.S and International community, in the particular context of potential Russian threats. (Baczynska, 2023)

In March 2022, the European Democratic Resilience Initiative (EDRI) was launched by President Joe Biden. Through this initiative, U.S

provided approximately \$220 million to Ukraine in an effort to strengthen the freedom of media and equip Ukrainian media houses to keep functioning during wartime. Furthermore, to offset misinformation, reinforce the security of activists and at-risk communities, solidify the anti-corruption and democratic organizations, and lend support to the accountability measures for human rights and noncompliance of international law (White House, 2022)

From the period of August 28 to September 1, 2023, the U.S Departments of State, Treasury and Justice alongside USAID, invited officials from Ukraine's Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO), High Anti-Corruption Court and National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) in Washington, D.C. The U.S State Department released a standard diplomatic note, also called demarche, to Ukraine in summer 2023 indicating that U.S anticipates Ukraine to sustain its pursuit of different financial transparency and anti-corruption initiatives to ensure the smooth flow of direct budget support. In addition, the demarche highlighted the obligation of Ukraine to carry out essential reforms as laid out in International Monetary Fund program of Ukraine, with the focus on the prevention of money laundering and countering terrorism financing.

The White House has exclusively outlined a set of reforms for Ukraine to act upon to maintain its eligibility to keep on receiving the economic assistance from U.S and facilitate its progress toward European integration. A multitude of the recommendations, such as empowering the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, improvement of the supervisory boards of Ukrainian firms owned by state, and reform of constitutional court– reflect the prerequisites for the membership of EU as well as IMF benchmarks. (Zakharchenko, 2023)

Ukrainian President Zelensky, has been enthusiastic to show his efforts of combating corruption to EU, NATO and U.S, specifically after Russian invasion. He recently pursued significant changes within the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, which included the defense minister removal and many top defense officials

in September 2023. High profile operations were launched targeting officials suspected of involving in corrupt practices. Ukraine's commitment to confront corruption is essential to ensure its democratic future, rooted in the rule of law and fulfilling its desires of EU membership. (Marquardt, 2023)

Ukraine's Inclusion in NATO: Apprehensions of the United States

Ukraine has long embodied intentions to join NATO and the alliance has also been favorable towards Ukraine's membership aspirations. Ukraine has reaffirmed its quest for the membership in September 2022. However, the subject of NATO expansion becomes geopolitically complex, particularly when countries adjacent to Russia are involved. (Bandow, 2022) Finding equilibrium between handling the relations with Russia and backing Ukraine poses a delicate challenge for U.S and various other countries. U.S acknowledge the potential benefits for backing the NATO membership goals of Ukraine, along with the concerns and possible challenges associated with it.

i- Geopolitical Tensions with Russia:

Through strategic diplomacy, the U.S is promoting unity among a diverse alignment of partner nations, all committed to give assistance to Ukraine, advocate for sanctions against Russia, and dealing with the international consequences of Ukraine conflict. NATO expansion appears as a looming danger for Russia and it could react with aversion, may lead to intensified tensions and conflict driven acts resisting U.S. and its allies. Russia could increase its military deployment in the region as a response to Ukrainian membership of NATO, engaging in military maneuvers, or adopting other means to assert its control. It may pave the way for potential military confrontations and increased destabilization.

A plan to offer NATO membership to Ukraine has been delayed by U.S in the immediate time. In July 2023, during his presence in a significant summit of NATO in Vilnius, President Joe Biden stated that the Russia-Ukraine conflict must be settled before the Ukrainian

consideration for NATO membership. (RFE/RL, n.d.) The United States is currently maintaining a firm stance on this issue, implying that permitting Ukraine get into NATO in the current circumstances would direct towards NATO's confrontation with Russia. Hence, Ukraine's involvement in NATO in the immediate future isn't likely to happen. (Gramer, 2023)

This war is anticipated to advance the segregation of International geopolitical order. Particularly, it will intensify the U.S-China split. Sanctions will compel Russia to more frequently rely on China in the technological, economic and financial domains. Eventually, China is expected to look for stronger collaboration with Russia, primarily negotiating for affordable energy that Europe is not willing to purchase anymore. China will ultimately be in a position to provide Russia with all the technological components. The ongoing conflict can potentially shift the U.S focus from expanding its international influence through economic strategies, and giving China a competitive edge to extend its dominance. (Economist Intelligence, 2022)

A significant portion of what Ukraine might do to defend itself is sourced from NATO states, especially the U.S, it could be armaments, intelligence sharing, training or munition. The foreign policy of U.S centers on backing the measures to provide assistance to Ukraine and pressurizing Russia, even so oppose the direct military engagement. Furthermore, the approach of West towards this conflict has led Ukraine's inclusion in NATO appears to be implausible in near future. (Besch et al., 2023)

ii- Domestic Political Considerations:

Joe Biden undertook the role of President by promising to refrain from involving in new wars. Support towards Ukraine's inclusion in NATO could be a controversial national issue for U.S. Different sections within U.S. Government and society have contradictory opinions about the Ukraine's strategic significance, the hazards of offending Russia, as well as the resources allocation for the expansion of NATO. The reason for the lack of unanimity is the risk

related to U.S involvement in foreign conflicts and the expense associated with endorsing the NATO enlargement. The opinion of Democrats and Republicans significantly differ regarding the role of U.S in international matters. (Goldman, 2023)

Democrats generally favor more active engagement of U.S responding to global issues, while Republicans often endorse a more domestically-focused approach. A Pew Research Center survey indicates, 60% of Democrats upholds that being actively engaged in global affairs is favorable for U.S, in comparison with 39% who profess that we should focus less on foreign problems and concentrate on national issues. Conversely, 71% of Republicans believes that U.S must emphasize on domestic challenges, whereas only 29% advocate an active role in international affairs. (Galston & Muchnick, 2023) This factional divide signifies that different viewpoints exist regarding the level of U.S involvement in international matters and prioritizing national concerns.

The Biden administration is concerned regarding the domestic political consequences of facilitating Ukraine's NATO membership, as the willingness of U.S Senate to ratify this decision is uncertain. President Joe Biden has indicated that he is not likely to recommend NATO membership for Ukraine at the moment and prefer to hold off until the conflict comes to an end. Overall, the differences in the outlooks concerning the role of U.S in global issues shape up the decisions and preferences of foreign policy, including the nature of support towards Ukraine.

iii- Financial and Military Commitments

Ukraine's intent of NATO membership has been complicated by the fact that it is currently at war. There are both immediate and prolonged concerns against Ukrainian membership. Addition of new members to the alliance requires a majority vote from 31 member states, a tricky political obstacle to overcome. Concerns have been expressed over the potential hazards and constraints associated with Ukraine's inclusion to the alliance,

specifically in the context of the principle of collective defense outlined in article 5 of NATO treaty. The principle defines that an armed assault against any of the NATO member counts as an assault against entire alliance. It constitutes a structure for collaborative defense and appear as deterrence towards potential adversaries. (NATO, 2021)

NATO membership binds U.S to provide military aid to Ukraine in the situation of any aggression. All the members have an obligation to defend each other when any of them is attacked and entire alliance's resources can be utilized to defend the attacked member. This might include offering monetary assistance, military equipment and deploying troops, potentially exerting pressure on U.S military capabilities and resources. If Ukraine gets the opportunity to join NATO in spite of being at war, it could articulate the message that other states are also entitled to join NATO even if they are engaged in war. The NATO alliance is already characterized by significant financial commitments, and addition of Ukraine would place further burden on U.S and other members of the alliance. (Ebright, 2022)

It is certainly a shared responsibility to proceed with the cautious NATO enlargement approach. However, it carries a particular obligation for U.S as it holds onto a prominent position in NATO centered on capabilities and resources. Commitment level towards NATO vary among EU member states, holding a spectrum of opinions about approaching Russia-Ukraine conflict. Ukraine's membership might intensify these divisions, making it more difficult to develop a unified approach. Certain members from Eastern European are optimistic about the swift insertion of Ukraine in NATO. While some others, like Germany, are bothered about the probability of triggering Russia, and some of them are concerned about the expenses tied to defend Ukraine. (Nia , 2023)

In July 2023, NATO members proclaimed at the Vilnius summit that Ukraine's NATO membership is subjected to the consensus among allies and adherence to specific conditions. NATO firmly complies to its "open door policy" subjected to the fulfillment of

membership criteria. However, regional stability and timing are important factors to determine country's eligibility for membership. (Shankar, n.d.) U.S and NATO members have clearly expressed that potential NATO membership of Ukraine is not under consideration in the midst of ongoing war. The Biden administration hasn't completely ruled out the possibility of Ukraine's membership of NATO, it has also clearly stated that it is currently not among its top priorities.

It is a controversial issue in U.S foreign policy to balance the NATO expansion and also staying clear of the actions that could unessentially offend potential adversaries. The NATO enlargement necessitates a considerate approach, acknowledging the interests and security concerns of the existing member states. The preference of Biden administration is to protect Ukraine from Russian aggression by providing it with economic and military assistance. U.S might change its stance regarding Ukraine's NATO membership in the future. Nonetheless, the consequences of triggering Russia and expenses associated with defending Ukraine appears to outweigh the advantages of membership at the moment. (Menon & Ruger, 2020)

Sanctions as Deterring Strategy against Russia

International community utilize the tool of international sanctions to tackle the issues that jeopardize global peace and security. In the wake of Russian invasion of Ukraine, the U.S, in collaboration with its allies and partners, has embraced various measures by imposing sanctions on Russia and ensuring accountability towards those who endorse this barbaric war. Russia invaded Ukraine for the first time in 2014 and partly occupied its territory. In February 2022, Russia re-launched its undeclared war against Ukraine. At present, Russia is at the top of the list of states sanctioned by International community. (Mazarr, 2018)

In 2014, sanctions including the asset freezes and visa restrictions were imposed by U.S and EU on companies and individuals charged with the violation of human rights, weakening democracy, and confiscating Ukrainian

property. Sanctions concentrated on three sectors: energy, finance, defense technology, with a particular focus on huge state-controlled enterprises. Financial sector embargos outlawed lending to the sanctioned corporations and state banks for the period of 30 days or even more. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development was prohibited to offer any new economic assistance to Russia. Energy sector sanctions were bounded by three types of oil development: arctic offshore drilling, deep offshore and shale oil. Production persisted not to be impacted in the short term, yet pose long-term challenges. (Aslund, 2019)

Embargos on Russia have not been stringent contrasted to those on North Korea, Iran, Venezuela and Cuba. However, they became increasingly severe onwards 2019. Since February 2022, U.S have adopted the measures to hinder the access of Russian central bank to U.S dollar reserves, restricting major Russian banks to carry out financial dealings in U.S dollars or with U.S. citizens, and refraining to invest new capital in Russia. Moreover, extended export controls have been implemented to distress the Russian ability to attain necessary or sensitive U.S-built technologies, barred Russia to use U.S ports and airspace, and outlawed the import of specific Russian items.

In order to undermine the military capabilities of Russia, U.S treasury Department is implementing sanctions to single out Russia's Military Supply Chains. These measures are fundamental to the extensive strategy of U.S intending to prohibit Putin from attaining the necessary equipment, services, and technology to engage in brutal war against Ukraine. These measures are designed to prevent Russia from obtaining items that support its war endeavors; minimize Russian revenue from mining and metals industry; subvert its future energy output; devalue Russian access to the world economic system; and restrict Russian accumulation of G7-made technology vital for its technological, aerospace, and security sectors. (Gupta, 2023)

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN) and Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) have identified some specific components.

These components are driven by Harmonized System (HS) code classification of items discovered from Russian weapons systems in the Ukrainian war zone. This information can be served as an important point of reference for financial institutions to recognize the suspicious transactions in connection with export control evasion. Objects specified by HS codes used against Ukraine have been detected in multiple weapons systems of Russia. The Treasury Department of U.S aims to utilize all the possible means along with its partners to restrain the Russian access to sensitive technology required for the continuation of its full-scale military engagement. (Andreeff, 2023)

Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) with Treasury Department and State Department of U.S imposed new sanctions against Russia in November 2023. The Focus of these sanctions extend across the broad spectrum of Russian activities, confronting the challenges like assistance to Russia's military, breach of sanctions, manufacturing and trading of critical items incorporated into Russian weaponized systems. The State Department maintained the Specially Designated Nationals list by adding up 200 organizations and 37 individuals, mainly targeting the entities from Russia but also from United Arab Emirates, China and Turkey, for allegedly equipping Russian military with necessary and high-tech components. (Rudnik & Wisniewska, 2023)

U.S is exerting maximum effort to undermine Russian supply chain for the top priority items and disrupt its national industrial infrastructure, which aspires to strengthen Russia's war capability.

Despite maintaining International pressure on Russia and obstructing a full scale invasion, these tactics have not completely sorted out the conflict or restored the territorial integrity of Ukraine. The situation remains uncertain, and the success of deterrence strategies continue to unfold.

Conclusion

The impact of U.S foreign policy on international institutions is considerable and its persistent presence in European politics has

been complex as well as noteworthy over the years. The issue regarding U.S assistance to Ukraine, without providing any approval for its immediate NATO membership is multifarious. Affirming a strong commitment towards Ukrainian sovereignty and security, the U.S. has provided significant support. In spite of this, cautionary viewpoints within the NATO and U.S are concerned about Ukraine's admittance to the alliance concerning about the expected consequences for regional stability and focusing on the necessity of a sustainable and feasible security plan for Ukraine.

The U.S faces a pivotal juncture, cautiously navigating its associations within NATO alliance and the dominance it maintains in determining its future. Reliable access to the intelligence, airfields and ports of NATO empowers the U.S to manifest its military power internationally, even for the operations irrelevant to European defense. Ukraine's NATO membership could stress other member states, to raise their defense expenditure to fulfill their commitment, potentially straining their domestic politics and burdening their budgets. Moreover, it could result in escalating tensions with Russia and regional destabilization, the burdens and probable hazards of which will primarily fall on U.S. The enforcement of sanctions on Russia depicts a collaborative and significant effort of U.S and NATO to hold Russia liable for its conduct. The prominent role of U.S in international affairs and its obligation to foster European security have characterized the decision-making procedure complex and multifactorial. The intersection among the sanctions, ongoing conflict and NATO's future necessitates a comprehensive and careful approach, while considering the interests of all parties involved.

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