

**ANALYSIS OF RUSSIA'S INTEREST IN INVADING UKRAINE
BASED ON CONSTRUCTIVIST PERSPECTIVE**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS



**UNIVERSITAS
ISLAM
INDONESIA**

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**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIO-CULTURAL SCIENCES**

UNIVERSITAS ISLAM INDONESIA

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Proposed to the Department of International Relations

Faculty of Psychology and Socio-Cultural Sciences

Universitas Islam Indonesia

As a partial fulfillment of requirement to earn

Bachelor Degree in International Relations



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AUTHORIZATION PAGE

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Defended in front of Board of Examiners
in the Department of International Relations
Faculty of Psychology and Socio-Cultural Sciences
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I hereby declare that this undergraduate thesis is the result of my own independent scientific work, and that all material from the work of others (in books, articles, essays, dissertations, and on the internet) has been stated, and quotations and paraphrases are clearly indicated.

No other materials are used other than those contained. I have read and understood the university's rules and procedures regarding plagiarism.

Making false statements is considered a violation of academic integrity.

February 19 2024,



Arhamni Hasbiya Afafa

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ABSTRACT

This research discusses the Russian invasion of Ukraine using the Constructivist theory developed by Alexander Wendt. This geopolitical event triggered international tensions and had broad impacts at the regional and global levels. In this analysis, focus is given to the historical background, causes, and consequences of the invasion. The research methodology includes literature reviews, foreign policy analysis, and political, economic, and humanitarian impact assessments. The research results show that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has complex historical roots, involving factors such as political changes in Ukraine, Russian foreign policy, and ethnic conflicts in the region. These factors created a context that facilitated conflict, which then spilled over into a military invasion by Russia. The impact of this invasion has been significant, both in Ukraine and internationally. Politically, this invasion has triggered changes in power dynamics in Eastern Europe and raised tensions between Russia and Western countries. Economically, international sanctions against Russia have had an impact on the economies of both parties. Additionally, humanitarian aspects, such as displacement and human rights violations, have also been the focus of attention in the context of this conflict. This research contributes to further understanding of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine and its awareness of regional stability and international security. Policy implications and recommendations for dealing with this conflict are also presented as part of the conclusion of this study.

Keywords: *Russia, Ukraine, Invasion, Constructivism theory, National Interest, Development, Physical Survival, Self esteem.*

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Soviet Union is a superpower country that won World War II. But unfortunately economic problems and corruption within the country led to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Soviet Union was the center of the Eastern Bloc communist alliance during the Cold War. The government at that time implemented a policy called *glasnost* and *perestroika* to solve problems of welfare and openness in all areas of the Soviet Union's government institutions, including freedom of information. The economic crisis was one of the factors behind the beginning of the downfall of this country (Kuntjoro 1992).

The Soviet Union's economic crisis was caused by chronic inefficiency, financial waste, technological backwardness, and the hegemonic system of the collectivization system. The socio-cultural crisis of the USSR was caused by the class gap in the lives of the Soviet people, the low quality of life of the Soviet people and the flourishing creativity of the people in the Soviet government. *Glasnost* and the *perestroika* announced by Gorbachev sparked an explosion of social revolutions in the countries of Eastern Europe. *Glasnost* and *perestroika* made the communist world question its social system in the face of the challenges of the times. Meanwhile, the ethnic conflict in the Soviet Union began with the awareness of the existence of each individual's own group. Gorbachev realized the importance of the ethnic issue too late, hence the numerous riots, rallies and

ethnic demonstrations in various parts of the Soviet Union, which occurred not sequentially but coincidentally (Kuntjoro 1992).

The collapse of the Soviet Union, which marked the death of communism and the end of the Cold War, had very real consequences for world politics. Communism no longer had the social power it had before the collapse of the Soviet Union. After the Cold War, the idea of democratic socialism began to develop, which was aimed at correcting the mistakes made by socialism-communism in the Soviet Union and establishing an alternative concept of socialism for social democracy. The collapse of socialism-communism means that liberalism-capitalism is the only ideology that has survived to this day. However, there were other thinkers who had different predictions about post-cold war political concepts and presented alternative paradigms to correct the weaknesses of the liberal system (Cahya 2007).

The beginning of the tension between Russia and Ukraine did not just happen. If we look at the history between the two countries there were small fragments of tension in the past which continued to grow. In the 1980s, when Ukraine became independent through a referendum, the first President of Russia Boris Yeltsin agreed to the independence of Ukraine with the reason that, Russia and Ukraine had the same background as former Commonwealth of Union countries. From this, it can be concluded that these two countries have had conflicts since the end of the Cold War that occurred in the Soviet Union. Ukraine has felt threatened by the power of the Russian state which is bigger. In January 1993, an agreement was made between Russia and Ukraine to form the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), even though Ukraine never ratified

the agreement. Ukraine was only a founding country and was never a member of the Relations between Russia and Ukraine. In the 1994-2005 period, relations were stable but Ukraine secretly accuses Russia of trying to control the disbanded former soviet states.

In 2014, Russia violated state boundaries in the Crimea region when it added military troops at the boundaries. As a result, the Crimea region at that time was cut off as a means of access to the Ukrainian border. President Zelenskyy has been trying to end the conflict in Ukraine by joining NATO (Hendra, Musani, and Samiaji 2021). Ukraine is an important axis in the Eurasian region and must be within the scope of the United States and the European Union. This was done by the United States and its allies to contain Russia's power. Russia's interest in Ukraine lies in the fact that Ukraine is a strategic neighboring country that has natural resources among other interests of Russia (Schmidt and Brzezinski 1998).

The challenge in conducting this case study research is that this conflict is still happening and there is no resolution in sight yet. However, the purpose of this research is to find out the main reason behind the invasion by conducting research using Constructivism theory. This discussion is quite important because determining the reasons behind the Russian invasion provides a lesson for all countries, which is that state interests can damage world peace. The discussion above has explained that these two countries were a unit of the Soviet Union, and Russia does not want its mainland brothers to cooperate with the West. Besides this brief interest, what else does Russia want from Ukraine? The political stance of the Russian government, which has placed thousands of its military troops along the Ukrainian border, is a consequence of the deteriorating relations of

Russia with Western countries. The state security of the Russian Federation feels threatened by the intervention of the European Union and the United States which are members of the NATO organization. As a diplomatic effort, the Russian government has sent a letter of demand to NATO in which one of the important points it wants to convey is rejecting the idea of Ukraine joining the organization (Atok 2018).

What distinguishes this research from existing research is the theory that is used. The theory of constructivism has not been used in previous research and it is a theory that can dissect a problem in depth. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has been going on for quite a long time, even though the two countries have the same Soviet Union background making them have a lot in common. The benefit of using variables from Constructivism Theory will be made clear in this research. This research will outline the reasons behind the decision, one of which being that Ukraine is a country with a strategic position and has a military base left by the Soviet Union, based on self-esteem variables. Ukraine is a country with a direct border to Russia, and so, if Ukraine joins NATO, this will be a threat to the Russian state based on the psychological survival variable.

1.2 Research Question

What factors make Russia invading Ukraine be explained through variables from Constructivism theory ?

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are:

1. To analyze Russia's Interest behind Invasion to Ukraine in 2022 it was during this period that the invasion began to be carried out by Russia began, initiated by Ukraine's statement that they would join NATO.
2. To explain the dynamics that occur between Russia and Ukraine. By looking at the background relationship between these two countries, we can determine how this problem started.
3. To identify the reasons for the invasion from the point of view of constructivism theory and the variables within this theory.

1.4 Research Scope

The scope of this research is the invasion carried out by Russia against Ukraine. The focus is on the beginning of Russia's invasion of Crimea in 2014, which signaled the beginning of tensions between Russia and Ukraine. The history of these two countries, which both originate from the former Soviet Union, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 are considered the scope in this research (Sudiq and Yustitiantingtyas 2022). Referring to the scope of this research, variables based on constructivism theory will be used to determine the purpose of the invasion.

1.5 Literature Review

The title of the first article used as part of the review is Sejarah Invasi Rusia di Ukraina Dalam Kaca Mata Geopolitik (Iswardhana 2022). The purpose of including this article was to find out the background of the two countries in the past. Russia and Ukraine have not been trying to find alternative solutions to bridge the interests of both parties. In fact, Russia and Ukraine both consider their

opponent to be a threat that requires real action in the form of violence. Rather than carrying out conflict resolution and peace efforts, Russia and Ukraine are trapped in an endless war causing the world to face increasingly difficult conditions.

The title of the second article is *The Background of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine* (Hanappi 2022). The purpose of including this article was to find information that has been collected by other researchers with different theoretical perspectives. The conclusion made from this research is that one of the political attitudes of the Russian government, shown through the action of placing thousands of military troops along the Ukrainian border, is a consequence of worsening relations between Russia and Western countries. The state security of the Russian Federation feels threatened by the interference of the European Union and the United States which are members of NATO. The Russian government has repeatedly emphasized that neither side will benefit from the war. This statement shows the political stance of the Russian Government which recently carried out military exercises in the border areas of Russia and Ukraine. These exercises are the prerogative of the Russian government because they are being carried out in its own territory (unlike Western countries which send their military troops far from their home countries).

The title of the third article is *Russia's war on Ukraine* (Aidan 2022). The purpose of including this article was to obtain information that has been reported by other researchers from different theoretical perspectives. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in numerous violations of international obligations, such as alleged violations of human rights and violations of the sovereignty of the

Ukrainian state by the Russian state. Russia must be held accountable for these actions that violate international law. Stopping all forms of Russia's invasion of Ukraine by withdrawing all of Russia's military forces from Ukrainian territory and promising not to repeat invasion is a form of Russia's responsibility towards Ukraine.

The author also reads a lot of online media articles which provide various views from both the western bloc and vice versa, of course these differences in views give rise to pros and cons. This was in hope that the writer could then give specific answers of personal opinion regarding this case. None of the three reference articles mentioned above used constructivism theory. Thus, this research uses the theory of constructivism to determine the reason for the invasion by Russia. The novel aspect of this study is the analysis of an invasion carried out by a large country (in this case Russia), which has drawn criticism from other countries and has also resulted in economic and security instability in the European region. The use of constructivism theory allows us to see the interests that Russia had when it invaded in 2022 (M 1992).

1.6 Research Framework

In this research, the theory of constructivism proposed by Alexander Wendt is used. Three variables of this theory were used to determine the reasons behind the decision of Russia to invade Ukraine. Constructivism is a theory in international relations that focuses on the role of ideas, norms, and identities in shaping state behavior. When analyzing the Russia-Ukraine conflict from a constructivist perspective, there are several variables and factors to consider. As it

is a grand theory into International Relations in which its perspective can fulfil the previous gap evaluation of other classic theories such as realism and liberalism that tend focusing on materialistic substances. Otherwise, constructivist perspective has generated new essences in scope of international phenomena like behavioral trait, historical, and experience background. As for this theory's view, conflict and cooperative relationships exist not unintentionally however it is deliberately created by the actors themselves. In view of constructivist figure Alexander Wendt, this theory perceives a relation among countries is based on certain identity then it produces a correlative assumption that good or bad connection of a state with others refers towards how they notice each other as partner or rival. Constructivism interprets two noteworthy substances agency and structure which are established together as they influence each other. Agency has a term as someone's capability to carry out further structure defined as an international system referring to ideational and material essences.

The three variables are (1) ***Self Esteem*** where constructivist theory looks at how states' identities and socialization into international society affect their behavior, considering how Russia perceives itself in relation to Ukraine, its historical ties, and whether it sees Ukraine as part of its "near abroad" or as a sovereign state. (2) ***Physical Survival*** where constructivism emphasizes that state behavior is not solely determined by material interests but also by shared norms and beliefs. Analyzing how Russia's interpretation of international norms, sovereignty, and the right to protect Russian-speaking populations influenced its actions. (3) ***Development*** where constructivism places significant importance on ideational factors, such as discourse and public opinion. Examining the rhetoric

used by Russian leaders and diplomats and how it shaped perceptions and interactions with Ukraine and the international community. (Wendt 2003).

Constructivists argue that states can have multiple identities that are socially constructed through interaction with other actors. Identities are representations of an actor's understanding of who they are, which in turn signals their interests. An identity and interest become important underlying contents. In the constructivist argument, one country is able to have more identities that are socially set up by means of interactions to other actors. , identity of a state is a 10 attribute or characteristic that could possess the role in order to define what interests they require. In other words, the emergence of this certain essence will specify behavior from the country itself then it is boosted by interest. They are important to constructivists as they argue that identities constitute interests and actions. Using this theory will reveal state interests that are not discussed using other theories. The author hopes that by conducting this research, new views will be opened on the issue of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and of course this will be useful for the world of education in the future. We will find out the reasons behind this decision, including because Ukraine is a country with a strategic position and has a military base left by the Soviet Union based on self-esteem variables. Ukraine is a country with a direct border to Russia which if Ukraine joins NATO then this will be a threat to the Russian state. By using constructivism theory, discussing this conflict will open up new views that have not been discussed by previous research that did not use constructivism theory. The small state is arguably more focused on its survival, whereas the large state is concerned with dominating global political, economic and military affairs.

1.7 Provisional Argument

Using variables from Constructivism Theory which we will find out together in this research. In other words, we will find out the factors behind this decision including because Ukraine is a country with a strategic position and has a military base left by the Soviet Union based on self-esteem variables. Ukraine is a country with a direct border to Russia which if Ukraine joins NATO then this will be a threat to the Russian state based on variable psychological survival (Theys 2018). Analyzing the role of state-controlled media and propaganda in shaping public opinion in Russia and how this may have influenced popular support for the government's actions on development variables (Aidan 2022).

This study implements Alexander Wendt's theory of Constructivism in which the concept of personal identity is fundamental to classify the factors behind Russia invading Ukraine. Because the identity of the country itself can determine a country's interest, it is then followed up with special actions.

1.8 Research Method

1.8.1 Type of the Research

This research is included in the Qualitative type because the authors take information from data sources that contain statements and reasons based on Constructivism Theory analysis (Wekke 2019).

1.8.2 Subject and Object of the Research

The subject of this research is Russia, while the object under study is the invasion of Ukraine in the 2022 period.

1.8.3 Method of Data Collection

The literature studies by the author is observation of existing research, as well as visual analysis based on news on online networks.

1.8.4 Process of the Research

During the research, the writer realizes that this global problem is very interesting to understand, where the decision to invade by Russia raises a lot of tension between the western and eastern blocks. Therefore, during this research the writer collected many sources of accurate information to find out the reasons for the Russian side to start tensions.

1.9 Thesis Outline

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

In chapter I, the author will discuss the historical background of these two countries that are fragments of the Soviet Union as well as the research objectives obtained from many resources of researchers of the Russia -Ukraine conflict.

CHAPTER II: THE DATA & FACTS

In chapter II the data and facts from the researchers. From the data of these researchers, a cross-search regarding the truth of the facts was conducted which is also outlined for the next part.

CHAPTER III: DISCUSSION OF THE ANALYSIS

contains the discussion which includes a Russian perspective and 3 Variable analysis of Constructivism Theory.

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

contains the closing, which is the conclusions and recommendations from the writer regarding the reasons for the invasion carried out by Russia.

CHAPTER 2

THE DATA & FACT

2.1 History Of The Soviet Union



Source : Tribunnews Wiki (2023)

The Soviet Union or officially known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, was a socialist country that existed from 1922 to 1991. In December 1922, the Soviet Union was officially formed with the full name *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*. The country consisted of several republics united under Bolshevik rule. During World War II, the Soviet Union was a key ally in the battle against Nazi Germany. The Battle of Stalingrad in 1942-1943 was one of the important turning points in the war. After World War II, relations between the Soviet Union and the United States deteriorated, and the Cold War era began. The Soviet Union and the United States competed in military, technological, and propaganda fields. In 1991, a failed coup attempt by conservatives in the government, along with pressure from within and outside the country, resulted in the collapse of the Soviet Union. On December 25, 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev stepped down as leader of the Soviet Union, and a day later, the Soviet Union was officially dissolved (Najmi and Lestiyansih 2022).

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, many countries that were previously part of the Soviet Union became independent countries. Russia continued its history as the successor state to the Soviet Union, while other countries in the region established their own independence. One of the countries was Ukraine, the independence of modern Ukraine was declared in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Ukraine became an independent country with internationally recognized borders. Modern Ukrainian independence has been accompanied by political, economic change, and geopolitical conflict. The country has faced challenges in building democratic institutions and managing its relations with its neighbors, especially Russia. Ukraine's history reflects the resilience and passion of its people to defend its sovereignty and culture (Kuntjoro 1992).

2.2 Russian Identity, Ideational Factors, and Norms

Russian identity is deeply influenced by its history, including the early formation of Kievan Rus, Mongol rule, the rise of Russian Tsarism, and the expansion of the Russian Empire (Aidan 2022). The Soviet period also played an important role in the formation of modern Russian identity. Russia stretches across Eurasia, with a vast territory that includes diverse landscapes, from the European part of Russia to Siberia and the Russian Far East. This geographical diversity contributes to differences in regional culture and identity. Russian, written in Cyrillic characters, is a unifying element of Russian identity. Russian literature, music, art and folklore have contributed to a rich cultural heritage. Famous authors such as Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky and Pushkin have left a lasting impact on world literature.

Historically, Russian Orthodoxy has been an important part of the Russian identity. The Russian Orthodox Church has played a central role in the cultural and spiritual life of the nation. Although the Russian state is officially secular, Orthodoxy remains an influential cultural force. Russia has gone through many different political systems, from monarchy to Soviet-era communism, to the transition to a modern-day semi-presidential republic. These changes have affected how Russians see themselves and their place in the world. Russia's identity is complex and multifaceted, shaped by its long and diverse history, geographical scope, and the interaction of many cultural, political, and social factors (Mahon et al. 2023). It is important to note that Russian identity is not monolithic and can vary between generations, regions and social groups. It is a dynamic concept that continues to evolve as Russia seeks its place in the world and grapples with its complex history and diverse society.

ideology on shaping geopolitical alliances and conflicts (Fer 1989). Ideational factors in the context of Russia refer to the set of ideas, beliefs, values, and ideologies that influence and shape the country's domestic and foreign policies. These factors are essential for understanding Russia's behavior in various arenas, including politics, diplomacy, and international relations. Ideational factors do not operate in isolation and often interact with geopolitical, economic, and security considerations (“Russia - Culture, Traditions, Cuisine | Britannica,” n.d.). They play a crucial role in shaping Russia's approach to both domestic and international affairs and are central to understanding its actions and policies on the global stage.

The following outlines some key ideational factors that have played a significant role in shaping Russia's actions and policies (1)***Historical Legacy:*** Russia's long and complex history has a profound influence on its national identity and its perception of its role in the world. Historical narratives, including the country's experiences with Mongol rule, the Tsarist period, the Soviet era, and the post-Soviet transition, all contribute to how Russians view their place in history and their national identity. (2)***Orthodox Christianity:*** Russian Orthodoxy is a significant component of Russia's cultural and historical identity. The Russian Orthodox Church has played a pivotal role in shaping societal values, and its leaders often have influence on national policies and issues. The adoption of Christianity in 988 under Grand Prince Vladimir the Great significantly influenced the cultural and social fabric of the emerging Russian state. Orthodoxy became not only a religious doctrine but also a unifying force, providing a common identity for the diverse ethnic groups within the vast territory of Russia. The Orthodox Church, closely tied to the ruling elite, played a central role in shaping cultural norms and ethical values. Throughout history, the Russian Orthodox Church has served as a bastion of tradition, resilience, and national identity. During periods of external threat or internal turmoil, the Church often played a role in fostering a sense of unity among the Russian people. This ideational factor has endured across centuries, contributing to Russia's distinct cultural and religious identity. (3)***Eurasianism:*** The idea of Russia as a Eurasian power, straddling both Europe and Asia, has been a recurring theme in Russian political thought. It influences Russia's foreign policy and its approach to relations with neighboring countries in both regions. (4)***Pan-Slavism:*** Historically, the

concept of Slavic solidarity has been an important ideational factor in Russia's relations with other Slavic nations. It has played a role in shaping alliances and policies in Eastern Europe. (5)***Sovereignty and Non-Interference***: Russia places a high value on its sovereignty and is often critical of what it perceives as external interference in its internal affairs. This belief in non-interference is reflected in its opposition to Western interventions in other countries' domestic affairs. (6)***Nationalism***: Nationalist sentiments have gained prominence in Russian politics, emphasizing the protection of Russian interests and the promotion of a strong, self-reliant state. The victory in 1945 not only solidified the Soviet Union's status as a global power but also contributed to a narrative of Russian exceptionalism and endurance. The wartime experience, including the immense human toll and the heroism of the Red Army, remains a foundational ideational factor in shaping Russia's self-perception and its approach to contemporary challenges. The Great Patriotic War, known as World War II in the broader context, constitutes a crucial chapter in Russia's historical legacy. The Soviet Union's role in the war, marked by immense sacrifice and resilience against Nazi aggression, became a defining element of Russian identity. The war left an indelible mark on the collective consciousness, fostering a sense of national pride and unity in the face of existential threats. (7)***Soviet Legacy***: The legacy of the Soviet Union continues to shape Russia's identity and foreign policy, particularly in its relations with former Soviet states. The memory of the Soviet era, including the victory in World War II, plays a significant role in Russian politics and national pride.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked a watershed moment in Russian history, leading to a reevaluation of ideational factors. The transition from communism to a market-oriented economy and the embrace of political pluralism brought about a period of ideological uncertainty. The quest for a new national identity became a central theme, as Russia sought to redefine itself in the absence of the Soviet ideological framework. During this period, a resurgence of interest in pre-Soviet historical and cultural elements gained momentum. The Orthodox Church experienced a revival, and there was a renewed emphasis on traditional values. At the same time, the legacy of Soviet achievements, particularly in science and space exploration, continued to shape perceptions of Russian greatness. The 20th century brought about a seismic shift in Russia's ideational landscape with the advent of Soviet ideology. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, led by Vladimir Lenin, ushered in an era of communism, fundamentally altering Russia's political, economic, and social structures. The ideology of Marxism-Leninism, coupled with the cult of personality around leaders like Lenin and later Joseph Stalin, became a dominant force shaping the Soviet state.

(8) *Anti-Western Sentiment:* There is a strong strain of anti-Western sentiment in Russian political discourse, which is sometimes used to mobilize public support and legitimize certain policies, particularly in the context of the Ukraine crisis and other international conflicts. Soviet ideology emphasized the construction of a classless society, the triumph of the proletariat, and the global spread of communism. This ideational framework had profound implications for domestic policies, international relations, and the perception of enemies and allies. The

Cold War, a product of ideological rivalry between the Soviet Union and the West, underscored the global impact of the Soviet.

Russian norms and beliefs have been shaped by the country's rich history, cultural traditions, and the influence of various social, political, and economic factors (Wendt 2003). It's important to recognize that Russia is a diverse and vast nation, so these norms and beliefs can vary among different regions and social groups. The following section outlines some of these influencing factors.

(1)**Collectivism:** Russians often value strong family bonds and close-knit social circles. Family is a central institution, and maintaining family ties and supporting one another is highly regarded. Loyalty to one's family and friends is important.

(2)**Orthodoxy and Religion:** Russian Orthodoxy, a branch of Eastern Christianity, has played a significant role in shaping Russian culture and beliefs. Many Russians identify as Orthodox Christians, and religious traditions and holidays are observed with great reverence. (3)**Patriotism and National Pride:** Russians often have a strong sense of national pride, particularly regarding their country's history and accomplishments. This pride is often associated with Russia's role in World War II and its contributions to science, literature, and the arts.

(4)**Resilience and Stoicism:** Russians have a reputation for being resilient and able to endure challenging circumstances. This trait is often attributed to the country's history of facing harsh environmental conditions and historical adversities. (5)**Skepticism and Mistrust:** Russians can be somewhat skeptical and mistrustful, particularly of government and authority figures. This skepticism is rooted in historical experiences with autocratic rule, censorship, and propaganda.

(6)**Social Conservatism:** Many Russians hold conservative social values, particularly on

issues like family, marriage, and gender roles. (7)*Traditional Russian Cuisine:* Traditional Russian cuisine features dishes like borscht, blini, and pelmeni. Sharing meals with family and friends is an important part of Russian culture.

2.3 Events of the Invasion

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine that began in 2014 is rooted in a number of complex historical, political, and social factors. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine gained independence and became a sovereign independent country. However, this transition process was difficult due to economic, political and social challenges. Ukraine has a number of ethnic groups, most notably ethnic Ukrainians and ethnic Russians. Eastern Ukraine, which is close to the Russian border, has a number of residents who speak Russian and feel more connected to Russia than they do to western Ukraine, which tends to prioritize Ukrainian national identity. The conflict began with the Euromaidan events in 2013-2014, when there were large demonstrations in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, against the government's decision to approach Russia rather than the European Union in terms of trade agreements. These demonstrations resulted in the overthrow of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014. After Yanukovich's ouster, Russia took drastic action by occupying the Crimean Peninsula, which was previously part of Ukraine. This was followed by a Russian military deployment in eastern Ukraine, where there are many people who speak Russian. Russia's actions sparked an international response. The United States and the European Union imposed economic sanctions on Russia in response to its annexation of Crimea and Russia's military support for the uprising in Donbas.

The conflict in Ukraine has caused significant deaths and destruction, especially in the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine and on the Crimean Peninsula. The UN and other organizations have documented the impact of this conflict on civilians, including deaths, injuries, displacement, and damage to infrastructure. With an invasion, there will, of course, be many victims on both sides. Quoting Reuters and Al Jazeera from April 2023, the total number of Russian military victims is somewhere between 189,500 and 223,000. As many as 35,500 to 43,000 died in military action while 154,000 to 180,000 were injured. On the Ukrainian side there have been 124,500 to 131,000 total casualties, which consists of 15,500 to 17,500 killed and 109,000 to 113,500 injured. Of course, these are heartbreaking figures for the effects of the war. The figures above are also only the number of military casualties, and do not include civilians who were affected (Leon et al. 2022). In regard to the number of civilians who were affected, the UN High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) has stated that 24,425 civilian fell victim as a result of the war raging between Russia and Ukraine. This data was collected by OHCHR from 24 February 2022 to 4 June 2023. However, this high-ranking UN agency notes that the actual figure has potential to be much higher due to delayed receipt of information. Many reports are still awaiting verification (Cecire 2014).

2.4 Global Awareness

Invasion is the act or process of entering an entity, such as a military force, a living organism, or a particular concept, into a territory or domain previously controlled or controlled by another entity. The term "invasion" is usually used in different contexts depending on the context, such as military invasion, biological

invasion, or cultural invasion. In this case, Russia carried out a military invasion of Ukraine. Military invasion has the meaning of referring to the armed action of a country or group in annexing or occupying the territory of another country. The objectives of a military invasion can be varied, such as territorial expansion, conquest, defense, or intervention for political or humanitarian reasons (Williamson 1999).

With the invasion that occurred, there were of course many comments from various countries around the world. Based on observations that the author has summarized from several online media reports, at least several countries strongly condemned the actions carried out by Russia. Below are several examples regarding the criticism or attitudes of various countries regarding this conflict. (1) ***Western countries (United States, Europe Union, Canada, etc.):*** These countries generally condemned the Russian invasion and supported Ukraine's territorial integrity. They imposed economic sanctions and restrictions on Russian officials and companies associated with the Russian government, provided military and economic assistance to Ukraine, continued to monitor the situation and encouraged Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukraine. (2) ***China:*** China generally outlines its principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries; however, it expressed concern over the conflict and also showed support for Ukraine's sovereignty. (3) ***Ukraine's neighboring countries:*** Countries such as Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, which are members of NATO and the European Union, are concerned about threats to regional security and they increased their military presence in the east to provide support to Ukraine.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is not simply a series of unfortunate events in a distant land, but represents a serious threat to European stability and, more broadly, the rules-based international order. Moscow's violation of international norms by intervening in Crimea signals a belief that Moscow can overtly and unilaterally manipulate regional dynamics to its liking. Also troubling is Russia's violation of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, joined by the United States, Britain and Ukraine. The memorandum guaranteed Ukraine's territorial sovereignty in exchange for the transfer of the Kyiv nuclear arsenal to Russia. That Russia's intervention in Crimea may have had a chilling impact on the global non-proliferation regime is perhaps an understatement. The unauthorized and illegal commitment of Russian troops to Ukraine also threatens the Euro-Atlantic security order, which is based on the primacy of state sovereignty and NATO as the guarantor of the system. No, Ukraine is not a member of NATO, but it is undoubtedly part of Europe. Unfortunately, there are not many good options for dealing with Russia's latest acts of aggression. It would take major and unprecedented events for Western powers to consider involvement of any kind in the conflict. However, there are several important and meaningful steps that the US and Europe should consider.

CHAPTER 3

DISCUSSION OF THE ANALYSIS: FACTORS BEHIND RUSSIA'S INTEREST IN THE INVASION OF UKRAINE

From a Russian perspective, it's worth noting that Russia had been accused by several western nations of interfering in Ukraine's internal affairs and supporting separatist movements in Eastern Ukraine, particularly in Donetsk and Luhansk. The official Russian stance, at that time, was that they were protecting the rights of Russian-speaking populations in these regions and asserting their national interests. Russia had also claimed that the 2014 change of government in Ukraine, which led to the annexation of Crimea by Russia and the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, was the result of what they saw as an illegal coup orchestrated by Western powers (Cecire 2014). It's essential to understand that international conflicts like this one often have multiple perspectives, and public opinion can vary widely within a country. Some Russians may have supported these actions as a matter of national security or the protection of Russian-speaking populations, while others may have been critical of their government's approach or concerned about the consequences of such actions. Constructivism is a theory in international relations that focuses on the role of ideas, norms, and identities in shaping state behavior.

Here, the author would like to employ constructivism theory, which was put forward by Alexander Wendt, in this analysis utilizing three main variables of personal identity and national interest concepts: *development*, *physical survival*, and *self-esteem* (Theys 2018). The variable of physical survival refers here to Russia protecting its sovereignty from the actors of another country (Ukraine)

which was considered a potential threat if it joined NATO. For the variable of self-esteem, it is crucial to understand that Russia wants other countries to recognize and respect historical sovereign rights because Ukraine is a fragment of the Soviet Union. The development variable refers to Russia's massive economic and defense development, but this aspect is closely related to what it is building. According to constructivist Alexander Wendt (Wendt 2003), these three elements that have an essential basis in identity shape a country's interests and result in follow ups with special actions. Here, this problem has been researched based on the author's view and using constructivism theory. The findings from this research will provide new perspectives in regards to the beginning of the problem. First determined is what started this invasion because a problem arose after an initial trigger.

3.1 Development: Potential of former Soviet military bases and Intervention from the west that will disrupt Russia's bilateral trade

The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked a pivotal moment in history, leading to the emergence of independent nations, each grappling with the legacy of the Soviet era. In the previous chapter the author has attached the history of the split of the Soviet Union, which became the basis for these two countries to exist today. Because of its strategic location, Ukraine became a fairly strong military base during the Soviet era, because we all know that Ukraine's location is directly adjacent to European countries, which meant that the Soviet Union at that time had to strengthen its national defense along the borders of other countries. Therefore, the advantage of Ukraine when it became a country was that their territory still held the military equipment that previously belonged to the

Soviet Union. One significant aspect of this legacy lies in the vast network of military bases that the Soviet Union established across its territories. The potency of these former Soviet military bases remains a complex and multifaceted issue, influencing the geopolitical landscape, security dynamics, and socio-economic conditions of the post-Soviet states, particularly in countries like Ukraine. The strategic placement of Soviet military bases during the Cold War era was a key element of the Soviet Union's military doctrine. These bases were often situated in border regions and strategically important areas, reflecting the Soviet Union's global ambitions. In the aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse, these bases became a critical asset for the newly independent states, offering both opportunities and challenges.

One aspect of the potency lies in the military infrastructure left behind. Former Soviet military bases often include advanced weaponry, communication systems, and other military assets. In some cases, post-Soviet states have been able to repurpose and modernize these facilities, enhancing their own defense capabilities. However, the process is not without difficulties, as the outdated nature of some equipment and the need for technological upgrades pose financial and logistical challenges. Geopolitically, the presence of former Soviet military bases continues to shape the relationships between post-Soviet states and the broader international community. Some bases have become focal points of geopolitical tension, especially in regions where neighboring countries have conflicting interests. For instance, in the context of Ukraine, the Crimea region and its former Soviet naval bases became central to the geopolitical struggle between Russia and Ukraine, culminating in the annexation of Crimea by Russia

in 2014 (Cecire 2014). The economic impact of these military bases is another dimension of their potency. While the presence of such facilities can stimulate local economies through job creation and infrastructure development, it also brings challenges. Environmental degradation, often a consequence of military activities, poses risks to the surrounding communities. Moreover, the transition from a military-focused economy to a more diversified one requires careful planning and investment.

In terms of security, the proximity of these bases to borders can either enhance or undermine regional stability. Post-Soviet states must carefully manage the decommissioning and repurposing of these bases to prevent security vacuums or unintended escalations. Cooperation with international organizations and neighboring countries is crucial to address shared security concerns and prevent the proliferation of military assets. In late February and early March 2014, with no signs of the violence abating, unmarked Russian soldiers began appearing in Crimea. They took over control of several strategic facilities, including military headquarters and the airport in Simferopol. On 16 March 2014, Crimean authorities held a referendum recognized by Russia to determine whether Crimea would join the Russian Federation or remain under Ukrainian jurisdiction with a more autonomous status. The results showed that the majority supported joining Russia. After this incident, the conflict in eastern Ukraine between the Ukrainian government and Russian-backed separatist groups worsened. Ukraine accuses Russia of providing military support and weapons to separatist groups, while Russia denies its involvement in the conflict. The international community, including many Western countries and the UN, refused to recognize the

legitimacy of the referendum, considering it a violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity. Economic sanctions were imposed on Russia in response to the annexation of Crimea (Aidan 2022).

Russia is a major exporter of energy resources, such as oil and natural gas. Dependency on Russian energy supplies can create vulnerabilities for countries that rely heavily on these resources and can influence bilateral trade dynamics. Countries heavily reliant on Russian energy may find themselves economically vulnerable to fluctuations in energy prices or supply disruptions(Thomas 2016). Russia, as a major energy exporter, can potentially use its energy resources as leverage in bilateral trade negotiations or political disputes. Energy dependency on Russia can also have geopolitical implications. Some countries may be concerned about becoming too reliant on Russian energy, as it could give Russia significant influence over their domestic energy policies and potentially compromise their geopolitical autonomy. Many countries seek to reduce their energy dependency on Russia through diversification efforts, such as investing in renewable energy sources, expanding domestic energy production, or diversifying energy imports from other countries. Infrastructure projects, such as pipelines and energy terminals, play a crucial role in shaping energy dependency dynamics. Projects like Nord Stream and TurkStream, which deliver Russian natural gas to Europe, have drawn attention due to their potential to increase European dependence on Russian energy(Grigas 2017).

3.2 Physical Survival: The importance of maintaining sovereign stability and Border dynamics between western regions



Source: kompasiana.com (2022)

The post-Soviet era has seen the emergence of independent states in the western regions, such as Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltic states. Russia's relationship with these countries has been marked by a combination of cooperation, economic ties, and occasional tensions. The events in Ukraine in 2014, including the annexation of Crimea and the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, have significantly influenced border dynamics, impacting Russia's relations with both Ukraine and the broader international community (Leon et al. 2022).

The western regions of Russia have been at the crossroads of major conflicts and power struggles. The vast expanse of territories, including areas such as Kaliningrad, the North Caucasus, and parts of the Western Federal District, has witnessed invasions, wars, and geopolitical shifts. The memories of conflicts like World War II, where the western regions were heavily contested, play a crucial role in shaping Russia's approach to its western borders. The historical narrative

emphasizes the sacrifices made by the Soviet Union in defending its western territories and the subsequent establishment of a buffer zone to ensure national security. Security considerations are paramount in understanding Russia's perspective on its western borders. The proximity of NATO member countries and the expansion of the alliance into Eastern Europe after the Cold War have been sources of concern for Russia. From Moscow's viewpoint, the deployment of NATO forces closer to its borders is perceived as a security challenge, prompting strategic responses to safeguard national interests.

The annexation of Crimea in 2014, in particular, was influenced by security considerations and a desire to maintain influence in the face of perceived Western encroachment. Russia is concerned that Ukraine's membership in NATO could increase security threats to Russia. Most Russian leaders believe that NATO's expansion into areas previously part of the former Soviet Union could be considered a threat to Russia's national security. The Russian government stated that it was necessary to maintain national security and maintain control over the surrounding region. They argue that NATO expansion could pose a threat to Russia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Ukraine has a strategic geopolitical position, especially with the Crimea region and the Hang Nadim seaport on the Black Sea. Ukraine's membership in NATO could give NATO greater control over the region, which could be perceived as a threat by Russia to its strategic and security interests in the region.

From the Russian perspective, maintaining sovereign stability is a multifaceted imperative deeply rooted in historical experiences, geopolitical

challenges, and the desire to safeguard national interests. The emphasis on a strong state, both politically and economically, reflects Russia's perception of itself as a major global player with a unique role in the world. The quest for sovereign stability is an ongoing process, shaped by the evolving dynamics of domestic and international politics. Understanding this perspective provides insights into Russia's political decisions, policies, and its position in the global arena. Furthermore, Russia sees itself as a defender of traditional values and national identity, and the preservation of sovereign stability is viewed as crucial for protecting these cultural foundations (Hanappi 2022). The Russian government often emphasizes the need for a strong state to resist perceived Western influence that is seen as a threat to Russia's cultural and moral values. There are significant ethnic Russian populations in Ukraine, particularly in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. Russia portrays itself as a protector of these Russian-speaking minorities, citing concerns over their rights and safety. This narrative provides justification for intervention in Ukrainian affairs and resonates with nationalist sentiments within Russia. Ukraine is crucial for the transit of Russian natural gas to Europe. The control over Ukrainian territory, particularly regions with significant energy infrastructure, provides Russia with leverage in energy negotiations with European countries. Additionally, Ukraine itself has substantial energy reserves, including coal and shale gas, which Russia may seek to exploit or control. Domestically, Russian President Vladimir Putin's popularity and legitimacy are closely tied to his image as a strong leader who restores Russia's influence on the global stage. The invasion of Ukraine serves to bolster

nationalist sentiments within Russia and divert attention from domestic issues, rallying public support behind Putin's leadership.

Historically, Russia has experienced periods of political turmoil and internal strife, ranging from the collapse of the Russian Empire to the revolutions of the 20th century. These events have left an indelible mark on the Russian collective consciousness, shaping the nation's approach to governance. The traumatic experiences of social upheaval have instilled a strong emphasis on the need for internal stability as a foundation for societal progress and development. Geopolitically, Russia has often found itself at the crossroads of major global power struggles. The country spans Eurasia, connecting Europe and Asia, and has historically been a buffer zone facing invasions from both the West and the East. This unique geographical position has made Russia particularly sensitive to external threats and has influenced its approach to maintaining sovereign stability. The concept of a "strong state" has been deeply embedded in Russian political discourse, with the belief that a robust and stable government is essential for safeguarding the nation's interests in a complex geopolitical environment. From an economic perspective, maintaining sovereign stability is crucial for attracting foreign investment and fostering domestic growth (Volkan and Javakhishvili 2022).

Russia, as a major player in the global energy market, relies on economic stability to ensure the continuous development of its resource-based economy (Hanappi 2022). Political stability is seen as a key factor in creating an environment conducive to business and investment, as uncertainty and political volatility can deter both domestic and foreign investors. In the realm of security,

Russia perceives internal stability as essential for protecting its territorial integrity and national sovereignty. The vastness of the Russian Federation and its diverse ethnic and cultural composition pose unique challenges to maintaining social cohesion. Any internal instability is viewed through the lens of potential external exploitation or intervention, with concerns about separatism or external influence exacerbating the need for a stable and centralized government.

Moreover, Russia's post-Soviet experience has further underscored the importance of sovereign stability. The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 led to a period of economic and political upheaval in Russia, characterized by hyperinflation, social unrest, and a decline in global influence (Edele 2018). The subsequent years witnessed efforts to stabilize the country under leaders like Vladimir Putin, who emphasized the restoration of state authority and the reassertion of Russia's role as a major geopolitical player.

Anticipating efforts by Western parties to intervene in Russia's territorial sovereignty requires a nuanced understanding of historical contexts, current geopolitical tensions, motivations, and potential triggers. As the international community navigates these complexities, it is essential to prioritize diplomatic solutions and uphold the principles of international law. The consequences of any intervention would reverberate globally, emphasizing the need for careful consideration and a commitment to fostering a stable and cooperative international order (Asaturov Sergei 2022). The dynamics of international relations have been marked by complexities and tensions, with geopolitical fault lines often defining the relationships between nations. Russia, as a significant

global player, has been a focal point of attention, particularly in its interactions with Western countries.

The Cold War era, marked by ideological rivalries and a nuclear arms race, shaped the narrative of the East-West divide. Post-Soviet Russia witnessed a shift in global power dynamics, leading to a complex interplay between Russia and Western nations. There is a strong element of history and identity in these considerations. For most Russians, Ukraine and Russia are considered to have close historical and cultural ties. Therefore, losing Ukraine to the West or NATO is considered a strategic and identity loss. Through this policy, Russia also tries to limit Western influence in the region. NATO members on Russia's borders are considered a threat to Russia's political and military influence in the region. The presence of NATO forces in neighboring countries like Poland and the Baltic states raises security concerns for Russia. The invasion of Ukraine can be seen as a preemptive measure to secure its western borders and prevent NATO from establishing a significant military presence closer to Russian territory. Ukraine serves as a buffer zone between Russia and NATO/EU countries. Russia perceives NATO's expansion into Eastern Europe, including former Soviet republics like Ukraine, as a security threat. By exerting control or influence over Ukraine, Russia aims to prevent NATO encroachment and maintain its strategic dominance in the region.

Historical events such as the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and conflicts in Ukraine have contributed to strained relations, creating a backdrop for potential interventions. Conflicts in Ukraine, Syria, and allegations of cyber interference have heightened suspicions and strained relations between Russia and the West

(Fer 1989). These tensions create an environment where external actors may feel compelled to safeguard their interests or respond to perceived threats, potentially leading to interventions that challenge Russia's territorial sovereignty. Various motivations may drive Western parties to contemplate intervention in Russia's territorial sovereignty. Economic interests, political considerations, and concerns about human rights violations could play pivotal roles. Access to key resources, strategic geographical locations, or the desire to influence regional power dynamics might motivate Western nations to consider intervention. Additionally, the perceived need to address security concerns or curb potential threats may be used to justify such actions.

The principles of international law play a crucial role in shaping the discourse around territorial sovereignty. Any attempts by Western parties to intervene in Russia's sovereignty would be evaluated against the backdrop of established international norms. The United Nations Charter, which upholds the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention, would likely be invoked in discussions surrounding such interventions. The legal implications of any interference would be a critical aspect in shaping the international community's response.

Identifying potential triggers for intervention involves analyzing specific scenarios or events that might escalate tensions. Regional conflicts, human rights abuses, or security threats could act as catalysts for Western nations to consider intervention. The annexation of additional territories by Russia, provocative military actions, or a perceived failure to adhere to international norms may heighten concerns and trigger discussions about potential interventions. In

anticipating efforts by Western parties to intervene in Russia's territorial sovereignty, it is imperative to explore diplomatic solutions. Engaging in dialogue, fostering international cooperation, and utilizing diplomatic channels can provide alternatives to military or interventionist approaches. Strengthening institutions such as the United Nations and promoting multilateral negotiations may offer avenues for conflict resolution without compromising territorial sovereignty. Examining the potential consequences of Western intervention in Russia's territorial sovereignty is crucial for evaluating the broader impact on global stability. Such interventions could strain diplomatic relations, escalate regional conflicts, and potentially lead to a new Cold War-era standoff (Iswardhana 2022). The consequences would extend beyond the immediate geopolitical landscape, affecting economic and security dynamics on a global scale.

3.3 Self-esteem: Anti-Western Sentiment, Soviet Legacy, and Social Conservatism

Anti-Western sentiment in Russia refers to a broad set of attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions that are critical or hostile toward Western countries, their values, policies, and influence (Grigas 2017). This sentiment has historical roots and has been shaped by various factors, including geopolitical tensions, cultural differences, and political narratives. Russia's anti-Western sentiment has deep historical roots, dating back centuries to periods of conflict, competition, and cultural differences between Russia and Western Europe. Historical events such as the Napoleonic Wars, the Cold War, and the expansion of NATO have contributed to perceptions of Western countries as adversaries or threats to Russian interests. Recent geopolitical developments, including conflicts in Ukraine, Syria, and

Georgia, have heightened tensions between Russia and Western countries. These tensions have fueled anti-Western narratives in Russian media and political discourse, portraying Western powers as aggressors or meddlers in Russia's internal affairs. Differences in political systems, cultural values, and societal norms between Russia and Western countries have contributed to mutual distrust and suspicion. Russian leaders often portray the West as morally decadent, culturally imperialistic, or hypocritical in their criticism of Russia's domestic policies(Biedzynski 2015).

The Soviet legacy in Russia refers to the lasting impact of the Soviet Union on various aspects of Russian society, politics, economy, culture, and identity. The Soviet era, which lasted from 1922 to 1991, fundamentally transformed Russia and left a significant imprint that continues to influence the country to this day. The Soviet Union was characterized by a centralized and authoritarian political system dominated by the Communist Party. Despite the collapse of the Soviet regime, elements of this political legacy, such as centralized control, state bureaucracy, and a strong presidency, continue to shape Russian politics. The Soviet Union implemented sweeping social changes, including industrialization, urbanization, and the promotion of education and healthcare. However, it also left behind legacies of social inequality, demographic challenges, and cultural norms that continue to shape Russian society(Brown 2009).

Russian social conservatism refers to a set of traditional values, beliefs, and attitudes that prioritize the preservation of traditional social structures, cultural norms, and moral values. This conservatism often manifests in attitudes towards family, gender roles, religion, and national identity. Russian social

conservatism is closely tied to a sense of national identity rooted in a shared history, culture, and religious heritage. There is often an emphasis on patriotism, national pride, and the preservation of Russian traditions against perceived external threats or influences. Russian social conservatism is often promoted and reinforced by the state, particularly under President Vladimir Putin's leadership. The government has implemented policies and initiatives that align with traditional values, such as restrictions on LGBTQ+ rights and the promotion of "traditional family" policies (Tsapina 2002).

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022, has been a deep and complex geopolitical event with far-reaching impacts. Russia's invasion of Ukraine began with a military attack involving land, air and sea forces. Russian troops crossed the border and annexed a number of regions in Ukraine, including important cities such as Kyiv and Kharkiv. This conflict quickly became fierce fighting with heavy casualties and significant infrastructure damage. The international community responded harshly to this invasion. This conflict created a wave of concern throughout the world, triggering strong reactions from many countries and international organizations. As an event of great impact, this invasion reflected the complex tensions and dynamics in international relations and the foreign policies of the two countries involved. This event began when Russia, under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, decided to invade Ukraine in response to a series of political and policy events that had occurred previously.

The main trigger for this invasion was Russia's rejection of Ukraine's formation of an alliance with the West, especially through attempts to join NATO, which the Russian government considered a threat to its national security interests. International reaction to the invasion was harsh, with a large number of countries and world leaders condemning Russia's aggressive actions. Widespread economic sanctions were imposed by many countries in an attempt to isolate the Russian economy and put pressure on Putin's government. Tens of thousands of people fled Ukraine, creating a humanitarian crisis and highlighting the need for

an effective global response to the situation. This conflict not only had political and military impacts, but also had significant economic consequences. Sanctions imposed by the West affect the Russian economy, while Ukraine faces serious economic and humanitarian challenges as a result of the ongoing war. During this invasion, various diplomatic and negotiation efforts were carried out by the international community to find a peaceful solution. However, despite several ceasefire agreements, violence continues, creating uncertainty and anxiety in the region.

Economic sanctions were imposed on Russia by many Western countries, including the European Union and the United States. The UN also condemned the invasion, although a resolution condemning Russia's actions faced obstacles due to Russia's own veto on the UN Security Council. Russia's invasion of Ukraine had serious humanitarian consequences. Millions of Ukrainians have been forced to flee to escape fighting and threatened security. Humanitarian assistance is vital, but is often hampered by security and logistical constraints in the midst of conflict. Attacks on civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and health facilities, increase the level of suffering and urgent needs for civilians. The majority of the international community condemned the Russian invasion and expressed their support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Many countries provided military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, while a series of economic sanctions were imposed to put pressure on Russia. However, the international response also reflects complex global political dynamics. Some countries, especially China, have chosen to remain neutral or cautious in condemning Russia's actions. This raises questions about the sustainability of

alliances and diplomatic relations in the post-Cold War era. The prospects for peace between Russia and Ukraine still appear bleak, despite diplomatic efforts from several parties, including mediation efforts by several countries and international organizations. Peace talks have been hampered by fundamental differences between the two sides, including the status of Crimea and Ukraine relationship with NATO. The long-term effects of this invasion will be felt at regional and global levels. This conflict has raised questions about the power and role of NATO, Europe's geopolitical stability, and future international relations. Additionally, the humanitarian impact and reactions to this invasion will shape the narrative about the international community's values and commitment to peace, justice, and human rights.

The war in Ukraine also created a shift in power dynamics at the global level. The active involvement of major countries and international organizations such as the UN, NATO and the European Union creates a new political order that can shape the development of international relations in the future. Broadly speaking, Russia's invasion of Ukraine demonstrates the complexity of geopolitics and foreign policy involving multiple state actors and conflicting interests. In this context, the resilience and determination of the Ukrainian people to defend their sovereignty is highlighted, creating a narrative of heroism and resistance in the face of grave threat. As this conflict continues, the need for a peaceful solution and humanitarian healing in Ukraine becomes more urgent. Despite the challenges and complexities, the international community is expected to continue trying to find a just and sustainable solution to end this conflict and build a strong peace in the region.

4.1 Recommendation

Suggestions annotated by the author for prospective research regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine are as follows:

1. In this research, the author conducted an analysis using a constructivist perspective of the factors influencing Russia to act unilaterally. It is hoped that other theories can be utilized in the future to address any shortcomings of this research. In addition, the application of more than one perspective would be of value.^[EC1]
2. It is also hoped that there will be further research on the topic of the Russian invasion of Ukraine that specifies other potential factors because this would be of benefit to understanding this phenomenon more comprehensively and concisely.
3. From the research already conducted, we can see that the international community has imposed economic sanctions on Russia, but all these sanctions appear to have had little effect on Russia. Thus, it is necessary to investigate how more in-depth solutions will be developed in the future.
4. Given the analysis of the tense conflict that occurred between Russia and Ukraine, the author hopes that further research will discuss efforts for peaceful resolution between the two parties. This research was conducted during 2022 and during this time there were no peace efforts made between the two parties. It is important to see progress in these efforts and resolving this conflict would be an advancement for future research.

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