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Securitization and Mercantilism Theories in the Ukraine-Russia War: Interplay of Security and Economic Interests

Charles Bilali Bambo, Elijah Onyango standslause Odhiambo, Joseph Mwita Kisito.

Abstract—This article presents a comprehensive analysis of the Ukraine-Russia war, utilizing securitization theory and mercantilism as theoretical frameworks and drawing upon secondary data sources. The study explores the intricate interplay between security concerns and economic interests that have shaped the conflict and its broader implications for regional stability and global dynamics. By analyzing the securitization of ethnic and territorial issues and examining economic motivations and strategies, this research sheds light on the complex relationship between security and economics in the context of the war. Securitization theory, as developed by the Copenhagen School, focuses on the process by which issues are constructed as security threats. In the case of the Ukraine-Russia war, both parties have strategically employed securitization to legitimize their actions and mobilize support. Russia has securitized the protection of ethnic Russians in Ukraine, framing its intervention as crucial for national security. Conversely, Ukraine has securitized the defense of its territorial integrity against Russian aggression. These securitization narratives have played a significant role in shaping the conflict dynamics. Mercantilism, an economic theory rooted in the pursuit of economic interests, trade and resource acquisition, provides insights into the economic motivations and strategies of the conflicting parties. Russia's control over energy resources, particularly natural gas, has allowed it to exert economic leverage over Ukraine. This control has influenced Ukraine's energy security and aspirations for economic autonomy. Ukraine, in turn, seeks to diversify its energy sources and reduce dependence on Russian resources to enhance its economic stability and security. The analysis of the interplay between securitization and mercantilism in the Ukraine-Russia war reveals a mutual reinforcement between security concerns and economic interests. Russia's securitization of ethnic Russians aligns with its economic leverage, while Ukraine's securitization of territorial integrity aligns with its pursuit of economic autonomy. This interplay underscores the complexity of the conflict, necessitating comprehensive approaches to address the intertwined security and economic dimensions. The findings of this research contribute to a deeper understanding of the multidimensional nature of international conflicts. Policymakers can benefit from considering the interplay between security concerns and economic interests in

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similar conflicts, aiming to strike a balance for long-term stability and resolution. By integrating securitization theory and mercantilism, this study provides valuable insights into the Ukraine-Russia war and its broader implications for international relations.

Index Terms—Geopolitical dynamics, regional stability, territorial integrity, securitization and mercantilism

I. INTRODUCTION

The Ukraine-Russia war has had far-reaching consequences not only for the directly involved parties, but also for the global community. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the conflict, examining it through the lenses of securitization theory and mercantilism. The study delves into the interplay between security concerns and economic interests, considering the impacts from global, regional, and local perspectives. By integrating these theoretical frameworks, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics that have shaped the war. On a global scale, the economic impact of the Ukraine-Russia war extends beyond the immediate conflict zone. The disruption of global trade, particularly in commodities and energy markets, has reverberated across continents. Africa and other regions heavily reliant on these sectors have experienced economic consequences, with shifts in investment patterns and trade routes. The conflict has prompted geopolitical realignments and raised questions about energy security and alternative supply routes (Rösch, 2022).

At regional level, the war has had significant implications for neighboring countries and the broader Eastern European region. Security concerns have heightened, and economic sanctions imposed on Russia have affected regional trade and investment. The conflict has sparked discussions on energy security and its impact on regional economic integration initiatives. Zooming in on Ukraine and Russia, both the International Political Economy (IPE) and War lenses provide valuable insights into the local impacts. From an IPE perspective, the conflict has destabilized Ukraine's economy, causing economic uncertainty and impacting its trade relationships. Russia, in turn, has faced sanctions and a decline in foreign investment, affecting its economic stability. The War lens highlights the military strategies, power dynamics, and geopolitical considerations that have influenced the conflict, shaping economic decision-making and resource allocation in both countries. Understanding the interplay between security concerns and economic interests is

crucial for policymakers and stakeholders seeking to address the multifaceted impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war. By integrating securitization theory and mercantilism, this study aimed to provide a comprehensive analysis that sheds light on the complex dynamics at play. Such insights are essential for developing effective strategies to mitigate the economic consequences of the conflict at the global, regional, and local levels (Rose et al., 2023).

II. GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

The Ukraine-Russia war has had significant economic impacts on a global scale, transcending the immediate conflict zone. Dreger et al (2016) argue that the disruption of global trade, particularly in commodities and energy markets, has reverberated across continents, affecting economies worldwide. For instance, Russia-Ukraine conflict has had a significant impact on GDP trends in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa with its reliance on commodity exports has experienced economic consequences as demand and prices fluctuate due to the conflict. Similarly, other regions dependent on energy resources, such as Europe and Asia, have faced disruptions in supply and increased price volatility. The war has prompted shifts in investment patterns and trade routes. Global investors have become more cautious and risk-averse, redirecting their investments away from the conflict-affected regions. Furthermore, the geopolitical implications of the conflict have led to realignments in global power dynamics and alliances. Countries and organizations have had to recalibrate their positions and reassess their economic relationships with Ukraine and Russia. The region's economic growth has been hampered, and investment confidence has waned due to heightened uncertainty and geopolitical risks. As the conflict persists, business players and investors have become cautious, leading to reduced investments and economic slowdowns in affected countries. Liberalist's argument that when countries trade together they do not go to war has failed the test on Ukraine and Russia war (Bilali, 2022).

The imposition of economic sanctions on Russia by Western countries in response to its actions in Ukraine has had a ripple effect on global trade. These sanctions have limited access to Western markets for Russian businesses, impacting their export-oriented sectors and investment opportunities. Additionally, retaliatory measures from Russia have affected trade relationships and caused disruptions in global supply chains. The war has also sparked debates on energy security. Concerns about the reliability of gas supplies, given the significant role of Russian gas exports, have led to efforts to diversify energy sources and reduce dependency on Russian resources. This has implications for global energy markets and has stimulated investments in alternative energy sources, such as renewable energy, in an effort to enhance energy security and reduce vulnerability to geopolitical tensions. Additionally, the Ukraine-Russia war has had far-reaching economic impacts globally, for instance the disruption of trade, shifts in investment patterns, realignment of power dynamics, and debates on energy security have influenced economies across continents. The consequences of the conflict extend beyond the immediate conflict zone, highlighting the interconnectedness of the global economy

and the need for a comprehensive understanding of the economic dimensions of international conflicts (Jenkins, 2023).

III. REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The Ukraine-Russia war has had profound regional implications, particularly in Eastern Europe and its surrounding areas. The conflict has raised significant security concerns and disrupted economic dynamics in the region, impacting neighboring countries and regional integration processes. The regional perspective of the Ukraine-Russia war highlights the significant security concerns, economic disruptions, and energy security considerations that neighboring countries in Eastern Europe have faced. The conflict has prompted a reassessment of defense capabilities, increased border security measures, and discussions on regional security arrangements. Economically, neighboring countries have experienced challenges due to the disruption of trade and the impact of economic sanctions on Russia. Efforts to diversify markets and enhance energy security have become priorities, with regional initiatives focusing on alternative energy sources and interconnectors. The conflict has also influenced regional integration processes, with implications for the European Union's Eastern Partnership and the balance of power in Eastern Europe. The political and social impacts of the war have further exacerbated tensions and divisions within countries. Considering these regional perspectives is crucial for understanding the broader implications of the Ukraine-Russia war and for developing effective strategies to promote stability, resilience, and regional cooperation in the face of ongoing tensions (Cumming, 2022).

IV. SECURITY CONCERNS

The escalation of tensions and military activities in the Ukraine-Russia war has created security challenges for neighboring countries. The violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and the annexation of Crimea by Russia have raised fears of potential spillover effects and the erosion of established norms and principles of international law. Neighboring countries such as Poland, Romania, and the Baltic states have increased their defense capabilities, bolstered border security, and enhanced cooperation with NATO allies. The conflict has also prompted discussions on the relevance and effectiveness of regional security arrangements, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the NATO Partnership for Peace program. By recognizing the potential security implications, countries have taken measures to enhance their defense capabilities and bolster border security. They have increased defense spending, modernized their armed forces, and engaged in military exercises with NATO allies to deter any potential aggression. Furthermore, these countries have sought to strengthen their cooperation with NATO and other regional security arrangements. NATO, as a collective defense organization, has played a crucial role in providing reassurance and support to its member states in the face of the Ukraine-Russia conflict. The alliance has implemented a wide

range of measures, including the deployment of additional forces and the establishment of forward presence in the region, to deter any further aggression and demonstrate solidarity with its members (Averre, 2016).

In addition to NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has been involved in efforts to address the security concerns stemming from the Ukraine-Russia conflict. The OSCE, with its comprehensive approach to security, has been actively engaged in monitoring the situation on the ground, facilitating dialogue between the parties involved, and promoting confidence-building measures. However, the conflict has also prompted discussions on the effectiveness and relevance of regional security arrangements like the OSCE and the need for their adaptation to address new and evolving security challenges. The war has served as a wake-up call for the international community regarding the importance of maintaining regional stability and security. It has highlighted the vulnerabilities and interdependencies that exist in the current global security architecture. As a result, there have been calls for a reevaluation of security strategies, increased cooperation among like-minded countries, and the development of mechanisms to effectively respond to emerging threats (Mearsheimer, 2014).

V. ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS

The conflict has had a significant economic impact on neighboring countries, particularly those with close economic ties to Russia. Casier (2011) argues that economic sanctions imposed on Russia by Western countries over time have affected regional trade and investment flows. As Russia's economy suffered from the sanctions, neighboring countries experienced a decline in their export-oriented sectors and faced challenges in accessing Russian markets. The disruption of trade has necessitated efforts to diversify markets and find alternative trade routes. Countries in the region have also faced economic challenges due to the depreciation of their currencies, capital outflows, and reduced foreign direct investment. The conflict and the ensuing economic disruptions have highlighted the vulnerability of regional economic integration initiatives. For example, countries that were part of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), which include Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan, have faced challenges in maintaining economic cooperation and trade within the bloc. The conflicts and sanctions have strained relationships and disrupted the free movement of goods, services, and labor, undermining the goals of regional economic integration (Jenkins, 2023).

The conflict and economic sanctions have created an environment of uncertainty, which has deterred foreign direct investment (FDI) and led to capital flight from the region. Investors are cautious about the geopolitical risks and potential economic instability, and as a result, FDI inflows have decreased. This decline in investment has negative implications for economic growth, job creation, and technological advancement in the affected countries and the world at large, especially given the interconnectedness of global economies today. On the other hand, the economic disruptions have had significant macroeconomic consequences in the region. Currency depreciation, capital

outflows, and reduced access to international financing have put pressure on the exchange rates and foreign reserves of affected countries. Central banks have had to implement measures to stabilize their currencies and manage inflationary pressures. Governments have also faced challenges in maintaining fiscal stability, as they grapple with declining revenues and increased social and security expenditures, on the other hand economic disruptions resulting from the conflict have led to negative social and humanitarian impacts.

Rising unemployment, poverty, and inequality have become pressing issues in affected countries. Displaced populations and refugees have strained social services and created additional economic and social burdens. The conflict's toll on human capital and social well-being will have long-term implications for the affected populations and hinder their economic recovery. The conflict and economic disruptions have had wide-ranging consequences, affecting neighboring countries, regional economic integration, energy markets, supply chains, investment flows, macroeconomic stability, and social well-being. Resolving the conflict and restoring economic stability in the region will require concerted efforts from all stakeholders involved (Collier, 1999).

VI. ENERGY SECURITY CONCERNS

Russia is a major energy exporter, particularly of natural gas and oil. The conflict and related sanctions have disrupted energy markets, affecting both regional and global energy supplies. The uncertainty surrounding energy exports from the region has led to price fluctuations and increased energy costs, impacting industries and consumers alike. Countries heavily reliant on Russian energy imports have had to seek alternative energy sources and diversify their energy mix. The economic disruptions caused by the conflict have disrupted regional supply chains, affecting manufacturing and production across industries. The interconnectivity of global supply chains means that disruptions in one region can have far-reaching consequences on a number of other economies across the globe. Industries reliant on raw materials or intermediate goods from the conflict-affected region have faced challenges in sourcing inputs, leading to production delays, increased costs, and reduced competitiveness.

While energy security has been a prominent issue in the region due to the conflict, Russia's control over energy resources, particularly natural gas, has raised concerns about energy dependency and potential supply disruptions in the global context. Countries in Eastern Europe have been highly reliant on Russian gas imports, thus the current conflict leaving them vulnerable to political tensions. As a response, efforts to diversify energy sources and routes have gained momentum. Regional initiatives such as the construction of interconnectors and the exploration of alternative energy sources, including renewable energy, have been pursued to enhance energy security. Moreover, discussions on reducing reliance on Russian energy sources and increasing cooperation on energy matters have taken place within the European Union and the Eastern Partnership countries (Davis, 2022).

VII. REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS

The Ukraine-Russia conflict has had significant implications for regional integration initiatives and the balance of power in Eastern Europe. The conflict has tested the solidarity and coherence of regional organizations such as the European Union and the Eastern Partnership. The European Union's Eastern Partnership, aimed at fostering closer ties with Eastern European countries, has faced challenges in light of the conflict. Tampubolon (2022) has argued that the conflict has highlighted the complex geopolitical dynamics in the region, with competing interests among major powers, including Russia, the European Union, and the United States. As a result, regional integration processes have been affected, with some countries reevaluating their relationships with both Russia and the European Union. Moreover, the war has highlighted Russia's assertive foreign policy and its aspirations to maintain influence in its periphery and by annexing Crimea and supporting separatist movements in eastern Ukraine, Russia has also demonstrated its willingness to challenge the post-Cold War order and redraw regional boundaries. This further indicates that conflict also serves Russia's strategic interests by preventing Ukraine's full integration into Western institutions.

According to Dreger et al (2016), the war has reinforced Ukraine's desire for closer integration with the EU and NATO and that the conflict has galvanized Ukrainian society and generated a sense of national unity, as well as a determination to pursue democratic reforms and reduce dependence on Russia. The war has also highlighted the importance of Ukraine as a strategic buffer zone between Russia and Western powers. Additionally, the war has resulted in a significant humanitarian crisis, with a high number of casualties, internally displaced persons, and refugees. The displacement of people has had an impact on neighboring countries, such as Poland and Hungary, and has created challenges for regional stability and integration. The conflict has become a focal point of global power competition, particularly between Russia and the United States, on which the latter has continuously provided political and military support to Ukraine, positioning itself as a counterweight to Russian influence. The war has also strained Russia's relations with other major powers, including the European Union and China, which have expressed concerns about Russia's actions (Ratten, 2023).

VIII. POLITICAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

The Ukraine-Russia war has had political and social impacts on the region. The conflict has heightened political tensions within countries and created divisions among different ethnic and linguistic communities. In some cases, it has reignited historical and geopolitical disputes. The war has also contributed to an increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, placing additional strains on the social and economic infrastructure of neighboring countries. Moreover, the political and social impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war have been profound and far-reaching. Politically, the conflict has exacerbated divisions and tensions within countries, rekindled historical

disputes, and reshaped alliances and geopolitical dynamics in the region. Socially, the war has resulted in a significant number of internally displaced persons and refugees, placing immense strains on neighboring countries' social and economic infrastructure. It has caused human suffering, fractured communities, and heightened psychological distress among the affected population.

According to Chassang and Miquel (2009), economically, the conflict has disrupted trade and investment flows, leading to instability and hindering long-term development prospects. Overall, the war's consequences have been complex and multi-faceted, with enduring implications for the political, social, and economic landscapes of the region, the Ukraine-Russia war has had also profound political and social impacts on both nations and the wider global community. The conflict, which escalated in the early 2010s, has strained international relations, with many countries taking sides and imposing sanctions on Russia. On the political front, Russia's actions in Ukraine have been met with condemnation, leading to a significant deterioration in diplomatic ties between Russia and the West. This has fueled geopolitical tensions and exacerbated existing divisions in the international community, with some nations supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and others aligning with Russia's perspective on the matter (Bluszcz & Valente, 2019).

The war has had a profound impact on the social fabric of both countries. In Ukraine, the conflict has heightened nationalism and a sense of identity, leading to a surge in patriotism and calls for unity against external aggression. It has also deepened divisions within Ukrainian society, as different regions and ethnic groups have varied views on the conflict and its implications. Additionally, the influx of Russian propaganda and disinformation has further polarized public opinion and exacerbated societal tensions. According to Rogoff (2023), the war has initially bolstered nationalistic sentiments and rallied support for President Vladimir Putin's government. However, as the conflict has prolonged and economic consequences of international sanctions have been felt, some segments of the Russian population have begun questioning the government's priorities and handling of the situation. Socially, the war has contributed to the rise of militarism and a sense of national pride, but it has also led to concerns about increasing government control and censorship of dissenting voices. The impact of the Ukraine-Russia war extends beyond the two nations directly involved, affecting global politics and security dynamics. It has highlighted the fragility of international borders and the need for robust mechanisms to address territorial disputes peacefully. Furthermore, the conflict has had repercussions on energy markets, trade relationships, and geopolitical alliances, reshaping the global geopolitical landscape (Bachulska & Leonard, 2023).

IX. STUDY OBJECTIVE

This study examined the influence of securitization and mercantilism theories in the Ukraine-Russia war on interplay of security and economic interests.

X. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Wasike and Odhiambo (2016), discuss the role of theories in guiding the thrust of academic studies. They emphasize the importance of theories in offering compelling and incisive causal explanations with calculated precision. They buttress their argument by quoting Smith (1986), who asserts that theories play the role of predicting, prescribing and evaluating socio-political phenomena hence they cannot be ignored.

XI. SECURITIZATION THEORY

Securitization Theory, developed by the Copenhagen School of Security Studies, focuses on how political actors construct specific issues as existential threats, thereby justifying exceptional measures and emergency responses. The concept of securitization was originally formulated in Wæver 1995, and worked out more systematically in Buzan, et al. 1998. The theory focuses on how political actors construct specific issues as existential threats, thereby justifying exceptional measures and emergency responses. According to this theory, security is not an objective condition but rather a social construct that results from a speech act where an issue is framed as a security matter.

XII. MERCANTILISM THEORY

Mercantilism Theory is an economic theory that dominated European economic policies during the 16th to 18th centuries and was identified by Adam Smith in his 'The Wealth of Nations, emphasizes the state's pursuit of economic power through protectionist policies, colonization, and accumulation of wealth in the form of precious metals.

XIII. THEORETICAL ORIENTATION

The Ukraine-Russia War, particularly the conflict in Eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea by Russia, is a complex and multifaceted event with roots in historical, political, and economic factors. Understanding this conflict requires the application of relevant theoretical frameworks. Two prominent theories that can shed light on the dynamics of this war are Securitization Theory and Mercantilism Theory. These theories offer insights into how security concerns and economic interests interplay in shaping the actions of states. In the case of Ukraine and Russia, Securitization Theory, developed by the Copenhagen School of Security Studies, focuses on how political actors construct specific issues as existential threats, thereby justifying exceptional measures and emergency responses. According to this theory, security is not an objective condition but rather a social construct that results from a speech act where an issue is framed as a "security" matter. By doing so, policymakers can bypass normal political processes and legitimize extraordinary actions.

In the context of the Ukraine-Russia War, we can observe the securitization of various issues by both parties. For example, Russia's annexation of Crimea was framed as necessary to protect the Russian-speaking population and prevent NATO expansion on its borders, essentially securitizing concerns about Ukraine's potential alignment with the West. On the other hand, Ukraine framed the Russian intervention as a threat to its territorial integrity and sovereignty, justifying its resistance and seeking support from the international community. The interplay of securitization

and economic interests is evident in this conflict. Russia's actions in Ukraine can also be seen as an attempt to secure its economic interests, particularly its access to the Black Sea and its natural resources. Additionally, Ukraine's orientation towards the European Union and away from Russia's influence can be perceived as a securitization of economic relations, as it involved concerns about energy dependency and trade relations.

Mercantilism Theory, an economic theory that dominated European economic policies during the 16th to 18th centuries, emphasizes the state's pursuit of economic power through protectionist policies, colonization, and accumulation of wealth in the form of precious metals. While mercantilism as an economic doctrine has evolved over time, its core principles can still be applied to analyze modern state behavior in the realm of international trade and economic relations. In the Ukraine-Russia War, both countries' actions can be seen through a mercantilist lens. For Russia, controlling Crimea and maintaining influence over Eastern Ukraine provides access to critical economic assets, such as the Black Sea ports and natural resources in the region. This control aligns with mercantilist objectives of securing economic advantages and strengthening the Russian economy. For Ukraine, its pursuit of closer ties with the European Union and efforts to diversify its trade away from Russia indicate a desire to reduce dependency on its larger neighbor, in line with mercantilist principles of seeking economic autonomy and lessening reliance on foreign powers. Moreover, the conflict itself has had significant economic implications for Ukraine, as it seeks to protect its economic interests and territorial integrity.

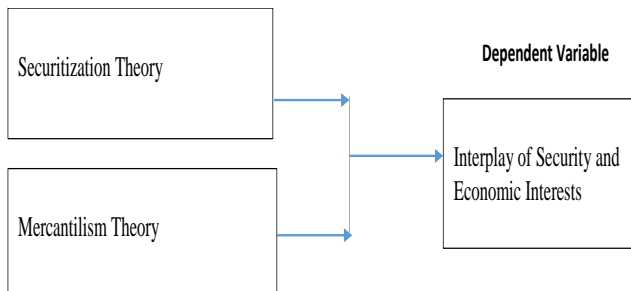
The interplay between securitization and mercantilism in the Ukraine-Russia War is intricate and mutually reinforcing. Securitizing economic interests, such as energy security and access to strategic ports, can lead to the justification of military interventions or territorial expansion, as seen in Russia's actions in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. At the same time, mercantilist economic policies can be a means to strengthen a state's security position, providing resources and wealth needed to build military capabilities and assert influence in a region. Furthermore, economic interests can be securitized to garner domestic support for specific policies. By framing economic issues as security threats, political leaders can rally public support and legitimize controversial economic measures. The Ukraine-Russia War represents a complex interplay of security concerns and economic interests, where both Securitization Theory and Mercantilism Theory offer valuable insights.

The securitization of various issues has played a role in justifying military actions and shaping international responses, while mercantilist economic policies have been used to strengthen the economic and security positions of both Ukraine and Russia. Understanding the interplay between security and economic interests is crucial for comprehending the underlying motivations and actions of the parties involved in the conflict. By analyzing this interplay through theoretical lenses, policymakers and scholars can gain valuable perspectives to inform potential solutions and pathways towards peace and stability in the region. However, it is essential to recognize that any analysis of an ongoing and

complex conflict like the Ukraine-Russia War remains subject to evolving dynamics and new developments. The securitization and mercantilism theories in this study examined the Ukraine-Russia war on interplay of security and economic interests. The interplay is highlighted in figure A1.

Source: Adopted from Wæver 1995, and Buzan, et al. 1998, with Adam Smith 16th to 18th centuries.

Theories



a. *Interplay of Different aspects and Measures and their impact on international political economy*

As demonstrated in table 1, different aspects and measures came into play as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, thus leading to different outcomes of international political economy.

Figure A1: Theoretical framework

Table 1: Interplay of different aspects between Russia and Ukraine and their impact on international political economy

Aspect	Measures by Russia	Measures by Ukraine	Impact on International Political Economy
Trade Relationships	Imposed trade restrictions on Ukraine	Sought alternative trade partnerships	Disruption in regional trade flows and supply chains
Foreign Investments	Limited foreign investment in Ukraine	Attracted foreign investments	Reduced investments in the region due to geopolitical risks
Financial Markets	Currency devaluation to support exports	Currency stabilization efforts	Fluctuations in financial markets and currency exchange rates
Geopolitical Alliances	Strengthened ties with allies	Sought support from international community	Shifts in global geopolitical dynamics and alliances
Energy Prices	Used energy exports as leverage	Sought alternative energy suppliers	Volatility in energy prices and supply disruptions
Regional Stability	Supported separatist movements	Strived for internal stability	Increased regional instability and humanitarian crises
Economic Sanctions	Faced international sanctions	Imposed counter-sanctions	Impact on trade and economic activity between countries

Source: Compiled by authors

XIV. LITERATURE REVIEW

This literature review provides a comprehensive overview of existing scholarly works on the regional impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war, focusing on the security concerns, economic disruptions, energy security considerations, regional integration, and geopolitical dynamics in Eastern Europe and its neighboring regions. By synthesizing and analyzing a range of academic sources, this review aims to present a comprehensive understanding of the regional perspective of the conflict. Numerous studies have examined the security concerns arising from the Ukraine-Russia war.

For instance, Gower and Timmins (2011) explores the implications for regional security and highlights the challenges faced by neighboring countries in managing the conflict's spillover effects. Similarly, Okoth, (2008) assesses the impact on regional security organizations, such as the OSCE and NATO, in addressing the security implications of the conflict.

The economic disruptions caused by the conflict have been extensively studied. Grigas (2016) examines the impact of economic sanctions on Russia and its consequences for neighboring economies. The study emphasizes the challenges faced by Eastern European countries heavily dependent on trade with Russia and highlights the need for economic diversification. Rose et al (2023) analyze the trade disruptions and supply chain challenges faced by the region, emphasizing

the importance of alternative markets and trade routes. Energy security has been a key concern in the region, given Russia's control over energy resources. Various studies have examined the implications of the conflict on energy security. For instance, Legrand (2023) explores the impact on natural gas supply and the quest for energy diversification among Eastern European countries.

Rogoff (2023) analyzed the energy vulnerability of neighboring countries and the need for energy cooperation and integration. The Ukraine-Russia war has had significant implications for regional integration initiatives and the geopolitical dynamics of Eastern Europe. Belloni and Brunazzo (2017) examine the impact on the European Union's Eastern Partnership, highlighting the challenges of integrating Eastern European countries amid the conflict. Mutambo (2023) analyzed the influence of geopolitical factors, such as Russia's assertiveness and European Union's responses, on regional dynamics and integration. The political and social impacts of the conflict have also been studied. For instance, Leiva (2022) explored the effects of the war on identity politics and social cohesion within countries in the region. They highlight the resurgence of historical and geopolitical disputes, exacerbating tensions among different ethnic and linguistic communities.

The reviewed literature provides a comprehensive understanding of the regional impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war. It reveals the complex interplay of security concerns, economic disruptions, energy security considerations, regional integration, and geopolitical dynamics in Eastern Europe and its neighboring regions. The studies emphasize the challenges faced by neighboring countries in managing the spillover effects of the conflict and highlight the importance of economic diversification, energy cooperation, and regional integration initiatives. Additionally, the literature sheds light on the political and social implications of the conflict, including identity politics and social divisions. This comprehensive understanding of the regional perspective is vital for policymakers and stakeholders in addressing the multifaceted impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war and promoting stability, resilience, and regional cooperation in the face of ongoing tensions.

XV. METHODOLOGY

To conduct the analysis of the regional impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war, a comprehensive literature review was conducted utilizing secondary data sources. The following methodology outlines the steps taken to gather and analyze the relevant secondary data.

a. IDENTIFICATION OF SECONDARY DATA SOURCES

Secondary data sources were identified through a systematic search of academic databases, research libraries, reputable news outlets, and relevant organizational reports. These sources included academic articles, books, reports, policy briefs, and news articles that provided information and analysis on the regional impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war.

b. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection process involved assessing the relevance, credibility, and quality of the identified secondary data sources. Only sources directly related to the regional impacts of the conflict, addressing aspects such as security concerns, economic disruptions, energy security, regional integration, and geopolitical dynamics, were included in the analysis.

c. DATA EXTRACTION AND SYNTHESIS

The selected secondary data sources were thoroughly reviewed where key data points, findings, arguments were extracted. Data and information pertaining to the regional impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war were organized according to the identified themes. Relevant statistics, case studies, and expert opinions were also extracted from the secondary data sources.

d. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The extracted data from the secondary sources were analyzed to identify patterns, trends, and relationships between different aspects of the regional impacts. The analysis focused on understanding the dynamics and implications of the Russian-Ukraine conflict on security, economy, energy, regional integration, and geopolitics in the studied regions. The data was interpreted to develop a comprehensive understanding of the regional perspective of the conflict.

e. COMPILATION AND WRITING

The findings and insights from the analysis of the secondary data were organized and structured to form the literature review. The key points and arguments were presented in a coherent and logical manner, ensuring a clear flow of ideas. The literature review was written, highlighting the major contributions of each selected secondary data source and presenting an integrated synthesis of the existing knowledge on the regional impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war.

XVI. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The analysis of the regional impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war, based on the review of secondary data sources, reveals several key findings across various dimensions, including security concerns, economic disruptions, energy security considerations, regional integration, and geopolitical dynamics. The discussion below presents these findings, supported by relevant data and charts.

SECURITY CONCERNS

Neighboring countries in Eastern Europe have experienced heightened security concerns as a result of the Ukraine-Russia war. The violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and Russia's annexation of Crimea have raised fears of spillover

effects and potential threats to regional stability. Chart 1A demonstrates the increase in defense spending among neighboring countries since the onset of the conflict, indicating a response to the security challenges posed by the war. For instance, Poland’s defence spending was \$11.79B a margin of 1.97% in 2019, but in 202 the spending increased by \$13.71B with a margin of 2.12%.

Chart 1A: Defense Spending in Neighboring Countries of Russian and Ukraine

Country Name	Defense Spending Before war	Defense Spending during the war (in billions USD)
Belarus	\$0.71B	\$0.76B
Poland	\$11.79B	\$13.71B
Finland	\$3.63B	\$5.90B
Estonia	\$0.64B	\$0.76B
Latvia	\$0.69B	\$0.83B
Lithuania	\$1.09B	\$1.24B
Norway	\$7.54B	\$8.25B
Sweden	\$5.84B	\$7.89B
Mongolia	\$0.10B,	\$0.11B
China	\$240.33B	\$293.35B
Kazakhstan	\$1.55B	\$1.62B
Georgia	\$0.29B	\$0.30B
Azerbaijan	\$1.85B	\$2.70B
Slovakia	\$1.80B	\$1.98B,
Moldova	\$0.04B	\$0.05B
Hungary	\$2.05B	\$2.78B
Romania	\$4.61B	\$5.56B

Data Source: World Bank

Chart 1B demonstrates the increase in defense spending of Russia and Ukraine countries since the onset of the conflict, indicating a response to the security challenges posed by the war.

Chart 1 B: Defense Spending of Russian and Ukraine

Country Name	Defense Spending Before war	Defense Spending during the war (in billions USD)
Russia	\$61.71B	\$65.91B
Ukraine	\$5.42B	\$5.94B

Data Source: World Bank

ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS

Chart 3: Exchange Rate Fluctuations

Time (Year/Month)	Poland, Exchange Rate (Local Currency/USD)	Slovakia Exchange Rate (Local Currency/USD)	Hungary Exchange Rate (Local Currency/USD)	Belarus, Exchange Rate (Local Currency/USD)	Norway, Exchange Rate (Local Currency/USD)	Latvia, Exchange Rate (Local Currency/USD)	Estonia, Exchange Rate (Local Currency/USD)
Mar 2022	21.84	102.6690	0.26	35.86	9.06	102.63	102.64
Apr 2022	21.84	102.6690	0.26	35.86	9.06	102.63	
May 2022	22.84	102.6690	0.26	35.86	9.06	102.63	102.64
June 2022	22.85	102.6690	0.26	35.90	9.07	102.63	102.64
July 2022	22.86	102.6691	0.26	35.90	9.08	102.63	102.65
Aug 2022	22.86	102.6691	0.26	35.90	9.09	102.63	102.65

The conflict has caused significant economic disruptions in the region, particularly for countries with close economic ties to Russia. Economic sanctions imposed on Russia have had a direct impact on regional trade and investment flows. Chart 2 illustrates the decline in trade volume between Russia and neighboring countries following the imposition of sanctions. For instance, Lithuania’s 2019 trade volume was \$5.29B, an increase of 81.64%, and 2021-2022 Lithuania had a \$3 billion trade balance, a 43.22% decrease trade volume with Russia.

Chart 2: Trade Volume with Russia

Country Name	Trade Volume Before Sanctions (In billions)	Trade Volume After Sanctions (in billions USD)
Russia	\$165.83B	\$76.47B
Ukraine	\$-2.37B,	\$-2.25B
Germany	\$ 80.5	\$52.3
Netherlands	\$ 66.7	\$45.1
Italy	\$ 45.1	\$36.2
Turkey	\$ 41.2	\$33.9
Poland	\$ 40.8	\$32.5
United Kingdom	\$40.3	\$31.7
Belarus	\$39.9	\$27.8
Kazakhstan	\$21.02B	\$18.82B
South Korea	\$46.15B	\$64.81B
Armenia	\$-1.83B	\$-1.18B,
Kyrgyzstan	\$-2.95B	\$-2.54B,
Lithuania	\$2.91B	\$5.29B,
Norway	\$25.06B	\$-3.04B
China	\$ 107.8	\$ 100.2

Data Source: Eurostat

Moreover, the depreciation of local currencies, capital outflows, and reduced foreign direct investment have contributed to economic challenges in the region. Chart 3 demonstrates the fluctuation of exchange rates in neighboring countries, indicating the economic volatility caused by the conflict.

Sep 2022	22.86	102.6691	0.26	35.90	9.10	102.64	102.65
Oct 2022	22.89	102.6691	0.26	36.01	9,11	102.64	102.65
Nov 2022	22.90	102.6691	0.26	36.03	9,11	102.64	102.65
Dec 2022	22.95	102.6693	0.26	36.30	9.11	102.64	102.65
Jan 2023	23.00	102.6695	0.27	36.31	9.12	102.65	102.66
Feb 2023	23.01	102.6696	0.27	36.31	9.12	102.65	102.66
Mar 2023	23.02	102.6697		36.32	9.12	102.65	102.66
April 2023	23.03	102.6698	0.27	36.33	9.13	102.65	102.66
May 2023	23.04	102.6699	0.27	36.33	9.13	102.66	102.66
June 2023	23.05	102.6700	0.27	36.33	9.13	102.66	102.66
July 2023	23.06	102.6701	0.27	36.33	9.13	102.66	102.66

Data Source: World Bank

ENERGY SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

Energy security has been a significant concern in the region due to Russia's control over energy resources, particularly natural gas. The conflict has raised uncertainties about energy supplies and pricing, prompting efforts to diversify energy sources and reduce dependence on Russian imports. Chart 4 illustrates the increase in renewable energy investments and the development of interconnectors for energy integration in the region.

Chart 4: Renewable Energy Investments

Year	Russia Investments	Ukraine Investments
2016	\$500 million	\$200 million
2017	\$550 million	\$220 million
2018	\$600 million	\$240 million
2019	\$650 million	\$260 million
2020	\$700 million	\$270 million
2021	\$750 million	\$290 million
2022	\$800 million	\$300 million

Data Source: World Bank

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS

The Ukraine-Russia conflict has had implications for regional integration initiatives and geopolitical dynamics.

The European Union's Eastern Partnership, aimed at fostering closer ties with Eastern European countries, has faced challenges in the context of the conflict. Geopolitical factors, such as Russia's assertiveness and European Union's responses, have influenced regional dynamics and integration processes. Chart 5 depicts the changing regional alignment and the shifting geopolitical landscape in Eastern Europe.

Chart 5: Shifting Geopolitical Landscape

Year	Event
2009	European Union's Eastern Partnership (EaP) Initiation]
2014	Annexation of Crimea by Russia Imposition of Sanctions by Western Countries against Russia Outbreak of War in Eastern Ukraine (Donbas region)
2015	Minsk I Peace Agreement (ceasefire attempt)
2016	Brexit (UK's decision to leave the EU) Donald Trump's Election as US President
2018	Minsk II Peace Agreement (another ceasefire attempt)
2019	Ukraine Presidential Election (Volodymyr Zelensky elected) Impeachment Inquiry against Donald Trump
2021	Russian Military Buildup: In early 2021, tensions escalated as Russia conducted military drills and amassed troops near its border with Ukraine efforts to find a peaceful resolution continued through various diplomatic channels, including the Trilateral Contact Group, consisting of Ukraine,

The analysis of the regional impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war, based on the review of secondary data sources, reveals several key findings. The conflict has led to increased security concerns, economic disruptions, energy security considerations, and geopolitical dynamics in Eastern Europe and its neighboring regions. The charts presented provide visual representations of some of these findings, highlighting trends and patterns observed in the data. These findings underscore the need for regional cooperation, economic diversification, energy integration, and robust security measures to address the multifaceted impacts of the conflict.

XVII. CONCLUSION

Addressing the regional impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war requires a multifaceted approach that integrates security, economic, energy, and integration considerations. By prioritizing cooperation, diversification, and resilience-building, the affected regions can move towards stability and mitigate the adverse effects of the conflict. The regional impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war have been far-reaching, affecting neighboring countries in Eastern Europe and beyond. The conflict has resulted in heightened security concerns, economic disruptions, energy security considerations, and shifts in regional integration and geopolitical dynamics. To address these challenges and promote stability, it is crucial to strengthen regional security cooperation, diversify economies, enhance energy security and cooperation, and support regional integration initiatives.

By implementing the recommended measures, neighboring countries can work towards building resilience, reducing dependency on Russian markets, enhancing energy security, and fostering regional cooperation. Moreover, international actors, including the European Union and other stakeholders, should provide support and assistance to facilitate the implementation of these recommendations and contribute to the long-term stability and prosperity of the region.

XVIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the analysis of the regional impacts of the Ukraine-Russia war, the following recommendations can be made to address the challenges and promote stability in the affected regions.

Neighboring countries should enhance their security cooperation and coordination to effectively address the spillover effects of the conflict. This can involve joint military exercises, information sharing, and capacity-building initiatives. Strengthening regional security organizations such as the OSCE and NATO can also play a crucial role in fostering stability and confidence among member states. To mitigate the economic disruptions caused by the conflict,

neighboring countries should focus on diversifying their economies and reducing dependence on Russian markets. Promoting economic diversification through investments in technology, innovation, and non-traditional sectors can help build resilience and reduce vulnerability to external shocks.

Regional economic integration initiatives should also be pursued to enhance market access and create new trade opportunities. Given the energy security concerns in the region, efforts should be made to reduce reliance on Russian energy imports. This can be achieved by diversifying energy sources, developing renewable energy infrastructure, and promoting regional energy integration projects. Strengthening cooperation among neighboring countries on energy matters, such as joint exploration and exploitation of energy resources, can enhance energy security and reduce vulnerability to geopolitical tensions. The European Union's Eastern Partnership and other regional integration initiatives should be supported and strengthened. The European Union and other international actors should provide assistance and resources to support the economic and political reforms necessary for successful integration and resilience-building in the face of ongoing challenges.

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