

Research Report

Security Council The situation in Ukraine

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Forum	Security Council
Issue:	The situation in Ukraine
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Introduction

It is important to realize that the question of Ukraine is an ongoing issue between Ukraine and Russia, as well as internally within Ukraine, between the government and pro-Russian rebels. As the issue is still ongoing, not all the information in this research report will be completely accurate if read a few months after it was written. Therefore please bear in mind that this research report is completely accurate as of the 27th of June 2014,, however if you are reading this any later, it would be advisable to do some extra research to determine whether anything has changed since.

No state has the right to occupy another state's territory. What if however, the people in that region express a desire to be part of that state through a referendum? This was the main question being debated as Ukraine watched Russia invade the Crimea region (belonging to Ukraine), holding a referendum of independence in Crimea, and subsequently annexing it to Russia. The other large conflict that makes up the question of Ukraine was sparked when now-former president, Viktor Yanukoych decided to abandon the idea of becoming more European and instead chose to become closer to Russia again. Escalating protests were seen in Ukraine, which lead to the overthrowing of Yanukovych. It is important to understand that Ukraine feels divided in two, one side European, one side Russian. After Yanukovych left, the West (European side of Ukraine) settled down and stopped the extreme violent protests. Then the East (Russian side of Ukraine) started revolts, especially after seeing Crimea declare itself independent. This has caused huge conflicts between the pro-Russian separatists, and the current pro-European Ukrainian government.

Definition of Key Terms

Coup D'état

The act of overthrowing or uprising against a country's ruling power.

Referendum

A vote by all people in a country on a single political question, which has been referred to them for a direct decision.

Sovereignty

The independent authority of a state to govern itself or another state.

Annexation

The occupation of a territory with the intention to subject it to the rule of ones government.

General Overview

In 1991, Ukraine achieved complete independence from the Soviet Union to become a democratic nation. The country (whose name literally translates into borderland) marks the border between Russia and the West and is thus essentially, culturally divided into two. Western Ukraine is pro-Europe, while the Eastern side is more pro-Russian. The great issue in Ukraine arose from the hand of the 4th Ukrainian president and now former president, Viktor Yanukovich, when he postponed the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement. During Yanukovich's electoral campaign and throughout his mandate, he stressed the importance and priority of strengthening Ukraine's ties with Europe and the West. Instead of opting for the European Union, Yanukovich shortly after signed an agreement in Moscow where he agreed to accept a 15 billion dollar lifeline from President Putin as well as a reduction in Ukrainian gas price supplied by Russia by a third. This deal, described as betrayal by many Ukrainians, along with the abandoned European Union Association Agreement sparked protests in Kiev; the protests started very peacefully but in large scales.

In an attempt to suppress protesters, the Ukrainian government passed an anti-protest law, imposing various sanctions and restrictions on mass demonstrations. Enraged, Ukrainian civilians took to the streets of Kiev again, this time however, with confrontations

between protesters and police ending in a violent manner. Encounters escalated and protesters made efforts at taking control of the city hall in Kiev. Mid February, the situation in the Ukrainian capital peaked with confrontations between protesters and police resulting in over 88 deaths in less than 48 hours, enraging the entire Ukrainian Nation. Reports claimed that government instructed snipers were firing at protesters on the streets.

On the 22nd of February Yanukovich fled Ukraine to seek safety in Russia. He later held a press conference explaining his “illegal coupe” and reaffirming his position in the Russian government. Meanwhile in Ukraine however, Ukrainian forces lost control and Yanukovich’s government was overthrown, replaced with an interim Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk until elections were held on May the 25th.

The key situation in the Crimean Peninsula began on the 27th of February. Pro-Russian armed activists took control of key buildings in the Crimean capital: Simferopol. Due to deals with Ukraine in the past as well as the strategic importance of the Black Sea port in Crimea, Russia holds large navy bases and other army-bases in the Ukrainian peninsula. By the beginning of March, Putin ordered the military to use force to stabilize the situation in Crimea in order to protect Russian interests. The EU, US and Ukraine declared this movement of military action a breach of Ukrainian sovereignty and condemned Russia from taking further military action. Meanwhile, increased military action was recorded in Western-Russia along the border.

Crimean parliament made an attempt to join Russia and schedule a referendum for the 16th of March. The referendum was held and resulted in 97% of votes in favour of joining the Russian superpower, according to official results from Crimea’s secession. The UN tried to stop the annexation of the Crimean region to Russia on the 15th of March through a Security Council resolution condemning the referendum, however this was vetoed by Russia, scrapping the possibility of third party entry into Crimea to settle the situation.

After weeks of threats from the White House to Moscow and vice versa about the dispute for Crimea, Ukraine held elections, supervised by the United Nations to ensure transparency which lead to the new president, Petro Poroshenko entering into power on the 25th of May. Days later, Poroshenko launched an anti-corruption plan to suppress violent separatists. Putin did not like this. He communicated that he would accept talks with the new Ukrainian government as long as the attacks on pro-Russian separatists were stopped. Even though Ukrainian president Poroshenko did not accept this at first, a joint effort emerged eventually between Poroshenko and Putin to put an end to the deadly fighting in the East.

The latest attempt to solve the issue took place on the 27th of June, when President Poroshenko signed an Association Agreement with the EU, Georgia and Moldova to enhance the economic and political stability in Ukraine. To this day (27 of June), Russian forces still occupy the Crimean Peninsula and claim it as theirs after the referendum held although Obama, the EU and as well as the president of the General Assembly classify the referendum as illegitimate. Fighting in the East is also still on going mainly between police and pro-Russian Rebels.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

The Russian Federation

The Russian Federation has openly admitted to having close ties with the former government run by Viktor Yanukovich. Firstly, Russia has shown their support to Yanukovich by granting him Russia as a place of sanctuary from Ukrainian protesters. Furthermore, Russia supports the several declarations of Yanukovich claiming he was illegally chased out of the country and still has legitimate control over Ukraine. Currently, Russia is therefore not very confident in the newly elected Ukrainian government led by Poroshenko.

Russia invaded the Crimean Peninsula with the aim to protect Russian interest such as their naval and military bases. Historically, Eastern Ukraine, including the Crimean region has been home to a majority of residents from Russian descent. This has therefore also given Russia incentives to protect the Crimean people, and so by carrying out the referendum and getting 97% of people voting in favour of the annexation to Russia, Putin has ensured the control of Crimea by Russia. The referendum has however been declared illegitimate by Europe, the United States and the President of the General Assembly. Putin on the other hand has spoken about Russian troops claiming the invasion was "to ensure proper conditions for the people of Crimea to be able to freely express their will".

The Russian Federation has also expressed frustration with the West, especially with the United States of America, of which Russia accused of fuelling the conflict, at first by supporting the pro-European Ukrainian rebels and after the elections, Poroshenko's government. Russian prime minister, Sergei Lavrov claimed, "our American colleagues still prefer to push the Ukrainian leadership toward a confrontational path." Currently under threat of comprehensive sanctions from the West, Russia has agreed to the cease-fire in the Crimean peninsula and along the border to engage in 3-way negotiations with Ukraine and the OSCE.

Ukraine

Ukraine's views on the issue have shifted throughout the development of the issue. At the beginning of the problem, when Ukraine was still governed by Yanukovych's government, Ukraine found themselves with close ties with Russia. The fact that Yanukovych halted the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement to instead accept a \$15 billion lifeline and 1/3 reduction in Ukrainian gas cost from Putin is what caused the uprising to begin.

After Yanukovych left from power, Ukraine was governed by an interim government whose views were the opposite to Yanukovych's and whose aim was to stop the aggressive confrontations between pro-Russian and pro-European rebels. After Russia's invasion of the Crimea and the new and current government led by Poroshenko came into power, Ukraine's efforts have been in the East of the country, in particular in Crimea to try and regain power over this region. Ukraine feels that its sovereignty has been violated by the Russian Federation and considers the referendum carried out to be illegitimate. The current Ukrainian government has also received the support of the United States as well as the European Union in this conflict. By the beginning of June, tension was high in the Crimean peninsula with pro-Russian rebels barricading Ukrainian military installations and violent encounters occurring between these parties, including a Ukrainian military helicopter being shot down killing 14 people including a general.

The United States of America

The United States of America plays an important role in the conflict; namely attempting to police the conflict. The USA has openly taken sides with the Ukrainian government of Poroshenko and has condemned the military invasion of Russia. Obama has communicated that Russia's annexation of Crimea is "a clear violation of Russia's commitment to respect the independence and sovereignty and borders of Ukraine, and of international laws." The USA, allied with the EU has made several attempts at imposing sanctions on the Russian nation however these have not served a function seeing as they would have negative repercussions on the countries reliant on Russia's natural gas. Russia has also retaliated on these sanctions by implementing their own.

The pressure from the USA and the international community has had an effect however, forcing Russia to engage in talks with the Ukrainian government and take certain measures to relieve tensions in the Crimean region such as canceling a parliamentary resolution authorizing the use of Russian forces in Ukraine. The USA commends the efforts made by Russia but they are however pushing Putin to take far more action. Obama took extra steps in early March, signing Executive Order 13660, and Executive Order 13661 on

March 17th, authorizing sanctions against persons who have violated or assisted in the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty ^{II}. The latter expands the range of previous sanctions imposed by Executive Order 13660, to include the freezing of certain Russian government officials' assets and restricting their travel ^{III}.

European Union

The European Union has taken a clear stance on the issue of Ukraine together with the United States. The EU, just like the USA condemns the forceful control of the Crimean region by the Russian Federation. The root of the issue in Ukraine involved the EU and started when former president Yanukovich postponed the signing of the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement to instead opt for closer Russian ties. Since then, the issue has evolved enormously due to Russia invading Crimea and even a newly elected government led by Poroshenko. Poroshenko has already prioritized several things during his mandate such as the signing of the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement on June 27th. The EU and Ukraine now have stronger economic and political ties, which will help in the stabilization of the Ukraine. Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for the European Union called upon “all sides to decrease the tensions immediately through dialogue, in full respect of Ukrainian and international law” on the March 1st. Furthermore, the EU have taken steps to increase the pressure on Putin and announced the suspension of Russia’s accession process by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Furthermore, the OECD announced the strengthening of ties and cooperation with Ukraine, which eventually led to the agreement and signing of the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement ^{IV}.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The Secretary General of NATO has come out with declarations condemning the Russian Federation’s military escalation in Crimea and expressed his grave concern with the resolution passed by Russian parliament authorizing the use of Russian Troops in Ukraine. He classified Russia’s actions as breaches on international law as well as the principles of the NATO-Russia Council and the Partnership for Peace. NATO has also officially called upon Russia to de-escalate tensions in the Crimean region and adhere to the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between Russia and Ukraine of 1997 as well as the legal framework regulating the presence of Russia’s Black Sea Fleet and withdraw its forces. NATO communicated they would not interfere in the issue with full trust that Russia, who historically has close ties with NATO, will solve the problem. Lastly, NATO urged Russia and Ukraine to carry out peace talks to resolve the issue diplomatically.



Organization for Co-operation and Security in Europe (OSCE)

The OSCE dispatched a diplomatic group consisting of official representatives and a head of the OSCE Commissar on affairs of national minorities. Observers of the OSCE attempted to enter the Crimean peninsula, however they were halted and forced to return at two checkpoints by uniformed militants belonging to an unidentified organization. The expedition arrived in Ukraine on 6 March and had a mandate to work in Crimea till 12 March. The Ukrainian government also called on the sub-commission of the OSCE (The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) to observe the elections of May 25th to ensure transparency and fraud-free elections.

Timeline of Events

This timeline of events shows the most important events that have occurred which have a relation with the issue of Ukraine. Again, these events will only go up to the date that this report was submitted; new events will rise seeing as this is an ongoing event with a lot of attention given to it¹.

Date	Description of event
August 24 th , 1991	The Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine is adopted by Ukrainian parliament, separating the Ukraine from the USSR.
February 25 th , 2010	Ukrainian former president Viktor Yanukovich enters into office.
November 21 st , 2013	President Yanukovich abandons the Ukraine-European Union Association agreement to seek instead closer Russian ties.
Late November, 2013	After Yanukovich's cabinet turn down the Association Agreement for the European Union, something the president highlighted in importance during his presidential campaign, large-scale protests and demonstrations of around 100,000 people are sparked in the capital city Kiev.
Early December, 2013	Protests in the Ukrainian capital continue, masses increase setting a record of 800,000 people attending it's biggest demonstration yet. Protesters also occupy the city hall and Independence Square.
December 17 th , 2013	Yanukovich signs a deal in Moscow where Russian president Putin agrees to throw Ukraine a \$15 billion lifeline as well as a



	reduction of Russian gas prices by a third.
January 16 th , 2014	Ukrainian parliament adopts a new restrictive anti-protest law, imposing various sanctions and restrictions on mass demonstrations.
January 18 th , 2014	Days after the anti-protest law is passed, two people are killed in protest clashes. The protests become riots and violent encounters. Protesters in western Ukraine also start invading government buildings.
January 28 th , 2014	Ukrainian parliament invalidates the anti-protest law. Parliament also promises to drop charges against those arrested during demonstrations in exchange of protesters leaving government buildings, the opposition rejects this however.
February 18 th , 2014	Violent clashes erupt around Independence Square killing 18 people, including 7 riot policemen and hundreds of wounded.
February 20 th , 2014	88 people are killed in less than 48 hours making Kiev live through one of its worst days of violence in the last century. Independence Square is split in two between riot police and protesters fighting to take control.
February 22 nd , 2014	President Yanukovich disappears and is later found to have fled to Russia.
February 22 nd -23 rd , 2014	Ukrainian parliament agrees to remove president Yanukovich from power and issue his arrest warrant. Elections are set for May 25 th .
February 23 rd , 2014	Olexander Turchynov is appointed as interim president until the May elections.
February 27 th , 2014	Viktor Yanukovich appears for the first time since his fleeing from Ukraine and delivers a press conference from Moscow assuring he is still in power and will return.
February 28 th , 2014	Men in Russian military gear, however without the official badges (most likely pro-Russian separatists) appear in Crimea's capital, Simferopol outside the airport and other key buildings.
March 1 st , 2014	Russian parliament passes a resolution allowing the interference of Russian troops in Crimea to protect Russian interests. Pro-Russian demonstrations follow in many eastern cities and in Crimea itself.
March 2 nd , 2014	Ukrainian interim prime minister Yatsenyuk classifies Russia's



	<p>military movement as a breach of Ukrainian sovereignty effectively declaring war.</p>
March 4 th , 2014	<p>Vladimir Putin speaks on Crimea assuring that it is not his troops who have taken control of government buildings but rebels. He furthermore clarifies that the legal president of Ukraine (Yanukovich) was consulted before the military invasion.</p>
March 6 th , 2014	<p>Crimean parliament votes for the annexation of the Crimean region to Russia and schedule a referendum for the 16th of March.</p>
March 15 th , 2014	<p>Russia vetoes a security council draft resolution condemning the referendum carried out in Crimea.</p>
March 16 th , 2014	<p>The Crimean region's official results for its referendum show a 97% of voters in favour of the annexation to Russia.</p>
March 17 th , 2014	<p>After many threats, the USA and the EU sanction various Russian and Ukrainian officials about the Crimean referendum. The sanctions entail travel bans and freezing of assets.</p>
March 18 th , 2014	<p>President Putin signs the bill of the annexation of Crimea thus officially making Crimea part of the Russian Federation.</p>
Late March, 2014	<p>The EU and US extend the list of targets to be sanctioned after the official annexation of Crimea to Russia. Obama urges Putin to withdraw troops and lower tensions in the region. The American president furthermore communicates his nations full support for Ukraine in the conflict.</p>
April 1 st , 2014	<p>NATO gets involved in the conflicts and decides to suspend all cooperation with Russia during a meeting in Brussels.</p>
April 10 th , 2014	<p>President Vladimir Putin threatens the cut off of Russian gas supply to the Ukraine if debts are not paid. This could also have an effect on Russian gas delivery to Europe as Ukraine splits Europe and Russia.</p>
Early April, 2014	<p>Tensions in the east of Ukraine start rising with many pro-Russian protesters also asking for referendums of independence from Ukraine. Government buildings are taken by separatists however then retaken by the Ukrainian forces.</p>
April 15 th -16 th , 2014	<p>Interim president Turchynov initiates an 'anti-terrorist operation' against pro-Russian separatists and thus regains control and peace, particularly in the east. Operation is however shortly stopped after pro-Russian rebels hijack military vehicles.</p>



April 17 th , 2014	Agreement between Russia, Ukraine, USA and the EU to carry out peace-talks in Geneva on how to ensure to relieve the tension in Eastern Ukraine.
April 22 nd , 2014	'Anti-terrorist operation' re-launched.
May 1 st , 2014	Interim president Turchynov reinstates conscription warning Ukraine is on full combat alert.
May 4 th , 2014	Police headquarters in the southern city Odessa is taken over by pro-Russian rebels.
Early May, 2014	Pro-Russian separatists in the eastern cities of Donetsk and Luhansk declare themselves independent after self carried out referendums not recognised by the EU, USA or Ukraine itself. President Putin encourages talks between government and opposition before more referendums are carried out.
May 19 th , 2014	Under pressure from the west, Putin announces a withdrawal of Russian military from the Ukrainian-Russian border to de-escalate the tensions. NATO however, communicates of there being no signs of such withdrawal.
May 25 th , 2014	Ukrainian elections are carried out and Petro Poroshenko wins with 54.7% of the votes; elections are declared fair and transparent by the UN.
May 26 th -27 th , 2014	Petro Poroshenko launches the 'anti-terrorist operation' on pro-Russian rebels occupying Donetsk airport. Russia opens themselves to talks with the newly elected Ukrainian government with the condition that violent attacks against pro-Russian separatists are brought to an end.
May 30 th , 2014	Ukrainian government announces that attacks against rebels will continue until peace and order is reached after a military helicopter is shot down by pro-Russian rebels in the east.
June 3 rd , 2014	Increasing tensions on the border force NATO to pledge an increase in troops in the region to back up the Ukraine however without violating the 1997 NATO-Russia Founding Act yet.
June 6 th , 2014	Putin and Poroshenko meet with the intention of putting a quick end to the bloodshed in eastern Ukraine.
June 10 th , 2014	President Poroshenko takes another step to try and solve the issue by ordering the creation of humanitarian corridors to ensure that peaceful civilians can escape from the crossfire in the major



	conflict areas.
June 12 th , 2014	Ukrainian sources report to have seen Russian tanks entering the east however Russia denies this.
June 16 th , 2014	All gas supplies to the Ukraine from Russia are cut off. Gazprom explains this is due to Ukraine not paying its debts.
Late June, 2014	President Poroshenko makes further efforts to solve the issue, proposing a 15-point peace plan and a week-long truce. Pro-Russian rebels in the east agree to this on condition of Ukrainian forces leaving the area.
June 25 th , 2014	Russian parliament cancels a resolution, which authorised the use of Russian forces in Ukraine. The west applauds the move however urges more measures to be taken if Russia wants to avoid further sanctions.
June 27 th , 2014	President Poroshenko lives a historical day in Ukrainian history when the EU signs an association agreement with Ukraine, strengthening economic and political ties with the European Union.

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The issue in Ukraine is a relatively new one and there have therefore not been many attempts to solve it. The UN has attempted to solve the issue of the annexation of Crimea to Russia in a Security Council resolution, which condemned the referendum held in Crimea. Furthermore, the General Assembly passed a resolution to encourage all states to not recognize the change in status of Crimea. The final attempt that was made to stabilize the country in recent times was the signing of the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement together with Georgia and Moldova, strengthening economic and political ties between Ukraine and Europe. The agreement was signed by current president Petro Poroshenko, after evicted president Yanukovich pulled out of the agreement in late November 2013 to strengthen ties with Russia instead (that initiated the Ukrainian conflict). The Ukrainian government also has a few plans to resolve the issue. The first, violent, involved the implantation of an anti-terrorist operation on rebels in the east. The second, peaceful, proposed a week-long ceasefire between parties involved in the conflict while peace talks are held between Ukraine, Russia and the OSCE.

- Security Council Draft Resolution on Ukraine, 15 March, 2014 (**S/2014/189**)^V.



- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262, 27 March, 2014 **(A/RES/68/262)**^V.
- Anti-terrorist operation launched in Ukraine against pro-Russian separatists, late May 2014.
- Multilateral ceasefire in Ukraine while talks are held between Ukraine, Russia and the OSCE, late June.
- EU and US impose sanctions on Russia, June 2014.
- Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement, 27 June 2014^{IV}.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

There have been quite a few attempts to solve this issue as it has had negative repercussions on many nations. Two main attempts to solve this are normally referred to as the two UN resolutions on the topic. The first resolution was a draft resolution from the Security Council condemning the invasion of Crimea by Russia and the referendum held. This would have been a viable solution however the Russian Federation, being a P5 nation vetoed it, annulling an action the resolution proposed to take. The second resolution was passed in the General Assembly with 100 votes for, 11 votes against and 58 abstentions. Being the GA, Russia had no veto power and could merely vote against. The problem with the GA resolution is that it is not binding and thus did not solve anything. Being a fragile topic and involving two nations, external nations can only help or intervene to a certain point as to not violate sovereignty of states.

The Ukraine, especially since the election of Petro Poroshenko has also taken a big step forward in attempting to solve the main issue, which for the Ukrainian government is more the violence and attacks on military by pro-Russian separatists. Poroshenko's first attempt to solve this was through more violence by launching an anti-terrorist operation against these 'rebels'. This attempt however did not have a very large impact and might have even worsened the situation. Days after the first launch of the operation, 6 military vehicles were hijacked, helicopters shot down and soldiers kidnaped. Tensions rose severely in the east of Ukraine causing if anything, the pro-Russian separatists to want independence even more. The second attempt at a solution came in the form of a truce/ceasefire between all armed parties involved, suggested by Poroshenko, while Ukraine, Russia and the OSCE engaged in talks to solve the issue in a diplomatic manner.



So far, even though the solution has brought more peace and has de-escalated the tensions especially in eastern Ukraine, the talks between Russia and Ukraine have not resulted in fruitful solutions that would benefit both parties. The talks have thus not solved anything although the USA and the EU commended the change of Russia's policy to agree to solve the issue in a peaceful way through diplomatic talks. The west has also contributed by putting pressure on Russia through implementation of sanctions. At first, this had little to no effect with Russia simply countering these sanctions by implementing their own sanctions and threatening the cut off of some Russian gas to Europe. Putin has however been forced to make compromises when important figures in the Russian government had their assets frozen and had been targeted by travel bans by the EU and US. This has had a good effect on the issue and has led to decreased tensions on the border as well as the annulling of a Russian Parliament resolution authorizing the use of Russian troops in Ukraine.

The final attempt to stabilize the situation and take a step towards solving the issue was the signing of the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement at the end of June. Seeing as the conflict is ongoing and this agreement has been signed very recently, it is difficult to predict what the outcome will be. Principally it is a good step forward and will ensure for a more stable Ukraine with a stronger political and economical structure. It will also help to satisfy the west of Ukraine (pro-Europeans) who started the uproar in Ukraine due to Yanukovich backing out of this same agreement.

Possible Solutions

Seeing as the conflict in Ukraine involves two nations with opposing views and ideas solutions that would be respected and agreed on by both sides, seem very difficult to find. Furthermore, there is also the involvement of a third party who are the pro-Russian separatists residing in eastern Ukraine which also cause a lot of the unrest. Solutions for this issue must be internal as well as external. A stable and corruption-free government is essential in order to be able to stabilize the country again and regain order. Currently, through the election of Petro Poroshenko, this step towards solving the issue has been taken. After having elected a stable government, it was seen that also Putin was more convinced and willing to carry out peace talks to be able to solve the issue diplomatically.

Pressure from the west is also crucial in this conflict. With Russia's total domination in the region and undisputable status, only relevant sanctions (such as were seen by the freezing of assets and implementation of travel bans on Russian high-status figures involved in the referendum of Crimea), will force Russia to cooperate with Ukraine in order to solve



the issue. Sanctions or other threats must be severe enough however seeing as Russia have boycotted their power over Europe with the vast supply of Russian gas, controlled by the Russian government.

The final and maybe most important part of the conflict is the invasion of Russia into the Crimean region. The tensions there are very high and the number one priority would be to avoid clashes between armies that would result in terrorizing and bloody scenarios. It is important, as a solution to the problem, to concrete the legitimacy of the annexation of Crimea to Russia. Is it fair that a referendum of independence is carried out in only that state that would like to become independent? Was the situation so poor and so biased towards Russians or Russian-speakers in Crimea that the Russian Federation can justify their invasion? Were any treaties or legal documents violated by Russia through authorizing troops to act in Ukraine? Are the basic human rights of people in Crimea being respected? All these questions and different viewpoints on the issue of Crimea are delicate and also have different answers depending on different parties opinions. For this reason, such an issue is to be studied under international law.

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Appendix

^I <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26248275>

^{II} <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26672800>

^{III} <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/03/20/executive-order-blocking-property-additional-persons-contributing-situat>

^{IV} http://eeas.europa.eu/ukraine/assoagreement/assoagreement-2013_en.htm

^V <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/ukraine/>

