

Security Council

The recent Annexation of Donetsk and Luhansk

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Forum: Security Council (UNSC)

Issue: The recent Annexation of Donetsk and Luhansk

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Introduction

Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, issued an order to send soldiers into Ukraine early on February 24. For months, Kyiv's Western allies have been sounding the alarm about an impending Russian attack. Nonetheless, many people in Ukraine and around the world were taken aback by Putin's choice. He declared the beginning of a "special military operation" to "demilitarize" and "denazify" Ukraine while speaking on Russian state television. The initial blasts were heard in Ukraine a little while afterward ("Russian Invasion").

As a result of the invasion, the West imposed a broad range of sanctions on Moscow. They include halting financial transactions with the Russian central bank, prohibiting fresh investment, and freezing the assets of Russian economic and political elites ("1 Year").

Regardless of any self-ascribed title, Russian forces in Ukraine are considered an occupying army under international law, including the Geneva Conventions. If Russian soldiers formally occupy the region, the situation in eastern Ukraine would meet the criteria for occupation under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, as will be covered below. The self-declared Luhansk People's Republic, "LNR" and Donetsk People's Republic, "DNR" local "authorities" claims to sovereignty or the Russian government's acknowledgment of their independence have no bearing on the applicability of the international law of occupation ("Russia, Ukraine & International").

Definition of Key Terms

Annexation: The act of taking control of a country, region, etc, especially by force (OED Online).

Sanction: an official order that limits trade, contact, etc. with a particular country, in order to make it do something, such as obeying international law (OED Online).

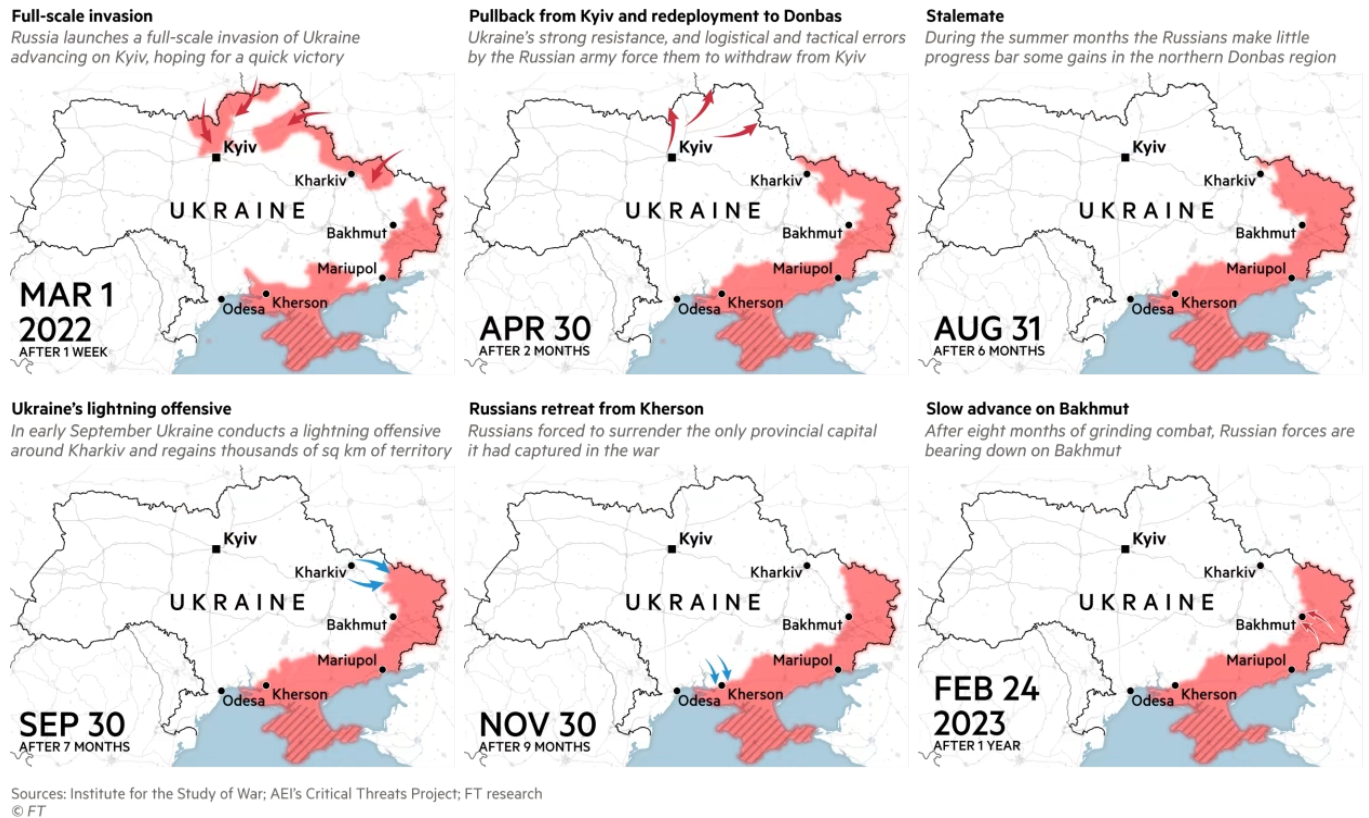
Sovereignty: Complete power to govern a country (OED Online).

General Overview

International law governing state sovereignty and secession is incompatible with Russia's recognition of Donetsk and Luhansk as separate entities. Generally speaking, international law forbids state territories from seceding and demands that their territorial integrity be respected. Few (if any) lawyers are likely to argue that Donetsk and Luhansk secession was justified in this case, despite the minority opinion held by

some international law experts that so-called remedial secession is acceptable as a last resort when a people has experienced serious human rights violations at the hands of the state government.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) received another complaint from Ukraine on Sunday accusing Russia of misusing the Genocide Convention to legitimize its invasion of Ukraine. Two claims Ukraine submitted in 2017 against Russian conduct in Crimea and eastern Ukraine are currently being heard by the ICJ. The ICJ might look into Putin and other Russian leaders for war crimes committed during the invasion (“How Russia’s”).



Map 1: Maps Showing the Progression of the War in 1 Year

Many residents in Ukraine were compelled to escape the nation due to the savagery of the Russian invasion. In the first 24 hours following the military assault, at least 100,000 people, according to the UNHCR, had evacuated their homes. They waited days in line in thousands of cars at the borders to enter Poland, which is nearby. Several more escaped by train, spending days in line at stations to fit into cramped carriages. Men of fighting age were primarily forbidden from leaving the country, hence the majority of those departing were women, children, and the elderly (“Russian Invasion”).

Timeline of Events

February 24, 2022	<i>Putin announces a “special military operation”</i>
February 25, 2022	<i>Ukrainian President Zelensky publishes “We’re here” video</i>
April 1, 2022	<i>Bucha atrocities uncovered</i>
September 1, 2022	<i>Russian forces flee Kharkiv region</i>
September 21, 2022	<i>Russia’s partial mobilization starts</i>
November 12, 2022	<i>Kherson is liberated</i>
December 21, 2022	<i>Zelensky visits the White House</i>
February 20, 2023	<i>Biden visits Kyiv</i>

Treaties and Events

[United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1](#) - United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1 is a resolution of the eleventh emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly, adopted on 2 March 2022. It deplored Russia's invasion of Ukraine and demanded a full withdrawal of Russian forces and a reversal of its decision to recognize the self-declared People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk.

[United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-11/3](#) - United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-11/3 is a resolution of the eleventh emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly, adopted on 7 April 2022. The resolution suspended the membership of Russia in the United Nations Human Rights Council over "grave concern at the ongoing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine [...] including gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights" committed by Russia.

[United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-11/4](#) - Resolution ES-11/4 declares that Russia's so-called referendums in the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts and the subsequently attempted annexation are invalid and illegal under international law. It calls upon all states to not recognize these territories as part of Russia. Furthermore, it demands that Russia "immediately,

completely and unconditionally withdraw" from Ukraine as it is violating its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

[United Nations Security Council Resolution 2623](#) - United Nations Security Council Resolution 2623 called for the eleventh emergency special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the subject of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. Albania and the United States introduced the resolution before the United Nations Security Council, which adopted it on 27 February 2022. Russia voted against it while China, India, and the United Arab Emirates abstained. As this was a procedural resolution, no permanent member could exercise their veto power.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

There has been widespread and significant foreign involvement in the invasion, including foreign military aid and sales, foreign military involvement, foreign sanctions, and consequences, as well as foreign criticism and protest. The United States has considerably boosted the covert involvement of special operations military and CIA operatives in support of Ukrainian forces since the start of the invasion, despite NATO and the EU's strict "no boots on the ground" policy in Ukraine. Limited sanctions were levied on Russia after Moscow acknowledged Donbas as a sovereign state by Western nations and others. Many other nations imposed sanctions on Russia as soon as the onslaught started in an effort to destroy its economy. The sanctions focused on people, banks, companies, financial transactions, bank transfers, exports, and imports (Trabesch; Nato).

Protests took place all around the world in response to the invasion, which attracted strong worldwide condemnation. The UN General Assembly voted on UNGA resolution ES-11/1 on March 2, 2022, denouncing the invasion and calling for a complete withdrawal of Russian forces.

Possible Solutions

For possible solutions, delegates may look no further than Ukrainian President Zelensky's own proposals: Volodymyr Zelensky made his first suggestion during a video presentation at the G-20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, where he focused on the dangers of radiation and nuclear security. He also stressed that "no one has the authority to blackmail the world with a radioactive calamity." The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Russia has been transformed into a radioactive bomb that might go off at any time. What will become of the radiation cloud? maybe in the direction of EU territory. Maybe to Turkey. to the Middle East, maybe. Zelensky demanded the Russian military leave the site and hand over authority to Ukrainian and IAEA employees, saying, "I view even a possible possibility of such a situation as illegal."

In his second suggestion, Zelensky emphasized the importance of food security and congratulated Turkey, the UN, and other partners for bringing back the Black Sea grain project, which Russia had left on October 20 but has now rejoined as a result of diplomatic efforts from Ankara. Without regard to the conflict, Zelensky stated that the grain project merits an "indefinite continuation" since "the right to food is a fundamental right of every individual in the globe." "This year, Ukraine may export 45 million tons of food, with a considerable portion going to those who are most in need. What precisely do we propose?

Each nation may participate and make a distinctive contribution, helping to co-create the end to the global food crisis and hunger "added Zelensky.

Zelensky brought forth a third proposition that has to do with energy security. He accused Russia of using "the cold as a weapon" and pointed out that Russian missile and drone attacks have destroyed nearly 40% of Ukraine's electricity infrastructure. "Russia's export prices should be compelled to be limited so that they do not exceed production costs if Moscow is attempting to deny predictability and price stability to Ukraine, Europe, and all other energy customers worldwide. Fair enough. The world has the right to take something from you if you take something away " he said.

Delegates must consider the geopolitical implications of the conflict and tread lightly when thinking about their solutions, as the issue is both very delicate and intricate.

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