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Diplomacy as a Tool for Conlict Resolution in Inter-States Relations: Lessons from Russia's War on Ukraine

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Abstract

The ongoing Russia's war on Ukraine has created a necessary condition for a call for diplomatic resolution to the conflict. This is particularly so because of the far-reaching implication of the war on global security. This paper adopts a qualitative approach to examine the issues generated by the conflict between the two aforementioned states. In doing so, both extant and current literatures were relied upon to generate the required data for analysis. The study discovered that Russia's aggression on Ukraine is based on her strategic national interest in the region (to optimize and consolidate her sphere of political and economic influence, an interest that is also the desire of the West). Furthermore, the Russian war on Ukraine ranges as a result of the conflicting strategic interests and power politics among the major powers of the world. The work concludes that Russia's war on Ukraine constitutes an aberration and contravenes the UN Charter on sovereignty and self-determination. Also, that Russia, by its demands, is desirous to reclaim the territories of the defunct USSR. In sum, the paper recommends that, in order to end the present hostilities, a diplomatic solution that is driven by the collective interests of not only Russia and Ukraine, but also that of the international community is urgently needed.

Keywords: Conflict, Diplomacy, Invasion, Self-Determination, Politics, Power, War

1. Introduction

What is today referred to as Russian war on Ukraine could be traced to the country's annexation of Crimea in 2014. Ostensibly, Russia laid claim to the fact that Crimea, and indeed the entire Ukraine, was historically her territory. The fact is that the invasion is the height of Russia's fear and suspicion of threat to her national security, political and socio-economic interests by concerted European and other Western powers. Historically, the political and ideological rift began in the mid-twentieth century (the immediate period after the Second World War), necessitating the establishment of alliances (the emergence of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization - NATO and the Warsaw Pact). While the Warsaw Pact dissolved itself in 1991, NATO has had expanding and growing influence in global politics (especially in Eastern Europe). Due to some real or perceived threat to her, Russia has resisted or apprehended so far further expansion by NATO (especially the admission of the then newly independent former member states of the defunct Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)). This development necessitated the need to recalibrate the World Order to reflect the growing demand for equity in international politics.

Russia's current aggression against Ukraine could be traced to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The internal disintegration of the Soviet Union resulted in the emergence of fifteen (15) independent states on 26th December, 1991 including Russia and Ukraine. Russian actual invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, suggests a culmination of the power game and the epic of contrasting national interests in international politics. The overriding consequence of all these developments is a distortion and destruction of a peaceful world order.

Russia and Ukraine have strong cultural, economic and political ties that date back for centuries. In terms of cultural influence with Moscow and St. Petersburg, Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, was referred as 'mother of Russian cities'. Historically, it was in Kyiv in the eighth and ninth centuries that Christianity was brought from Byzantine to the Slavic people. Christianity served as the anchor for the Kievan Rus from which the early Slavic States later known independently as Russia, Ukraine and Belarus draw their lineage. As at 2001, approximately eight million ethnic Russians lived in Ukraine, mostly in the Eastern and Southern parts of the country [1]. Moscow's actions in Crimea and the Donbas in 2014 were premised on Russia's assigned duty to protect her citizens in these places. Many Russians after the collapse of the Soviet Union viewed the independence of Ukraine as a political threat to Russia's national security. To them, losing Ukraine to Western sphere of influence was a major blow to Russia's international prestige. As a consequence, Russia's war on Ukraine that started in 2022 is a part of broader struggle against Western powers.

Defunct Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev in 1954, transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine as way of strengthening the relationship between the two countries. Many Russian

nationalists with the collapse of the Soviet Union clamoured for the return of the peninsula. However, Russia's Black Sea Fleet, the dominant maritime force in the region is domiciled in the city of Sevastopol. For many years, Russia was Ukraine's largest trading partner, but with the advent of the war, this relationship dwindled drastically. Thus, it had been the national interest of Russia to sustain its political influence on Ukraine.

1.1. Theoretical Framework

The perspective used for analysis in this study is the Deterrence Theory.

Deterrence Theory is an aspect of the wider Rational Choice Theory. It explains social phenomena as outcomes of individual choices that can be considered rational. Choices are considered rational if they are suitable to achieve specific goals, and given the constraints of the situation by considering the costs (overall or vs immediate), risks and benefits of a decision although choices that seem rational to one may not be so to another [2]. Hence, rational choice is a model that places preference for personal or state interest depending on (short or long term) interest. Rational Choice Theory dates back to centuries. Adam Smith (1776) proposed human nature's tendency "the invisible hand" toward self-interest resulted in prosperity [3]. Earlier, Hobbes (1651) argued that political institution was a result of individual free choices (social contract); and Machiavelli (1513) had adapted its strewed form. In either interpretation, rational choice explains why people enter or end individual or group relationships (outside unconscious drives, tradition, or environmental influences [3]. Thus, in politics, Rational Choice Theory could be used to explain political behaviour and how political issues are handled (whether national or international).

Specifically, Deterrence Theory refers to the literature and praxis where actual or threat of use of force by one party does convince another or others to act or refrain from some course of action. The central focus of deterrence revolves around how to credibly threaten military action or nuclear punishment on the adversary despite its costs to the deterrer [2]. Historically, much of the innovative work on Deterrence Theory obtained from the late 1940s to mid-1960s and contemporary scholarship on deterrence has tended to focus on nuclear deterrence [3]. Since the end of the Cold War, there has been an extension of deterrence scholarship to areas that are not specifically about nuclear weapons. One approach to theorizing about deterrence entails the use of Rational Choice and Game Theoretical models of decision making. Often, a distinction is sometimes made between nuclear deterrence and "conventional deterrence." Yet, the two most prominent deterrent strategies are "denial" (denying the attacker the benefits of attack) and "punishment" (inflicting costs on the attacker) [2]. In this work, the Deterrence Theory is thought to apply to the various efforts to advance the respective political interests, power politics and deterrent efforts of Russia (on the one hand) and that of the West (the UN, US, EU, and NATO, on the other).

More so, this work adopted Historical/Political Theory. This is because the emergence of political systems, which long accompanies the evolution of humankind, introduces a set of significant evolutionary consequences. Historically, Crimea existed as a self-governing political society. Later, it was absolved into the defunct USSR. Presently, Russia has invaded and annexed Crimea, thus it is presently under Russian control [4]. While all three theories reasonably justify or account for Russia's actions on Ukraine, only Rational Choice Theory/ Deterrence Theory could justify the interest of NATO and the West.

1.2. The United Nations, International Law and Extant World Political Order

Since the end of the Second World War (WW II), world political order has been overseen by the United Nations (UN). Thus, the UN is the overriding authority as it concerns international law and multi-state relations [5]. The UN is the general umbrella coordinating international law. The International Law is most effective on a range of transnational functional relations (on such political relations as trade, diplomacy and communication). International Law is least effective when applied to high politics issues such as national security and relations among sovereign states. Most generally, law is:

The aggregated of legislation, judicial precedents, and accepted legal principles; …the body of rules, standards and principles that the court of a particular jurisdiction apply …largely derived from custom and/or formal enactment which are recognized as binding among those persons who constitute a community or state… [6].

Hence International Law, otherwise referred to as the 'law of nations', "refers to those rules and norms which regulate the conduct of states within the international sphere…relations of states…and are such recognized" (Bazuaye and Enabulele, 2006). In fact, International Law regulates relations by international actors which include states, persons and organizations. Whether public or private, international law contains the principles, customs and standards of such relations [7]. Clearly, the statutes of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are the most authoritative statement on the sources of International Law such as international conventions, judicial decisions and general rules (without a specific hierarchy).

1.3. Russian Invasion of Ukraine

By waging a war against a sovereign country, Russia deliberately violated the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Thus, by the UN supporting the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine does not simply imply upholding the fact Ukraine is a sovereign state; it also means defending international law and the security of the European continent. That is why, from the very first day of the war, some Western countries have unwaveringly supported Ukraine and its people and imposed some sanctions against Russia in the midst of the ranging war. The UN also declared that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a violation of its territorial integrity and of the Charter of the United Nations. The war ranges while some diplomatic efforts are being carried on with the objective to initially enable the safe evacuation of those civilians from the Azovstal plant

and later the rest of the city, in any direction they chose, and to deliver humanitarian aid. This stage involved pushing the Putin Administration to allow for mostly humanitarian operations and in trying opening up safe routes out of Ukraine to ensure food security for those relevant nations.

Russia's annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine in 2014 marked the initial steps towards a wider invasion. Historically, the territory of Crimea had been controlled by the Crimean Khanate, a monarchy. In 1783, it was annexed by the Russian Empire. Since then, Russia has had gradual, strategic and territorial grip on the Crimean region of Ukraine. More recently, in March 2014, Russian troops invaded and occupied key Crimean locations, including airports and military bases. The Russian Supreme Council declared Crimea an independent and self-governing nation. This was predicated upon by a purported referendum in Crimea whether or not to join the Russian Federation. A Treaty was drafted to formalize the development, and thereafter, Ukraine withdrew her military forces from Crimea. This action attracted Russia's suspension from the G8 and international sanctions imposed on it. Crimea since then has been under Russian rule and diplomatic efforts towards resolving the crisis seem to be yielding little results. Meanwhile, the UN declared "illegal" the Russian annexation of Crimea; it also called to prevent or restore détente. However, the territory still remained a military base for Russian planned expansion [8]. Russia's war on Ukraine therefore, is an epic in Russia's political interest.

1.4. Power Politics and the Causes of the War

Two initial developments (power game and national interests) were crucial preludes to Russia's invasion of Ukraine: First, the West nursed a geostrategic interest on the States, which surround Russia. To effectively achieve this motive, the independent states within the region had to be politically structured in such a way as to align with the actualization of such interest. Russia would not want to lose its strategic interests in the country to the West. Indeed, any pro-western political structure in Russia's border-nations would be vehemently opposed by Russia. Thus, Ukraine is one of the centers where this hegemonic rivalry between Russia and the U.S. unfolds.

Ever since the two world wars, the world had been polarized beyond the era of the Cold War between the major superpowers on the one hand, and each of those powers and other nations/regions of the world in clear manifestation of power game. The Cold War era witnessed so much power game among the great world power blocks - Western (led by the United States of America and Britain) and Eastern - (led by Russia and China). However, one expects that with the disintegration of the USSR the viciousness and volatility of power that game would diminish. After the reunification of Germany and subsequent expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, cherished ideological, national and regional interest regained expression among the major powers particularly the U.S. and Russia [9, 10].

Besides, with the emergence of China, those expressions pointed the direction of extant world political order well into the 21st century [10]. Evidently, that state of affairs has manifested greatly on the ranging Russia's war on Ukraine since May 2022: first, on the side of Russia (on the one hand) and second, on the side of Ukraine and her Western allies (on the other). Thus, the power game and strategic interests among world powers and the degeneration to war in Ukraine pose serious challenges to desirable and peaceable world order.

1.5. The NATO Question

A brief review of the NATO question and Russia's demands on it is relevant here. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization [9] was the military alliance which was formed in 1949. The Warsaw Pact (or Treaty of Warsaw, formally the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance) was a collective defense treaty signed in Warsaw, Poland, between the defunct Soviet Union and seven other Eastern European States in May 1955 after the WWII. It was a collective defense treaty established by the then Soviet Union and seven other Soviet satellite states in Central and Eastern Europe. These include Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania (Albania withdrew in 1968) [10]. The Warsaw Pact embodied what was referred to as the Eastern bloc, while NATO and its member countries represented the Western bloc. NATO and the Warsaw Pact were ideologically opposed and, over time, built up their own defenses - thus starting an arms race that lasted throughout the Cold War [9, 8].

Thus, one important cause of the breaking of the war in Ukraine could be explained by the Games Theory-the analysis of how decision makers interact in decision making to take into account reactions and choices of the other decision makers. Notably, international conflict and other phenomena in international relations occur as a result of decisions made by States and their leaders. It follows the following pattern: (a) Actions (the choices available to a player); (b) Information (the knowledge that a player has when making a decision); (c) Strategies (the rules that tell a player which action to take at each point of the game); and (d) Outcomes (the results that unfold, such as the price of war vis-a-vis world peace. Specifically, Russia felt threatened by U.S. political influence and military expansionism in the Region. On their part, Finland and Switzerland felt their sovereignty would be more stable with NATO. Apparently, Russian action against Ukraine offers encouragement for China who also seeks to actualize a one-state China through similar invasion of Taiwan.

Thus, the origins of the present conflict and Russian invasion of Ukraine can be traced to the expansion of NATO. In 1990, the US (a major NATO member) did assure the then disintegrating USSR that NATO "would not expand an inch eastward" or act as a threat to Russia or the newly-independent, former Soviet states. The assurance also affirmed that:

NATO is the mechanism for securing the US presence in Europe. If NATO is liquidated, there will be no such mechanism in Europe. We understand that not only for the Soviet Union but for other European countries as well it is important to have guarantees that if the United States Keeps its presence in Germany within the framework of NATO, not an inch of NATO's present military

jurisdiction will spread in an eastern direction (Statement by the North Atlantic Council on Russia's attack on Ukraine, Feb. 24, 2022; retrieved from web, October 11, 2022) Despite their initial assurances and affirmation, however, it did appear to Russia that NATO broke their promise having to admit Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary as members especially since those States were former members of the Warsaw Pact. NATO maintained that it had an open-door policy; that is, any country could seek (and possibly admitted) to be its member. Russia went ahead to annex Crimea in 2014. Earlier, Georgia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Ukraine were already at the verge of becoming members of NATO in 2008. However, Putin, the President of Russia seems to have mistrust for NATO; and he nursed a plan to reintegrate Ukraine into Russia. So, he claimed that the war grew "not as an invasion with the intention of occupying Ukraine but as "a special military occupation" and to "demilitarize and neutralize" the threat from their neighbouring country" [8].

1.6. Diplomacy and Russia's Demands

On the diplomatic efforts to avert the war in Ukraine, France, Germany, and Turkey at various times mediated to dissuade the Russian Government against the planned invasion, it would not bulge. Thus, those countries held that by waging a war against a sovereign country, Russia would deliberately violate the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Supporting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine does not simply mean helping a free people. It also means defending international law and the security of the European continent. That is why, from the very first day of the war, France and its partners have unwaveringly supported Ukraine and its people, and imposed sanctions on Russia at the start of the war. The UN also declared that Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a violation of its territorial integrity and of the Charter of the United Nations. As the war ranged, diplomacy entered another phase (with the objective to initially enable the safe evacuation of those civilians from the Azovstal plant and later the rest of the city, in any direction they chose, and to deliver humanitarian aid) (CNN, May 11, 2023: 9.00am).

However, Russia claimed that the "special military operation" in Ukraine was essentially to ensure Russian security after NATO admitted members up to its borders. Western countries supported pro-Western leaders in Kyiv; but Ukraine declared that she is fighting for her sovereignty and territory, including Crimea.

1.7. Challenges to the World Political Order

The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the threat to deploy nuclear arsenal poses a serious challenge to global security. Also, the war has had dire socio-political, economic, health and human casualties on Ukraine. To be specific, about 14,200–14,400 civilians and military troops were killed during the war in Donbas (2014-2022) alone.

As early as February 2022, Europe has already witnessed refugee crises resulting from the invasion. Presently, nearly eight (8) million refugees have been recorded across Europe, while another estimated similar number of persons had been displaced within Ukraine by late May 2022 (CNN, February 24, 2023: 12 noon). The reverberating effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine are being felt across the globe. Already, the United States Information Department (USID) officials examined how the invasion of Ukraine might have shifted Moscow's decision-making in other parts of the world.

It is worthy of note that those crucial issues that defined world's power-relations at the close of the last World War still abound directly or in recrudescence. Adventures into space, issues about the environment, new pandemics, terrorism and global threat of nuclear attacks and threat of cyber-warfare are a few examples. Today, the failure of diplomacy and Russia's invasion of Ukraine exacerbate the situation and condition of those challenges.

1.8. Cost of the War

The Russian invasion of Ukraine caused Europe's largest refugee crisis since WW II with about 8.7 million Ukrainians fleeing the country (CNN, December 12, 2022: 10.00am). The war has inflicted conditions necessitating untold hunger, diseases and deaths. Already, hundreds of thousands are left dead (including mostly civilian women and children). Russia currently occupies about 20% of Ukrainian land (CNN, May 12, 2023: 10.00am). The war in Ukraine has witnessed decrease in Ukrainian population (death and lack of clean water, destruction of sea-ocean water and the environment leading to global environmental crisis). The alarming and looming dangers put the degeneration in Ukraine a primary concern for urgent international attention. Similarly, all manners of hazardous chemical substances invaded the eastern Ukrainian atmosphere ruining the quality of the interdependence between plant and animal life, to a decimation of aquatic species. Thus, war has forced world's attention away from the ravaging pandemic of Covid-19 and developments in public health and medicine (which is enormous challenge for the world). The current outbreak of Cholera and Monkey pox in parts of the world also seems to be eluding world's attention.

Furthermore, the 21st century has witnessed more wars than all previous centuries combined. The war of attrition in Ukraine has sensitized the human race on the shadow of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons threatening another holocaust or annihilation of humanity. The challenge is how to control the emergent deadly dimension that the war portends. On the other hand, is terrorism, (particularly cyber-terrorism). Though the intensity of ideological (including religious) rivalry has never waned, the strategies deployed have become scintillating, provocative, sharper, more precise and exact with further devolution and progress on cyber technology. This trend of terrorism, especially by Russian forces, is wide-ranging, and is a serious source of concern to the UN.

Within and outside Ukrainian territory, Russia is accused of "multiple human rights abuses including torture, arbitrary detention, forced disappearances and instances of discrimination (Human Rights Watch, 14 Nov., 2014). Still, against the UN call since 2016, Russia continues the carnage and abductions. Any calls for secession of Crimea from Russia are decreed a criminal offense in Russia (Human Rights Watch, 14 Nov., 2014). Some news media have been shut or banned. Instances

of the multifaceted violence (including racial discrimination and state organized terrorism) procured by Russia pervade the entire Ukrainian, Crimean and Russian landscape (Human Rights Watch, 14 Nov., 2014).

A few nations around the world (including Afghanistan, Sudan, Syria, Cuba, and North Korea) do recognize the results of the 2014 referendum and Russia's adventure in Ukraine, while China sues for peaceful resolution. This condition introduces a new issue of mapping; where Crimea actually belongs, and the authentic territorial landscape of Ukraine and Russia. The UN recognizes that Crimea belongs in Ukraine. Other world bodies (such as Next Generation Sequencing) remain unsure about where to place Crimea or stipulate the real international boundaries for Ukraine and Russia. Thus, as the conflict ranges, the determination of the proper placing of recognition and mapping is crucial and urgent for intellectual, historical and scientific analysis.

The Russian invasion deems the hope of emerging economies which would have adverse effects on world economy altogether. Hunger and poverty are on the rise in Ukraine and beyond since much of the World depend on Ukrainian grain and wheat exports. There is an urgent challenge to source alternative source of energy for EU nations as Russia threatens to withdraw all energy supplies to them. More so, developing countries (especially African, Asian, and South American) are now looking towards the direction of China for more business and support. This is especially in consideration of the inability of the West to immediately free-up Ukraine from Russian aggression.

One of the most serious challenges posed before the UN and the entire world by the Russian aggression on Ukraine concerns self-determination. Obviously, the concept is believed to be spirit behind the provision of Article 1 (i) of the 1966 *International Covenant* to the effect that: "All people have the right to self-determination." By virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development (Human Rights Watch, 14 Nov., 2014). Clearly, Russia claims that the referendum complied with the principle of self-determination. Conversely, the Russian aggression violates this principle thereby raising the question to the UN whether weaker nations and identities have such rights *de jure*. To with; the obligation between Russia and Ukraine with regard to territorial integrity and the prohibition of the use of force are laid down in a number of multilateral or bilateral agreements to which Russia and Ukraine are signatories [11, 8].

While Russia argues that it is out "to ensure proper conditions for the people of Crimea to be able to freely express their will", Ukraine (and some other nations) argue that "such intervention is a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty" [13, 1]. Historically, Russia's aggression violates the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances (to which she is a signatory) "to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine" [12]. It also violates both the 1997 Treaty on Friendship and the Russian-Ukrainian Treaty of the Black Sea Fleet [13]. The challenge to world is the continuing readiness of other major powers to respect international law and agreements.

The most challenge posed by Russia's aggression against Ukraine to the world is the need not only to deter Russia but to put it on the part of justice. This is because Ukrainian and major world information media have amassed several evidences of Russia's devastations on public and private properties amid wanton destruction of the life unarmed citizens, including women and children. Going by the standards set at the Nuremberg trials, the challenge becomes compounded as to determining whether an incumbent head of state can or will be arraigned before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for war crimes. While China, Iran and North Korea continue to be members of the UN, that quest could remain undetermined. Thus, this is the final test on the solidarity at the UN and its mandate to ensure a desirable world political order [14].

1.9. A Marshal Plan for Ukraine

Although war and destruction by Russia still range in Ukraine, however, a marshal plan is already in the offing for the re-building of Ukraine to stop violence and restore peace. Today, the US (among others) has already put down some 18.18 billion dollars committed to rebuilding Ukraine (The UN, May 11, 2023). Thus, food, security and shelter are dire needs of Ukrainian citizens; public infrastructure is in urgent needs for effective governance. The achievement of those tasks must precede further economic and political objectives in Ukraine. Specifically, Germany claims the war in Ukraine will not end anytime soon. Just like the original Marshall Plan was geared toward long-term reconstruction, Germany also said that the West expects that rebuilding Ukraine will take some time, saying:

We will need many more billions of Euros and Dollar for reconstruction purposes – for years to come… to see Ukraine continue to receive broad European support in financial, economic, humanitarian and political terms, as well as 'arms deliveries' (Speech by Germany's President Scholz to the German Parliament, June 11, 2022/BBC News:4.00pm).

Though the destruction on its territories continues, Ukraine's estimate is that reconstruction costs could amount to over 750 billion dollars (760 billion Euros) (CNN, February 24, 2023: 10.00am). The EU estimates puts such costs at dollars 349 billion. These finances would involve concerted efforts. Already, Werner Hoyer (head of European Investment Bank) expects billions in financial aid to Ukraine, stressing the need for a programme targeting "a global audience, rather than just EU taxpayers" (CNN, February 24, 2023: 11.00am). Nonetheless, the EU suggests reconstruction efforts should be coordinated by Ukraine in conjunction with EU, G7 and G20 states, as well as contributions from other international institutions and organizations (CNN, February 24, 2023: 11.05 am).

1.10. The Way Forward

Russia's war on Ukrainian is manifestation of complex affairs and it will take complex strategy to end. To achieve success, therefore, only a new, impersonal, humanistic,

non-antagonistic national and international philosophy could reverse the trajectory of invasions to avert another World War. Rationality ought to help bring about moral meaning, to a better, more rational world, not war.

Only total renunciation of interference in nations' internal affairs and violation of generally organized principles (standards) of international law can make it possible to work out wide ranging measures for the suppression of state-state invasions. Only evident good-will will help make possible to reach agreement also on such a problem as a joint effort to forestall acts of invasion. To realize this, nations and other international actors ought to take progressive steps by reaching a consensus on adopting all appropriate measures to dissuade their nation-states from invading other States; and erring States should face stiff sanctions.

Accordingly, the work concludes that Russia's invasion of Ukraine constitutes an aberration and contravenes the UN Charter on sovereignty and self-determination. Russia should collectively be made to understand that its desire to reclaim the territories of the former USSR is unacceptable. Also, the world should be educated on the fact that the Russian war on Ukraine ranges as a result of the conflicting strategic interests and power politics among the major powers of the world which is a great challenge to desirable world political order. Therefore, the world political order must move off from might is right toward international brotherhood based on our common humanity [15-23].

2. Conclusion

Russia detests the collapse of the former USSR and holds the West accountable for it! Despite a united call on Russia against the invasion of Ukraine, she went ahead to do so undermining its cost to global security. Indeed, the history of both countries shows that they emerged from common heritage. The fact is that after the disintegration of the defunct USSR, Russia and Ukraine became internationally recognized independent states, (members of the UN, and co-signatories to several International Conventions). The invasion clearly contravenes several Articles, Principles, Treaties and Conventions of the UN, incidentally to which Russia is a signatory.

There are two major issues arising from possible Russians invading Ukraine. The first is the devastation of the Ukrainian state and the country's socio-economic and political structures which is a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and right to self-determination. The second is the economic, political, moral and legal challenges to the rest of the world. The UN, whose capacity to arrest the situation is diminished by some precedencies and Russia's threat to deploy nuclear weapons. A remarkable precedence abounds in the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990; consequently, resulting in a seven-month-long Iraqi military occupation of the country (although ultimately forced out by a coalition led the U.S.). Remarkably too, the UN and diplomacy could not avert that war that claimed much property and many lives. Presently, China threatens to invade Taiwan. Already, China's People's Liberation Army regularly flies combat aircraft through Taiwan's air defense identification zone in order to coerce and threaten Taiwan. China claims that the Taiwan Strait is within its sovereign waters, angering other countries in the region and violating international law. What happened in the case of Russia-Ukraine might deter or embolden China or other powerful aggressors. However, both the real and threatened invasions constitute highly volatile developments capable of igniting a Third World War (as diplomacy could fail again).

The most volatile machinery of warfare in the hands of the agitated, the world and humanity, encumbered by such worries and infamies as hunger and degradation, climatic and other natural disasters amid mired solutions are at the verge of self-annihilation. Diplomacy should be used to achieve moral meaning, a better, more cooperative, less conflictive inter-state relations and a more rational world, not wars. Such inevitability could be averted by putting global stability before primordial sentiments (which is the real Achilles hill as it affects the will by one state to invade another).

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