



## The future of Russian-Ukrainian relations

### O futuro das relações Russo-Ucranianas

DOI: 10.56238/isevmjv2n5-011

Receipt of originals: 07/08/2023

Acceptance for publication: 27/09/2023

#### Clayton Alencar Freitas

Undergraduate student (2023.2) of the Law Course at Faculdade Fasp, Postgraduate student in Social Security Law and Labor Law, Postgraduate student in Mediation and Conciliation of Conflicts at the Center for Mediators of Brasília – DF  
E-mail: claytoncz2013@gmail.com

#### ABSTRACT

The tumultuous relationship between Russia and Ukraine has been a central issue on the European geopolitical stage. From the annexation of Crimea in 2014 to the ongoing conflicts in Donetsk and Luhansk, the future of relations between the two countries remains uncertain. Russian-Ukrainian diplomacy, the key word in this study, suggests a continuous search for dialogue and understanding. However, issues of territorial integrity, geopolitical influence, and economic interests complicate this dynamic. The role of global powers, such as the US and EU members, as well as organizations such as NATO, considerably influences the prospects for reconciliation. In addition, cultural and historical divisions within Ukraine itself shape the narrative of the conflict. This article seeks to understand the possible future scenarios, considering internal and external factors, and the implications for regional peace and stability. Economic integration, security guarantees, and cultural diplomacy can play a crucial role in shaping the future of Russian-Ukrainian relations.

While the Minsk Agreements represent a significant effort for peace, their implementation has been piecemeal, highlighting the need for revisions or new approaches. Energy interdependence, particularly in relation to gas transit, is a key factor that could encourage cooperation or, if mismanaged, intensify tensions. Moreover, the weight of disinformation and hybrid warfare cannot be underestimated; Building trust will require transparency and concerted efforts to combat propaganda. The question of Ukrainian identity, including the role of language and culture, will continue to influence domestic politics and, in turn, foreign relations. The strengthening of democratic institutions in Ukraine and the possible rapprochement with the European Union are factors that could shape the balance of power in the region. Ultimately, the future of Russian-Ukrainian relations will depend on the willingness of both countries to engage in dialogue, the influence of external powers, and the demands and aspirations of the Ukrainian people.

**Keywords:** Russian-Ukrainian Diplomacy, Minsk Agreements, Disinformation, Territorial Integrity, Economic Integration, Ukrainian Identity.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

The geopolitical landscape of Eastern Europe has undergone significant changes in recent years, particularly regarding relations between Russia and Ukraine. Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has sought its own way on the international stage, often balancing between



Western influences and the historical heritage shared with Russia (Smith, 2005). However, with the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the subsequent conflicts in Donetsk and Luhansk, the relationship between the two countries has taken on a palpable strain.

Kuzio (2017) argues that the dynamics between Russia and Ukraine cannot be understood without a deep assessment of Ukraine's national aspirations and Russia's perception of its "near space". In this sense, geopolitics is not only a question of territory, but also of identity. In turn, Sakwa (2015) suggests that the complexity of Russian-Ukrainian relations is often exacerbated by external interventions and interests, particularly from Western powers and international organizations.

Additionally, the legal aspect of relations between the two countries, including territorial disputes and international agreements, is an ever-evolving field of study. As Mälksoo (2012) indicates in his work "Russian Approaches to International Law", Russia's interpretation and application of international law, especially in relation to Ukraine, often differs from Western perspectives, adding another layer of complexity to the dialogue.

In this article, we will seek to unravel the multiple facets of Russian-Ukrainian relations, considering both their shared history and contemporary geopolitical realities. Through the analysis of agreements, confrontations, and cooperations, we aim to provide a comprehensive view of the future prospects for these two Eurasian nations.

## 2 HISTORY

**Annexation of Crimea (2014):** Crimea is a peninsula in the Black Sea that, until 2014, was part of Ukraine. In March 2014, following a referendum widely criticized for its legitimacy, Russia annexed Crimea. This decision was condemned by many countries around the world, resulting in sanctions against Russia.

**Conflict in Eastern Ukraine:** Shortly after the annexation of Crimea, an armed conflict began in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine. Pro-Russian separatists, with alleged direct military support from Russia, have declared independence from the regions, leading to an ongoing conflict with Ukrainian forces.

**Minsk Agreements:** To resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine, two sets of agreements were reached in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. The first in 2014 and the second in 2015. Although these agreements established a ceasefire and outlined measures for a political settlement of the conflict, hostilities continued sporadically, and many of the points of the agreements were not fully implemented.



**Naval Tension:** In November 2018, tension escalated when Ukrainian navy ships were captured by Russia in the Kerch Strait. This incident led to an escalation in tension between the two countries.

**International Impact:** The situation between Russia and Ukraine has attracted the attention and concern of many states and international organizations. NATO and many Western countries have supported Ukraine through sanctions against Russia, military training, and economic aid.

### **3 MOTIVATORS WHO LEAD THIS CONFLICT BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE IS MULTIFACETED AND INVOLVES SEVERAL THEMES, AMONG THEM THEY HIGHLIGHT**

#### **1. History and Geopolitical Context:**

- Historical relations between Russia and Ukraine, including the period of the Soviet Union.
- Ukraine's geopolitical importance to Russia and the West.

#### **2. Annexation of Crimea:**

- Context and sequence of events leading up to the annexation.
- International reactions and sanctions against Russia.
- Impact on the population of Crimea and the Tatar minorities.

#### **3. Conflict in Eastern Ukraine:**

- Rise of pro-Russian separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- Russia's direct and indirect military intervention.
- Internal displacement and humanitarian impact.

#### **4. Minsk Agreements:**

- Details and objectives of the agreements.
- Obstacles to implementation.
- Future and relevance of agreements in the current context.

#### **5. Disinformation and Hybrid Warfare:**

- Use of propaganda and disinformation by both sides.
- "Hybrid warfare" strategies employed, combining military, economic, diplomatic, and informational means.

#### **6. Implications for NATO and the EU:**

- NATO's response to the conflict.



- Implications for NATO's expansion policy.
- Position of the European Union and sanctions.

#### **7. Energy and Dependence:**

- The importance of the gas pipelines that pass through Ukraine.
- Europe's energy dependence on Russia and attempts at diversification.

#### **8. Cultural and Social Impact:**

- The cultural and linguistic divisions within Ukraine.
- Impact of the war on local populations, including trauma, displacement, and loss.

#### **9. The Future of Russian-Ukrainian Relations:**

- Projections for conflict resolution.
- Implications for Ukraine's territorial integrity.
- Potential scenarios for bilateral relations.

#### **10. Global Reactions and Diplomacy:**

- Positions and reactions of major powers such as the US, China, and other nations.
- Attempts at mediation and diplomatic dialogue.

### **4 HISTORY AND GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT:**

Throughout history, Russia and Ukraine have shared cultural, religious, and political ties. However, tensions and conflicts have also been recurrent, shaping the complex relationship between the two nations.

#### **4.1 HISTORICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE, INCLUDING THE PERIOD OF THE SOVIET UNION**

The region we now know as Ukraine has a rich historical tapestry, with roots dating back to Kievan Rus, the cradle of East Slavic civilization that eventually branched out to form the modern nations of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus (Magocsi, 1996). This ancient connection is often cited to emphasize the deep cultural and historical ties between Russians and Ukrainians.

The period of the Soviet Union, however, brought a different dynamic. While part of the USSR, Ukraine suffered under repressive policies, with the Great Famine or Holodomor of 1932-1933, where millions of Ukrainians died due to Stalin's collectivization policies, being one of the darkest examples (Applebaum, 2017). However, Soviet industrialization also turned Ukraine into an economic mainstay, particularly in sectors such as agriculture and heavy industry.



#### 4.2 THE GEOPOLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF UKRAINE FOR RUSSIA AND THE WEST

Ukraine, with its strategic geographical position, has always been seen by both Russia and the West as a territory of crucial importance. For Russia, Ukraine is both a defensive barrier against invasions from the west and a corridor to the Mediterranean through the Black Sea (Kaplan, 2012). In addition, the Crimean peninsula, now annexed by Russia, is home to the Sevastopol naval base, key to Russian naval power in the Black Sea.

For the West, particularly the European Union and NATO, Ukraine represents a potential partner and buffer against Russian expansion. Ukraine's European integration, along with its democratization, is seen by many in the West as a way to ensure stability and security on Europe's eastern border (Wilson, 2014).

In short, the intersection of geopolitical interests in relation to Ukraine has been a catalyst for tensions between Russia and the West, with Ukraine often finding itself at the center of this grand geopolitical game.

### 5 ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 became a watershed moment in international relations, causing widespread global condemnation and lasting consequences for local populations.

#### 5.1 CONTEXT AND SEQUENCE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO ANNEXATION:

The 2013-2014 Euromaidan Revolution in Ukraine, which sought greater European integration and overthrew President Yanukovich, created a power vacuum and instability (Snyder, 2015). Amid this unrest, Russia, concerned about Ukraine's possible accession to NATO and the loss of influence over the Sevastopol naval base, has mobilized troops under the pretense of protecting ethnic Russians in Crimea. In March 2014, following a referendum widely criticized for its legitimacy, Russia formalized the annexation of Crimea.

#### 5.2 INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS AND SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA:

The international community responded almost unanimously by condemning Russia's action. The UN, through Resolution 68/262, reaffirmed the territorial integrity of Ukraine and declared the referendum invalid (UN General Assembly, 2014). The European Union, the United States, and other countries have imposed a series of economic sanctions on Russia, targeting critical sectors such as energy, defense, and finance (Korolev, 2016).



### 5.3 IMPACT ON THE POPULATION OF CRIMEA AND TATAR MINORITIES:

After the annexation, Russia undertook an intensive Russification of Crimea. Ukrainian and Tatar, the languages of the two main non-Russian ethnic groups on the peninsula, were marginalized. Crimean Tatars, who make up about 12% of the population and who have historically suffered under Russian rule, particularly during Stalinist deportations, have faced renewed persecution (Goble, 2015). Tatar activists were detained and the main Tatar assembly was banned.

Dzhemilev, a prominent leader of the Crimean Tatars, stated that the situation after annexation amounts to an "occupation regime" (Dzhemilev, 2014). According to Chivers (2016), international law was challenged by this annexation, leading jurists to reconsider the norms that govern international relations and the rights of minorities in contexts of territorial change.

## 6 CONFLICT IN EASTERN UKRAINE

The conflict in Eastern Ukraine, often called "hybrid warfare" due to its combination of conventional combat, guerrilla warfare, psychological operations, and external intervention, is one of the most complex and disruptive confrontations in contemporary Europe.

### 6.1 RISE OF PRO-RUSSIAN SEPARATISTS IN THE DONETSK AND LUHANSK REGIONS:

Following the events of the Euromaidan Revolution and the subsequent annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014, pro-Russian resistance emerged in the eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Driven by a combination of pro-Russian sentiments, discontent with the new government in Kiev, and, as many claim, direct support from Moscow, the separatists declared independent "people's republics" in both regions (Galeotti, 2018).

### 6.2 RUSSIA'S DIRECT AND INDIRECT MILITARY INTERVENTION:

There is substantial evidence, including reports from organizations such as the OSCE and investigative research, that indicate Russia's direct military intervention in the conflict (OSCE, 2015). This ranges from the supply of weapons and military equipment to the separatists, to the presence of regular Russian troops on Ukrainian territory. Pifer (2015) argues that Russia uses the conflict as a tool to prevent Ukraine from moving closer to the West.



### 6.3 INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACT:

The conflict has had a severe humanitarian impact. It is estimated that more than 10,000 people have been killed since the outbreak of hostilities, and an estimated 1.5 million people have been internally displaced (UNHCR, 2018). The region's infrastructure has been severely damaged, with hospitals, schools, and civilian housing often hit by the fighting. Sakwa (2016) underlines that civilian populations on both sides of the frontline face enormous challenges, from lack of access to basic services to the daily dangers of fighting.

## 7 MINSK AGREEMENTS

### 7.1 DETAILS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE AGREEMENTS:

The Minsk Agreements, consisting of Minsk I (signed in September 2014) and Minsk II (signed in February 2015), were OSCE-mediated attempts to cease hostilities in eastern Ukraine. These agreements included a ceasefire, the withdrawal of heavy weapons, the exchange of prisoners, and the holding of local elections under Ukrainian law (Karatnycky & Motyl, 2015).

### 7.2 BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION:

Despite the agreements, several violations of the ceasefire occurred, with both sides accusing each other. The lack of an effective peacekeeping force or monitoring mechanism, continued external interference, and contentious issues such as border control, have made full implementation difficult (Herszenhorn, 2015).

### 7.3 FUTURE AND RELEVANCE OF THE AGREEMENTS IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT:

While the Minsk Agreements remain the main diplomatic benchmark for resolving the conflict, their implementation has stalled. The future of Russian-Ukrainian relations and Ukraine's territorial integrity are intrinsically linked to the success of these agreements (Kuzio, 2017).

## 8 DISINFORMATION AND HYBRID WARFARE

### 8.1 USE OF PROPAGANDA AND DISINFORMATION BY BOTH SIDES:

Disinformation has been a prominent feature of the conflict. According to Lucas (2016), Russia, in particular, has used propaganda intensively, but the Ukrainian side has also resorted to similar tactics to mobilize domestic and international support.



## 8.2 "HYBRID WARFARE" STRATEGIES EMPLOYED:

"Hybrid warfare" combines conventional military tactics with guerrilla warfare, cyber, economic, and disinformation. Pomerantsev (2015) argues that Russia has used this approach to destabilize Ukraine and advance its strategic interests.

## 9 IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO AND THE EU

### 9.1 NATO'S RESPONSE TO THE CONFLICT:

NATO, since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine, has been increasing its presence in Eastern Europe to deter any further aggression from Russia. Legal scholar Schmitt, in his analysis of international humanitarian law, argues that "NATO has a commitment not only to protect its members, but also to preserve European peace and security" (Schmitt, 2017).

### 9.2 IMPLICATIONS FOR NATO'S EXPANSION POLICY:

The conflict in Ukraine has reignited debates about NATO expansion. According to Smith (2019), "Russia has always seen NATO expansion as a direct threat to its security, and the crisis in Ukraine has only deepened this perception."

### 9.3 EUROPEAN UNION POSITION AND SANCTIONS:

In response to the annexation of Crimea and Russia's support for separatists in eastern Ukraine, the European Union has imposed several rounds of sanctions against Moscow. Cassese (2016) points out that "sanctions are a vital instrument in the EU's toolbox to ensure respect for international law."

## 10 ENERGY AND DEPENDENCE

### 10.1 THE IMPORTANCE OF PIPELINES PASSING THROUGH UKRAINE: UKRAINE

Has traditionally been a crucial transit country for Russian gas destined for Europe. Goldthau (2015) notes that "about 40% of Europe's natural gas from Russia passes through Ukraine, making Ukrainian stability crucial to European energy security."





## 10.2 EUROPE'S ENERGY DEPENDENCE ON RUSSIA AND ATTEMPTS AT DIVERSIFICATION:

While Europe has sought to diversify its energy sources, dependence on Russian gas remains significant. Yergin (2011) points out that "energy interdependence is a double-edged sword, offering leverage for both the supplier and the consumer."

## 11 CULTURAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT

- Cultural and linguistic divisions within Ukraine: Ukraine is characterized by its cultural and linguistic diversity. In the west, the population tends to be more Ukrainian and European-oriented, while in the east, especially in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, there is a strong Russian presence and a more Russian-oriented cultural identity. According to Kuzio (2001), "cultural and linguistic divisions have deep historical roots and were aggravated by Soviet policies that promoted Russification."
- Impact of the war on local populations: The conflict had devastating repercussions for local residents. In addition to the direct victims of the conflict, thousands have been displaced from their homes, facing significant trauma and loss. Applebaum (2014) describes the suffering of local populations as "a testament to the brutality of modern warfare, where civilians often face the greatest consequences."
- The Future of Russian-Ukrainian Relations:
- Projections for conflict resolution: Given the complexity and geopolitical implications, conflict resolution is uncertain. According to Sakwa (2015), "the war in Ukraine is both a symptom and a cause of strained relations between Russia and the West, and any resolution will require diplomacy and substantial commitments from all parties involved."
- Implications for Ukraine's territorial integrity: The conflict has raised questions about Ukraine's territorial integrity, especially following Russia's annexation of Crimea. Motyl (2016) argues that "territorial integrity is a pillar of the post-Cold War world order and any threat to it has implications not only for Ukraine but for the international order as a whole."
- Potential scenarios for bilateral relations: The future of Russian-Ukrainian relations is uncertain. Ukraine's closer integration with the West could lead to an escalation of tensions, while a return to Russia's sphere of influence could provoke internal



resistance in Ukraine. As Wilson (2014) puts it, "The future of Russian-Ukrainian relations will in many ways be a barometer of future geopolitical trends in Eurasia."

## 12 THE FUTURE OF RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS

- **Economy and Trade:** Even with political tensions and military conflicts, the economic interdependence between Russia and Ukraine is significant. The energy sector is the most emblematic of this relationship, but not the only one. Difficulties in quickly realigning trading partners mean that trade relations between the two countries are likely to continue, although they may be restructured or scaled back. As Menon and Rumer (2015) argue, "Despite belligerent rhetoric, economic reality demands some degree of cooperation between Russia and Ukraine."
- **Diaspora and Cultural Ties:** Many Russians live in Ukraine, and many Ukrainians in Russia, creating a complex fabric of family and cultural connections. These ties can serve both to assuage and complicate political tensions. Shevel (2009) notes that "the diaspora can play a crucial role, not only as a bridge, but also as a potential point of contention between countries."
- **Religious Dimensions:** The recent creation of a Ukrainian Orthodox church independent of the Moscow patriarchate is an indicator of the deep divisions on the religious front as well. Plokyh (2018) suggests that "religion, historically intertwined with national identity in the region, can play a significant role in determining the future of Russian-Ukrainian relations."
- **Regional and Global Cooperation:** On the international stage, Russia and Ukraine can find common ground, such as global security issues, climate change, and even in some areas of the global economy. Tsygankov (2013) points out that "national interests can, in some areas, trump political animosities, leading to opportunities for cooperation."
- **Diplomacy and Mediation:** While peace efforts have been ongoing, the solution is still elusive. However, diplomacy and international mediation remain the most promising tools for resolving the conflict. Kramer (2017) states that "international mediation, whether through bilateral formats or multilateral organizations, is essential to find a lasting solution to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict."



### 13 THE FUTURE OF RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS:

- Global Reactions and Diplomacy:
- The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has attracted global attention due to its geopolitical importance and international security implications. Great powers, especially the U.S. and China, as well as other nations, have positioned themselves in distinct ways, reflecting both their geopolitical agendas and their bilateral relations with the parties involved.
- USA: The United States, under different administrations, has consistently expressed support for Ukraine, condemning Russia's actions that violate Ukrainian sovereignty. U.S. policy toward the conflict has been articulated on several occasions, showing a stance favorable to Ukraine's territorial integrity. Pecequilo (2018) points out that "The U.S. sees Ukraine as a key player in containing Russian expansion in the region, strengthening its alliances and commitments to NATO."
- China: China's position is more nuanced. While China is cautious not to antagonize Russia, given its growing strategic partnership, it is also reluctant to endorse actions that could be interpreted as violations of sovereignty, given its own stance on issues such as Taiwan and Tibet. Oliveira (2019) argues that "China seeks a balanced position, prioritizing its economic interests and strategic partnerships, avoiding taking sides decisively."
- Other Nations: A number of countries, especially in Europe, have taken firmer stances against Russian actions, in many cases imposing sanctions. However, the global reaction has been mixed, with some nations taking a more cautious stance, avoiding alienating both Russia and Ukraine. According to Cervo and Lessa (2014), "The Russian-Ukrainian conflict is a focal point in contemporary international relations, highlighting the complexities and balances of power in the current international system".
- European Union: Europe, as the immediate neighbor of Ukraine and Russia, has a direct interest in the conflict. The EU has been strongly supportive of Ukraine's sovereignty by providing economic aid and imposing sanctions against Russia. However, internal divisions within the EU - with some member states more reluctant to antagonise Moscow - have shaped the bloc's collective response. As pointed out by Bittar (2017), "the EU's stance towards the Russian-Ukrainian conflict is a reflection



of its broader dilemma of seeking political unity while facing divergent national interests."

- **Brazil and Latin America:** The stance of Brazil and most Latin American countries has been one of moderation. In general, they avoid condemning Russia in a vehement way, seeking to maintain balanced trade and diplomatic relations with both sides. Vizontini (2015) notes that "for Latin American countries, the principles of non-intervention and respect for sovereignty, inherited from international law, are preeminent, guiding their cautious approach to conflict."
- **International Organizations:** The UN, OSCE, and other international organizations have played a vital role in mediating and trying to find a peaceful solution. The complexity of the conflict and the great powers involved make the action of these organizations a challenge. Rezende (2016) points out that "the geopolitics of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict reflect the tensions and challenges that multilateral organizations face in a post-Cold War world."
- **The International Community:** In general, the international community supports mediation efforts and seeks a peaceful resolution of the conflict. However, the complex geopolitical relationships between the countries involved make it difficult to build a collective and cohesive response. According to Magalhães (2019), "the Russian-Ukrainian conflict serves as a barometer of contemporary international relations, highlighting the need for new diplomatic approaches in regional conflicts".

## 14 HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT:

According to legal scholar Marina de Neiva Borba, author of "Human Rights in Times of Conflict" (2017): "*Armed conflicts not only cause direct suffering and destruction, but also create environments where human rights abuses are frequent. The case of Ukraine is emblematic, where reports of torture, illegal detentions and other violations have been widely documented.*"

## 15 THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING CONFLICT IN THE LIGHT OF THE LAW

*The renowned Brazilian jurist André de Carvalho Ramos, in his book "General Theory of Human Rights in the International Order" (2017), points out: "International conflicts, such as the one observed between Russia and Ukraine, are not just geopolitical or military issues; They are, at their core, human rights issues. When studied through the lens of law, they offer insights into the tensions between sovereignty, self-determination, and the protection of fundamental rights."*



## 16 LEGAL AND ETHICAL SOLUTIONS

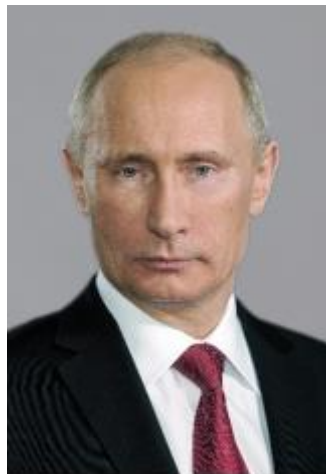
*Luciano Mariz Maia, one of the most respected Brazilian jurists in the field of international law, argues that "Faced with a conflict that involves national aspirations, territoriality and geopolitical interests, the ideal solution lies in dialogue, diplomacy and mutual respect for the norms and principles of international law." (Maia, L. M. "Diplomacy and Law: Paths to Conflict Resolution", 2018).*

These perspectives, taken from the Brazilian legal literature, emphasize the importance of international law and human rights as essential instruments for understanding, evaluating and, ideally, resolving the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

## 17 PHRASES OF THE PRESEINEURS NARRATED HERE IN THIS CONFLICT:

**Vladimir Putin (President of Russia):** "Our biggest concern is the security of our country. We are not interested in conflicts, especially with neighboring countries, but Crimea has chosen to join Russia through a democratic referendum. Our role was to honor that choice."

It should be noted that Putin's view is contested by many international leaders and observers who see the annexation of Crimea as a violation of international law and Ukrainian sovereignty.



**Volodymyr Zelensky (President of Ukraine):** "Ukraine wants peace. But peace does not mean capitulation. We are ready for dialogue, but we will always defend our sovereignty and the right of the Ukrainian people to choose their own destiny."



## 18 FINAL THOUGHTS

This study addressed in an academic and interdisciplinary way the complex issue of relations between Russia and Ukraine, highlighting the conflict in Crimea and eastern Ukraine. We explore historical, geopolitical, legal, and humanitarian aspects of this long-standing conflict, which has profoundly impacted not only the region but also the international community.

We note how the shared history between these two countries, including the period of the Soviet Union, has played a significant role in current tensions. We look at crucial events such as Russia's annexation of Crimea, the conflict in eastern Ukraine, the Minsk Agreements, and "hybrid warfare" strategies. In addition, we examine the influence of the war on local populations, the impact on Europe, and the implications for NATO and the EU.

We stress the importance of considering human rights and international law as guides for understanding and resolving this conflict. Brazilian jurists emphasize the need for solutions based on dialogue, diplomacy and respect for international norms.

In the biblical context, we see how the Scriptures acknowledge the reality of conflicts and wars, but also call for the pursuit of peace and the maintenance of love and compassion.

Therefore, as we face the challenges of a world marked by conflict and tension, the search for peace, dialogue and respect for human rights remains fundamental. As a cheerful phrase, we remind you that although we face difficult times, history also teaches us that peace and reconciliation are possible, even in the most complex situations. The collective effort towards peace is an aspiration that must be embraced by all, regardless of the circumstances.

"Despite the adversities, there is still room for hope and peace. The future we build depends on the actions we take today in pursuit of those ideals."  
(Clayton Alencar de Freitas)



## REFERENCES

- APPLEBAUM, Anne. *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine*. Doubleday, 2017.
- KAPLAN, Robert D. *The Revenge of Geography: What the Map Tells Us About Coming Conflicts and the Battle Against Fate*. Random House, 2012.
- MAGOCSI, Paul Robert. *A History of Ukraine: The Land and Its Peoples*. University of Toronto Press, 1996.
- WILSON, Andrew. *Ukraine Crisis: What It Means for the West*. Yale University Press, 2014.
- SNYDER, Timothy. *The Road to Unfreedom: Russia, Europe, America*. Tim Duggan Books, 2015.
- UN General Assembly. Resolution 68/262. Territorial integrity of Ukraine. A/RES/68/262, 2014.
- KOROLEV, Alexander. Sanctioning Russia: The Right Question. *International Affairs*, 92(6), 2016.
- GOBLE, Paul. *Russia's Occupation of Crimea: Boosting Its Influence by Changing the Population*. Jamestown Foundation, 2015.
- DZHEMILEV, Mustafa. The Crimean Tatars and their Russian-Centric State. *World Affairs Journal*, 2014.
- CHIVERS, C.J. In Putin's Russia, an 'Adhocracy' Marked by Ambiguity and Plausible Deniability. *The New York Times*, 2016.
- GALEOTTI, Mark. *Armies of Russia's War in Ukraine*. Osprey Publishing, 2018.
- OSCE. *Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine*. Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2015.
- PIFER, Steven. *The Eagle and the Trident: U.S.—Ukraine Relations in Turbulent Times*. Brookings Institution Press, 2017.
- UNHCR. *Ukraine Situation: Internal Displacement*. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2018.
- SAKWA, Richard. *Frontline Ukraine: Crisis in the Borderlands*. I.B. Tauris, 2016
- KARATNYCKY, Adrian & MOTYL, Alexander J. *The Key to Kiev: Ukraine's Security Means Europe's Stability*. *Foreign Affairs*, 2015.
- HERSZENHORN, David M. *Minsk Agreement on Ukraine Crisis: Text in Full*. *The New York Times*, 2015.
- KUZIO, Taras. *Putin's War Against Ukraine: Revolution, Nationalism, and Crime*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017.



LUCAS, Edward. *The New Cold War: Putin's Russia and the Threat to the West*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

POMERANTSEV, Peter. *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible: The Surreal Heart of the New Russia*. PublicAffairs, 2015.

SCHMITT, Michael N. *International Law and Armed Conflict: Exploring the Faultlines*. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2017.

SMITH, Julianne. *NATO's Eastern Dilemma*. Foreign Affairs, 2019.

CASSESE, Antonio. *International Law*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

GOLDTHAU, Andreas. *The Handbook of Global Energy Policy*. John Wiley & Sons, 2015.

YERGIN, Daniel. *The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World*. Penguin, 2011.

KUZIO, Taras. *National Identity in Russian-Ukraine Relations*. Routledge, 2001.

APPLEBAUM, Anne. *Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe 1944–1956*. Doubleday, 2014.

SAKWA, Richard. *Frontline Ukraine: Crisis in the Borderlands*. I.B. Tauris, 2015.

MOTYL, Alexander J. *Ukraine vs. Russia: Revolution, Democracy and War*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

WILSON, Andrew. *Ukraine Crisis: What It Means for the West*. Yale University Press, 2014.

MENON, Rajan; RUMER, Eugene. *Conflict in Ukraine: The Unwinding of the Post-Cold War Order*. MIT Press, 2015.

SHEVEL, Oxana. *Migration, Refugee Policy, and State Building in Postcommunist Europe*. Cambridge University Press, 2009.

PLOKHY, Serhii. *Lost Kingdom: A History of Russian Nationalism from Ivan the Great to Vladimir Putin*. Basic Books, 2018.

TSYGANKOV, Andrei P. *Russia's Foreign Policy: Change and Continuity in National Identity*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2013.

KRAMER, Mark. "The Dialectics of Empire: The USSR, the West, and the Cold War", Harvard Cold War Studies Book Series. Rowman & Littlefield, 2017.

PECEQUILO, Cristina Soreanu. *Os Estados Unidos e o Século XXI*. Elsevier, 2018.

OLIVEIRA, Amâncio Jorge de; ONUKI, Janina. *China e Brasil: Trajetória e Desafios da Relação*. Editora Saraiva, 2019.





CERVO, Amado Luiz; LESSA, Antônio Carlos. O Desafio Internacional: A Política Exterior do Brasil de 1930 a Nosso Dias. Editora UnB, 2014.

BITTAR, Eduardo Carlos Bianca. Direito Internacional Contemporâneo. Editora Atlas, 2017.

VIZENTINI, Paulo Gilberto Fagundes. Relações Internacionais do Brasil e da América Latina: Velhos e Novos Paradigmas. Editora Vozes, 2015.

REZENDE, Lucas Pereira. As Organizações Internacionais e o Século XXI: Desafios e Perspectivas. Editora FGV, 2016.

MAGALHÃES, José Carlos de. Diplomacia e Crise: Desafios Multilaterais no Século XXI. Editora Alfa-Omega, 2019.