



# UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL STUDY GUIDE

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# INTRODUCTION



## A. Committee

The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

The Security Council consists of fifteen members, of which five are permanent: the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

These were the great powers, or their successor states, that were the victors of World War II. Permanent members can veto any substantive resolution, including those on the admission of new member states to the United Nations or nominees for the office of Secretary-General.

The remaining ten members are elected on a regional basis to serve a term of two years. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.

Resolutions of the Security Council are typically enforced by UN peacekeepers, military forces voluntarily provided by member states, and funded independently of the main UN budget.

As of March 2019, there are thirteen peacekeeping missions with over 81,000 personnel from 121 countries, with a total budget of nearly \$6.7 billion.

## B. Topic

In March and April 2021, Russia massed about 100,000 soldiers and military equipment near its border with Ukraine, representing the highest force mobilization since the country's annexation of Crimea in 2014. This precipitated an international crisis and generated concerns over a potential invasion. Satellite imagery showed movements of armor, missiles, and other heavy weaponry. The troops were partially removed by June. The crisis was renewed in October and November 2021, when over 100,000 Russian troops were again massed near the border by December.

The ongoing crisis stems from the protracted Russo-Ukrainian War that began in early 2014. In December 2021, Russia advanced two draft treaties that contained requests of what it referred to as "security guarantees" including a legally binding promise that Ukraine would not join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as well as a reduction in NATO troops and military hardware stationed in Eastern Europe and threatened an unspecified military response if those demands were not met in full. The United States and other NATO members have rejected these requests, and warned Russia of "swift and severe" economic sanctions should it further invade Ukraine. Bilateral U.S.-Russia diplomatic talks were held in January 2022, but those failed to defuse the crisis.

The crisis has been described by some commentators as one of the most intense since the Cold War.

# HISTORY



Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, both Ukraine and Russia continued to retain close ties. In 1994, Ukraine agreed to abandon its nuclear arsenal and signed the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances on the condition that Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States would issue an assurance against threats or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine. In 1999, Russia was one of the signatories of the Charter for European Security, where it "reaffirmed the inherent right of each and every participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance, as they evolve".

Despite being a recognized independent country since 1991, as a former USSR constituent republic, Ukraine had been perceived by the leadership of Russia as being part of its sphere of influence.

Following weeks of protests as part of the Euromaidan movement (2013–2014), pro-Russian Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovych and the leaders of the Ukrainian parliamentary opposition on 21 February 2014 signed a settlement agreement that called for an early election. The following day, Yanukovych fled from Kyiv ahead of an impeachment vote that stripped him of his powers as president. Leaders of the Russian-speaking eastern regions of Ukraine declared continuing loyalty to Yanukovych, causing the 2014 pro-Russian unrest in Ukraine. The unrest was followed by War in Donbas in April 2014 with the creation of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic, both heavily supported by Russia, as well as the 2014 annexation of Crimea by Russia.



# CURRENT SITUATION

## A. Russian Buildup

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The situation in the region continues to worsen as Russian forces accumulate more on the border. According to certain sources, Russia has assembled at least 70% of the military firepower it intends to have in place by the middle of February to give President Vladimir Putin the option of launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Officials have warned that a full Russian invasion could lead to the quick capture of Kyiv and potentially result in as many as 50,000 civilians killed or wounded. The grim assessment comes after British prime minister Boris Johnson agreed with French President Emmanuel Macron that the UK and its Nato allies would be united in their fight against Russian aggression “wherever and however it might occur”.



As of the 4th of February, the Russian army had put in place near Ukraine a total of 83 “battalion tactical groups”, each of which is roughly equivalent in size to a group of 1,000 soldiers. That is an increase from 60 battalion tactical groups in position just two weeks ago.

US officials have said in recent weeks that a Russian invasion could overwhelm Ukraine’s military relatively quickly, although Moscow might find it difficult to sustain an occupation and cope with a potential insurgency.

The ongoing Russian buildup comes as the Biden administration has been disclosing intelligence in hopes of pre-emptively countering Russian disinformation and blocking Putin’s plans to create a pretext for an invasion. But it has come under criticism for not providing evidence to back up many of its claims.

Depending on Putin's ultimate objective, the Russian forces could attack Kyiv directly by moving south from current positions in southern Belarus. He might also send forces across the Russian border into eastern and southern Ukraine if his intent is to fracture and destroy a large portion of the Ukrainian army.

On the lower end of the scale of military action, Putin might order sabotage, cyberattacks and other destabilising actions inside Ukraine with the goal of removing the current government in Kyiv.

## B. US RESPONSE

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Army officials on Saturday announced that Major General Christopher Donahue, the commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division, arrived in Poland. About other 1,700 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne are deploying to Poland from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and 300 soldiers are deploying from Bragg to Germany. In addition, 1,000 Germany-based soldiers are shifting to Romania.

Captain Matt Visser, spokesman for the 18th Airborne Corps, which includes the 82nd division, said: "Our corps' presence serves to bolster existing US forces in Europe and demonstrates our commitment to our Nato allies and partners."

The corps was made up of "combat capable forces who stand ready to enhance the alliance's ability to deter and defeat Russian aggression", the US statement added.

Washington said last week it would send about 3,000 additional troops to eastern Europe to defend Nato members against any "aggression".

The Biden administration may soon shift some more troops within Europe to allied nations on Nato's eastern flank, a US official said on Saturday (5th of February) without specifying which nations.



## C. Responses of other Nations

The grim assessment comes after British prime minister Boris Johnson agreed with French President Emmanuel Macron that the UK and its Nato allies would be united in their fight against Russian aggression “wherever and however it might occur”.

French President Emmanuel Macron visited Moscow on the 7th of February and engaged in bilateral conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin. He called for a "new balance" to protect European states and appease Russia. He restated that the sovereignty of Ukraine was not up for discussion. Moscow has made a string of demands, including that the Nato defense alliance rule out Ukraine becoming a member, and that it reduces its military presence in eastern Europe.

Mr Macron told the Journal du Dimanche newspaper that Russia's objective was "not Ukraine, but a clarification of the rules... with Nato and the EU". He said he hoped his dialogue with the Russian president would be enough to prevent military conflict, and that he believed Mr. Putin would be open to discussing wider issues.

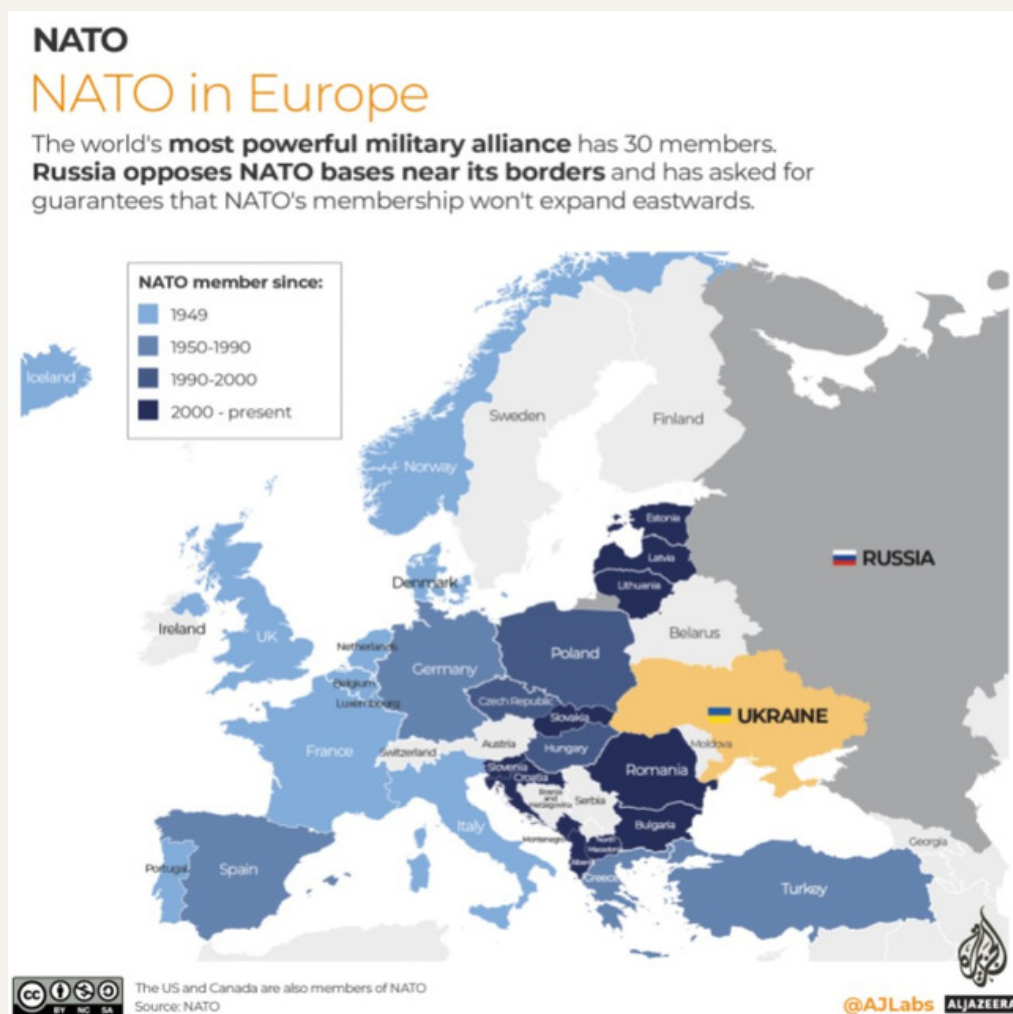
In addition to this, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has also weighed in on the crisis, siding with the Biden Administration. Germany will also send up to 350 more soldiers to Lithuania to help bolster the NATO alliance’s eastern flank.



## D. Key Reasons for the Conflict

The ongoing crisis is part of the extended Russo-Ukrainian War, that began in early 2014.

In December 2021, Russia advanced two draft treaties that contained requests of what it referred to as "security guarantees" including a legally binding promise that Ukraine would not join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as well as a reduction in NATO troops and military hardware stationed in Eastern Europe and threatened unspecified military response if those demands were not met in full.



Russia is concerned over potential military aggression of NATO in the region and hence has brought up the above requests.

## E. Conclusion

Considering the world powers at war here, immediate de-escalation, if not done, would lead to disastrous consequences.

The standoff between Russia and USA in these matters, along with the other global superpowers, means that this is a crisis that has to be dealt with utmost care and sovereign respect. A slight slip up during the peacekeeping work would endanger the peace and stability of the entire world.

It is this great responsibility that delegates of the United Nations Security Council at SLRMUN '22 are tasked with upholding.

Note delegates that this guide is only a starter for you, and the chairs expect the delegates to do further research into this.

Wishing you all the best for the conference and research!

# ADDITIONAL READING

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/06/ukraine-crisis-russia-has-in-place-70-of-military-needed-for-full-invasion-us-officials>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60292437>

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/7/macron-takes-leading-role-ukraine-liveblog>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/31/world/europe/ukraine-russia-united-nations.html>

<https://www.brookings.edu/testimonies/russias-assault-on-ukraine-and-the-international-order-assessing-and-bolstering-the-western-response/>

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/russias-possible-invasion-ukraine>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60030615>

