



Threat Assessment

Russia-Ukraine War

No Classification

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- **Score: 98**
 - **Threat Level: Critical**
 - **Severe global impact, major geopolitical disruption, massive economic and societal consequences.**
 - **Strategic Response: Coordinated military, economic, and diplomatic response required. Focus on containment and crisis management.**
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The ongoing conflict in Ukraine, which began in 2022, has evolved into one of the most critical and complex geopolitical crises in recent history. What began as a territorial dispute between Ukraine and Russia has escalated into a full-scale war with profound global implications. The intensity of the conflict has led to widespread destruction, massive loss of life, and a severe humanitarian crisis, with millions displaced both internally and externally. This war not only poses a direct threat to the stability of Eastern Europe but also reverberates across the globe, impacting global security, economic stability, and technological infrastructure.

This report aims to analyze the current state of the conflict in Ukraine, exploring its scale and intensity, geopolitical consequences, economic disruptions, and broader global effects. It will also examine key factors such as cyber threats, the involvement of major state and non-state actors, and the risk of further escalation.

Expanded Conflict Threat Matrix:

- 1. Scale & Intensity**
 - **Score: 5** (Critical)
 - **Description:** Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has spiraled into a prolonged and devastating war of attrition, marked by relentless battles, heavy casualties, and widespread destruction.
- 2. Geopolitical Impact**
 - **Score: 4** (High)
 - **Description:** The conflict has significantly escalated tensions between the West and Russia, deepening geopolitical divides and reshaping international relations. NATO and Western allies have bolstered military and economic support for Ukraine, while Russia has strengthened ties with strategic partners such as China and Iran. Sanctions, diplomatic confrontations, and military posturing have further strained relations, increasing the risk of broader confrontations and prolonging instability on the global stage.
- 3. Economic Consequences**



- **Score: 4 (High)**
- **Description:** The war has severely impacted global energy markets, triggering a surge in oil and gas prices and exacerbating energy insecurity. Europe, heavily reliant on Russian gas before the conflict, experienced unprecedented shortages and soaring energy costs, with natural gas prices spiking by over 300% in 2022 due to supply disruptions. These shocks forced nations to seek alternative energy sources, accelerate renewable energy investments, and reassess long-term energy strategies, reshaping the global energy landscape.

4. Risk of Escalation & Spillover

- **Score: 4 (High)**
- **Description:** The war has significantly heightened tensions between Russia and NATO, increasing the risk of direct military confrontation. NATO has responded by bolstering its troop presence in Eastern Europe, while Russia has issued repeated warnings against Western military support for Ukraine. The conflict has also brought nuclear threats to the forefront, with Russia frequently signaling its willingness to use nuclear weapons in response to Western arms shipments and Ukrainian counter offensives. The risk of nuclear escalation is now at its highest point since the Cold War, as deterrence stability continues to erode. Additionally, concerns are mounting over potential Russian aggression beyond Ukraine, particularly toward Moldova and the Baltic states. Russian hybrid warfare tactics, including cyberattacks and political destabilization, have already been observed in Moldova, raising fears of a broader regional conflict.

5. Involvement of Major State & Non-State Actors

- **Score: 4 (High)**
- **Description:** The war in Ukraine has drawn in a wide array of international actors, with both state and non-state entities playing crucial roles in the conflict. Russia has received military support from Iran, which has supplied Shahed drones used extensively in attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure. North Korea has reportedly provided artillery shells and personnel, helping Russia replenish its dwindling ammunition and troop numbers. China, while avoiding direct military aid, has expanded trade with Russia, particularly in oil and dual-use technology, indirectly bolstering Moscow's economy against Western sanctions.

Conversely, Ukraine has benefited from extensive military and financial aid from the United States and NATO, with U.S. support surpassing \$75 billion. The European Union has contributed over €50 billion in military, humanitarian, and reconstruction assistance. Turkey has maintained a balancing act, supplying Ukraine with Bayraktar drones while keeping diplomatic and trade ties with Russia, as demonstrated by its role in brokering the Black Sea Grain Deal.



Non-state actors have also played significant roles in the conflict. The Wagner Group, a Russian paramilitary organization, was instrumental in several key battles alongside the Russian Army. On the Ukrainian side, the International Legion has attracted volunteers from over 50 countries, reinforcing Ukraine's defensive operations. Additionally, pro-Russian foreign fighters, including Chechen forces loyal to Ramzan Kadyrov, have been deployed alongside Russian troops, further intensifying the conflict's global dimensions. Russia's alliances with China, Iran, and other actors contrast with NATO's support for Ukraine, increasing the potential for a larger, more dangerous conflict.

6. Disruption of Critical Global Systems

- **Score: 4** (High)
- **Description:** The war in Ukraine has severely disrupted global energy markets, with Russia weaponizing its gas supply by cutting off deliveries to Europe. This triggered an energy crisis, forcing European nations to increase LNG imports from the U.S. and Qatar while Russia redirected its energy exports to China and India. The economic fallout extended beyond energy, impacting global food security. Ukraine's reduced grain exports and Russia's blockade of Black Sea ports have worsened food shortages, particularly in Africa and the Middle East.

Western sanctions further reshaped global financial networks by removing Russian banks from SWIFT, compelling Moscow to strengthen economic ties with China and India. These disruptions, along with surging energy and food costs, have fueled global inflation, prompting central banks to raise interest rates, ultimately slowing economic growth.

The war's impact on critical industries has been significant. Russia and Ukraine supply essential metals and gases for semiconductor production, and supply chain disruptions have slowed global tech manufacturing. Additionally, cyberattacks targeting Western financial systems, energy grids, and government institutions have intensified, escalating concerns over cybersecurity and economic stability worldwide.

7. Use of Hybrid & Asymmetric Warfare

- **Score: 3** (Moderate)
- **Description:** The war in Ukraine has become a battleground for hybrid warfare, where conventional military tactics are combined with cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, and proxy forces. Russia has employed a



multi-faceted approach, using cyber operations, propaganda, and private military groups like the Wagner Group to destabilize Ukraine and erode international support. At the same time, Ukraine has effectively countered with drone strikes, special operations, and cyber warfare, with groups like Anonymous targeting Russian military infrastructure.

In occupied territories, Ukrainian guerrilla fighters have launched ambushes and sabotage missions, while Russia has leveraged its control over energy resources and economic dependencies to pressure Ukraine's allies.

8. Cultural Identity Conflicts

- **Score: 3** (Moderate)
- **Description:** The war has intensified the cultural and historical divide between Russia and Ukraine, turning national identity into a battleground. Russian officials claim that Ukraine is an inseparable part of Russia's heritage, portraying Kyiv's pivot toward Europe as a betrayal of shared cultural and historical ties. In contrast, Ukraine has strengthened its national identity, emphasizing the preservation of its language, traditions, and sovereignty.

This divide is especially pronounced in eastern and southern Ukraine, where Russian-speaking populations face deepening tensions over their allegiance. Many are caught between historical ties to Russia and a growing Ukrainian nationalist movement. Ethnic minorities in contested regions find themselves navigating conflicting cultural pressures, further complicating national unity.

9. Religious Tensions

- **Score: 2** (Low)
- **Description:** The Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) has been a vocal supporter of the Kremlin, framing the war as a defense of Orthodox Christianity against Western secularism and ideological threats. This alignment has reinforced Russia's narrative, portraying its military actions as part of a broader struggle to preserve traditional values.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has worked to solidify its religious independence as part of its broader push for sovereignty. The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople's 2018 recognition of an independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church further strained ties with Moscow, challenging the ROC's historical influence in the region.

10. Socioeconomic Disparity



- **Score: 2 (Low)**
- **Description:** The ongoing war in Ukraine has placed tremendous economic strain on the nation, displacing millions and leaving vast portions of its infrastructure devastated. The brunt of these hardships has been felt in the eastern and southern regions, where heavy fighting has led to severe loss of livelihoods and critical infrastructure. Rural populations in Ukraine have been particularly vulnerable, with limited access to humanitarian aid and fewer opportunities for economic recovery, amplifying the challenges faced by these communities.

In Russia, the economic effects of the war have exacerbated existing disparities. While the Kremlin's elite remain largely insulated from the consequences of international sanctions, ordinary citizens are grappling with rising inflation and economic stagnation. The middle and working classes, especially in regions outside Moscow and St. Petersburg, have borne the brunt of the sanctions, as the lack of access to global markets has stifled economic mobility. Meanwhile, to sustain its military efforts, Russia has increased defense spending, diverting crucial resources from social welfare programs and public services, further widening the gap between the wealthier elite and the broader population.

11. Political Instability

- **Score: 2 (Low)**
- **Description:** In Ukraine, the ongoing conflict has amplified regional divisions, particularly in the eastern regions, where historical ties to Russia have fueled complex loyalties. However, despite these divisions, the war has largely united the rest of the country, fostering a strong sense of national identity and solidarity. The Ukrainian population has rallied around the principles of sovereignty and independence, with widespread support for the government's push for European integration.

In Russia, the war has sparked growing domestic dissent, as the toll of the conflict and international sanctions has taken a significant economic and social toll. Rising inflation, military casualties, and the strain on public services have led to increasing discontent, especially among the middle class and working populations. While the elite close to the Kremlin have largely remained insulated from these hardships, the broader public has become increasingly critical of the government's handling of the war. Public protests, though tightly controlled, reflect the widening gap between the ruling authorities and the general population.

12. Technological Dependence



- **Score: 4** (High)
- **Description:** The Russia-Ukraine war has highlighted the escalating issue of technological dependence, with both nations relying heavily on advanced digital infrastructure and foreign technologies. Ukraine, in particular, has become increasingly vulnerable to cyberattacks due to its reliance on internet and communication technologies. Russian-backed hackers have targeted key systems, including government infrastructure, power grids, and civilian networks, disrupting daily life and hindering Ukraine's defense capabilities. The constant threat of cyber warfare has underscored the importance of securing digital systems and reducing reliance on external technologies.

Simultaneously, both Russia and Ukraine have demonstrated heavy dependence on foreign technologies for military operations, such as advanced satellite communications and drone systems. This reliance has made both nations susceptible to disruptions in their critical defense systems. As the conflict has unfolded, the risks of depending on external sources for essential military technologies have become more apparent, raising concerns about security vulnerabilities and the potential for technological imbalances in future conflicts.

13. Cybersecurity Threats

- **Score: 4** (High)
- **Description:** Ukraine has been a key target of Russian cyberattacks, with hackers repeatedly disrupting government websites, power grids, and communication networks, in an effort to destabilize the country's infrastructure. These attacks have extended beyond Ukraine's borders, with Russian-backed groups targeting Western financial institutions, energy grids, and other critical infrastructure.

14. Military Alliances

- **Score: 4** (High)
- **Description:** The Russia-Ukraine war has had a profound impact on military alliances across Europe and beyond. Ukraine's pursuit of NATO membership has intensified during the conflict, driving NATO to increase its support to Ukraine through weapons, intelligence sharing, and military training. In response, Russia's actions have prompted neighboring countries, particularly in Eastern Europe, to strengthen their military alliances. NATO has reinforced its presence in Poland, the Baltic States, and other member nations as a deterrent against further Russian aggression, signaling a heightened state of preparedness and strategic unity within the alliance.

15. Industry Collapse



- **Score: 4 (High)**
- **Description:** In Ukraine, the war has caused severe disruption to key industrial regions, particularly in Donbas and southern Ukraine, resulting in significant damage to the country's manufacturing, agriculture, and energy sectors. These losses have contributed to widespread economic contraction, exacerbating the challenges the nation faces in rebuilding. In Russia, Western sanctions have led to the closure of foreign-owned businesses, while disruptions to supply chains have heavily impacted industries such as automotive, technology, and consumer goods. Furthermore, the war's strain on global energy markets has driven up prices and caused shortages, compounding the economic challenges in both nations and affecting industrial output across sectors.

16. Environmental Crises

- **Score: 3 (Moderate)**
- **Description:** In Ukraine, the ongoing conflict has caused extensive environmental damage, particularly with the destruction of industrial facilities, chemical plants, and critical infrastructure, resulting in significant land contamination and pollution. In Russia, military operations have also contributed to ecosystem degradation, with the burning of fossil fuels, increased deforestation, and heightened risks of nuclear contamination, particularly following damage to sites like the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Both nations face long-term environmental consequences from the war's military activities.

17. Education & Knowledge Gaps

- **Score: 3 (Moderate)**
- **Description:** In Ukraine, the ongoing conflict has resulted in the closure of thousands of schools and universities, disrupting the education of millions of children and students, especially in the heavily affected eastern and southern regions. In Russia, the war has caused intellectual isolation from Western academic institutions, with a rising number of scholars and researchers fleeing the country or facing restrictions on academic freedom. This has led to a widening knowledge gap, particularly in critical fields such as technology and scientific research.

18. Human Rights Violations

- **Score: 3 (Moderate)**
- **Description:** In Ukraine, Russian forces have been widely accused of committing war crimes, including indiscriminate bombings of civilian areas, extrajudicial killings, and the abduction of both civilians and soldiers. In regions under Russian control, civilians have endured forced deportations, torture, and displacement, with reports of executions and sexual violence being used as weapons of war. On



the Ukrainian side, there have been allegations of abuses against prisoners of war, including mistreatment and executions of Russian soldiers, as well as the use of landmines in civilian areas.

19. Migration & Refugee Crises

- **Score: 3** (Moderate)
- **Description:** The Russia-Ukraine war has resulted in a massive migration and refugee crisis. Over 8 million Ukrainians have been displaced within their own country, while more than 7 million have sought refuge abroad, predominantly in European Union countries like Poland, Germany, and Hungary. This large-scale displacement has placed immense strain on host nations' social services, housing, and labor markets, creating significant immigration challenges in Europe. Additionally, the war has triggered an increase in refugees from other impacted regions, such as Donbas and Crimea, where civilians have fled due to ongoing violence and occupation. In Russia, the conflict has sparked its own migration crisis, with tens of thousands of anti-war protestors, ethnic minorities, and military conscripts fleeing the country to avoid conscription or political persecution.

20. Media & Information Warfare

- **Score: 3** (Moderate)
- **Description:** Russia has leveraged state-controlled media and social media bots to spread disinformation, aiming to justify its actions and weaken both Ukrainian morale and international support. Russian outlets have promoted misleading narratives, framing the war as a "denazification" mission while minimizing civilian casualties and military setbacks. On the other hand, Ukraine has strategically used social media and global media platforms to expose Russian atrocities, gain international backing, and rally its citizens, creating a compelling counter-narrative to Russia's claims. Cyberattacks from both sides have further complicated the situation, targeting each other's communication systems and manipulating public perception through false information, undermining efforts for accurate reporting and understanding of the conflict.

21. Resource Scarcity

- **Score: 3** (Moderate)
- **Description:** The conflict has worsened resource scarcity, particularly in energy, food, and raw materials, as disruptions to grain exports, energy pipelines, and global supply chains have resulted in shortages and rising prices worldwide.

22. Financial Instability

- **Score: 3**(Moderate)
- **Description:** The Russia-Ukraine war has triggered substantial financial instability, with both nations experiencing economic downturns due to sanctions,



disrupted trade, and escalating military costs. On a global scale, markets have faced inflation, currency devaluation, and capital flight, further deepening the economic turmoil.

23. Climate Change

- **Score:** 2(Low)
- **Description:** The Russia-Ukraine war has worsened climate change by significantly increasing carbon emissions through military operations, infrastructure destruction, and the burning of fossil fuels. Additionally, the conflict has hindered environmental protection initiatives and slowed the global transition to green energy, further complicating efforts to address climate change. Although the conflict has worsened certain environmental factors, it has not yet led to major global climate changes or shifts.

24. Trade Wars & Sanctions

- **Score:** 4(High)
- **Description:** The Russia-Ukraine war has sparked trade wars and led to widespread sanctions, with Western nations imposing harsh economic measures on Russia, including restrictions on energy exports, financial transactions, and critical industries. In retaliation, Russia has limited the flow of essential resources like natural gas and metals, exacerbating disruptions to global trade and supply chains.

25. Intellectual Property Theft

- **Score:** 3(Moderate)
- **Description:** Russia has been accused of stealing Ukrainian technology and engaging in cyber espionage aimed at both Ukrainian and Western intellectual property. This includes the theft of sensitive military technologies, industrial secrets, and research data, which have been exploited to bolster Russia's war effort and circumvent international sanctions.

26. Energy Security

- **Score:** 3 (Moderate)
- **Description:** The Russia-Ukraine war has significantly disrupted natural gas and oil supplies, with Russia cutting exports to Europe, exposing the continent's heavy reliance on Russian energy. In response, European nations have scrambled to find alternative energy sources and accelerated efforts to diversify their energy mix. These shifts have driven up energy prices and heightened energy vulnerability across the region.

27. International Law & Governance

- **Score:** 4 (High)
- **Description:** The Russia-Ukraine war has challenged international law, particularly through Russia's violations of sovereignty and territorial integrity,



drawing widespread condemnation. These actions have sparked calls for accountability under international frameworks, including the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, as the global community seeks to uphold established principles of peace and security.

28. Technological Innovation & AI

- **Score: 3** (Moderate)
- **Description:** The Russia-Ukraine war has accelerated the use of technological innovation in military operations, with both sides increasingly relying on advanced drones, artificial intelligence (AI), and cyber capabilities to secure a strategic edge. This conflict has underscored the expanding role of AI in defense systems, including autonomous weapons and predictive analytics, prompting further investment in military technology. However, it also raises ethical concerns regarding the use of AI in warfare, particularly around the potential for autonomous decision-making in combat situations.

29. Nationalism & Populism

- **Score: 3** (Moderate)
- **Description:** The Russia-Ukraine war has fueled a surge in nationalism within Ukraine, with a heightened sense of patriotism and unity emerging as the country fiercely defends its sovereignty. The Ukrainian government has leveraged nationalist rhetoric to strengthen support both domestically and on the international stage. In Russia, the conflict has reinforced populist sentiments, with state-controlled media and government narratives portraying the war as a defense of Russian identity and historical legacy.

30. Public Health Crises

- **Score: 2** (Low)
- **Description:** The Russia-Ukraine war has caused a severe public health crisis in Ukraine, with ongoing violence devastating healthcare systems and severely limiting access to emergency medical services, mental health support, and disease control efforts. The destruction of hospitals and critical infrastructure has hindered the treatment of war-related injuries and chronic health conditions, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. In Russia, the war has put additional strain on the healthcare system, with supply chain disruptions affecting the availability of essential medicines and medical equipment. The psychological toll of the conflict has also led to a rise in mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and PTSD, affecting both soldiers and civilians in both countries. The war has not led to a major public health crisis, though there are concerns about disease outbreaks in refugee populations.