

Russia – Ukraine Conflict and the Travesty of Sanctions: A Study of Nordstream 2 Gas Pipeline

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Article DOI: 10.48028/iiprds/ijcsird.v10.i1.09

Abstract

The Russian-Ukraine crisis: an international conflict which began on February 24, 2022, triggered Europe's largest refugee crises since World War II, with more than 4.5 million Ukraine leaving the country. The war did not survive the condemnation of foremost international organizations such as the United Nations, European Union, etc. and major states like United States, German, Albania, France etc. Many severe sanctions meted against Russian so as to deter its military onslaught and discourage such aggression, yet the Russian Leader- Putin boycotted and denounced all efforts, while furthering his foreign policy ambition of recognizing the two breakaway regions in Ukraine, invaded Ukraine and unleashed severe military fire against Ukraine. It is upon this reason, this paper extrapolates another dimension of sanctions meted against Russia - the German halting the progress and conclusion of Nordstream II Gas project by freezing it's certification in a bid to deter Russian aggression against Ukraine. Did the German's action of freezing the Nordstream 2 certifications that made the Gas pipeline impossible to operate, deter Russia from going to war with Ukraine? Did the many sactions from United Nations, European Union, and other states deter Russia from continuing its invasion of Ukraine? How did Russia respond to all such sanctions? To answer these pertinent questions above ,the paper adopted the methodological orientation of content analysis as data was obtained solely from secondary sources: textbooks, journal publications, internet materials, magazines, etc. The realist and idealism theory were explored to buttress the work. The work discovered that, the Russian-Ukraine crisis was a litmus test to World foremost body- United Nations Security Council to curb the excesses of Russian aggression through sanction , while all sanctions against Russia was not enough to deter its aggressive military onslaught against Ukraine..Hence the need to reinvigorate and strengthen the deterrence method of sanctions capable of liquidating the muscle and power of any such aggressive state.

Keywords: *Conflict, International conflict, Russia-Ukraine, Sanctions, Nordstream 2, Realism and idealism.*

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Background to the Study

Conflict, remains an existential part of human existence as the inevitability of disagreement over values, resources, ideology, occurs between humans, state or nation's interaction, (Idiege, Duke and Basse 2021). International Conflict which connotes conflicts between different nations-states and conflicts between people and organizations in different nations states as exemplified by the U.S and Taliban in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. Also conflicts within countries are considered "international conflict if international intervention is being contemplated or has actually occurred (as in Bosnia Kosovo, Lybia or Iraq). In the past decades, the world witnessed a decline in global cooperation and security. This reversal of peace is manifest through multiple internationalized wars and massive humanitarian crises, rising nationalism from global powers, transactional terror organizations employing sophisticated recruitment techniques, cyber attacks orchestrated by marginalized states, sustained levels of violence normally 'post conflict' countries, and a drastic rise in the number of non-state violent agents. Unresolved regional tensions, a breakdown in the rule of law, absent or corrupted state institutions, illicit economic gain, and the searching of resource exacerbated by climate change, have become dominant causes of conflicts. The regionalization of conflicts, which interlinks political, socio-economic and military issues across borders, has seen many conflicts becoming longer, more protracted and less possible for traditional forms of resolution, (Malek 2013; Global Peace Index 2021: Raleighh 2020; UN 2020). Thus it is not to be overemphasized as pointed out by Okorie, Duke and Basse (2023), "the anarchical nature of the international arena made of sovereign states with varying degrees of strength in military statecraft, economy, weaponry technology is not without muscle flexing by superior states with advantage in power for the pursuit of national interest.

The Russian-Ukraine conflict, an international crisis which began with the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the 24 February 2022, have unleashed deadly humanitarian, economic, political and social impact in a global scale. The Russian President- Vladimir Putin declared a full scale attack on Ukraine, affirming the rationale for such unlawful international behavior was hinged on "demilitarization and de-nazification of Ukraine. Subsequently Russian invasion, amidst condemnation by International Organizations (UN, EU) and many powerful states, has resulted to devastation of several Ukrainian cities, such as Wharku, Borodyanka and Chernhiv. The crisis became more deadly on march 4th, when the world woke up to receive news of a potential nuclear disaster, after a complex in the Zaphorizhia nuclear power plant site (the largest in Europe) was set ablaze by Russian projectile. However, the fire was immediately halted, the safety systems of six reactors were not affected and hopefully no radiation was released (Tella 2022). In the same vein Kammer, Azour, Abebe Seleassie, Goldfajn and Rhee (2022) posited that the effects of the Russian-Ukraine conflicts has gone beyond suffering and humanitarian cost: the entire global economy feels the effects of slower growth and faster inflation. First higher prices for commodities like food and energy skyrocket inflation further in turn eroding the value of incomes and weighing on demand. Secondly neighboring economies in particular will struggle with distorted trade, supply chains and remittances as well as an historic surge in refugee flows and finally, reduced business confidence and higher investor uncertainty will weigh on asset prices, tightening financial conditions and potentially spurring capital outflows from emerging markets, (Kamer etal,2022).

The Russian aggression against Ukraine, was not without condemnation and sanctions to deter such acts which tantamount to instability of global proportions and an attack at a nation's sovereignty,(see Oyosoro and Basse, 2024 "russian-ukraine conflict and the display of national interest : a resurgence of realism international relations and an attack on sovereignty" .The United Nations, United States, German, France, Albania, Japan, unleashed various Sanctions to deter and discourage such acts of aggression by Russia. This was preferred instead of an all out military campaign that would have led to a third world war. Sanctions which are part of the measures allowed by international law for the peaceful settlement of disputes between states, they may be imposed against a state or a non-state actor (Individual, rebel movement, political party) that does not respect international commitments or when its behavior infringes on or threatens the international public order. Sanctions are a non-military means of coercion that may be applied in various domains, such as diplomatic, economic or cultural relations between states. They materialize in decisions ranging from arms embargoes to other trade, finance or travel restricting, or interruption of diplomatic relations. They may be imposed unilaterally (by one state against the other) collectively (by group of states as collective sanctions) within the jurisdiction of an international organization as the United Nations, (Bouchet-Saulnier Undated). Many sanctions were meted against Russia. For instance the US, UK and EU have together sanctioned more than 1,000 Russian individuals and businesses, including wealthy business leaders so called Oligarchs, Like the Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovich, assets belonging to Russian President Vladimir and his foreign minister Sergei Lavrov are also being frozen in the US, EU, UK and Canada. The UK have also stopped the sale of "golden visas" which allowed wealthy Russians to get British residency rights. This aggressive behavior saw the U.S banning all Russian oil and gas imports and the UK following suit with plans to phase out Russian imports by the end of 2022. Western countries also froze the assets of Russia Central Bank to stop it using its \$630BN (€470bn) of foreign currency reserves, etc, (BBC News 2022).

Dovetailing from the above, it is obvious that, despite the many teeth and biting sanctions slammed on Russia to deter its aggressive behavior towards Ukraine, Russia never refrained from its military onslaught. Nord stream II, was another side of the many sanctions which many felt would go a long way to stop Russia from further war with Ukraine. Nordstream is a registered Swiss firm whose parent company is the Russian state-owned gas giant Gazprom. Gazprom owns the entire pipeline but paid half of the cost with the rest shared by Shell, Austria's OMV(OMV.VI), France's Engie and Germany's Uniper (UNOI.DE) and Wintershall DEA. The Nord Stream gas project which was designed to double gas flow capacity from Russia to Germany. On 23 February the United Nations imposed sanctions on the company in charge of building Russia's Nord stream 2 gas pipeline expanding penalties on Moscow after it recognized two break away regions in eastern Ukraine. While the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday 22 February 2022 froze the approval process for \$11bn pipeline, which runs beneath the Baltic Sea and would double gas sent directly to Germany, (Wettengel 2023)

It is based on above issues, surrounding Russia's invasion of Ukraine despite many condemnations, that this paper sets to give answers to questions such as: what are sanctions?

Was Russia sanctioned by powerful states and international organizations to deter its aggression against Ukraine? If yes, what were the sanctions and their impacts on Russia and how did the Russian leader-Putin respond? Finally, whether the halting of Nord Stream II was able to change Russian's aggressive behavior towards Ukraine?

Statement of the Problem

The Russian-Ukraine conflict, which portrayed an international crisis, caused myriads of devastating effects. The pains it unleashed to humanity and civilization deeply truncated the peaceful international system, many saw as a show of liberal triumphant and sustaining a liberal economic order. The Russian-Ukraine war, a terrible foreign policy calculations initiated by the Russian leader- Vladimir Putin based on many irrational reasons. Putin have publicized his rationale for the invasion of UKRAINE- deterring Ukraine from aligning towards NATO as a moves to become a bonafide member, contemplating the security risk such posed on its terrain, denazifying of Ukraine, taking the responsibility to protect the Dobansk region against Ukraine oppression and genocide. However many counter claims emerged to debunk and dismiss Russians claims. Issues ranging from redeeming lost territories, traced back to the days of Soviet Republic to irredentism, projecting itself as the super power in Europe, thwarting NATO's expansion, etc remains the opposite. Bassey, Chimaobi and Duke (2023) referring to "*territorial irredentism and the russian annexation of former soviet states: a threat to global security*". is among the many issues of factors to be held considering russian recent behavior of invading it's former territories that are now independent as evident in Chechnya in 1994, Georgia 2008, Crimea 2022 and recently the ongoing war with Ukraine which commenced in 22nd February 2022. Russian irredentist foreign policy has been a source of instability and regional security concern in Europe where huge and costly humanitarian catastrophe of global proportions proliferation. This buttresses Russian aggressive strategies to actualization of its foreign policy regarding taking back lost territories which disturbs global peace and security in a contemporary civilized world order, (Chimaobi, Duke and Bassey, 2023). Oyosoro and Bassey (2023) gave their analysis of the implications of such uncivilized action by Putin Russia within the context of "attack at sovereignty and resurgence of realism in a liberal world order". Thus the invasion for whatsoever reason stated by Russia is not in any way plausible and logical. A sovereign state has the right to belong to any military bloc, enter into any security/military alliance it deem fit, trade with any county of choice, conduct it's omw foreign policy as best suits it's national interest. This put into question the reality of self determination and the concept supreme power of a government or state over it's people as enshrined in the concept of sovereignty pursued by United Nations.

As such behavior by Putting, sets a destabilizing tone in global politics. Many adverse effects of Russian invasion is visible and detrimental to global security: amongst such is the attack atba sovereign state's sovereignty which is a sacred in international law and United Nations principles. As noted by Oyosoro and Bassey (2023) in their study "Russia-Ukraine Conflict and the display of national interest: a resurgence of realism in international relations and an attack on sovereignty". Such claim is logical as all sovereign state has the legal rights to conduct it's international relations and foreign policy with whichever states it feels comfortable with, enter into any alliance of military kind, trade with which country, etc. this proves the

illegality and absurdity of Russian invasion which has caused the region and world severe devastating humanitarian catastrophe. It is based on these measures were undertaken to deter the Russian onslaught against Ukraine. In international arena, measures mostly employed to discourage aggressive behavior of states are mostly the show and employment of military might use military weapons to attack any aggressor, Nation. But the Russian case took a different dimension. Nations have not forgotten in a hurry the 1914-1918 conflagrations of first world war and the 1939-1945 second world war: these two global conflicts saw the role of alliance triggering a minor interstate war that snowballed into international humanitarian catastrophe. This little skirmishes by two small nations quickly transformed into a deadly global military conflagration that caused millions of lives properties. It was inevitable issue of war reconstruction that cost Europe Billions of dollars. Hence embarking on full military collective security attack against Russian to deter its aggression towards Ukraine, would definitely lead to a global catastrophe of an Armageddon kind. This is due to the number, magnitude and sophistication of biological, chemical and conventional weapons in the possession of Russia and other NATO States. Little wonder the adoption of sanctions to deter Russian aggression. Teslova (2022) decried of the fatalities of the war thus: At least 3,193 civilians lost their lives few months into the war, while 3,353 others suffered deep injuries in Ukraine according to UN estimates. The true toll is feared to be much higher. More than 5.5 million people have fled to other countries, with some 7.7 million people internally displaced, data from the UN refugee agency shows.

According to Shea (2023), for nearly a century the democracies of Europe and North America have responded to the transgressors of international order by imposing economic sanctions. When Mussolini invaded Abyssinia in 1935, the Council of the League of Nations imposed an oil embargo against Italy. A year later France and the United Kingdom tried to prevent outside interference in the Spanish Civil War by declaring an arms embargo against Spain as part of their policy of non-intervention. Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy unfortunately refused to go along and supported Franco and his insurrection with troops, equipment and air power. By 1939 the Republican cause had collapsed and Franco ruled Spain with an iron fist until his death in 1975. Later in the 1930s the Roosevelt administration in the United States imposed an oil embargo of its own, this time against Imperial Japan. Yet, rather than constrain Tokyo, it pushed its militarist regime to lash out against the US at Pearl Harbor. Shear lamented that; these shaky precedents did not discourage democracies from resorting to sanctions. During the Cold War, a Western grouping in Paris called the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM) managed a blacklist of military technologies that could not be transferred to the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies. Governments responded to public and media pressure by denying arms and investments to countries abusing the human rights of their citizens. Sanctions were a convenient instrument of foreign policy: easier to decide on than the use of force and offering a broad palette of options from which to choose. Sanctions were a means of inflicting maximum pain on the targeted country at minimum cost to the country imposing them, (Shea 2023)

An official EU website of the European Commission, informed that, since March 2014, the EU has progressively imposed restrictive measures (sanctions) against Russia initially in

response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol and the deliberate destabilization of Ukraine. On 23 February 2020, the EU massively extended its sanctions as a response to Russia military aggression against Ukraine. Brown (2022) informed that, in the bid to discourage Russian aggression against Ukraine many sanctions, instead of a collective military campaign, was adopted. Such sanctions included: The joint threat issued by the Presidents of US Joseph Biden, French Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, to cancel the completion and functionality of Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline; the US President Biden's Executive Order (EO 14065) stopping new US investments in, US Exports to or US import from regions supporting Russia's aggression. This build from a series of EOs sanctioning of Russia after its annexation of Crimea and for Russia interference in Foreign elections from 2014 (EO 13660, EO 136661, EO 13662, EO 13605) from 2018 (EO 13849) from 2021 (EO 14024, EO 14039), UK freezing assets of five Russian banks, freezed assets and bans travel for three Russian oligarchs, sanctions Russian politicians who voted to recognize the independence of the Ukrainian regions, japans travel restrictions, trade restrictions and limitations on transactions with designated Russian banks and Russian sovereign debts, (Brown 2022).

It is based on the above, the study delved into examining the extent which sanctions meted against Russia was effective to deter Russian military invasion of Ukraine. Also, whether the strategic Nord stream II cancellation as a punishment against Russia was effective in deterring Russia's aggression towards Ukraine. Finally, the response of Russia towards sanctions.

Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study, is to examine the utility and effectiveness of sanctions as in deterring aggressive behavior of states in international politics. using the Russian – Ukraine Conflicts of February 22, 2022. The study therefore considered some specific issues that helped in actualizing the objectives below:

1. The extent which major powers, and international organizations sanctioning of Russia was effective to deter Russian aggression against Ukraine
2. The extent which the cancellation of the Nord Stream II gas pipline project was effective enough to deter Russian aggression against Ukraine.
3. The response of Russia towards all sanctions. whether all sanctions made Russia to abandon its military campaign or not.

Clarification of Concepts

In this study certain concepts would be defined and conceptualized as would be used in this study. Concepts like: Conflicts international conflicts, sanctions.

Conflict/International Conflict

According to Holsti (1983), conflict is a particular relationship between states or rival factions within a state which implies subjective hostilities or tension manifested in subjective economic or military hostilities. Tanga (2018), is up the view that, conflicts are social problems which two or more persons, families, districts, communities' states or nations are at war with each

other. Conflict is part of our human existence and a natural part of our daily life". From the above it would not be mistaken to say that, human nature is a perpetual cause of disagreement, conflicts and quarrel if not prevented or resolved have far reaching effects on the right to development. Grossman (1991) posits that conflicts are often the result of two antagonistic parties pursuing economic gain and it is important to account for the strength of these parties and the potential gains to winning conflicts-both of which depend on the spatial distribution of resource. Luckham, Ahmed, Mugah and White (2001) are of the views that, conflict is a major determinant of poverty; and poverty remains the major cause of conflict. Armed conflict has affected over half of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa over the last twenty years. Analysis of the linkages between conflict and poverty remain inadequate, including the effect of conflict on economic, social and political linkages is essential to bring peace and development. According to the Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potentials (2019), international conflicts are the result of behavior designed to destroy, injure, thwart or otherwise control another country or group of countries or their policies. It surges from the incompatibility of goals of at least two nations or groups of nations. International relations are determined, apart from the psychological factors, by economic, political, military, technological and other related developments. International conflicts are traditionally expressed in anti-foreign demonstrations, negative sanctions, diplomatic protest or severance of relations, threats or acts of military presence, hostile military actions and declared wars. Conflict can also progress in ideological, cultural, linguistic, economic and other rivalries. Yaqing (2022) eloquently buttress the fact that, in international relations, conflict is more conspicuous and serious due to the deep-rooted comprehension of international society as an anarchical Hobbesian jungle, where everyone fights against everyone else because of the absence of a Leviathan. Once two actors whether they are individuals, groups, or nation states are different, they tend to conflict with each other. In other words, difference causes conflicts. This logic reasoning is manifested in many well-known international thoughts.

Sanctions

Doxey (1983) opined that, as a necessary and useful measure in situations where states contemplate or actually adopt policies which violate their international obligations and endanger community values, international sanctions have been the subject of intermittent public and scholarly debate for over 60 years. While both the League of Nations Covenant and the United Nations Charter directed sanctions at the unlawful use of force, in the United Nations context, sanctions have also been linked to the defense of human rights, but until 1979 few instances of the use of sanctions were on the record. The United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee on Disarmament, (2022) noted that, Sanctions are routine responses to an evergrowing list of actions or which governments are unwilling to go to war, but demand the target state reverse their policies, including: Terrorism and support for terrorism Nuclear proliferation activities Crimes against humanity, Human rights violations, Illegal annexation of foreign territory, deliberate violation of a sovereignty. In the United Nations, sanctions are imposed by the Security Council, the only UN body which can demand action and create binding international law. Haass, (1998) opined that, Sanctions—defined as mostly economic but also political and military penalties introduced to alter political and/or military behavior—are employed by the United States to discourage the proliferation of

weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, bolster human rights, end terrorism, thwart drug trafficking, discourage armed aggression, promote market access, protect the environment, and replace governments. To accomplish foreign policy ends, sanctions take the form of arms embargoes, foreign assistance reductions and cut-offs, export and import limitations, asset freezes, tariff increases, revocation of most favored nation (MFN) trade status, negative votes in international financial institutions, withdrawal of diplomatic relations, visa denials, cancellation of air links, and prohibitions on credit, financing, and investment.

Theoretical Knowledge

The work adopted the realist and liberal theory of international relations to buttress the work.

Realist Theory

According to Biswas (2021), realism theory in international relations is the most dominant school of thought after World War II and until now it has relevance in the present international politics. Realism lead gained it popularity from the late 1930 and early 1940s when the idealist approach had failed to analyze the politics the real politics throughout the world wars. The central points of realism are state, power, and self – interest. Several theorists and scholars in realism include: Theydides (460bc – 406BC), Nicolo Mechaiavell. (1469 – 1527), Thomas Hobbes (1588 – 1979) and Jean –Jaeque Roussean (1712 – 1778), chamakya (370BC – 406 BC). In the same ven, Elashkar argued that, realists believe that, the world from a rational point of view lacks excellence, and that it is the natural fruit of the forces inherent in human nature, and therefore if man wants to reform the world, he must cooperate with these forces, not fight them. Thus, since the world represents innate, opposing and contradictory interest, it is difficult to fully understand moral principles. Realism is based on its concept of the hypothesis that force is the primary goal, whether at the internal or external level. In this context Morgenthau believes that all politics is force. National interest is considered the most important determinant of behavior of force and political behavior, and decision making in relation to them. Morgenthau treated National interest as an easy target to set, as long as national interest is always defined in the context of force. Thus, through the optimal use of force factor, it can be said that realism asserts that the international community and its reciprocal relations are a mutual and continuous conflict between countries in order to increase their force and use them accordingly by their interests, on the idea of influence and control, (Odeh 2005 in Elashkar 2020). Realism according to Morgenthau, believes that Universal ethical principles cannot be applied to the affairs of world politics, because morality in its form and its general and absolute content will not be appropriate for the implementation of political needs and in particular international relations. According to the realist, the state is the fundamental unit and perhaps the only actor in international relations and that such organizations, companies, institutions and individuals only play a marginal role, (Faraj 2007 in Elaskhar,2020). Those other units do not assist the state in achieving its intrrests or guarantee its protection when exposed to any danger, but rather the state depends on its own abilities and force, (Fahmy 2010 in Elaskar 2020). The international arena is anarchical due to the absence of hierarchy authority, while there is a power heirachy. As long as there is no global government that controls all states so that that the general rules apply to them. Also, national

security usually occupies the top of the pyramid for international affairs due to the fact that military and political issues related to it dominate international politics, (Elashkar 2020).

Idealism Theory

According to Mohammed (2021) Idealism, is sometimes called “Utopianism” and it is an approach to international relations that emphasizes the relevance of moral values and standard called legalism and harmony of interest to be directed at drawing up foreign policy instead of National interest and power. Amongst the key pioneers of Idealism are Immanuel Kant, Richard Cobden, John Hobson, Norman Angel, Alfred Zimmern, and Woodrow Wilson. The foundations and principles of idealism are: the human nature is good in its entirety, and hence the character of cooperation and coordination, not competition and conflict, is a fundamental pillar in international relations: the main interest of mankind in developing and strengthening human civilizations reflects to a large extent, the existence of the desire and determination of individuals and states to spread welfare to the rest of global citizens and other nations; the evil human behavior of individuals or states is not in any way the result of the evil behavior of individuals and peoples, but rather the result of evil institutions and structural organization that push individuals to commit foolishness and irrational policies that often lead to the outbreak of wars and conflicts that threaten security and international peace; it has two streams-moral and legal; it seeks to achieve the goal of absolute peace and its occupation with this goal outweighs its interest in comprehending facts, rational because it demands disarmament as a means to attain peace. And the establishment of a world government that decides for all.

According to Dinesh (undated) idealism, stands for improving the course of international relations by eliminating war, hunger, inequality, tyranny, force, suppression and violence from international relations. To remove these evils is the objective of creating a world free from these evils by depending upon reason, science education. Political idealism in international relations, represents a set of ideas which together oppose war and advocates the reform of international community through dependence upon moral values and the development of international institutions and international law. Idealism depends on global institutions in ending war and dealing with international security issues and other global challenges makes it distinct; international community should work for eliminating such global instruments, features and practices which lead to war. International institutions committed to preserve international peace, international law and order should be developed for securing peace, prosperity and development.

The inputs and relevance of the both theories to the study reveals that, the Russian-Ukraine conflict depicts outright display of force using military means as posited by Carl Von Clausewitz. Thus the Russian leader -Putin utilized the doctrine of realism to pursue its foreign policy objectives of reclaiming lost territory of Ukraine, denazification of Ukraine, stopping the romance between Ukraine and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the liberation of the Donetsk and Luhank region of Ukraine. Thus the deployment of outright military might speaks volume of the realist approach in international arena which has caused severe humanitarian catastrophe of regional and global proportion. On the other

hand, the sanctions meted against Russia clearly demonstrated the application of liberal attributes and doctrine in tackling aggressive behavior of states. Sanctions here it's a liberal tenets in shaping or deterring States behaviour in international relations. The many sanctions meted against Russia beginning from the cancellation of Nordstream 2 project and those from many states were to ensure the discouragement of Russia in continuing its aggression against Ukraine. But as evidently seen such sanctions haven't in anyway rebuke the behavior of Russia as Putin unrelentingly continue his war with Russia.

The usefulness of the above theories to the study, is glaring and easy to comprehend. The Russian-Ukraine conflict which started on 22nd February 2022, clearly brings to the fore certain traits of an anarchical international arena as postulated by realist traditional thinking. When states decide to use their military might to flex muscle by attacking another not minding the implications in terms of causality and other humanitarian challenges that would definition surge, it shows a lack of central body that can curtail such excesses on the one hand, while it also brings to bear disregard for international norms and conventions regarding respect for state's sovereignty. Thus this reflects a core realist approach in dealing with issues of international relations or foreign policy. This has been documented by Chimaobi, Duke and Bassey in their study on how Russian recent foreign policy posture in relation with its former Soviet territories reflects a raw power play and showdown that employs realism. On the other side, sanctions remains a tool to deter states menacing behavior as punishment for any unethical or unruly acts by any states which is capable of causing global chaos, mostly that of insecure. The idealist or liberal theory rejects war or outright military force as an accepted standard of deterring aggressive behavior of states, (Chimaobi, Duke and Bassey 2023).

Sections Meted Against Russia: Major Powers, UN, EU, and Other Nation States.

Sanctions has been one important tool international relations and arena utilized by states and international organizations to shape the behavioral deformities in the actions of states. This is to ensure a peaceful coexistence of states in international arena and also discourage any aggressive behavior that would lead to chaos and threat of peace. But most times sanctions doesn't seem effective in making states desist from certain actions. The BBC news of 23 February, 2024 reports that, Sanctions are penalties imposed by one country on another, to stop them acting aggressively or breaking international law. They are among the toughest measures nations can take, short of going to war.

According to the Guardian post of February 22 (2022), Russia faces western sanctions and bitter condemnation at the United Nations after Vladimir mobilized troops over the Ukrainian border into Moscow-controlled territories in the eastern part of the country. The UK ambassador, Dame Barbara Woodward, told the UN in a meeting: "Russia has brought us to a brink. We urge Russia to step back" and further warned that an invasion would unleash "the forces of war, death and destruction" on the people of Ukraine. Ukraine foreign minister appealed for strong sanctions as the only way of stalling further Russian entrenchment. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky made a defiant late-night address to his Nation, after the first reports of Russian troops were crossing into the country, into enclaves controlled by Moscow since 2014. "We are on our land. We don't fear anything or anyone, we don't owe

anything to anyone and we won't give up". It was at the UN that Russia felt its isolation most keenly, as three African council members; Kenya, Gabon and Ghana spoke out against Moscow's action of violating Ukraine's territorial integrity. The Aljazeera news of March 3 2022 reported that, the United Nations General Assembly has voted to demand that Russia offensive stop immediately by withdrawing troops. The vote on Wednesday 2 March, 2022, saw 141 states vote in favour of the motion, five against and 35 abstentions. The most mind-boggling event as regards the United Nations sanction against Russia was that of 25 February 2022, which was spearheaded by Albania and the United States. The Bill was to deplore, in the strongest terms the Russian Federation's aggression as being in violation of Article 2, paragraph 4 of the UN Charter obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. The draft would have the Council decide that Russian Federation should immediately cease fire against Ukraine completely. The draft would have the Council deplore the Russian Federation's 21 February decision relating to the status of Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions and decide that Moscow must immediately and unconditionally reverse that decision as it violates Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The draft bill presented by both the United States and Albania was to hold the Russian Federation accountable as a way of showing respect to human life and international law and those who do not. However, Magid and Solomon (2022), noted that only four countries joined Russia in voting against the resolution. To the surprise of everybody, the list included Belarus, North Korea, Eritrea, and Syria, while thirty-five nations abstained. The Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky applauded the outcome declaring "destructive the result of the vote in the UN against the aggressor convincingly show that a global anti-Putin coalition has been formed and is functioning. The world is with us". Yet while Zelensky's description of a global anti-Putin coalition may ring true for the UNGA, a meaningful multilateral response is still being formed and is functioning. The word by Ukraine's President, "the world is with us" wasn't effective as Russia brazenly opposed the draft by the United States and Albania.

Thus a single No vote from Russia has made the United Nations Security Council impotent, hence rendered the draft resolution presented by Albania and the United States useless (Magid and Shalomov 2022). The United Nations suspended Russia from its seat on the Human Rights Council on Thursday 7 of April, 2022 as the world calls out atrocities committed on Ukraine. This was sponsored by the US ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas Greenfield following accusations that Russia troops tortured and killed Ukrainian civilians in Bucha, a suburb near Kyiv. The dead bodies were discovered after Moscow withdrew its troops from Bucha. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described its military actions in Ukraine as a "special operation" and has denied targeting civilians. The resolution to strip Russia of its seat on the Human Rights Council passed with 93 votes in favour of 24 against and 58 abstentions. Belarus, China, Iran, Russia and Syria were among the UN members that voted against the resolution. India abstained from voting. Bucha and dozens of other Ukrainian cities and villages where thousands of peaceful residents have been killed, tortured, raped, abducted and robbed by the Russian Army, serve as an example of how dramatically far the Russian Federation has gone from its initial declarations in the human rights domain" Kyslytsya said before the United Nations, (Macias 2022).

Aside the United Nations, many developed Nations and world powers slammed numerous sanctions of far-reaching impacts on Russia. For instance US latest sanctions included: economic measures to ban new investment; severe sanctions on two Russian financial institutions-Alfa bank and Sber bank; Sanctions on critical major state-owned enterprise. Sanctions on Russian governments officials and their family members including president Putin's adult children and relatives of foreign minister Sergei Lavrov. The United State also placed a ban on the export imposing sanctions on Russia's Wagner Group-a private military firm thought to function as an arm-length unit of the Russian military. All Russian flights have been banned from US, UK, EU and Canadian airspace. The US, EU and UK have together sanctioned more than 1,000 Russian individuals and businesses including wealthy business leaders- so-called obligarchs – who are considered close to the Kremlin. One high profile Oligarch sanctioned by the UK is Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovic. Assets belonging to Russian President Vladimir Putin and his foreign minister serger Lavrov are also being frozen in the US, EU, UK and Canada. Western countries have frozen the assets of Russia central Bank, to stop it using its \$630 billion (€470 billion) of foreign currency reserves. The US is banning all Russian oil and gas imports and the UK will phase out Russian oil imports by the end of 2022. The EU which gets a quarter of its oil and 40% of its gas from Russia says it will switch to alternative suppliers and make Europe independent from Russian Energy “well before 2030. The western countries have frozen the assets of Russia's central Bank to stop using its 630 billion (470 billion) of foreign currency reserves. This caused the value of the rouble to slump by 22% which has pushed up the price of imported goods and led to a 14% rise in Russia's rate of inflation. The United States barred Russia from making debt payments using the \$600m it holds in US banks, making it difficult for Russia to repay its international loans. A number of other western brands including Marks and Spencer, Burger King, and hotel Gronps Marriott and Accor say they can't pull out from Russia because their business there operates under complex frame-wise deals. Following the release of images of mass killings in Bucha, Germany announced it would expel 40 Russian ambassadors. France announced it would expel 35 Russian diplomats. Lithuania expelled the Russian ambassador; (BBC News 2022).

The views of Elizabeth are in line with The Foreign Common Wealth and Development Office (2022), the UK foreign secretary announces 178 new sanctions, coordinated with the EU, targeting those who prop up Russian-backed illegal breakaway regions of Ukraine. This came as a response to reports of Russia's barbaric target at civilians in those regions. Family members of Russian obligarchs have been targeted today as the UK government sanctions Parel Ezubov, Cousin of Oleg Deripaska and Nigina Zairova, Executive assistant to Michaiiv Fridman. In total, as at the time of writing, the government sanctioning was 206 individuals today, including the 178 seperatists, six obigarchs, close associates and employees and an additional 22 individuals through the urgent procedure. Since the unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine began in February, the UK has sanctioned over 1,400 individuals and business- including over 100 olicharchs and family members. Sanctions imposed by the UK and its international partners are having deep and damaging consequences for Putin's ability to wage war. Analysis shows Russia was heading for the deepest recession since the collapse of the Soviet Union with £275 million-600% of Russian foreign currency reserve- currency frozen, (The Common Wealth Development Institute,2022).

According to European Commission, the EU's Sanctioned Russia in other to: cripple Kremlin's ability to Finance the war, impose clear economic and political costs on Russians Political Elites responsible for the invasion and diminish its economic base. Sanctions also includes cutting Russia's access to capital markets of the EU, increasing borrowing costs for the sanctioned entitites and gradually eroding Russia's industrial base, blocking EU-held foreign exchange reserves, ban on exports, sales, supply or transfer of all aircraft parts and equipment to Russia:the UE in collaboration with the G7 Countries and other like-minded partners has stopped treating Russia as a most favoured-nation within the World Trade Organization (WTO) Framework as of 15th March 2022. This deprived Russia of key trade advantages as WTO member. The European commission has set up a "freeze and seize task force" to explore the links between assets belonging to persons listed under EU sanctions and criminal activities. While investigations and prosecutions are the responsibility of member states, the aim of the Task Force is to strengthen coordination is needed at operational level to ensure the effective enforcement of EU Sanctions across member's state. The Task force comprised of the representatives of the Commission, contact points from each member state, Eurojust and Europol. It will coordinate its work with the "Russian Elites, proxies and oligarchs (REPO) Taskforce" set up between the G7 countries, Australia and the European Union. It will meet Weekly and will remain operational for the time necessary, (The European Commission).

Nordstream 2: Brief Historical Overview, Strategic Importance and Sanctions Against it.

According to Zimmermann (2020), Nord Stream 2 is the project meant to enable Germany to act independently on the energy market in Europe. Though the natural gas pipeline, between Russia and Germany is officially completed, it is still not functional. Nord Stream 2 runs parallel to the project Nord Stream 1 which began in 1997 when Gazprom and Finnish Company Neste (later known as fortum) Formed a joint Company, North Trangas Oy, for the construction of a gas pipeline from Russia to Northern Germany across the Baltic Sea. In April 2001, Gazprom, Fortum, Ruhrgas and wintershell commissioned a joint feasibility study for the pipeline. In November 2002, the management committee of Gazprom approved a 2002 schedule of project implementation. In December 2005, Gazprom commenced construction of the Russian onshore section of the pipeline and the operating company were officially renamed Nordstream. The field was developed at an estimate cost of €1bn. The preliminary front-end engineering and design was completed by intecsea Engineering in 2008. By passing Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Belarus and Ukraine, the NSGP Project provides a new channel for Russian natural gas exports to Europe and minimizes the soverieign risk involved in cross order projects. The projects also reduce the cost of transportation. The scandinavian countries also get gas through the NSGP project which also serves as a veritable gas supply to western Europe, North-West Russian ad the Kaliningrad exclare, (Hydrocarbon technology). As of 2021 the Nordstream 1 transported a volume of 59.2 billion cubic meters of Natural gas. More than 441bcm of Russian gas have been delivered via Nord Stream, one of the longest offshore pipelines in the world since line 1 of the pipeline became functional (the press Hotline).

Nord Stream 2, runs parallel to the project Nord stream 1 which has been in operation since 2011 beneath the Baltic Sea. The pipeline stretches for roughly 1,230 km and connects UST-Luga in Russia with Greifswald in North-Eastern Germany. The construction commenced in May 2018 and was completed on 10 September, a year and a half behind schedule, (Zimmermann 2022). Reaching its full operation, Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, linking Russia to Northern Germany under the Baltic Sea should be able to transport enough gas under the Baltic Sea. The black sea and Bosphorus to terminate Russian gas transit through Ukraine. But the project has been vehemently criticized by observers mostly from Western flank as a threat to the economic security of Ukraine and central Eastern Europe, (Schake, Noel, Raline and Redman 2022). Many German leaders, firms and captains of industries heralded and gave backings to the furtherance of Nord Stream 2 project like the West Germany's Gazprom with permission granted on January, 2018. Reasons for Germany's consent was because it would improve Europe's energy security. While several nations within the EU, the United States and Eastern Europe, however rejected the project; they argued that Nord Stream 2 remains a threat to Europe's national security. As these two sides debated the pipeline, Russia continued to carry out the construction of Nord Stream 2 with vigorous determination to conclude it, (Temnycky 2021).

As at the time of commencing the war, Russian gas exports to Europe, transits through Ukraine. Sequel to this, many central European countries are so much sensitive to Russia-Ukrainian relations. Previous skirmishes between the duo (Russia and Ukraine), saw Russia turning off its gas pipelines to Ukraine, and this cut off the access of many European countries to gas during the winter months of 2006 and 2009. The fallout of these events, prompted some European states to explore other sources to access gas supply without further distortion. This was what prompted the thoughts towards Nord Stream 2 (as well as Turkstream, a southern pipeline that transmits gas from Russia to the Balkans by way of Turkey). Proponents of Nordstream 2 have argued that the pipeline will usher in a new gas to Europe, increasing Europe's gas consumption. The evidence on ground, proves otherwise: reports indicate that repairing the current Ukrainian-Polish pipeline would cost around 6 €billion. Experts are of the opinion that, the construction of Nord Stream 2 would cost 10 billion. It would also divert gas from the pre-existing Ukrainian-Polish pipeline, meaning Europeans will receive the same amount of gas, if from a different source, (Temnycky 2021).

Many reasons, abound to oppose Nord Stream 2 as presented by its antagonist. Firstly, the pipeline will flow directly from Russia to Germany via the Baltic Sea which means the Russians would be of advantage over the Europeans. Secondly, by establishing this pipeline it could increase Russian Naval presence in the Baltic Sea, a move that would unsettle the Baltic states. Thirdly if relations between Europe and Russia goes sour, the Russians could quickly turn off the gas flow to Germany, similar to what it did to Ukraine. Finally, the completion of Nord Stream 2 would give the Russians an energy monopoly over the European continent. Also, to be considered as a threat from the functioning of Nord Stream 2, is the fear from Ukraine and Poland. For Ukraine; let us not forget that the former Nord Stream 1 passes through Ukraine to the Baltic Sea and Black Sea then to Germany. This therefore follows that, Ukraine makes the sum of 11 billion dollars annually from the pipeline. The completion of

Nord stream 2 would result to eventual revenue loss of 1 billion dollars. Ukraine would lose its influence over Western Europe as its pipeline would become totally irrelevant, hence Europe becomes dependent on Russia. The Russians could further meddle in Ukraine's affairs without consequence. For Poland, the fear is that the discontinuing of the Ukrainian-Polish pipeline would force Poland to import gas from neighboring Germany. This would see gas prices rising for the average polish consumer, which would be a burden on the polish economy (Temnycky 2021).

Series of opposition from Nations and international organizations surged against the continuing and functionality of the Nord stream 2 gas pipeline. The US had frowned at the survival of Nord Stream, calling it a geopolitical tool for Russian to undermine energy and National Security, increasing Moscow's leverage over Europe, where gas prices have been soaring. It has cause serious internal squabble among Germany's new coalition government and left the west divided in its response to the situation. Even the German chancellor Slof Scholz, who previously was relenting his support for halting the project, have recently offered his strongest indication towards support for opposing Nord stream 2. He affirmed at a news conference with NATO secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, thus:"it is clear that there will be a high cost and that this will have to be discussed if there is a military intervention against Ukraine. On January 13, 2022, the US senate failed to pass a bill sponsored by Republican Senator Ted cruz to slap sanctions on Nord Stream 2. The administration of US President Joe Biden had lobbied Republican senators against the bill, fearing its impacts on US-German relations and the possibility that it could further antagonize Russia and prolong the Ukraine crisis. Two months after suspension it has become one of the strongest remaining tools for the west to influence Russian decision-making when it comes to military action in Ukraine. For Russia the pipeline is important because it removes the risks associated with sending gas through transit countries, allowing Gazprom to ship gas directly to its most important European customer Germany. The pipeline could cut their operation cost by about 1 billion per year, as transit through Ukraine in particular, is expensive. (Cookman 2022)

Russian Response to Sanctions

According to Reuters (2022), Russia has responded to sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine with a wide range of measures to make its economy formidable and unshakable, while retaliating. Russia declares its actions against Ukraine a “Special Operation” that is not designed to occupy a territory but to destroy its southern neighbor's military capabilities and capture what it regards as dangerous nationalists. Moscow has taken the following steps to respond to sanctions such as: Russian central Bank has more than doubled it main lending rate to 20% and provides extra liquidity to bank. The bank also banned Russian brokers from selling security held by foreigners, coupon payments for foreign investors holding rouble-denominated sovereign debt and dividends to overseas shareholders in Russian companies; the trade and industry recommended on march 4, 2022, that Russian fertilizer producers shall exports; rouble loans and credits to "persons of foreign states who commit unfriendly actions" are banned, except when prohibited by Russian law;“Russia will use money from a rainy day fund to limit borrowing as sanctions made it more expensive. A government decree also showed the fund would spend up to 1 trillion roubles (\$59.45 billion) to buy shares in Russian

companies; prime minister mishutin said Russia would provide additional support to technology companies and may tweak tax arrangements for business and household affected by sanctions; the government would also allocate additional funds to small and medium-sized businesses via subsidized lending scheme; Russia has banned airlines from countries including Britain, Bulgaria, Poland and the Czech Republic from its airspace after similar moves by those countries..

According to Bychchkor and Efremov (2022), Russia imposed special economic measures in response to western sanctions. The bans which took effect from March 1 2022 included: Russian exporters starting from February 28, 2022 are obliged to sell 80% of foreign currency received from foreign trade contracts and obliged to sell 80% of foreign currency credited from January 1, 2022; Russian residence are prohibited from lending to foreigner in foreign currency; Russian residents will not be able to put foreign currency on their accounts and deposits in foreign banks; Russian residents will not be able to transfer funds to foreign banks; Russia residence will transfer funds to foreign banks without opening a bank account using electronic means of payments provided by foreign provides of payment service etc. Nasr and Trevelyam, (2022), affirmed that, Russian President Vladimir Putin is demanding foreign buyers pay for Russian gas in roubles from Friday or else have their supplies cut, a move European capitals rejected and which Germany said amounted to "blackmail". Putin's decree on Thursday leaves Europe facing the prospect of losing more than a third of its gas supply. Germany, the most heavily reliant on Russia, has already activated an emergency plan that could lead to rationing in Europe's biggest economy. Energy exports are Putin's most powerful lever as he tries to hit back against sweeping Western sanctions imposed on Russian banks, companies, businessmen and associates of the Kremlin in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Moscow calls its Ukraine action a "special military operation". Putin said buyers of Russian gas "must open rouble accounts in Russian banks. It is from these accounts that payments will be made for gas delivered starting from tomorrow," or April 1. Putin's decision to enforce rouble payments has boosted the Russian currency, which fell to historic lows after the Feb. 24 invasion. The rouble has since recovered much lost ground. Payment in roubles would also blunt the impact of Western curbs on Moscow's access to its foreign exchange reserves. Meanwhile, European states have been racing to secure alternative supplies, but with the global market already tight, they have few options. The United States has offered more of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) but not enough to replace Russia.

Teslova (2022) affirmed that, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree Tuesday imposing retaliatory economic measures in response to actions by "unfriendly countries." According to the decree, which was published on the Kremlin's website, the measures are being taken in order to protect the national interests of Russia due to the "unfriendly and illegitimate actions" of the US and other countries and international organizations that have joined them "aimed at illegally restricting or depriving the Russian Federation, its citizens and Russian legal entities of property rights." The new rules prohibit state authorities at all levels as well as organizations and individuals under Russia's jurisdiction from making transactions, including the conclusion of foreign trade contracts, with legal entities, individuals and enterprises under their control in relation to which special

economic measures are applied. The decree also bans the fulfillment of obligations to persons and entities under sanctions and financial transactions with them. In addition, it bans the export of raw materials or products mined or produced in Russia if their end users are sanctioned individuals or entities. The BBC News of May 25, 2023 reports on Russian reactions towards sanctions states that, Russia has banned exports of more than 200 goods from the West, including telecoms, medical, vehicle, agricultural, electrical equipment and timber products. It is blocking interest payments to foreign holders of government bonds, and banning Russian firms from paying overseas shareholders. Foreign investors, who hold billions of dollars worth of Russian investments, are banned from selling them, (Telsova 2022).

Shea (2023) opined that, while no Western leader would expect sanctions even on this scale to crash the Russian economy overnight, the hope was that Putin would at least need to scale back his war aims in Ukraine and seek a quick exit from the conflict. A secondary hope was that Russians hard hit by falling living standards would turn against the regime in the Kremlin. One year on, these hopes have not been fulfilled. The Russian economy has held up well, and Putin and his ministers have been defiant. In the armaments sector, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has denied that Moscow is running out of computer chips and missile components and declared that Russia's defence industries, working day and night, will double production rates this year to replace the losses from the war in Ukraine. The rouble has maintained its value against the dollar. Russian GDP has contracted but not by the dramatic 20% to 30% or so that the sanctioning countries were hoping for. The Russian economy ministry claims that the contraction has been as small as 0.2% of GDP. Certainly, shops are well stocked even if the Russian consumer has to be content with a locally produced burger rather than a McDonald's Big Mac or a homemade sofa rather than the Ikea version. Inflation has increased significantly but the state has been careful to raise pensions and peg the prices of basic foodstuffs and monthly energy bills. So far there are no signs of social unrest despite the squeezed living standards. The Kremlin has greeted the sanctions as a stimulus to increase domestic production, particularly of foodstuffs and consumer goods and many Russians, bombarded with state propaganda about foreign threats to the country and the 'Great Patriotic War' to eliminate the fascist regime in Ukraine, seem willing to tighten their belts and do their patriotic duty, at least for now. The Kremlin's contention that the sanctions have had no effect thus far is of course untrue. Yet it does point to a number of factors that make Russia a harder country to sanction than many others. Shea further affirmed that, just before Putin invaded Ukraine last year, Germany suspended the NordStream 2 pipeline project to bring Russian gas to Western Europe via the Baltic Sea, (Shea 2023).

After one year of Putin's war against Ukraine, Germany cut its imports of Russian gas from around 50% of total consumption to just 15%. Yet Russia has still managed to sell enough oil and gas abroad to finance its war effort in Ukraine. As Russian piped gas exports have gone down, Russian LNG and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) exports to the EU have gone up, from 16bn cm³ in 2016 to 22bn cm³ in 2022. Even the Baltic states, which are among the hardest of the hardliners when it comes to sanctions against Moscow, have increased their LPG imports from Russia. The European Commission has been trying to convince EU member states not to sign any new gas contracts with Russia. At the same time, Moscow redirected its oil and gas

exports to what Russian Energy Minister Nikolay Shulginov calls “friendly countries”. India, for instance, has taken advantage of cheap Russian oil and increased its imports 22 times last year compared to 2021. India now accounts for over 50% of Russian Urals crude sales. The Kremlin has also been seeking new markets in Latin America and Africa. China has been taking more Russian oil and gas, although no new announcements regarding the construction of a Power of Siberia 2 pipeline were made when President Xi visited Moscow recently. This would allow Beijing to import an additional 50bn cm³ of Russian gas a year; a significant boost to the Kremlin's finances but still not a substitute for the 180bn cm³ of gas that Russia previously supplied to Europe. The sanctions have actually increased the percentage of oil and gas revenues in Russia's state budget – from 36% to 41%. So, Russia is becoming even more of a fossil fuel economy at a time when most of the industrialised countries have pledged to be carbon neutral and switch to non-carbon fuels by mid-century, (Shea 2023). At the same time, Moscow has been redirecting its oil and gas exports to what Russian Energy Minister Nikolay Shulginov calls “friendly countries”. India, for instance, has taken advantage of cheap Russian oil and increased its imports 22 times last year compared to 2021. India now accounts for over 50% of Russian Urals crude sales. The Kremlin has also weekend for new markets in Latin America and Africa. China has been taking more Russian oil and gas, although no new announcements regarding the construction of a Power of Siberia 2 pipeline were made when President Xi visited Moscow recently. This would allow Beijing to import an additional 50bn cm³ of Russian gas a year; a significant boost to the Kremlin's finances but still not a substitute for the 180bn cm³ of gas that Russia previously supplied to Europe. The sanctions have actually increased the percentage of oil and gas revenues in Russia's state budget – from 36% to 41%. So, Russia is becoming even more of a fossil fuel economy at a time when most of the industrialised countries have pledged to be carbon neutral and switch to non-carbon fuels by mid-century, (Shea 2023).

The facts presented in the study ,clearly brings to bear one dimension of the Russian-Ukraine conflict,which has to do with issues of respect to sanctions and how effective it is in international relations as many instances or cases of sanctions mated against Russia,still did not deter its aggression against Ukrainian.This further reinforces the idea that " the international arena is anarchical, without a central force/government to enforce rules to regulate and checkmate excesses of State's behavior in their conduct of foreign policy and pursuit of national interest.This behavior may reside in international politics ,leaving a bad precedence to be followed by more powerful states who feels they can employ brute force, destabilize the global world peace ,cause severe humanitarian catastrophe with impunity.

Conclusion

The study, was set out to buttress the Russian-Ukraine conflict which started on 22nd february 2022.the conflict has been narrated and viewed as a possible preparedness towards a third world war if alliance system or efforts are strictly put into action for furtherance of national interest. The Russia-Ukraine conflict and the escalation associated readily brings to mind the conflagration of the first world war. The immediate and outright military invasive of the republic of Ukraine is a clear case of sovereignty attack which connotes a demiberate mischievous calculation wrapped in a realist traditional thinking to undo a legally sanctioned

system. International conflict in the current contemporary liberal order remains a great source of security concern.

Many nations, international organizations and the likes meted appropriate sanctions against Russia to deter its further aggressive foreign policy and military onslaught. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the US, UK and EU, along with countries including Australia, Canada and Japan, have imposed more than 16,500 sanctions on Russia. Their main target has been Russia's money. Foreign currency reserves worth \$350bn (£276bn) - about half its total reserves - were frozen. About 70% of the assets of Russian banks were also frozen, the EU says, and some were excluded from Swift, a high-speed messaging service for financial institutions. Western nations have also: banned exports of technology Russia might use for making weapons banned imports of gold and diamonds from Russia banned flights from Russia sanctioned oligarchs - the wealthy business people linked with the Kremlin - and impounded their yachts (The BBC News of 23 February 2024). The US Treasury also says that the war in Ukraine and sanctions have led more than a million people - many of them young and highly educated - to leave Russia. Russia's government has also been slashing health spending to fund the war in Ukraine, according to the UK's Ministry of Defence. "This mainly hits people in rural areas," says James Nixey of foreign affairs think tank Chatham House. "The government makes cuts there rather than in the major cities, where they might cause uprisings," (The BBC News of 23 February 2024).

Recommendations

The study outlined some recommendations below:

1. Effectiveness of sanction on any violator of international conventions mostly on cases of use of force to settle international disputes.
2. Strengthening the United Nations more with adequate power to enforce its resolutions and punish any offender not minding its status.
3. Issues of sovereignty and outright violation of it should be addressed with grave consequences against the offender state(s).
4. Institutions like the United Nations, European Union, United States Department Of states should be effective and uncompromising in invoking sanctions to deter aggressive behaviours of states that can perturb global Peace and Security, bastardize Sovereignty of other states, etc.

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