

CANADA, THE EU AND NATO

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PART 1: WARM UP

INTRODUCTION

- Objectives of lesson plan
- Themes
- What is NATO?



WHAT IS NATO?



PART 2: LESSON

OVERVIEW OF LESSON PLAN

- Teacher's Guide
- Materials
- Opening the discussion
- Alternative lesson short version

OVERVIEW OF HANDOUT A

- Historical perspective:

Canada and NATO

Cold War and Post-Cold War

OVERVIEW OF HANDOUT A

- Historical perspective:
Timeline
1949 joins NATO

OVERVIEW OF HANDOUT B

- The EU and European Security:
 - CSDP
 - Strategic Compass
 - RDC
 - EDF

OVERVIEW OF HANDOUT C

- The 2% Debate
Key points:

PART 3:
STATION ACTIVITY

ACTIVITIES

- Interactive role playing

PART 4:
PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION



ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

- **February, 1954:** Nikita Khrushchev, leader of the Soviet Union, made the controversial decision to transfer Crimea to Ukraine to promote good relations between the two nations ¹
- **December 2013:** Pro-EU Ukrainian President Yanukovich, under considerable Russian pressure, decided not to sign a trade agreement with the European Union, sparking Ukrainian 'Euromaidan' protests against their government's perceived betrayal ²
- **February, 2014:** Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula to protect the Russian majority population in the area from Western influence, thereby taking control of the Black Sea ports and giving them strategic advantage over routes to the Mediterranean, Middle East and Balkans ³



Russian annexation of Crimea
(Source: Creative Commons)



Euromaidan Protests (Source: Mykhailo Liapin, Creative Commons)

INVASION OF UKRAINE

- **September 2020:** Ukraine, under President Volodymyr Zelensky, declared their intention to gain full NATO membership, which Putin perceived as a direct betrayal from NATO's alleged agreement not to expand to the former Soviet Bloc ¹
- **February 24, 2022:** Putin launched a 'Special Military Operation' for the purposes of 'demilitarization' and 'denazification' of Ukraine, thereby invading Ukraine with 190 000 troops and bombings in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa and the Donbass area ²

Demonstrations and protests related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in Krakow, 2023
(Source: Creative Commons)



Zelensky's visit after the Bucha Massacre on August 8, 2022, the site of 458 civilian deaths.
(Source: Rawpixel, Public Domain)

REACTIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

- Since the invasion, Western powers such as the EU and NATO have joined together to support Ukraine in the war with Russia
 - **EU Enlargement:** Ukraine and Moldova became official candidates of the EU (June 2022) ¹
 - **NATO Enlargement:** Since the Russian invasion, Finland has joined NATO (April 2023) and Sweden is currently finalizing agreements to join ²
- **Defense:** Traditionally seen as a ‘soft power’, the EU has made significant investments in military and defense since the war began, transforming it into a hard power to support Ukraine and defend its interests ³
- **Migration:** Mass exodus of Ukrainians (5 million+) have fled from from the conflict ⁴



Supplies provided by the EU
Baby hygiene kits supplied by the EU to the St. Martin's Hospital, Ukraine (Source: European Commission)

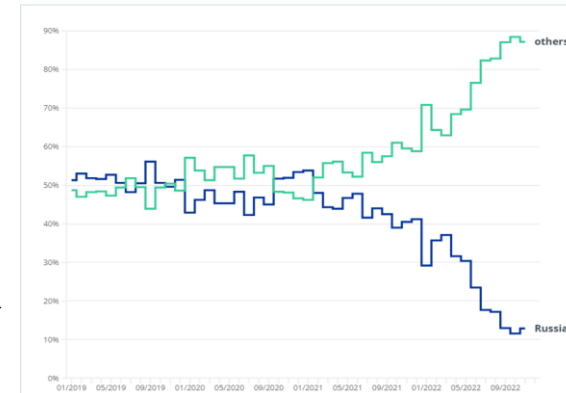


EU support for Ukrainian refugees in areas such as education, healthcare, accommodation and job search (Source: European Commission)

IMPACT: ECONOMY AND ENERGY

- **Sanctions:** The EU has placed several restrictions on Russia, preventing its access to financial markets and international assets as well as exportation of oil, goods and technology ¹
 - Russia is currently the most sanctioned country in the world, with over 13000 sanctions from countries around the globe ²
- **Rising Gas Prices:** Russia is a significant exporter of natural gas. To avoid Russian gas importation, the EU has employed a dual strategy of diversification of gas sourcing from other countries and exploration of renewable energy production (ex. Solar and wind power) ³
- **Soaring Food Prices:** Ukraine, known as the 'breadbasket' of Europe, struggles to export its grain given that Russia has blocked the Black Sea ports. Therefore, Ukraine has been relying on alternate routes through Europe to export their products, necessitating the rise of food prices, global hunger, and market competition with other countries ⁴

The EU's diversification away from Russian gas



Russia's share of EU gas imports was 50% in January 2019 and declined to 12% in November 2022 (Source: European Commission)



All Russian aircrafts are banned from overflying EU airspace (Source: AFP, European Commission)

IMPACT: CANADA

- **December 2, 1991:** Canada becomes the first Western country to recognize Ukraine's independence after the fall of the Soviet Union ¹
- Now, Canada is home to over 1.4 million people in the Ukrainian-Canadian community, comprising the largest diaspora outside of Ukraine and Russia ²
- **Support for Ukraine**
 - More than \$8 billion to support Ukraine (ex. financial, humanitarian, economic, military, and emergency services, etc.) ³
 - Canadian sanctions have capped Russian oil and have banned many Russian imports and exports ⁴
 - Operation UNIFIER - Canadian Armed Forces has trained over 38 000 Ukrainian military and security personnel ⁵
- Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET): Canada has welcomed over 185 000 Ukrainian refugees through the CUAET program ⁶



Canada sends military equipment to Ukraine
(Source: Canadian Armed Forces Photo)



Canadians assisting Ukrainian refugees in support of Operation REASSURANCE in Poland (Source: MCpl Genevieve Lapointe, Canadian Forces Combat Camera, Canadian Armed Forces Photo)

CONCLUSION

The war in Ukraine has been perceived as not only fight for Ukraine's sovereignty, but also a symbolic battle for international balance of power

“If Russia stops fighting and leaves Ukraine, the war ends.
If Ukraine stops fighting, Ukraine ends.”

– Antony Blinken, United States Secretary of State, during address to United Nations Security Council, February 24, 2023 ¹

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PART 3:
STATION ACTIVITY

STATIONS

Instructions: Students will be divided into groups and assigned a station to learn more about the various aspects of the war in Ukraine. Each group will answer the questions that correspond to their topic and become an expert on their stations.

Here are the stations:

- **Station 1:** Declaration of Military Intervention in Ukraine
- **Station 2:** EU Sanctions against Russia
- **Station 3:** Global Food Security
- **Station 4:** Solving the Energy Crisis
- **Station 5:** Migration

PART 4:
PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

Key Takeaways:

- Why is the war in Ukraine important?
- What are the global implications for the war in Ukraine? (ex. Economy, energy, food security, migration, etc.)
- How do the station sources enhance your understanding of the conflict in Ukraine?
- What predictions can we make of the future regarding Russia's ambitions, Ukrainian nationalism, and the world's response to the ongoing conflict?