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## The impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the future of Russian-European relations: A research abstract

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### Abstract

The Russian-Ukrainian war marks an exceptional event in the history of Russian-European relations, representing a pivotal turning point not witnessed since the end of World War II. This war distinguishes itself from its predecessors by employing a "hybrid warfare" approach, utilizing the diverse tools of conflict prevalent in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The war casts a long shadow over various aspects of Russian-European relations, leaving profound and far-reaching economic, political, and security implications. This research delves into a comprehensive study and analysis of the Russian-Ukrainian war, encompassing a description of its trajectory and developments, an examination of its multifaceted dimensions, and an exploration of its future repercussions on Russian-European relations. The war stands as a momentous historical event with deep consequences for Russian-European relations. This research provides a framework for understanding this war and analyzing its various aspects, with a particular focus on its future implications for relations between Russia and Europe.

**Keywords:** Russian army, international politics, European union

### Introduction

#### First: the idea of research

The war had an important impact on the European arena, leaving profound effects on the course of Russian-European relations. This war is the first large-scale military conflict that the continent has witnessed since the end of World War II, which gives it exceptional historical importance, and the aspirations of both sides, Russia and Europe, to build cooperative relations in various fields, including security, energy, trade, and borders. However, the war revived Traditional geopolitical perceptions, the structure of Russian-European relations was threatened by NATO expansion. The Atlantic Ocean (NATO) to the east, and its arrival to the Russian border, played a direct role in the escalation of tension between Russia and the West. Russia considered this expansion a threat to its national security, which exacerbated the differences between the two sides and decreased opportunities for cooperation. The Russian-Ukrainian war turned into a large-scale arena of conflict, exceeding its geographical borders to include various aspects of Russian-European relations. It has led to the imposition of strict economic sanctions on Russia, a decline in energy and trade cooperation, and increased security tensions along the border.

The future of Russian-European relations depends on the outcome of the war and the extent to which the two sides are able to overcome their differences and rebuild trust. The continuation of the war will lead to further deterioration in relations, while. An opportunity for re-cooperation may open if diplomatic efforts succeed in reaching a peaceful solution to the conflict. The war represents a tremendous challenge to Russian-European relations, and threatens the structure of cooperation that has been built over the past decades. The future of these relations depends on the ability of the two sides to overcome their differences, find peaceful solutions to the conflict, and rebuild trust and cooperation.

#### Second: The importance of research

The essence of the research is focused on analyzing the war, studying the field developments of the war, evaluating its effects at various levels, and anticipating future scenarios

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for relations between the two sides.

### Third: The research problem

The Russian-Ukrainian war constitutes an exceptional event that has profound repercussions on various aspects of Russian-European relations, and raises fundamental questions about the future of these relations. This issue raises a set of questions.

### Fourth: Research hypothesis

This war is a major geopolitical turning point, redrawing the map of power balances in Europe and the world. This hypothesis suggests that the war will lead to deepening the division between Russia and European countries, and perpetuating the distance between them on various political, economic, and security levels. What justifies our proposal of this hypothesis are the profound effects of the war. The war has profound effects on Russian-European relations, in terms of the imposition of economic sanctions, a decline in cooperation in the fields of energy and trade, an increase in security tension along the borders, as well as a change in power dynamics: The war changes the power dynamics in Europe. With the strengthening of NATO's position and the decline of Russia's influence. As well as strengthening blocs, the war contributes to strengthening international blocs and deepening the division between East and West. This war has many repercussions, the most prominent of which is a European division, as the war may lead to a deeper division within the European Union, between countries supporting Ukraine and countries seeking to maintain relations with Russia, as well as international tensions, as the war may escalate international tensions, and increase the risk of broader regional conflicts as well as economic crises. War may lead to global economic crises, especially in the areas of energy and food. The importance of this hypothesis lies in: Providing a possible explanation for the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the international system, and identifying possible paths for Russian-European relations in the future.

### Fourth: Research methodology

This research relied on a multi-faceted methodology, which included several approaches, including an analysis of a huge amount of data related to the study area, including historical events, the current political situation, international relations, economic developments, and social conditions. The analysis helped in understanding the factors that led to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the course of the war, and its effects on various aspects, we also adopted the descriptive approach, as it was described by studying the history of these relations, analyzing current trends, and evaluating the impact of the war on The dynamics between the two parties. The description also helped provide a comprehensive picture of Russian-European relations, and understand the challenges and opportunities they face in the future, as well as the forward-looking approach, as the future was anticipated, through analyzing potential scenarios, evaluating influencing factors, and anticipating future paths of development. Foresight helped make predictions about the future, and identify challenges and opportunities that may be faced. The use of multifaceted methodology allows the research topic to be analyzed from different angles, which has led to a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the conflict and its impacts.

This helps in providing accurate and reliable research results that are applicable on the ground.

### Fifth: Research plan

In order to study this topic, we divided the research into the following two sections:

**The first section:** The paths of field development of the war and the factors affecting its course

**The second section:** Analysis of the impact of the war on the reality of relations

**The third section:** A forward-looking view of the future of relations during the development of the war.

### The first topic

Paths of field development of the war and factors affecting its course Since February 24, 2022, the world has witnessed a Russian military invasion of Ukraine. This is one of the most important events that occurred on the international scene during the past five decades, as that period was characterized by an unprecedented détente between Russia and the West, followed by a decline and then a complete collapse of this détente <sup>[1]</sup>.

This war brought geopolitical considerations back to the forefront of the international scene. For years, European countries have strived to annex it, seeking to expand their influence on the doorstep of Russia's borders. This pursuit was met with strong opposition from Moscow, which warned of the dangers of such expansion. Despite the economic ties, Russian President Vladimir Putin chose to prioritize geopolitical and strategic interests at the expense of economic interests. This was clearly demonstrated in Putin's speech on February 22, 2022, in which he expressed his vision of Russian history and Ukraine's role in it, and the dangers that result from Kiev's bias toward the West. Putin stressed the existence of a "vital space" for Russia, stemming from historical and geographical factors, that cannot be abandoned <sup>[2]</sup>.

Russia is striving to restore its role and position as a major player on the global and regional scene, especially in areas it considers vital to its national security. Within its right to sovereignty and the protection of its security, Russia sees the necessity of developing new strategies that enable it to adapt, develop, and prove its strength, in light of its feeling of a threat to its interests <sup>[3]</sup>.

Russian policy in the Eurasian sphere can be seen as a response to what Moscow sees as Western provocations in Europe. It is logical for Russia to refuse to expand any military and security alliance near its borders, as this region is considered a vital strategic depth for it <sup>[4]</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Riyad Mahdi Al-Zubaidi, Lama Mutair Hassan, Dimensions and repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war and its impact on the international system, Al-Hashemi University Book Office, Baghdad, 2023, p. 60.

<sup>2</sup>Ghada Abdel Aziz, Post-Russian Escalation Scenarios. International Parties and the Ukrainian Crisis, International Affairs Analysis, 2/24/2022, available at the link: (3/20/2023) <https://tinyurl.com/z5fn48uc>.

<sup>3</sup>Abu Bakr Al-Desouki, "The Russian-Ukrainian Crisis and the Future of the International Order," International Politics Journal, No. 228, Cairo: April 2022, p. 68.

<sup>4</sup>Helga Haftendorn, "The Secrecy Puzzle: Theory-Building and Discipline-Building in International Security", International Studies Quarterly, Vol. 35, no. 1, March 2022, pp.12-16.

Russia's concern is partly related to its belief that EU expansion goes hand in hand with NATO's eastward expansion. Russia interprets the Union's activities in the Caucasus as undermining its regional economic interests, raising political and strategic concerns <sup>[5]</sup>.

It is clear from the above that Russia seeks, through its Eurasian policy, to protect its security and economic interests in a region it considers vital. The activities of both NATO and the European Union in this region are considered threats to these interests, prompting Russia to take counter steps to maintain its influence in the region. The operation can be divided into three main stages. The goal of the first stage was to control important strategic areas in Ukraine, including the Crimean Peninsula and the Donbass region. Russia achieved great successes in this stage, and was able to control areas Vast Ukrainian territory. As for the second phase, it aimed to gradually advance in some of the most important areas, especially in eastern Ukraine (Donbass). Russia focused on inflicting the greatest losses on the Ukrainian forces and destroying the logistical infrastructure supporting them. This phase led to large human losses among the ranks of the Ukrainian army, and also caused the collapse of Ukrainian state budget and deteriorating infrastructure <sup>[6]</sup>.

As for the third and final stage, its aim was to push Western countries to make concessions by creating crises in the energy and economic sectors. Russia cut off energy supplies to some European countries, which led to higher energy prices and inflation. Western countries are facing increasing economic difficulties due to this crisis, which may force them to pressure Ukraine to make concessions to Russia <sup>[7]</sup>.

Following these stages shows that the war has not yet reached the stage of stability, as the United States is striving to maintain its position as a dominant power, while a major rising power, Russia, is striving to achieve this. However, the American role cannot be completely excluded, because it is not realistic. And because Human history shows that the idea of excluding a great power requires a major war in which one party wins a decisive victory over its rivals. However, because of the dangers of such wars of mass destruction, all parties seek to avoid them <sup>[8]</sup>.

As a result, the situation is moving towards a more chaotic and competitive international system where each country seeks to achieve its own interests, which may lead to regional conflicts and tensions. The role of international institutions declines: such as the United Nations, as it loses its ability to resolve disputes effectively due to the division of member states over issues. As well as the increasing importance of regional powers such as China and India,

which play a greater role in shaping the international system. In general, the Russian-Ukrainian war is still ongoing, and its long-term effects on the international system are not yet clear <sup>[9]</sup>.

## The second topic

### Analysis of the impact of war on the reality of relations

This war greatly affected the nature of the relations between Russia on the one hand and European countries on the other hand, and this impact included many aspects at various levels and fields, including The economic aspect, the political aspect, and the security aspect, and this is what we will explain as follows: First: The impact of the war on the economic side: The war in Ukraine is still ongoing, and is greatly affecting the global economy, especially Russia and Europe. One of the most important economic effects of the war is concern about attacks directed at energy centers. Many European countries have chosen to continue importing Russian oil and gas <sup>[10]</sup>.

In fact, the amount of oil has increased, partly due to the difficulty of finding quick alternatives to Russian energy, as many European countries rely heavily on Russian imports, especially Germany. In addition, rising global energy prices make it difficult for European countries to shift their supplies away from Russia. However, continued dependence on Russian energy poses a threat to Europe's energy security as Russia could use energy as a weapon to pressure or punish Europe <sup>[11]</sup>. For example, Russia could reduce or cut off energy supplies, which could cause energy shortages and higher prices in Europe. Therefore, European countries are seeking to reduce their dependence on Russian energy by increasing investments in renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and searching for alternatives to gas. Russian, like liquefied natural gas from other countries <sup>[12]</sup>.

As for the second economic impact, it was represented by the European Union imposing strict sanctions on Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine. These sanctions come in the form of successive packages targeting Russian institutions such as banks, companies, and Russian entities such as the Crimean Peninsula and the Donbass region, and the Russian ruling elite, including officials, legislators, and the wealthy. Through these sanctions, the European Union aims to undermine Russia's economic base and pressure the Russian government to end its invasion of Ukraine, despite the important trade and investment relations between them. The European Union and Russia. The Union was able to agree on most of these sanctions between its member states. However, European dependence on Russian energy imports made targeting this sector difficult. Some of the most significant EU sanctions on Russia include asset freezes, as

<sup>5</sup>Firas Abbas Hashem, The dynamics of the Russian move towards Ukraine and the reflection of its impact on the international system (a geopolitical approach), Proceedings of the eighth scientific conference of the Department of Political Studies at the Mustansiriyah Center for Arab and International Studies, tagged: Global transformations. The state facing new types of challenges, Iraq - Baghdad, June 9-10, 2022, p. 404

<sup>6</sup>Dalal Mahmoud, "The Repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian War on the Forms and Dilemmas of Terrorist Threats," International Politics Journal, No. 229, Cairo: July (2022), p. 106.

<sup>7</sup>Hussein Sabah Hussein, The Russian-Ukrainian war and its repercussions on European countries, unpublished master's thesis, Tikrit University, College of Political Science, 2023, p. 85.

<sup>8</sup>Noura Hassan Al-Sheikh, The Repercussions of the Russian Military Escalation on the Global Economy, International Politics Journal, No. 228, Cairo: April 2022, p. 45.

<sup>9</sup>ra iccardo aolcaro, West-Russia Relations In Light of The Ukraine Crisis, IAI Research Papers, Institute Affair Internazionali, Roma, 2018, p. 78.

<sup>10</sup>Mohamed Heikal, The Future of the European Union in Light of Global Changes, Egyptian Observatory, 9/3/2022, article available at the following link: (7/27/2023) <https://n9.cl/94dby>

<sup>11</sup>Saad Haqqi Tawfiq, The Russian-Ukrainian war in the balance of Russian-American relations and its effects on international politics, in the book The Biopolitical Painting Drawn by Wars: A Study of the Causes and Consequences of the Russian War on Ukraine, edited by Sarmad Amin, College of Law and Political Science - Iraqi University, Baghdad, 2023. p. 57.

<sup>12</sup>Dalal Mahmoud, previous source, p. 110.



the assets of several Russian banks and companies in the EU have been frozen, as well as travel bans, as many Russian officials, lawmakers, and other elites have been banned from traveling to the EU <sup>[13]</sup>.

It also included other sanctions, such as banning the export of some goods and technology, as the export of some sensitive goods and technology to Russia was banned, separating some Russian banks from the SWIFT system, and some Russian banks were separated from the SWIFT system, which is the international financial transfer system, and the repercussions of the European sanctions on Russia are still unclear. It is clear that some experts believe that the sanctions will cause severe harm to the Russian economy, while others believe that they will not be effective in achieving their goals <sup>[14]</sup>.

### **Second: The reflection of the war on the political side**

Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to massive political transformations in Europe, which had a profound impact on Russian-European relations. The most prominent of these political impacts include:

#### **1. Strengthening European cooperation**

In the face of Russian aggression, the European Union countries united in an unprecedented way. For the first time, they agreed to finance the arming of a non-EU member state. They also activated the 2001. Temporary Protection Rule, allowing their borders to be opened to Ukrainian refugees and received countries such as Poland millions of Ukrainian refugees <sup>[15]</sup>.

**2. Changing the position of European countries towards Russia:** Through its war, Russia sought to divide Europe and weaken its unity, but the result was exactly the opposite. European countries united in condemning the war and imposing strict sanctions on Russia, and this led to a significant deterioration in Russian-European relations.

**3. Accelerating NATO expansion:** In the wake of the Russian invasion, both Sweden and Finland applied to join NATO. This was a major shift, as the two countries had traditionally been neutral. This reflects European countries' concern about Russia's aggression and their desire to strengthen their security <sup>[16]</sup>.

We conclude from the above that the Russian-Ukrainian war led to a significant redrawing of the political landscape in Europe. Russian-European relations became more hostile, while European countries united and strengthened. These

<sup>13</sup>Dalia Muhammad Ibrahim, "The Russian-Ukrainian War and the Exposure of European Energy Security," *International Politics Journal*, No. 229, Cairo: July (2022), p. 87.

<sup>14</sup>Kazem Hashim Nimah, symposium entitled: The controversy over the possibility of using nuclear weapons in the Ukrainian war, *International Institute for Arab Renewal*, 12/21/2022, available at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9b3ub8> (3/1/2023).

<sup>15</sup>Fikret Namiq Abdul Rahman, *The Russian-Ukrainian War, Roots, Developments, and Future Prospects*, in the book *The Biopolitical Painting Drawn by Wars: A Study of the Causes and Consequences of the Russian War on Ukraine*, edited by Sarmad Amin, (Baghdad: College of Law and Political Science - Iraqi University, 2023, p. 333).

<sup>16</sup>Vastly aostrov., *Possible Russian Invasion of Ukraine, Scenarios for Sanctions, on Russia, Ukraine and the EU*, Policy Notes and Reports 55, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, February 2022, p. 14

transformations are likely to have a long-term impact on international relations.

**Third:** The impact of the war on the security aspect the war in Ukraine is still ongoing, and has a profound impact on security. The war in Ukraine has highlighted major weaknesses in European security, which has led to an increase in European countries' dependence on the United States. The most important of these points are the following:

- 1. Europe's inability to defend itself:** As the war showed that European countries lacked the military capabilities necessary to respond to a major aggression, they relied heavily on the United States to protect their security <sup>[17]</sup>.
- 2. Strengthening NATO:** In the wake of the Russian invasion, European countries moved to strengthen NATO, increased their defense budgets, and deployed more forces in Eastern European countries. This led to an increase in Europe's dependence on American military leadership.
- 3. Decline of the idea of a European army:** There have been discussions about creating a joint European army for years. However, the war in Ukraine has weakened this idea and European countries have shown a preference to rely on the United States rather than invest in their own military capabilities.
- 4. Fears of German militarization:** As Germany announced a significant increase in its military spending in response to the war, this raised fears in some European countries, especially Germany's neighbors, as these countries fear Germany's return to its militarization and control over Europe <sup>[18]</sup>. We conclude from the above that the war in Ukraine led to a significant reshaping of the European security landscape. European countries have become more dependent on the United States, while the idea of a European army has declined. Fears of German militarization remain, and it is unclear what the long-term future of European security is.

### **The third topic**

#### **A forward-looking view of the future of relations during the development of the war**

This war has destabilized the continent and raised questions about the future of these relations. Between the countries parties to the war and its impact on the rest of the world, the following are some possible future scenes of what will result from the continuation of this war:

**First:** Europe declares its readiness for a nuclear response against Russia This possibility is represented by the continued escalation of tension between the West and Russia, with Russia threatening to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine, as a strong European declaration emerges, supported by the United States, confirming Europe's readiness to confront any Russian nuclear aggression with all available means, including strategic nuclear weapons. Tactical and other weapons of mass destruction <sup>[19]</sup>.

<sup>17</sup>Hassan Abu Talib, *Repercussions of the Ukraine Crisis on the Middle East*, *International Politics Journal*, No. 228, Cairo, April 2022, p. 80.

<sup>18</sup>Dalia Muhammad Ibrahim, previous source, 90

<sup>19</sup>Stephanie Bizard, Andrew Radin, *et al.*, *European Relations with Russia: Threat Perceptions, Responses, and Strategies in the Wake of the Ukrainian Crisis*, California, RAND Corporation, 2017, p. 14.

This possibility has important implications, as it represents a strong deterrence message, as this declaration aims to send a strong deterrent message to Russia that any use of nuclear weapons will face a decisive response from the West. It also aims to support the effectiveness of nuclear deterrence, as this statement shows strong European solidarity with the principle of nuclear deterrence. Mutual exchange, which is considered the cornerstone of preventing the outbreak of a large-scale nuclear war. This firm European position may push Russia to reconsider its threats to use nuclear weapons, especially with its awareness of the dire consequences of such behavior and on despite the announcement's deterrent message, it may also raise global concerns about the possibility of full-scale nuclear war. The realization of this possibility will entail important consequences, most notably: increased tension, as this scene may lead to increased tension between the West and Russia, with the possibility of further military or provocative measures being taken by either side. The severity of the situation may also motivate both sides to enter into serious diplomatic talks to ease the situation. The intensity of tension and the search for peaceful solutions to the conflict in Ukraine is likely to be followed by other countries evolving closely, with the possibility of taking positions or actions that affect the course of the conflict. We conclude from the above that this potential scene represents a dangerous escalation in international relations, with serious risks to global security and stability <sup>[20]</sup>.

**Second:** Relationships return to normal after reaching a peaceful solution to the war in Ukraine through diplomatic negotiations.

This possibility assumes that a diplomatic solution is the most logical, as the continuation of the war poses an enormous burden on all parties, making a negotiated diplomatic solution the most sustainable option <sup>[21]</sup>. Europe is striving to stop the war through a diplomatic initiative that takes into account the interests of both Russia and Ukraine. The initiative includes a ceasefire by Russia and its withdrawal from Ukraine, with the possibility of making adjustments to the disputed borders. On her. In exchange, the sanctions imposed on Russia will be gradually lifted and it is likely that certain concessions will be made to Russia in compensation for its losses in the war. French President Emmanuel Macron is considered a major player in mediation efforts to resolve the crisis. Signs of negotiation emerged between the two sides in early 2023, which could pave the way for serious direct negotiations for a ceasefire and comprehensive solutions to the crisis. Peace negotiations must include all aspects of the crisis to prevent renewed fighting, including security guarantees for Russia <sup>[22]</sup>. This possibility has important consequences. The most prominent of which is ending the war, as reaching a diplomatic solution will lead to ending the war, which will significantly reduce human and material losses. This will

also contribute to improving stability in the region and preventing further escalation. Ending the war could stimulate an economic recovery in Ukraine, Russia, and Europe. This may contribute to Developments in improving international relations in general <sup>[23]</sup>.

**Third:** The war continues at a similar pace for long periods, with each side achieving gains and losses without a final resolution This possibility has important consequences, the most prominent of which is an extended conflict between the two countries, as the pace of the war worsens and becomes an almost permanent state of war on the European continent, in addition to the continued risk of escalation and the increase in human and material losses by providing support to Ukraine and maintaining pressure on the Kremlin, similar to what the Soviet Union faced in the Afghanistan War. Which may threaten to destabilize internal stability in Russia <sup>[24]</sup>.

## Conclusion

After completing the study of the research topic, we reached the following results and recommendations:

### First: The results

1. Russia believes that continued European support for Ukraine hampers any progress towards ending the war soon, and President Putin has called on his people to do so.
2. Russia seeks to thwart and thwart the Western sanctions imposed on it by the European Union
3. The geopolitics of Eurasia will be very different after the war. Signs of this include a move away from Russian energy dependence, and the changes will significantly impact Russian-European relations.
4. Evidence points to the war may be long-term without clear solutions on the horizon, as current developments indicate an increase in the intensity of the conflict and there are no signs of easing its intensity despite the continuation of discussions between the parties.
5. It represents a critical phase in relations and is characterized by escalating tensions, a proxy war, an arms race, propaganda, and economic sanctions, similar to the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.
6. The reasons for the war were due to the expansion of NATO, as Russia believed that NATO's expansion to the east threatened its security and interests, which prompted it to intervene in Ukraine. On the other hand, Russia is confronting what it considers Western hegemony, which has led to tensions with Europe.
7. The war led to the imposition of economic sanctions, with both Russia and Europe imposing economic sanctions on the other, threatening to seriously damage their economic relations.
8. The war resulted in an arms race: The war led to an escalating arms race between Russia and Europe, with increased military spending and the development of new weapons.

<sup>20</sup>Khaled Mansour, How were Russian-German relations affected by the Ukrainian war, 4/28/2023, available at the following link: (8/10/2023). <https://www.wattan.net/ar/news>

<sup>21</sup>Mona Soliman, "Possible Scenarios for the Russian-Ukrainian Crisis," International Politics Journal, Issue 231, Cairo: January 2023, p. 54.

<sup>22</sup>Cihhrstoph Colker, Globalization and Insecurity in the Twenty-First Century: NATO and the Management of Risk, Adelphi Paper 345 (Oxford: Oxford University Press,2022, p.39.

<sup>23</sup>Ali Al-Din Hilal, "The Impact of the Russian-Ukrainian War on the World Order," International Politics, No. 288, April 2022, p. 23.

<sup>24</sup>Ibrahim Asaidi in the symposium "The Ukrainian Crisis: Its Causes, Consequences, and Repercussions," Siyasat Arabiya Magazine, Doha, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, Issue 9, July 2022, p. 015.

9. This war results in another proxy war as Ukraine is used as a proxy war zone between Russia and the West, threatening to draw other countries into the conflict.
10. Propaganda is used extensively by both sides in a war to influence public opinion and distort the image of the other side.
11. Europe is facing a stifling energy crisis due to its dependence on Russian gas, with the difficulty of dispensing with Russian gas in the short term due to the lack of sufficient alternatives.
12. The accession of Sweden and Finland to NATO exacerbated polarization in Europe, similar to the period preceding the Cold War.
13. The re-arming of European countries, especially Germany, and the allocation of huge budgets to defence, brings to mind the pattern of relations that preceded the First and Second World Wars.
14. The conflict will have profound and long-term geopolitical repercussions, especially on the national security of European countries.
15. The war would lead to a re-division of spheres of influence in Europe, potentially to the detriment of the interests of Eastern European countries.

## Second

### Recommendations

1. We recommend that the crisis be resolved peacefully and under the umbrella of the United Nations, as long as there is no progress for the two parties.
2. We recommend that Iraq be open to all major powers and that it avoid any future policy of conflict on its soil between major powers.
3. We recommend that European countries continue to provide military, financial and humanitarian support to Ukraine, with a focus on helping the country rebuild its infrastructure and strengthen its self-defense capacity.
4. We recommend that the European Union strengthen sanctions against Russia, with a focus on targeting Russian elites and vital economic sectors.
5. We recommend that European countries strengthen their defense capabilities, including by increasing military spending and strengthening cooperation in the field of security.

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