

## The repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the world

تداعيات الحرب الروسية الأوكرانية على العالم

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Date of send:11/01/2023    Date of acceptance:29/05/ 2023    Date of publication ;10/06/2023

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**Abstract:** The research aims to shed light on the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on restoring the balance of international powers, and analyze the Russian political justifications for invading Ukraine, and the repercussions of that war on world peace, by describing and analyzing those repercussions. The research also deals with Russian threats to use nuclear weapons, and the problem of the study lies in the fact that NATO is keen to expand east towards Europe , at the same time Russia is keen to protect its national security. and In the event that the two parties fail to reach peaceful solutions, it is expected that the Russian invasion of Ukraine will turn into a third world war. I believe that one of the most important results of the study is the need to intensify diplomatic efforts to find a mechanism that would prevent the presence of NATO in Ukraine.

**Keywords:** Repercussions – Russian Ukrainian war - World peace

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## Introduction

The problem of study is that it deals with the search for a mechanism to stop the Russian-Ukrainian war and avoid the outbreak of a third world war. I think the problem is very complicated by NATO's eagerness to expand into Eastern Europe and the threat to Russia's national security. Russia is well aware that Ukraine's future accession to NATO will allow the presence of NATO forces on the Russian-Ukrainian border.

Russia's concerns are not limited to Ukraine and eastern Europe, but also include Sweden and Norway in northern Europe, This means that the scenario of the Russian invasion of Ukraine could be repeated in the future with the countries of Northern Europe that have borders with Russia if those countries seek to join NATO.

however Ukraine has an importance that distinguishes it from the countries of northern Europe, it is the trade route through which the Russian gas pipelines pass to the heart of the European continent.

### Research problem:

The problem lies in the difficulty of predicting the political impact of that war on international alliances and the possibility of new alliances emerging as a result of some countries joining the Eastern Bloc as an alternative to Europe.

The research problem also lies in how to overcome the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war, that war that made the countries of the world face two options, both of which were bitter. The first, That the international community submit to the aggressive war and abandon Ukraine in exchange for Russia continuing to pump gas and energy to Europe.

The second, that the international community support Ukraine and take all legal means to support legitimacy and stop the aggression, and bear the consequences of this decision in terms of energy shortage as a result of stopping the export of Russian gas and the resulting halt of factories and damage to the economy.

The problem also lies in the search for a mechanism to solve the food security crisis as a result of stopping the export of Russian and Ukrainian wheat, on which most countries depend, including Europe.

### Research Aims :

The research aims to shed light on international efforts to confront the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war and European strategies to confront food and energy shortages, and the extent of their success in the short and long term.

### Research Methodology :

Studying the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war entails analyzing the effects of the crisis politically and economically, describing the alternatives available to the international community to overcome the problem of food and energy security, and analyzing the extent to which countries are able to dispense with Russian resources in the long term.

**Firstly: Justifications for the Russian Invasion of Ukraine**

The issue of the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization NATO to the east raised Russia's concern, which demanded the alliance to withdraw its forces from Eastern Europe and even pledge not to join Ukraine and Georgia to the alliance as a precondition before the withdrawal of Russian forces from the Ukrainian borders.

**1- NATO Expansion East:**

The main reason for the Russian invasion of Ukraine lies in the conflict between Russia and NATO, which seeks to annex the countries of Eastern and Northern Europe, including Ukraine, which has begun serious steps to join the alliance.

What Russia fears is the expansion of NATO in its vital space until it reaches its borders and threatens its political, economic and military interests. So Russia will not, under any circumstances, allow NATO to expand to the east, nor will it allow Ukraine to join Western institutions .

Hence, the main and direct reason for launching the Russian war on Ukraine is Russia's desire to obtain guarantees that Ukraine will not join NATO, and Russia also seeks that Ukraine stop demanding the restoration of the areas controlled by the separatists.

There is no doubt that Russia has legal justifications, as it considers that the demand for the restoration of Donetsk and Luhansk provinces is a violation of the Minsk 1 and Minsk 2 protocols of 2015.<sup>1</sup>

**2-The extension of Russian influence in the heart of the European continent**

Ukraine is an integral part of Russian history and a strategic port for Russian interests that achieves its industrial and commercial interests. Through Ukraine, Russia can extend its control and influence within the European continent politically, economically and militarily. Through Ukraine, Russia controls the outlets of the Black Sea, the Caucasus, and the countries of Eastern Europe.

Ukraine also represents strategic importance for achieving energy security, because Russian gas is released to Europe by passing through Ukrainian territory. Also, most of Russia's exports are transferred to Europe through the transportation lines that pass through the Ukrainian lands<sup>2</sup>

**3- Preserving Russian national security:**

NATO, with the support of Western countries, seeks to tighten control and extend its influence over the northern Black Sea and Crimea. With the help of Turkey in the south and Bulgaria and Romania in the west, he will be able to control Russia politically, economically and militarily.

**4-** If NATO succeeds in annexing Ukraine, it will deal Russia a painful economic blow, because it will control the Russian trade crossings, gas pipelines, and energy supplies that pass through Ukrainian territory.

**5-** The recent announcement by NATO of following the open-door policy has alarmed Russia in particular, and the United States has sent some forces to support the border countries with Russia. The support of the West to Ukraine with money and weapons confirms these Russian fears.

Before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Russia asked the United States to abide by the following pledge “The United States undertakes to prevent NATO from extending to the east and to prevent countries from the former Soviet republics from joining the alliance, in addition to not establishing military bases in the former Soviet republics. Which did not join NATO, or use its infrastructure to carry out any military activities or to develop cooperation duet with it”

Russia also asked the United States to refrain from operating flights of heavy bombers designed to transport nuclear and non-nuclear weapons, and not to deploy ships in its airspace and territorial waters, which could involve surface warfare of any kind in overseas regions. However, the United States did not respond to the Russian demands, which prompted Russia to launch its military operations<sup>3</sup>

6- Among the reasons is also Russia's resentment of Ukraine's suppression of the Russian-speaking population in the Donbass region, who are the majority, which Russia describes as racist. This is in addition to Ukraine continuing, for years, to bomb the region and target civilians there, and its non-compliance with the Minsk agreements.

7- There are many files that were a direct reason for the Russian war against Ukraine, and those files are completely ignored by America, and it is impossible to solve the Russian-Ukrainian crisis without addressing these files. The main file includes Ukraine's desire to join the European Union and NATO, and this is what Russia fears, which still views Ukraine as an integral part of Russian national security. Another file is related to Ukraine declaring its intention to acquire nuclear weapons, and this is also feared by Russia because it threatens Russian national security.

8- There are other reasons, including the measures taken by the Ukrainian authorities since 2013 and until now regarding the political, economic and religious isolation of Ukraine from Russia, and even the religious measures taken by Ukraine to separate the Ukrainian Orthodox Church from the Russian Church.

9- The failure of all diplomatic efforts to settle the differences between the two countries, and perhaps the reason for the failure is the strictness of each party with certain requests and the other party's rejection of them. Russia is calling on Ukraine to reduce the number of the Ukrainian armed forces, and for Kyiv to declare its neutrality and abandon its plans to join NATO. And to commit not to place military bases or foreign weapons on its territory. Moscow requires Kyiv to secure the rights of the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine in their mother tongue, and to reject discrimination on the basis of language. In addition, Ukraine should finance the reconstruction of Donbass.

As for the Ukrainian side, it calls for "a cease-fire, the withdrawal of Russian forces, and obtaining security guarantees from a number of countries." And he stresses that Ukraine "will definitely keep its army." He believes that "the disputed areas between Russia and Ukraine should be discussed separately from the main peace agreement."

**Secondly : Political repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war:**

The Russian-Ukrainian war revealed to the world that the balance of power will not continue in favor of the United States of America, and showed the countries of the Middle East that siding with the American-European policy would not be the best option. Therefore, in this part, I will deal with the political orientation of the countries of the world from the two warring states

**1-Russian-Chinese rapprochement :**

China has taken a clear position on the Russian-Ukrainian war, and Beijing has refused to condemn the Russian aggression and indicated that the main reason is NATO's expansion towards the east. Despite this, China did not explicitly support the aggression, given the trade relations it has with the European continent.

We note that the Russian-Chinese political relations are ancient due to the unity of interests between them in the face of American hegemony over the world.

Russia has realized years ago the need to establish an alliance based on partnership and strategic affinity with Asian powers, including China, India and Korea<sup>5</sup>.

The Russian-Chinese rapprochement emerged to confront the US-Western alliance previously during the Russian-Georgian crisis and Russia's desire to punish the West by diverting its trade to the Middle East and China<sup>6</sup>.

Hence, Russia has been dedicated to persuading Asian countries to cooperate with it to confront the clash of civilizations, that clash that the United States of America is leading by including the largest possible number of European countries into NATO<sup>7</sup>.

Hence, the most important repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war is that it led to an increase in the political rapprochement between Russia and China , However, it cannot be said that this rapprochement is announced or that it is 100% due to the presence of many obstacles, including that China has great economic relations with the United States and does not want to sacrifice it. These relationships take priority over competition for global influence.

And increased the importance of cooperation between Russia and China and the existence of common interests between them, as the Chinese army plays an important role in preventing immigration to Russian lands. Therefore, China's attitude was clear, as it refused to condemn the Russian war on Ukraine

**2- The political Repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian War on the Countries of East and Southeast Asia :**

The attitudes of Asian countries on the Russian-Ukrainian war varied and were characterized by ambiguity. For example, Singapore contented itself with denouncing the Russian invasion of Ukraine and described it as unjustified, while Malaysia contented itself with the phrase "the two parties must resolve the conflict peacefully," and Thailand called for the necessity of resolving the conflict peacefully and expressed its concern about The current situation, while Vietnam called on the two sides to exercise restraint and intensify peace efforts.

Perhaps one of the reasons for the caution of Southeast Asia is the dependence of a number of countries in the region on Russian armament, in addition to the reluctance of these countries to criticize a permanent member of the Security Council and their preference for a diplomatic solution.

Also, some countries in Southeast Asia, like Myanmar, saw in the current situation a strategic opportunity to reduce the hegemony and authority of the United States of America after its supremacy at the top of the global system after the Cold War, as they are countries that do not have good relations with the western side and Washington in particular<sup>8</sup>.

India sided with the Russian side and expressed this positively when it abstained from voting on the United Nations resolution condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Hence, India was keen to stand neutral between the two parties and abstained from voting. This behavior seems abnormal, as the United States supported India in the past when it made Pakistan the best destination for fighting terrorism.

Hence, it can be said that the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war had political repercussions that move in the direction of neutrality between the two parties in order to preserve their interests with the United States of America.

It seems that these countries maintained their relationship with the United States in the past, due to the existence of economic treaties between them<sup>9</sup>.

Russia's policy of attracting East and South Asian countries is not recent, as it pursued the same policy during the Georgian crisis, Russia was looking at the American move and what it seeks of political, economic and military superiority and influence in the region and the expansion of NATO, and from here Russia is trying to follow the appropriate methods to restore its influence in the region<sup>10</sup>.

Perhaps one of the most prominent repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war is Russia's tendency to be politically present in Syria, Iran and Libya, and to be present in international waters through its naval fleet. It is expected that Russia will seek to open new markets for Russian weapons and goods in the Middle East.

From the foregoing, we conclude that the Russian-Ukrainian war led to an increase in the rapprochement between Russia and the countries of East and South Asia. This rapprochement was evident through the refusal of those countries to condemn the war.

### **3- The political repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the Arab countries and the Middle:**

The Arab countries have taken a hesitant stance on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as those countries have interests with Russia and at the same time they are keen to appease the United States of America. When voting in the United Nations in favor of a resolution condemning the Russian war on Ukraine, 15 Arab countries agreed to the resolution, while Sudan, Iraq and Algeria refused to vote.

It seems that the vote of those Arab countries in favor of the decision to condemn the Russian war on Ukraine was the result of political pressure exerted by the American administration on those countries, as evidenced by the fact that the United States tried

the same attempt to pressure Saudi Arabia to pump more oil in order to limit the rise in its prices in the global market, but The KSA refused<sup>11</sup>.

As for the Arab Emirates, it seized the opportunity to achieve political benefits and abstained from voting on the resolution in exchange for Russia supporting the Emirati project that classifies the Houthis as a terrorist group.

Hence, the Arab countries followed a policy of neutrality regarding the sea lanes. Although Turkey implemented the provisions of the Montreux Convention and closed the sea lanes in the face of warships, Egypt followed a policy of neutrality and opened the Suez Canal to all ships.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine confirms to the Arab countries that the United States is retreating in the region. It is withdrawing from Afghanistan, preparing for a nuclear deal with Iran, and not defending Saudi Arabia and the UAE against Houthi attacks. However, regional neutrality is not limited to the desire not to interfere in the Ukrainian crisis, but also includes the unwillingness to see any side in the US-Russian conflict as victorious or defeated.

One of the most prominent political repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the Arab countries and the Middle East is the conflict of political interests and the inability of the Arab countries to take a decision, especially since the results of this war cannot be predicted in the future.

What complicates matters more is that the Arab countries have political and economic relations with the two sides of the conflict, which will inevitably be affected by the support of one party over the other.

Over the decades, Russia has succeeded in building a strong network of diplomatic relations with the Arabs by providing support in the field of gas, weapons, oil, and military training, as well as participating in peacekeeping and anti-terrorism operations.

At the same time, the United States of America contributed to supporting the economy of many Arab countries, and has always provided material and military aid. And it is difficult to rely on the Arab world with the fate of that war.

I believe that if the war is prolonged, it will inevitably affect the internal policies of the Arab countries, especially with the connection of that war to the economic crises within the countries.

### **Thirdly: Economic Repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian War:**

The Russian war on Ukraine was not a transient event whose effects were limited to two countries. Rather, it is a war with a regional dimension, and its goal from its inception was to prevent Ukraine from joining NATO, which includes Western countries and the United States. The Russian attack on Ukraine led to the mobilization of all Western and European countries to help Ukraine with great care, so as not to get directly involved in the war, and thus that war had economic effects on Europe and the world. So In this part, I will discuss the economic effects of the Russian-Ukrainian war in its various aspects.

**1-The Repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war on Arab food security:**

Food security is considered one of the biggest challenges facing the Arab world. Despite the availability of all the natural and human factors that allow the Arab countries to achieve self-sufficiency and food security, the Arab countries still suffer from a shortage of food production, and the danger of food security increases in times of crisis, and this is what happened after the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

in 1983, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations stressed the importance of access to food, and its report stated that “it must be ensured that all people at all times are able to obtain, physically and economically, the basic foods they need.” The US Department of Agriculture defines food security in a report that states, “Food security at the household level is achieved when all members of the household, at all times, have access to enough food for an active, healthy life.”<sup>12</sup>

The Russian-Ukrainian crisis represents a direct threat to Arab food security that requires urgent solutions to limit the repercussions of this crisis, and other long-term solutions to avoid the recurrence of its effects. Therefore, the Arab countries must reconsider their strategies, re-study Arab food security as part of Arab national security, and study the means necessary to achieve it for all Arab countries by raising local production rates, expanding the cultivation of the main crops. For the sake of Arab food integration and enhancing food security for all countries in the region and the need to invest in joint Arab agricultural projects, in light of the presence of huge Arab financial surpluses, vast arable Arab lands, and distinguished Arab resources and expertise.

By examining the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war on Arab food security, it becomes clear that Russia is the largest exporter of wheat in the world, and Ukraine is in fourth place among wheat exporters.

Global indicators indicate that Arab countries acquire 11% of world wheat imports, and depend entirely on it for their food. Egypt is one of the largest importers of Russian wheat, as it imports the equivalent of 22% of Russian wheat. Egypt is also the first importer of Ukrainian wheat

The situation is not much different for the rest of the Arab countries, which depend on imports of Russian and Ukrainian wheat<sup>13</sup>

The Middle East and the Arab world are among the regions most affected by the crisis, and the damage will increase if it continues for a long time, because most Arab countries have stocks of wheat sufficient for only a few months. Wheat supplies are expected to be affected, especially since military operations are concentrated in eastern Ukraine, which contains most of the fertile agricultural lands and the most abundant and most productive wheat crop, so that it can be confirmed that there will be lower production rates, which negatively affects current and future prices<sup>14</sup>.

Perhaps one of the most important repercussions of the Russian invasion of Ukraine is that it caused great destruction in the agricultural sector in Ukraine, which led to severe disturbances in the global food market and exacerbated hunger in the world. The agreement signed between Ukraine and Russia in July made it possible to lift the



blockade on ships carrying food exports, and allowed them to leave Ukraine's ports on the Black Sea.

## **2- The repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war on energy:**

The Russian-Ukrainian war has resulted in serious repercussions on energy security in Europe, which depends entirely on the import of Russian gas through Ukrainian territory.

The war in Ukraine shows the urgent need for nuclear energy. Europe has prepared for the winter with energy shortages and natural gas running out, and soon Europe will resort to closing many factories and leaving its citizens shivering from the cold. And around the world, fossil fuel prices have soared, as Europe, the United States and other countries cut back on their purchases of cheap Russian oil and gas.

In Germany, for example, which relies on natural gas to generate about 15 percent of its electricity needs. It uses natural gas to generate the necessary heat in factory furnaces, especially for the manufacture of building materials, which means that nuclear plants cannot solve the entire problem. It is estimated that extending the life of German nuclear plants will address only one per cent of the projected energy shortfall.

One of the most important repercussions of the crisis is that the price of natural gas has now increased by about ten times its price in Europe a year ago. The continent is competing with Japan and other global buyers for LNG supplies, driving up prices even further. Fears that Europe could slip into an energy crisis over the winter have reached new levels, after Russia's energy supplier, Gazprom, extended indefinitely to block forced gas flows through its main pipeline, Nord Stream 1, to Germany<sup>15</sup>.

Some believe that if natural gas supplies from Russia stop, some gas-intensive industries, such as steel mills, will begin to reduce their production or even stop. European countries may also be forced to increase reliance on coal, the largest polluter of the environment with its high carbon emissions, to operate. Power plants, and if the crisis continues into the winter season and European countries are unable to fill their stocks of natural gas, some of them may witness power outages and damage to residents in their homes, not just companies and businesses.

Italy also needs fuel, as it relies heavily on Russian fossil fuels. Last year, it imported nearly three-quarters of its gas from Russia. Italy began importing more gas from Algeria and Norway, after the Russian company Gazprom reduced gas flows to the country, and it is also looking urgently to secure new supplies, thus ending its dependence entirely on Russian gas.

Russia has already stopped exporting gas to European countries, which it describes as unfriendly to Russia, and because of the refusal of those countries to pay the price of Russian gas in rubles, although some European countries have stored gas in excess of 80%, they are still concerned about the repercussions of the crisis in the short term, especially after its prices rose many times over.

## **3-European strategy to overcome the energy crisis:**

After the rise in gas prices in the wake of the Russian-Ukrainian war, Europe began to search for an alternative to solve the crisis, and coal was the first choice because it is more competitive in many markets, and some countries resorted to coal as an alternative to energy due to the increased demand for it in Europe, and it is inevitable to use coal. Despite its environmental damage, as it results in burning huge amounts of carbon dioxide and air pollutants compared to natural gas. Hence, a return to coal will inevitably slow the transition to more sustainable energy sources<sup>16</sup>.

Some countries resorted to easing gas taxes, and reducing the prices of carbon dioxide emissions. However, these short solutions may work in the short term to reduce electricity bills, but they go in the opposite direction to what is required to prevent an increase of 1.5 degrees in temperature, which increases the possibility of a climate problem in the coming period<sup>17</sup>.

Some Western countries resorted to searching for long-term solutions, Among those countries is the United Kingdom, which resorted to Qatar to search for a long-term gas deal to ensure stable supplies of liquefied gas to the United Kingdom. The British Prime Minister asked the Emir of Qatar to help supply his country with gas for a long time<sup>18</sup>.

Some European countries have resorted to a strategy of rationalizing energy and reducing its consumption rates. France has called for reducing heating and lighting, encouraging remote work in some government departments, turning off advertising signs for shops at night, and reducing lighting by half before the arrival of consumers and by a third during peak work.

### **Conclusion :**

#### **Results:**

1- The Russian war cast a shadow over the policies of countries, and the world was divided into two camps, the first represented by the United States of America, NATO and the countries of the European Union, The second camp is led by Russia and some East and South Asian countries.

2- It is difficult to predict what the political situation will turn into in the future, especially since the positions of many countries in the Middle East are still ambiguous and did not favor the support of the eastern or western blocs. Some countries commented on the Russian-Ukrainian invasion with the words "We call on both sides to exercise restraint," and some commented on the war with the words "We call for intensifying diplomatic efforts."

3- We conclude from the foregoing that the Russian-Ukrainian war has put the international community in front of an insurmountable food security crisis, especially since Russia controls a third of global wheat exports, and Ukraine is the fourth producer of wheat in the world.

4- Russia was able to respond to the economic sanctions imposed on it by the West with a more severe weapon. Russia closed the gas supply lines to Europe, those supplies that control the management of European factories. Hence, the West is facing a complex problem that it did not foresee. As a result, energy prices have

doubled and some factories are likely to be closed , Those in charge of politics were preoccupied with searching for alternative means to overcome the crisis.

5- Environmentalists have criticized natural gas because although it is cleaner than coal, they consider it a fossil fuel that emits greenhouse gases. Methane is also released during production and transportation, and it is a particularly greenhouse gas. Moreover, environmentalists argue that the idea of "bridging fuel" is not as neat as it is always said, because investing billions of dollars in long-term projects - pipelines, power plants and processing facilities - will keep us locked up in these infrastructures for decades.

### **Recommendations :**

1- I recommend that the Arab countries be very careful in supporting one side over the other. Despite the illegality of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the political decision of the Arab countries may harm Arab food security, as the countries of the Middle East depend on Russian and Ukrainian wheat as a staple food.

2- I recommende that the world must replace Russian gas with solar energy, and I believe that the only option is to rely on phosphorus fertilizers, which are produced by the Maghreb, the second largest exporter of phosphorus fertilizers used in solar energy generation.

3- I believe that coal-producing countries should rely on it temporarily at the present time until other environmentally friendly alternatives become available. Many countries that depend on coal for electricity are taking strict health measures to protect the environment. In addition to ensuring the advantage of its low price compared to the price of gas.

4- As for gas-importing countries, they must replace it with coal because it is less expensive and can be stored for decades and can be easily transported to power plants and converted into cheap electric energy.

5- The countries importing Russian and Ukrainian wheat must reduce their dependence on it by mixing their wheat with barley, or they should move to import the cassava plant, which is produced by African countries and has a better nutritional value than wheat.

6- Countries must intensify efforts and pay attention to scientific research in the field of investing in wind energy and hydroelectric energy as an alternative to gas to generate electricity.

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