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RESEARCH ARTICLE

UKRAINE - RUSSIA WAR : A PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Current war scenario between Russia and Ukraine.

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Introduction:-

The war between the Russian federation and Ukraine is the latest war in a series of unwanted and avoidable conflicts in the 21st century.

The turn of the century has left Russia searching for allies as the "Iron curtain" crumpled and more and more countries deviated towards western ideology leaving a big gaping hole in the erstwhile military and communist doctrine of Russia. The expansion of NATO is a clear and present danger and its access to the resource rich eastern and central Europe looks barred.

So much so that Russia as a preemptive strategic move annexed Crimea thereby gaining access to Crimean natural resources as well as have secure bases and access to the black sea (much of where the Russian naval fleet can operate) .

However, strategic and energy compulsions of Russia notwithstanding, in today's modern world there are questions whether strategic objectives can blatantly override international and UN conventions.

Most countries do not seem to think so, the western press and allied states including NATO have vociferously, financially and militarily backed Ukraine in what looks like a never ending conflict.

The Russian political military and strategic objective is well stated and most probably would have met all the stated goals but for the American and European aid which has now crossed over 100 bn dollars already in military equipment , financial aid and other material and training support .

What is appalling however is the lack of planning and strategic handling at highest levels of governance in the United States and NATO. Complete lack of military foresight or at least lack of cognizance of battlefield realities permeate decision making. The nature of most weapons supplied including missiles are defensive in nature and lack of long range defensive weapons means Ukraine cannot press home any battlefield gains nor can it disrupt war logistics and target key routes for supplies . With very little in the air for Ukraine the reliance has been very high on imported rocket systems which are very high quality but limited in range

They had the desired effect in the initial stages of war but with Russian forces regrouping and command centre's moved out of range the effectiveness of the weapon system is not the same.

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The internal resistance within the US (various pressure groups and vested interests including those which indirectly represent China and Russia) will also be a very big factor in deciding the outcome of the war as financial and military aid gets more and more difficult to come by. The United States barely passed a major bill which might see Ukraine afloat till end of this year. With Russian persistence and determination the aid may end up as nothing if suitable tactical and strategic weaponry in sufficient numbers are not supplied to Ukraine.

Summarily the Russian war effort is determined by political and strategic clarity and what they want from the war. Finance and economy, which are heavily restricted because of western sanctions, are a major internal hurdle in expediting the war effort affecting production and replenishing critical equipment and spares also.

Ukraine for its part is doing the utmost required to ensure survival. Its dependence on the west for military and financial aid is critical for the war effort.

The west, as expected is mired in a state of bureaucratic and political gamesmanship, wherein clear and unequivocal decisions on the nature of weapons supply would have already tilted the balance in Ukraine's favour whereas now Ukraine is fighting to hold key areas and paying a heavy price in terms of troops and equipment losses. The strategists would have clearly known that the weapons supplied are expensive and would not cause sufficient damage to deter the war effort ultimately making supporting the "defence only" strategy too expensive even for the United States. Will the United States provide required weaponry to Ukraine in the coming months as part of the existing package (bill) passed is the question.

The next few months are pivotal to the outcome of the war. Russia only needs for the west to stop supplying key weapons for an outright victory whereas Ukraine needs coordinated supply of key weapons, replenishment of missiles and dedicated long range rocket missiles and systems to force Russia on to the negotiating table.