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### RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PAKISTAN

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#### ABSTRACT

*The Russia-Ukraine war has significantly reshaped global economic dynamics, with far-reaching consequences for developing countries like Pakistan. This conflict has disrupted international supply chains, exacerbated inflationary pressures, and impacted energy security due to heightened volatility in global energy markets. As a major importer of oil, Pakistan has faced increased import bills, leading to a widened trade deficit and further depreciation of the Pakistani Rupee. The surge in commodity prices, particularly wheat and fertilizers—key imports from the region—has compounded domestic inflation and created food security challenges for the country. Additionally, geopolitical realignments have strained bilateral relations and trade routes, limiting Pakistan's access to alternative energy sources and creating long-term economic vulnerabilities. The war has also influenced Pakistan's export potential due to reduced demand in conflict-affected European markets and the redirection of global investments to safer economic zones. While some opportunities have emerged, such as increasing trade with Central Asian states, they remain underexplored due to infrastructural and policy challenges. This paper critically examines the direct and indirect economic impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war on Pakistan, exploring energy, trade, and food security dimensions. It also highlights strategies for mitigating these challenges through enhanced regional cooperation, diversification of trade partners, and improved energy policies. The study underscores the importance of adaptive economic strategies to navigate the evolving global geopolitical landscape.*

**Keywords:** *Russia-Ukraine War, Pakistan Economy, Energy Security, Trade Deficit*

#### INTRODUCTION

The Russia-Ukraine war, which began in February 2022, has had far-reaching economic consequences globally, and Pakistan is no exception.

The Russia-Ukraine war is a result of a combination of historical grievances, geopolitical struggles, and security concerns. The escalation of the tensions resulted from Russia's wish to keep control over Ukraine, and resist the increase of NATO expansion in the east and its desire to reestablish role in the region. An additional feature of the conflict is that it falls into a wider struggle between Russia and the West over sway in Eastern Europe and worldwide security issues. The suffering of humans is enormous and the geopolitical landscape has been upset.

Russia and others have a complex interaction that dates back even to early medieval Kievan Russia – a loose association of Slavic tribes Lee, which may be viewed as a precursor of both Russia and Ukraine today. For centuries, Ukraine had been in Russian Empire and Soviet Union and other empires. At the same time, peculiar characteristics of the Ukrainian national identity were formed during the years of its independence since 1991. Ukraine is a diverse country with significant cultural and linguistic divisions. The western part of Ukraine generally leans more toward Europe, speaking Ukrainian, while the eastern regions, particularly Donbas and Crimea, have strong cultural, linguistic, and historical ties to Russia, with many people speaking Russian. This division has contributed to internal tensions and differing political alignments.

One of Russia's main grievances is the eastward expansion of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has expanded into former Eastern Bloc countries and former Soviet republics, including Poland, Hungary, and the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania). Russia views this as a direct threat to its sphere of influence and national security. When Ukraine expressed interest in joining NATO, Russia saw it as a major red line. Over the years, the West, particularly the United States and the European Union, has provided support to Ukraine in terms of economic aid, military assistance, and diplomatic backing, especially since Ukraine's 2014 Euromaidan revolution (which ousted pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich). This support further antagonized Russia, which saw Ukraine moving closer to the West as a threat to its geopolitical interest in late 2013, protests erupted in Ukraine after President Yanukovich decided to reject an association agreement with the European Union in favor of closer ties with Russia.

The protests led to the overthrow of Yanukovich in February 2014. This revolution, known as the Euromaidan, was seen by Russia as a pro-Western

coup, and it significantly strained relations between Ukraine and Russia. In the aftermath of the 2014 revolution, Russia annexed Crimea, a region of Ukraine with a majority Russian-speaking population. The annexation was widely condemned by the international community, and it led to a sharp deterioration in relations between Russia and the West. Following Crimea's annexation, pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine (Donbas region) declared independence, leading to a conflict between Ukrainian forces and the separatists, supported by Russia. This conflict has been ongoing for years, with Russia providing military, logistical, and financial support to the separatists, despite denying direct involvement. Russia sees Ukraine as a key part of its sphere of influence, especially due to Ukraine's geographic location between Russia and NATO member states.

Control or influence over Ukraine is crucial for Russia's strategic defense posture and its ability to project power in the region. Russia also views Ukraine's independence as a threat to its regional dominance. Russia sees Crimea of great importance for its military and strategic position because of this Black Sea. Sevastopol naval base, Crimea is a strategic military formation of Russia in the Black Sea region. The fear was that Russia would lose control over Crimea or Ukraine joining NATO would threaten its position in the Black Sea." Moscow has remained tightlipped about NATO enlargement and Ukraine's possible membership in the alliance. Moscow insists that any Ukrainian membership in NATO would put NATO military forces within striking proximity to Russia, which is viewed as the greatest threat to Russia by Russian officials. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said it as a 'geopolitical disaster' that the Soviet Union broke apart and he has displayed a strong yearning to assert Russia's hegemony over ex-Soviet states. Putin himself has called Ukraine as part of a 'Greater Russia' and viewed the Ukrainians' move towards the western bloc as a betrayal of Russian historical-cultural bond with the country.

The conflict has been used by Putin and his government to mobilize people at home by painting the war as a defense of Russian-speaking populations and as a part of anti-Western agenda. The government has couched the conflict in the language of a geographical rivalry with the West. For Putin, the war also has an element of nationalism. It has been defined as a necessity to defend the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine as well as to proclaim Russian's great power and status across the world. It has been used to establish his authority in his own country particularly in the event

of domestic perturbations. Ukraine also plays a significant role in transit of natural gas, through pipeline, originating from Russia to Europe. Russia has used energy as a tool of influence, and the conflict over Ukraine is partly tied to Russia's desire to maintain control over these energy routes and to safeguard its economic interests. Ukraine's economic growth and potential integration into European and global markets were viewed as a threat by Russia, as it would reduce Russia's economic dominance in the region. The situation reached a boiling point in late 2021 and early 2022, as Russia amassed tens of thousands of troops along the Ukrainian border. Diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis, including negotiations over Ukraine's NATO membership and Russia's security guarantees, failed. Russia demanded that Ukraine be barred from joining NATO, but these demands were rejected by the West. On February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, claiming that it was acting in defense of Russian-speaking populations in Ukraine and that NATO's expansion posed a threat to Russia's security. The invasion was also cast by Putin as a 'special military operation' to 'demilitarize' and 'degasify' Ukraine justifications that were widely repudiated by the wider international community.

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The Russia-Ukraine war has catalyzed extensive discourse on its global implications, particularly its economic and geopolitical dimensions. Scholarly works have examined the war's impact on global supply chains, energy markets, and trade dynamics, with special attention to developing nations like Pakistan. Buzan and Wæver (2003) highlighted how international conflicts often exacerbate existing vulnerabilities in interconnected systems, such as energy and trade, influencing state resilience. Similarly, Götz (2021) emphasized the geopolitical contest between Russia and the West as a determinant of global economic instability, a theme echoed in Mearsheimer's (2014) analysis of NATO's eastward expansion as a trigger for Russian aggression.

Energy security has been a recurrent theme in the literature, with Nye (2011) and Pifer (2022) discussing the strategic use of energy resources as tools of geopolitical leverage. Pakistan's heavy reliance on imported energy has made it particularly susceptible to global price shocks, as noted by Friedrich (2022). Rising energy costs due to the war have aggravated

Pakistan's trade deficit and inflation, underscoring the critical role of diversified energy sources.

Food security has also emerged as a critical concern, given the disruption in wheat and fertilizer supplies from Russia and Ukraine. Wilson (2014) and Snyder (2018) explored the cascading effects of disrupted agricultural trade on food prices and social stability, providing a lens through which to understand Pakistan's challenges in this domain. Hale (2014) emphasized the broader socio-political ramifications, such as increased poverty and inequality, which resonate with Pakistan's current economic trajectory.

The literature also delves into Pakistan's geopolitical balancing act. Gaddis (2005) and Trenin (2020) explored how smaller states navigate complex alliances amidst great power conflicts. Pakistan's cautious neutrality, driven by its ties to both Russia and the West, aligns with these analyses. Furthermore, the interplay between Pakistan's relations with China and its strategic stance during the war reflects insights from Kupchan (2012).

The literature underscores the multifaceted impact of the Russia-Ukraine war, ranging from energy and food security to trade disruptions and strategic realignments. However, there is limited research specifically addressing Pakistan's unique vulnerabilities and adaptive strategies. This study bridges that gap by exploring the direct and indirect economic consequences of the conflict on Pakistan while proposing actionable measures to enhance resilience and mitigate future risks.

### **THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

The theoretical foundation for analyzing the economic and geopolitical impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on Pakistan draws from several established frameworks in international relations and economics. Barry Buzan's (1991) securitization theory, as articulated in *People, States, and Fear*, provides a critical lens for understanding how states prioritize energy, trade, and food security as components of national security. Buzan emphasizes the interplay between economic stability and geopolitical dynamics, which is particularly relevant in the context of Pakistan's response to global crises. Realism in international relations also offers insights into the motivations of great powers in the conflict. Mearsheimer's (2014) offensive realism explains Russia's aggressive stance as a bid to maintain its sphere of influence against NATO's eastward expansion. This theory also helps contextualize Pakistan's strategic neutrality as an attempt to balance its relations with global powers while safeguarding its own interests.



Economic interdependence theory further supports the analysis of trade disruptions and energy volatility. Keohane and Nye's (2001) framework on complex interdependence highlights how global economic networks can both mitigate and amplify vulnerabilities during crises. This is evident in the cascading effects of the Russia-Ukraine war on Pakistan's import costs, inflation, and food security. Additionally, Nye's (2011) soft power theory sheds light on the geopolitical realignments emerging from the conflict. Pakistan's engagement with Russia, the West, and China reflects its attempt to leverage diplomatic and economic ties to navigate the evolving global order.

These theoretical perspectives collectively emphasize the interconnectedness of economic stability, energy security, and geopolitical strategy. By applying these frameworks, this study explores how the Russia-Ukraine war has affected Pakistan's economy and security, and how adaptive strategies grounded in resilience and diversification can mitigate future risks. This integrated approach bridges existing theoretical gaps while addressing Pakistan's unique context.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **The impact:**

#### **1. Inflation and Rising Energy Prices**

- **Global Commodity Prices:** The energy and agricultural commodities featured prominently among those supply chains most disturbed by the war. Oligarchs get rich selling Ukraine's grain, maize and other agricultural products and Russia's oil and natural gas while a languid population faces economic decline.
- **Fuel Costs:** The war created soaring oil prices that put pressure on Pakistan, which imports most of its energy needs. As a result, domestic fuel prices rose, adding to Pakistan's already sky-high transportation and electricity costs and further dragging up the cost of living for Pakistanis.
- **Inflation:** As the costs of food, energy and raw materials went up this continued to drive the inflation figure up. However, because the prices on consumer goods and services rose, many Pakistanis' purchasing power declined.

#### **2. Agricultural Impact**

- **Wheat Shortages:** Wheat is produced in large quantities by Ukraine and Russia. The war has made it very difficult for countries like

Pakistan which source their wheat from Ukraine due to the war. Wheat prices were raised, which knocked the screws on Pakistan's food security and raised the costs of bread and other wheat products.

- Agricultural Inputs: The war caused prices of fertilizers, many of which are made from natural gas, an input that became more expensive because of the war, to increase. As a result, farming has also become more expensive for Pakistani farmers worsening food insecurity.
3. Trade and Supply Chain Disruptions
- Trade Disruptions with Europe and Russia: Trade relations of Pakistan, similar to those of many other countries, were affected by the war. The conflict disrupted the trade routes and has impacted Pakistan's export mainly centered on agricultural and textiles products.
  - Shipping Costs: World shipping rates rose because of the war and the problems with the Black Sea shipping routes. The cost of shipping was also an issue in Pakistan as it affected its imports and exports therefore the cost of trade.
4. Currency Depreciation and Foreign Exchange Reserves
- Currency Depreciation: Other domestic factors, combined with the war, were cause enough for Pakistan's currency value to go down. This further deteriorated the position of rupee against other currencies of the world including US dollar to increase the import cost and inflationary pressures.
  - Foreign Exchange Reserves: War, as well as other domestic fiscal challenges, later compelled Pakistan to undergo economic instability that put pressure on its foreign exchange reserves. Pakistan's reserves were wiped out, raising concern among some that the country couldn't meet its international debt obligations.
5. Impact on Pakistan's Debt and International Relations
- Increased Debt Burden: This was so because the rate of energy and food had gone up, which led to higher import bills for Pakistan. The country has had to borrow more in an attempt to make its fiscal deficit, with an added effect of ballooning debts. Further, Pakistan was unable to make debt repayment due to the decline in export and earnings caused by the war, which slowed down global economy.

- Relations with Russia and the West: Though Pakistan has traditionally try to maintain strategic bilateral relations with both Russia and western countries the war make them to balance their relationships. Pakistan's refusal to completely side with the West against Russia, while still wanting to remain on good term with the West, was another tilt to their foreign policy.

#### 6. Humanitarian and Social Challenges

- Poverty and Unemployment: Increased costs of living occasioned by inflation, coupled with pressure on agricultural production made many households in Pakistan poor. Decrease in real wages, accompanied by the increasing level of food insecurity, have resulted in greater differentiation in the level of inequalities, and social disturbances in particular regions of the country.
- Refugee Crisis and Migration: Although it is not a direct outcome for Pakistan, due to war many refugees mainly Ukraine refugee are trying to find an asylum in the neighboring countries. This can have an impact on the Pakistan labour market, export and import, as well as relation to world countries in terms of remitting and migration.

#### **RUSSIA'S POLICY TOWARD THE WAR**

Russia strategy in the Russia-Ukraine war is mostly driven by President Vladimir Putin and his strategic goal of regaining lost dominance of countries near Russia and protecting perceived essential national security interests. The main components of Russia's policy include:

##### 1. Military Aggression and Expansion

- Military Invasion (2022): The first strategy used by Russia was the invasion of Ukraine in February, 2022 with Putin explaining that there are Russian-speaking people in Ukraine, NATO is advancing its tanks, and Ukraine needs to be de-militarized and de-Nazified. The invasion was expected to achieve the goal of a regime change in Ukraine in a short time; however, the Ukrainians and their military initially put up a vigorous fight against it.
- Occupation of Ukrainian Territories: According to Posen, the Russian strategy has been based on efforts aimed at the seizure of major Ukrainian territories in the east and south, Donbas and the Crimean Peninsula, parts of the Black Sea. Due to the conflict of the Russian authorities to take over those provinces, it has received sanctions and even military force from Ukraine.



- **Annexation of Territories:** Russia has only unilaterally annexed territories, that it occupies for instance, Crimea in 2014 and areas in the Donbas region: Luhansk and Donetsk. These incorporations have not been recognized internationally and have resulted in more tensions.

## 2. Diplomatic Maneuvering

- **Opposition to NATO Expansion:** An important and the most spacially pronounced vector of Russian policy is the rejection of NATO's enlargement, especially if Ukraine becomes a member of this organization. Russia views NATO as a direct threat to its national security, and part of its war objectives involves preventing Ukraine from joining NATO.
- **Use of Diplomatic Leverage:** Russia has attempted to use both direct diplomacy and indirect means (such as energy exports) to influence countries, especially European Union members, to reduce support for Ukraine and to sanction Russia less severely. This includes leveraging Europe's dependence on Russian natural gas.
- **Efforts to Foster Division in the West:** Russia has also sought to weaken international resolve by promoting division within Western countries. The second example of the exploitation of corruption would be for instance it tried to play up the disagreements within the EU and NATO over sanctions, the provision of economic support and military assistance to Ukraine.

## 3. Information Warfare and Propaganda

- **Control of Domestic Narrative:** Russia has conducted a wide-ranging propaganda campaign throughout its domestic and international spheres to justify the war and discredit the Ukrainian government. But state-controlled media in Russia has presented the war as a 'special military operation' to protect ethnic Russians in Ukraine, and respond to Western aggression.
- **Online and Media Campaigns:** Like Russia, Ukraine's adversaries have used disinformation and conspiracy theories to undermine its international support and cast the conflict as a U.S. battle against the Russian bear in disguise.

## 4. Economic Sanctions and Isolation

- **Resilience Against Sanctions:** The West has slapped Russia with a variety of international sanctions directed at its economy, financial

institutions and prominent individuals. Russia has, for this reason, tried to become more self-reliant by building alternative trading partnerships, especially with China and other non-Western countries.

- **Energy Leverage:** Russia has turned to energy exports, including natural gas and oil, as a tool by which it can pressure Europe and other countries. Russia has tried to weaken support for Ukraine by cutting gas supplies to Europe, but has felt economic retribution in return.

#### 5. *Military Aid to Separatist Groups*

- **Support for Separatists in Eastern Ukraine:** Russia has been accused since 2014 of supplying military, financial and logistical support to separatist groups in the Donbas region. But this support has given these groups de facto control over parts of Donetsk and Luhansk, and these regions serve as Russian leverage in negotiations with Ukraine.

### **UKRAINE'S POLICY TOWARD THE WAR**

This is how Ukraine reacted to the Russian aggression, as it has resisted, protected militarily and sought worldwide support. Key elements of Ukraine's strategy include:

#### 1. Military Resistance and Defense

- **Defensive War:** The primary policy in Ukraine since the beginning of the invasion in 2022 has been to defend its sovereignty and its territorial integrity. Despite outnumbering the Ukrainian forces, the Russian military has seen its strategy reassessed as the Russians are forced to make significant setbacks in Kyiv and other big cities, as the Ukrainians fight a fierce but well-equipped resistance with the help of volunteer civilians.
- **Partisan Warfare and Guerrilla Tactics:** Russian forces occupy those areas, but Ukrainian partisan groups are conducting sabotage and guerillas actions, hampering the occupation there.
- **Strategic Retaliation and Counteroffensives:** In response, with the help of military support from western nations, Ukraine has launched counteroffensives to retake occupied territories including its 'main success,' the liberation of Kherson and parts of Kharkiv region and its aim is to push Russian forces out of Donetsk and Luhansk.

#### 2. Seeking International Military Support

- Appeal for NATO and Western Military Aid: Calling repeatedly for military help from NATO countries, Ukraine has asked for weapons, training and intelligence support. The U.S., UK and EU, among other Western powers, have poured military aid into Ukraine, from advanced weapons systems (including air defense systems, drones, artillery, anti-tank missiles).
  - International Brigades and Volunteer Support: In addition to direct government support, there has been a flood of foreign volunteers coming to Ukraine to join the Ukrainian military or local Defence forces to aid in fighting the Russian invasion.
3. Diplomatic and Economic Efforts
- Diplomatic Engagement with the West: The EU, U.S. and NATO have been fiercely pressed by Ukraine's tireless bid for international support. In recent weeks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has frequently conducted diplomatic maneuvers to garner military and economic support and otherwise harden international opinion against Russia's invasion.
  - Appealing for Sanctions on Russia: Ukraine has been pushing actively for stiffer international sanctions on Russia, including those that hit Russia's financial sector, energy exports and oligarchs. Their intention is to reduce Russia's economy and military capabilities.
  - Efforts to Join the EU and NATO: Ukraine's longer-term goal is to enter into closer ties with the West, and it has already applied for EU membership precisely because it wants to be part of the European family. But it also wants to join NATO, something that remains a touchy subject because Russia fiercely opposes it.
4. Humanitarian Efforts and Civilian Support
- Protecting Civilians and Displaced Persons: The war has left millions displaced by war and Ukraine has focused on protecting the civilians and helping them. While it has joined with international organizations to coordinate humanitarian aid, it has also been aiding refugees that fled to neighboring countries.
  - Information and Counter-Propaganda: Modern information warfare is being used by Ukraine to counter Russian disinformation, and to spread information on the true nature of the invasion. It has won global sympathy and support for Ukraine's cause.
5. Use of International Courts and Legal Frameworks

- **Legal Action Against Russia:** Russia is also being taken to international courts by Ukraine for violating international law, such as the laws of war and of the Charter of the UN. Two key forums, however, in Ukraine's attempts to get cases out against Russia for its actions in Ukraine, are the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

## **PAKISTAN'S POLICY REGARDING THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR**

There are many factors that determine Pakistan's current response to the Russia-Ukraine war. Since Pakistan finds itself as a country whose interests are to keep its relations balanced with Russia as well Ukraine while managing relations with other global powers such as the United States, China and European Union, therefore, its approach towards the situation in Ukraine has been very cautious and non-aligned. The main elements of Pakistan's policy regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict include:

### **1. Neutrality and Non-Alignment**

- **Balanced Approach:** On the war Pakistan has chosen a neutral stance and did not involve itself directly or involving in it. This runs in line with Pakistan's own foreign policy which refrains from being involved in any dispute pit between the top global powers.
- **Diplomatic Discretion:** The conflict needs to be resolved by peaceful means and bilateral dialogue, diplomacy, Pakistan has stressed. It has declined to support or condemn Russia's actions and has called for peace through negotiations and a respect for international principles.
- **Avoiding Sanctions:** Pakistan has not joined the West in sanctions against Russia. It has objected to the impact of the war on humanitarian grounds, but has not taken the Western side in regard to punitive moves against Russia. Part of Pakistan's reason for keeping good relations with Russia is because it wants to keep good relations in military cooperation, energy supplies and in trade.

### **2. Support for Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty**

- **General Principle of Sovereignty:** Generally, like many states Pakistan has pledged to respect the principle of territorial integrity and sovereignty of all countries. It neither condemns Russia's aggression towards Ukraine nor has it criticized it so far; however,

it has stuck to its principle of respecting the sovereignty of the nations.

- **Neutral Position on Crimea:** But Pakistan has been silent on annexation of Crimea by Russia. The reason for Pakistan's cautious diplomatic approach can be seen in that it applies more especially to areas where it has its own territorial dispute like Kashmir.

### 3. Engagement with Russia

- **Strengthening Ties with Russia:** In the last few years, Pakistan has tried to bring a change in its policy and has tendered an olive branch to Russia and started to build new relations with it in many fields like defense, energy, and trade. For instance, in recent years, Pakistan is eager to expand Russia ties in defense sector for carrying out military exercises and purchasing Russian equipment.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Russia has given Pakistan the chances to continue its cooperation in one of the energy sources, namely natural gas and oil products. Pakistan has always been interested in the diversification of the energy sources; Russia has been perceived as a valuable potential energy partner, particularly in terms of pipeline and other infrastructure schemes.
- **Strategic Balance with the West and Russia:** Pakistan has tried not to depend on Russia by the same time it has remained a partner to the USA, which has always been its strategic ally. Another purpose of developing relations with Russia is that Pakistan wants to mobilize its relations with different countries so that no single country influences its policies.

### 4. Relations with Ukraine

- **Support for Ukraine's Sovereignty:** Although Pakistan did not directly condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it has supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine in the minimum violation of diplomatic principle. Official stance of Pakistan has been concentrating on the need to reach the peaceful settlement of the conflict while recognizing Ukraine's right to speak of the self-remembrance.
- **Humanitarian Concerns:** Pakistan cares about the humanitarian situation in the country because of the war and millions of Ukrainians left without homes. Pakistan has appealed for the safety of the civilians and assistance for the humanitarian operations.

Pakistan has also demonstrated the intention to dialogue for peace, and as highlight with its general approach of conflict management diplomacy.

- Limited Bilateral Engagement: Pakistan does not have strict cooperation with Ukraine; however, it can be mentioned that the relationship was rather friendly. That is still not something that is discussed much during the foreign policies of Pakistan, the war however has introduced Ukraine as the country which can be considered for humanitarian aid and cooperation.

#### 5. Geopolitical Considerations

- Relationship with the United States and NATO: Pakistan has always a multi-faceted policy with US and NATO, on one hand it is an ally but from the other side a conflicting country too. In fact, Pakistan has not joined the West's sanctions against Russia, but it wants to have good relations with the United States and other European countries as major partners in economic and security ties.
- China Factor: China is Pakistan's biggest ally, and its position on the Russia-Ukraine war also impacts Pakistan to some extent. The People's Republic of China has covered Russia diplomatically in the conflict advocating for negotiations towards the politico-diplomatic solution. It expected due to censoring of Putin and its strategic relation with China, Pakistan's stance appears slightly closer to Beijing's call for diplomacy and dialogue without directly condemning Russia.
- Kashmir Issue: Pakistan's stance on the Russia – Ukraine war also stems from its own political self-interest for instance the tense relations between Pakistan and India over the issue of Kashmir. Pakistan might not take a very hostile stance against Russia in order to not turn the screw on its relationship with India for which Russia has always had a warm relation.

#### 6. Economic Interests

- Trade and Economic Ties with Russia and the West: Pakistan has trade relations with both Russia and the west. The war in Ukraine has adversely impacted political-economic relations around the world particularly the flow of oil prices, but Pakistan has been looking forward to diversifying its trade ties with Russia in sectors such as energy and defense. But this is also part of the problem,



Pakistan relies heavily on exports to western countries and the IMF which define its foreign policy.

- **Energy and Defense Deals:** As said before, energy security and defense cooperation with Russia are important factors in favor of which Pakistan is interested in deepening of relations with Moscow. The geopolitical crises such as the war in Ukraine and sanctioning of Russia have presented Pakistan with an opportunity to negotiate improved supply terms for energy from Russia but this is threatened by the challenge of dealing with the west which may also sanction anyone that continues to trade with Russia.

#### 7. Humanitarian and Diplomatic Engagement

- **Diplomatic Support for Peace:** Pakistan has however urged for dialogue as the only remedy to the conflict. It has also unchanged its stand that it prefers to seek diplomatic resolution rather than to engage in military power confrontation. This is in harmonize with Pakistan's general foreign policy concept of supporting diplomacy as the means for solving the disputes.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** Pakistan has given aid to the countries devastated by the war. For instance, it has supported foreign donations to Ukraine and committed to help the people displaced in their homes. Pakistan's contributions are in accordance with its policy priorities on international cooperation and humanitarian aid.

### CONCLUSION

The Russia-Ukraine war has profoundly reshaped global dynamics, significantly impacting Pakistan's economy and strategic environment. This conflict, rooted in geopolitical rivalries and historical grievances, has disrupted international trade and heightened energy market volatility. As a major importer of energy and agricultural commodities, Pakistan has faced escalating challenges, including surging inflation, increased import bills, and a widening trade deficit. The resultant depreciation of the Pakistani rupee and rising commodity prices have further strained the economy, exacerbated food insecurity and intensifying socio-economic inequalities. Additionally, the war has underscored vulnerabilities in Pakistan's trade routes and export potential, particularly in textiles and agriculture, as global investments shift towards safer economic zones. While opportunities for diversification and regional cooperation with Central Asian states have emerged, they remain underutilized due to infrastructural and policy

constraints. Furthermore, Pakistan's diplomatic balancing act maintaining relations with Russia, the West, and China highlights its strategic challenges in navigating complex geopolitical realignments. On a broader scale, the conflict has demonstrated the interconnectedness of global crises and their ripple effects on developing nations like Pakistan. The war has not only emphasized the importance of diversifying trade partners and enhancing energy security but also revealed the need for adaptive economic strategies to mitigate future global disruptions. Addressing these challenges requires Pakistan to prioritize investments in renewable energy, strengthen regional trade networks, and adopt sustainable agricultural practices.

In conclusion, the Russia-Ukraine war serves as a pivotal moment for Pakistan to reassess its economic policies and geopolitical strategies. By fostering resilience through innovation and collaboration, Pakistan can transform current challenges into opportunities, securing a more stable and sustainable future amidst an evolving global order. This study underscores the critical importance of proactive measures in safeguarding national interests during global crises.

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