THE EXIGENCY OF IMMEDIATE RESPONSE OF NATO TOWARDS UKRAINE CRISIS

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Abstract

Ukraine Crisis is a conflict that occurs between Russia, Western Ukraine, and Eastern Ukraine. Historically speaking, the conflict somehow contain linguistic, and political matters. Back to the 17th century, Catherine The Great of Russia starts a several programs which was allegedly called "Russification", the means of the program is to put a huge number of Russians in the eastern part of Ukraine. In addition, Catherine The Great also enforces the people of eastern Ukraine to use Russian language as their daily language which has caused people in eastern Ukraine who predominantly speaking in Russian language and most of them are Russian-descendants.

However, after getting overshadowed by Russia, Ukraine gains their first liberty in 1918 after the first world war ends, but it does not happen for a long period, when The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and Communism came into power under Vladimir Lenin. A few years later, Stalin has begun to continue to 'Russifying' Ukraine once again. In addition, the tension between both Russia and Ukraine were already high eversince the Russification began but it was exacerbated by Russian decisions to annexed Crimean peninsula. This thesis aims to examines how the real conflict is and how to examine it thoroughly and it is simply because most of people see the Ukraine crisis as a territorial dispute and an aggression or some sort of annexation done by Russia, but it is just an over-simplification and the truth is way beyond of it. Moreover, it also aims to shows us how important NATO as a mediator and the neutralizer on the conflicted area.

Keywords: *Bolshevik, Russification, Linguistic, Revolution*

Introduction

Historically, NATO is formed to bolster a robust security among its member and act as an agent of collective defense whereas whenever and wherever one of its members probably attacked or threatened, the whole members could act upon simply by using military force. Nonetheless, the establishment of NATO is also to restrain the widespread of the Soviet Union communist colossus, and it is very distinct that during post-world war II the US and some of the European states are afraid of the widespread of Communism in Europe because certain countries had fallen in the hand of the communist regime..[1]

Moreover, in a matter of additional membership, NATO colloquially establish a partner countries, in which NATO invite other countries that have not signed the North Atlantic Treaty to join in overcoming the challenges faced and to cooperate in creating a security for the international community. The countries included in partner countries namely, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand. In addition to cooperation with partner countries, NATO is also active in cooperation with other international organizations to seize its goal of achieving collective security.[2]

Crisis management and cooperative security through partnerships are one of their objectives. NATO is committed to protecting its members through political and military means. It promotes democratic values and is dedicated to the peaceful

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[1] NATO. (2015). *NATO* . Retrieved March 12, 2017, from NATO Review Magazine: http://www.nato.int/docu/review/2014/Russia-Ukraine-Nato-crisis/Ukraine-crisis-NATO-Russia-relations/EN/index.htm
[2] *Ibid*.

resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military capability needed to undertake collective defense and crisis-management operations alone or in cooperation with partner countries and international organizations.[3]

Moving to a glimpse of information regarding Ukraine crisis, Ukraine crisis began when the former President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych diametrically decide to reject the offer from EU to strengthen the ties between both and then take sides to Moscow instead, he argued Ukraine could not afford to sacrifice trade with Russia, which opposed the deal. He also described an EU offer to lend Ukraine 610m euros (£510m; $828m) as inadequate and said it would need at least 20bn euros a year to upgrade its economy to "European standards".[4] It triggered a mass demonstration, and unrest in Kiev that later on known as "Euromaidan" which become a causation of a bloody skirmishes and political turmoil on the entire Ukrainian peninsula, not to mention a wide mistrusts was exacerbated by decisions made by Russia to annexed Crimea and those conditions worsen the status-quo.

A Glimpse Information about NATO and The Involvement of NATO in International Conflicts

Back in the day, specifically on April 4, 1949, there was an idea of creating a security pact that works as the collective security for its member. Later on, it changes into an organization and with the existence of Article 5 which clearly stated that if

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[3] *Ibid.*

[4] BBC. (2013). *Ukraine protests after Yanukovych EU deal rejection.* BBC. Retreived on March 14, 2018. From BBC: http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-25162563

there is any single attack on the members, it considerably will be the attack against all of the members. Initially, the member of NATO is Belgium, Italy, the UK, Norway, Portugal, Luxembourg, Iceland, Canada, Netherlands, France, Denmark and the US, that works to prevent the widespread of Communism.[5]

The membership of NATO is was expanded when Greece and Turkey grant their membership in 1952, West Germany in 1955 followed with Spain that joins the organization in 1982. However, NATO also encountered internal problems when France decided to declare their resignation in 1966. The membership of NATO enlarged when Albania and Croatia joined in 2009, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in 2004, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary in 1999, Spain in 1982 and Montenegro in 2017.[6] Any European countries that share the same ambitions and would like to cooperate in implementing the security of North Atlantic as a whole are free to join the NATO. In addition, NATO created the Membership Action Plan (MAP), the MAP is a platform whereas the country that wanted to be the part of NATO will get a practical advice and assistance from NATO.[7]

Subsequently, NATO has delegations which consist of; Nuclear planning group that taking care of any Nuclear aspects; NAC (North Atlantic Council) that work as the very vital aspects in which it is the decision-making body at NATO, the NAC

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[5] History. (2018). *Formation of NATO*. History. Retrieved on April 22, 2018. From History: https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/formation-of-nato-and-warsaw-pact
[6] NATO. *What is NATO*. Retrieved on April 22, 2018. From NATO: https://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html
[7] *Ibid*.

meeting held once a week or when an urgency happened, the Secretary-General will act as the chair of the meeting; and the last one is the Subordinate committees that working for both political matters or any high-level aspects. In terms of military, NATO has a Military Committee that consists of; the highest officer which is the Chiefs of Defence member countries; the Military Executive body; Military command structure that involved the Allied Command Operations and also the Allied Command Transformation.[8]

NATO deploy some military operations such as Operation Anchor Guard from 10 August 1990 to 9 March 1991 in which NATO sent its Airborne Early Warning aircraft to Konya, Turkey in order to supervise any incoming attack from Iraq during the Gulf Crisis, the second one is the Operation Ace Guard from 3 January 1991 to 8 March 1991 in which NATO sent its ACE Mobile Force (Air) to provide an air defense to Turkey.

Operation Allied Goodwill I and II from 4 to 9 February and 27 February to 24 March 1992 that worked to give a humanitarian assistance by sending medical experts and advisors to Russia and to Commonwealth of Independent States by using AWACS aircraftNevertheless, NATO also have an ongoing missions and operations. In Afghanistan, NATO deploys around 13,000 personnel which contains a personnel from partner countries too. They also engaged in delivering training, advice and helping the Afghan Security forces and also several institutions in Afghanistan and it is allocated in Kabul, Herat that located in western Afghanistan, Kandahar in

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[8] *Ibid*

southern Afghanistan and Laghman which located in eastern Afghanistan. NATO also helps Afghanistan in promoting good governance, supervising the creation of force generation in Afghanistan by helping the recruitment, training, management, and the improvement of the personnel.[9]

In Kosovo, NATO is installing 4,500 of their troops as the part of NATO Kosovo Force or (KFOR). Historically, NATO starting to pay attention to Kosovo in June 1999 to cope with the upheaval and chaos there until the present time by the UN Security Council Resolution 1244.[10] As the response to the 9/11 attack NATO decides to focus on dealing with global terrorism in which on 2001, NATO creates the Operation Active Endeavour to maintain their surveillance activity to spot terrorists in Mediterranean sea and at the same time deterring them. Nevertheless, the operation was altered by the Sea Guardian. Sea Guardian is focusing on several aspects such as counter-terrorism at sea, supporting capacity-building, and maritime situational awareness.[11] NATO also supporting the African Union as the part of their peacekeeping missions on African Continent. The missions are AU mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in which NATO give an airlift service for the peacekeepers.[12]

In responding the annexation of Russia and their military intervention in Ukraine in 2014. NATO decides to strengthen its air policing missions. The Air policing missions is a mission that works to protect its airspace and it also by providing an

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[9] *Ibid.*

[10] *Ibid.*

[11] *Ibid.*

[12] *Ibid.*

additional aircraft to protect its member airspace territory by any means. in Air policing NATO also installing their missile defense system to cope with air attacks.[13] Subsequently, unlike those missions and operations, NATO also have a terminated missions and operations. In the Gulf of Aden, the naval forces of NATO provided an escort service for the UN World Food Programme (WFP) vessels.[14]

NATO is widely-known with their assistance in terms of providing training to local military troops. Starting from 2004 to 2011 NATO provided that kind of assistance for the Iraqi Security Forces. NATO also cooperate with the Iraqi government to establish and maintain a robust bond with Iraq and at the same time further recalling all NATO member states to provide the same assistance in which could be operated in or outside Iraq.[15]

As in February 2011, Qadhafi regime was rose it prominence in which it triggers turmoil specifically in Libya. These certain circumstances push NATO to engage more in Libya whilst UN Security Council implementing the 1970 and 1973 Resolution to secure Libyan people from the diabolical tyranny of Qadhafi.[16]

NATO involvement in the Gulf Conflict is quite remarkable, NATO sent their AWACS radar aircraft to bolster the defense mechanism of Turkey in which the operation was widely-known as the Display Deterrence. The operation lasted for two

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[13] *Ibid.*
[14] *Ibid.*
[15] *Ibid.*
[16] *Ibid.*

months and have successfully engaged in approximately 100 missions.[17] NATO also contribute to the upheaval that triggered by ethnic issues in the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the operations were conducted from 2001 to 2003.[18]

Yugoslavia dismissal erupting a crucial conflict which specifically broke out in 1992. As the response to that ironic event, UN decided to declare an embargo in the Adriatic Sea in collaboration with the Western European Union and implementing the no-fly-zone that commemorate the first combat of NATO in which NATO demolished around four Serbian fighter-bombers that undergone a bombing mission. Moreover, as the fulfillment of UN Peacekeepers request, NATO launched the Operation Deadeye.[19]

THE BEGINNING, THE BRINK, AND THE CURRENT SITUATIONS OF UKRAINE CRISIS

Ukraine does not have really interesting things to be discussed since historically, Ukraine only has a short period of national independence. The term Ukraine terminologically means "the borderland" in ancient Slavs language but on the flip side it also means "the homeland". Ukraine also used to be mentioned as "the Ukraine" but after the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991 and Ukraine moved away,

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[17] *Ibid*.
[18] *Ibid*.
[19] *Ibid*.

another alteration is made to "Ukraine".[20] Ukraine could be called as "the Ukraine" nevertheless, for some reason Ukraine is referred as a region than as a sovereign state.[21]

Moreover, if some comparison is made, one in six Ukrainians is Russian-descendant, one of three Ukrainians use the Russian language on a daily basis, the media that operates is in the Russian language, that is why for some reasons there are two sides of a coin in seeing Moscow, the first side is Moscow seen as something that slowing down Ukraine attempts to be more sovereign while on the flip side the influence of Russia is seen merely as the sense of sharing historically and culturally.[22]

Ukraine is divided into eastern part and western part. On the western part of Ukraine, people are predominantly Russian-speaking and Russian Descendants it is because, in the 19th century, Tsarina Catherine the Great decided to do a program called "Russification" in which she puts Russian people in Western part of Ukraine. Most of the people in the western part of Ukraine have an immense cynical view towards Russia, significantly seeing Russia as a tyranny, and they preferably wanted to be the part of Europe, it can be seen by their eagerness in cast a vote to every pro-European candidates. On the other side, the people in the eastern part of Ukraine are a hundred percents fond of pro-Russia candidates in which they think that there is a certain connection between Russia and eastern people because they think they are

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[20] Vox. (2014). *Everything you need to know about the Ukraine Crisis*. Vox. Retrieved on March 31, 2018. From Vox: https://www.vox.com/cards/ukraine-everything-you-need-to-know/is-it-ukraine-or-the-ukraine
[21] *Ibid*.
[22] *Ibid*.

connected by historical means, and they even have Vladimir Lenin statue to commemorate his greatness.[23]

Russia saw the Yanukovych administration dismissal as a threat towards their influence over Ukraine and led to an annexation in Crimea in March 2014 and in April 2014 some groups which widely known as the pro-Russia rebel are conquering and sitting in most of eastern part of Ukraine.[24] The war in eastern Ukraine occurred in some sort of lower tempo, and the belligerents are Ukrainian military and pro-Russian separatist rebels. The pro-Russia separatist rebels attempt to take down some Russian-speaking town in eastern part in April 2014 was successful and later on triggered an undeclared war between Russia and Ukraine, Russia invaded Crimea and deployed some of their armies without insignias, separatist rebels moved to an eastern part of Ukraine afterward and took Sloviansk and Donetsk located in Donbas region.[25]

The sense of separation among eastern Ukrainians is immensely obvious and Russian government were allegedly accused of supporting the rebels. Igor "Strelkov" Girkin the rebel leaders is actually Russian citizen and retired military veteran and leading the armies without insignias which operate in eastern part of Ukraine. Approximately thousand of Russian troops marching on the border crossing through the rebellion that occurred over there. Ukraine however, did not act aggravatingly against the rebels and Vladimir Putin did not give an obvious action because there are

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[23] *Ibid*.

[24] *Ibid*

[25] *Ibid*.

lots of consideration. Ukraine starting to fight back in early July in which they initiating an offensive strategy against the rebels.[26]

On February 8, 2017, Mikhail Tolstykh, the highest leader of the pro-Russia rebels that widely-known after his achievement in the battle for Donetsk airport was killed in an identified explosion in his own office in Donetsk. However his death causation is still debatable. Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that his death was an attempt by the Ukrainian government to "destabilize the situation" in eastern Ukraine while news agency which labelled as a separatist agency consider the obituary as "a continuation of the terrorist war launched by the Kiev authorities" and there are several prejudice that his death caused by the continuation of Russian-back rebels and the Russian government rivalry.[27]

The deputy in Ukraine's parliament and blogger on military affairs Dmytro Tymchuk, said Tolstykh death was "inevitable" because he is an influential and strong leaders and Russia seen it as threat and probably in the future he could turn back against Russian government and somehow can damaging such peace negotiations. In addition, his death is somewat resembling the death of another leader like Arsen Pavlov in 2015, he also killed by a bomb which installed in an apartment elevator where he used to lived.[28]

On February 18, 2018 In Kiev, a rally that meant to demand Petro Poroshenko to surrender his administration occurred with approximately 10,000 people partook in

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[26] *Ibid*.
[27] *Ibid*.
[28] *Ibid*.

the activity. The protesters were caught holding the picture of Petro Poroshenko stained with crossed-pattern on his face while the protesters shouting "impeachment", "resignation", "Poroshenko is a thief.[29]

COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE PACKAGE AND MEMBERSHIP ACTION PLAN AS AN ATTEMPT TO SOLVE OR TO MINIMZE UKRAINE CRISIS

In 2016, NATO compiled the Comprehensive Assistance Package, and the goal is to maximize the number of assistance that will be given to Ukraine and also to become the provision for Ukraine to be steadfast and to reconstruct their defence mechanism whilst enhancing it. In 2014, Ukraine released the thorough report of their defence aspects in which supervised by Allied advisors under the consent of NATO. Moreover, the latest reform guidelines and the National Security Strategy came into force while the Defence bulletin came into force in 2016. The reason why those abovementioned comes into force is that Ukraine wanted to standardize and resembling their Armed Forces with NATO has by 2020. In addition, helping Ukraine within the meeting is one of the main goals contained in the Comprehensive Plan.[30]

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[29] The Guardian. (2018). *Thousands march in Kiev calling for Ukraine's president to quit*. The Guardian. Retrieved on April 3, 2018. From The Guardian:
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/18/saakashvili-supporters-march-in-kiev-calling-for-president-to-quit
[30] NATO. (2016). *Comprehensive Assistance Package for Ukraine.* NATO. Retrieved on April 6, 2018. From NATO: https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2016_09/20160920_160920-compreh-ass-package-ukraine-en.pdf

Membership Action Plan, in a nutshell, is a long set of formal political dialogue and also military reform take took several years, it is also meant to set the interest of countries and that fitting it with the NATO criterion. Poroshenko was planning to have a negotiation with NATO regarding MAP in July 2017.[31] For the past three years, Ukrainian people are tremendously eager if Ukraine joins the NATO. Last April, 46 percent of Ukrainian are supporting the membership plan and later on join the NATO and surprisingly, only 27 percent of them against the idea of joining NATO. A month beforehand, 43 percent of Ukrainian disagreed if Ukraine joins the NATO and 34 was in favor while back in the 1990s only finished on 25 percent.[32]

Based on 1975 Helsinki Final Act, any sovereign, and free states has a right to pick any preferable alliances or organization which means, Ukraine has a right join NATO and NATO also have a right to pick the desirable state to be the additional members. Even though there is huge intention from Ukraine and NATO give a very positive response towards their intentions.[33]

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[31] *Ibid.*

[32] Pifer, Steven. (2017). *How Ukraine views Russia and the West. Brooking.* Retrieved on April 8, 2018. From Brookings: https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2017/10/18/how-ukraine-views-russia-and-the-west/

[33] Steven Pifer, Loc. Cit.

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