

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Military intervention against Ukraine in the Ukrainian Crisis 2014 was carried out by Russia by considering the policy for their interests. This interest shows the cause of Russian intervention. This interest can be seen through the political, military, economical fundamental interest, capability and information that Russia has.

After going through a fairly long process of consideration by political actors within the Russian government, Russia also issued an intervention policy as the end result or output of the foreign policy making process. Russia has a motive for achieving national security and also security in the CIS region. Russia does not want CIS integration to be weakened, and precisely the EU and NATO expansion which extends to the East. Russia also wants to maintain its role and position as a Great Power country in international system. In addition, Russia has strategic interests in Ukraine, namely oil and gas pipelines, as well as ports and fleets in Crimea and the Black Sea.

The interests were reinforced by Russia's strong military capabilities. The number of Russian army personnel reached 700,000 while Ukraine was only 165,000, with Russian military equipment also far more modern. Militarily, Russia is stronger than Ukraine. Not only militarily, but economically, both from the military budget, GDP to national economic conditions. Russia is far superior so they dare to take intervention policy. This policy was accompanied by information about the instability that occurred inside the domestic Ukraine, the doubts of the Ukrainian people, as well as the perception of Ukraine and other countries that Russia is still a strong country so the consequences will not be so severe. In addition, it will be more difficult for other countries to enter Ukraine and prevent Russia, and Russia has the freedom to enter Ukraine. This is due to the Russian affiliation with Ukraine that has been built for a long time.

The consequences of threats and war will be dealt with the strong military capabilities, while when Ukraine becomes part of

the West it will have long-term consequences in the economic, military, and political threats. So, to maintain the future of Russia's security and Russia's position in the CIS region and in the international community, Russia takes rational steps to intervene in Ukraine. A policy that if taken, will have an impact on military, politics and the Russian economy, because Russia has a close relationship with Ukraine. Ukraine as a buffer zone also plays an important role in maintaining Russia's national security.

In a process of foreign policy decision-making, there will always be choices in responding to and addressing various issues concerning the interests and national security of a country. A country will take the most profitable choice to achieve its interests. In the case of this Intervention, Russia has 2 choices. Does Russia have to intervene in this domestic conflict, or does Russia have to let Ukraine without having to intervene.

With strong political, military, economical fundamental interest, capability and information that Russia has, Russia's choice fell on military intervention against the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. Russia is also aware of the consequences if Russia does not intervene in Ukraine. The consequence is that the Ukrainian government will fall into the hands of leaders who are more inclined to the European Union and the West or who contradict Russia. In fact, there is a possibility for Ukraine to become a member of the European Union, although not in the near future. This will greatly hamper Russia in achieving and maintaining its strategic interests in Ukraine. These interests are in the form of Crimea's strategic interests, the economic interests of the Russian oil and gas pipeline, the prevention of NATO expansion into the buffer zone, and maintaining the role and position of Russia as a Great Power country in the international system.

The policy to intervene is very profitable for Russia in maintaining their interest because it will have an impact on the following:

- a. Ukraine can reconsider their cooperation with the European Union, even-more Ukraine can be rejected to become a member of the European Union because the instability and the domestic conflicts.

- b. The political and economic instability in Ukraine will increase and will disadvantage the Ukrainian government if they do not cooperate with Russia. Only Russia can be invited to cooperate in the near future to stabilize the country's economy.
- c. Russia can still maintain its power in the CIS region, especially Ukraine as a buffer zone between Russia and the European Union.
- d. Russia can fail Western integration and strengthen CIS integration. This will show that Russia has power, and that influence still exists today.
- e. With the capabilities of the Ukrainian military that are far behind Russia, Ukraine will not attack with great force so that regions with strategic interests can be maintained. The possibility for the intervention from the United Nations or NATO to Ukraine will also be dismissed due to the geopolitical advantages that Russia has.
- f. Russian economy through Ukraine as a transit country will be more stable with its control of Ukraine.
- g. There is no military threat in Russia, especially for the Southern Military District. This is because Russia took over Crimea. Some regions of Ukraine land-bordering Russia are more pro-Russian.

Whether Russia chooses to intervene in Ukraine or not, it will be the best policy in order to maintain their interests. The consequences of the choice to intervene in Ukraine can be handled with Russian military and economic capabilities. Russia does not want long-term consequences in the form of military threats and economic instability. The intervention policy by sending troops and providing assistance is felt to be more efficient because the cost is less than the sanctions or international reaction to Russian policy. Russia has estimated the small possibility of the UN or NATO to intervene militarily in this domestic crisis, and Russia is also domestically prepared to face the embargo that comes as a reaction to this intervention.

As one of the vast Nations in the world, and with increasing influence over the past decades, Russia wants to maintain its role

and position as a country that has great power in the World, it will further increase the good chances of other countries to follow their lead. The fall of the Soviet Union in the past had created the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), this leads for an opportunity for the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to acquire their trust and gives them the chance to join their Organization. Hence, this is the opposite of what the current Russia wants. In order to fulfill their ever growing wish to strengthen their nation once more, the need of the EU and NATO is no longer needed, and an expansion towards the east is not in their favor, thus the notion to strengthen the CIS is in Russia's agenda.

Ukraine is considered to be one the most vital countries in order to maintain Russia's economy in terms of oil and gas. The reason for this is because 80% of Russia's pipeline runs through the country, and having it fall in the hands of western countries means that Russia's supply will be compromised, this is also known as Ukraine as a *transit country*. However, oil and gas pipelines are not the only important matter that is under the state of Ukraine. In the past, Crimea was Russian property that had been given to the Ukraine. This was when Ukraine was still part of the Soviet Union. Hence, Crimea became a very strategic point in the Soviets armed forces. The geographical position that Ukraine is at, has direct access to the Black Sea, number of ports and naval bases can be found in Crimea, thus, in this current state, Russia may not lose the Crimean Territory. This geographical position also means that Ukraine can serve as a buffer zone between the western countries and Russia. A state that position well beyond direct borders with Russia, having a state as a natural buffer zone will prove advantageous to the Russian Federation, as they can prepare better.

With basic necessities and good economic power, it is clear that these circumstances created the motive behind Russia's action. Compared to Russia, Ukraine has much weaker and fewer military capabilities. Besides of information about Ukraine's interests and Ukraine's perception of Russia which still considers Russia as a power state. This exact calculation brings Russia to

the right and profitable choice to achieve and maintain their interests.

Therefore, Russia's policy to intervene in Ukraine is very precise and most profitable for Russian interests by considering the strong political, military, economical fundamental interest, capability and information also the consequences and benefits gained. This Russian policy led to the achievement of Russia's goals and interests to survive in the international community.