

The Strategic Management of Ukraine in The Ukraine vs Russia War: An Analysis Through SWOT Framework

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Abstract

The conflict between Ukraine and Russia has significant implications for Ukraine's strategic management, presenting challenges across military, economic, and political dimensions. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of Ukraine's strategic management approach using the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) framework. Ukraine's strengths include a strong national identity, support from Western allies, and a capable military, which have helped maintain its sovereignty despite Russian aggression. However, weaknesses such as economic challenges, internal political divisions, and dependence on Western support hinder its independence and strategic position. Opportunities for Ukraine lie in building stronger alliances with Western countries, overcoming economic challenges, and implementing diplomatic initiatives. These efforts can provide financial and military assistance, address economic issues, and achieve goals through negotiation. Threats to Ukraine include Russian military power, economic coercion, and political interference, which limit Ukraine's ability to achieve its objectives and make it vulnerable to regional pressures. This paper examines Ukraine's strategic position in the conflict, considering geopolitical dynamics, military capabilities, and historical context, highlighting the strategic management approach through the SWOT framework.

Keywords: Ukraine, Russia, SWOT Analysis.

INTRODUCTION

The conflict between Ukraine and Russia has profound implications for Ukraine's strategic management, presenting multifaceted challenges encompassing military, economic, and political dimensions. Ukraine's strategic management is pivotal in guiding the nation's actions and objectives amid this conflict.

Characterized by a blend of military, economic, and diplomatic maneuvers, the conflict aims at achieving political dominance. Russia's strategy involves leveraging these activities to wear down Ukraine and its Western allies, pushing them towards accepting the current status quo. Since the onset of Russia's large-scale invasion in February 2022, the security landscape has drastically transformed. Ukraine's primary strategic objective in national security is to develop robust domestic capabilities to ensure its security and resilience. This war has also had a lasting strategic impact on the broader confrontation between Russia, NATO, and the West, with significant global implications (Qin, 2024).

To devise an effective strategy for Ukraine, it is crucial to analyze its strategic position using a SWOT analysis framework within the context of the ongoing war. The empirical challenge lies in comprehending the current state of Ukraine's strategic management amid the conflict and geopolitical pressures. Additionally, normative issues involve identifying the optimal strategic management approach for Ukraine to effectively navigate the war and its repercussions (Silvestri, 2024).

With this problem, there are 2 points that are the focus of this research, namely what are the main strategic challenges facing Ukraine in the ongoing conflict with Russia and how Ukraine can improve its strategic management to overcome these challenges and achieve its goals better. The aim of this research is to analyze Ukraine's strategic management in the context

of the Ukraine vs Russia war and propose possible solutions based on a theoretical framework and empirical evidence.

RESEARCH METHODS

This This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. Qualitative research method is based on the philosophy of positivism and interpretive paradigms, used to research the conditions of natural objects (not experiments), where the researcher is the key instrument (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). The case study approach allows for in-depth, multi-faceted exploration of complex issues in their real-life settings (Crowe et al., 2011). As Hollweck (2015) notes, case study research is appropriate when examining contemporary events over which the researcher has little or no control.

Sampling of data sources is carried out purposively and through snowballing, which allows for the identification of information-rich cases (Patton, 2002). The collection technique involves triangulation through multiple sources including interviews, direct observations, and document analysis (Carter et al., 2014). Data analysis is inductive/qualitative, following an approach to identify emergent themes and patterns (Thomas, 2006). The results of qualitative research emphasize meaning rather than generalization, providing thick description and interpretation of meanings (Geertz, 1973).

Case study is a research strategy to investigate something carefully by collecting complete information from various sources. It is a type of qualitative research conducted thoroughly and in depth on a program, event, or activity, either at the individual, group of people, institution, or organization level (Stake, 1995). This approach enables the researcher to gain a holistic understanding of the complex dynamics at play (Baxter & Jack, 2008).

This research uses primary data obtained through interviews and direct observation of related parties, as well as secondary data obtained from literature studies, documents and other data. The data obtained will be summarized and analyzed using the SWOT analysis technique, which evaluates internal strengths and weaknesses as well as external opportunities and threats (Helms & Nixon, 2010).

The case study design allows for thorough investigation of the phenomenon within its real-world context, providing a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter (Merriam & Tisdell, 2015).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

History of the Ukrainian and Russian Conflict

Ukrainian independence was a challenge that was difficult for Russians to accept, as they traditionally viewed Ukraine as a historical province and Ukrainians as close ethnic brothers. Putin maintains “one nation” relations.

The majority of Ukraine's population speaks Russian, with 17% identifying as ethnic Russian in the 2001 census. Eastern Ukraine, with strong industrial and defense sectors, maintained close economic ties with Russia post-independence.

Prior to 2014, Russian-Ukrainian relations were at times volatile, with disputes over Ukraine's relations with NATO and the EU, the status of Russia's Crimea-based Black Sea Fleet, and the transit of Russian natural gas through Ukraine to Europe. In late 2013, former President Yanukovich appeared to take a tough line against Russia, suspending an association agreement to build closer political and economic ties with the EU and instead agreeing to substantial

financial aid from Moscow. This decision sparked the Euromaidan protests and, ultimately, led to Yanukovich's ouster from power.

Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014 after Yanukovich fled, claiming the Revolution of Dignity was a Western-backed coup. The Russian government deployed troops to Crimea, held an illegal referendum, and declared Crimea's incorporation into the Russian Federation.

Moscow then engineered the rise of a new separatist movement in eastern Ukraine (the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, collectively known as Donbas, with a population of about 6.6 million in 2014). The militants forcibly took power in several cities and towns, announced the creation of two separatist entities (the so-called Donetsk People's Republic, or DPR, and Luhansk People's Republic, or LPR), and gradually expanded their control in both regions. The Ukrainian government and volunteer forces put up resistance, restoring state control over parts of each other's territory but suffering several major defeats, including in battles reportedly involving regular Russian troops. In 2019, a study estimated that about half the pre-conflict population of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions (or 3.2 million people) lived under the control of Russian proxies.

Then Russia established a separatist entity in eastern Ukraine to protect the pro-Russian population, complicate Ukraine's domestic development and foreign policy, and increase Russia's influence in future negotiations.

The conflict has resulted in more than 10,000 fighting and civilian deaths, with more than 1.4 million registered internally displaced persons, and several hundred more still illegally detained in Russian-held territory.

The intensity of the conflict has decreased since 2015, but sporadic fighting still continues. A new round of hostilities occurred when Ukraine has been ruled by President Volodymyr Zelensky and the Servant of the People Party since 2019. During Zelensky's presidency, Ukraine has undertaken difficult economic and governance reforms, albeit with some resistance and delays, as well as grappling with with social and economic problems. the impact of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Under the leadership of President Zelensky, Ukraine is also facing the ongoing Russian occupation of Ukraine's Crimea region and parts of eastern Ukraine. Zelensky has sought to revive the process of resolving the conflict in Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine and has drawn greater international attention to the situation in the Ukrainian-occupied region of Crimea. However, Russia is unlikely to implement a permanent ceasefire or withdraw its military forces from Ukraine.

The ceasefire in July 2020 led to a reduction in the number of ceasefire violations and casualties for several months. In March 2021, Russia massed troops along its border with Ukraine and in occupied Crimea. The magnitude and sustained nature of the Russian troop deployment deeply worries the Ukrainian government and Western countries.

SWOT Analysis of Ukraine

SWOT analysis, which stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, is a strategic planning tool that has been applied in various fields, including the military. This model, developed by Albert Humphrey in the 1960s, provides a comprehensive description of the internal and external factors that influence strategic decisions. In the context of the armed forces, SWOT analysis is used to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of military organizations, personnel, and operations.

In the Ukrainian context of confronting Russia, it allows Ukrainian leaders to make the right decisions, develop effective strategies, and increase operational effectiveness and readiness. The application of SWOT analysis in the military allows identification of areas for improvement, allocation of resources, and creation of action plans to overcome challenges. It is a valuable tool for optimizing performance and strategic decision making in a military context.

These research methods are necessary to develop the most effective strategies for addressing critical problems and identifying factors that will contribute to the development of the war against Russia in the future. The main problem in this research is the SWOT analysis of this case in the SWOT analysis table 1 that has been produced.

| SWOT Analysis | Positive | Negative |
|---------------|--|---|
| Internal | <p>Strengths :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Western assistance – Strong national identity – A military capability – Potential to become a bridge between the West and the East | <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Economic challenges, – Internal political divisions, – dependence on Western support. |
| External | <p>Opportunities :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Economic reforms – Building stronger alliances with Western countries – Potential for a more region-focused, rule-based order and diplomatic initiatives. | <p>Threats :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Russian invasion and aggression – Impact on settlement and socio-professional structure of Ukrainian society – Potential escalation of conflict between Russia, NATO, and the west |

Table 1. SWOT Analysis of Ukraine

Positive Side Strengths

Western Assistance, Western Allies have been involved in the Ukraine war, providing military, financial, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The United States has provided approximately \$44.2 billion in military assistance since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and reaffirmed its support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Britain has provided more than 300,000 rounds of artillery ammunition and is committed to providing "tens of thousands more" by the end of the year. The European Union has announced a multi-year support package worth 50 billion euros called the Ukraine Facility that will be implemented until 2027, and Kyiv officials hope to receive 18 billion euros of budget support from the facility in 2024. The role of Western allies in matters This Ukraine War was critical to Ukraine's defense against Russian aggression, and the provision of aid would continue to be an important factor in the conflict.

Strong National Identity, Ukraine's strong national identity has played an important role in the country's resilience and determination in facing conflict. Several factors contributed to Ukraine's strong sense of national identity and its response to the war, namely :

1. Comprehensive attachment to the homeland beyond ethnic, linguistic and regional divisions has been an important source of Ukraine's resilience. This strong sense of national identity enabled Ukrainian society to overcome divisions and unite in the face of adversity.
2. The war in Ukraine reflects clashing narratives regarding Russian and Ukrainian national and state identities. Ukrainians have a different understanding of their history, which motivates them to fight for their sovereignty and independence. Shared history and the struggle for self-determination have strengthened the nation's identity and resolve.
3. Although Ukrainian national identity is inclusive and open to all citizens regardless of ethnic origin, language practice, or religious denomination, it also includes prominent ethnocultural elements. The invasion has increased alienation and hostility towards Russia, which most Ukrainians view as the aggressor.
4. The independent Ukrainian state has played an important role in forming a shared national identity among its population through education, official memory, media, legislation, and other tools. Over more than 30 years of independence, identification with Ukraine as a nation has developed through community rituals of the national imagination.
5. The current war has further united Ukrainians from all regions and linguistic and religious backgrounds, while strengthening divisions between Ukrainian and Russian identities. The Russian invasion has accelerated the consolidation of a Ukrainian national identity that is at odds with the Russian narrative of shared history and identity.

The impact of this national identity on Ukrainian society, unity, and willingness to defend its sovereignty can be seen in various ways, namely:

- a. A strong national identity has enabled Ukrainians to resist aggression and maintain their resilience.
- b. A sense of unity and common goals has united people, despite differences in ethnicity, language and region.
- c. The determination to maintain sovereignty and independence is rooted in their strong national identity and historical perception.
- d. The war has accelerated the development of a unified national identity, as evidenced by the strength of resistance and will to resist Russian aggression.

A Military Capability, the Ukrainian military has demonstrated extraordinary capabilities in adopting and effectively using standard NATO weapons systems, which has been an important factor in inflicting heavy casualties on Russian army units. The Ukrainian military has destroyed a large amount of Russian military equipment, such as main battle tanks, armored vehicles and infantry fighting vehicles. Western countries have provided military assistance to Ukraine, including weapons, platforms, spare parts, and ammunition, which is critical in supporting Ukraine's military capabilities. Ukrainian military training and strategy have also improved over time, with the military adopting new tactics and techniques to counter Russian aggression. In conclusion, the Ukrainian military has demonstrated extraordinary capabilities in adopting and effectively using standard NATO weapons systems, but its overall effectiveness in combat remains limited compared to the Russian military. Western military assistance has been critical in supporting Ukraine's military capabilities, and Ukraine's military training and strategy have improved over time. However, Ukraine's military offensive capabilities have been weakened by a lack of air superiority, and its performance in the conflict has been affected by several factors.

Potential to Become a Bridge Between The West and The East, had Russia not invaded Ukraine, the regional and international system could have been more stable and paved the way for a more region-focused and rules-based order. But today, it seems that the initial reaction to the war in Ukraine will be a revival of Cold War-style entrenchment politics, in order to increase competition in the short term, first and foremost between the US and China. Ukraine's future is closely linked to what will happen to the world order. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has become another element in the post-Cold War great power rivalry that will shape the international system in the years to come. With Ukraine surviving the war and maintaining its position, Ukraine will have the opportunity to become a bridge between West and East, connecting, not separating continents and regions. The ability of the international community to act and ensure peace is at stake in Ukraine.

Opportunities

Economic Reforms, the war in Ukraine provides an opportunity for economic reform in the country, which could contribute to recovery and development. The following analysis highlights potential opportunities, namely:

1. Policymakers in Ukraine should emphasize labor productivity growth and use the impact of the war as an opportunity to modernize the economy and state apparatus, including implementing low-carbon production, increasing the energy intensity of the economy, and leveraging advances in information technology and fintech to improve government services.
2. The war has caused major damage to Ukraine's infrastructure, providing an opportunity to rebuild and modernize the country's infrastructure, with a focus on sustainable development and resilience.
3. The conflict has accelerated Ukraine's need to adopt and implement new technologies, which could help the country increase its competitiveness and reduce its dependence on external factors.
4. The war has disrupted trade and supply chains, leading to increased regionalization and the formation of new alliances. This could lead to the fragmentation of the global economy into geopolitical blocs with different technological standards, cross-border payment systems and reserve currencies. Ukraine can take advantage of this regional integration to strengthen its economic ties with neighboring countries and increase its regional competitiveness.

Building Stronger Alliances With Western Countries, the ongoing war in Ukraine provides an opportunity for Ukraine to build a stronger alliance with Western countries, which can provide support in the form of military aid, financial assistance, and political support. By working closely with Western partners, Ukraine can overcome the challenges posed by geopolitical tensions and differences in priorities and effectively exploit the opportunities presented by these alliances.

1. Western countries have provided significant military assistance to Ukraine, including weapons, platforms, spare parts, and ammunition, which is critical in supporting Ukraine's military capabilities. This support allows Ukraine to defend itself against Russian aggression and maintain its sovereignty.
2. International financial institutions and Western countries have provided financial assistance to Ukraine, which can be used to fund economic reforms and development projects. For example, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a four-year \$15.6 billion Extension Agreement for Ukraine under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).
3. Building stronger alliances with Western countries could provide Ukraine with political support and support in international affairs, helping advance its interests and promote its values on the world stage.

4. A stronger alliance with Western countries could contribute to regional stability and security, as well as help Ukraine integrate with international institutions and agreements.

The ongoing war in Ukraine has increased tensions between Western countries and Russia, which may make it difficult to form a stronger alliance. Western countries may have different priorities and strategies, which can sometimes lead to differences of opinion and conflict in their approach to the situation in Ukraine. To overcome these challenges and effectively exploit existing opportunities by building stronger alliances with Western countries, Ukraine should strengthen its diplomatic relations with Western countries and engage in regular dialogue and cooperation to address shared interests and concerns. And it continues to demonstrate its commitment to democratic values and institutions, as this can help forge stronger alliances with Western countries. In addition, working closely with Western partners to develop and implement joint strategies and initiatives to address challenges posed by ongoing conflicts and promote regional stability.

Potential For a More Region-Focused, Rule-Based Order And Diplomatic Initiatives, Given the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, there is a growing need for a more region-focused, rules-based order and diplomatic initiatives to bring about a peaceful resolution. By recognizing the unique characteristics and interests of Ukraine's different regions, a more inclusive and representative system can be developed, emphasizing the importance of regional autonomy and decision-making. Ukraine has great potential to implement a regionally focused approach and take into account the specific needs and aspirations of diverse regions. By recognizing the unique characteristics and interests of Ukraine's different regions, a more inclusive and representative system can be developed. This approach can help address regional grievances and concerns, reduce the likelihood of future conflict, and increase stability. Ukraine's diplomatic efforts should focus on engagement with a diverse range of countries, including countries that directly supported Russia's invasion, countries that demonstrated a neutral position, countries that are gradually moving toward supporting Ukraine, and countries that have shown support real to Ukraine. By engaging with these countries, Ukraine can build alliances and mobilize resources to support its defense and recovery efforts. Ukraine should work to strengthen regional institutions and promote regional stability. This can be achieved by participating in joint military exercises, cooperating on trade and investment, and promoting democratic values and institutions in the region. By fostering stronger regional relationships, Ukraine can help create a more stable and secure environment, thereby reducing the likelihood of future conflict. The ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia has generated significant international aid and financial support, which can be used to fund economic reforms and development projects. This support can help Ukraine implement regionally focused policies and initiatives that meet the specific needs and aspirations of different regions.

Negative Side

Weaknesses

Economic Challenges, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has posed significant economic challenges for the country, including trade disruptions, infrastructure damage, and financial instability. However, there is potential for a greater focus on regional, rules-based arrangements and diplomatic initiatives to address these challenges and promote sustainable development in Ukraine. The conflict had a major impact on Ukraine's economy, causing a significant decline in GDP and causing widespread damage to the country's infrastructure. Trade disruptions and financial instability have further exacerbated the economic challenges facing Ukraine, making it difficult for the country to recover from the conflict. To address the economic challenges facing Ukraine, policymakers should emphasize labor productivity growth and use the impact of the war as an opportunity to modernize the economy and state apparatus. This can be achieved by implementing low-carbon production, increasing the energy intensity of the economy, and

utilizing advances in information technology and fintech to improve government services. Ukraine should also focus on increasing productivity and modernizing production as key drivers of economic recovery, which will not only solve the problem of labor shortages but also help facilitate sustainable development in the region.

Internal Political Divisions, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has caused significant internal political divisions within the country, involving various factions, parties, and groups, each with their own ideologies, motivations, and goals. These divisions have had a significant impact on Ukraine's ability to effectively address the conflict and maintain national unity. By recognizing the unique characteristics and interests of Ukraine's different regions, a more inclusive and representative system can be developed, emphasizing the importance of regional autonomy and decision-making. Diplomatic initiatives and international cooperation are essential to promote national unity and overcome political divisions in Ukraine.

Dependence On Western Support, the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia has led to heavy dependence on Western support, both politically and militarily. Ukraine's reliance on Western support has been critical in helping Ukraine defend itself against Russian aggression. Ukraine's dependence on Western support may be due to several factors, including geopolitical considerations and the strategic interests of the parties involved. Western countries have provided significant military and financial support to Ukraine, which has been crucial in helping Ukraine defend itself against Russian aggression. Western support for Ukraine is also driven by a desire to counter Russian influence in the region and promote democratic values and institutions. Western support had a significant impact on Ukraine's war effort, providing the country with critical military assistance, including weapons, platforms, spare parts, and ammunition. This support allows Ukraine to maintain its military capabilities and defend its territory. Western financial assistance has also been crucial in helping Ukraine fund economic reforms and development projects. Ukraine's dependence on Western support has potential impacts on the country's future. While Western support has been critical in helping Ukraine defend itself against Russian aggression, it has also led to significant dependence on external aid. This dependence could limit Ukraine's ability to pursue an independent foreign policy and could lead to tensions with Russia and other countries.

Threats

Russian Invasion And Aggression, The Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, posed a significant threat not only to the Ukrainian state but also to the democratic world at large. This invasion was driven by imperial nationalism and the revival of Soviet-era discourse and aimed at denazification which had far-reaching consequences on Ukrainian society. The war resulted in massive displacement of Ukrainians amidst destructions across various industries leading to depletion of human resources with unprecedented impacts extending into public health mental wellbeing while contributing heavily towards economic uncertainties. Furthermore, this conflict led Europe's largest refugee migration since World War II with psychological trauma among those affected as well as redefinition looming over issues concerning language usage alongside identity formation post-Euromaidan being notable outcomes from its aftermath. This historic event served beyond escalating international tension; it raised questions about Budapest Memorandum implementation regarding roles played observational lengths between Ukraine-Russia diplomatic relationships during our present-day post-Soviet period notably highlighting both solidarity within amongst citizens nationwide against foreign aggression whilst accentuating lackluster support outside regions held captive namely Crimea along Donbas districts presently occupied by Russian forces further driving home magnitude effects weighing heavy upon all involved parties concerned firsthand or secondhand alike.

Impact On Settlement And Socio-Professional Structure of Ukrainian Society, Russia's war in Ukraine has had a devastating impact on the country's society, infrastructure and

economy. The conflict has led to significant changes in settlement patterns and the socio-professional structure of Ukrainian society. The war has affected the geographic distribution of the population, population changes, and the transformation of industries and professions. The war has caused significant changes in settlement patterns in Ukraine. The conflict has caused millions of people to flee, both internally and externally. Many people were forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in other regions or neighboring countries. This caused significant changes in settlement patterns, and many areas experienced waves of refugees. The war also had a significant impact on the socio-professional structure of Ukrainian society. This conflict has led to a transformation of industries and professions, with many people forced to leave their jobs and seek new opportunities. The war also caused significant changes in the social and economic dynamics of Ukrainian society, with many people forced to adapt to new circumstances. This war has the potential to have significant long-term consequences for Ukrainian society. This conflict has caused significant changes in the settlement patterns and socio-professional structure of Ukrainian society, and these changes will likely have long-term impacts on the country. The war has also caused significant changes in the social and economic dynamics of Ukrainian society, and these major changes will likely have long-term impacts on the country.

Potential Escalation of Conflict Between Russia, NATO, and the West, the conflict in Ukraine has raised concerns about a potential escalation between Russia and NATO, with implications for both parties. The current geopolitical landscape is tense, characterized by NATO's provision of military and financial aid to Ukraine, viewed by Russia as a threat to its security. Key factors contributing to the conflict's escalation include Russia's security perceptions, international support levels, and the perceived benefits of actions taken. The potential outcomes of this conflict are dire, with the possibility of significant loss of life and infrastructure damage on both sides. Moreover, the conflict could exacerbate tensions between Russia and Western nations, impacting global security and stability. The ongoing conflict has broader implications beyond the immediate parties involved. It has raised concerns about the global food supply chains, with potential disruptions due to the war. Additionally, the conflict's economic repercussions, such as food inflation in European regions, could have disastrous consequences for European and global food systems. The conflict has also led to the imposition of sanctions by Europe and its allies, further complicating the economic landscape. Furthermore, the conflict has highlighted the importance of energy security and its potential weaponization in modern geopolitics. The situation underscores the need for a reevaluation of security concepts in Europe and their influence on countries like Ukraine. The conflict has also brought to the forefront questions about the influence of external actors on foreign policy in the post-Soviet space.

CONCLUSION

Ukraine's strengths include its strong national identity, support from Western allies, and a capable military. The country has managed to maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity despite Russian aggression, as well as receiving financial and military assistance from Western countries. However, Ukraine faces weaknesses such as economic challenges, internal political divisions, and dependence on Western support. These problems include corruption, lack of investment, and weakening of strategic positions. Ukraine's dependence on Western support limits its independence and makes it vulnerable to pressure from benefactor countries.

Opportunities for Ukraine include building stronger alliances with Western countries, overcoming economic challenges, and implementing diplomatic initiatives. Forming stronger alliances has provided financial and military assistance, while economic reforms can address

economic challenges and improve strategic standing. Diplomatic initiatives allow Ukraine to achieve its goals through negotiation and compromise.

Threats to Ukraine include Russian military power, economic coercion, and political interference. Russia's advanced military capabilities and intelligence resources have allowed Russia to launch devastating attacks against Ukraine, limiting its ability to achieve its goals. These factors also limit Ukraine's freedom to operate in the region and make Ukraine vulnerable to pressure from its neighbors.

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