

Chapter 15: Russia-Ukraine Tensions



Background: World Wars Backlash on Russia

World War 1 loss leads to:

- Economic downfall
- Millions of lives lost
- Opening for Soviet Revolution
 - Began in 1917, paved the way for the nation to become communistic

World War 2 victory leads to:

- Expansion of USSR
 - At the cost of millions of more lives
- Control of East Germany, Poland, and Eastern European countries NOT in the USSR
- Leading to the development of the Cold War
 - The political conflict between the United States and the USSR from 1946-1991



Background

World Wars Backlash on Ukraine



Map of Ukraine after World War II, indicating the location of Vinnytsia

World War 1

- Mild affair
- Lost only a couple of hundred lives in comparison to other nations
- Held ground in combat against an invading Russian army
- Paved foundation for their nation today

World War 2

- Occupied by Germany
- Lost millions of lives
- Pivotal role for USSR in fight against Germany
- Remained full piece of USSR

Development of Problems

- Communism destabilizes when the Berlin Wall falls in 1989
 - Collapses in 1991
 - Communism: a system of government where wealth is based on talents
- 15 nations emerge from this fall of the USSR
 - Russia followed by: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan

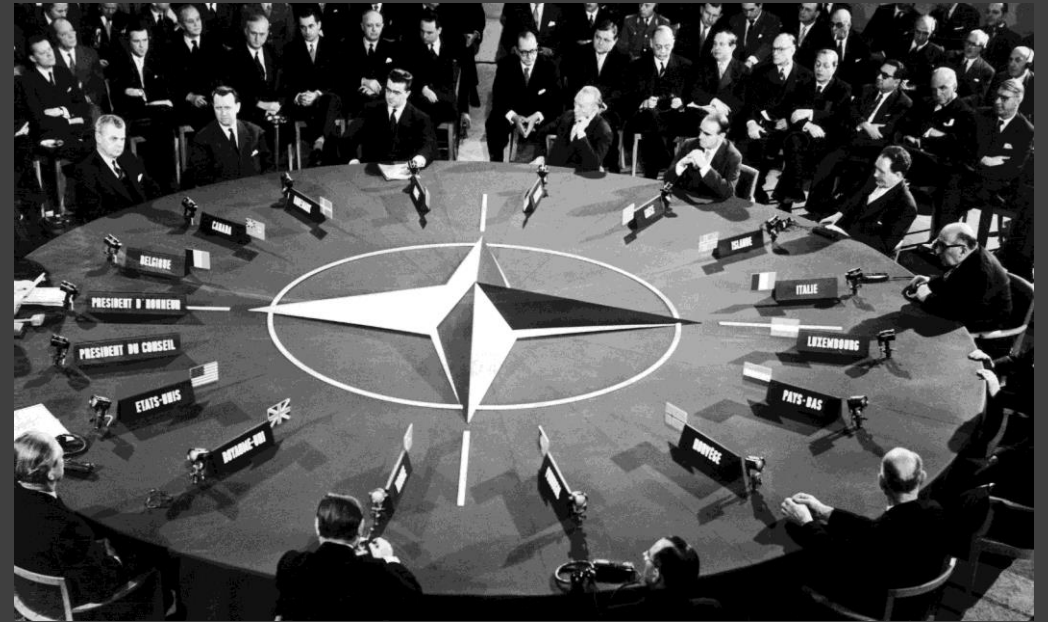


Discussion

- Was the fall USSR truly a good thing at this time?
- Is it a good idea to give so many countries independence at once after not having it for so long?

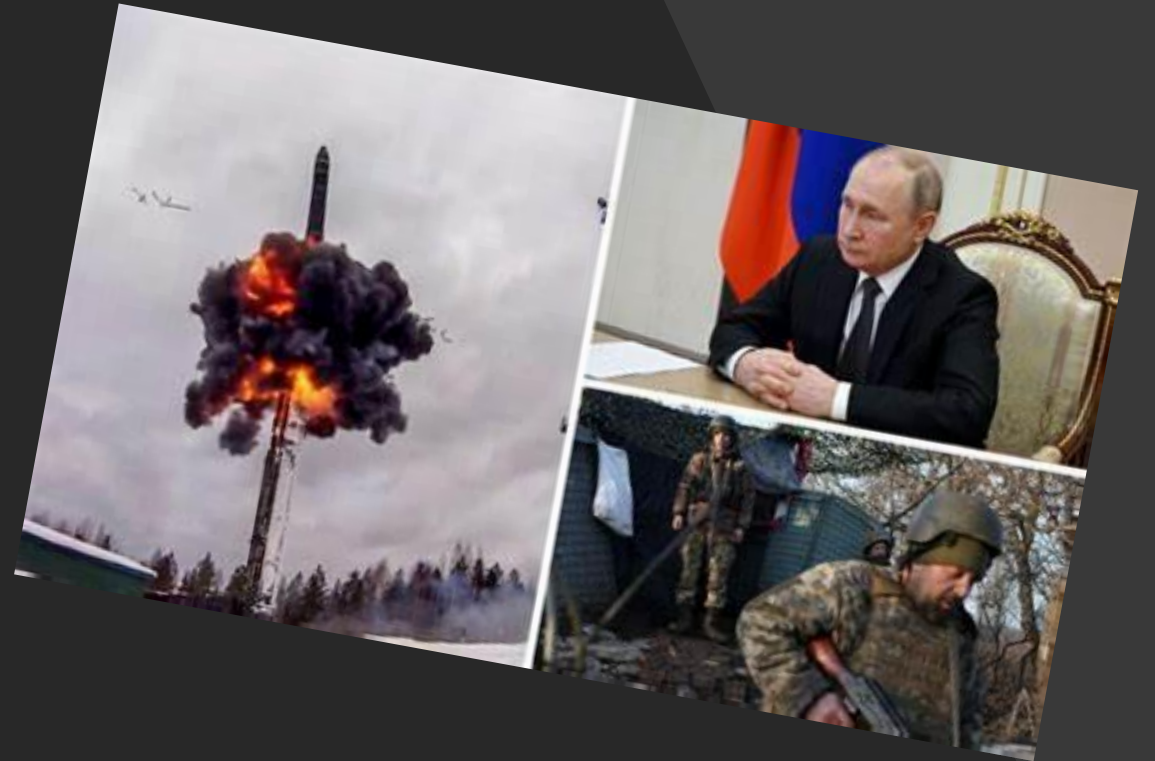
Today

- Russia and the United States have butted heads since the fall of the USSR
 - Russia fears American influence in the Eastern Bloc
 - America fears Russian takeover
- Ukraine is in the process of joining NATO
 - NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 - Assist in trade agreements as well as military defense of all members
 - NATO gave Ukraine the ability to join in 2005



Development of current situation

- Russia has moved some 19,000 troops to the border in preparation for a possible invasion
 - Have fired shots into Ukrainian border villages and towns
- The United States has responded with a staging of 5,000 troops of our own in European NATO bases
 - NATO has declined deployment of any other troops
 - Say it is not their problem to defend a Non-NATO nation
 - The U.S. has also threatened trade sanctions on Russia
- As of 2/22/2022, first shots have been fired



<https://youtu.be/NOCbW1hc6Ng>

Debate

- Should the United States and NATO get involved in the defense of this nation?