Changing dynamics of Transatlantic- Relations with reference to Ukrainian Crisis

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Abstract

With the soviet disintegration, and creation of CIS countries, the newly independent states wanted to join EU and NATO for their economic development and protection under the NATO umbrella. NATO was created to prevent a war in Europe. After Kosovo war in 1999, NATO members never had to fight a war till Russia invaded Ukraine. Moscow saw NATO enlargement as a threat towards Russian borders. The Russians considered Ukraine as Near Abroad Country and felt that newly formed states were strategically very important for them. Explaining the Ukraine crisis, the article would examine transatlantic relations under NATO, EU and the policies of major European countries towards the Ukrainian crisis. The controversy of burden sharing amongst the transatlantic nations and European countries defining the European security policy to protect Europe are major debates at present. The prolonged Ukrainian war has led to show the major policy differences of the countries.

Words: Transatlantic Relations, NATO, Russia's strategic plans, Ukraine struggling to win the war, American support.

NATO was created to avert major war in Europe. Initially, NATO was created to balance power [the countries join forces to check powerful rivals] but however, Kosovo and Ukrainian crises have shown that alliances are created to balance against threat [in reality, countries seek allies in response to threats]. According to realism, powerful states are more threatening than the weaker ones, depending on their location and intentions. Powerful states are more a cause of worry for their immediate neighbours as they are willing to use force to change the status quo. According to Stephan M. Walt in his article 'Friends in Need; What a war has revealed about Alliances', Moscow saw NATO enlargement as a threat; a powerful alliance of wealthy democracies inching towards Russian borders. However, the United States being committed to spreading liberal institutions had used force on several occasions. Feeling threatened, Moscow moved closer to China and by trying to stop NATO from moving towards the east, it could not convince Ukraine to

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