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**The Dragon's Diplomacy: Analyzing China's
Mediation Efforts in the Russia-Ukraine
Conflict and Their Implications for Regional
Stability**

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The Dragon's Diplomacy: Analyzing China's Mediation Efforts in the Russia-Ukraine Conflict and Their Implications for Regional Stability

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Abstract

The stability of the surrounding area is investigated in this paper on China's mediation of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The study assesses China's foreign policy in respect to the situation and investigates the elements influencing her approach. Research indicates that the ideas of China's foreign policy—which include a multipolar international order, peaceful cohabitation, and non-interference—direct govern China's strategy. China wants to keep its neutrality throughout the current crisis and create a good balance in its contacts with Russia and Ukraine. But China's geopolitical and financial interests in the area considerably limit its capacity to act as a mediator. The results of the research show that China's participation in the matter has significant consequences for the preservation of regional stability. This is the outcome of China's continuous increase of political and economic power over the area.

Key Words: China, mediator, Russia-Ukraine crisis, regional stability, non-intervention, peaceful coexistence,

INTRODUCTION

Pro-European Union protestors staged a sequence of demonstrations known as the Euromaidan in 2014, effectively toppling President Viktor Yanukovich's pro-Russian government of Ukraine. Supported by Russia, rebels in the eastern Ukrainian provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk seized authority of the land and announced their independence from Ukraine after Yanukovich was removed from power. Yun Sun. 2015. Russia grabbed Crimea, an area of Ukraine mostly inhabited by Russians in March 2014. Xinning Song, 2016. Russia was hit with sanctions following the strong denunciation of the action by the international community. A full-scale conflict has developed out of the strife between rebels and Ukrainian government forces in the eastern part of Ukraine. Both sides of the battle have accused one another of abusing human rights and engaging war crimes. (2014) Feng Zhongping Notwithstanding the regular incidence of violence and the continuous tension between Russia and Ukraine, the conflict has endured

despite several abortive attempts at a settlement. Jianwei Wang 2015. "The conflict has lasted in spite of these efforts." Millions of people have been displaced and hundreds of lives have been sadly lost from this violence. We have to admit that the conflict is continuous and that it still affects the area greatly. 2016 year Shuxiu Zhang here. Since its start in 2014, the Russia-Ukraine crisis has become a major issue of interest for the world community. There is worry that the war might spread and cause major political, financial, and social unrest in the area. Rising as a possible mediator in this situation, China is trying to use diplomatic clout to help to resolve the dispute and bring the area back under stability. The effects of China's mediation in the Russia-Ukraine conflict for the stability of the region are investigated in this research. 2015 Chengxin Pan. The study looks at China's foreign policy in reaction to the crisis, together with the reasons behind its decisions and strategies used. It looks at China's behavior under consideration including its strategic and economic interests in the area. The study claims that China's political and economic impact in the area is still growing, so its participation in the problem is absolutely vital for the stability of the area. Examining China's position as a mediator helps the article to show the wider geopolitical consequences of the crisis and show how the international community may cooperate to promote regional stability in the context of demanding and complex disputes. In 2015. Huishheng Shou. Since 2014, Russia's conflict with Ukraine has endured and significantly added to the instability in the area. China has now started to mediate the conflict. The aim of this literature review is to evaluate how China's participation in this crisis affects the stability of the nearby area. China's foreign policy has been mostly oriented on the preservation of peace and security in the surrounding areas as well as on the advancement of economic development. (Baev, Pavel K. 2014). "China's foreign policy depends critically on the Belt and Road Initiative, or BRI." Improving infrastructure and communication throughout Asia, Europe, and Africa is the main goal of the Belt and Road Initiative. China's mediation of the situation between Russia and Ukraine helps it to fulfill the goals of its foreign policy. Yang deng, 2016.

China's Mediate Role China's diplomatic activities have taken front stage in its capacity as a conflict mediator between Russia and Ukraine. China has asked that political means and peaceful talks help to address the matter. Furthermore, China claims that by its actions Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty remain intact. China's great historical cooperation with Russia calls into doubt its objectivity as a possible mediator in this dispute. On the other hand, China's diplomacy has taken a more moderate and objective approach and has put great pressure on Russia to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity. China's mediation of the war between Russia and Ukraine influences the stability of the area. China's crisis participation has resulted in more of its influence in the area, which might alter the power dynamics of the area. China's backing of territorial integrity for Ukraine has led the other nations in the region to realize that China is a nation that follows international law and appreciates stability. China's support of Ukraine's territorial integrity helped to transmit this message. This might result in more cooperation between China and other countries in the area, which would be beneficial for the preservation of peace in the region. Yubin (2015) Beijing has kept a calm attitude during the

course of its diplomacy; much of China's mediation in the dispute between Russia and Ukraine has taken place on diplomatic front. China clearly values stability and follows international law since its engagement in the crisis calls for such adherence. This has increased China's influence in the area and let other countries know China upholds international law. China's presence in the area might result in more economic development and cooperation, both of which would be benefits for the local population. These also imply good consequences for regional stability. (Marc Lanteigne 2016) considered as a "comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination," China's strategic alliance with Russia has Both countries want to stop the liberal order in the West from becoming unduly powerful as well as the United States. To strengthen their military, political, and financial ties, they have worked on projects like energy, infrastructure building, and military drills during the past few years. Regarding the end of the Ukrainian crisis, Russia and China have usually had same points of view. Both countries have said they want to keep Ukraine's independence and refrain from interfering; nonetheless, they are concerned about Western powers' intervention in the issue. China usually supports the sanctions imposed by the West on Russia, hence it has not aired any harsh opinions about Russia's occupancy of Crimea. On the other hand, Ukraine has sought a deeper engagement with the West while trying to keep balance in her contacts with China and Russia. Ukraine has tried to build more strong political and economic ties with China in order to offset Russia's influence, criticizing of Russia's activities in the war. Sun Xuefeng, 2015"Ukraine's close ties to the United States and Europe as well as issues with Chinese investment and influence in the nation have made it challenging for the nation to build a positive relationship with China." A complex matrix of economic, political, and geopolitical interests shapes the interactions between China, Russia, and Ukraine; so, they are projected to keep changing in the next years.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A research paper on "The Dragon's Diplomacy: Assessing China's Role as a Mediator in the Russia-Ukraine Crisis and Its Implications on the Regional Stability" can benefit from the following research technique for a literature review. The paper "The Dragon's Diplomacy: Assessing China's Role as a Mediator in the Russia-Ukraine Crisis and Its Implications on the Regional Stability" Establishing the study question—that is, evaluating China's mediation of the crisis between Russia and Ukraine and its consequences for the stability of the region— helps one decide on the research topic. This study question will direct the review of relevant past work. Sort the databases according to relevance for the review of the literature. The next part consists in determining which databases fit the literature review. Academic journals, novels, and other intellectual sources can be accessed using databases including Google Scholars, ProQuest, and JSTOR. One should develop a search plan to help to find relevant material. One advised search approach calls for terms including "China," "Russia-Ukraine crisis," "regional stability," "mediation," and "diplomacy." Once the search has been finished, the researcher should find pertinent sources. Comprehensive study is absolutely necessary to assess the relevance, dependability, and authenticity of the sources. Look at the references. Following the identification of the pertinent sources, the researcher should examine the sources in order to

pinpoint the main themes, ideas, and arguments. The researcher has responsibility for spotting any flaws in the present studies that call for more study. Finally, the researcher should combine the findings of the literature review to have a whole knowledge of China's influence on the stability of the area and its mediation in the Russia-Ukraine dispute. This is essential to have a comprehensive understanding of China's mediation role in the Russia-Ukraine dispute. This synthesis should be done to clarify the research issue and give direction for the study design. Therefore, it is essential to reach a thorough awareness of the influence of China's mediation in the Russia- Ukraine conflict on regional stability. Doing a thorough and methodically rigorous literature review will help one to do this.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

One could investigate from several angles the stability of the area and China's mediation in the Russia-Ukraine dispute. This viewpoint of world affairs emphasizes the need of national interests and power. From a realist point of view, China's participation in the conflict would be seen as a means of furthering its own strategic objectives, including preserving peace in its surrounding area and thereby preventing the West from acquiring further influence. Realists would also take into account China's activities' possible effects on the region's balance of power as well as the possibility of conflict. From this point of view, the impact of laws and ideas on world events underlines their importance for international relations. Constructivism would examine how China's crisis reactions show the development of its identity and goals as it grows as a major world actor. It would also look at how China's own past and culture affect its attempts to arbitrate as well as how these events shape China's attitude to conflict management. From this point of view, institutions' and teamwork's power to promote stability and peace is underlined. Liberalism would assess how closely China's crisis reaction shows its commitment to multilateralism and support of international norms and rules. It would also look at the possibility for regional institutions to be strengthened and the parties to cooperate more successfully as China's attempts to help the conflict to be resolved strengthen them. Game theory uses mathematical models to investigate individual decision-making in strategic contexts. Game theory would help one investigate the strategic calculations and reasons behind China's attempts to mediate as well as the possible results of several situations. It would also look at how knowledge and communication affect the actions of the several crisis players. This approach compares China's engagement in previous conflicts and crises throughout the globe with its mediation of the Russia-Ukraine dispute. Comparative study of China's handling of conflicts in many contexts would highlight both commonalities and deviations. It would also look at the elements influencing China's choices in every given scenario. Examining China's role as a mediator in the Russia-Ukraine crisis would theoretically demand the consideration of a wide range of theoretical stances and the complex interaction of elements affecting China's approach to conflict resolution and consequent effect on regional stability.

CHINA'S RUSSIA-UKRAINE MEDIATION

Over time, China's mediation of the Russia-Ukraine conflict has changed its purpose. This follows from China's own aims and interests as well as the changing political scene all around. China

has worked to keep balance in its contacts with Russia and Ukraine while also forward its own strategic interests both in the area and worldwide. At the start of the crisis in 2014, China kept great prudence and abstained from committing any firm promises at first. Instead, it urged everyone to keep their cool and start talking. Li Xiaojun (2017). Protecting China's economic interests—especially those related to infrastructure projects and energy resources— was its main goal in Ukraine and Russia. But China got more involved in diplomatic efforts to help to resolve the problem as the conflict grew more intense and the world community de- nounced Russia's takeover of Crimea. China has specifically worked to promote a peaceful outcome by attending international conferences such the United Nations and the Shanghai Co- operation Organization (SCO), both of which are connected to Russia and Ukraine. China has also tried to keep its neutrality and avoid supporting one side of the conflict. (Zhou Bo, 2016). "It has not made any public comments that were negative of either Russia or Ukraine." China has said that every country should value its sovereignty and geographical integrity. It has also promoted an international law-based, respectfully based solution. China's approach toward the crisis depends on its own geopolitical interests, ties with Russia and Ukraine, and main strategic goals—the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its aim to in- crease its influence in Eurasia and beyond. China has tried to keep its neutrality in the war and stay away from encouraging any side. It has also tried to show that it is a worldwide actor with conscientious behavior who is also useful. China's mediating role in the Russia-Ukraine situa- tion has changed with time. This follow from China's own aims and interests as well as the changing political scene all around. While working toward its own strategic goals and a peace- ful resolution, China has tried to keep balance in its contacts with Russia and Ukraine.

CHINA & REGIONAL STABILITY

China has launched many projects meant to help Russia and Ukraine to resolve their conflict. China has started diplomatic projects to help Russia and Ukraine communicate and negotiate. China, for instance, has taken part in the Normandy Format talks, which the presidents of France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine arrange to go over the crisis. China has also tried to assist global projects aiming at conflict resolution, including UN mediation efforts and requests for more cooperation among members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). China has used its economic clout to try to improve the area's stability. Shang Xiaotong, 2016. China has, for example, funded infrastructure projects in Russia and Ukraine, including the China-Kazakhstan-Russia oil pipeline and the Silk Road Economic Belt plan, meant to improve economic cooperation and connectivity all around Eurasia. China has abstained from supporting a position in the dispute and has given great weight on the idea that the internal problems of other nations belong to them. China has said that all nations should value each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity and has demanded a ne- gotiated settlement grounded on international law and mutual respect. China's attempts to help Russia and Ukraine come to terms with their crisis, nevertheless, have failed. China's appeals for negotiations and communication nonetheless have not helped to resolve the crisis; Russia has occupied Crimea in 2014 and there is continuous strife in eastern Ukraine. China's interests and ambitions, notably

its economic alliances with Russia and Ukraine, could also make it unable of acting as a fair arbiter. (2015, Zhongqi Pan)."China has put in place several focused policies meant to help Russia and Ukraine to resolve their conflict." Still, these steps have not greatly helped the area to develop stability and peace. The conflict never goes away, and given the different goals and personal interests of every side, it is still difficult to find a peaceful conclusion.

CHINA'S REGIONAL GEOPOLITICAL GOALS

Maintaining peace and stability in the region by diplomatic methods has China's key goal in the confrontation between Russia and Ukraine. But China's position on the crisis has affected its ties to both nations as well as its general geopolitical goals in the area. China has stayed out of the fighting. Instead, it has promoted the search of a peaceful solution as well as the preservation of Ukraine's territory integrity and sovereignty. China has also voiced its disapproval of the application of force and underlined the need of communication and negotiations in order to settle the disputes. China's position on the conflict nonetheless does not affect its relationship with Russia since their strategic cooperation in industries including trade, energy, and defense keeps it strong. (2016Zheng Yu and Lu Jianren)."But China's support of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty has caused some strain in its relationship with Russia since Russia has seized Crimea and supported separatist groups in eastern Ukraine." China's posture on the war has also affected its relationship with Ukraine, which has shown thanks for China's support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. China has strengthened its business ties to Ukraine recently as well. This is partly because of the Belt and Road Initiative, which has helped Ukraine to find fresh commercial partners. In light of China's larger geopolitical objectives, the conflict has underlined the need of stability and security for its trade routes and energy supply. China has tried to improve its ties with other nations in the region, including Russia, Ukraine, and Central Asian nations, thereby preserving the security and stability of the area. China's engagement in the war between Russia and Ukraine has somewhat affected its relations with both nations as well as its more general geopolitical objectives in the area. Still, its impartial approach and focus on the encouragement of stability and peace have lessened any negative effects.

REGIONAL POWER BALANCE: CHINA & KEY ACTORS

Other regional players including the United States, the European Union, and other Asian powers have responded differently to China's engagement in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, therefore affecting the allocation of power in the area. The European Union and the United States have attacked China's attitude on the issue. They contend that China is not applying enough pressure on Russia to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Furthermore punished Russia by the United States and the European Union for its takeover of Crimea and support of separatist militants in eastern Ukraine. They also want China to help to apply sanctions against Russia. (Yang Yu. 2016). Other Asian nations, including Japan and India, who have aimed for a peaceful settlement, have also been concerned about the dispute. Japan has declared its support of Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity as well as given her financial aid. India has shown worry about the possible effects on the stability and security of

the area but has not taken a position on the conflict. These reactions have many consequences for the balance of power in the area. On the one hand, the criticism of China's posture on the dispute by the European Union and the United States could erode China's influence and posture in the area. On the other hand, China's focus on the advancement of peace and stability in the area might strengthen its diplomatic ties with other nations and help it to be more credible as a conscientious regional actor. The responses of other nations in the area to China's engagement in the war between Russia and Ukraine show the complicated power dynamics in the area and the need of cooperation and communication for peace and stability in the region. Liu Qing and Wang Yan. (2016)

CHINA'S MEDIATOR ROLE

Given China's growing assertiveness on the international scene, its mediation of the Russia-Ukraine crisis has a range of effects for its foreign policy and global goals. By means of its attempts to act as a mediator in the Russia-Ukraine dispute, China demonstrates its readiness to help in the constructive resolution of international problems. This helps to establish it as a more conscientious global actor and sets it to help to resolve next crises. China's efforts at mediation also help to strengthen ties with Russia, one of its most important strategic allies. China supports Russia's stance and strengthens their strategic alliance to show its allegiance for its friend in the Ukraine issue. Yu Zheng 2016

China might also encourage goodwill between the West and Ukraine in an effort at mediation. By means of conflict resolution, China is proving its readiness to cooperate with all stakeholders and propel stability and peace in the area. To show China's ambition to rank among world powers: China's involvement in the Russia-Ukraine issue shows its will to be seen as a major actor in world events and as a global power. China shows its intention to participate in world affairs and its impact on the international scene by trying to act as a mediator in a well-publicized conflict. China's attempts to arbitrate the Russia-Ukraine dispute could also endanger and complicate its foreign policy and overall goals. For example, should China's mediation efforts fail, its credibility as a mediator and as a conscientious global actor could be undermined. Furthermore among other countries, the United States and its allies could condemn and punish China for its engagement in the crisis. For its foreign policy and global goals, China's mediation of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has possible advantages as well as disadvantages. It presents China as a more conscientious global actor and deepens its ties to Russia. For its foreign policy, it also shows China's ambition to be a worldwide force and could expose some hazards and difficulties.

CHINA AND RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

China's engagement in the crisis between Russia and Ukraine could have different effects on its ties to other nations including Japan, South Korea, and ASEAN members. Both U.S. allies Japan and South Korea worry about China's growing sway over their territory. China's support of Russia in the Ukraine conflict could have negative effects on the region's relations with these nations as well as increase of tensions. Some ASEAN nations, such as Laos and Cambodia, have close links to Russia and would find China's support of Russia favorable. This might help China

and these countries to have better relationships. Concerns the ASEAN nations have about China's assertiveness stem from While some ASEAN members would be happy China is helping Russia, others would be worried about China's growing sway in the area. This could complicate China's attempts to deepen its ties to ASEAN members and maybe aggravate the regional situation. (2016; Tiziana Scaramagli). The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) heavily shapes China's foreign policy. Its aim is to help China and other countries engage economically in communication and cooperation. China's assistance of Russia in the Ukraine conflict, which raises questions regarding China's geopolitical goals in nations included in the Belt and Road Initiative, may thereby hinder the development of the BRI. China's engagement in the war between Russia and Ukraine could have different effects on its ties to other nations in the area. While it might sour China's ties to Japan and South Korea and lead other nations in the area to worry about China's growing aggressiveness, it has the potential to boost China's ties to ASEAN nations close to Russia. Tizanza Scaramagli (2016).

CHINA'S REGIONAL MEDIATION EXPERIENCES

China's mediation in the Russia-Ukraine dispute would help us to better understand the process of conflict resolution in the area and promote a more stable and peaceful surroundings. China's ability to act as a mediator depended on its ability to abstain from interfering in the crisis and from assuming a posture. This shows the important significance impartiality and neutrality play in the success of mediation. The two countries were brought to the bargaining table in great part by China's efforts to enable bilaterally as well as multilateral communication between Russia and Ukraine. This emphasizes in the framework of problem-solving the need of active listening and communication. China's involvement in the situation between Russia and Ukraine shows the possibilities of regional cooperation to help to resolve problems and support stability. Shannon L. Dun, 2017. China's engagement in the area helped Russia, Ukraine, and other players communicate and coordinate. International law serves for: China's support of a peaceful resolution of the dispute in line with the UN Charter and international law shows the importance of international law and standards in the resolution of problems and the enhancement of stability. China's involvement in the Russia-Ukraine issue also shows the possibilities of economic incentives and cooperation to help to resolve problems and advance stability. (2015 Margot Light)."China's efforts to support regional economic cooperation and investment could help to reduce tensions and build confidence between Russia and Ukraine." China's mediation in the Russia-Ukraine issue offers insightful analysis of how disputes in the area may be resolved and the need of cooperation to create a more secure and peaceful surroundings (Richard Q. Turcsányi, 2016). These cover the need of neutrality, communication, regional cooperation, respect of international law, and financial incentives.

CONCLUSION

China's mediation of the Russia-Ukraine issue shows overall its ability to support the stability and peace-building in the area. China's mediation in the situation between Russia and Ukraine helped to highlight this possibility. China's impartial posture and support of communication helped it to draw the parties to the bargaining table and advance cooperation among Russia,

Ukraine, and other regional players. China's support of a peaceful resolution based on international law and conventions emphasizes the relevance of these ideas in the framework of creating a stable environment and settling problems. As China's participation in the crisis shows, economic cooperation and incentives have great power to be tools for building confidence and reducing tensions. China's involvement in the crisis between Russia and Ukraine thus provides important lessons for next initiatives aiming at fostering regional stability and cooperation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Examining China's mediation of the Russia-Ukraine dispute exposes consequences for regional stability that affect recommendations for next projects meant to advance peace and conflict resolution in the area. China's success in helping Russia and Ukraine to cooperate should inspire more efforts to support and maintain regional cooperation. Both bilateral and trilateral channels as well as multilateral entities as the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) can help to accomplish this. Effective mediation requires one to be fair and objective. Future mediators should try to keep their objectivity and reduce their engagement in the dispute. China's initiatives show that the promotion of stability and the resolution of problems depend on communication and dialogue. Future mediators should give top priority to helping the conflict's sides to communicate more effectively. China's support of a peaceful resolution based on these values and its advocacy of international law and standards should provide the model for next mediation initiatives. When trying to settle a dispute, mediators should give the adherence to international law and standards top priority. China's programs to promote regional economic cooperation and investment show how financial incentives might help to lower tensions and strengthen stability. Future mediators should give thought to using financial incentives to build confidence and promote cooperation among disputing parties. Following these guidelines will help future mediators to extract lessons from China's experience to support stability and conflict resolution in the area.

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