

## **The Potential Of A Third World War (WWIII) As The Implication Of The War Between Russia And Ukraine**

**T. Mas Turi<sup>1)</sup>, I Wayan Warka<sup>2)</sup>, Aris Sudiarto<sup>3)</sup>**  
<sup>1,2,3)</sup>Defense University of the Republic of Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author  
Email: [toni.masturi76@gmail.com](mailto:toni.masturi76@gmail.com)

---

### **Abstract**

*The war between Russia and Ukraine occurred on February 24, 2022, after both sides both defended their arguments and there was a stalemate in efforts to resolve diplomatically. Finally, the path taken by the two countries in resolving the existing conflict, namely by war. Analysts and world experts predict that Russia's war with Ukraine will potentially lead to a third world war because each country involves various parties, both Ukraine, supported by NATO and Russia, supported by various countries. The purpose of this study is to analyze the potential for a third world war as an implication of the war between Russia and Ukraine. The research method used is a qualitative approach with descriptive analysis. The researcher uses the strategy theory proposed by Sun Tzu, the geopolitical theory proposed by Hayati and the theory of "The Sociology of Conflict" by George Simmel. The results of the study show that the war between Russia and Ukraine directly or indirectly has involved various countries to enter into the conflict, thus making the international community worried that there will be a bigger impact. The conclusion of this research is that the war between Russia and Ukraine has the potential to cause a third world war.*

**Keywords: Potential, NATO, War**

---

## **INTRODUCTION**

The war that occurred between Russia and Ukraine on February 24, 2022 was an accumulation of conflict from the continued war between the two countries, which began with the war between Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists supported by Russia in February 2014. The impact of Russia's war with Ukraine had a profound impact. quite significant in various fields of social life of the world community, ranging from the political, economic, and even the possibility of a third world war. Russia and Ukraine are countries that are quite important in fulfilling the energy and food sources needed by the world community. The two countries are producers of oil, fertilizer, wheat, gas which contribute greatly to meeting the needs of European, Asian and other countries. Russia is listed as the world's largest wheat exporter, as well as the world's second largest exporter of natural gas and sunflower oil and the third largest oil and coal producer in the world. Ukraine is also a country that plays a major role in supplying the needs of the world community in the form of corn, sunflower oil and wheat.

With the occurrence of war and seeing the strategic position of the two countries in the world economy, it will have a multi-dimensional impact, especially on global security issues. Russia's war with Ukraine has triggered tensions between countries that are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Russia. NATO, the European Union countries, Australia and Japan have imposed sanctions on Russia, for example the freezing of assets of the Russian Central Bank, the ban on Russian Aeroflot national flights in British and Czechoslovakia airspace, the termination of all forms of sales of modern military technology systems and so on. The NATO alliance also announced a "strategic concept" by involving Sweden and Finland to join the military alliance. The current geopolitical condition in the former Soviet Union, namely the battlefield between Russia and Ukraine, poses a serious threat to countries in the world. Until now, this is still happening in Eastern Europe between Russia and Ukraine which is an accumulation of disputes between the two countries that have lasted since the cold war, although

many parties claim that the cold war has ended markedly by the fall of the Berlin wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Ukraine cannot be separated from the factor of NATO's expansion which is starting to expand its influence in Eastern Europe. NATO's expansion to Eastern Europe is considered dangerous to Russia, this is because there will be an attempt to transfer NATO's ballistic missiles previously stationed in Romania to Ukraine, so that this has the potential to become a threat serious for Russia.

Some analysts and experts predict the big impact caused by the war between Russia and Ukraine, namely the possibility of the outbreak of a third world war. The military attacks carried out by Russia were caused by three important factors, namely geopolitical factors, demographic factors and socio-political factors. Ukraine is a buffer zone between (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) NATO and the Russian Federation, making the country's position geopolitically strategic for competing for ideological and territorial influence. The escalation of tensions between NATO and Russia is getting bigger, when both camps are equally defending their arguments related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. NATO has put a military force of 140,000 personnel stationed around Ukraine and is mobilizing advanced combat equipment in a high alert position to protect its interests in the region. On the other hand, Russia did not stop its invasion of Ukraine, but instead intensified attacks against Ukraine. Russia is supported by several countries regarding its invasion of Ukraine, namely Belarus, China, Venezuela, Iran, Cuba, Myanmar, Syria, North Korea. NATO and Russia have nuclear weapons in large numbers and if used in war, they can destroy human life on earth. This has raised international concern about the potential for a third world war as an accumulation of the conflict. The various conflicting parties should be able to control themselves, so that it is hoped that there will not be a third world war that can have a major impact on human life.

This journal will discuss the potential for a third world war as an implication of the war between Russia and Ukraine. The research question is what is the potential for a third world war as an implication of the war between Russia and Ukraine? The purpose of this study is to determine the potential for the occurrence of a third world war as an implication of the war between Russia and Ukraine.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

In this study, the author uses descriptive analysis method with a qualitative approach. what is meant by descriptive research is a form of research that aims to describe or describe a natural phenomenon or a manmade phenomenon. The phenomenon can be in the form of activity, change. Forms, characteristics, changes, similarities and differences between one phenomenon and another (Sukmadinata, 2006). This method is the application and modification of scientific theory to test the theory against the case that is the object of research. In qualitative research methods it is not possible to do random sampling, so statistical tests on the data are not possible, but qualitative research has advantages such as easy cross checks, patterns and interrelated relationships can be revealed and variables that affect a problem can be revealed. (Kushadi Wijaya, 2006). The author will describe the occurrence of war between Russia and Ukraine and its implications for the potential for a third world war.

The data collection technique used in this research is literature study. In order to analyze the national defense system, Miles and Huberman model analysis techniques are used. This technique is carried out interactively and takes place continuously until it is complete, so that the data is saturated, in accordance with the characteristics of qualitative research. The data analysis process includes condensation data, display data and conclusion drawing (Miles, Huberman, & Saldana, 2014).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Understanding Of War

War is an event that has existed since the existence of human civilization on this earth and it will color the history of human life. War can occur because of the relationships that exist between humans themselves. The occurrence of war is generally caused by a dispute or dispute between two parties or involves another party and those who are in dispute do not give in to each other with their respective arguments. Disputes can occur due to political, economic, social factors and so on. War is an event that no one wants. However, under certain circumstances wars can of course occur because of political situations or because of the selfishness of certain parties, where each party tries to impose its will, even today we often hear of wars happening under the pretext of defending justice even under the pretext of creating peace in life in the world.

According to Carl von Clausewith, a war philosopher who came from Germany, defines war as an act of violence intended to force our opponents to fulfill our desires, this is stated in his book entitled "On War" (1995). War is like a duel but on a large scale. Clausewith also states that war is not something that does not stand, but war is a continuation of a politics that uses other means. This is interpreted if the stakeholders in the political field fail to resolve a conflict peacefully, then the solution is to go to war. Meanwhile, Michael Gelven in his book "War and Existence" (1994) also says that war is a real, widespread and deliberate armed conflict between political communities motivated by sharp disagreements over governance issues. War is the use of military force directed at resolving a dispute or conflict. War can be defined as a real, deliberate and widespread armed conflict that occurs between two or more political communities that are mutually hostile. War is also a phenomenon that occurs between political communities which are defined as entities that can be states or those that intend to become states. In theory of "The Sociology of Conflict" by George Simmel (1903), it is stated that "The dynamics of conflict in human history are actually determined by the existence of social groups based on identity, class, ethnicity, and tribalism. Social groups in any social structure in society in this world always contribute to various conflicts", Ibn Khaldun in Susan (2009:41).

Classical wars are wars that occur on an international scale involving several different countries, for example the First and Second World Wars. While civil war or civil war is a war that occurs within a country by involving groups or communities that are hostile to each other. Certain pressure groups, such as terrorist organizations, can be considered a political community because they are also a group of people with specific political goals. Many of these groups have aspired or dreamed of establishing a state or influencing the development of a state in a particular area.

### Factors That Caused War

The occurrence of a war is usually caused by various broad and complex problems, and this has existed since ancient times until now. The factors that caused the war, including political factors, economic factors, ideological factors and psychological factors.

#### a. Political Factors

Political factors that cause war, this is because government institutions are not able to carry out their duties properly. The credibility of government in a country that is not good will lead to anarchy, which is a condition in which individuals or groups of individuals try to live without an effective government. Such conditions will be the cause of the absence of a cooperation or the lack of certainty to act among the elements in society (national and international) and ultimately lead to war. War can also occur because of the efforts of each country in order to obtain, maintain, enhance and demonstrate their power to ensure their national security. The reason for the occurrence of wars that most often

occurs is the difference in political interests. A nation that is at loggerheads with other nations to the point of causing war, is also due to differences in political interests between the two. Countries that feel their power is not great and are unable to protect their national security from the threat of opposing forces, usually will join other countries to build an alliance. The alliance can be realized if each country has the same interests or their interests do not conflict with each other. With the alliance will increase strength among the countries that are members of the alliance, so that it will increase confidence in facing various threats. which exists.

**b. Economic Factors**

There are many opinions about wars being caused by economic reasons. The first opinion says that war is carried out with the intention of improving the standard of living of its people. Japan, Germany and Italy went to war because they felt that they were "the have not countries" that needed a wider area to increase their sources of income so that their people would live more prosperously. Second opinion. occurred because of the barriers to trade. High tariffs, expensive import taxes, export bans and restrictions, and so on will result in obstruction of trade between the nations of the world which will eventually lead to war. War will be avoided when the trade barriers are removed so as to create a free trade system. Free trade will establish economic relations between nations in the world and this will be a strong bond for maintaining peace. The third opinion says that war arises because of the urge to get high profits from the sale of war equipment. The existence of war will cause the demand for war ammunition, weapons, tanks, fighter planes, missiles, and so on to increase and this will greatly benefit the war industrialists, international bankers and wall-street capitalism. thirst for war. Marxists who say that war is closely related to colonialism and imperialism. Both are a direct result of the existence of capitalism. Capitalism has led to production that exceeds domestic needs. This overproduction occurs because the capitalists have paid their workers in an unnatural way so that they can accumulate profits. To overcome overproduction they are forced to distribute their products to areas that are not yet developed and in these areas they invest their capital and obtain raw materials to support their production. In line with the development of the area as a marketing area for its products and a source of supply of the necessary raw materials, the need for security protection for their interests in the area becomes even greater. For this reason, colonial powers were created which were supported by the power of weapons. As a result, conflicts of interest between the capitalists to exploit the area concerned to protect their rights often occur and end in war. Capitalism will expand its colonization area to all corners of the world when exploitation in that area has been exhausted.

**c. Ideological Factors**

The ideological factor is the cause of the war, this is due to differences in views/understandings and religious or socio-cultural values among members of the national and international community. Differences in views and values, both real and potential, are a source of dispute. In essence, there are no specific characteristics of a particular culture that are closely related to national boundaries, therefore the feeling of cultural differences is often the cause of a war that is bigger than the differences in culture itself. Crusades that occurred between Catholics and Protestants or wars between Hindus and Muslims are examples of wars caused by differences in views and values. The war that occurred during the revolution in France was a war caused by a conflict between the democratic forces of liberty, equality, fraternity with conservative and feudalistic orthodox forces. In addition, there was also a cold war between the Soviet Union and the United States caused by differences in the ideology of capitalism against communism.

**d. Psychological Factors**

According to Djamaludin Ancok in his writings on Psychology and Peace (2007) said that war is a type of behavior from the many human behaviors in the world. Because war is a form of behavior, this can be seen from several different approaches, namely: Motivational Approach, Reinforcement Approach, Cognitive Approach, and Social Structure Approach. In the motivational approach, the source of the cause of a war comes from within humans themselves. In the Psychoanalytic Theory proposed by Freud (1932) it is stated that war occurs because of a destructive aggressive impulse in humans. This urge comes from the “thanatos” (instinct to die) that has existed since humans were born. This urge arises because humans lose their sense of being loved (loss of love). Although Freud believed that the human mind can control the emergence of the urge to kill or destroy, this urge can never be eliminated because it is a basic human need, which is no different from the need to eat and drink. others are frustrated. While vAdler (1956) assumes that the superior drive has pushed someone to act aggressively-destructively. The same opinion was put forward by Rollo May (1943) who said that the existence of a human desire to reaffirm his own power (restructuring of power) which was previously drowned by obstacles from other people encourages a person to act aggressively-destructively. This reinstatement of power aims to establish self-identity and self-actualization.

.In the Frustration-Aggression Theory proposed by J. Dollard et al. (1939) stated that Aggression is always a consequence of frustration, and the existence of frustration as long as it causes action in the form of aggression (Miller (1941) later refined it by replacing the word "always" with "usually." Viewed from the Frustration-Aggression theory , war stems from a sense of frustration in the form of frustration with the authorities, or frustration with another nation that wants to rule. In the Reinforsemen approach everyone tends to do actions that generate profits or avoid losses. Bandura (1973) says that acts of aggression are committed people because their actions produce "rewards." In his book "Agression: A Social Learning Analysis," Bandura argues that most aggression is driven by the hope of profit. Wars are waged for the purpose of colonialization or territorial expansion that can provide economic benefits. one example In the Cognitive approach, it is stated that international conflicts can occur because of a wrong perception process in responding to a situation that occurs. Ralph K. White (1970) said that there are six things that are misperceptions that often lead to international conflicts, namely "Diabolical enemy image" (the view that the enemy is evil like the devil), "Vipile self image" (the view that oneself is male), " Moral self image” (the view that oneself is a moralist), “Selective in attention” (not paying attention to things that are contrary to beliefs), “Absence of empathy” (the absence of a sense of empathy), “Military over confidence” (excessive belief in military power). The view that evil enemies such as demons occur when two countries are in a state of conflict, these countries will see their enemy country in a completely negative image. Each country sees its enemy as an "aggressor" and the country as an object of aggression. Furthermore, in the Structural approach, it is stated that problems in the structure of life in society are the source of conflict, violence, or war. The existence of strata in social life and state life can be a source of conflict, especially if these strata are a source of injustice. Social stratification, such as the rich, the middle class, and the poor can be a source of clashes and acts of violence if there is an injustice in the distribution of wealth in a country. This threat can occur because the existing groupings in social life provide opportunities for conflicts between groups.

### **Potential Third World War As Implications of War Between Russia and Ukraine**

Currently, the war between Russia and Ukraine is still ongoing and it is quite a concern for many countries in the world. In the face of the Russian attack which was carried out with high intensity and continuously, this caused the Ukrainian Government to ask for help from the North Atlantic Defense Organization (NATO). To ward off attacks from Russia, Ukraine is in dire need of supplies of NATO weapons such as Javelin, NLAW (new generation light anti-tank weapons), Stinger and Starstreak, as well as anti-aircraft missiles that they have used in this war. Ukraine also wants assistance in the form of tanks, fighter planes, drones and advanced missile air defense systems to counter increasing Russian air and long-range missile attacks targeting Ukraine's strategic fuel reserves and other critical logistics.

On the other hand, Russia through President Putin has reminded the world that since the beginning of the war there is a possibility of using nuclear weapons and Russia is moving its strategic nuclear deterrent force to a higher stage of readiness. The Russian offensive took place in large parts of Ukraine. Massive shelling was carried out in various parts of Ukraine and has damaged many of Ukraine's strategic infrastructure such as Europe's largest nuclear power plant. Russia told Ukrainian civilians to immediately leave the area along the eastern bank of the Dnieper River in Kherson province. Ukraine considers the order for Ukrainian citizens to leave its territory an act of forced depopulation in the territory. The streets of the Russian-controlled port of Kherson are almost empty of Ukrainian activity, business centers and shops are closed. The United States indicated that North Korea was secretly supplying Russia's war in Ukraine with large amounts of artillery shells, then disguised it from arms shipments by trying to make it appear as if it was being sent to countries in the Middle East or North Africa. Moscow has been forced to look for weapons to North Korea and Iran because of global sanctions that have limited Russia's ability to replenish its own arsenal. Iran has also sent support for self-exploding drone weapons, which have been used in attacks on Ukraine that have damaged Ukrainian infrastructure. Russian President Vladimir Putin said the world is currently facing the most dangerous situation since World War II. Putin also accused the United States of inciting conflict in Ukraine and the West of playing a dangerous, bloody and dirty geopolitical game that sows chaos around the world. Putin thought that it was time for NATO's various waves of expansion to be countered and urged the alliance to guarantee that Ukraine would never be allowed to become a member. Russia predicts that the historical period of undivided Western domination of world affairs will end soon.

NATO's attitude during the war between Russia and Ukraine for now is by providing significant military support to Ukraine to defend itself, and without being dragged into a conflict that could lead to war between them and Russia. NATO has so far not projected troop strength in Ukraine, this is due to fears of a war that will spread, although some NATO members have sent military equipment to help Kyiv. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg is also concerned about Russia's possible use of weapons of mass destruction and accused it of being able to spread fake news to base its use on chemical weapons. In supporting Ukraine against the Russian attack, NATO has alerted its troops of 140,000 troops around the territory of Ukraine and mobilized various sophisticated military equipment. The number of troops itself consists of 100,000 US troops stationed in Europe and another 40,000 troops from various NATO member countries. The advanced military equipment provided to Ukraine includes the Himars missile defense system, Javelin anti-tank weapons, Stinger anti-aircraft guns and various fighter jets and tanks. This was done by NATO in an effort to provide additional power in Ukrainian territory. NATO's role in Russia's war with Ukraine is a form of its national interest towards other countries as a form of assistance in the field of defense and security in helping Ukraine against Russia.

Conditions in Ukraine have indirectly positioned them in a face-to-face situation with high alert between NATO and Russia, which is supported by several countries. Tensions between

NATO and Russia continue to escalate, as NATO continues to provide assistance to Ukraine, so that it is considered an act of provocation and is not friendly to Russia. The threat of a potential third world war was conveyed by Russia to NATO on Monday 27 June 2022. Previously, a senior official from Ukraine had also said the same thing during an interview with Sky News. Prominent billionaire George Soros also briefly mentioned the potential for a third world war when he argued about Russia's attack on Ukraine, while at the Davos meeting in May 2022 (cited CNBC International). Meanwhile, the Chief of Staff of the US Military Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley said that if a third world war occurred, the impact would be very dire, this is because a nuclear war could occur which could result in many casualties among the warring parties. Citing Listsurge's sources, there are at least 14 countries that are potentially worst affected if a third world war occurs, namely India, Egypt, France, South Korea, Iran, Britain, Pakistan, Israel, Afghanistan, China, Russia, Syria, North Korea and the United States.

## CONCLUSION

In accordance with the analysis of the potential occurrence of a third world war as an implication of the war between Russia and Ukraine, the following conclusions can be drawn.

- a. The war between Russia and Ukraine has directly involved various countries facing each other with high alert, namely countries that are members of the NATO alliance supporting Ukraine and Russia which are also supported by various countries.
- b. The potential for a third world war is quite large, this is because the warring parties, namely Russia and Ukraine, have dragged various countries, both supporters of Russia and Ukraine, to be involved directly or indirectly in resolving the conflict.

## REFERENCES

- Aknolt Kristian Pakpahan. (2022). Russian Invasion of Ukraine and the Global Economy. Accessed at <https://unpar.ac.id/invasi-russia-ke-ukraina-danperekonomian-global/> on 2 November <https://unpar.ac.id/invasi-rusia-ke-ukraina-danperekonomian-global/> On 2 November 2022.
- Alexandrov, G.F. (2007) .Joseph Stalin: A short Biography. Yogyakarta: Kreasi wacana.
- Auwjong Peng Koen. (1962). Perang Dunia II Bagian Perang Eropa Djilid II. Jakarta : Saka Widya.
- Clausewitz, C. (1995). On War, trans. by A. Rapoport. Harmondsworth,UK: Penguin.
- Couloumbis, T.A and Wolfe, J.H. (1078). Introduction to International Relations: Power and Justice. Englewood Cliff: PrenticeHall.
- Brown, D. Study Claims Iraq's 'Excess' Death Toll Has Reached 655,000, , on October 11, 2006, p. A12.
- Damai dan Perang, <http://phyto.wordpress.com/2007/09/17/damai-dan-perang/>.
- Dewi, I. R. (2022, March 3). Rusia Serang Ukraina, NATO : Putin Buat Kesalahan Besar! Retrieved Nov 3, 2022, from CNBC Indonesia:<https://www.cnbcindonesia.com/news/20220324193546-4-325817/rusia-serang-ukraina-nato-putin-buat-kesalahan->

- Deutsch, K.W. (1968). *The Analysis of International Relations*; Englewood Cliff: Prentice Hall.
- D.H Astri dan Faisal A. Nadif. (2011). *History of the Great Wars in the world*. Yogyakarta: Familia.
- Djamaluddin Ancok, *Psychology and Peace* , <http://ancok.staff.ugm.ac.id/h-17/psikologi-dan-perdamaian.html>.
- Elga, Y. (2014). *Tales of Cruel Massacre in World Wars*. Yogyakarta: Palapa.
- Hasan, F. *Peacekeeping Efforts in International Dispute Resolution* ,Jurnal Luar Negeri Badan Litbang Deplu, tahun I, no. 2, Des1983, p. 19-44
- Intan Rakhmayanti. (2022). *Russo-Ukrainian War, World Food Prices Fly-ukraina-yang-perang-harga-pangan niabeterbangan?*msclkid=fe77e9dad03411ec8b23cee6741521d7 on November 2, 2022
- Kirby, P. (2022, April 29). *Why has Russia Invaded Ukraine and What Does Putin Want?* Retrieved Nov 3, 2022, from BBC News: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56720589>
- Nandalal Weerasinghe. (2022). *The Russina-Ukraine crises will hurt South Asia*. Accessed in <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2022/03/16/therussia-ukraine-crisis-will-hurt-south-asia/> on November 24, 2022
- Nusarina Yuliasuti. (2022). *Rusia Tension and Ukraina*. Accessed In <https://www.antaraneews.com/berita/2706617/pasar-energi-asia-awasidampak-rusiaukraina?msclkid=a2e6a163d03611ec8c420d265e0dab403> November 3, 2022
- Pasaribu, S. (2019). *History of The World War*. Jakarta: Alexander Books.
- Sarsito, T. (1993). *International Political Theory Hans J. Morgenthau: Suatu Analisis dan Kritik*. Solo: UNS Press.
- Suryohadiprojo, S. (2005). *Si Vis Pacem Para Bellum Building a Modern and Effective National Defense*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Syuryansyah (2022). *Efforts to Settle the Russo-Ukrainian Conflict*. PIR Jurnal Vol.7.No.1 Agustus 2022