

**Scholar of global distinction STUDent activity sheet**

**Understanding Ukraine’s Resilience:**

**Navigating Current Realities and Future Paths**

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| **Name:**  | **Date:**  |
| **Email:**  | **Community College:**  |
| **Instructions:** Scholar of Global Distinction students will have an opportunity to earn 4 hours towards the 8-hour international activity requirement of the Scholar of Global Distinction program if they complete Sections I, II, and III below. Students should turn in their completed student activity sheets to their Scholar of Global Distinction campus liaisons by April 1, 2024. **Reading****Masters, J. (2023, February 14). Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia. Council on Foreign Relations. https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/ukraine-conflict-crossroads-europe-and-russia** In his article contextualizing the current conflict in Ukraine, Jonathan Masters notes that “Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 marked a dramatic escalation of the eight-year conflict that began with Russia’s annexation of Crimea and signaled a historic turning point for European security.” This article explores the roots of the conflict, the impact on the geopolitical world order, and the role of the U.S. in responding to the conflict.Retrieved from:<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/ukraine-conflict-crossroads-europe-and-russia> |

**Section I:** Read the article ***Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia***

**Section II:** Answer the following questions about the article ***Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia***

* Why is Ukraine considered such an important country in Eastern Europe? What is so advantageous about its **location, economy, and natural resources**?
* What **alliances** with European nations and the U.S. has Ukraine developed or considered since it declared its independence in 1991?
* What was **Euromaidan** and what sparked it?
* What was the significance of **Russia’s** **annexation of Crimea and arming of separatists in the Donbas**? What was Russia trying to achieve through these actions? How did it shift global politics?
* Scholars have studied multiple factors that may have motivated Putin’s invasion of Ukraine. Explain the following factors in a sentence or two.
	+ concerns about NATO
	+ undermining democracy nearby
	+ restoring Russian prestige
	+ the “one people” perspective
* What actions have the U.S. and European allies “taken…to increase aid to Ukraine and punish Russia for its 2022 offensive”?
* What are two takeaway messages from the article ***Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia***?
* What do you hope to further learn about the Ukraine-Russia war?

**Section III:** Attend and engage with UNC-Chapel Hill Professor Graeme Robertson on Friday, February 9th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Write a one-page reflection summarizing what you learned from the presentation and following discussion.