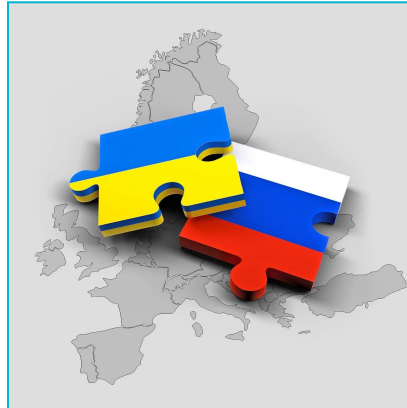


War in Ukraine: Understanding and Defusing the Conflict

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In this exciting new case study about the Russia-Ukraine crisis, middle school, high school, and college educators are able to teach their students about the history of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, including important events that have taken place in this region, from the end of World War I to today's conflict. A glossary enables students to become more familiar with important historical figures, places, and terms, also. In the third part of the case study, "Confidential Instructions" for six characters are provided, so that educators can divide their classes into six groups of students, with each group working together to negotiate an end to the conflict, or at least a ceasefire.

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Secure Communities



Group

Six Characters

1. Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation
2. Denis Pushilin, Leader of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR)
3. Hakan Fidan, Foreign Minister of Turkey
4. Ilia Darchiashvili, Foreign Minister of Georgia
5. Ihor Kolykhaiev, Mayor of Kherson, Ukraine
6. Dmytro Kuleba, Foreign Minister of Ukraine

Three Critical Issues

1. The Threat of Nuclear War
2. Governance of the Annexed Regions
3. Agricultural Infrastructure



In the role-play exercise, each person or small group will receive *only* the confidential instructions regarding the character whose role they will assume. Teachers, as negotiation facilitators, encourage students to play the roles of their characters even if they might not agree with the character's beliefs, teaching students to 'walk in the shoes' of others.

This live, case-study-based negotiation and conflict resolution pedagogy is what I call an 'intellectual outward bound, role-play-based, conflict resolution simulation exercise.' Each case study includes 6 characters and 3 issues to be discussed by those characters during negotiations. This is based on our theory of 'triangulation' in conflict resolution.



Rules of Engagement

SETUP

- Set up three tables in the room to serve as ‘negotiation pods’ to be used during the negotiation rounds. Place the ‘Confidential Instructions’ for Character 1 and Character 2 on Table A; for Characters 3 and 4 on Table B; and for Characters 5 and 6 on Table C.
- To form the teams, assign each participant to one of the Characters and lead them to their appropriate Table to review their ‘Confidential Instructions.’

GAMEPLAY

Summary Statements

- Each team has 15 minutes to understand their Character and formulate a concise Summary Statement, focusing on their Character’s stances on the issues.
 - To extend the 15-minute discussion time, the majority of participants must agree.
- Each team selects a representative to deliver a 2-minute introduction of their Character and their stances. Presentations occur sequentially in the predetermined order listed above. All are encouraged to take notes during the presentation of Summary Statements.

Negotiation Rounds

Rounds 1-5

- In the first series of negotiations, each team debates all three issues simultaneously with each of the five other teams for 15 minutes apiece, in the following pairings:
 - *Round 1:* Pairings are Character 1 with Character 2; 3 with 4; and 5 with 6.
 - *Round 2:* Shifting to the right, pairings become 1 with 3; 2 with 5; and 4 with 6.
 - *Round 3:* Continuing to shift, pairings are now 1 with 4; 2 with 6; and 3 with 5.
 - *Round 4:* With another shift, pairings change to 1 with 5; 2 with 4; and 3 with 6.
 - *Round 5:* Finally, in the last round, pairings are 1 with 6; 2 with 3; and 4 with 5.
- If agreement on an issue seems unreachable, switch to another to make the most of your time.
 - During negotiation rounds, more time can be negotiated as before.

Round 6

- For Round 6, the three Tables will be divided between Issues 1 (at Table A); 2 (at Table B); and 3 (at Table C). Each team should send one-third of its members to each Table.
- Each Table should engage in issue-focused debates. For example, Table A should negotiate a settlement only to Issue 1, and so on with Tables B and C.

Recommendation Statements

- Each Table must have a secretary to take notes, who will write a 150-word Recommendation Statement on the Table issue, stating the action that should be taken.

CONCLUSION

- The three Recommendation Statements will be consolidated into one Treaty: the final negotiated settlement. The simulation ends when a Treaty is successfully adopted by each Character.
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**Confidential Instructions for [1]
Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation**



“Our special military operation is meant to put an end to the unabashed expansion of NATO and the unabashed drive towards full domination by the US and its Western subjects on the world stage.”

Born in Moscow in 1950, you rose through the ranks of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, serving as a Russian Ambassador to the United Nations twice, before assuming the position of Foreign Minister for Russia in 2004. You have defended actions taken by Russia in Crimea and Donbas, advocated for closer relations between Russia and China, and consistently resisted interference from Western countries. Your deep linguistic and cultural expertise, acquired during your early career and education, has greatly informed your perspectives.

Stances on the Critical Issues

1. The Threat of Nuclear War

- Demand a halt on US and NATO security aid to Ukraine
- Assert the necessity for respect for Russia’s sovereignty to prevent escalation
- Propose an agreement to prevent deployment of NATO forces in Ukraine

2. Governance of the Annexed Regions

- Affirm the democratic vote of these regions to join Russia
- Demand reversal of Western sanctions for better support to these regions
- Assert these regions’ importance as a buffer against NATO

3. Agricultural Infrastructure

- Highlight how Western sanctions have caused difficulties in grain shipping
- Demand an end to corruption affecting Ukrainian grain distribution
- Advocate for Russian control of the four eastern regions to improve grain production

Non-Negotiable Principles

- The need for NATO to halt eastward expansion
- Respect for Russia’s rights to protect Russian-speaking communities outside its borders
- Removal or reduction of sanctions that hinder Russia’s ability to manage grain shipments

Potential Areas for Compromise

- Joint disarmament measures to deescalate the situation
 - Specifics of governing the four eastern regions
 - Details of sanctions relief
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**Confidential Instructions for [2]
Denis Pushilin, Leader of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR)**



"We feel ourselves to be Russian, because 'Russian' is not a nationality—this is important to understand. It's an outlook on life, a shared mentality and heritage [...] The future of the Donbass is linked to Russia."

Born in Makiivka, Donetsk Oblast in 1981, you evolved from a student and corporate professional to become the leader of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), ardently advocating for alignment with Russia. Cementing your popularity through electoral victory in 2018, you expanded DPR ties with Russia in 2022 by signing a cooperation agreement and securing Russian recognition of your independence. Amid the complex geopolitics of EU and NATO expansion, you maintain your belief that the people of DPR yearn to separate from Ukraine and join Russia.

Stances on the Critical Issues

1. The Threat of Nuclear War

- Advocate for the right to use all necessary means to defend your region against outside threats
- Denounce Western financial and military support to Ukraine as a hostile proxy war
- Propose that an immediate halt to Western security assistance to Ukraine would allow a cease-fire

2. Governance of the Annexed Regions

- Assert the four annexed regions' right to remain part of Russia
- Highlight the strategic importance of these regions as a buffer against NATO
- Commit to strengthening integration with Russia, ruling out a return to Ukraine

3. Agricultural Infrastructure

- Recognize the essential role of the Mariupol seaport in grain shipping
- Pledge to facilitate shipping of key goods, including grain, from Mariupol
- Advocate for corruption-free, Russian-led grain harvesting and distribution in the four regions

Non-Negotiable Principles

- Recognition of the DPR's right to consider all defensive measures against outside threats
- Understanding of Russia's right to protect the DPR against foreign interference
- Removal of sanctions hindering the operation of the Mariupol seaport

Potential Areas for Compromise

- Maintaining the DPR as a nuclear-free zone
 - Specifics of governing the four eastern regions
 - Collaboration on enhancing agricultural infrastructure throughout the region
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**Confidential Instructions for [3]
Hakan Fidan, Foreign Minister of Turkey**



"If we are going to reach a conclusion, we are not going to reach that conclusion by taking sides. Instead, we have to be looking for a conclusion that will satisfy all parties involved." - Turkish President Erdoğan

Born in Ankara, Turkey in 1968, you served Turkey in both a military and an intelligence capacity before assuming the role of foreign minister this June. From 2010 to 2023, you directed Turkey's National Intelligence Organization. After the re-election of President Erdoğan this spring, you were selected to guide Turkish foreign policy given your intel portfolio and your broad international network. While you headed Turkish intelligence, Turkey assumed an important mediator role in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, including the mediation of a grain export agreement in July 2022.

Stances on the Critical Issues

1. The Threat of Nuclear War

- Advocate for renewed, in-person diplomatic dialogue to prevent nuclear escalation
- Express concerns about the impact of continued military aid on the regional balance of power
- Suggest NATO's Ukraine position could influence Turkey's approval of Swedish membership

2. Governance of the Annexed Regions

- Uphold the principle of territorial integrity and oppose the forceful changing of borders
- Propose joint Russia-Ukraine control of the four regions under UN supervision
- Contend that Ukraine may regain control of these regions in peaceful negotiations

3. Agricultural Infrastructure

- Highlight the necessity to maintain the agreement to resume Ukrainian grain exports
- Stress the role of Ukrainian grain in maintaining regional and global food security
- Advocate for a long-term agreement, overseen by the UN, to revive Ukraine's grain exports fully

Non-Negotiable Principles

- The necessity of diplomatic dialogue and a ceasefire in Ukraine to prevent nuclear escalation
- Respect for territorial integrity and opposition to forcefully changing borders
- Ensuring the safety of Ukraine's grain export corridors across the Black Sea

Potential Areas for Compromise

- The extent and nature of NATO's involvement and military aid to Ukraine
 - Specifics of the proposed joint control and neutrality agreement for the four annexed regions
 - Details of the long-term agreement to fully revive Ukraine's grain exports
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**Confidential Instructions for [4]
Ilia Darchiashvili, Foreign Minister of Georgia**



"On the sidelines of this conflict, I met my Ukrainian colleague, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, and once again reiterated Georgia's unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Born in Sighnaghi, Georgia in 1981, you started as an economics student and eventually became Georgia's Foreign Minister, ardently supporting regional peace. Building your diplomatic career during Georgia's tumultuous years, you watched your country endure the 2008 Russo-Georgian war, and your subsequent public service positions contributed to maintaining Georgia's integrity and stability. Now, amid the escalated crisis in Ukraine, you advocate for peaceful negotiations and respect for international borders, emphasizing Georgia's solidarity with Ukraine.

Stances on the Critical Issues

1. The Threat of Nuclear War

- Assert the urgency to de-escalate the nuclear threat in Ukraine and the region
- Challenge the bias of NATO's military support towards Ukraine, suggesting balanced dialogue
- Advocate for immediate cease-fire negotiations, to mitigate the risk of further escalation

2. Governance of the Annexed Regions

- Express support for the principle of territorial integrity and respect for international borders
- Propose UN, not Russian or Ukrainian, control of the annexed regions as a temporary solution
- Consider Ukraine's potential peaceful claim to the regions conditional on NATO non-membership

3. Agricultural Infrastructure

- Highlight the need to protect grain exports, crucial for regional and global food security
- Support the continuation of joint Russia-Ukraine-UN controls for quality checks on grain exports
- Advocate for measures to prevent further destruction to Ukraine's agricultural sector

Non-Negotiable Principles

- Acknowledgment of Georgia's commitment to regional peace and territorial integrity
- Recognition of NATO's role in exacerbating regional tensions through eastward expansion
- Understanding of Georgia's stance against any country forcefully changing recognized borders

Potential Areas for Compromise

- Dialogue on denuclearization measures in Ukraine to prevent further escalation
 - Discussions about the temporary governance of the annexed regions, supporting UN control
 - Collaboration on agricultural infrastructure and measures to maintain regional food security
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**Confidential Instructions for [5]
Ihor Kolykhaiev, Mayor of Kherson, Ukraine**



"Our people can't receive humanitarian cargo here. Food is finishing in the stores. We are running out of gas. We are running out of medications and insulin. Our main weapon is unity."

Born in 1971 in Kherson oblast, in southern Ukraine, you studied engineering in Russia, became a successful businessman, and was elected mayor of Kherson in 2020. Despite the unjust invasion of Kherson by the Russian military and Russia's holding you as a political prisoner, you firmly believe in Ukrainian control for Kherson oblast, for its people's security and continued prosperity. You advocate for peaceful negotiations, the end of the Russian occupation in Ukraine, and the full sovereignty of Ukraine over its territories.

Stances on the Critical Issues

1. The Threat of Nuclear War

- Condemn "nuclear blackmail" by Russia, asserting the urgency to de-escalate the nuclear threat
- Demand Russian assurances of no use of nuclear missiles against Ukraine
- Support Western security guarantees for Ukraine until its official membership in NATO

2. Governance of the Annexed Regions

- Demand immediate withdrawal of all Russian forces and the puppet government from Kherson
- Reject recent elections conducted by the pro-Russian government and military as a sham
- Call for your release from political imprisonment and the restoration of your office as mayor

3. Agricultural Infrastructure

- Express concern over the drop in Ukrainian grain exports and its threat to global food security
- Demand the full resumption of grain shipping from Ukraine
- Call for the complete withdrawal of Russian naval vessels from the Black Sea to ensure free trade

Non-Negotiable Principles

- Recognition of your continued authority as mayor of Kherson
- Insistence on the territorial integrity of Ukraine
- Release of the four annexed regions from Russian control

Potential Areas for Compromise

- Joint disarmament measures to deescalate the situation
 - Restoration of the agricultural infrastructure and resumption of grain exports
 - Dialogue on the necessity for Ukraine's future membership in NATO and the EU
-

**Confidential Instructions for [6]
Dmytro Kuleba, Foreign Minister of Ukraine**



"When all world leaders repeat those words, 'Never again,' they need to prove with action they stand by those words. What they're seeing now in Ukrainian towns was 80 years ago when Nazis bombed European capitals."

Born in 1981 in Sumy, Ukraine, you have dedicated your life to public service in various capacities since 2003. You have stood strongly for the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, demonstrating a strong commitment to Ukraine's national interests and its people. As Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs, you passionately advocate for Ukraine's right to exist as a self-determining nation, free from foreign interference, and have denounced Russia's invasion as a severe violation of international law and human rights.

Stances on the Critical Issues

1. The Threat of Nuclear War

- Call for more substantial security aid from the US and NATO allies
- Assert Ukraine's right to use heavier weaponry to defend its sovereignty
- Advocate for a guarantee against the potential use of nuclear missiles by Russia

2. Governance of the Annexed Regions

- Insist on Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty over the four annexed regions
- Reject the legitimacy of the elections held in these regions under Russian control
- Demand that Russia withdraw its forces and allow the regions to return to Ukrainian governance

3. Agricultural Infrastructure

- Highlight the strength Ukraine's agricultural infrastructure as vital for global food security
- Assert the need for Russia to abide by the grain deal negotiated by Turkey and the UN
- Call for the complete withdrawal of Russian naval vessels from the Black Sea to allow free trade

Non-Negotiable Principles

- Recognition of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity
- Immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory
- The need for continued support from international allies, especially the US and NATO

Potential Areas for Compromise

- Specifics of security assistance from the US and NATO allies, including types of weaponry
 - Method and timeline for Russia's withdrawal from the four regions
 - Method and timeline for the re-establishment of Ukrainian governance in the four regions
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