

# AN AXIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO WARFARE: THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN CONFLICT

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## Abstract

The text is based on a synthesis of an overview and a case study. The objective is to introduce axiology as a method of assessing and evaluating war, and to demonstrate this by means of a case study. This case study assesses the security, military-political, environmental and economic threats associated with Russian power-imperial ambitions and Russian military aggression in Ukraine. In order to achieve the objective, the method chosen was to apply axiological metrics by researching and analyzing available open sources, creating a narrowed-down selection of key sources, identifying key characteristics of defined threats associated with Russian imperial ambitions and Russian power aggression in a values and historical context, synthesizing the findings and producing a final coherent output in the form of a case study. This study presents the following conclusions: the essence and core of the Russian threat in relation to aggression in Ukraine and other power-imperial ambitions lies in latent, historically demonstrable mental aggression, which is subsequently integrated into the value priorities of the majority Russian population and ruling elites. This objectively identifiable aggression has also long been reflected in the conventional military-political behavior of the Russian state. This has profound implications for contemporary Russian society and implications for overall global security.

**Key words:** axiology, war conflict, threat, Russian-Ukrainian war, assessment

**JEL Code:** H10 , H12, I3

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## Introduction

The Russia-Ukraine conflict, which escalated into a full-scale invasion in 2022, exemplifies the long-standing power-imperialist thinking of both the Russian elite and the majority of its society. This conflict is deeply rooted in fundamental value layers that shape Russian foreign policy and its overall relations with the surrounding world. Russia has pursued an expansionist policy for years, aimed at ensuring power and military dominance not only in its immediate neighbourhood but also on a global scale. According to Milan Syruček, the necessity of

achieving victory at any cost is one of the key values influencing Russia's actions in military and foreign policy (Syrůček, 2023). This value is reflected not only in the war against Ukraine but also in previous conflicts such as the wars in Chechnya and Georgia.

The historical and value-based background of Russian foreign policy is crucial for understanding its current aggression. Mark Galeotti highlights the essential role of Russia's military doctrine, which emphasizes the notion of a pre-emptive strike. This strategy, known as "active defense," focuses on neutralizing potential threats before they fully manifest, a doctrine directly reflected in the invasion of Ukraine (Galeotti, 2023). In this context, Galeotti refers to the statement by Russian General Gerasimov, who in 2019 claimed that active neutralization of threats in the name of protecting state interests underpins Russia's military response (Galeotti, 2023).

Axiology, the study of values, emerges as a key analytical tool for examining the value determinants of Russian behaviour. Historically, the Russian value system has been oriented towards values such as power, security, and authority (Schwarz, 2006, 2012). The axiological approach provides deeper insight into how these values and their interpretations shape Russian society and its foreign policy.

Russia has long placed significant emphasis on military dominance and fulfilling imperial ambitions (Orlov, 2022). This value-driven approach naturally conflicts with the values held by democratic states in Central and Western Europe, which are based on international cooperation, respect for human rights, and the creation of a global system of peaceful coexistence among independent states (Sutor & Babka, 2014). This value conflict is markedly evident in the Ukraine war, where Russia seeks not only to control Ukraine but also to affirm its role as a global power (Orlov, 2020).

The axiological method also enables an analysis of how the value conflict between the Russian Federation and Western democracies impacts global security and stability. According to Orlov, contemporary Russia displays fundamental traits of a fascist regime, advocating national superiority and suppressing political opposition through violence and terror (2022). This value system naturally leads not only to military expansion but also to significant political and economic destabilization on a global scale.

For these reasons, the authors of this article apply axiology as the primary methodological approach to explore the value determinants of the Russian threat in a historical context. This approach involves the following applications of analytical and research methods: historiographical analysis and synthesis of historical events, analysis of authentic statements and speeches by Russian actors with a focus on value-based and axiological aspects, abstraction

of axiologically significant comments, texts, and studies related to the subject of investigation—namely, the value determinants of the Russian threat—and comparison of the findings to uncover differing perspectives on the value aspects of the Russian and non-Russian worlds. This approach leads to a generalization and synthesis of the key axiological insights to formulate theoretical conclusions about the value determinants of current threats stemming from Russian imperial policy and its support by the Russian public, as well as to provide explanations and predictions regarding the future development of the Russian threat.

This axiological methodological approach allows for a comprehensive examination of Russia's present and emerging aggression, delving not only into its required depth but also systematically. Axiological inquiry in this context seeks to address which state of affairs is deemed good enough to warrant deliberate action aimed at achieving or maintaining a certain desired state. However, the challenge often lies in the absence of an objective criterion. As a result, ideological constructs that lead to at least questionable factual outcomes can find themselves at the top of the hierarchical pyramid of values. Aggressive and unjust wars against neighbouring countries and the dehumanization of the population of the attacked country are clear examples of this.

For these reasons, the authors of this article had to address the challenge of establishing an objective value criterion and, based on that, attempt to classify and comment on the described realities within the context of axiological approaches, represented for the purposes of this article by the studies of Bradley and Zimmerman (2019) and Schroder (2023).

The invasion of Ukraine also has profound economic and environmental consequences. Russia's use of energy resources as a political tool has significantly disrupted global market stability, particularly in the realm of energy security. Russia, which had long benefited from its position as a major supplier of fossil fuels to Europe, leveraged this advantage to advance its geopolitical interests, further deepening the conflict between sustainable development values and Russian power ambitions (Galeotti, 2020).

Based on the axiological approach, we can conclude that the Russian value system, rooted in power expansion, military dominance, and resource control, has severely negative impacts on both regional and global security and stability. This "power at any cost" value is a key factor explaining Russia's current aggression in Ukraine and its broader political ambitions (Orlov, 2020).

# **1 Axiology: historical context, theoretical foundations, and its application to evaluating Russian aggression in Ukraine**

Axiology, the study of values, offers theoretical and methodological tools for understanding contemporary global conflicts, including the war in Ukraine. As indicated in the introduction, this conflict is not merely a military invasion but a clash of value systems: on one side, authoritarian Russia, emphasizing military dominance and expansion (Orlov, 2020); on the other side, the democratic West, which upholds values of peaceful coexistence, human rights, and international cooperation (Sutor & Babka, 2014). This value-based conflict is a fundamental framework for understanding the nature of the war in Ukraine and its long-term consequences for the international community.

The historical roots of axiology can be traced back to ancient thought. Plato addressed the question of the "good" as the highest and transcendent value, which he saw as the pinnacle of the value hierarchy. According to Plato (1997), the good transcends all other values, which are dependent upon it. Aristotle (2009) extended this concept in his *Nicomachean Ethics*, asserting that human happiness (*eudaimonia*) is achievable through virtuous action, harmonizing human values with practical life goals.

Immanuel Kant contributed to the development of axiology through his deontological ethics, which is based on universal moral rules grounded in reason and duty. For Kant, values have an objective and universal character, which is essential for their application to political and ethical problems, including the evaluation of war conflicts and human rights (Kant, 1998). This principle forms the foundation of contemporary axiological analysis of conflicts, where values are not relative but universal, valid regardless of cultural or national differences.

In the 19th century, axiology became established as a distinct philosophical discipline. Philosophers such as Eduard von Hartmann and Hermann Lotze sought to systematize values and understand their influence on human cognition and social behaviour. Friedrich Nietzsche, in *On the Genealogy of Morality*, radically challenged traditional morality, which he viewed as a tool of the weak to control the strong, advocating instead for values based on the "will to power" (Nietzsche, 2007). This approach has become important in analysing conflicts where power-driven values are at the centre of military aggression, as in Russia's case.

Max Scheler, one of the key figures in modern axiology, formulated a theory of a value hierarchy, distinguishing between lower values (e.g., sensory, utilitarian) and higher values (e.g., spiritual, ethical). Scheler's hierarchy is vital for understanding conflicts like the one in

Ukraine, where the power and expansionist values of Russian politics take precedence over ethical and spiritual values, which are the foundation of democratic systems (Orlov, 2022).

Shalom Schwartz, in his theory of value orientations, identifies ten fundamental types of values: power, achievement, hedonism, stimulation, self-direction, universalism, benevolence, tradition, conformity, and security (Schwartz, 2006). This theory is particularly useful for analysing differences between value systems that influence geopolitical conflicts, including the war in Ukraine. Schwartz's model demonstrates how different values in different societies shape decision-making processes and political behaviour (Schwartz, 2012).

Ronald Inglehart expanded axiological theory with the concept of post-materialist values. According to Inglehart, there is a divide between materialist values, such as physical security and economic well-being, and post-materialist values, such as personal freedom and participation in decision-making (Inglehart, 1997). Inglehart's theory is relevant for understanding the divergence between Russian materialist values (stability, power) and the post-materialist values of the West (human rights, freedom).

Kantian ethics is grounded in a deontological approach, focusing on duties and universal rules that must be followed regardless of the consequences (Kant, 1998). In contrast, a teleological approach, such as utilitarianism, evaluates actions based on their consequences—maximizing overall good is the key consideration (Mill, 1863). In the context of Russian aggression in Ukraine, these theories help analyze whether Russia's actions are guided by deontological principles (e.g., protection of national interests) or more teleological considerations (maximizing power and influence).

### **1.1 Applying axiology to the war in Ukraine**

The Russian value system has been shaped over centuries and solidified during the Tsarist and Soviet periods. Russia has long based its policies on values of expansion, military dominance, and the protection of national interests. These values were strongly influenced by its imperial past, during which Russia not only expanded its territory but also centralized power and reinforced an authoritarian regime aimed at ensuring national unity and security (Syrůček, 2023).

The conflict in Ukraine is a direct result of these historical value determinants. Russia's imperial ambitions and power-driven aggression were evident not only in the annexation of Crimea in 2014 but also in the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. However, this conflict is not only fought on the physical battlefield but also in the realm of values (Galeotti, 2023). In Russia's value system, military dominance is a key value that overrides any dialogue or cooperation.

This expansionist policy is further supported by a large portion of the Russian population, which shares a sense of national pride and a desire to restore the "great Russia" (Galeotti, 2023).

## 1.2 Axiological Analysis of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

An axiological analysis of the Russian invasion of Ukraine allows for the identification of key values driving Russian actions and an assessment of their impact on global security. This method involves several steps:

- **Identifying Value Determinants:** The first step is to identify the key values influencing Russian decision-making. These values include military dominance, national sovereignty, imperial expansion, and the rejection of democratic values (Mearsheimer, 2014).
- **Historical and Value Analysis:** The next step is to analyze how these values have evolved over time and how they influence Russia's current behaviour. Russia's value system can be analysed through its historical manifestations of imperial policy and military aggression, including invasions of Chechnya, Georgia, and now Ukraine (Syrůček, 2023; Walzer, 2006).
- **Axiological Synthesis:** The third step is to synthesize the insights on Russia's value system and its consequences for Ukraine and global security. This synthesis includes not only understanding the value determinants of Russian aggression but also their impact on the international community, particularly in areas such as human rights, energy security, and global stability (Bradley et al., 2019).

The application of the axiological method provides an analytical framework that reveals the essence and core of the Russian threat to Ukraine and the world, producing the following insights:

- **The Russian Threat is Value-Driven:** Russian aggression towards Ukraine is deeply rooted in a value system that prioritizes military dominance and expansion at the expense of peaceful coexistence and international cooperation (Bradley et al., 2019).
- **Value Determinants of Russian Aggression:** In the Russian context, aggression is often viewed as a natural part of national self-determination and defense. This approach leads to the legitimization of military aggression against neighboring countries. Historically, this value orientation manifested in the invasions of Chechnya, Georgia, and the current

invasion of Ukraine (Syrůček, 2023). The Russian government justifies its actions by claiming that it is defending its geopolitical interests, with the values of military power and security taking precedence over dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

- **Global Impact of the Russian Value System:** The invasion of Ukraine has destabilized the region and significantly threatened global security. Russia's value system, based on expansion and military dominance, has disrupted international trade and energy flows and created a humanitarian crisis, displacing millions of people (Kershaw, 2020). Beyond the destabilization of the European region, this war affects global geopolitics, energy security, and international law. Violations of fundamental human rights, including war crimes committed against civilians, are another consequence of Russia's value system (Syrůček, 2023).

The international community's response to Russia's invasion has included economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and military support for Ukraine. From an axiological perspective, these responses must be evaluated not only for their effectiveness but also for their justice and impact on civilians. Sanctions aimed at weakening the Russian economy often have negative effects on ordinary citizens, creating ethical dilemmas. It is necessary to consider whether these side effects are justifiable in light of the greater goal—halting aggression and protecting international law (Walzer, 2006). Axiological analysis allows for the examination of which values are prioritized in these decisions and their ethical implications.

Based on an axiological analysis of Russia's value system, we can anticipate that unless there is a fundamental shift in Russia's value orientation, it will continue its expansionist policies. This value of dominance is deeply embedded in Russia's historical and cultural identity, suggesting that similar conflicts may persist in the future. The axiological analysis thus provides an important framework for predicting Russia's future actions and for preparing the international community for possible escalations of the conflict. The axiological approach to analysing the Russia-Ukraine conflict, therefore, views this conflict as a clash between two value systems (Syrůček, 2023).

### **1.3 The Value Conflict between Russia and the West**

Axiological analysis of Russian aggression in Ukraine demonstrates that the conflict is much more than a military or geopolitical dispute. It represents a fundamental clash between two distinct value systems that are reflected in the politics, social structure, and cultural identity of both sides (Kordan, 2022). On one side is Russia, whose values are historically rooted in its

imperial past and are built on power expansion, military dominance, and the protection of national interests. On the other side stands the democratic West, which upholds values of human rights, national sovereignty, international cooperation, and peaceful conflict resolution, values that Ukraine also aligns with (Syrůček, 2023; Inglehart, 1997; Kordan, 2022).

In this context, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is not an isolated act of aggression but a continuation of a long-standing effort to restore geopolitical power and control over former Soviet republics. This stance is deeply embedded in Russian policy and is supported by values that prioritize military strength and hegemony over peaceful dialogue and cooperation (Galeotti, 2023; Alexandr et al., 2022). This value-based clash further reinforces the polarization between East and West, making a quick diplomatic resolution increasingly unlikely (Orlov, 2020).

#### **1.4 Historical and cultural context of Russian expansion and predictions for the conflict in Ukraine**

The analysis of the historical roots of Russia's value system demonstrates that imperial expansion and military dominance are not merely strategies of the current Russian leadership but values deeply ingrained in Russia's political and societal culture (Zvonovsky et al., 2023). This value system developed over centuries, during both the Tsarist and Soviet periods, when political power was centralized, and territorial expansion was a key goal of Russian foreign policy (Syrůček, 2023). Today, Russian leadership interprets these ambitions as a legitimate defense of national interests and protection against external threats (Galeotti, 2023).

This formally structured national value system legitimizes potential military aggression and leads to the disregard of international norms and laws, especially the right to self-determination and the protection of state sovereignty (Syrůček, 2023; Galeotti, 2023; Orlov, 2022). Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the subsequent invasion of Ukraine in 2022 are direct consequences of this value system. In this sense, Russia assumes the role of a regional stabilizer with the right to use military force, a role that directly contradicts the values underlying the global community of independent states (Inglehart, 1997; Sutor & Babka, 2014) as promoted by institutions like the United Nations.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has destabilized not only the region but also impacted the international community (Pereira et al., 2022). Axiological analysis reveals that the values of expansion and military dominance, which dominate Russian policy, directly affect global trade and energy flows, leading to serious consequences for global stability and peace (Dankevych et al., 2023; Pereira et al., 2022). European states and the United States have responded to Russian aggression with sanctions and diplomatic measures aimed at weakening the Russian



economy and isolating it on the international stage. However, sanctions often have side effects, particularly on civilian populations, and their long-term effect on changing Russian behavior remains uncertain (Orlov, 2020).

At the same time, the international community faces ethical dilemmas related to military aid to Ukraine. On one hand, there is an effort to protect sovereignty and human rights, while on the other hand, there are concerns that further escalation of the conflict could lead to a broader global confrontation, including potential nuclear threats (Galeotti, 2020). Axiological analysis of these ethical dilemmas reveals the complex interplay of values, political interests, and security imperatives that shape responses to Russian aggression (Kordan, 2022).

Axiological analysis suggests that unless there is a change in the Russian value system, its expansionist and aggressive foreign policy will continue. This scenario indicates that without a fundamental shift in the perception of values—particularly those related to military dominance and control—Russian foreign policy will remain focused on destabilizing the region and expanding its geopolitical influence. This could lead to further conflicts not only in Ukraine but also in other post-Soviet republics, such as Georgia or Moldova (Dankevych et al., 2023; Pereira et al., 2022). However, such a shift in the value paradigm is possible only through internal political transformation in Russia, which would strengthen values of cooperation, democracy, and respect for international norms. This change would require not only external pressure but also a shift within Russian society, potentially driven by a demand for greater openness and peaceful cooperation (Zvonovsky et al., 2023).

### **1.5 Long-term human rights violations and the ethical implications of Russian dominance**

Long-term violations of human rights, including the perpetration of war crimes and crimes against humanity on civilian populations, exemplify how the values of military dominance and power, based on state-organized violence and individual brutality, can override the values of human dignity, adherence to international conventions, and the protection of civilians (Bradley et al., 2019; Kordan, 2022). Axiological analysis emphasizes that these values cannot be separated from the strategic objectives of Russia's political leadership (Schwartz, 2006; Orlov, 2022; Syruček, 2023; Kordan, 2022). These actions, however, represent serious violations of international norms, increasing pressure on the global community to intervene (Sutor & Babka, 2014; Walzer, 2006).

Axiological analysis also addresses the question of whether change in the Russian value system is possible, and if so, under what conditions. Historical, cultural, and socio-political

analyses suggest that the existing value system is deeply entrenched, and change is unlikely without significant internal political shifts (Orlov, 2022). Axiological analysis also shows that any change in Russia's approach will need to come from internal pressure, potentially from civil society, which could demand a shift toward values of greater openness and cooperation (Zvonovsky et al., 2023). However, this change will require a long-term process that will not succeed without international pressure (Kordan, 2022).

Based on an axiological analysis of the value determinants of contemporary Russian policy, it can be predicted that unless there is a change in Russia's value system, expansionist policies will continue. This could lead to further armed conflicts in the region or even global escalations (Pereira et al., 2022). In contrast, the international community will need to continue advocating for the values of peaceful cooperation and human rights (Sutor & Babka, 2014) if a lasting solution to the conflict is to be found (Dankevych et al., 2023).

### **1.6 Axiology as a tool for conflict resolution**

Axiology provides a key tool for understanding how value determinants can influence the prospects for resolving conflicts. In the case of Ukraine and Russia, solutions could potentially be found through diplomatic dialogue focused on seeking a mutually respectful compromise between the values of sovereignty and security promoted by Ukraine and the values of regional stability and geopolitical power emphasized by Russia (Kordan, 2022).

However, such a shift would require a fundamental change in Russia's approach, which remains unlikely without significant external pressure and support for peaceful resolutions from the international community (Zvonovsky et al., 2023). Sanctions and diplomatic isolation might force Russia to reconsider its policies, but for sustainable peace, a shift in the values underpinning these policies is necessary (Schwartz, 2012). Axiological analysis of Russian aggression in Ukraine, which acknowledges the value-based foundation of this conflict and its global impact, shows that the clash between the value system promoted by Russia and the value system of the Euro-Atlantic civilization, to which Ukraine also aligns, creates a profound value gap that will be difficult to bridge. Achieving a lasting solution to this conflict will require long-term efforts from the international community, as well as internal transformation of Russian society and its value system (Kordan, 2022; Dankevych et al., 2023).

## **2 Case Study: Axiological Analysis of Security, Military-Political, Environmental, and Economic Threats Related to Russian Power-Imperialist Ambitions and Its Military Aggression in Ukraine)**

The war in Ukraine, which escalated from Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, represents a complex geopolitical crisis with far-reaching consequences not only for Ukraine but also for the international community. From an axiological perspective, this conflict can be viewed as a clash of values: on one side, Russia's power and imperial ambitions, and on the other, the values of democracy, sovereignty, and human rights promoted by the West (Kordan, 2022). This case study evaluates the main threats associated with this conflict across several dimensions—security, military-political, environmental, and economic—using axiological metrics as an analytical tool for assessing the values that generate and exacerbate these threats (Schwartz, 2006, 2012).

### **2.1 Security threats - regional destabilization and the expansion of Russian military presence**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has destabilized the entire Eastern European region. After the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the full-scale invasion in 2022, Russia has continued to increase its military presence in areas adjacent to the conflict, particularly in Kaliningrad and along Russia's western borders (Galeotti, 2020; 2023). Kaliningrad serves as a strategic military point between Poland and Lithuania, where Russia has deployed S-400 missile systems, significantly raising the security risk for Europe (Kordan, 2022). The expansion of military presence in this region directly threatens NATO states and increases the likelihood of escalating tensions between Russia and the West (Syrůček, 2023).

Tensions have also escalated in the Black Sea region, where the Russian fleet poses a direct threat to maritime security in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Russian control of Crimea and the build-up of its military fleet in the Black Sea threaten trade routes and energy flows, destabilizing the security of the entire region (Alexandr et al., 2022).

Russia frequently employs strategies that include not only direct military operations but also cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns, as well as attacks on Ukrainian energy and critical infrastructure, leading to widespread power outages. These forms of aggression highlight the danger that Russia poses not only to Ukraine but also to other nations. Some of these tactics have been used in Central and Western European states, where Russian

disinformation campaigns aimed to destabilize political processes, polarize public opinion, and weaken key democratic institutions (Kordan, 2022).

## **2.2 Military-political threats: Russian imperialism and expansion**

Russia's imperialist ambitions are deeply rooted in its long-term efforts to restore influence in the post-Soviet space (Alexandr et al., 2022). The invasion of Ukraine is a continuation of this policy, which is firmly embedded in Russia's imperial history. The re-establishment of a "Greater Russia" and control over neighboring states are key values driving Russian foreign policy, leading to repeated military interventions in neighboring countries, such as the wars in Georgia (2008) and Chechnya (1999) (Galeotti, 2023).

Russia's attempts to maintain its sphere of influence undermine the sovereignty of smaller states, resulting in long-term conflicts and regional destabilization (Pereira et al., 2022). For example, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, its military presence in Belarus intensified, heightening security tensions beyond Ukraine (Alexandr et al., 2022).

The Russian invasion has also undermined the credibility of international institutions such as the United Nations and NATO (Kordan, 2022). Russia has vetoed several UN Security Council resolutions related to the Ukrainian conflict, effectively blocking international responses (Mearsheimer, 2014). Furthermore, this has eroded trust in NATO and the European Union, as seen in the varied and sometimes disjointed responses of member states to Russian aggression (Syrůček, 2023). NATO has been compelled to strengthen military capacities in the Baltic states, while some Western European nations face internal pressures regarding the economic impacts of sanctions against Russia (Kordan, 2022).

## **2.3 Environmental threats: pollution and destruction of natural resources**

Russia's military actions have caused widespread environmental damage in Ukraine. Bombing of industrial areas, such as refineries and chemical plants, has resulted in hazardous materials leaking into the atmosphere, water, and soil, threatening the health of the population and regional biodiversity (Mearsheimer, 2014; Pereira et al., 2022). Hundreds of chemical factories and mines in Donetsk and Luhansk have been damaged by military actions, leading to toxic contamination of the environment (Pereira et al., 2022).

Military operations also cause long-term ecological damage. Heavy military equipment and the use of large-scale weaponry destroy forests, agricultural land, and disrupt ecosystems. The destruction of infrastructure, including dams and reservoirs, has caused water supply problems in parts of Ukraine, further complicating the lives of civilians. Additionally, military

operations threaten biodiversity and contribute to the long-term degradation of natural resources, significantly impacting the ecological stability of the region (Alexandr et al., 2022).

#### **2.4 Economic threats: impact on the energy sector**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has had drastic consequences for the global energy sector. Sanctions imposed on Russia have restricted its access to financial markets and its ability to export oil and gas, leading to a significant rise in global energy prices (International Energy Agency, 2022). Europe, heavily dependent on Russian gas, has been forced to seek alternative energy sources, causing a sharp increase in the cost of oil and gas by as much as 40%. Additionally, these sanctions have destabilized Russia's energy industry, negatively affecting its economy (International Energy Agency, 2022).

Ukraine is also one of the world's largest exporters of wheat and corn. The Russian blockade of the Black Sea and the destruction of agricultural infrastructure have severely disrupted global food supplies (Dankevych et al., 2023). Global food prices have increased by more than 20% due to limited access to Ukrainian exports, which has had a devastating impact, particularly on developing countries dependent on grain imports (Pereira et al., 2022). The destruction of Ukraine's agricultural land and infrastructure has further exacerbated global food security; potentially leading to political instability in regions that rely on Ukrainian exports (Alexandr et al., 2022).

### **Conclusion**

An axiological analysis of the Russian invasion of Ukraine reveals the complex nature of the value conflicts that shape not only the conflict itself but also its far-reaching impacts on global security, the economy, environmental stability, and political institutions. The Russian value system, historically rooted in imperialist and military-political ambitions, manifests in efforts to control neighbouring states and reassert influence in the post-Soviet space. This system is based on values of military dominance, expansion, and national sovereignty, directly threatening the values of international cooperation, peace, and human rights that underpin Western political and social structures.

Russia's invasion poses a severe security risk not only to Ukraine but also to the broader Eastern European region. The increasing Russian military presence and the escalation of hybrid warfare—including cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns—are destabilizing political and economic systems not only in former Soviet states but also in Western Europe. For example, the extensive cyberattacks on Ukraine's infrastructure demonstrate how technology has become

a new weapon in geopolitical conflicts, underscoring the need for international cooperation in cybersecurity.

Axiological analysis also shows that Russia's military-political ambitions undermine confidence in international organizations such as the UN, NATO, and the European Union, weakening the global security order. Russia's veto power in the UN Security Council and its resistance to international sanctions highlight the limited ability of these institutions to effectively respond to such aggressive actions. Moscow also actively leverages its position in global organizations to block measures that would constrain its foreign policy goals.

Beyond human and political losses, the war has severe environmental consequences. The destruction of industrial infrastructure and military operations have caused significant environmental damage. In the Donbas region, chemical plants, mines, and energy facilities have been repeatedly bombed, leading to widespread pollution of soil, water, and air by toxic substances, which will have long-term effects on the environment and the health of local populations. The Russian invasion thus not only destroys lives and infrastructure but also contributes to the global climate crisis, emphasizing the importance of considering environmental aspects in discussions of wartime conflicts.

The economic consequences of the conflict are equally far-reaching. Sanctions imposed on Russia have destabilized its economy but have also had side effects on global markets, particularly in the energy and food security sectors. The price of oil and gas has risen by more than 40%, with dramatic impacts on European states reliant on Russian energy supplies. Moreover, the blockade of Ukrainian ports has disrupted global food supply chains, leading to rising grain prices and threatening food security in some regions of Africa and the Middle East.

It is clear that value determinants play a key role in shaping not only the conflict itself but also its global consequences. Russia's values of military dominance, expansion, and imperial hegemony are in direct conflict with the values of Western democracies, which are based on peace, human rights, and international cooperation (Bradley et al., 2019). Without a change in the Russian value system, ongoing military and political interventions will pose a long-term threat not only to Eastern Europe but also to global security, stability, and environmental sustainability.

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