

## **Ukraine Crisis Escalation**

There are ongoing protests in Kiev against President Zelenskiy's agreement to allow local elections in separatist eastern Ukraine, with people describing them as capitulation to Moscow. The government has pressed forward with its decision. However, its insistence that elections be held under Ukrainian law has led to protests from Russia that legitimate political parties are being prevented from running in these elections. Ukraine has countered that it has simply required that only parties committed to the peaceful resolution of the crisis stand for elections. Early election results indicate very little support for pro-Russian parties in the region that is well-known for its suspicion of Kiev. Separatist groups from Donetsk have attacked targets across Eastern Ukraine claiming that the elections there were manipulated, and Putin has voiced support for their grievances if not their tactics. He has warned, however, that any attempt by the Ukrainian government to put down these disturbances by force would be treated as a breach of the agreement, and that Moscow would not permit Russians in Ukraine to be abused. Russia has also commenced large scale military exercises close to the border that Kiev views as a cover for further infiltration in support of the separatists. The Ukrainian military has gone on alert, and there are rumors that units will soon be dispatched to pacify the provinces. You are directed to formulate United States policy. You are to analyze military and diplomatic options (or some combination, even possibly inaction), which may be unilateral or multilateral. You will assume that all present signs indicate that if left unchecked, the conflict will almost certainly escalate into a civil war between the central government and the separatists.

### **Research and Analysis**

Your memo should begin with an introduction summarizing the few major points of your analysis that you want your busy readers to take away (Executive Summary). In the background section (Background of the Problem) frame the problem from your client's perspective (e.g., the President of the United States) by tracing its history up to December 2018. This section should be as concise as possible. Next, present your assumptions about the preferences of the players involved. Enumerate the options available to your client and predict their consequences (Options and Analysis). This section is the longest and most important: you should list options that you will not be recommending, and you should carefully evaluate possible consequences (good and bad) of each alternative, including an assessment of their relative likelihoods of success. You must make full use of the strategic tactics we have discussed in class. Finally, weigh the alternatives from your client's perspective, and recommend a course of action (Conclusions).

### **Mechanics**

The memo should be typed, and at least 10 (but not more than 12) double-spaced pages long. You must endnote major sources of information and provide a bibliography.<sup>1</sup> These do not count toward the page limit. The memo must use a font size of 11 points, and margins of 1 inch all around. Submit a cleanly printed copy. It will be graded using the criteria on the course website.

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<sup>1</sup> You may use Wikipedia in the course of your research but you must verify all information obtained there from other sources. You must scrupulously credit other people's ideas if you decide to use them in any way. You need not cite the lecture notes for the theoretical arguments. On the course website, I have provided two real world analyses to give you a feel of what these things look like. You are, however, to adhere to the structure I outlined above, not the one used in these examples. Discuss nuclear deterrence and crisis stability with reference to the capabilities of the opponents.