

## LESSONS IDENTIFIED DURING THE CONFLICTS IN UKRAINE AND GAZA IN THE DIPLOMATIC FIELD

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***Abstract:** Resilience within the diplomatic domain ensures sustained and adaptive efforts to manage and resolve conflicts, support humanitarian needs and maintain international cooperation and stability in regions affected by conflict. Long-term diplomatic engagements build trust among conflicting parties and the international community, which is essential for sustainable peace. Resilience in diplomatic efforts is essential for navigating the complexities of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, where deeply contrasting objectives between the two nations have made negotiations challenging. Despite the difficulties, sustained diplomatic engagements are critical for maintaining international cooperation and addressing humanitarian needs. Ukraine's persistent use of international organizations, such as the United Nations and the European Union, has been influential in garnering global support and isolating Russian Federation diplomatically, even when immediate resolutions to the conflict remained elusive.*

*The role of diplomacy in this conflict underscores the importance of adaptability and endurance in negotiations. While Ukraine seeks to restore its territorial integrity and hold Russia accountable for war crimes, Russian Federation's goals of consolidating territorial gains and limiting Western influence have complicated peace talks. However, the continued diplomatic dialogue, supported by multilateral organizations, remains crucial for managing the conflict and working toward a potential resolution, even if the path is long and fraught with setbacks.*

*In the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, resilience in diplomacy is also critical for balancing military objectives with humanitarian concerns. Israel has employed a complex approach, crossing external pressures from international actors like the United States, while also adapting its military strategies to minimize civilian casualties and address international criticism. Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts continue to focus on negotiations, involving regional mediators and international organizations, seeking to create conditions conducive to both immediate relief and long-term conflict resolution, despite the deeply entrenched political and ideological divisions that make such efforts challenging.*

*Ultimately, resilience in diplomacy is not just about achieving immediate results, but also about maintaining consistent efforts over time to build trust and create conditions for a sustainable peace. The ongoing conflict illustrates that while diplomacy may not always prevent war, it plays a vital role in managing the*

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*crisis, coordinating international responses and laying the groundwork for eventual peace, no matter how distant it may seem.*

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### **Lesson 1: The role of negotiations during crisis**

*The main lesson identified underscores the important role of diplomacy in managing conflicts and the complexities of achieving peace when opposing sides have deeply contrasting objectives. The stark contrast between Ukraine's and Russian Federation's peace negotiation objectives underscores the inherent complexity in diplomatic conflict resolution. While Ukraine seeks full territorial sovereignty and accountability for war crimes, the Russian Federation aims to solidify its territorial gains and limit Western influence near its borders. This divergence makes diplomatic negotiations exceedingly complex, often prolonging the conflict rather than resolving it.*

*In the context of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, a critical lesson identified is the importance of balancing military objectives with diplomatic efforts to address humanitarian concerns. The Israeli government's approach highlights the necessity of adapting military strategies to reduce civilian casualties and mitigate international criticism.*

Throughout history, diplomacy has been a key instrument of power. Diplomatic maneuvering shifts focus depending on whether it is in the pre-conflict stage, active conflict or post-conflict: from deferring or circumventing the onset of hostilities, creating support among partners for one's own side, isolating the adversary from their partners to expediting the advantageous resolution of ongoing crises.

In the context of Ukraine, diplomacy, as employed by Ukraine and its Western partners, failed in its objective to prevent the full-scale invasion, but it did manage to generate consensus among allies about the necessity of swift action when hostilities did begin in earnest.

Similarly, the diplomatic approach regarding the on-going conflict presents significant challenges. Currently, any cessation of hostilities would likely result in the solidification of the territorial advances made by the Russian Federation, an outcome that starkly contradicts international treaties and the national interests of Ukraine. Consequently, both Ukraine and the Russian Federation have repeatedly communicated their respective peace negotiation objectives to the international community.

In the context of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, diplomacy has played a multi-layered role, shaped significantly by each nation's affiliations and actions within various international