

## **Manufacturing War**

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### **Abstract**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, is single handedly the largest European conflict since WW2. This conflict has brought immense hardship politically, economically, and a devastating toll on human life. While the media tries to frame this situation in the limelight of one state, through emphasizing dire security and economic worries. This analytical research paper will contest these narratives via the lens of class system theory. Utilizing this perspective, it is evident that the two main actors, the United States and Russia are driven by interests of the elite that shape political attitudes and narratives. Ukraine in this conflict only serves as a proxy for this war and represents the broader utilization of small countries for exploitation of profit. The application of class system theory cements the true actors despite biases, systemic motivations, and the harmful cost of these manufactured conflicts, that other theoretical models fail to explain.

## **Manufacturing War**

War does not solely have motives for conquest and resistance, as the media portrays. Instead through observing history, we see other motives shape the reasons and justifications for war. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, has been mixed with different takes and perspectives with each side justifying why they are right. But never do people leave this one-sided framework and ask if both sides are corrupted. Motives to obtain profit, power and elitism are the central ideals of class system theory. By observing this conflict via the lens of class system theory, it will become clear that there is not a truly righteous side, as there are actors whose main concern is for the benefit of the elite. This paper will prove why the Russia and Ukraine conflict originated not from the ideology and security concerns, but due to elite interest. Through analyzing the historical causes of this conflict, applying theoretical frameworks and refuting flawed alternative theoretical models, the fact that elitism drives this case study and global conflict will become evident.

### **Setting the Stage**

In order to understand the current context and motives regarding the conflict, it is necessary to establish the historical context. 1991 marks the official dissolution of the Soviet Union. When the Soviet state collapsed, 15 new states emerged in its ashes, with one including Ukraine. Some states flourished tremendously such as the Baltic states like Latvia and Lithuania. Meanwhile, others like Ukraine suffered from economic, political, and social instability, in a post-soviet world. Since the immediate shift in economics from a communist Soviet Union, to Ukraine, a newly formed capitalist nation showed that, “Ukraine's economic performance since independence has been turbulent. Inflation reached 10,000 percent in 1993, and the cumulative decline in recorded output since independence is estimated at more than 50 percent” (IMF pg 6,

paragraph 3). Meanwhile, alongside economic struggles in Ukraine, the economic shift in Russia led to immense privatization as, “In 1991 a small group of Russians emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union to claim ownership of some of the world's most valuable petroleum, natural gas, and metal deposits. This resulted in one of the world's greatest transfers of wealth” (Dresen, 2011), leading to mass inequality, as millions became impoverished as a byproduct of the capitalist wealth concentration.

The new class of elites began to shape Russian policy and the trajectory of the states as “They used political contributions, and the government’s lack of funds, to convince the government to pursue a “shares-for-loans” program... [utilizing].. their economic and political power to stop further reforms of law and order... [leading to].. several of the oligarchs [who] simply joined the government” (Glaeser, Scheinkman & Shleifer, 2002, pg 25-26). This oligopolistic government creates the necessary type of leadership incentivized to invade countries like Ukraine. While Russia’s interests with Ukraine were rooted in a desire of reclaiming this once former Soviet territory. Russia’s motives are primarily aligned with elitist motives of countries like the United States, as both are infested with oligarchs. The United States in their involvement is not unique, as while they claimed their goal was to spread democracy and became close partners with Ukraine. However, because of Ukraine's location near Russia, it raises the question if the U.S truly wanted to help a struggling society or just wanted to take advantage of instability to hold a proxy. As the argument questions U.S altruism in international relations, it is important to remember that this essay will reveal how United States altruism is a myth and how it is all tied to broader motivations of the elite class.

Referring back to Russia’s views of Ukraine as presented, “Even most members of the Russian elite who recognized Ukraine’s independence saw Ukraine as an integral part of

Russia's history and wanted to keep it within Russia's sphere of influence. They resented efforts by the United States and the European Union to offer Ukraine a place in a broader Europe" (Tefft, 2020). What this means is that there are two things extremely clear now, the elite oligarchs who worked their way into positions of Russian political power, have clear interests in obtaining Ukraine.

With the interests explicitly noted, it has been observed that their desires shape into the actual actions, solidifying that elite actions are the main driver. After the Euromaidan protests in Ukraine, Russia started military operations to annex Crimea. Putin stated that, "The purpose of this operation is to protect people who, for eight years now, have been facing humiliation and genocide perpetrated by the Kyiv regime" (Blohm 2023, p21) While these claims can make sense on a surface level, when analyzing the presence of elites and their influence in Russian politics, Putin's claim does not add up. Crimea sits in an important location, a peninsula that allows for direct use of the Black Sea and by controlling it will give the controller immense geopolitical gain. When recalling how Russia is deeply influenced by the wealthy elite and that as stated, they want Ukraine to join Russia again. It only makes sense that despite claims, the annexation of Crimea serves as a clear historical example of the Russian elite attempting to take control of Ukraine.

The clear historical example of Russia's elite influencing imperialist actions, shows how the current conflict is shaped. But before any analysis is conducted on the current conflict, it is necessary to acknowledge that now since Russia's motivations are established, it is equally as important to complete the full understanding through the United States' involvement. As noted, after the Soviet Union dissolved, the U.S began to have ties with Ukraine. Yet, as considered it is unclear whether their actions are altruistic or based in the same agenda as the Russians. First it is

necessary to analyze the United States government, just as done with Russia's. Unlike Russia, there are not actual oligarchs in seats of political authority, instead while oligarchs in the U.S exist and they have found other ways to spread their influence. In a hyper capitalist country, money talks and so a primary motivation is to obtain immense wealth such as presented by the "American Dream". However, what this means is that even politicians in the capitalist model are easily influenced through lobbying in the form of large donations and super PACs. This is present as, "Just 25 ultra-rich individual political donors, including numerous billionaires, have poured nearly \$1.4 billion into super PACs in the decade..." (Zibel, 2020). What this signifies is that despite the differing actions of elites in Russia and the United States, they both steer policy decisions that best suit their interests.

The elite's involvement in U.S politics and relations to Ukraine unveil that the United States is not as altruistic as presented. However, as this essay will prove, due to repetition in history such as Russia's attempt to annex Crimea, many conclusions can be drawn from these patterns. What history signifies is the necessity to utilize deductive reasoning from historical repetition and analyze how current events relate back to historical records. The current situation between Russia, Ukraine, and the United States displays the same elite driven motives as the past. These dynamics of elite driven motivations are classified under the most applicable theoretical model, Class System Theory.

### **Class System Theory**

Now that the historical foundation is cemented and it is acknowledged to recognize the importance of historical patterns, class system theory can now be accurately defined. This theory is grounded in a Marxist framework that power in society is based on a hierarchical structure where the small group of elites at the top control the decisions that steer society. This result

leaves it where societies do not have domestic autonomy, as institutions are heavily influenced by the elites.

At the center of class system theory lies the economic model that fuels it, capitalism. As this section will prove, by understanding that capitalism promotes massive wealth disparities, it becomes evident how these elites who have immense power get their power. In order to first understand how these wealth disparities form, it is necessary to pull theory from theoretician and father of Marxism, Karl Marx, and through his renowned work, *Das Kapital* Vol.1, as he puts forth, “During the second period of the labour-process, that in which his labour is no longer necessary labour, the workman, it is true, labours, expends labour-power; but his labour, being no longer necessary labour, he creates no value for himself. He creates surplus-value which, for the capitalist, has all the charms of a creation out of nothing.” (Marx, 159) Essentially what Marx suggests is that workers produce value above what is needed to be alive and that additional value is obtained by the capitalist (elite). This as a result creates massive wealth inequality and these elites piggyback off the workers labor for immense profit. But now applying the wealth made at expenditure of others labor value, these elites have cheated the system and are immensely wealthy. And as previously suggested, money has much power in capitalist societies, so if you have large wealth, you have much power, this is a central foundation of class system theory.

Apart from economic control, class system theory helps bring light to the element of how these elites maintain control, which is through manipulation. In order to maintain their power and hierarchy, they manufacture public consent through the media and propaganda. For example, wars are rebranded as being noble, other countries are demonized, and people are marginalized on the basis of skin color. They utilize these tools of manipulation to keep hierarchy and fuel the endless imperialism that makes them wealthier. In essence, through manipulation they convince

the very working class to support the system that exploits them. With an understanding of the two ways class system theory operates, through economic and manipulative control, it is clear now how the dynamics of the war in Ukraine fit into this Theory.

### **Economic Incentives**

Applying the first element of class system theory, economic exploitation. In observing the material characteristics of Ukraine, which is a land rich in natural resources such as minerals and strong geographic access to the Black Sea. As mentioned, taking control of Ukraine makes more sense based on the pattern of past Russian interventions and how deeply involved Oligarchs are tied to Russian politics. In a hypothetical, where Russia obtains Ukraine they benefit largely alongside the immense geopolitical advantage, as primarily Oligarchs would grow significant wealth through resource extraction and controlling trade. This economic incentive is made clearer through the words of Robert Muggah, a Principal at SecDev, Co-Founder of the Igarape Institute. So, alongside Rafal Rohozinski, the CEO of SecDev and a Senior Fellow at CIGI, they claim that, “Russia’s calculated focus on resource-rich provinces...[show] together with Crimea and the Black Sea, underscores the war’s economic and strategic dimensions. These marine areas and border territories, abundant in... critical minerals such as graphite, lithium and uranium.” Such minerals are extremely valuable and tie back to the concept that elites who are ingrained in politics and desire to obtain more wealth due to capitalism, result in a very likely outcome that motives for these resources like these minerals, influence why Russia is so eager to conquer Ukraine. While there can be territorial reasons, due to desires to accumulate endless profit from the capitalist model, profit is the number one incentive guiding policy.

Similarly with Russia, the United States has similar objectives to gain profit. While they claim they are trying to persevere democracy and combat Russian aggression, their statements



just mask the reality of their true objectives. For instance, the military industrial complex in the United States profits from immense arms sales and because these military corporations have influenced politicians through lobbying, it is feasible to be giving weapons constantly to Ukraine. Alongside the military industrial complex and how it ultimately profits off endless war, via arms sales, there is another similar reason why the United States is involved. Just like how Russia is aspiring to acquire Ukraine's rich natural resources, so is the U.S as they have signed deals with Ukraine exploiting their minerals in agreement to defend them. This shows the level of exploitation unfolding, as countries leverage and find any way they can to exploit weaker ones. For the United States elites, it's not as much for preserving democracy and fighting evil, but growing profits through endless war, resource exploitation and funding a weak country to combat a U.S enemy. While Russia has the same general motives, they are painted in a much different light. There is no war industry to the extent of the U.S and instead they aspire to grow their territory to its former size. These examples of economic incentives are deeply portrayed by the current and former President of the United States.

### **Case Study of Economic Incentives**

In the current Trump and previous Biden administration, their relations with both Ukraine and Russia solidify the United States motives in the war. However, before any analysis is conducted it is important to note that both these Presidents received large sums of donations from the corporations in the military industrial complex, signifying close ties and influencing. In the 2020 election Joe Biden received roughly 3.3 million from top defense corporations, meanwhile Trump received 2.4 million, as put forth by Open Secrets. While this amount is roughly small in comparison to the billions funded for the election, this form of lobbying is not one off. As Open Secrets conducts again, in 2020 alone, the entire sector of Defense spent

113,895,992 million dollars on lobbying in the United States. What this signifies is that these politicians such as Biden and Trump despite differing political ideologies are closely aligned with the military industrial complex, as they received countless funding.

Applying this knowledge to their actions with Ukraine and Russia, it is even more evident that profit has influenced their decisions, showing the clear evidence of Class System Theory. First, Biden's policies toward Ukraine and Russia, in 2021 President Biden began, "directing over \$183 billion dollars in military aid since Russia's invasion in 2021". While claiming this is to directly protect democracy through defense, simultaneously this immense funding created a strong demand for American weaponry, making the military industry more profitable. The question becomes if the United States needs to allocate billions of dollars to Ukraine, or if Russia's motives are exaggerated to fit U.S. interest. Therefore, looking at Biden's comments and policy toward Russia, Biden "played a key role in getting NATO to spend more on collective defense" (Smolinski, 2025). Through his unwavering support to Ukraine, he began the process of helping Ukraine join NATO and created a stronger presence on the border of Russia and Ukraine. Then, "Unsurprisingly, some of the same personalities that shaped US policies towards Russia in the 1990s also egged on the Biden administration to adopt aggressive policies that contributed to making the invasion happen" (Ragozin, 2025). What this signifies is that because of Biden's efforts to frame Russia as aggressive despite, forcing NATO to provoke an invasion and then because of this manufactured war dumping billions into aid to Ukraine. It is clear that Biden's initiatives reflect the interest of the elite as he has been lobbied heavily.

In comparison to Biden's role in the Russia and Ukraine war, Trump's position evolves but is still rooted in Class System Theory. For Trump he inherited a war between Russia and Ukraine, and the Western world had already deemed Russia purely evil. To further this, instead

of going along with the consistency of the Biden initiatives, Trump took a harder exploitative approach. He began talks with leader Zelensky and started accusing him of playing a role in the provocation, leading to threats of aid withdrawal due to “bad diplomacy” and lack of cooperation. Zelensky responded by saying “If you’re our strategic partner, then you can’t go blocking anything for us. I think that’s just about fairness” (Farley, 2019). Due to Trump’s accusatory stance and Ukraine's heavy reliance on the United States, Ukraine is in an even more desperate position as they have an unstable relationship with the country helping defend them. What represents the exploitative elite stance with Trump is that “he wants Ukraine to supply the United States with rare earth minerals as a form of payment for financially supporting the country's war efforts against Russia” (Hunnicut & Scheyder, 2025). With no other choice, Zelensky agreed to a long-term agreement to share profits from mineral extraction. In essence this is the purest form of exploitation and class system theory as the United States had the ability to now exploit Ukraine for their resources, as well as allowing the elites to make continued sums of profit through the dynamics of the military industrial complex. This directly ties to one of Russia’s largest motivations to acquire Ukraine, the goal to obtain resources. It is remarkable the lengths Capitalist countries will go to in order to exploit and grow wealth. To this day the United States is providing Ukraine with arms to combat a provoked war and in the action exploiting the country of its resources. Biden and Trump reflect a bigger picture of the system of elite incentives to acquire profit and their actions that had mass influence from lobbying were likely planned out by the very lobbyists. Understanding the true process of U.S intervention and provocation in conflicts such as these, not only helps show the power of elite incentives in international relations, but also the way these processes are carried out. Yet, none of these actions would be possible if they were not able to manipulate their true objectives.

## **Manipulation**

This second aspect of class system theory is manipulation, where the elites exploit the public's opinions to justify actions. In the Russia and Ukraine war, manipulating the audience is central to justifying this war and manipulation is found in many ways. For instance, forms that are not solely tied to this conflict but used universally by these same actors include fearmongering, one sided truth, exaggerations, scapegoating, euphemism, confusion, emotional appeals, the list goes on. But in this war what is central is propaganda, fearmongering and euphemisms, while the other types are sprinkled in to fully sway the audience. When observing Russian state media or statements from Russian leader Putin, consistently it is stated that the situation is due to security and that it is a big threat. This position concludes that, "By employing information warfare, the Kremlin seeded false and misleading narratives to justify military action against Ukraine, mask its operational planning, and deny any responsibility for the coming war—a war that was ultimately one of Putin's own choosing. These lies, deceptions, and exaggerations were not in support of the Kremlin's *casus belli*; they were the Kremlin's *casus belli*" (Aleksejeva, 2023). These deceptions not only deceive people from the truth but also create fear. When an audience is being told by their leader that "we are going to war as we are facing threats from other countries" this worries the audience into supporting the misleading statements.

The same usage of manipulation is carried out by the West, while their manipulative goal differs from Russia's. What they state is that their actions to help Ukraine are rooted in humility and they wage a campaign of exaggerations on both Russia and Ukraine, shifting many blames to Ukraine's responsibility alongside, attacking the previous administration for its allowance of the conflict. The United States' forms of manipulation are more advanced and effective as once the

conflict is understood you see their misleading statements to be one sided. For instance, while the previous administration fueled the fire to kickstart this conflict, the current administration saying that the war would have never happened if Trump had been in power is false. As it was shown that both administrations were fueled financially by the elite to ignite and maintain this conflict, the utilization of one-sided truths on the narratives of this conflict do not have any base. Ultimately Trump said that he would end the war one day into his administration, however Trump is closing in on a year into his presidency and the war remains. The main point is that, while claims can sound solid and have one sided truth, when the audience lacks full understanding of these dynamics, they are more susceptible to manipulation.

This is the last element of manipulation and it's not about the act of manipulating itself, but rather education. When societies do not value education, citizens, as a result, lack critical thinking which makes them susceptible to being manipulated. This concept is confirmed by excerpts from the world-renowned book, *Manufacturing Consent*, as it is stated, "...for the eighty percent or whatever they are, the main thing is to divert them. To get them to watch National Football League. And to worry about "Mother with Child with Six Heads," or whatever you pick up on the supermarket stands and so on. Or look at astrology. Or get involved in fundamentalist stuff or something or other. Just get them away. Get them away from things that matter. And for that it's important to reduce their capacity to think" (Chomsky, 1992). It is all about reducing the ability to critically think through manipulative diversion and defunding institutions like education that create an army of critical thinkers, which is the recipe that combats manipulation. Therefore, when Donald Trump had commanded the U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to "take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education" (Trump, 2025), it becomes obvious how education is desired to be cut so less people will have

access to education, making them susceptible to manipulative rhetoric. Tying back to the conflict, because the public did not have a mass upheaval in response to the manipulative rhetoric used to convey reason for war, shows that the majority of the public is manipulated by elites and the only true way to combat their justifications for war is through education. While it is extremely clear why countries such as Russia and the United States are interested in Ukraine and their justifications for their actions, what about the country of Ukraine and its role in this conflict?

### **Systemic Exploitation and Imperialism**

Ukraine is caught in the crossfire of impeding Russian and United States interests. Due to the United States actions leading up to this war, Ukraine's immense natural resources, U.S. war profiteering, and manipulative rhetoric about Ukraine, it is clear they do not recognize Ukraine as a sovereign country but as a pawn to help further elite interests. This display is not anything new, but that of a pattern which is deeply ingrained in the American tradition of imperialism.

The United States has been responsible for toppling many countries through coups and proxy wars. A notable example is the United States involvement with Iran. In Iran in 1951 a new democratically elected leader named Mohammad Mossadegh came into power. He sought many reforms aimed at reducing corruption and pushing for democratic policy. However, one of his propositions that caught the eye of the West and the United States was his goal to nationalize Iranian oil. What this meant was that British oil companies who made immense profit off of Iran's oil would be cut off and due to this the West was enraged. Ultimately in 1953, Mossadegh was overthrown from a coup backed by the United States CIA, (McNamee, 2024). This suggests that the United States who so called pushes for democracy, topples countries pushing for democratic reform in their elite driven interests. And this is just one many American foreign

interventions at its finest. This historical event of U.S. intervention in Iran symbolizes the extent America values democracy, while pushing for their interests which shows that Ukraine, just like Iran, is nothing more than a territory that can be exploited for profit and used to create a propaganda war about Russia.

In Ukraine it is extremely clear that the United States involvement mirrors their past shady interventions. For instance, if it were in the true interest of the United States to help, then they would be sending weaponry without strings attached. Looking at another ally of the United States which is Israel, often called the U.S.' closest ally. This country is another form of proxy in the United States but to help expand United States interests through imperialism and throughout the Middle East. "Since its founding in 1948, the United States has provided Israel with over \$130 billion in bilateral assistance" (Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, 2025), without any one-sided meaning. Meanwhile the country of Ukraine which is currently being invaded is facing one sided deal that exploits the tight budget they have and the natural resources in their country. This shows the hypocrisy of United States foreign policy as it is purely driven to exploit the territories as seen by Iran and Ukraine, while helping its closest allies and proxies as it is a mutual cooperation. So, when an enemy country of the United States is invading a weak state, they kill 2 birds with one stone and exploit the weak, while placing more harmful narratives about the opposing country through manipulative rhetoric. However, now that the incentives, tools of manipulation, and recurring patterns seen by these states have been established, the last piece to finish is the overwhelming cost this places on society.

## **Impact**

As the ancient Greek philosopher Plutarch once wrote, "The poor go to war, to fight and die for the delights, riches, and superfluities of others." There is a commonality through time,

even as early as in Ancient Greece. When there is war and disagreement, the wealthy elites do not go and fight for the wars they created. No, instead they send the poor and desperate to fight their wars, as what's concerning is profit not human life. This element of class system theory through hierarchical structure, is implemented into war and has devastating effects on the population. Such as when the United States started a draft for the Vietnam war, roughly "1,857,304 men were drafted into military service" (Gauthier, 2025). That means that young boys who had no incentivized interest or were manipulated into serving the country, had the possibility of dying for this war. In this example of a war curtailed by the elite thousands of soldiers who had families, wives, kids and friends waiting for their return, instead were met with the sober melody of "Taps". These were innocent people who were forced into fighting another man's war but had no chance to make anything out of their life as they died for the false promise of freedom.

The other side of war that is often overlooked more than soldier casualties, is the civilian deaths. Referring to the Vietnam war as an example, the "official estimate of war dead: as many as 2 million civilians on both sides" (Spector, 2025). Therefore, in the conquest to secure wealth, power, and influence, the elite force the poor to fight for them which results in death and severe mental trauma. Additionally, all this death and destruction severely cripple the so called "lucky" country that receives intervention, such as Iran, Vietnam, and now Ukraine. This dynamic is not solely in the hands of western society, but most countries that participate in war express this pattern.

When we apply impacts to the conflict in Ukraine, it again reinforces that class system theory is the theory most effective way to describe this war. In Ukraine as reported by the NSDC Secretary, "1 million 50 thousand citizens were drafted into the defense forces. It is planned to



draft another 160 thousand people.” Additionally, many videos have resurfaced of fathers being separated from their kids, believing it will be their last encounter. While Ukrainians are not fighting against the state of the elite who is invading their country, the fact of them even having to fight for a war initiated by the elite still follows through on class system theory. On the Russian side the same situation occurs, close to one million Russian civilians have been drafted to the war. Thousands of deaths have occurred on both sides of the conflict, showing that the general population never benefits from these wars, but rather the very small percentage of elites. Ultimately the actions of the elites hurt humanity, cripple countries and lead to an important question; Is war justified if those who ignite it are detached and never suffer from it?

### **Critique**

In an attempt to answer the longstanding question, many alternative theories seek to answer, but fail. For instance, looking at the theory of realism, a realist thinker would insist that war is just part of a bigger international system where countries solely act to preserve power to survive. In a broad lens this theory is somewhat accurate, yet it lacks what class system theory addresses. Class system theory does cover the idea that states act as the main power for survival, but also it captures that these wars are not simply for security as the media claims but instead originate from the profit driven incentives of the elite.

Another theorist lens that aims to capture the conflict is liberalism. A theorist insisting on these values would argue that these conflicts stem from lack of diplomacy and cooperation. Where to bring peace would be to push for more diplomatic talks and having these institutions bridge this pathway. Again, this is a compelling narrative, but it simply touches the surface of these dynamics. What liberalism overlooks is that the elites who are war hungry have vested interests within the governments effectively controlling it, in essence liberalism fails to address

the root cause. With the examples of some of these theories not holding up, it is even more clear that class system theory not only describes this conflict in Ukraine but offers insight on how to address these issues.

### **Implications and Significance**

Class system theory most accurately describes the conflict in Ukraine. It teaches that conflict did not originate from security concerns but elite driven interests from both the Americans and Russians. When taking into consideration the historical contexts, economic incentives that steer policy decisions and examining the propaganda that is used to manufacture consent from the public, this helps show the truth of this conflict, that the elites create conflicts in effort to preserve and grow, wealth and influence.

Utilizing class system theory, not only provides the truth for how conflicts like in Ukraine start, but why other theories fail to explain the full picture. Alternative theories point towards the idea that states are unified entities, when in reality they are systems that have been oriented to benefit elite interests. Class system theory is not just this cynical theory about the unfortunate nature of international relations, but it provides concert hypotheses and solutions for the future of these dynamics.

As uncovered this conflict is not wanted, it seems on the surface level. In a broad lens there are two powerful countries overrun by elite interests that drive war so they can obtain profit. The mechanisms that they deploy through manipulation make it, so you overlook or perceive the severity of their actions differently. But due to the dynamics of this conflict, it raises the question, whether a war between the US and Russia is likely? To answer the question, it is important to remember that as the elites from the two countries have competing interests to acquire the same exact form of wealth, conflicts can arise. Deals can be broken and one's desire

for riches can exploit the other, who wants the same. War between these two nations is highly likely but the only aspect that is keeping war from starting is the access to nuclear weapons. Since the U.S and Russia hold the largest nuclear arsenals in the world, in the case of war the usage of nukes will be highly likely. In this case there will be mutually assured destruction as both countries will fire back many nukes wiping out the entire country. This is the largest barrier keeping them from fighting; however, they still indirectly combat through the proxies as seen with the Cold War and even the race to exploit Ukraine.

Now in order to ensure that the elites stop their hunger for endless war, fighting it head on is utterly impossible. Therefore, the most powerful tool to combat the elite is to educate others; through the section on manipulation, it is clear the oppressor sees education as their ultimate kryptonite. They recognize that critical thinking and education is the most powerful tool to rally the masses, so they try to cut it off. Thus, by educating others about these dynamics, it can start from small incremental change to large societal movements like mass protests and even the election of anti-establishment politicians, such as Zohran Mamdani. Change starts at a small level and while it may seem insignificant, each new person who starts to critically think about the dynamics of the world can lead to masses fighting for fair representation.

In recalling the Russia and Ukraine war it is important to recognize the unfortunate impacts it has left on humanity and its reflection on how elite individuals in society essentially steer it. This conflict is merely a case study that represents the broader pattern of similar conflicts under Class System Theory. Therefore, because of the framework class system theory provides, it is not only the most accurate framework for the Ukraine and Russia conflict, but the most significant Theory to ever analyze the state of global politics. Next time you read about this war and many other political events, stop and ask yourself, “Who benefits and who faces the

impact?” Only through challenging the norms of what we heed, can we stop the elites from maintaining endless chaos.

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