

Geo-economic Peace Architecture: Structural Drivers of the Russia–Ukraine War and Pathways to Sustainable Peace

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ABSTRACTS

The Russia–Ukraine war constitutes the most significant interstate conflict in Europe since the end of the Cold War, generating profound systemic consequences across security, energy, and economic domains. Existing explanations—rooted in structural realism, offensive realism, and constructivism—offer valuable but fragmented insights. This article proposes an integrated theoretical framework that synthesizes structural security dilemma theory, identity politics, and rationalist cost–benefit modeling to explain both escalation dynamics and the failure of peace initiatives. It argues that the conflict represents a compounded structural crisis arising from unresolved post–Cold War institutional arrangements, intensified by identity-based threat perception and reinforced by geo-economic coercion. The Geo-economic Peace Architecture (GPA) is developed to synthesize existing perspectives and reconceptualizes sustainable peace as an equilibrium condition where the structural payoff of peace exceeds the expected utility of warfare. Departing from traditional diplomatic models, GPA integrates technical strategic pause mechanisms managed by neutral multilateral agencies, symmetric security guarantees, and a 'self-executing' geo-economic snapback system. By bridging realist and constructivist perspectives within a formal equilibrium model, the article demonstrates that durable peace requires an engineered structural redesign and automated enforcement rather than episodic ceasefires or coercive sanction regimes alone.

Keywords: Russia–Ukraine war, security dilemma, war equilibrium, Geo-economics, institutional design