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## The limits of peace agreement in bringing Russo-Ukraine war to an end

**Ophoke Leonard Onyebuchi**

Department of Social and Economic Sciences; International Relations and Diplomatic Studies, Cavendish University, Uganda, <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-6645-8061>

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**\*Corresponding author:** Ophoke Leonard Onyebuchi

Department of Social and Economic Sciences; International Relations and Diplomatic Studies, Cavendish University, Uganda, <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-6645-8061>

### Abstract

*The ongoing Russo-Ukraine war has stagnated, creating a barrier to reconciliation between the involved parties, thus precluding peaceful coexistence. This study investigated, analysed and interpreted the limits of peace agreement in bringing Russo-Ukraine war to an end. It was grounded on Hegemonic Stability Theory. It further adopted a case study design utilizing a qualitative approach for data collection and analysis. Thematic analysis was adopted for qualitative data analysis.*

*The study results showed ineffective communication, question of equity and justice, power imbalance within UN Security Council, inability of actors to compromise and absence of hegemonic leader are the limiting factors that impede successful signing of peace agreement to bring Russo-Ukraine war to an end. In addition, this study highlights the relevance of hegemony and specifically a hegemonic leader in influencing the direction of multilateral engagement and vice versa. It is recommended that the various stakeholders involved in this conflict should adjust on their demands, make some compromise, appreciate and help in the making of a hegemonic power that enables peace to thrive in this region. In essence, effective multilateral diplomacy is essential for bringing an end to the Russia-Ukraine war and promoting regional and global stability on condition that it is aligned to the hegemony of the day.*

**Keywords:** Peace Agreement, Reconciliation, Hegemonic Stability Theory, Communication, UN Security Council, Multilateral Diplomacy, Russo-Ukraine War

## INTRODUCTION

In April 2022, Russian and Ukrainian officials reached a tentative agreement on a potential peace deal during negotiations, as reported by Fiona Hill and Angela Stent in an article for Foreign Affairs, citing former US officials (Hill & Stent, 2022). The negotiated interim settlement outlined the terms for Russia to withdraw to its pre-invasion positions from February 24, while Ukraine would refrain from seeking NATO membership and instead receive security guarantees from multiple countries.

These initial breakthroughs occurred during in-person peace talks held in Istanbul at the end of March, followed by virtual discussions. However, despite the progress, the negotiations ultimately failed to produce a final agreement. One significant factor contributing to this failure was the pressure exerted by Western countries (Schimmelfennig, 2022). According to a report from *Ukrainska Pravda*, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson advised Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to cease negotiations with Russia during his visit to Kyiv on April 9.

The report highlights that although Ukraine was prepared to sign certain agreements on guarantees with Russian President Vladimir Putin, its Western supporters were not in favor (Kanninen & Patomäki, 2023). The likelihood of a meeting between Putin and Zelensky to finalize the potential peace deal diminished following Johnson's visit. Unfortunately, since then, the peace agreement appears to have been sidelined.

Given the deteriorating state of reconciliation and peace efforts between Russia and Ukraine, it became essential to examine the limits of peace agreement in the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. This study was carried out to understand the underlying dynamics and potential solutions within this context.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The term "peace" is disputed. In academia and by governments, the absence of war and physical violence is a common negative definition of peace (Gawerc, 2012). This presents several issues, not the least of which is the fact that various parties to a dispute frequently define peace in different ways. Johan Galtung distinguished between negative and positive peace in order to describe peace in a more expansive and affirmative manner (Grewal, 2003). Positive peace also includes the absence of structural violence (death from poverty) and cultural violence (things that cause people to be blind to injustice or enable them to justify it), in contrast to negative peace, which is the absence of direct violence (people being killed). Therefore, while the positive peace of reconciliation and psycho/social healing generally entails the negative peace of order and the cessation of direct violence, they are not incompatible with justice.

According to Bell and O'Rourke (2010), peace agreements are contracts meant to put an end to a violent conflict or drastically alter one so that it can be dealt in a more constructive way. There are various types of agreements that can be reached during a peace process and these include a ceasefire, pre-negotiation, preliminary, comprehensive framework, and implementation agreement. These sequences show the step by step to follow while you are making a peace agreement. The researcher agrees that the aforementioned step by step are crucial to peace agreement. However, why is the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has not attained this peace agreement? Therefore, this gap was closed by the researcher

by studying the limits of peace agreement in bringing the Russia-Ukraine war to an end.

### Hegemonic Stability Theory

This theory was crucial to this study. This theory was advanced by Robert Keohane (1980). It is a concept that sheds light on the dynamics of the international economic and political order. This theory posits that a stable global economic order requires a single dominant country (a hegemon) (Clark, 2011). This hegemon must possess military, financial, and political superiority over other states in the international system. A state needs to be in charge of markets, money sources, raw materials, and a competitive edge in manufacturing highly valued goods in order to attain hegemony (Magnani, 2024).

The use of this idea in conflict resolution is based on the assumption that a hegemonic power may establish international laws that conduit orderly transactions between countries. Furthermore, the presence of a hegemon is connected with positive outcomes for all states in the international system. In contrast, the absence of a hegemon causes disorder and negative outcomes for individual states.

The researcher appreciates the concept of this theory in establishing that there is a need for a world order. However, based on the assumptions, the anarchy in the international system limits this as each state advances for its own interests. The behaviour of the state that possesses the might over other states may escalate conflict, hence limiting the use of multilateral diplomacy: peace agreements in resolving conflict since they support a dominant power or hegemon over others. Taking the case of Russia, NATO, and its allies since the spark of this conflict, the one with economic, financial, military, and political power continues to fuel the war by taking sides to support the weaker state of Ukraine. These double standards calls for the application of what the contingency theory proposed: that an impartial third party is required to mediate on this conflict depending on the episode, actors involved, and the time it has progressed to halt the conflict and thus establish peace. This theory needs conceptual refinement and was tested in the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

### The limits of peace agreements in bringing Russo-Ukraine war to an end

Peace agreements are often seen as the primary mechanism to end international wars and conflicts. However, the literature suggests that peace agreements have significant limitations in their ability to achieve lasting peace. This review examines the key factors that constrain the effectiveness of peace agreements in resolving international wars. Peace agreements would bring this ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine to an end. Regrettably, Landwehr (2019) carried out a study through systematic review on No Way Out? Opportunities for mediation efforts in the Donbas region. This article examines why the Minsk II Agreement has been unsuccessful in achieving sustainable peace and focuses on the conflict mediators' role in overcoming the stalemate. Based on negotiation theory, the underlying issues and circumstances before Minsk II and during the implementation process until 2019 are identified. The article postulates types of mediation leverage to overcome the stalemate. The findings reveal that United Nations peacekeepers could change the stalemate under certain conditions, whereas sanctions would be unlikely to critically influence the bargaining position, and increased United States involvement could have an impact on the conflict resolution.

Eghweree and Remigius (2023) also carried a study on the External Influence and Conflict Resolution in Global Politics: Example from Syria. The study adopted the descriptive qualitative method that relied on secondary data from academic journals, books, and newspapers. Anchoring on the realist perspective, the study undertook an appraisal of the Syrian civil war. It explained that conflicts and their resolution in the international system require concerted efforts to achieve results. This, however, becomes fruitless when vested, external, and extended interests are involved in seemingly simple issues. This appears to be situation in the Syrian crisis that began in 2012 which has significantly demonstrated how third-party involvement shapes the course of wars in the global system. It argued that the motive and mode of external involvement is a major factor in the trajectory of wars and conflict resolution. Findings revealed that the escalation and prolongation of the war are significantly linked to external involvement in what is termed aggressive unilateralism. Propelled by predetermined interests, rival powers engaged Syria unilaterally thereby counteracting the United Nations multilateral peace effort, and making it challenging to craft a peace agreement that satisfies all stakeholders. The study recommends the United Nations multilateralism, especially revisiting the Geneva Communiqué (Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015) which affirms commitment to the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Syria, in providing a roadmap for a truly Syrian-led peace process.

deHaan (2023) carried an investigation towards Conflict De-escalation: The Effect of Compliance Provisions in Ceasefires. It investigated two ceasefires, one in Colombia from 2017, and one in Nicaragua from 1990. It applied a theory-driven empirical comparative approach, a theoretical argument focused on compliance provisions is presented through a structured focused comparison, and the study found out that the Nicaraguan ceasefire, which has more comprehensive compliance provisions, de-escalated violence more compared to the Colombian case, which has limited compliance provisions. The argument holds that more comprehensive compliance provisions in ceasefire agreements are more likely to de-escalate conflict than limited ones. The causal mechanism argues that more comprehensive compliance provisions will increase transparency and raise costs for non-compliance. This will result in an increase of trust between conflict parties, leading to greater de-escalation. Therefore, the study finds support for the hypothesis with the caveat that compliance provisions do not appear to influence agreement resilience for long-term goals in the peace agreements.

Chakma (2023) conducted a study titled "Leadership Changes and Civil War Peace Agreements: Does Who Comes to Power Influence the Implementation?" The study used practical generalised least squares (FGLS) regressions to test the hypothesis and analyse the panel dataset, which includes 34 comprehensive peace agreements from 31 countries between 1989 and 2015. The study sought to explain why some countries implement civil war peace agreements more frequently than others by examining the impact of insider-outsider leader turnover on the implementation of peace agreements. The idea is that leaders should be the fundamental units of analysis to explain the implementation of peace agreements due to more frequent leadership changes than state-level variables, such as the level of democracy, political system, military capability, and GDP per capita. Besides, leader turnover poses a commitment problem in peace processes if outsider leaders differ in their resolve and revise inherited

agreements. The findings of this study demonstrated a positive impacts of insider leader turnover and the adverse effects of outsider leader turnover on the execution of peace agreements. Hence, the implementation of peace agreements is dependent on who comes to power.

The Colombian peace process is the subject of another fascinating study by Canal, Kesting, Aponte Castro, and Smolinski (2024) on the potential and constraints of distributive and procedural justice in complex conflicts. This study looked into how these variables and the results of negotiations are impacted by complexity. The peace talks between the Colombian government and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo in 2016 were examined using a qualitative method. Based on document analysis, it examined in detail how and where in the process the principles of PJ and DJ were applied. Through extensive empirical evidence, it suggests that procedural justice (PJ) and distributive justice (DJ) are key success factors for achieving durable peace negotiations. The authors then examined the implementation progress after 2016 and placed the peace process in the overall context of the Colombian conflict. The authors found that the principles of PJ and DJ were present in both the negotiation process and the agreement. The negotiations were successful and satisfactory solutions could be found for all issues. The complexity of the conflict is reflected in the limited coverage of the peace negotiations. Not all groups, interests, and sub-conflicts could be included in the negotiations. This limits their contribution to a durable peace in Colombia. Conflicts that remain unresolved also have a negative effect on the implementation of the peace agreement. For conflict management, this implies that the negotiations should not be viewed as "one-and-done" but rather as a progressive, ongoing process. The agreement is only the nucleus for achieving total peace. It must be actively advanced and defended.

Bayer (2024) study on major powers' management of complex peace relationships contributed to discussions on peace between hostile non-major powers by focusing on the behavior of major powers. Specifically, alliances between non-major and major powers are explored to determine whether such ties contribute to transitions to higher levels of peace. Moreover, systemic factors involving power dynamics and relationships between major powers were also evaluated. Multiple data sets which altogether covered the era from 1816 to 2010 were analyzed. All pairs of countries that were former enemies were considered. Cox hazard regression was conducted. Systemic instability is influential at transitions from lowest levels of peace for non-major power dyads. Eras where major powers were operating multilaterally played a highly limited role in non-major powers attaining stable peace. However, alliances with major powers are relatively more crucial in these discussions for non-major powers and contribute to higher levels of peace being attained by non-major powers.

In summary, the key factors that contribute to the limitations of peace agreements in ending international wars are the lack of commitment and compliance, unaddressed root causes of conflict, spoiler problems, weak enforcement mechanisms, and the inherent complexity of international wars. Considering Russia-Ukraine war discourse the study was set forth to address these limitation by studying these limiting factors and providing a workable framework for a bridge across the battlefield and then promote peaceful settlement of this conflict.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was centered on the case study of Russia-Ukraine War. This design was adopted because it would bring out rich and revealing insights into the phenomenon under investigation. This was so advantageous to this study because single case study design provides opportunity to gain a detailed and comprehensive understanding of a specific phenomenon like the one of peace agreement in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine War. As a researcher, this was effective because I was able to examine complex real-life situation in the context of Russia-Ukraine war. This study adopted a qualitative research approach only. This helped the researcher gather qualitative results in regards to the study research questions and then come up with themes and concepts regarding the study objectives. This study employed thematic analysis. This is because it enabled the researcher to examine written texts, and oral communication in relation to Russia-Ukraine War. This was also a good fit for the study because it was suitable in analysing this war across social, political, and historical context making meaning from the large chunks of language, such as entire conversations, texts, or collections of texts on the limits of peace agreement in bringing Russo-Ukrainian war to an end.

### Ethical considerations

Maintaining research ethical principles were vital in this study in order to investigate the limits of peace agreement in the ongoing Russo-Ukraine war. Some of the ethical considerations taken into cognizance were as follows;

**Impartiality and Objectivity:** The researcher maintained impartiality and objectivity throughout the study, avoiding any biases or conflicts of interest that could influence the data collection, analysis, or interpretation.

**Respect for Cultural Sensitivities:** Given the geopolitical nature of the study, the researcher respected cultural sensitivities and avoided any actions that may harm or offend individuals or communities involved.

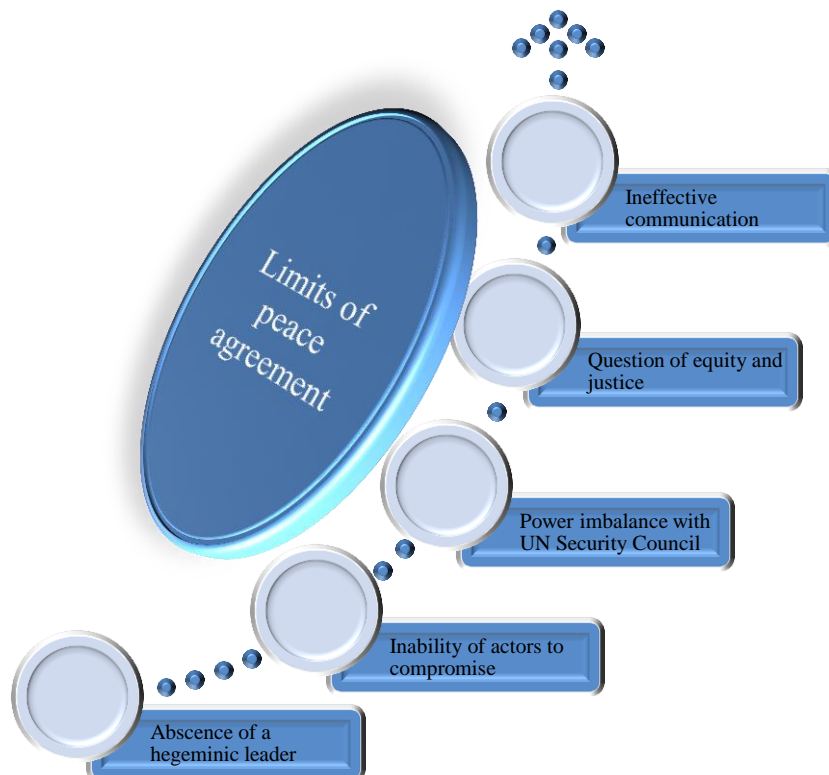
**Professional Integrity:** Professional standards of integrity and honesty in conducting and reporting the study was upheld. The researcher adhered to ethical guidelines and principles of research integrity, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and reliability in the collection, analysis, and reporting of data. Acknowledgment of other scholarly work incorporated with citations and reference list were applied.

## RESULTS

This section presents and interprets the study findings concerning the limits of peace agreements in bringing Russo – Ukraine war to an end. This study only highlighted the corpus that looked into the Russia-Ukraine War from 2014-2024. I chose this corpus of materials because it highlighted the impeding factors directly to the discourse of the study. I was critical to avoid personal bias by explicating specific examples of each theme discussed in the context of Russia-Ukraine war. Speaking from the standpoint of single case study, thematic analysis was done and the findings were presented below in detail.

### The limits of peace agreements in bringing the Russo-Ukraine War to an end

This theme was intended to study the limits of peace agreements in bringing Russo – Ukraine war to an end. In the chunks of corpus materials used for analysis, the major sub-themes that run through were ineffective communication, question of equity and justice, power imbalance within UN Security Council, inability of actors to compromise, and absence of hegemonic leader. The Figure below has representation of these concepts.



Source: Field data (2024)

Figure 1: Factors that limits peace agreement in bringing Russo-Ukraine war to an end

Among the sub-themes, ineffective communication emerged during coding of the data as one of the factors that limit peace agreement in bringing Russo-Ukraine war to an end.

### **Ineffective communication**

As already introduced in this analysis, ineffective communication was among the sub-themes emerged as a driver that hampers the success of peace agreement in the case study of Russia-Ukraine war. One of the articles stated:

*... the fundamental reasons behind the current impasse, highlighting elements like the conflict's inherent complexity, the procedure that led to the creation of "Minsk II," the imprecise and confusing wording used in this and other agreements, the practical difficulties associated with the order and timing of agreed-upon measures, and Russia's steadfast refusal to acknowledge its involvement in the conflict (Åtland, 2020).*

Vague and ambiguous language served as a direct concept to this sub-theme. When communication is not effective, the agreement becomes lousy and thus cannot last long and conflict escalate again. This study recommends that clarity in communication, interpretation of concepts and understanding of what each stands for would facilitate commitment to sign the agreement by both parties at war and as well implement what has been agreed upon in sincerity and trust. The second sub-theme was the question of equity and justice.

### **Question of equity and justice**

The question of equity and justice makes bargaining uneasy in the face of conflict. Inopportunely, this sub-theme emerged second during data coding and the discourse formed part of the main theme regarding the limits of peace agreement to bring Russo-Ukraine war to an end. One of the text gathered for analysis explained:

*With humility, every administration must acknowledge that it is their combined fault that the world is on the verge of nuclear war. The world has already undergone significant transformation, even if a larger calamity is prevented. In response, many in positions of authority in the US and its allies are calling for increased military spending and forward deployment of troops. In response, a global peace movement independent of state governments is required (Lichterman, 2022).*

“Humility” answers the call of sincerity and readiness to change worse to better. Whereas “call” and “spending” for more arms answer the call for disagreement and destruction. Will the fate of Russia and Ukraine hang in limbo for the sake of arms? Can lives lost be repairable? What does equity and justice answer in this circumstance? It calls for ceasefire and settlement for peace agreement so that peace can have a home in this territory as opposed to more arms and destruction of lives and properties. Comparatively, the former take better advantage and should be promoted. “The world must respond with a peace movement not aligned with the government of any state” but peace for all is important. Furthermore, I analysed the third sub-theme which is power imbalance within UN Security Council.

### **Power imbalance within UN Security Council**

In the chunks of corpus assembled for this analysis, the concept of power imbalance within UN Security Council emerged, and quoting from the extract in one of the articles:

*...the institutional vacuum left by an ineffective UNSC, attempts to resolve current and upcoming crises involving one or more P5 members face the same systemic failure. Considering the actual state of the UNSC's paralysis and the ongoing delay of UN reform (Murithi, 2022).*

How can UNSC be functional when the P5 are not in unison to peace path? When the pillars of the house feel uncomfortable in the house they stand, collapse is the next option. This would be a disaster to the entire world. In this, the P5 must be willing to commit to an undivided approach or mechanism for international intervention to rejuvenate the pride, credibility, and core values for which it was established, and reformation because the dynamic nature of the world today demand flexibility that accommodate everyone. The universe is enough for each actor to co-exist with each other and the seating power should understand the need. In the case of Russia-Ukraine war, UNSC has the power to bring this house in order for peace agreement to be signed. This then bring us to the fourth sub-theme, inability of actors to compromise.

### **Inability of Actors to compromise**

Next on the list is the inability of actors to compromise as one of the driving factors that limit the effectiveness of peace agreement in the case of Russia-Ukraine war. In the text excerpted, other terms “conditions for peace talk” was much in relations to this sub-theme.

*Ahead of a war conference backed by Kyiv that Moscow has not been invited to, Russian President Vladimir Putin demanded that Ukraine evacuate from four eastern territories that are partially under his control as a condition of peace negotiations. Putin stated that in exchange for a ceasefire by Russian forces, Ukrainian forces should evacuate the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions of the nation. In a televised address on Friday before representatives of the Foreign Ministry, he also insisted that Ukraine renounce its application to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Putin made his remarks the night before a peace meeting that was being held by Switzerland with the intention of supporting Ukrainian demands that Russia leave their area. In essence, his proposal demanded that Ukraine concede its territory in exchange for peace negotiations—a demand that Kyiv has steadfastly refused since Russia invaded the country in February 2022 (Bloomberg News, June 14, 2024).*

“Conditionality,” is detrimental to peace talk and it has stalled the achievement of peace agreement so far in the case of Russo-Ukraine conflict. What is the fate of these actors? It is hanging on both parties to come to table with a SMART agenda that is lasting and achievable. There is always something to loose for something to be. Both parties need flexibility, honesty, transparency, and adjustable in their positions. Russia and Ukraine, there is no head way better than peace. Being intentional with a mind for a today and a future that will live to operate on lessons learnt firsthand from history of war of this nature would be a victory. Victory has both gain and loss. Therefore, instead of forever, why not end now and enjoy benefits of peace. Lastly, the sub-theme very crucial to this study was absence of a hegemonic leader as another driving factor that hinder the success of peace agreement in Russo-Ukraine conflict.

### Absence of a hegemonic leader

The last concept that emerged from the corpus materials used for this analysis raise a sub-theme of absence of a hegemonic leader as a causative agent for unsuccessful attempts to sign peaceful agreement and continued escalation of conflict between Russia and Ukraine. In one of the excerpts, “new security architecture” was directly in line for this discourse.

*By 2020, Macron realised that the talks were about more than simply Minsk and Ukraine; they were about developing a "new security architecture" that did not isolate Russia while simultaneously refusing to serve Washington (Prashad, 2022).*

A leader who is capable of committing its political, economic, social, and military resource with unbiased mindset is required to bring this conflict to an end. Having a new security architecture is vital at this moment. Who this power will be within this region must be agreed upon and must have the common interest of all in its territory, respect the territorial integrity of each state, ready to support with security and economic relations and other social and political affairs. These houses multilateral diplomacy where interventions must seek diplomatic means as oppose to military interventions.

This new phase is a green light and should be promoted so that no actor feels threatened, insecure of the growth of other emerging actors and emerging powers should be supported to grow without suppression. In general, absence of hegemonic leader is a factor that has bewildered the attempt for peace agreement to resolve this conflict. Thus a call for the new security architecture would be a new dawn for peace to thrive, cherished and sustained.

### Reflection on the limits of peace agreements in bringing the Russo - Ukraine War to an end

This theme was intended to study the limits of peace agreements in bringing Russo – Ukraine war to an end. The major sub-themes that emerged were ineffective communication, question of equity and justice, power imbalance within UN Security Council, inability of actors to compromise, and absence of hegemonic leader.

The practical implication of this findings is that it has uncovered the main hindrances toward achieving peace agreement in Russo-Ukraine war. The findings are important to policymakers, state actors and other stakeholders regarding way forward in this particular conflict.

The theoretical implications are on two angels. First, the study findings will add insights to the banks of literature regarding the limits of peace agreement in bringing Russo-Ukraine war to an end. Second the contributions of this findings support the hegemonic stability theory which was one of the theories that underpinned the study.

The use of this idea in conflict resolution is based on the assumption that a hegemonic power may establish international laws that allow for orderly transactions between countries. Furthermore, the presence of a hegemon is connected with positive outcomes for all states in the international system. In contrast, the absence of a hegemon causes disorder and negative outcomes for individual states as already pointed out by the study findings in the case of Russia-Ukraine war.

The study findings contribute to the theory by establishing the need for new security architecture within UNSC and most especially that the rise of hegemonic leader with the qualities outlined will be

a new dawn in this region for peace to thrive, cherished and sustained. This was a fulfillment of what the study proposed to do by creating conceptual refinement tested in the war between Russia and Ukraine.

## DISCUSSION

This theme was intended to study the limits of peace agreements in bringing Russo – Ukraine war to an end. The study findings confirmed that ineffective communication, question of equity and justice, power imbalance within UN Security Council, inability of actors to compromise and absence of hegemonic leader are the factors that limit peace agreement in bringing Russo-Ukraine war to an end.

The study findings confirmed that “*ineffective communication*” characterised by “*Vague and ambiguous language*” is a key driver that hampers effective mediation to end Russo-Ukraine war. For Almommani (2024) the dissection of circumstances necessitate “*neutral conduit*” or “*active mediator.*” This are as a result of “*cultural clashes, implicit biases, and emotional undercurrents*”, all these demands the mediator to navigate sensitive dynamics and bridge communication gaps that extend beyond language. So ineffective communication escalate conflict and I do strongly believe that clarity in communication, interpretation of concepts and understanding of what each stands for would facilitate commitment to sign the agreement by both parties at war and as well implement what has been agreed upon in sincerity and trust in Russo-Ukraine war.

The question of “*equity and justice*” continued to emerge in the findings. The concept of “*Humility*” was confirmed to mean sincerity and readiness to change worse to better. Whereas “*call*” and “*spending*” for more arms answer the call for disagreement and destruction in Russo-Ukraine war. The hunger for ceasefire still escalate due to lack of “*humility*” instead “*call*” and “*spending*” were chosen by actors at war. In deHaan (2023) views, “*comprehensive compliance*” de-escalate conflict. The question then arise, who will comply and to what are they complying to? Hence this study concurred in agreement that the humility of parties at war in Russo-Ukraine case must comply to increase transparency and facilitate effective mediation as a viable means to end this conflict.

The concept of power imbalance within UN Security Council was confirmed in this study as a hindrance to peace agreement in bringing Russo-Ukraine war to an end. “*Pillars of the house*” and “*functionality*” was key to ending this war. However, the study showed there is dysfunctionality and that made the pillars of the house shaky and that questions its credibility and ability to stand this Russo-Ukraine war. Chakma (2023) made a significant contribution by concurring that, because leaders change more frequently than state-level variables like the “*level of democracy, political system, military capability, and GDP per capita,*” they should be the fundamental units of analysis to explain the implementation of peace agreements. The concept of “*who comes to power*” was dependent to ending this conflict. This then begs for a new leader to emerge and resolve this conflict since the UNSC has failed in its capacity to bring this war to an end through signing of peace agreement which is expected to end this conflict and promote sustainable peace in this region.

The last concept that emerged from the study confirmed “*absence of a hegemonic leader*” as a causative agent for unsuccessful attempts to sign peaceful agreement and continued escalation of

conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As in resonance with the above for new leader to emerge, this showed that absence of a hegemonic leader is the reason why the war is still ongoing. According to Landwehr (2019), under specific circumstances, UN peacekeepers might break the impasse. Sanctions, however, would not be the answer. Thus there is need for a new security architecture to make this happen if peace would emerge as victory for both actors at war in Russo-Ukraine case study.

## CONCLUSION

Communication as a concept plays a great role in mediation process and as highlighted in the literature it goes beyond common text of what is being said in order to have a leverage of navigating the sensitive issues of actor's interest on mediation table so as to reach a mutual agreement to sign the peace agreement. Ambiguity and vague language are red flag to no durable or lasting peace agreement.

The study also made it clear that comprehensive compliance of the actors can cause ceasefire to happen. However, the actors must be humble enough to accept peace talk as it shows sincerity and readiness to change; transit from war to peace agreement.

More so, the question of peace agreement is dependent on who comes to power. This was summed up in the need for a new security architecture which isolates no actor involved in this conflict. It showed that leaders are fundamental unit of analysis in the implementation of peace agreement. Therefore, the rise of a hegemonic leader on the conditions sets therein, brings this conflict to an end.

Lastly, the study concludes that ineffective communication, question of equity and justice, power imbalance within UN Security Council, inability of actors to compromise and absence of hegemonic leader are the factors that limits peace agreement in bringing Russo-Ukraine war to an end. The study recommends that the various stakeholders should adjust on their demands, make some compromise, appreciate and help in the making of a hegemonic power that enables peace thrive in this region.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am profoundly grateful to all who contributed to the success of this research. I look forward to seeing various institutions involved in the peace talk to adopt these recommendations as uncovered by the study to address security concerns of Russia and Ukraine and other global conflicts that has posed threat to human security.

## DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The author declare no conflict of interest arising from this work, and I have no interest in anything aside from knowledge sharing and improvement of international, state and individual level of analysis in state-state relations and giving diplomacy a room to end this conflict.

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