

Chapter2: Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

The literature review highlights what has been reported about the Russia-Ukraine war. A brief synopsis of the war is presented to underline what factors preceded the war and led Russia to invade Ukraine. The literature review also highlights and discusses the framework that forms the basis of the paper. The idea of the literature review was to gain a deeper understanding of the topic based on what has been researched and reported on the matter, as well as identify the areas that need more information. Two major themes that were identified from the literature review included Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Putin's nuclear warning.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Nationalism is the theoretical framework that forms the basis of the study. It is an ideology that holds that a nation is the fundamental unit for people's social life and holds a greater position than other social and political principles. An interesting aspect of nationalism is that it has a strong territorial component. Every nation has its unique territory associated with it. Nationalist movements always revolve their political ideologies on territorial claims. Nationalists normally have the view that every nation has a moral entitlement to a sovereign state. Nationalism encompasses two phenomena (Miscevic, 2020). The first is the attitude that the members of a nation have when they care about their identity as members of that nation. This phenomenon raises questions regarding the concept of a nation as an identity, what it means to belong to a nation, and how much one should care about their nation. Nationalists often require a very high degree of care for one's nation, but it is not always the case. The second phenomenon that encompasses nationalism is the actions that the members of a nation take in seeking to achieve some form of political sovereignty. It raises questions on whether sovereignty requires the acquisition of full statehood with complete authority over domestic and international affairs or whether something less than statehood is sufficient. However, in most cases, nationalists take sovereignty to mean full statehood.

Nationalism has two distinct varieties; classical and liberal nationalism. Classical nationalism refers to the political program that sees the creation and maintenance of a fully sovereign state owned by a given ethnonational group as a primary duty of each member of the group. Classical nationalists are normally keen on the kind of culture they promote and protect and the kind of attitude people have toward their nation-state (Anderson, 2020). The core principle of classical nationalism is that each nation should govern itself free from outside interference. However, different nations have different interpretations of what they consider as outside interference. The principle can help understand the actions of Russia and the retaliation made by Ukraine. For Russia, it is their interpretation of outside interference that sparked their need to protect their territory. On the other hand, Ukraine retaliated after the Russians invaded their territory as a way of protecting their sovereignty. On the other hand, liberal nationalism is the main representative of various moderate views that are classified as nationalist.