**At a crossroads**

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NATO had the “containment policy” regarding Russia since its independence, they continued to expand eastward since the 1990s, they ‘Nationised’ the central and Eastern European states and now they wanted Ukraine to be ‘Nationised’ as well.
However, a security dilemma prevailed between NATO and Russia and they invaded it. However, Russia is also not irrational to invade a mainland European state without calculating the consensus it is facing today. To minimise the effects of economic sanctions, it is not possible that Russians had not coordinated it with Chinese, Central Asia and South Asian nations in terms of doing trade/investment regardless of unilateral sanctions of the west and perhaps that is why Chinese are not supporting western sanctions on Russia.
The pattern of the West shows that the reason why NATO is not coming to aid Ukraine is not because it’s not concerned of Russia but also because it’s more concerned of China in the East China sea.
They do not want to be engaged in two fronts, because that would be catastrophic for the NATO, given the fact that it is a well established assessment among western and eastern international relations experts that the East China Sea and particularly Taiwan, is in all likelihood the next theatre of conflict which may ingulf the whole world into the third world war.
So, NATO doesn’t want to waste its resources in Eastern Europe for now. That is why it cannot be said with certainty that what Russia is doing is not well orchestrated by the Chinese. However, NATO is also not irrational to walk into this trap of the dragon.
It is still concerned with Russia in Eastern Europe. The pieces of puzzle are well in place where the US will have to approach the Chinese to use their influence over Russia to defuse the crises in Eastern Europe, because with western economic sanctions on Russia, they cannot hold their columns for long without Chinese economic cooperation, and from there the Chinese could come out of this as the global peacemaker and taking the US status of superpower away from them.
However, the Chinese are not that irrational either, that they only want to be global peacemakers, since they also have been subjected to the containment policy of the west and have many security concerns in the region. So, it is not impossible that the Chinese might leverage the European crisis to demand the US to negotiate Taiwan with them for peace in Europe and this will certainly further divide the west to choose between its own survival in Europe or to maintain hegemony in the world, and this would be a political masterstroke of Beijing. It is likely that Europeans, concerned about Russia, will pressure the US to negotiate Taiwan for its security and the US will be in a challenging position then.
It’ll have to choose between Taiwan and Europe and this will put the US at crossroads and potentially jeopardising the global liberal order with it. However, history is witness to fact that world orders do not go down that
easily with wars.

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