



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Rubio hints at US exit if Ukraine peace deal stalls

Published On: 20-04-2025

Context

- Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Friday that the U.S. may “move on” from trying to secure a Russia-Ukraine peace deal if there is no progress in the coming days, after months of efforts have failed to bring an end to the fighting
- He spoke in Paris after landmark talks among U.S., Ukrainian and European officials produced outlines for steps toward peace and appeared to make some long-awaited progress. A new meeting is expected next week in London, and Mr. Rubio suggested that could be decisive in determining if the Trump administration continues its involvement.
- Mr. Rubio’s comments stepped up pressure on both sides to reach a peace deal, even as the U.S. and Ukraine made progress on a minerals agreement that Mr. Trump has sought to recoup billions of dollars in military aid that Washington sent Kyiv since Russia’s invasion in February 2022.

Basis of Russia – Ukraine tensions

- Ukraine & Russia were a **part of the USSR** and **share hundreds of years of cultural, linguistic & familial links**.
- Among the former USSR nations, **Ukraine was the 2nd most powerful nation after Russia**.
- The relations between the two nations were cordial from the dissolution of the USSR up until recently.
- Tensions between the two nations began in **late 2013 over Ukraine’s landmark political & trade deal with the European Union**.
- Majority of the Ukrainians were angry with the then **pro-Russia President** Viktor Yanukovich’s decision to **join the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union instead of the EU**.
- Their **protests** were known as the **Euromaidan movement**.
- It saw massive clashes between the protesters and security forces that reached their peak in 2014 and led to the ouster of Yanukovich.
- Soon after, **amid fears of growing Western influence** in Ukraine, **Russia decided to act by invading Crimea**, which was a part of Ukraine.

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