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# The Doon School WEEKLY



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## Crime and Punishment

**Husain Haider** *discusses the hostilities between Ukraine and Russia over Crimea*

Global issues and crises are increasingly becoming a commonality nowadays. Primarily, these include regionalised matters of bi-lateral or multi-lateral international conflicts that inevitably translate into issues demanding globalised action and mediation. Foreign governments get forcefully involved on account of unavoidable circumstances as a consequence of diplomatic liabilities. Hence, such matters can eventually hamper and reduce socio-economic efficiency on a global scale. Therefore, the subsequent negative effect on social or economic systems does not remain confined to the countries involved. This article aims at analyzing the Crimean Crisis in light of propagating a clear picture of the dynamics associated and possible solutions that can be brought into action.

The ongoing Crimean crisis is an international issue of conflict involving the countries of Ukraine and Russia with reference to the ethnically varied region of the Crimean Peninsula. The Crimean Peninsula has been a prolonged matter of contention in Ukrainian-Russian diplomatic and political history. Initially being a fraction of the Soviet Union, Crimea became associated with Ukraine through the 1997 Russian-Ukrainian partition treaty. However, the mostly ethnic Russian population of Crimea has been in constant struggle for realising its identity, with regards to diplomatic association with either Socialist Russia or the Democratic Western World.

The current crisis unfolded as a consequence of the Ukrainian revolution, which involved prolonged violent protests and public demonstrations across the eastern and southern parts of Ukraine. The protests erupted on the pretext of decrease in Euro-Ukrainian diplomatic links and were popularized as the 'Euromaidan'. The subsequent civil tension forced incumbent Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich from power. Consequently, an interim government was established under the leadership of Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Oleksandr Turchynov was appointed the interim president. However, the Yatsenyuk led government and the presidency of Oleksandr Turchynov, known for their pro-Euro stance, have been branded 'illegitimate' and 'unconstitutional' by the Putin-led Russian government and they still regard deposed President Viktor Yanukovich as the legitimate head of state.

According to the 1997 Russian-Ukrainian partition treaty, the Russian army is permitted to mobilise about 25,000 troops, 24 artillery systems, 132 armoured vehicles and 22 military planes within the Crimean and Sevastopol region. However, the recent mobilisation of Russian troops raises controversy regarding whether these actions are in response to the growing possibilities of the Ukrainian foreign, national and socio-economic policies being based on principles of the Western world, mainly the United States.

Subsequently, this led to further demonstrations and protests across the Crimean peninsula, primarily against the pro-European actions of the newly appointed Ukrainian leadership. The turbulent political upheaval has led to a series of clashes between pro-Russian and pro Turchynov-Yatsenyuk supporters. The referendum failed to secure peace, while further amplifying the crisis at hand. According to reports, 95.5% people voted for Crimean political autonomy and proposed subsequent affiliation to the Russian Federation. Citing the referendum outcome, the newly elected Crimean parliament declared independence from Ukraine and proposed to get politically aligned to the Russian Federation.

As per election officials, a high turn-out was recorded. However, it has also been reported that the election had been boycotted by the opposition Crimean tatars and pro Turchynov-Yatsenyuk supporters. The Ukrainian Government, European Union and the United States of America have declared the referendum to be illegitimate and violating the spirit of the Ukrainian constitution.

The UN charter covers broad aspects of International Law, revolving around subjects such as national sovereignty, humanitarian crisis situations and acts of aggression by member nations. Moscow has claimed that Russian intervention in the Crimean crisis is justified on humanitarian grounds. However, Kiev regards it to be a violation of Ukrainian sovereignty.

The worsening scenario poses threat to the regional and global socio-economic system. As a consequence of the persistent crisis, indices of Moscow Exchange have suffered a cumulative loss of approximately 80 billion US

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## Regulars

### POETRY

Vrindam Nagpal and Rishabh Sharma have been appointed the **Boys-in-Charge** of the **Doon School Poets' Society**.

We wish them a fruitful tenure.

### SCHOOL COLOURS

The following have been awarded **School Colours**: Ritesh P. Shinde, Karan Pratap Singh Kairon, Shantanu Singh, Shivaan Seth, Madhav Dutt, Kabir Sethi, Kunal Kanodia and Udbhav Agarwal. Congratulations!

### AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

Thailand is set to lift its state of emergency after the country witnessed weeks of anti-government protests. The Rolling Stones' Australian tour is likely to be cancelled after the apparent suicide of Mick Jagger's girlfriend, L'Wren Scott. Meanwhile, Air Canada has suspended its flights to Venezuela due to the ongoing civil unrest which is taking place in the country. The former Chelsea and Tottenham manager, Andres Villas-Boas has been appointed by Zenit St Petersburg as their manager.

### UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*I know know nothing,*

**Mihir Gupta**, of course you don't!

*It will be finishing at the start.*

**Sarvagya Dhiman**, we don't want you to get started.

*You are too very close.*

**Udaivir Singh Jaijee** feels uncomfortable.

*Skyfall is Ski-fi movie.*

**Arunabh Utkarsh**, the new 007 agent.

*Who is the author of the red thick book?*

**Dhruv Agarwal** reads a lot of books.

*Walk on the street-path.*

**Vihaan Bhatnagar** takes a walk down grammar lane.

**Dosco Doodle** The Tradition Continues...  
Dhruv Pais



### Weekly Selects

Wu-Tang, Atomically

**Grantland**

Inside the Milk Machine

**Modern Farmer**

A Man Enough

**The Morning News**

The Boys in the Bunkhouse

**New York Times**

Last Tango in Tahiti

**Washington Post**

The Ballad of Daniel Wolf

**The Globe and Mail**

The Inside Story of a Murderous Con Man

**Men's Journal**

The Town That Turned Poverty Into a Prison Sentence

**The Nation**

The Secret World of Fast Fashion

**Pacific Standard**

### The Week Gone By

**Yuvan Kumar**

The past week witnessed a lot of excitement, festivity and appreciation. Saturday was emotionally charged, with proud parents relishing the award ceremony and the saddened SC Leavers exiting the Rose Bowl to the tune of the ever-emotional Auld Lang Syne. This was followed by a much-awaited night-out, a well-deserved break to a 'traumatic' Test-Week. Holi made a special appearance and we were all rewarded with an extended outing, much to our relief. For all those who celebrated the festival in School, the primary highlight was the performance by the School Dance Troupe. Though there were fewer people on campus, the enthusiasm of certain masters enhanced the occasion.

The School Captain lived up to his responsibility with a crisp speech. The primary motif propagated was the significance of team-spirit over individual skills, an aspect that truly defines our institution. The final leg of the Cricket competition is finally under way, and with the competition growing stiffer and no clear victor in sight, the matches are a treat to watch.

The recently concluded Junior Hindi Declamation Contest showcased promising young talent. The efforts of the participants is highly appreciable, with the speeches ranging from contemporary to School-related issues, capturing the audience's attention with suitable doses of novelty and humour. Also, there seems to be an essence of joy in the air, with the ICSE and ISC Examinations drawing to a close. The coming days will be looked forward to, with midterms and the Gombar Speech Tropy approaching, but till then, work hard, play hard and enjoy!

*(contd. from Page 1)*

dollars. 30% of European gas imports come from Russia. Also, 71.6% of the total Russian exports account for the global mineral oil supply. Hence, the increasing possibility of economic sanctions on Russia will only further aggravate the already fragile state of the global economy.

Moreover, the Crimean turmoil is forcing a shift in focus of the international community from more sensitive issues such as the civil war situation in Syria, American military presence in Afghanistan, Iranian nuclear crisis global economic problems and international environmental concerns. These problems require cumulative resolution measures from the Russian Federation and the United States of America. However, the crisis over Russian actions in the Crimean region can certainly impact the mutual co-operation so desperately required. It is highly unlikely that such situations would be resolved without the mutual agreement and co-operation of the Russian and American governments. Also, in the absence of co-operation of Moscow, Washington might find it difficult to handle the logistics of the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan.

Also, North Korea and China are expected to behave more aggressively if Russia's accession of Crimea is not met with international disapproval and outcry. American President Barack Obama's successful attempts to draw co-operation from Moscow regarding trade and reduction of nuclear stockpile during his first presidential term, are expected to be negatively impacted on account of the ongoing crisis. Certain reports suggest that American officials fear that Russia might go beyond the negotiation framework of the P5 nations with reference to the Iranian nuclear crisis. It is suspected that Moscow could halt a final deal proposed by the P5 by bringing up its own bilateral energy agreement with Tehran, further complicating the Iranian nuclear issue. However, Professor Sadiq Zibakalem of Tehran University has suggested that this is highly unlikely, taking Russia's weakening position in terms of nuclear matters into consideration.

Conclusively, the situation requires immediate solutions to prevent a possible escalation into a global conflict. Taking the worsening situation in Syria and Afghanistan into consideration, the signs of increasing tension are certainly not in the best interest of the international community. The United Nations can be effectively used as a forum for unbiased and critical deliberation and collaboratively resolving the crisis at hand. Moreover, diplomatic links between the countries involved should be put into use to arrive at a reasonable and mutually backed solution model. Whenever or however the crisis comes to an end, the consequences will certainly produce quakes well across the Ukrainian-Russian borders.

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## A FEW GOOD MEN

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**CC Chengappa** *discusses the various obstacles faced by the Indian Navy over the years*

“I have the honour to refer to recent incidents during the past few months that have impacted the professional image of the navy. While the government has continued to repose its trust and confidence in the service, I consider my continuation as Chief of the Naval Staff untenable.” Admiral DK Joshi became the first ever navy chief to resign after a series of mishaps and accidents that took place over the course of his short tenure and accepted full responsibility for them. But was the resignation due to the major problems being faced by India in terms of military preparedness, or was it due to the fact that Admiral Joshi was unable to run the Navy in a systematic manner?

Even though India is one of the largest importers of arms in the world, outstripping China and Pakistan, one of the major factors affecting the military preparedness of the country is the lack of decision-making and various scandals that have taken place over the course of time. In fact, the money allotted to the Ministry of Defense amounts to 2.25 lakh crore which, as described by Finance Minister P Chidambaram, “is a lot of money.” The problem lies in the delay in clearing of plans and signing of deals, thus making the procurement of arms a long drawn affair. Moreover, due to all sorts of kickbacks being paid, more often than not the weapons and military technology being procured at great cost is either defective or outdated or not reliable enough. This then invariably leads to upgradation and expensive maintenance, where, again, there are enough people to make money. This was the case with INS Sindhurakshak that sank in August last year due to a blast in the weapons compartment of the submarine, causing the death of 18 soldiers. It had returned from Russia where it had been upgraded at a whopping cost of 80 million dollars. And the worst part is that 18 servicemen had to lose their lives because the middlemen and politicians thought of making some easy money!

However, this isn't the first time the armed forces have witnessed the resignation of a chief. In the 1960's, General K.S.Thimmayya resigned but was asked to return and take back his resignation by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1962, General P.N. Thapar hung up his boots following the India's defeat in the Indo-Chinese war. Unlike our politicians and bureaucrats, officers in the defense forces still follow a code of honour and tend to take moral responsibility for their actions. Hence, the Naval Chief upheld the tradition by taking responsibility for his actions and resigning from the top post.

So while our defense budget goes up, the defense preparedness plummets, taking a few submarines down with it. While China is adding aircrafts, tanks, and warships to its arsenal, Indian bureaucrats bicker amongst themselves

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regarding what decisions to take and how much money to make, resulting in infiltrations across the border, the sinking of submarines and malfunctioning of aircrafts on and off the ground. And of course, who cares if in the middle of all this a few brave souls perish. If our country is to be considered a world power, with the 4th largest standing army in the world, then great detail must be given to military preparedness and the defense mechanisms of the country. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

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| Poetry |

## A Beggar's Deathbed

**Nehansh Saxena**

Choking he was,  
He nearly coughed his throat out.  
His lungs could fill no more,  
The starved old horse!

He last heard the New Year Ball,  
People dancing and celebrating,  
Things he never dreamt of,  
As he rejoiced the last warmth of the streetlights.  
The attire for his own funeral-  
The battered rags he'd worn for 30 years.  
Next to him was the humble precious begging bowl,  
Having achieved a handful coins in ages,  
Nothing more was desirable than peace.  
He had found a quiet spot,  
An alleyway in the far suburbs,  
Right by a garbage bin,  
Where each morning one finds it new and clean,  
And by the night it's full of rot.

The freezing wind blew again,  
Terminating the warmth from his heart.  
It was then the cold onto the cold,  
Silently, painlessly it all ended.  
He had known the right moment to come,  
His eyes closed for eternity,  
And his body collapsed like a withered leaf,  
Just one of those billion leaves,  
With no purpose.

It felt like any other day next morn,  
Nothing felt different.  
Who will remember a mere stone by the road?  
The garbage truck stopped,  
Practicing the regular collection of garbage,  
Taking away the garbage along with it.  
The beggar's body was never found.  
The everyday pedestrians felt no difference,  
The same old pavement it was,  
and neither did they notice any loss  
Or perhaps did not want to.

## The Love for Gold

**Arnav Joshi**

The Gold shines forth,  
Emblazoned on the jarring black,  
And seeing the log-run facade crack,  
His eyes dare not behold,  
Its stories untold.

Maybe it was the misled belief,  
That men still live in honour,  
Or maybe it was just the excruciating grief,  
That brought realization to the fore.  
The love for gold,  
No more so bold,  
Was indeed the cause for his sore.

That friends may stab,  
Straight through the back,  
And through the chest again,  
To laugh and watch his pain,  
And that brothers may cheat,  
Just to see the end,  
Of a brother's pride,  
To proudly parade one's own,  
Brought him to his knees.

He sees justice not done,  
But masqueraded around,  
By those who hold the reins.  
They watch and watch,  
As the blood seeps out  
Through virtue's mutilated veins.

The Gold shines forth,  
Emblazoned on the jarring black,  
Its screams little more than  
A small army's pitiful, loud drums,  
Words may not heal,  
But words can pain,  
And the truth of pain,  
Is his only true reprieve.

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