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**Tocci, Nathalie. 2023. "Europe and Russia's Invasion of Ukraine:
Where Does the EU**

**DWELVING INTO THE MAIN ARGUMENT WITH AN EFFORT TO
SUMMARISE THE ARTICLE BY THE AUTHOR**

The summary of the article, "Europe and Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: Where Does the EU Stand" by Nathalie Tocci delves into an explanatory approach to not only discover the text and the meaning but also concludes with a critical analysis of the situation in hand just not going in by difference in the facts and angle of the author in explaining but also putting in insights from a personal understanding and the analysis that seemed fit.

To start with the core of Tocci's paper, it covers the dimensions of the profound impacts of the Russian invasion of Ukraine which obviously takes on the factors leading to the related challenges and future implications with respect to the European Union and its response this 21st century shock in a diplomacy supporting world environment.

There is a clear expression as shown in the article is the efficient solidarity and the unbelievable unity displayed by the European Union and its transatlantic partners throughout the period of the Russian call of war. We see how there were sanctions imposed on Russia at large encompassing various sectors and kept on adding up as the war continued with increasing severity. Tocci commends the EU's active measures to avoid further divisions in the region by inflicting and targeting major sectors affecting the Russian economy, from finance and technology to energy and individual asset seizures. However, Tocci even marks how there is an evident contrast to this European solidarity and their exemplary coordination with respect to other parts of the world like Asia, Latin America and Africa who look at this conflict from a very different lens and ruling out the concerned situation in hand as the "European War" and chooses to prefer their national sovereignty over active participation. The author viewed it as in how this difference in views posed a major challenge to the EU, who was seeking this war as a world problem with expectations ranging from state to state and looking at it as a collective responsibility to come together and participate on a much larger scale to avoid any further escalation than it already is.

Tocci's analysis also delves into the efficient management and tracing down the energy crisis arising due to the war. She acknowledges the EU's proactive measures to mitigate the impact of disrupted gas supplies from Russia, including diversifying energy sources, meeting storage targets, coordinating demand reduction efforts, and accelerating the transition towards renewable energy sources. These efforts, coupled with external factors such as a mild winter

and sluggish Chinese growth, have enabled the EU to avert the predicted economic recession and maintain a degree of energy security.

Nonetheless, Tocci was very cautious to bring the attention against complacency, emphasizing the major challenges that lie ahead. The risk of deindustrialization is almost eminent, fueled by high energy prices and the potential influence of the US Inflation Reduction Act, which could lure European companies across the Atlantic in pursuit of more favourable conditions. Tocci underscores the need for the EU to strike a delicate balance between security, affordability, and sustainability, highlighting the upcoming Net Zero Industry Act as a critical test of the Union's ability to navigate this trilemma efficiently.

Further beyond the energy situation, Tocci turns her attention to the EU's enlargement prospects and defence endeavours in the wake of the Ukrainian crisis. She acknowledges the revival of the EU's accession policy, with Ukraine and Moldova gaining candidate status, and the reinvigorated momentum in the Western Balkans region. However, Tocci raises questions about the sustainability of this momentum, given the institutional and decision-making reforms required within the EU to accommodate new members seamlessly.

On the defence front, Tocci applauds the EU's efforts to forefront its military capabilities, citing increased defence spendings among member states and the development of the European Peace Facility. However, she doesn't fail to point at the unavoidable situation which is: While the EU is taking measures to enhance its defence posture, its growing dependence on the United States for military support and defence capabilities could potentially undermine its foreign policy autonomy, particularly concerning its stance towards China.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION FROM THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE TEXT

The analysis on the Russia-Ukraine relationship and the ongoing war done by Tocci, for sure takes an active understanding and participation in understanding the intrinsic relationship between the EU, the United States and China while highlighting the differences between the approaches of the nations towards Beijing. While the US advocates for a decoupling of its economy from China's, driven by a competitive mindset, the EU's stance is rooted in a desire to "de-risk" its relationship with China, aiming to avoid vulnerabilities that could be exploited for strategic gains or interference. Tocci warns that the EU's increasing reliance on the US for defence capabilities could hinder its ability to chart an independent course vis-à-vis China, thereby constraining its foreign policy autonomy.

Furthermore, Tocci states the existing vulnerabilities and loopholes present in the European Union's defense front considering its dependence at large on the United States itself. This line of contention has directly to do with the rising image and dominance of China in the global arena with respect to its unprecedented rise in industries and economy alike and an already established Asian hegemon and how it is now directly in the sole competitive advantage against the United States, making it rightly nervous to pay attention to other related domains which earlier did not take much effort to not ignore them. Hence, the EU ultimately cannot afford to have dependent allies whose dependency ultimately hinders its capabilities and limiting its international maneuvering capabilities. Tocci argues that a strong and capable Europe, capable of safeguarding its security interests, aligns with the long-term strategic interests of the United States, an important relation that is gradually declining at the capitol.

Throughout her analysis of the situation, Tocci maintains that the balance of the perspectives remains raw and real eliminating any bias from a personal perspective by applauding the EU's stance in coming together as a formidable, maintaining untouched and unhindered unity against the Russian aggression which made the world nervous and is still doing it draining the peace and security of the population and military alike and at the same time she does not shy away from pointing out the vulnerabilities that the organization faces when it comes to the China question and the foreign policy maintenance with the United States. Her analysis of the energy management is equally nuanced while praising the EU's capabilities in efficient management of resources and at the same time the looming large issue of energy crisis and the present risk of deindustrialisation.

Overall, Nathalie Tocci's article, from a personal perspective is very well written, eliminating the bias from the situation and doing a proper analysis of the situation and at the same time acknowledging the developments the EU went through encompassing many spheres of management, diplomacy and question of identity, legitimacy and stance throughout the Russian invasion of Ukraine not shying away from any loopholes.