

Tensions escalate in Ukraine

2nd March, 2014



Tensions are escalating in Ukraine following last week's ousting of president Viktor Yanukovich. Weeks of street demonstrations led to Mr Yanukovich

leaving the country by helicopter in the middle of the night. Thousands of protestors in west Ukraine fought bloody battles in the capital, Kiev. Scores of people died in the violence, many shot by riot police. The protestors were demanding the resignation of Mr Yanukovich, economic reforms, and closer ties with the European Union. The east of the country did not see the levels of violence witnessed in the capital, largely because most people there voted for Yanukovich and lean more towards Russia than the EU.

The White House has said it no longer considers Mr Yanukovich to be the president of Ukraine. The U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry also warned Russia not to intervene in Ukrainian affairs. A White House spokesman said: "We strongly support Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty." Fears are increasing that Ukraine could break in two as pro-Russian separatists are becoming more active, especially in the autonomous region of Crimea. Armed gunmen wearing Russian military uniforms were reportedly guarding Crimea's main airport on Friday. Ukraine's acting president Oleksander Turchynov warned Russia against "military aggression" after Russia mobilised 150,000 troops near the Ukrainian border.

Sources: *The Telegraph* / *The Moscow Times*

Writing

It's always better to give separatists what they want. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

tensions / street demonstrations / helicopter / bloody battles / resignation / capital / intervene / spokesman / support / integrity / autonomous / uniforms / mobilised

True / False

- a) Ukraine's president fled Ukraine in a speed boat along the Black Sea. T / F
- b) Riot police were responsible for the deaths of hundreds of protestors. T / F
- c) Protestors were calling for economic reforms. T / F
- d) The violence in the east was worse than that in the capital Kiev. T / F
- e) The USA no longer recognizes Viktor Yanukovich as president. T / F
- f) The article says Russia warned the USA not to intervene in Ukraine. T / F
- g) People are worried Ukraine could split into two countries. T / F
- h) Russia has sent over 145,000 soldiers to wait near Ukraine's border. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. escalating | a. calling for |
| 2. demonstrations | b. self-governing |
| 3. bloody | c. protests |
| 4. demanding | d. provisional |
| 5. largely | e. hostility |
| 6. intervene | f. rising |
| 7. autonomous | g. soldiers |
| 8. acting | h. brutal |
| 9. aggression | i. get involved |
| 10. troops | j. mainly |

Discussion – Student A

- a) Does Russia have a right to intervene in Ukraine?
- b) Will Ukraine have the same borders in 20 years from now?
- c) What would happen regionally if Ukraine split in two?
- d) Can you see the U.S. and Russia fighting a war over Ukraine?
- e) Should Crimea become a separate country?
- f) Why are men in Russian uniforms guarding a Ukrainian airport?
- g) Is Russia wrong to send 150,000 troops to the Ukraine border?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Ukraine's president?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. street | a. region of Crimea |
| 2. fought bloody | b. with the European Union |
| 3. closer ties | c. aggression |
| 4. the levels of violence | d. demonstrations |
| 5. lean more towards | e. Russian military uniforms |
| 6. Ukraine's territorial integrity | f. battles |
| 7. the autonomous | g. 150,000 troops |
| 8. Armed gunmen wearing | h. Russia than the EU |
| 9. military | i. and sovereignty |
| 10. Russia mobilised | j. witnessed in the capital |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the history of Ukraine?
- How interested are you in what's happening in Ukraine?
- How worried are you about what's happening in Ukraine?
- Did the protestors win a victory when the president fled?
- Should Ukraine follow Europe or Russia?
- What would make you protest in the street?
- Do you think there will be civil war in Ukraine?
- What things is Ukraine most famous for?

Spelling

- last week's otgnsui of president Viktor Yanukovich
- street niotoetrdassnm
- fought oblyod battles in the capital
- cessro of people died in the violence
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- levels of violence wdsneteis in the capital
- warned Russia not to evnneteir
- We strongly support Ukraine's territorial etgiitry
- pro-Russian iepsttsaar
- the smaouonout region of Crimea
- rgadgiun Crimea's main airport
- military irogasngse

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. h	4. a	5. j
6. i	7. b	8. d	9.	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Immigration

You think immigration is the biggest source of tension. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): unemployment, the cost of living or inequality.

Role B – Unemployment

You think unemployment is the biggest source of tension. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): immigration, the cost of living or inequality.

Role C – Cost of living

You think the cost of living is the biggest source of tension. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): unemployment, immigration or inequality.

Role D – Inequality

You think inequality is the biggest source of tension. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): unemployment, the cost of living or immigration.

Speaking -

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest tensions at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| • immigration | • environmental issues |
| • policing | • freedom |
| • unemployment | • elitism |
| • pensions | • rising prices |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.