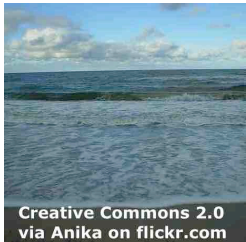


Germany closes gas pipeline amid Ukraine crisis

24th February, 2022



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Germany has announced it has closed the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that was due to transport natural gas from Russia to Europe. It did this because of Russia's actions in Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin recognised two breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine as independent countries. President Putin claimed the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic were separate nations. Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz said: "In light of the most recent developments, we must reassess the situation...regarding Nord Stream 2." He warned that Europe faced "difficult hours," and that, "almost 80 years after the end of the Second World War, we might see a new war in Eastern Europe".

Nord Stream 2 is a 1,200-km-long pipeline that runs under the Baltic Sea. Closing it is one of many sanctions that Western nations have made against Russia. The United Kingdom announced the first of its sanctions after Mr Putin said troops could enter the two rebel-held regions of eastern Ukraine. The U.K. will freeze the assets of five Russian banks and three Russian billionaires (who have also been given travel bans). U.S. President Joe Biden has said the USA would announce sanctions soon. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko said Russia was not planning to invade Ukraine. He told reporters: "No one is planning to send anything anywhere. If there is a threat, then we will provide assistance."

Sources: cnn.com / rt.com / bbc.com

Writing

There is a danger of a world war starting because of the Ukraine crisis. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Germany / Nord Stream 2 / natural gas / Ukraine / difficult hours / 80 years / war / Baltic Sea / sanctions / Western nations / troops / billionaires / travel ban / threat

True / False

- 1) The name of the gas pipeline is the North Stream 1. T / F
- 2) Russia has recognised two regions of eastern Ukraine as being republics. T / F
- 3) Germany's Chancellor said there was no need to reassess the situation. T / F
- 4) Germany's Chancellor said there was no chance of a war in Europe. T / F
- 5) The gas pipeline is under the Baltic Sea. T / F
- 6) The U.K. has imposed sanctions on some Russian billionaires. T / F
- 7) Joe Biden said he has no plans for any sanctions. T / F
- 8) Russia's deputy foreign minister said his country would provide help. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. announced | a. penalties |
| 2. regions | b. facts |
| 3. separate | c. danger |
| 4. situation | d. valuables |
| 5. war | e. declared |
| 6. sanctions | f. take over |
| 7. assets | g. conflict |
| 8. invade | h. areas |
| 9. threat | i. help |
| 10. assistance | j. independent |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about Vladimir Putin?
- c) What do you think of sanctions?
- d) How much will the UK's sanctions hurt Russia?
- e) What would you do to end this crisis?
- f) What does your country's leader say about the crisis?
- g) What do you think the situation will be like in a month's time?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Vladimir Putin?

Phrase Match

- transport natural gas
- two breakaway regions
- In light of the most recent
- we must reassess the situation
- 80 years after the end of the
- a 1,200-km-long
- Closing it is one
- troops could enter the two
- the USA would announce sanctions
- If there is a threat, then we will
- pipeline
- regarding Nord Stream 2
- soon
- Second World War
- in eastern Ukraine
- rebel-held regions
- developments
- provide assistance
- of many sanctions
- from Russia to Europe

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Ukraine?
- What do you know about the Nord Stream 2 pipeline?
- What has caused the current crisis?
- Should the breakaway regions be recognised internationally?
- What is the relationship between Russia and Ukraine?
- Who is right and who is wrong in this crisis?
- Do you think this crisis will lead to a European war?
- What advice do you have for Vladimir Putin?

Spelling

- Germany has naecnodun it has closed...
- transport naulrta gas
- two breakaway rgsioen
- separate tasonni
- we must ssaaesr the situation
- Europe faced udlticiff hours
- one of many aoscisntr
- Mr Putin said oports could enter
- eestarn Ukraine
- three Russian riieisollban
- Russia was not planning to evandi Ukraine
- we will provide nicssaaets

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Vladimir Putin

You think Vladimir Putin is the best actor to resolve the Ukraine crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their actors wouldn't be as good. Also, tell the others which would be the least effective of these (and why): Joe Biden, NATO or the Russian people.

Role B – Joe Biden

You think Joe Biden is the best actor to resolve the Ukraine crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their actors wouldn't be as good. Also, tell the others which would be the least effective of these (and why): Vladimir Putin, NATO or the Russian people.

Role C – NATO

You think NATO is the best actor to resolve the Ukraine crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their actors wouldn't be as good. Also, tell the others which would be the least effective of these (and why): Joe Biden, Vladimir Putin or the Russian people.

Role D – The Russian People

You think the Russian people are the best actors to resolve the Ukraine crisis. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their actors wouldn't be as good. Also, tell the others which would be the least effective of these (and why): Joe Biden, NATO or Vladimir Putin.

Speaking – Who can help?

Rank these with your partner. Put the actors who would be best at helping the Ukraine crisis at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Vladimir Putin
- China
- NATO
- The EU
- The United Nations
- The Russian people
- Ukraine's leader
- Joe Biden

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 F	4 F	5 T	6 T	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.