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RUSSIA-UKRAINE TENSIONS

Russia –Ukraine Tensions (Nov, 2018)

- ❖ Russia attacked and captured Ukraine ships.
- ❖ Russia has fired on & seized 3 Ukraine naval vessels off the Crimean Peninsula in a major escalation of tensions between the 2 countries
- ❖ 2 gunboats and a tug were captured by Russians force. A number of Ukraine crew members were injured.
- ❖ Each country blames the other for the incident.

How it is unfolded:-

- ❖ The crisis began when Russia accused the Ukraine ships of illegally entering its waters.
- ❖ The Russians placed a tanker under a bridge in the Kerch Strait –the only access to the sea of Azov, which is shared between the 2 countries.

Both countries blaming each other:-

- ❖ Under a 2003 treaty between Moscow & kiev, the Kerch strait & the sea of Azov are shared territorial waters.
- ❖ But recently there, Russia began inspecting all vessels sailing to or from Ukrianian ports.

Accusation on Russia:-

- ❖ Ukraine says Russia's actions have violated the treaty, as well as the United Nations Law of the sea, which should gurantee access through the strait.
- ❖ Russian officials said the Ukraine ships were maneuvering dangerously, requiring the strait to be temporarily closed for safety.

US Security Council:

- ❖ The UN Security Council will hold on emergency meeting on Monday to discuss the escalation.
- ❖ Ukraine Presidents Petro Poroshenko has asked parliament to vote Monday on whether to impose martial law on the country for 60 days.