STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

Why is Russia attacking Ukraine's energy sector?

International Relations

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Why is Russia attacking Ukraine's energy sector?

Russia is targeting Ukraine’s energy sector as part of a strategic effort to weaken the country’s ability to function, fight, and support its population during the war. **Here are the key reasons**:

1. To cripple Ukraine’s military and industrial capability

The Energy powers

- Military bases
- Air-defense systems
- Communication networks
- Arms production
- Destroying power grids reduces Ukraine’s overall war-fighting capacity.

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2. To create civilian pressure by causing blackouts

By attacking electricity, heating, and water systems—especially in winter—Russia aims to:

- Make living conditions extremely difficult
- Cause mass displacement
- Create internal pressure on the Ukrainian government
- This is meant to break morale.

3. To disrupt Ukraine’s economy

Power shortages affect:

- Factories
- Transportation
- Government operations
- Businesses
- Weakening the economy reduces Ukraine’s ability to sustain long-term war efforts.

4. To exhaust Ukraine’s air-defense systems

- Large waves of drones + missiles force Ukraine to use expensive interceptor missiles.
- This weakens Ukraine’s air-defense stockpile over time.

5. To gain leverage in geopolitical negotiations

By targeting essential infrastructure, Russia tries to:

- Increase Ukraine’s dependence on international aid
- Pressure Western countries
- Strengthen its bargaining position in any future talks

6. Winter warfare strategy

- Energy attacks during cold months magnify the impact, as millions rely on electricity for heating.
- This is meant to maximize humanitarian and psychological pressure.

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