# China's Economic Leverage Over Russia Amid Ukraine War Raises Geopolitical Concerns



China holds significant economic leverage over Russia amid the ongoing war in Ukraine. Following the West's imposition of sanctions on Russia after its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russia's economic reliance on China has deepened. With Western countries halting imports of Russian oil and gas, Russia faces diminished revenue from these crucial exports.

China has emerged as the primary market for Russian energy exports, given Europe's successful shift to other energy sources. This dependence is evident as the Chinese yuan now constitutes 54% of trades on Russia’s stock exchange, replacing the void left by the global banking system. Furthermore, China is responsible for around 90% of Russia's imports of critical dual-use goods necessary for military hardware production.

Western leaders have considered sanctions against China, accusing it of sustaining Russia’s war efforts through material support. The West's efforts to navigate this geopolitical landscape involve balancing economic interdependence with China, especially concerning technology and energy needs.

In conclusion, China’s economic influence places it in a position to potentially pressure Russia to cease hostilities in Ukraine. However, the interplay of economic sanctions, energy dependencies, and geopolitical strategies continues to shape the dynamics between China, Russia, and the West.