International Relations · GS - II

“A durable peace settlement in an interstate conflict must reconcile territorial integrity, national sovereignty and the security concerns of the parties involved.” Analyse this proposition in the context of the Russia–Ukraine conflict.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 13/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

UN Charter, territorial integrity, sovereignty, self-determination, use of force, NATO expansion debate, security guarantees, role of great powers, European participation, diplomatic negotiations.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Russia–Ukraine conflict highlights the tension between territorial sovereignty, competing security perceptions and the principles governing the use of force under international law.

Major Issues in a Peace Settlement

- **Territorial integrity:** Ukraine's internationally recognised borders raise questions concerning the legality of territorial acquisition through force.
- **Sovereignty:** Decisions regarding alliances and foreign policy fall within a state's sovereign authority.
- **Security concerns:** Russia's objections to NATO expansion and Ukraine's demand for credible security guarantees reflect competing strategic perceptions.

- **International law:** Any settlement must consider the UN Charter's prohibition on the use of force and the principle of sovereign equality.
- **External involvement:** Participation by the United States and European countries can influence negotiations and implementation.

Way Forward

A sustainable settlement requires inclusive negotiations, respect for international law, credible security arrangements, humanitarian protections and effective monitoring mechanisms. Diplomatic engagement should also address reconstruction and the long-term stability of the region.

Conclusion

Peace cannot rest solely on military calculations or temporary territorial arrangements. A durable settlement must balance legitimate security concerns with sovereignty, territorial integrity and international legal principles.

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