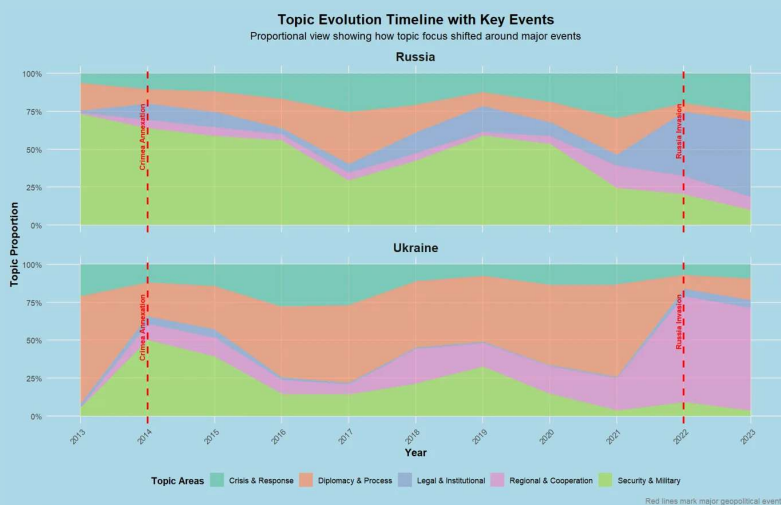
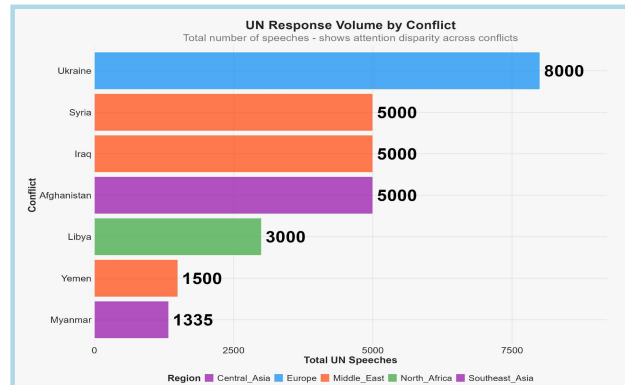


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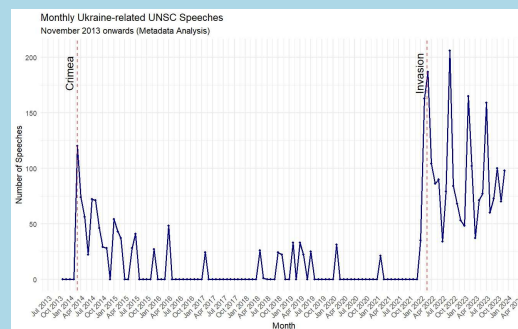
A Text-as-Data Approach to the Russo-Ukrainian War (2014-2023)

MOTIVATION The Russo-Ukrainian conflict that began in 2014 after the Euromaidan protests and the annexation of Crimea represents THE CONFLICT on European soil since the Yugoslav wars. The international community's response (both rhetorically and financially) has been unprecedented in scale, which can also be seen in the fact that over 8,000 speeches on the conflict were delivered at the UNSC mentioning the conflict. This far exceeds the diplomatic attention that was given to other major crises such as Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan. This extraordinary volume of discourse not only reflects the conflict's geopolitical significance but also reveals the deeply polarized nature of international responses that has ensued that conflict and that have shaped how the crisis is understood.

RESEARCH QUESTION Can text data analysis of UN Security Council speeches reveal both distinct geopolitical blocs and their evolving narrative strategies throughout the Russo-Ukrainian conflict from 2014 to 2023?



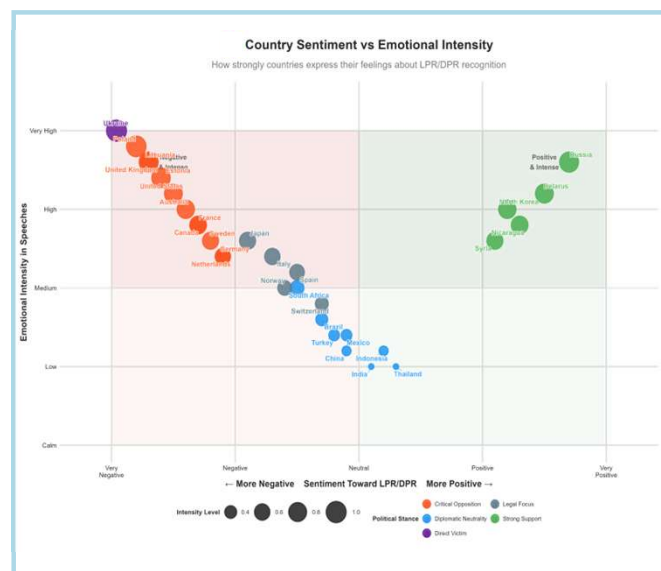
DESCRIPTION Using speech similarity analysis as a metric, we examine the evolution of speech patterns to identify geopolitically coherent blocs within UN Security Council debates. The analysis tracks how different actors **frame** key issues over time, with particular attention to the prevalence of security-focused language and cooperation themes. The timeline visualization reveals critical shifts in narrative emphasis. In particular when we compare Russian and Ukrainian rhetorical strategies across different phases of the conflict, we find significant changes from the initial 2014 annexation through (and after) the full-scale invasion of February 2022.



RESULTS The analysis reveals us **three key findings**:

First, distinct geopolitical blocs can be identified through speech similarity patterns, demonstrating clear diplomatic alignments that persist throughout the conflict period.

Second, Russia's framing in security terms was most prevalent in 2014, establishing early justifications for territorial actions.



Third, Ukraine's emphasis on cooperation themes peaked during the invasion year of 2022. This serves us as a strong indicator of the bloc logic that emerged following the February 2022 escalation (and which is already present in how the DPR and LPR are framed). These patterns suggest that diplomatic discourse both reflects, represents and also reinforces the dynamics of the international response to the conflict.