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IMPACT OF RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION ON UKRAINE ON THE EU'S DEVELOPMENT

The war in Ukraine has profoundly disrupted the European peace order and global economy, forcing the EU to defend its core values and highlighting the enduring appeal of this democratic community (10). To preserve its decision-making capacity across 27 member states, the EU must urgently restructure its internal policies and enhance its external actions by forging strategic alliances with the Global South (1). This complex geopolitical reality is reflected through diverse theoretical frameworks: neorealism emphasizes the absolute priority of state security and survival in an anarchic world (5); liberalism explains international cooperation as a tool to serve the group's shared interests (9); and constructivism views the international system as a flexible structure continuously reshaped by European actors and institutions (7). Furthermore, while intergovernmentalism underscores the potential inefficiency caused by unanimity and veto powers in foreign policy, functionalism illustrates how European states collectively evolve by progressively ceding sovereignty within specific domains like trade and defense (3).

Keywords: *Russia–Ukraine war; European Union; European integration; sanctions; energy security; geopolitical competition.*

Introduction

The invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces began on 24 February 2022. This indiscriminate invasion has turned large parts of Ukraine into a war zone and thousands of people were had to leave their homes. The EU reacted quickly and decisively to this Russian aggression. Extensive sanctions were imposed on Russia. It has intensified its political, economic and financial support measures for the Ukrainian economy, Ukrainian civil society and for the future economic and social reconstruction of Ukraine. For almost 4 years now, Ukraine has been resisting the aggressor Russia and protecting its and thus European freedoms and fundamental values. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is an attack on peace and democracy. (6)

The subsequent questions emerged for this research report regarding "The Impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the EU's progression":

- What is the importance and extent of the conflict in Ukraine for the European Union?
- What steps should the EU implement in reaction to these challenges?

An overview: Russian aggression against Ukraine and the consequences for the EU

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, stated: "Ukraine has become central to our continent. Here, our values are honored, our freedom is safeguarded, and Europe's future is shaped".

The conflict in Ukraine presents a challenge to the European Community. The transatlantic peace framework, as well as the global economic structure, seems to be destabilized. The European Union has confronted the crisis, acknowledging both its potential and its challenges.(6)

In response to Russia's recognition of the non-government-controlled areas in Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions on February 21, 2022, and the unjustified military action against Ukraine starting on February 24, 2022, the EU enacted additional sanctions against Russia. These actions supplement the sanctions that have been in place against Russia since 2014 as a result of the annexation of Crimea and the country's noncompliance with the Minsk Agreement. In 2023, the European Council of the European Union. Europe has been rocked

by Russia's action against Ukraine. The European Community of States was put to the test both domestically and internationally. Support for Ukraine required a European consensus because it demanded sanctions against Russia. Support for Ukraine required a European consensus because it demanded sanctions against Russia. Additionally, the conflict occurred during a period of significant change that the European Union is already dealing with: the digital and ecological transformations. At the same time, the growing systemic competition with authoritarian regimes is putting further pressure on Europe to take action.(2)

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called the European scenario a "epochal change" on February 24, 2022. Among other reasons, this indicates that the "security order" that was established in Europe following the resolution of the East-West conflict is breaking down. For more than a decade, this security order – which has given Western Europe stability and comparatively modest security expenditures – has been falling apart. Before President Putin launched the massive offensive in Ukraine in 2022, Russia attacked Georgia in 2008, annexed Crimea in 2014, and began a battle over the Donbass that claimed over 12,000 lives in eight years.(1)

Europe has been working closely with the United States to implement a three-pronged approach since the beginning of the war. First, in an effort to better defend themselves and bolster military deterrence against Russia, numerous European nations have raised their defense budgets. After China and the United States, Germany now has the greatest defense spending in the European Union and ranks third globally. This is because of the 100 billion euro "special fund" that was agreed upon in the spring of 2022. With an eye toward Poland and the Baltic republics, NATO has bolstered alliance defense on its eastern flank. Sweden and Finland participated in NATO membership negotiations.

The state's territorial sovereignty in Ukraine was once again violated by this: The deportation of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians to Russia, rape, killings of civilians and POWs, and inhumane acts are all documented as war crimes. He clearly meant to

eliminate Ukrainian identity and culture, as evidenced by his words, the burning of publications written in Ukrainian, the prohibition of the Ukrainian language, and the deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia for reeducation. Ukraine is making enormous efforts to repel the Russian onslaught militarily with the help of Europe and the transatlantic. Since Belarus is already ruled by Russia, President Putin and his Foreign Minister Lavrov have threatened repeatedly to expand the conflict to other former Soviet countries, such as a portion of the Republic of Moldova. Additionally, it seeks to weaken support for Ukraine and destabilize the democratic nations of the CIS. Thus, Russia poses a security risk. It goes far beyond the boundaries of Ukraine. Respect for international law and territorial self-determination cannot be taken for granted everywhere.(4)

Comprehensive support for Ukraine from the EU

Just 0.1% of GDP is invested in Germany, France, and Italy, compared to 0.6% in Poland and less than 1% in Latvia and Estonia, which both spend on development assistance. This has nothing to do with a nation's size. The UK serves as an example of this, with around 0.25 percent. However, Germany is contributing significantly: with approximately 6.6 billion euros, it is the second-largest bilateral donor to Ukraine globally, after the United States (42 billion euros). In terms of arms deliveries, Germany comes in fourth place, behind the United States, the United Kingdom, and Poland.(11)

Ukraine is receiving all-encompassing assistance from Germany and the EU. As part of the "European Peace Facility," the EU provides Ukraine with economic and military help in addition to individual EU members. For July 2012, 55.3 billion euros were promised. The European Union's member states are obviously different from one another. The degree of support increases with a member state's geographic proximity to Ukraine. Thirdly, in a rather short period of time, the EU adopted six comprehensive sanctions measures in February 2022. Along with a comprehensive technological embargo aimed at harming Russia militarily, the

economic penalties also include actions against the Russian central bank and banking sector. The sanctions provide a significant obstacle for the European side, especially in the energy sector. Europe faces significant challenges as a result of the sanctions, especially with regard to energy supplies. (1)

This highlights the gravity of the Russian threat. Although country-specific exemptions were required to reach a quorum, oil imports are now being steadily reduced with the fifth sanctions package, which was ratified in May 2022. Even if Russia would profit in the short run from the dramatic increase in oil prices, the sanctions and the costs of the war might send the country into its worst economic crisis since the 1990s. At a time when the world economy is still recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict and the sanctions that go along with it are having an impact. (1)

The discussion about the EU's reliance on Russian energy, which was already occurring in relation to the 2014 annexation of Crimea, has gained new immediacy. The discussion about the EU's reliance on Russian energy, which was already going on in relation to the 2014 annexation of Crimea, has heated up. The European Commission is pushing for unified energy purchases in an effort to increase supply security and leverage European purchasing power in pricing talks. Germany aims to reduce its reliance on imports from individual energy providers, according to Chancellor Scholz's announcement. Germany's gas imports from Russia decreased from 55% to less than 30% between February and July 2022, while its reliance on the EU decreased from approximately 45% to less than 30%. (1)

However, there were genuine concerns that if Russia stopped supplying, there might be a gas shortage in some regions of Europe in the winter of 2022–2023. In comparison to the average of the previous five years, member states are expected to cut their gas usage by 15% between August 2022 and March 2023, according to the emergency gas plan that was adopted at the end of July. However, if there are additional supply constraints, this could not be sufficient. European solidarity would be severely strained

by this. But in the medium run, this crisis is also likely to boost the EU internal market if the EU moves closer to a true energy union. (1)

Intensification of the global geopolitical systemic competition

It seems that the geopolitical systemic struggle is getting more intense. The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the international responses to it have widened the gap between authoritarian governments and liberal democracies, making European unity even more crucial. There are three concerns that are noteworthy from European standpoint.

The ongoing reconciliation between China and Russia is one aspect. Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping confirmed their authoritarian worldview in Beijing just before conflict broke out. Nonetheless, the nations are advocating for greater economic cooperation in energy policy. Even while China no longer formally supplies weapons or aids Russia in evading sanctions, military cooperation has continued despite the conflict. Nonetheless, it is undeniable that both parties are attempting to unite their ideologies and emulate the political "West" in order to appropriate countries that are still unsure. (8)

Second, the economic detachment of authoritarian regimes from the political West is posing a challenge to the European economic model. A favorable energy supply and accessible sales marketplaces in Europe and the rest of the world have been the foundations of economic progress in recent decades. There are significant reliance on China for commerce and Russia for energy. Therefore, it is crucial that both business and politics mitigate political risks and their own vulnerabilities. For example, this can be achieved through self-sufficiency, competitiveness, and diversification in vital industries like healthcare and IT. (1)

They also need to be ready for the reality that authoritarian governments are accelerating the decoupling process. China can lessen its reliance on Europeans and Americans to become more conflict-capable and less susceptible to sanctions in terms of foreign and security policy, much like Russia can do by cutting its energy supplies to influence politics. (1)

Thirdly, this issue has a significant world-wide influence that goes beyond the humanitarian catastrophes it has caused. Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine are the top exporters of fertilizers, grain, and vegetable oil. Their prices are skyrocketing because of the decline in exports. Famines and food shortages follow. More than 100 nations are currently under danger due to political unrest or natural disasters. Ideological adversaries are taking advantage of this circumstance to undermine the Western global order.

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Xülasə

Fərid Bəhramlı

Rusiyanın Ukraynaya qarşı təcavüzünün Avropa İttifaqının inkişafına təsiri

Ukraynadakı müharibə Avropa sülh nizamını və qlobal iqtisadiyyatı dərinədən sarsıtmış, Aİ-ni öz fundamental dəyərlərini müdafiə etməyə məcbur etmiş və bu demokratik birliyin daimi cəlbədiciyini vurğulamışdır (10). 27 üzv dövlət arasında qərar qəbul etmə qabiliyyətini qoruyub saxlamaq üçün Aİ təcili olaraq daxili siyasətini yenidən qurmalı (1) və Qlobal Cənub ilə strateji ittifaqlar yaradaraq xarici fəaliyyətini gücləndirməlidir (1). Bu mürəkkəb geosiyasi reallıq müxtəlif nəzəri çərçivələr vasitəsilə əks olunur: neorealizm anarxik dünyada dövlət təhlükəsizliyinin və sağ qalmanın mütləq prioritetini vurğulayır (5); liberalizm beynəlxalq əməkdaşlığı qrupun ortaq maraqlarına xidmət edən bir vasitə kimi izah edir (9); konstruktivizm isə beynəlxalq sistemi Avropa aktorları və institutları tərəfindən davamlı olaraq yenidən formalaşdırılan çevik bir struktur kimi nəzərdən keçirir (7). Bundan əlavə, hökumətlərarası yanaşma (intergovernmentalism) xarici siyasətdə yekdillik

prinsipi və veto hüququnun yaratdığı potensial səmərəsizliyi qeyd etdiyi halda, funksionalizm Avropa dövlətlərinin ticarət və müdafiə kimi xüsusi sahələrdə suverenliyi mərhələli şəkildə güzəştə gedərək kollektiv şəkildə necə inkişaf etdiyini nümayiş etdirir (3).

Açar sözlər: *Rusiya-Ukrayna müharibəsi; Avropa İttifaqı; Avropa integrasiyası; sanksiyalar; enerji təhlükəsizliyi; geosiyasi rəqabət.*

Резюме

Фарид Бахрамлы

Влияние агрессии России против Украины на развитие ЕС

Война в Украине глубоко нарушила европейский мирный порядок и глобальную экономику, вынудив ЕС защищать свои ключевые ценности и подчеркнув непреходящую привлекательность этого демократического сообщества (10). Чтобы сохранить способность принимать решения в рамках 27 государств-членов, ЕС необходимо срочно перестроить свою внутреннюю политику (1) и активизировать внешние действия путем создания стратегических альянсов с Глобальным Югом (1). Эта сложная геополитическая реальность отражается через различные теоретические подходы: неореализм подчеркивает абсолютный приоритет государственной безопасности и выживания в анархичном мире (5); либерализм объясняет международное сотрудничество как инструмент служения общим интересам группы (9); а конструктивизм рассматривает международную систему как гибкую структуру, непрерывно перестраиваемую европейскими акторами и институтами (7). Кроме того, в то время как интергouvernementализм (межправительственный подход) подчеркивает потенциальную неэффективность, вызванную принципом единогласия и правом вето во внешней политике, функционализм иллюстрирует, как европейские государства коллективно развиваются путем постепенной передачи суверенитета в определенных областях, таких как торговля и оборона (3).

Ключевые слова: *Российско-украинская война; Европейский союз; европейская интеграция; санкции; энергетическая безопасность; геополитическая конкуренция.*