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## **APPLYING THE EXPERIENCE OF EU COUNTRIES IN SHAPING SECURITY POLICY IN UKRAINE**

## **ЗАСТОСУВАННЯ ДОСВІДУ КРАЇН ЄС У ФОРМУВАННІ ПОЛІТИКИ БЕЗПЕКИ В УКРАЇНІ**

*This study examines the transformation of Ukraine's national security system in the context of ongoing armed aggression and the need to implement Euro-Atlantic standards. The relevance of this work stems from the need to adapt national legislation to the requirements of the Association Agreement with the*

*EU and the experience of NATO countries, which necessitates a review of existing regulatory acts and the introduction of modern management mechanisms. The evolution of the armed conflict since 2014 is analyzed as a consequence of the Russian Federation's violation of fundamental international agreements (the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act). Particular attention is paid to the transition from hybrid warfare tactics to the full-scale invasion of 2022, which served as a catalyst for a paradigm shift in state governance: from a reactive model of "passive defense" to a proactive strategy of deterrence. It is argued that the modern security architecture must be based on the synergy of "hard" (military power) and "soft" (social cohesion, diplomacy) power. The author emphasizes that the implementation of civilian control over the security sector is a fundamental safeguard against corruption and the usurpation of power. It has been found that, in addition to military threats, the demographic crisis, mass migration, environmental damage, and the need to reintegrate veterans represent critical challenges to Ukraine's sustainable development. It is concluded that ensuring national security requires a comprehensive approach that combines the technological modernization of the Armed Forces with the creation of a favorable socio-economic climate for the preservation and return of human capital.*

**Keywords:** *public administration, national security, Euro-Atlantic integration, hybrid warfare, regulatory adaptation, human capital, state resilience.*

*У роботі досліджено трансформацію системи національної безпеки України в умовах триваючої збройної агресії та необхідності імплементації євроатлантичних стандартів. Актуальність роботи зумовлена потребою адаптації національного законодавства до вимог Угоди про асоціацію з ЄС та досвіду країн НАТО, що вимагає перегляду існуючих нормативно-правових актів та впровадження сучасних управлінських механізмів. Проаналізовано еволюцію збройного конфлікту, починаючи з 2014 року, як наслідок порушення російською федерацією фундаментальних міжнародних угод (Статуту ООН, Гельсінського заключного акта). Особливу увагу приділено переходу від тактик гібридної війни до повномасштабного вторгнення 2022 року, що стало*

*каталізатором для зміни парадигми державного управління: від реактивної моделі «пасивного захисту» до проактивної стратегії стримування. Обґрунтовано, що сучасна архітектура безпеки має базуватися на синергії «жорсткої» (військова потужність) та «м'якої» (соціальна згуртованість, дипломатія) сили. Автор наголошує, що впровадження цивільного контролю над сектором безпеки є фундаментальним запобіжником проти корупції та узурпації влади. Виявлено, що окрім воєнних загроз, критичними викликами для сталого розвитку України є демографічна криза, масова міграція, екологічні збитки та необхідність реінтеграції ветеранів. Зроблено висновок, що забезпечення національної безпеки потребує комплексного підходу, який поєднує технологічну модернізацію Збройних Сил із формуванням сприятливого соціально-економічного клімату для збереження та повернення людського капіталу.*

**Ключові слова:** *публічне управління, національна безпека, євроатлантична інтеграція, гібридна війна, нормативно-правова адаптація, людський капітал, стійкість держави.*

Problem statement. In order to bring national legislation into line with the requirements of regulatory acts specifically, in accordance with the Association Agreement on Ukraine's accession to the EU and the implementation of best practices from EU and NATO countries-there is a pressing need to analyze and take steps to amend Ukraine's regulatory acts.

Thus, today, in an era of rapid technological development and global changes in the world, issues regarding the adaptation of legislation are highly relevant. The goal of such adaptation is to incorporate modern best practices and develop new approaches to implementing governance mechanisms specifically, addressing the contemporary challenges that arise during the active development of the state across all spheres of life, as well as when formulating plans for its further development in economic and political activities and on the global stage.

That is, the start of the armed aggression in 2014, which occurred due to violations of treaties, agreements, and obligations on the part of the leadership

of the Russian Federation specifically, violations of the following legal documents governing the fundamental relations between the successor states: "On the Establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States" dated December 8, 1991[2], the Charter of the United Nations [15], and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Final Act) [3] by violating territorial integrity, specifically by employing elements and tactics of information and hybrid warfare: interference in a state's internal politics through the use of new methods of waging geopolitical wars and achieving political objectives.

It should be noted that, despite the use of hybrid warfare tactics between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, the effectiveness of achieving objectives has been limited, as our country has adopted a policy of deterrence and passive defense, utilizing conflict resolution mechanisms and seeking international support. It should be noted that the aggressive, expansionist policy of the Russian Federation's leadership led to the next stage of deterioration in relations between the two states, which escalated into full-scale hostilities initiated by the Russian Federation on the morning of February 24, 2022, along the entire length of Ukraine's state border, following the violation of the state border by the Russian Federation's armed forces and the prior delivery of strategic and ballistic strikes against critical and military infrastructure.

It should be noted that the issue of national security-following the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in 2014, and the deterioration of relations with the Russian Federation due to the annexation of part of Ukraine's territory is highly relevant but, in light of external and internal threats, requires updating and further scientific research.

Analysis of recent research and publications Issues of national security are the focus of attention for a wide range of scholars. In particular, the general aspects of this topic have been studied by a group of authors, including V. Bakumenko, A. Degtyar, I. The theoretical and methodological foundation for research in this field was laid by the works of scholars such as V. Bachinin, V. Vovk, O. Hryshchuk, O. Danilyan, A. Kozlovsky, and others. At the same time, S. Abakumov, O. Belkov, V. Gorbulin, V. Lipkan, H. Sytnik, L. Chekalenko. Drawing

on this extensive body of theoretical work has made it possible to thoroughly examine the essence of a state's national security in the context of building a civil society.

Presentation of the main material: An investigation into the contemporary challenges and threats facing Ukraine requires a retrospective analysis of the evolution of the domestic national security sphere, which began its conceptual formation in the early 20th century and acquired a qualitatively new meaning after the country gained state sovereignty in 1991. Changes in the geopolitical environment, globalization processes, and the gradual decline in the influence of international security institutions established in the post-war period for the peaceful resolution of conflicts actualize the objective need to rethink and modernize security doctrines. The fundamental principles of the state's national security are enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine [16]. Specifically, Article 18 defines the provision of national security as one of the key guidelines of the state's foreign policy, while Article 34 establishes the legitimate possibility of restricting the exercise of citizens' constitutional rights in the interests of national security. Furthermore, Article 92 stipulates that the foundations of national security are determined exclusively by the laws of Ukraine.

The Basic Law also establishes a clear institutional distribution: the President of Ukraine acts as the guarantor of state sovereignty and security; the National Security and Defense Council serves as the coordinating body; and the Cabinet of Ministers is responsible for the practical implementation of relevant measures. Certain constitutional articles determine specific components of security without explicitly classifying them as elements of national security; for instance, Article 16 establishes the state's duty to ensure environmental security, while Article 17 declares the protection of economic and information security, as well as the defense of the state border, to be the most important functions of the state [16].

State policy in the field of security is implemented through a hierarchical system of strategic and regulatory acts, where the Law of Ukraine "On National Security"[18] serves as the basic architectural element, further detailed through the National Security Strategy, the Military Security Strategy, the Strategy for the Development of the Defense-Industrial Complex, and the Cybersecurity

Strategy. An analysis of the security concepts of allied countries demonstrates a comprehensive approach to identifying global threats. For instance, Japan's 2013 National Security Strategy identifies key challenges such as shifts in the balance of power, rapid technological development, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, threats to global resources, and challenges to human development [11]. Similarly, the 2022 US National Security Strategy defines the current decade as decisive for formalizing the terms of geopolitical competition among major powers, emphasizing the imperative of adhering to the principles of self-determination, territorial integrity, and political independence, as well as the need to strengthen international institutions, protect human rights, and ensure equal conditions and opportunities within the global economy [13]. Ukraine's national security is currently challenged by a complex matrix of external and internal threats. Externally, the state confronts direct military aggression aimed at territorial occupation, state-sponsored terrorism, the systematic destruction of energy and economic infrastructure, information and cyber warfare, and the latent influence of hostile organized crime.

These specific threats are further amplified by the modern paradigm of globalization, which facilitates transnational crimes such as illicit trafficking, ideological extremism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Concurrently, domestic vulnerabilities persist, necessitating continuous efforts to eradicate systemic corruption, abuse of office, and information manipulation through advanced digital oversight mechanisms, including electronic declarations and transparent public procurement systems. In response to these multidimensional challenges, the state's primary strategic objectives encompass repelling the armed aggression to restore the 1991 territorial borders, securing critical infrastructure, and mitigating the socio-economic consequences of the war. This involves driving infrastructural and economic recovery, facilitating the reintegration of veterans and displaced persons, addressing acute demographic and environmental crises, and mobilizing international assistance.

These national imperatives unfold within a highly volatile geopolitical environment characterized by a shifting balance of power and intense strategic

competition on the Eurasian continent among major centers of influence namely the EU, the United States, China, and a revanchist Russia seeking to restore its Soviet-era dominance. Within this complex geopolitical reality, the modern national security architecture must fundamentally transcend outdated historical frameworks such as the 2003 Law "On the Fundamentals of National Security," which marginalized the role of citizens by clearly defining and fully integrating civil society into the state's comprehensive defense and security apparatus [12].

Ukraine's national security framework, anchored by the 2021 National Security Strategy and the Law "On National Security," mandates a defense posture based on deterrence, resilience, and Euro-Atlantic integration. However, the legal architecture exhibits notable gaps, such as limited mechanisms for direct citizen oversight and incomplete regulatory implementation for critical infrastructure protection. The full-scale Russian invasion necessitated a radical recalibration of these priorities, elevating immediate combat readiness, the rapid modernization of the Armed Forces, and the accelerated expansion of domestic defense production to the forefront of state policy.

This conflict has simultaneously underscored the changing nature of modern warfare, revealing that even allied nations would struggle to repel a fully mobilized, experienced adversary without fundamental tactical adaptations. Consequently, Ukraine's strategic transition involves not only battlefield innovation but also the rigorous implementation of democratic oversight models such as parliamentary control over intelligence and the functional separation of law enforcement and security agencies, mirroring established practices in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany. While centralized wartime command ensures operational efficiency, it must be balanced with transparency and supranational monitoring to safeguard democratic values and prevent institutional overreach. Domestically, this security transformation is complicated by acute socio-military challenges, including the psychological exhaustion of mobilized personnel, the lack of viable rotation and demobilization protocols, and the urgent imperative to confiscate illegal firearms from the civilian population. Furthermore, the war

has catalyzed a severe demographic crisis driven by mass youth emigration rooted in economic instability, acute security threats, and systemic governance issues. Addressing these compounding vulnerabilities requires the state to synergize "hard" military defense with "soft" post-war recovery strategies including robust international reconstruction funding, economic incentivization, and systemic institutional reforms to restore public trust, ensure sustainable development, and secure long-term national resilience.

**Conclusions:** An analysis of the security policy-making process in Ukraine through the lens of the experience of EU countries and Euro-Atlantic partners suggests that, in the current environment, national security has moved beyond the confines of a purely military doctrine. The Russian Federation's armed aggression against Ukraine has become a catalyst for irreversible transformations that require a shift from a reactive governance model to a proactive strategy of deterrence and resilience. It has been demonstrated that an effective security architecture must be based on the synergy of "hard" (military power, defense industry) and "soft" (social cohesion, economic development, diplomacy) instruments. The integration of European standards and democratic and civilian oversight of the security sector is not only a requirement of international partners but also a fundamental safeguard against the usurpation of power and corruption.

It has been found that, in addition to external military threats, critical challenges for Ukraine's future include the demographic crisis, youth migration, a high crime rate, the economic crisis, the critical vulnerability of the state's territory, significant damage to the environment and architectural heritage, and the need to integrate veterans. Thus, ensuring national security for future generations requires a comprehensive approach: from the technological modernization of the armed forces to the creation of a favorable socio-economic climate capable of retaining human capital and ensuring the sustainable development of a democratic state.

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