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## **UKRAINE-NATO RELATIONS IN THE FACE OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE**

**Introduction.** Today, Ukraine faces a number of threats and challenges where the resolution of the political-military conflict in the eastern regions of the country and the restoration of the territorial integrity of our state are one of the key points. Hence, the search for solutions to this confrontation is particularly relevant at the present stage.

Russian aggression against Ukraine, the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the conduct of ‘hybrid warfare’ against our state, the military intervention of the eastern regions of Ukraine, the constant political, military, economic and information pressure from the Russian Federation compel us to find more effective guarantees of sovereignty, independence, security and territorial integrity of Ukraine [1]. Hence, NATO as the collective defense organization will assist Ukraine in maintaining security.

Relations with NATO have become one of the most important for Ukraine, taking into account the current state of the country. They began to develop after the Declaration of Independence of Ukraine. With regard to the current situation in the country, namely, the conflict in eastern Ukraine, cooperation with NATO has been intensified since 2014. The development and further deepening of the strategic partnership between Ukraine and NATO has been the priority of the national interest of Ukraine in foreign policy.

**Review of recent publications.** The subject of cooperation between Ukraine and NATO is a very popular area of research. However, there hasn't been so many literary sources about Ukraine's cooperation with the Alliance in the face of the Russian threat recently. The questions of strategy and cooperation between Ukraine and NATO are elaborated by such researchers: James Sherr, Boris Parakhovsky, Oleg Gorenko, Tamara Tracevich, Volodymyr Khandogiy are writing about perspective of Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine. A vivid description of the

conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation can be seen in the papers of such scholars: Natalia Rotar, Andriy Yermolaev and Sviatoslav Denisenko. Annual programs and plans were used to determine the level of interaction between Ukraine and NATO within the current study (the Charter on a Special Partnership between Ukraine and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, signed on July 9, 1997; the Declaration on its Supplement of August 21, 2009), legislative acts of Ukraine where the direction for NATO membership was mentioned (the Verkhovna Rada adopted the Law on Amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine to stipulate the course on Ukraine's access to the EU and NATO).

**The objective of the paper** is to determine the position of NATO on the events of 2014-2019 in the east of Ukraine and with regard to the Crimea annexation.

**Result of the research.** Ukraine is doing everything possible to make the course towards NATO membership unchanged whenever there is a change of power in Ukraine. It is backed up by the approved amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine on the strategic course of the state to acquire full membership in the European Union on February 20, 2019 [5]. Ukraine gains an aspirant country status in the Alliance, but faces challenges to full membership. NATO is also seriously interested in enhancing cooperation. The North Atlantic Alliance has significantly strengthened its presence in the Black Sea nowadays and helps Ukraine fight against the Russian aggression. Since the Russian-Ukrainian crisis has broken out, NATO has consistently maintained a clear position in support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within internationally recognized borders.

Relations with NATO have become one of the most important for Ukraine, taking into account the current state of the country. After the Russian Federation's illegal intervention in Ukraine, NATO is trying to promote the political settlement of the conflict through diplomacy. The Alliance supports the idea that Russia should stop destabilizing the situation in the east of Ukraine and withdraw all troops and military equipment [2].

In addition to the political support of Ukraine, NATO also increased practical assistance to Ukraine, due to the substantial strengthening of ongoing cooperation programs, as well as the introduction of significant new initiatives. It is important that after the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the countries of the Alliance members decided to suspend military cooperation with Russia. This makes it clear that NATO absolutely supports Ukraine [4].

**Conclusion.** According to the partnership between Ukraine and NATO, there is a significant responsibility on both sides to maintain positive assessments of closer cooperation. The Ukrainian government should use all available opportunities to reform the security sector with the support of the Alliance. NATO, in turn, should demonstrate greater determination in supporting Ukraine in its opposition to aggression. The more examples of the effective cooperation, the more likely anti-Western, pro-authoritarian populists can be without support [3]. NATO should be very patient with the statements of the Ukrainian leaders about the membership prospect. The layers of old offenses, mistrust or fear of Russia should not prevent the

revitalization of a “special partnership,” which finally would not dispose the Ukrainians of the chance to become part of the Euro-Atlantic space.

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### **VISEGRAD GROUP MEMBER STATES POLICY IN THE EUROPIAN UNION MIGRATION CRISIS SOLVING**

**Introduction.** The Visegrad group is the alliance of the four Central European sovereign states – Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. It was created with the purpose of the EU and NATO integration, but now states coordinate their external policies on different issues for making a common position. The migration crisis in 2014–2015 was the acute issue which affected the relations between Visegrad states and other EU member states and Brussels with its official position on solving the migration crisis in the EU.