

NATO MEMBERSHIP FOR UKRAINE AS A GEOPOLITICAL IMPERATIVE IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY

Problem setting The question of NATO membership for Ukraine in the present conditions is rather ambiguous and multidimensional as it includes geopolitical and geostrategic, historical and political, military, law enforcement and economic components and requires the formation of the relevant position of government systems at all administrative levels, with integration inclusive. In terms of the current Ukrainian crisis, despite a clear moral support of Ukraine by European and international community in general and NATO in particular, such a prospect may be perceived as real only contextually. The full membership of Ukraine in NATO - this is definitely something for the future, that requires substantial efforts both from Ukraine and NATO as a collective security system that is experiencing a period of necessary adaptation to the needs of member countries in the field of security and defense.

Recent research and publications analysis The analysis of relations between Ukraine and NATO, problems and prospects of membership, benefits and losses are revealed in publications of both well-known Ukrainian politicians, military and political leaders, and leading scientists from different fields of science. In the field of public administration there are works of H. Sytnyk, I. Hrytsiak, V. Dolhov, V. Korendovych, V. Horbulin, O. Kuzmuk, V. Abramov, V. Smolianiuk, O. Sukhodol, A. Orzhel and others. However, current events around Ukraine make it necessary to investigate constantly their nature that confirms the relevance of research issues of Euro-Atlantic integration.

Paper main body The relations between Ukraine and NATO throughout the whole period of independence of Ukraine were mixed, and in different periods they dynamically developed or were in decline. The reasons for this instability were analyzed in very detail by Ukrainian, European and American researchers and understood by policy makers, though against the background of current events, it is clear that the real algorithm to deter the aggressor, unfortunately, has not been developed nor by military theorists and practitioners, neither by politicians and civil society activists. However, the imperatives of international cooperation in the field of national, regional and global security vary considerably against the background of the crisis situation in Ukraine in 2014. Disguised by the realities of the so-called "hybrid" war, but consistent and cynical aggression of the Russian Federation in the south-eastern regions of Ukraine, the intermediate result of which was the annexation of the Crimea, demonstrates the need to abandon the standard peacetime approaches to national and collective security that have the expressive specificity of both internal and external aspects, and to develop new ones.

Conclusions and prospects for further research For Ukraine the only expected dividend from NATO membership at this stage is to preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty. If the conflict enters the war or Russia dares to enter troops - it is not a question of the moment but a clear fact that puts priority on this issue at the national and integration levels, but if these priorities remain the real thing or illusion the time will show. Obviously for Ukraine, like all countries in the region, the most important question is not so much the idea of NATO membership as the prospects of Ukraine's existence as a sovereign state and the opportunity to prevent the deployment of full-scale war and the radical change in architecture of regional and global security.