

Tsyhanov Oleh,

Doctor of Juridical Sciences, Associate Professor,

Chief Researcher of Research Laboratory,

State Research Institute MIA Ukraine,

Kyiv, Ukraine

ORCID ID 0000-0002-8924-1139

**OPTIMAL MODELS FOR RESOLVING THE ARMED CONFLICT AND
REINTEGRATION OF THE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
IN DONBAS**

The article investigates optimal models of settlement of the Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict in the east of Ukraine, ways of restoring the state sovereignty of our country in certain regions of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

It is revealed that today, based on the current situation, there are several scenarios with varying degrees of probability of events occurring in the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas. At the same time, such scenarios include both optimistic and pessimistic options for Ukraine.

The use of a systematic approach, comparative, contextual, comparative-legal, logical-semantic, statistical, system-structural methods of analysis allowed to determine the best possible options for solving this interstate conflict in the context of the existing internal political situation in Ukraine, foreign policy environment, goals of the main actors involved in its settlement.

Domestic experts identify only two ways for Ukraine to reintegrate the occupied territories of the Donbas: use only of military force; an agreement with a party currently exercising force control over the said territories. At the same time, it is impossible to hope for a purely military solution of the Donbas's problem in the current conditions. At the same time, the option of voluntary reintegration of the occupied territories on the basis of the Minsk Agreements (in the course of compromise with Russia) should be taken as the basic strategy of the Donbas's national de-occupation and reintegration strategy.

The secession scenario becomes probable in the event of a new round of armed confrontation in the Donbas and the inability to agree on the implementation of the Minsk Agreements, which implies a definitive abandonment of Ukraine from the occupied territories and a complete break with them. Under the current conditions, the most probable scenario for resolving the conflict in the East of Ukraine is the secession scenario with a high prospect of two final options: "DPR and LPR will enter the Russian Federation" or "Legitimization of DPR and LPR as independent state entities".

Keywords: armed conflict, Donbas war, national strategy, state sovereignty, de-occupation, reintegration, Minsk agreements, UN peacekeeping operation.

REFERENCES

1. Viina na Donbasi – v OON porakhuvaly kilkist zhertv sered tsyvilnykh na Donbasi. “Donbas war – the UN estimates the number of civilian casualties in the Donbas”. Slovo i Dilo. November 4, 2019. URL: <https://www.slovoidilo.ua/> ... (date of application: 21.11.2019) [in Ukrainian].

2. *Kresina I.O.* (2016) Reintehratsiia yak skladova derzhavnoi etnonatsionalnoi polityky: aktualnist doslidzhennia ta implementatsii. “Reintegration as a component of state ethno-national policy: relevance of research and implementation”. Derzhava i pravo: Political Science. Iss. 73. P. 61–73 [in Ukrainian].

3. Pro osoblyvosti derzhavnoi polityky iz zabezpechennia derzhavnoho suverenitetu Ukrainy na tymchasovo okupovanykh terytoriiakh u Donetskii ta Luhanskii oblastiakh. “On Features of State Policy for Ensuring State Sovereignty of Ukraine in Temporarily Occupied Territories in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions”: Law of Ukraine of January 18, 2018 No. 2268-VIII. Official Bulletin of Ukraine. 2018. No. 19. Art. 630. [in Ukrainian].

4. Viina na Donbasi: realii i perspektyvy vrehuliuvannia. “Donbass War: Realities and Prospects for Settlement”. Natsionalna bezpeka i oborona. 2019. No. 1–2 [in Ukrainian].

5. Donbas i Krym: tsina povernennia: monohrafiia. "Donbass and Crimea: return price": monograph / for the total. ed.. V.P. Horbulina, O.S. Vlasiuka, E.M. Libanovoi, O.M. Liashenko. Kyiv: NISD, 2015. 474 p. [in Ukrainian].

6. *Melnik A., Umland A.* (2015) *Za ramkami Minskih soglasheniy: pochemu i kak mirotvorcheskaya missiya OON mogla byi reshit konflikt v Donbasse.* "Beyond the framework of the Minsk agreements: why and how the UN peacekeeping mission could resolve the conflict in the Donbass". Forum of the newest East European history and culture – Russian edition. No. 2. URL: <http://www1.kueichstaett.de/ZIMOS/forum/inhaltruss24.html> (date of application: 13.08.2019) [in Russian].

7. Arsen Avakov: U mene ye plan. Umovno, vziaty spochatku okremo Horlivku. "Arsen Avakov: I have a plan. Conditionally, take the first Gorlovka separately". Arsen Avakov's blog The Ukrainian truth. April 16, 2018. URL: <https://www.pravda.com.ua/articles/2018/04/16/7177768/> (date of application: 21.08.2019) [in Ukrainian].

8. Stratehiia vidnovlennia tsilisnosti Ukrainy i deokupatsii Donbasu. "Strategy of restoration of the integrity of Ukraine and de-occupation of Donbass. "The mechanism of small steps"". Arsen Avakov's blog. Ukrainian Pravda. June 12, 2018 URL: <https://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/avakov/5b1faf7a125a0/> (date of application: 21.02.2019) [in Ukrainian].

9. U Zelenskoho hotovi vidhorodyty Donbas stinoiu u razi provalu perehovoriv. "Zelenskyi is ready to fence off the Donbass with a wall in case of failure of negotiations". Ukrainian truth. December 5, 2019. URL: <https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2019/12/5/7233972/> (date of application: 06.12.2019) [in Ukrainian].

10. *Illarionov A.* Lugandonizatsiya Ukrainy. "Lugandonization of Ukraine". Personal blog on Livejournal. October 25, 2019. URL: https://aillarionov.livejournal.com/1145513.html?-fbclid=IwAR1f-q1N3WHg-_G8fCnjtgERo-nyWR598PpEcwP_KQ2QgZ2jz-NVP5WGxXGQ (date of application: 13.11.2019) [in Russian].