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# **Russia-Ukraine Conflict: Roots, Dynamics and Prospects**

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## POSSIBLE SCENARIOS

### 1. Optimistic scenario (unlikely)

Russia withdraws weapons, military personnel and mercenaries; Ukraine takes control of the border and entire territory; demilitarization, demining, amnesty; return of IDPs, local and national elections; lifting sanctions related to the Minsk agreements against Russia

### 2. Pessimistic scenario (problematic)

**(a)** Russia manages to attain its goal of Ukraine's distancing from the West and keeping it in its sphere of influence by non-military means

**(b)** Russia openly uses its military power to conduct a large scale operation for creating a Russian-controlled arch, connecting Transdnistria and the Crimea with the Russian territory

### 3. Preservation of the status quo (most likely)

Neither party (Russia or Ukraine) can achieve a clear victory/advantage; sporadic violence; Russia supports "DPR-LPR" at a scale necessary for destabilisation of Ukraine and bargaining with the West; the West maintains sanctions (protracted conflict)

***The prospects of a UN peacekeeping operation are very low for the moment, but may occur under each of the scenarios***



## PROSPECTS FOR RESOLUTION

- No political solution yet (unconceivable interests of the Parties):
  - Russia isn't ready to retreat (cost-benefit calculations)
  - Ukraine isn't willing to capitulate (Ukrainians want peace, but not at any cost)
- Normandy format – Russia as the Party to the conflict takes a seat of a mediator
- Minsk arrangements is the Russian plan to achieve its objectives if implemented in Kremlin's interpretation

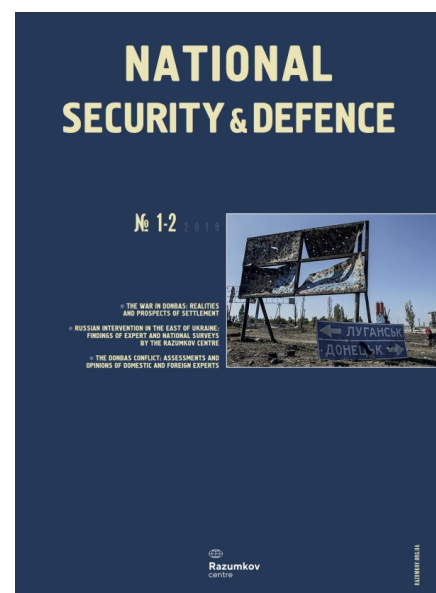


## THE WAR IN DONBAS: REALITIES AND PROSPECTS OF SETTLEMENT

- Russia's "hybrid" aggression: geopolitical dimension
- Russian intervention in Donbas: goals and specifics
- Role and impact of the West in settling the conflict
- Ukraine's policy for Donbas
- Military component of Donbas occupation
- Socio-economic situation in the occupied territories
- Energy aspect of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine
- Ideology and information policy in "DPR-LPR"
- Environmental situation in the occupied territories
- Scenarios of developments and prospects of a peacekeeping mission
- Summary and proposals
- Western experts' opinions
- Ukrainian expert' opinions
- Citizens' opinions and assessments

<http://razumkov.org.ua/en/edition/national-security-and-defence-journal>

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## RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT: BASIC FACTS

- Illegal annexation of Crimea: Feb 27 – Mar 17, 2014
- “Russian Spring” operation: Apr 2014 – 20??
- 13 thous. – killed, incl. 3,340 civilians (298 - MH-17 flight); 28 thous. – wounded; 1,8 mln. – IDPs
- 43.7 sq.km – occupied (7.2% territory of Ukraine)



### Enemy Forces (2 Army Corps)

≈ 35,000 troops  
 ≈ 475 battle tanks  
 ≈ 948 APC, ACV  
 ≈ 208 multiple rocket launchers  
 ≈ 762 artillery systems over 100-mm  
 + anti-aircraft missile systems, MANPADs  
 + modern Russian systems of reconnaissance & electronic warfare, UAVs, Russia-made cluster ammunition, anti-personal landmines etc.

### Russian regular forces near Ukrainian border

80,000 troops, 14,000 artillery, 900 battle tanks, 800 combat aircraft



## **“UKRAINIAN” CRISIS: DEFINITIONS, OBJECTIVES AND DIMENSIONS OF THE CONFLICT**

- Interstate war, act of aggression and a component of new Russian global strategy – neither a civil war, nor a local conflict.
- Russian objectives:
  - Internal (mobilize, distract, oppress...),
  - In Ukraine (destabilize, control, subordinate...),
  - regional (show, integrate, coerce...) and
  - geopolitical (escalate, test, take opportunity...)

***Incorrect diagnosis = inappropriate treatment!***



## **NON-MILITARY DIMENSION OF DONBAS CONFLICT:**

- Social & economic
- Energy
- Ideology & information
- Environmental
- Human rights