

Escalating tension in Russian-Ukrainian relations

By: Fatma Tawfik

Abstract:

The Russian- Ukrainian conflict started long time ago, just after the dissociation of Soviet Union, the conflict reached its most escalating phase after Russia seized Crimea in 2014.

The crisis re-emerged since April 2021, when Russia began to mobilize its soldiers and its military equipment on its borders with Ukraine, this crisis can be viewed as Russia's crisis with NATO and the United States of America rather than its crisis with Ukraine itself.

Keywords:

Ukraine- Russia- NATO- Conflict- Borders

Introduction

The international climate now prevails in the nature of escalation regarding the tense situation between the Russian-Ukrainian side, whether by the two sides of the main problem or by the international partners and allies of both parties, especially the US-European ally. Putting accusations between the parties to the crisis.

The Russian-Ukrainian crisis began since the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the independence of Ukraine, and the crisis passed its most escalating phase after Russia seized Crimea in 2014, and supported the separatists in eastern Ukraine, and the crisis re-emerged since April 2021, when Russia began to mobilize its soldiers and its military equipment on its borders with Ukraine and in the Crimea, prompting Ukraine and its allies from NATO and the United States of America to issue warnings to the Russian side.¹

¹موسكو تعلق على تحركات القوات الروسية قرب الحدود الأوكرانية، ساكي نيوز، أبريل 2021، متاح على:
<https://www.skynewsarabia.com/world/1426605-%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%83%D9%88-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%82-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%91%D9%83%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%94%D9%88%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9>

Hence the most important question is, how will the Ukrainian-Russian crisis end?

To answer the problem, the following hypotheses were adopted:

- The Ukrainian-Russian crisis is in fact the crisis of the Russian Federation with NATO and the United States of America.
- The possibility of using military forces increases when the geopolitical sphere of a major power is threatened.

This study was based on the descriptive and analytical methodology, as the study seeks to understand the developments of events related to the crisis and analyse the escalating tension in Ukrainian-Russian relations, by focusing on dividing the study into the following elements:

First: The historical roots of the Ukrainian-Russian crisis

Second: International efforts to resolve the Ukrainian civil war in 2014 and 2015

Third: the development of the Ukrainian-Russian crisis since 2019 and international trends towards the crisis.

Fourth: Analysis of the Ukrainian-Russian crisis and its future dimensions.

Methodology:

The research paper seeks to describe and analyze the escalating tension in Ukrainian-Russian relations, the paper will show this through the use of descriptive and analytical approaches.

The descriptive approach in the social sciences refers to describing the characteristics of the phenomenon being studied: “Descriptive studies may be described as simply an attempt to define, describe, or define what it is, while the analytical method attempts to determine the reason for this and how it appears.

First: The historical roots of the Ukrainian-Russian crisis

The tensions between Ukraine and the Russian Federation began after Ukraine declared its independence after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, following the transparency policy of President Gorbachev, the leader of the Soviet Union at the time, and Ukraine is the largest successor to the Soviet Union in terms of population, area and economy.

The independence of Ukraine caused several problems between the nascent countries and the Russian Federation, the most prominent of which are how to deal with the Russian nuclear warheads on Ukrainian territory, how to divide the Black Sea Fleet, the dispute over the sovereignty of the Crimea and the settlement of energy debts. While the United States intervened until the two countries reached how to dismantle Russian nuclear weapons in Ukraine. The two countries also reached agreements on how to divide the Black Sea Fleet and solve the problem of energy debts, as Ukraine agreed to allow the Russian Federation to use the ports in Crimea.²

Despite this, the two countries managed to live in a docile way until 2004, when tensions escalated between the two countries after the Orange Revolution (a popular movement in Ukraine) thwarted the attempts of then-President Leonid Kuchma to elect Viktor Yanukovich as Kuchma's successor and that was with the support of the Russian side, and after an attempt to poison Viktor Yushchenko, Independence Square in Kiev turned into the site of nationalist demonstrations and those demonstrations turned into civil disobedience, this led to the cancellation of the results of the original decisive round, and the court in Ukraine ordered the holding of a decisive second round in December 2004, where the official results of the second decisive round proved in Yushchenko's favour. He was declared the official winner, but this did not last long as in 2006 and 2007 Viktor Yanukovich returned as prime minister and then as president in 2010.³

In the same context, in 2013, protests and demonstrations erupted in Ukraine after Ukrainian President Yanukovich suspended the signing of a trade and

² Steven Pifer, "How Ukraine views Russia and the West", Brookings, October 2017, available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2017/10/18/how-ukraine-views-russia-and-the-west/>

³ Cory Welt, "Ukraine: Background, Conflict with Russia, and U.S. Policy", Congressional Research Service, October 2021, Available at: <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/row/R45008.pdf>

political agreement with the European Union within the Eastern Partnership Program, and those protests continued from November 2013 until February 2014, when Ukrainian President Yanukovich fled to the Russian Federation with his guards after deserting the main palace.⁴

Also, in March of the same year, the Russian Parliament approved the request of President Vladimir Putin, which includes sending Russian forces to the Crimea, and the influx of a large number of Russian soldiers to the region, despite the international and Ukrainian resentment, but the Russian Federation held an unofficial referendum that resulted in the annexation of Crimea to Russia.⁵

However, the Russian intervention encouraged Russian-speaking separatists in Ukraine, especially in the east and south of the country, to protest and demand secession from Ukraine in the cities of Kharkov, Donetsk, Lugansk and Odessa. In April 2014, Ukraine launched the first official military action against the separatists, but despite that, the separatists announced in Donetsk and Luhansk region's independence and secession from Ukraine following an informal referendum.⁶

In the same way, the civil war and violence in eastern and southern Ukraine between the government and the separatist forces resulted in deaths and victims, numbering more than ten thousand people, while the number of injured reached nearly twenty-four thousand.⁷

Second: International efforts to resolve the Ukrainian civil war in 2014 and 2015:

The international powers realised the seriousness of the situation in Ukraine, especially after the civil war resulted in a large number of victims, and the danger of secession of several regions from Ukraine. Therefore, the Minsk

⁴ Nick Thompson, "Ukraine War: Everything you need to know about how we got here", CNN, February 2017, Available at: <https://edition.cnn.com/2015/02/10/europe/ukraine-war-how-we-got-here/index.html>

⁵ Idem

⁶ Anton Bebler, "Crimea and the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict", ROMANIAN JOURNAL OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, March 2015, Available at: <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.1052.3009&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

⁷ Robert D. Blackwill and Stephen Sestanovich, "Conflict in Ukraine", Council on Foreign Affairs, November 2021, Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>

meeting was held with the aim of a ceasefire agreement in eastern Ukraine between representatives from Ukraine, the Russian Federation, separatists, Germany and France. In Belarus, the first Minsk Agreement was signed in September 2014, based on a proposal submitted by Russian President Vladimir Putin, consisting of two parts, one military and the other humanitarian.⁸

The parties to the conflict signed the first Minsk agreement, which included 13 articles:⁹

- 1- Ensuring an immediate cease-fire.
- 2- Ensure that the ceasefire is monitored and verified by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.
- 3- Decentralisation of power, including through the adoption of Ukrainian law on a temporary order for local self-government in certain regions of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast.
- 4- Ensuring permanent monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian borders and verification by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe through the establishment of security zones in the border regions of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.
- 5- Immediate release of all hostages and persons illegally detained.
- 6- A law prohibiting the prosecution and punishment of persons in connection with the events that occurred in some areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk states.
- 7- Continuation of the comprehensive national dialogue.
- 8- Take measures to improve the humanitarian situation in Donbass.
- 9- Ensure the holding of early local elections in accordance with Ukrainian law.
- 10- Local provincial autonomy in certain regions of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast.
- 11- Withdrawal of illegal armed groups and military equipment, as well as fighters and mercenaries, from the territory of Ukraine.
- 12- Reconstruction of the Donbas region and the adoption of the economic recovery program.
- 13- Provide personal security for the participants in the consultations

⁸ United Nations Peacemaker, "Document Retrieval: Protocol on the results of consultations of the Trilateral Contact Group (Minsk Agreement)", September 2014, available at:<https://peacemaker.un.org/UA-ceasefire-2014>

⁹ Idem

However, in 2015, the agreement proved to be a failure as both parties to the conflict violated the ceasefire decision, and the crisis flared up again in the Donetsk region, which led German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande to conduct negotiations with the parties to the crisis. These negotiations ended with the signing of the agreement. On the second Minsk agreement in February 2015.¹⁰

That agreement included 12 articles:¹¹

- 1- Withdrawal of all heavy weapons from both sides at an equal distance with the aim of creating a security zone 50 kilometres away.
- 2- The withdrawal of the above-mentioned weapons must begin no later than the second day after the start of the ceasefire and end within 14 days.
- 3- The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe is assisting this process with the support of the Tripartite Contact Group.
- 4- Grant amnesty by enacting a law prohibiting the persecution and punishment of persons in it in connection with the events which have taken place in certain regions of the Donetsk and Luhansk states of Ukraine.
- 5- Providing for the release and exchange of all hostages and persons illegally detained on the principle of all for all.
- 6- Providing safe delivery, delivery, storage and distribution of humanitarian aid to those in need based on an international mechanism.
- 7- Determining ways to fully restore social and economic ties.
- 8- Restoring control of state borders to the Ukrainian government in the entire conflict zone.
- 9- Withdrawal of all foreign armed formations and military equipment as well as mercenaries from Ukrainian territory under the supervision of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the disarmament of all illegal groups.
- 10- Constitutional reform in Ukraine with the entry into force of a new constitution by 2015
- 11- Intensifying the work of the tripartite contact group through the establishment of working groups.

¹⁰ Duncan Allan, "The Minsk Conundrum: Western Policy and Russia's War in Eastern Ukraine", Chatham house May 2020, available at: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2020/05/minsk-conundrum-western-policy-and-russias-war-eastern-ukraine-0/minsk-2-agreement>

¹¹ Idem

12- Temporary order for local self-government in certain regions of the Donetsk and Lugansk states.

The agreement was able to achieve a kind of relative peace in Ukraine and recorded a significant decline in violence, but Ukraine could not control the areas seized by the separatists, and the scene at that time was in favour of the Russian side, as the Russian Federation guaranteed the existence of a buffer zone between it and Europe (areas under the control of separatists aligned with the Russian side).

Third: The development of the Ukrainian-Russian crisis since 2019 and international trends towards the crisis.

In April 2019, Zelensky won the presidency of Ukraine, and this step is a slap in the face for Russia, because of Zelensky's close ties to the West, and in September 2019, President Vladimir Putin met President Zelensky in Paris to hold a summit (Normandy Quartet) mediated by France and Germany, to revive the Minsk Agreement II, the Peace Agreement A cease-fire between the opposing forces.¹²

Ukraine, Russia and separatist forces have also reached a truce in July 2020 to a ceasefire, but the truce has not succeeded where the victims have arrived since the truce to more than 100 dead and ensure a number of civilians as well.¹³

But at the beginning of April 2021, the Ukrainian crisis has seen an escalating after the Ukrainian government accused Russia of mobilising 80,000 troops on the eastern border and Crimea, which has been seized by Russia for eight years.

¹² Normandy Quartet summit kicks off in Paris, Anadoul Agency, December 2019, Available at:

https://www-aa-com-tr.translate.google/ar/%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A/%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%82-%D9%82%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B3/1668682?_x_tr_sl=ar&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=ar&_x_tr_pto=nui,sc

¹³ الصراع في أوكرانيا.. مقتل 4 "انفصاليين" تحت الهدنة، العين الإخبارية، 2021، متاح على: <https://al-ain.com/article/ukraine-russian-backed-separatists-killed>

Russia has repeatedly confirmed that they did not send soldiers to the Ukrainian border. It denied that they support separatists in eastern Ukraine. For any party.¹⁴

The Kremlin spokesman's remarks led to a series of statements from all parties to the conflict and their allies. NATO will strengthen its forces east of Europe and prepare for any Russian attack.¹⁵

While the Russian side sees that the military support provided by the United States is only a "military heating" targeting Moscow provoking and is a challenge to Russian national security. The United States has raised preparedness in Europe preparing for any Russian escalation that could result in an armed attack on eastern Ukraine.¹⁶

All these statements can be seen as an international escalation of all parties, especially after Anthony Plainken's statements with the NATO Secretary-General that Russia must end its military mobilisation and permanent attack on the Ukrainian border

In October and November 2021, the tension between the Russian side and the Ukrainian side was fuelled by European and NATO, after Maxar Technologies confirmed tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery.¹⁷

The first guard and the fourth Russian tank equipment from model T-80U major fighting and self-paid artillery has been monitored recently on the northern border of Ukraine near the Bryansk and Corsk regions.¹⁸

¹⁴ idem

¹⁵ أزمة روسيا وأوكرانيا.. "قنبلة موقوتة" تحت رماد "حرب باردة"، العين الإخبارية، 2021، متاح على: <https://al-ain.com/article/ukraine-russia-nato-america-war>

¹⁶ روسيا تحذر الناتو من إرسال قوات إلى أوكرانيا مع تصاعد التوتر، BBC NEWS، أبريل 2021، متاح على: <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-56622316>

¹⁷ حشود روسية على حدود أوكرانيا.. صور أقمار صناعية تفضح، العربية، نوفمبر 2021، متاح على: <https://www.alarabiya.net/arab-and-world/2021/11/02/%D8%AD%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%AF-%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AD%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%AF-%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%A3%D9%82%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%B5%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%B6%D8%AD>

¹⁸ idem

All these moves are coincided with the United States and NATO's exercises in the Black Sea, which Russia's Federation considered a military provocation, and threatened to its national security, especially after Russian President Vladimir Putin has displeased his renewed talks on Journal and Ukraine NATO, especially after the diplomatic crisis between Russia and NATO, with NATO described Eight Russian diplomats with Russian intelligence and expelled them.¹⁹

On 20 November 2021, Ukrainian defence minister Ukraine asked his US counterpart Lloyd Austin from the Lloyd Austin to help defend Ukraine, especially with Russian military mobilisation and military enhancements on the eastern border of Ukraine, stressing that Ukraine is now urgently needed to protect itself.²⁰

Accordingly, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said, and in the statement issued after the ministerial meeting, Ukraine had access to the United States full support, sovereignty and territorial integrity.²¹

We can conclude from the above that the international climate is now inferred by the international climate, the crisis was in a peaceful manner while continuing to put the charges between the parties to the crisis.

Fourth: Analysis of the Ukrainian-Russian crisis and its future dimensions.

The Russian Ukrainian crisis has emerged this year because of what I considered by the Federal State of Russia (NATO) and the United States of America, whether through their military support for Ukraine or the opening of discussions on the accession of Georgia and Ukraine for the alliance or military exercises in the Black Sea, He prepared by Russia as a danger to Russian

¹⁹ idem

²⁰ الدفاع الأوكرانية تطلب مساعدة البنتاجون في ظل زيادة التوتر مع روسيا، اليوم السابع، نوفمبر 2021، متاح على: <https://www.youm7.com/story/2021/11/20/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A8-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D9%86%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%86-%D9%81%D9%89-%D8%B8%D9%84-%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B1-%D9%85%D8%B9/5544729>

²¹ Idem

national security or through the diplomatic crisis between NATO and Russia, which resulted in Russian suspension of NATO mission, so the Ukrainian crisis could only cover the crisis between Russia and NATO.

Accordingly, there are two scenarios for current events between Russia, Ukraine and NATO, in the first scenario, any military escalation can be excluded, despite all of the current events, but even this moment did not have any public aggression that could exacerbate the situation to a military crisis.²²

It is also possible to look at the events on the Ukrainian border that Russia is practising the psychological war or neurological war with Ukraine and NATO as a kind of warning against Moscow's verbal acts, so Russia does not have an actual military escalation between them and NATO and the states the United States.²³

In a second scenario, it is difficult to identify Russia's real intentions towards Ukraine under the current situation, and through the speed of an escalation of the situation compared to the past, as Russia was aimed at identifying potential weaknesses for Ukraine and getting a reaction, and in the situation Currently, Colonel described it as "fog uncertainty" where the real intentions of Russia can only after the State take clear and labelling measures.²⁴

The Government in Moscow is still holding Russia's right to deploy its soldiers within its territory, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov denied European-American allegations that Russia was preparing for an incursion into Ukraine, he described the statements of the United States of America as "inappropriate", declaring that Russia cannot be accused of carrying out unconventional military

²² Дмитрий Каневский, Война нервов. Аналитики о стягивании войск России к границе с Украиной, DW, Можно купить в: <https://www.dw.com/ru/%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B9%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B2-%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%BE-%D1%81%D1%82%D1%8F%D0%B3%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B8-%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B9%D1%81%D0%BA-%D1%80%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%81%D0%B8%D0%B8-%D0%BA-%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B5-%D1%81-%D1%83%D0%BA%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B9/a-59725542>

²³ Idem

²⁴ Idem

activities within its territory, while the United States has shipped its soldiers across the ocean.²⁵

Note that in September 2021, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned NATO against crossing red lines in the event of NATO expansion of its military infrastructure in Ukraine, and this came after the Kremlin complained that Western strategic bombers equipped with “very dangerous weapons” were flying 20 km away. kilometres from Russia's border, President Putin emphasised that Russia had the right to protect itself from the West by obtaining long-term security guarantees.²⁶

Nevertheless, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed on November 26 that Russia supports a group that want to overthrow his government through a coup involving some Ukrainian businessmen in the first days of December 2021.

Based on the foregoing, NATO expects that the Ukrainian-Russian crisis will escalate to the stage of a military crisis, NATO members agreed in their document that Russia has violated all agreed principles, whether through the military build-up, cyber wars, Russia’s training activities near the scope of NATO, or through its determination to diversify its nuclear arsenal and permanent penetration of NATO airspace.

As a result, NATO set the decisions of its strategy towards Russia for the year 2021, and the members of the alliance agreed to suspend all means of civil and military cooperation with the Russian Federation, and also agreed to strengthen the deterrence situation and militarily support Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova in order to protect regional peace.²⁷

²⁵ Russia slams Western 'hysteria' over Ukraine, DW, November 2021, Available at: <https://www.dw.com/en/russia-slams-western-hysteria-over-ukraine/a-59894496>

²⁶ Idem

²⁷ زينب مصطفى، روسيا والناتو.. محددات الأزمة ومستقبل صراع الأقطاب، مصر 360، 2021، متاح على: <https://masr.masr360.net/%d8%a3%d8%ae%d8%a8%d8%a7%d8%b1/%d8%b3%d9%8a%d8%a7%d8%b3%d8%a9/d8%b1/d9%88%d8%b3%d9%8a%d8%a7-%d9%88%d8%a7/d9%84/d9%86/d8%a7/d8%aa/d9%88-%d9%85/d8%ad/d8%af/d8%af/d8%a7/d8%aa-%d8%a7/d9%84/d8%a3/d8%b2/d9%85/d8%a9-%d9%88/d9%85/d8%b3/d8%aa/d9%82/d8%a8/d9%84-%d8%b5/>

NATO member states have also intensified their military exercises since last June, with the participation of thirty member states in what is known as Steadfast Defender 2021, especially in the Black Sea region. The exercise was described as a declaration of NATO's existence to defend all Allies by the Secretary General of the Alliance.²⁸

In the same context, the Pentagon sent a military package to the Ukrainian Armed Forces worth \$60 million, and the military package included 30 Javelin anti-tank missile launchers and 180 affiliated missiles, following the approval of President Joe Biden, President of the United States of America. As part of the United States plan to provide security assistance to Ukraine for the year 2021, the United States has pledged that the value of such assistance will reach \$450 million this year.²⁹

In December 2021, an American-Russian summit was held between President Joe Biden, President of the United States of America and Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss ways to end and stop the escalation of the Ukrainian crisis. Russia invaded Ukraine, while the Russian side demanded guarantees that Ukraine would not join NATO.³⁰

Despite this, the crisis is still escalating between Ukraine, the Russian Federation and NATO, so on December 2, 2021, the European Union allocated 31 million euros to provide military technical assistance to the Ukrainian forces, in addition to what Ukraine is currently doing in violating international agreements and violating the ceasefire decision, which has reached 90,000 times so far, is what has brought the peace settlement negotiations to resolve the Donbass crisis to a dead end, and Russia has called on Ukraine to abide by the Minsk Agreement and ensure that the rule of law is fully observed.³¹

²⁸ Idem

²⁹ US delivered 30 Javelin anti-tank missile systems to Ukraine in October, Business Standard, December 2021, available at: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-delivered-30-javelin-anti-tank-missile-systems-to-ukraine-in-october-121121000377_1.html

³⁰ ديسمبر 2021، متاح، BBC NEWS، قمة بايدن- بوتين: المحادثات بين الرئيسين استهدفت نزع فتيل التوتر في أوكرانيا على: <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-59568608>

³¹ В МИД сообщили, что ЕС подключился к милитаризации Украины, 9 декабря 2021, АУМАТВ, <https://dumatv.ru/news/v-mid-soobschili--chto-es-podklyuchilsya-k-militarizatsii-ukraini>

In the same context, the Ukrainian provocations supported by the US and NATO continued, after the Ukrainian ship Donbass of the Ukrainian Navy left the Ukrainian port of Mariupol on the coast of the Sea of Azov, and the ship headed to the Kerch Strait of the Russian authorities without submitting an official request to cross the strait. Only 18 miles from the Kerch Strait, the Russian side directed the coast guard to escort the Ukrainian ship and warn it to abide by Russian legislation. The ship represented a danger to navigation, especially since the ship did not fulfil the requests submitted to it by the Russian Coast Guard to change its course.³²

While the Ukrainian side committed that the ship moved in the waters of the Sea of Azov legally, and did not enter any prohibited areas, and also confirmed that the ship was completely free of weapons, and that it was carrying out its tasks in the Ukrainian territorial waters, and then headed on the way back to its base, but that This incident brought to mind the crisis that erupted in 2018, when Ukraine sent a warship to the Kerch Strait without submitting any official request, which led to the interception of Russian forces and 24 Ukrainian soldiers to violate the Russian borders.³³

Based on the foregoing, on the ninth of December 2021, Russia confirmed that the method used by NATO by seeking to obtain a military position on the Russian borders may exacerbate the currently tense situation, which may cause the possibility of a recurrence of the situation during the Caribbean crisis, as well as These actions, are considered a violation of the international commitments and obligations concluded between the parties to the crisis, which stipulate the prevention of all military activities near the Russian borders, and the prevention of military-technical stationing in the relevant lands and waters near the Russian borders, which may force Russia to respond firmly to those abuses committed by the United States and the NATO.³⁴

³² ديسمبر 2021، متاح على RT Nline، "الأمن الروسي: سفينة حربية أوكرانية تحركت نحو مضيق كيرتش" <https://arabic.rt.com/russia/1302926-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%8A-%D8%B3%D9%81%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%A9-%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%AA-%D9%86%D8%AD%D9%88-%D9%85%D8%B6%D9%8A%D9%82-%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%AA%D8%B4/>

³³ Idem

³⁴ ИА Красная Весна, "В МИД России заявили о рисках повторения Карибского кризиса" Красная Весна, 9 декабря 2021, <https://rossaprimavera.ru/news/e87a8be1>

In the end, the Ukrainian-Russian crisis can be viewed as Russia's crisis with NATO and the United States of America and their interference to its borders, which is a threat to Russian national security. Therefore, Russia sends implicit messages and manoeuvres through the military build-up of its soldiers on the eastern borders of Ukraine as a form of psychological warfare. However, it is not difficult for the situation to turn into an actual military crisis between the alliance and Russia.

Despite the consequences of the diplomatic crisis between Russia and NATO, Russia suspended its official mission to NATO but did not end it permanently, which calls for doubt that Russia's actual intention is to enter into a deeper dialogue with NATO to ensure its interests, however, the successive escalations since the beginning of the crisis and the lack of any side expressing a desire to reach a peaceful solution may lead to a worsening of the situation and the crisis reached the stage of a military conflict between the concerned parties.

References:

English References:

Russia slams Western 'hysteria' over Ukraine, DW, November 2021, Available at: <https://www.dw.com/en/russia-slams-western-hysteria-over-ukraine/a-59894496>

Normandy Quartet summit kicks off in Paris, Anadolu Agency, December 2019, Available at: https://www-aa-com-tr.translate.google.com/translate/ar/%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A/%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%82-%D9%82%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B3/1668682?_x_tr_sl=ar&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=ar&_x_tr_pto=nui,sc

Duncan Allan, The Minsk Conundrum: Western Policy and Russia's War in Eastern Ukraine, CHATHAM HOUSE, May 2020, Available at: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2020/05/minsk-conundrum-western-policy-and-russias-war-eastern-ukraine-0/minsk-2-agreement>

Anton Bebler, "Crimea and the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict", ROMANIAN JOURNAL OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, March 2015, Available at: <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.1052.3009&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

Robert D. Blackwill and Stephen Sestanovich, "Conflict in Ukraine", Council on Foreign Affairs, November 2021, Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>

Steven Pifer, "How Ukraine views Russia and the West", Brookings, Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2017/10/18/how-ukraine-views-russia-and-the-west/>

US delivered 30 Javelin anti-tank missile systems to Ukraine in October, Business Standard, December 2021, available at: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-delivered-30-javelin-anti-tank-missile-systems-to-ukraine-in-october-121121000377_1.html

Cory Welt, "Ukraine: Background, Conflict with Russia, and U.S. Policy", Congressional Research Service, October 2021, Available at: <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/row/R45008.pdf>

Nick Thompson, "Ukraine War: Everything you need to know about how we got here", CNN, February 2017, Available at: <https://edition.cnn.com/2015/02/10/europe/ukraine-war-how-we-got-here/index.html>

United Nations Peacemaker, "Document Retrieval: Protocol on the results of consultations of the Trilateral Contact Group (Minsk Agreement)", September 2014, available at: <https://peacemaker.un.org/UA-ceasefire-2014>

Russian References:

Дмитрий Каневский, Война нервов. Аналитики о стягивании войск России к границе с Украиной, DW, Можно купить в: <https://www.dw.com/ru/%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B9%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B2-%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%BE-%D1%81%D1%82%D1%8F%D0%B3%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B8-%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B9%D1%81%D0%BA-%D1%80%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%81%D0%B8%D0%B8-%D0%BA-%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B5-%D1%81-%D1%83%D0%BA%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B9/a-59725542>

В МИД сообщили, что ЕС подключился к милитаризации Украины, 9 декабря 2021, АУМАТВ, <https://dumatv.ru/news/v-mid-soobschili--chto-es-podklyuchilsya-k-militarizatsii-ukraini>

[7/3399685](https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-59568608)

قمة بايدن- بوتين: المحادثات بين الرئيسين استهدفت نزع فتيل التوتر في أوكرانيا، BBC NEWS، ديسمبر 2021،
متاح على: <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/world-59568608>