

Chapter 10

The Regional Geopolitics and Reaction of EU and OSCE Towards Russia: Ukraine Conflict – Preventive Measures to Avoid a Major Armed Conflict

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ABSTRACT

Numerous organizations have battled for global peace and stability since the end of World War II. The difficult situation in Ukraine turned into an armed conflict in February 2022 when Russia launched a military offensive, despite efforts by organizations and world leaders to prevent it. This essay will look at the conflict prevention efforts made by the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation (OSCE) concerning the war in Ukraine. The notion behind conflict prevention measures is supported by a study done by the Carnegie organization. The analysis findings show that both companies employ strategies from Carnegie's conflict-prevention theory. None of the organizations use all seven metrics from the theory, resulting in two different centers of gravity for the measurements. Conclusions can be taken from the various organizational types and their capacity to employ various tactics.

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INTRODUCTION

The belief in eternal peace and the improbable armed attack against countries has characterized the defense policy in recent decades and the public's view of the world situation (Mantzikos, 2014). Countries and their surrounding area around the Baltic Sea have been spared precisely against armed attacks. The fact that there have been no armed attacks or even stated threats has partly enabled disarmament of the defense capability but also led to a worsening crisis awareness among citizens (Henderson, 2022). At the same time that the world situation is constantly changing and not always in the right direction, there were probably few who thought that in 2022 we would experience a large-scale war in the immediate area. Russia's military offensive against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, has been developed and built up for a long time; in 2014, they annexed the Crimean Peninsula. In between, the situation has been tense and gradually continued to escalate over time (Green et al., 2022).

International communities and the outside world have stood back, afraid of possibly escalating the conflict, and witnessed how the conflict went from a threat to a full-blown armed war. Avoiding large-scale and armed conflicts, like the one we are now seeing in Ukraine, has engaged several organizations since the Second World War (Götz, 2016). Both nationally and internationally, today's security policy development and the deteriorating security policy situation make the topic even more relevant today than ever. Where international organizations play an important role as political tools (Davis, 2011). The research problem underlying the investigation is that despite the work of international organizations on conflict prevention measures, the conflict in Ukraine has continued to escalate. The investigation, therefore, intends to examine which conflict prevention measures the two organizations, the European Union, EU, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, OSCE, used in the conflict in Ukraine (Remler, 2021). The theory of conflict prevention measures used in the study is based on the organization Carnegie's writing on conflict prevention measures to avoid deadly conflicts. The investigation intends to examine the conflict prevention measures following the theoretical framework developed by Carnegie and is limited to only touching on this particular theory of conflict prevention measures (Dubský & Havlová, 2019). The concept of conflict prevention measures is broad, and the definition of the concept is also done concerning the theoretical framework. Demarcations are also linked to the organizations, where only the EU and OSCE are examined. The case for the investigation, the Ukraine conflict, is ongoing at the time the investigation is conducted. This means that a limitation in time must also be made, where actions from and including the year 2014 up to and including March 2022 are used (Dubský & Havlová, 2019).

PURPOSE AND QUESTIONS

The purpose of the study is to use a comparative study to investigate which conflict prevention measures the EU and OSCE have used in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The conflict prevention measures are studied based on Carnegie's theory of conflict prevention measures to avoid large-scale armed conflicts. The following question is used to achieve the aim: *What conflict prevention measures did the EU and the OSCE use to prevent an escalating armed conflict in Ukraine?*

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