

Chapter 14

How the Russia–Ukraine War Will Be Reflected in the Geopolitics of the European Union

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ABSTRACT

In the 21st century, information is easily disseminated using various technologies. At this stage, all such means are “preoccupied” with spreading the information about the Ukraine-Russia war. In the wake of this war, there is even more interest in what EU foreign policy and security looks like. The chapter serves to discuss this issue in detail. It also describes whether the current war has changed the EU’s attitude towards foreign policy and security. The sources that provide the latest information on the issue from time to time, as well as the opinions of non-member countries and other organizations about the attitude of the European Union, are discussed in the chapter.

INTRODUCTION

27 European countries are united in the European Union, which have joined together to ensure peace, prosperity and freedom in the world. Of course, the position of an organization with similar goals to current events in the world is noteworthy and important. The most shocking of these events is the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, which has already claimed the lives of thousands of civilians. Residential houses and all the facilities that people could use if needed are also destroyed. All shops, pharmacies and hospitals have been destroyed, and people are receiving food, medicine and even medical care in special bunkers.

However, there are also those who managed to leave the country before the war became uncontrollable and merciless. These people are currently in different European countries as refugees and receive the assistance that is allocated to them individually in each country. The foreign policy and security of the

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European Union become much more important with this situation. The Ukrainian people expect the EU to take steps related to direct assistance, not just the provision of necessary resources. Ukraine, Europe and the attitude of European countries towards the war are the epicenter of world interest (Kirby, 2022).

The objectives of the research paper are:

The purpose of the research is to determine what the EU foreign policy is like in the period when the genocidal war is taking place in the Eastern part of Europe in the 21st century. It is clear that in order to determine this goal, it is not enough to find only superficial information, and it is necessary that the issue be discussed in depth and argumentatively. For this, we can talk not only about the current foreign policy and security, but also whether there was a case when the European Union had to change it for some reason and how it had a negative effect on any of the countries of the Union. Many countries celebrate the European Union as a kind of hope. However, it is also important to consider how acceptable and correct it is for non-member states to have similar thinking in relation to this relationship.

EU Neighborhood and External Security Policy

Talks about creating a neighborhood policy should start in 2003. The goal of this policy is to establish relations with neighboring countries. In exchange for this relationship, the European Union offers its neighboring countries a share of security, prosperity and stability. Of course, the benefits are not one-sided and the European Union is trying to promote the process of political, economic and cultural rapprochement between member and neighboring countries, which will be beneficial for Europe as a whole.

Currently, 16 countries are united in the neighborhood policy. These are: Azerbaijan, Egypt, Algeria, Belarus, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Libya, Morocco, Moldova, Palestine, Syria, Georgia, Ukraine and Tunisia. From this list, only 12 countries participate fully in the implementation of the neighborhood policy, and the remaining four are partially involved in the mentioned process.

Participation, of course, is carried out in accordance with a specially created action plan. The duty of the European Commission is to define the necessary political and economic parameters for countries to evaluate their progress. However, the principle of the current action plan is still the same. If there are differences, it is because they are adapted to the level of development, needs and interests of a particular country. The monitoring of all this is included in the duties of the Social Commission of the European Union and the External Action Service. The EU plan report is published once a year.

The importance of this relationship for the European Union is indicated by the fact that in 2007-2013, 12 billion euros were allocated for the purpose of financial assistance to implement projects planned in individual countries. Also, the European Union simplified the visa regime with its neighboring countries, facilitated their integration and more. The Eastern Partnership, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the Black Sea Synergy are also forms of cooperation developed by the European Union (Information Center on NATO and EU, 2023).

The main goal of creating the foreign and security policy of the European Union is to resolve conflicts and strengthen international relations. This, of course, also includes respect for existing diplomacy and international rules. In the international arena, the European Union conducts trade, allocates humanitarian aid, and tries to develop existing cooperation with its non-member countries.

To summarize, the foreign policy and security objectives look like this:

- Keeping the peace.
- Strengthening international security.

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