

POLITICAL SCIENCES

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GERMANY CASE FOR RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT RESOLUTION

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Annotation: Following steps can be recommended for the conflict resolution: regular negotiations, paying attention to public opinion, especially of the communities involved, employment of peacebuilding mechanisms among different society groups, in line with democratic principles. The efforts need to be complemented by countering propaganda and disinformation campaigns. Besides, one needs to pay attention to involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, active search for a «win-win» situation and thorough communication planning.

Key words: Germany, Ukraine, Russia, conflict resolution, international organizations, UN, foreign policy, international security, diplomacy, track II diplomacy, civil society, disinformation

The Ukrainian political leadership has been using various strategies of resolving Russia-Ukraine conflict since its inception in 2014. The war has been lasting for almost eight years now, and Ukrainians living in the parts of the country currently out of Ukraine's control are exposed to massive propaganda and disinformation, which brings discord to the society. In order to settle the conflict, the Ukrainian government has been making efforts to employ the methods of mediation, multilateral negotiations, and involvement of international organizations.

One of the most renowned organizations working on safeguarding international

security is the United Nations and its affiliated institutions. For instance, in transitional democracies and countries emerging from conflicts, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights) (OHCHR) collaborates with national governments and actors to build a strong and independent judiciary, an independent and effective national human rights institution, and a vibrant civil society [1], [2]. In transitional democracies, OHCHR collaborates with national governments and other actors to confront the past in order to rebuild public confidence and restore peace and the rule of law [1]. Its assistance includes ensuring that human rights considerations are included in peace agreements; engaging in the design of transitional justice mechanisms; supporting the establishment of judicial accountability mechanisms and supporting institutional reform [1]. In fragile contexts United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) particularly focuses on human rights through rule of law and human rights programming, including through the Global Focal Point arrangement and the partnership between UNDP, DPKO, OHCHR, UN Women and others [1].

Ukraine has been actively involving the potential of civil society and Track-II diplomacy for the conflict resolution. Besides, careful examination of previous conflict settlement cases is necessary in order to successfully implement the best methods and lessons learned for the Russia-Ukraine confrontation resolution. One of the countries whose experience can be recommendable in this regard is Germany. Russia-Ukraine war has been lasting for nearly eight years now. Ukrainians currently residing in the Crimea and the temporarily occupied parts of Luhansk and Donetsk regions are exposed to massive propaganda and disinformation campaigns launched by Russian leadership, which can potentially lead to a divide between groups of the Ukrainian society. The Ukrainian diplomats and conflict resolution activists should carefully study and consider historical practices of bridging the divide in post-World War II East and West Germany.

Because of the war, Germany was divided into two parts – the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) influenced by the Western countries and the Soviet Union respectively. The Germans

from Eastern and Western parts of the country had been artificially divided and lived in isolation from each other for nearly four decades. In 1989 the Soviet Union leadership made a statement that the Germans had right to self-determination in political, economic and social spheres and that the FRG, GDR and Western Berlin belong to the German territory. Interestingly, back in 1989 the German states' leadership could not expect that the reintegration process would be so rapid and dynamic [3, p. 6]. The Bonn leadership had been planning to conclude «Commonwealth between East and West Germany» in 1990, aiming to create a confederation thereafter. Other stakeholders were giving even less optimistic forecasts [3, p. 6].

The GDR aspirations for reunification are evidenced by the political steps of East Germany Prime-Minister Hans Modrow's administration that suggested the first agenda of the two countries' reunification almost ten days prior to publicizing of program of West Germany Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Bonn diplomats were actively dealing with the White House leadership in order to have leverage in negotiations with Moscow [3, p. 10]. Diplomacy and successful foreign policy efforts of both GDR and FRG with their allies played a key role in the unification project of 1989-1990. Kohl emphasized in his *Ten Points* that development of German-German relations would be intricately connected to Helsinki process as a «core of all-European architecture development» [3, p. 10].

Both countries' political leadership realized that it was necessary to set up solid foundation for the societies' reintegration. Kudriachenko holds that international trust of the FRG was based on its rejection of power concepts for achieving unity of the German nation, even though these concepts had dominated during the first two decades after the war. Only social-liberal government headed by West Germany Chancellor Willy Brandt after Germany's joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) realized the inefficiency of previous power approaches and introduced «new Eastern policy» instead [3, p. 7]. As a result of the negotiations one can note a «win-win» situation for all of the parties involved, security was guaranteed for the entire continent and the German nation was finally united.

Thus, it is necessary to employ the most efficient lessons learned of previous conflicts' resolution for the Russia-Ukraine case. In particular, following steps can be recommended for the conflict resolution: regular negotiations, paying attention to public opinion, especially of the communities involved, employment of peacebuilding mechanisms among different society groups, in line with democratic principles. The efforts need to be complemented by countering propaganda and disinformation campaigns. Besides, one needs to pay attention to involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, active search for a «win-win» situation and thorough communication planning.

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