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FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC TOOLS OF HYBRID WARFARE

The modern stage of the development of social and legal relations is characterized by a significant number of international treaties and organizations aimed at the protection of individuals both in peacetime and under martial law. At the same time, the aggression of the Russian Federation in Ukraine led to irreversible institutional changes in society due to the emergence of threats to the security of the international environment, individual countries, economic entities and citizens. The new type of war has significantly reduced the role of the institution of international law, the norms of which currently do not provide adequate protection of human rights and universally recognized democratic values and has caused a decrease in the level of financial security of many countries. This actualizes the need to study the nature of hybrid warfare and identify the tools of hybrid aggression used by the Russian Federation in Ukraine, in particular financial and economic levers of influence.

Robert E. Barnsby, Elisabeth Braw, Volodymyr Birchak, Roman Dodonov, Emmet Foley, Henk E. Goemans, Frank G. Hofman, Volodymyr Horbulin, Christian Kaunert, Jeffrey A. Larsen, Guillaume Lasconjarias, Harold Lasswell, Evgeny Magda, András Rácz, Shane R. Reeves, Sergiy Ryabenko, Volodymyr Viatrovykh and others were researching the nature of wars. At the same time, modern wars generate threats of a new type, which requires in-depth research in order to find and develop an effective mechanism for countering them.

Hybrid warfare is defined as a combination of conventional, irregular and asymmetric means, including the constant manipulation of political and ideological conflict, as well as the involvement of special operations forces and conventional armed forces, intelligence agents, political provocateurs, media representatives, economic blackmail, cyber-attacks, proxies and surrogates, paramilitary, terrorist and criminal elements. Unusual forms of weakening the enemy, which were unknown in the past, are used in the “hybrid” confrontation, such as smuggling, drug trade, and illegal transfer of weapons and military equipment into the hands of criminal world [1].

It is also worth noting that many researchers are inclined to use the term “grey zone wars” or “surrogate warfare”, including Emmet Foley, Christian Kaunert [2].

Contemporary conflicts are both difficult to define and are often an amalgamation of characteristics from traditionally unrelated forms of warfare. For example, state actors regularly use the indirect tactics of asymmetric warfare by blurring the line between combatant and civilian, conducting cyber-attacks, and lethally targeting individual actors in order to gain a strategic advantage over their non-state adversaries. Similarly, non-state armed groups and insurgencies do not hesitate to use devices of conventional armed warfare, including traditional weaponry, in conflicts with state actors [4].

Kasapoglu C. has described the difference between Western definitions of hybrid warfare – a conflict encompassing multi-modality – and that of Russia, where “hybrid” is seen in terms of offensive deep penetration and relexive control [3].

The Russian Federation is waging a hybrid war in Ukraine, using a wide arsenal of means, including historical, ideological, informational, socio-political, cultural, religious, financial and economic, military, terrorist and other means.

The financial and economic instruments of Russia’s hybrid war include the conduct of systematic trade wars by the aggressor with the aim of suppressing Ukraine’s foreign trade potential and blocking the diversification of foreign trade relations (blocking ports, international transit of Ukrainian goods, introducing discriminatory trade conditions, etc.). Substantial damage to the national interests of Ukraine was caused by the infiltration of agents of the aggressor into the economy of Ukraine with the aim of weakening it and establishing real or hidden control over strategic enterprises.

The consequence of such actions was the implementation of acts of economic terrorism. For instance, the organization of a wide range of economic activities at economic objects of Ukraine, which led to the suspension of their financial and economic activities, bringing them to bankruptcy, dilution of shares, a significant increase in social tension due to the reduction of employees, obtaining confidential information about shareholders, etc.

The financial and economic instruments of the hybrid war of the Russian Federation also provided agent penetration into state management bodies with the aim of influencing the regulation of Ukraine’s economy and international economic relations.

Russian aggression in Ukraine, which is implemented in all spheres of society’s functioning and has led to a decrease in the level of state security, in particular its financial component, inevitably affects international security

and the ability to protect the national financial interests of all participants in the world community. New threats to international security make it necessary to develop a fundamentally new model of joint response of the participants of world society to the actions of the Russian aggressor as soon as possible.

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