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The situation in Ukraine: qui prodest?

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FORUM

The situation in Ukraine: *qui prodest?*

The situation in contemporary Ukraine is not easy to designate in one word. This is indeed a very difficult, extremely tense, unstable situation with many dimensions, which involves a number of actors and intersections of these actors on both domestic and international levels. Conflict? Crisis? Confrontation? Split? War? As we had not identified the events in Ukraine, it is obvious this is the result of the interwoven impact of internal and external causes.

Ukraine is experiencing a difficult period. Obviously, Ukraine's problems have objective reasons, due to which Ukraine is perceived today by Western politicians and experts to a greater extent as a failed state, not having sufficient internal subjectivity to conduct its independent game. It is considered an artificial entity, which became an independent state only as a result of the collapse of the USSR.

Geographically, Ukraine is one of the largest states in Europe. In terms of geopolitical coordinates Ukraine is between two geopolitical players – Russia and the West (USA and Europe). This place is largely conditional in its objective: the geographical center of Europe is in the Ukrainian Carpathians. With the level of the current geopolitical coordinates, as well as in accordance with its geographical position, Ukraine had to choose between two main directions: Euro-Asian and Euro-Atlantic.

The geographical and historical features of Ukraine, as well as ethnic and cultural differences, imposed a hard complex political imprint on Ukraine. For over 20 years since its independence, the various political parties in Ukraine have been fighting for power; in essence, it is a fight between pro-Western and pro-Russian political orientations. Alternately, the ruling party and the opposition have not reached a clear agreement on a path of national development, including within the field of external strategy. Underdevelopment and a lack of communication between the government and the opposition, as well as between the government and society, caused massive unrest with each subsequent disintegration of the union and in the political fields of Ukraine. As a result, Ukraine lost its territorial integrity. There is no doubt that these processes, being the subject of constant attention and concern, did not happen without interference from the USA, EU, and Russia. It can be assumed that there may be hidden participants interested in political and economic instability in Ukraine. However, it is clear this conflict should not have a military solution. Any attempt to escalate one side or another can have disastrous consequences, not only for Crimea and Ukraine, but also for the whole world.

One would agree with former Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, a 'great friend' of President Vladimir Putin, that the European Commission initially made a huge mistake by offering the Ukraine Association Agreement with the EU on the principle of being, 'either with us or with Russia' (<http://dw.de/p/1BMVx>). However, there is one very important caveat. For most Ukrainians the vector of development of the European integration of Ukraine is not a choice between the West or East – it is a choice to live by the principles of morality and law. That is why the Vilnius summit remained unsigned and the Association Agreement between Ukraine

and the EU became a point of reference of mass protests that prompted people to take to Maidan and protest in many cities in our country. Ukrainians have shown the world that rights, freedom, dignity, independence, citizenship and statehood are values for which people are willing to give their lives. In turn, the situation in Ukraine has shown these values are subject to manipulation, and may be an open violation. Also, if the Western world has yet to learn the lessons of 'the situation in Ukraine' in the assessment of past and current events, Ukraine has already passed the point of no return. Ukrainian people, seasoned in bloody confrontation and the taste of civil self-organization, feel the breath of military intervention and the threat of loss of territorial integrity. With the Ukrainian society on the brink of civil war and division, we all have to prove to the world and, first of all, to ourselves that we are Ukrainians! Our country is Ukraine! The Ukrainian state is united and indivisible! Ukrainian people are willing and able to take responsibility for their country's future!

It pains me to know my country has become a pawn in this great geopolitical game. I agree with Vaclav Klaus, the former president of the Czech Republic that

Conservation in Ukraine's geopolitical situation objectively existing as an independent and simultaneously prosperous nation, has a long shutter speed and requires considerable diplomatic tact as Ukrainian politicians and from foreign partners. Unfortunately, ... this country is drawn to irreconcilable conflict that can only end in tragedy. Ukraine had a choice: East or West, then beat it. It seems this is what happens. (<http://www.institutvk.cz/politicke-komentare/politicky-komentar-ivk-c-19-k-situaci-na-ukrajine>, DATE)

Today it is important to not so much focus on the clash of interests and points of view, but also how to find and identify all possible points of the common interest in preserving the unity of Ukraine to prevent civil war and bankruptcy. It is necessary to Ukrainians, to Russians, and to Europeans and Americans as well. It is necessary to not only preserve the stability of the system of global security and geopolitical balance in the contemporary world, but to preserve and strengthen the importance and inviolability of: (a) international norms and principles; (b) agreements and obligations; (c) freedom of choice and democratic development; (d) the value of communication; and (e) ethics and tolerance. That is why the main means of neutralizing threats are political negotiations and it is imperative to seek all possible ways to solve problems in the dialogue.

'Recent events in Ukraine have shown how important proper communication is in today's society and issues of tolerance', said Ukrainian MP and philanthropist, Alexander Feldman at the fifth World Communication Forum (World Communication Forum) in Davos, which was held on 11–12 March 2014. It was no accident that in the forum 'Tolerance for the Future' was announced.

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