

LESSONS LEARNED AFTER ONE YEAR OF WAR IN UKRAINE

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***Abstract:** The author believes that the subject of this article could be of particular interest to Romanian politicians and military personnel of all ranks, active, but also for those in reserve.*

In the context of the invasion of Ukraine (on 24.02.2022), by the Russian Federation without any plausible reason and unprovoked, the concerns of Romania and other countries, that are historically and geographically unluckily situated in what the Russians call with imperial arrogance their “Near Neighbourhood”, have increased dramatically, the main reason for it is that no one knows where this neighbourhood ends.

The material presents some events and facts regarding the preliminaries of the war and the 12 months of atrocious war, from which local civilian and military leaders would have a lot to learn and correct. Let's hope that NATO and the EU have also woken up to reality and finally understood who Putin's Russia is and what it wants.

Keywords: *Ukrainian War, Russia, Ukraine, NATO, EU, Romania.*

1. Introduction

In the morning of 24.02.2023, it was one year since the beginning of the brutal and unprovoked aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, an independent state recognized by the UN and by all the states of the world, within the borders guaranteed in 1991, including by the current aggressor state.

Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and his aggressive team from the Kremlin have been preparing the aggression since the year 2000, immediately after he obtained, through obscure manoeuvres, the first mandate of president of the Russian Federation, a state entity that includes, in addition to ethnic Russians, another 160 populations and diverse ethnic groups. Available data show that 80% declare themselves Russian, and the remaining 20% are other ethnic groups.

Despite increasingly obvious signals that Russia is preparing politically, militarily, economically and propagandistically for the restoration of the Russian Empire in the form of the U.S.S.R. 2.0, Western decision-makers treated the analyses of political-military analysts from several countries of the world superficially, even with indifference. There

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