

## **Summary**

### **Separatism in the post-Soviet area from 1992-2019**

Separatist tendencies are a destabilizing factor in the countries where they occur, preventing them from fully developing satisfactory relations with European countries, strengthening Russia's influence on their decision-making processes. The importance of this phenomenon for the regional security complex in the 21st century is in favor of addressing the issue of separatism in the post-Soviet area in the post-Cold War period. The majority of separatisms in this region are so-called frozen conflicts, the re-initiation of which may also be a challenge for neighboring countries. In addition, this phenomenon is part of Russia's power politics in global competition for power. The implications of armed conflicts with a separatist background were the emergence of geopolitical entities independent of their home countries, i.e. unrecognized states (interchangeable terms: quasi-states, parastatal states), which manifest their own aims and interests. Their functioning in their present form depends on close relations between the patron and the client. In most cases, Russia is the patron. Due to the lack of international recognition, the possibilities of establishing, for example, economic relations (trade exchange, attracting investors, financial or technical assistance) and diplomatic relations of unrecognized states are very limited. Therefore, building the prosperity of societies depends on cooperation with a strategic partner.

The main research objective of the doctoral dissertation is to show the essence of separatisms in the post-Soviet area (based on selected examples), including their characteristics. The years 1992-2019 are the period of work (some references to 2020 have also been included). The main part of the work focuses on the study of the following separatist regions: Chechnya, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh and Donbass. In addition, the separatism of the Crimea is presented in a synthetic way, treating this issue as a complementary element in discussing separatist tendencies in Ukraine. The selection of examples of separatist tendencies was determined by the desire to take into account the widest possible spectrum of the phenomenon and, at the same time, important elements in terms of competition between the Russian Federation and the West. In order to make an in-depth description of separatism, an analysis of the phenomenon was carried out at various levels, including: a) the historical origins of the area; b) the functioning of the separatist region in the Soviet period; c) the armed

dimension of the separatist conflict; d) international initiatives for the de-escalation of separatist tendencies; e) the functioning of the separatist region (an unrecognized state) in the 21st century.

The thread highlighted is the functioning of selected countries unrecognized in the 21st century, such as the Republic of Abkhazia, the Republic of South Ossetia, the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic, the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic. It has been signaled that these entities possess some of the attributes that are characteristic of states, such as the establishment of state bodies or state symbolism. An attempt has been made to characterize the political systems of all regions, emphasizing their most important features in terms of power structure. Particular emphasis has been placed on discussing the most important vectors in foreign policy created by the decision makers of quasi-states, especially relations with the Russian Federation.