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INTERNATIONAL AID TO UKRAINE DURING THE WAR PERIOD: IMPACT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES

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Abstract

In the modern world, where geopolitical conflicts and military clashes are becoming increasingly relevant, international aid, as an integral part of international relations, is gaining special importance. Ukraine, which found itself at the center of a full-scale war with Russia at the beginning of 2022, has become the object of attention from both world leaders and society as a whole. The purpose of the study is to analyze the impact and significance of international aid provided to Ukraine during the war, as well as its humanitarian consequences. To achieve the goal, a complex of complementary methods of scientific identification of economic processes and phenomena was used: historical-logical, comparative and statistical analysis, as well as information, process and institutional approaches. The main task of this study is a thorough analysis of the features of foreign financing and other assistance aimed at supporting the economic stability of Ukraine and accelerating the end of the conflict in the country. The topicality of the topic is determined by humanitarian necessity, political context, economic challenges and geopolitical consequences of the conflict. The study is analytical in nature, and its results contribute to a better understanding of the impact of international aid on Ukraine in the context of the conflict and emphasize the importance of humanitarian aspects in this context.

Keywords

international aid, global community, humanitarian consequences, war period.

Problem statement

The main problem highlighted in the study is the issue of Russia's war against Ukraine and its destructive consequences. It has a significant impact on both ordinary citizens and the functioning of the state as a whole, and creates challenges that are difficult to overestimate.

The study of important problems and features of international financial support of the Ukrainian economy in the conditions of the military conflict becomes an urgent necessity, since the crisis caused by the Russian invasion threatened all spheres and branches of the economy. The war led to a serious decrease in economic activity in Ukraine and reduced the solvency of the population. This was reflected in the country's financial flows

and budget indicators. The budget deficit has grown to critical levels, and there is a real threat of excessive growth of the public debt.

Restoring stability and well-being in Ukraine requires joint efforts and support from the whole world.

Relevance of the chosen topic

The relevance of this topic is due to an extremely difficult period in the history of Ukraine, which is connected with the aggression of Russia and its invasion of the territory of the former. Ukraine faced the difficult task of maintaining stability and protecting its territory and population. In the context of a full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war, international aid becomes part of a broader debate about global security, the moral obligations of countries, and how global society can deal with humanitarian crises.

Analysis of recent research and publications

Many theoretical and practical aspects of the functioning of international financial institutions are considered in the context of the sustainable development of the world economy and in the conditions of a crisis in order to prevent or mitigate the consequences caused by man-made or environmental factors. However, an important but understudied direction for domestic science is the problems of international assistance to the country during a military conflict.

Analysis of the influence and significance of international support provided to Ukraine during the war, as well as its humanitarian consequences, is the subject of research by both domestic and foreign scientists such as: V. Naumenko, M. Rippa, L. Kurnosenko, M. Malskyi, O. Bilorus, M. Matsyaha, M. Vasylieva, N. Stukalo, I. Hominich, K. Rybalchenko, V. Geets, L. Londar, D. McDowell, T. Porter and F. Lessambo. To achieve the goal of the article, it is also suggested to refer to the works of outstanding thinkers and economists of all times, such as David Ricardo, Friedrich August von Hayek, Joseph Schumpeter, Walter Jucken and Reinhard Zelten.

David Ricardo, a classical economist, in his theory of absolute advantages, emphasized the importance of international trade as a source of mutual benefit for countries. In relation to Ukraine, international aid can be seen as a form of trade, where states provide resources and support in exchange for other services or benefits.

Theories of innovation presented by Joseph Schumpeter emphasize the importance of investment in new technologies and knowledge to stimulate economic growth. Yes, the Ukrainian Solidarity Fund is an important tool for providing financial assistance and development of Ukraine. Thanks to the generosity and support provided by the European Council, USF gets the opportunity to actively accumulate resources within the framework of the granted grants, which will affect the results of significant innovative initiatives.

In the perspective of the next few years, the funds collected by the fund can be directed to finance the needs of state authorities and defense efforts, as well as citizens, in particular in the areas of food, housing and health care. Such a measure will help strengthen the country's stability in the face of geopolitical challenges and ensure the safety of citizens.

In the long term, the collected funds can become a source of large-scale investments in the recovery and development of the economy of Ukraine, which will contribute to the creation of new jobs and increased economic activity.

Friedrich August von Hayek, one of the leading representatives of neoclassical economic thought, and Walter Jucken, a representative of the anarcho-capitalist school, called for minimal state intervention in the economy. In the context of this study, this point of view can be interpreted as supporting the idea that aid should be provided without unnecessary restrictions and conditions in order to ensure maximum freedom of choice for the Ukrainian people [2, p.6].

It is worth noting that a scientific analysis of the motivational foundations of international aid is indeed key to understanding this complex topic. It should be taken into account that opinions regarding the purpose and motivation of donors, providing international aid, differ among domestic scientists. This may be the result of different approaches and beliefs.

V. Geets notes the positive impact of international financial support for countries in a post-crisis state. Each support program is unique but focuses on important aspects, including population support, restoration of systems and institutions, economic reforms, reconstruction and infrastructural development.

Analyzing the situation regarding the provision of international financial support for carrying out structural reforms in Ukraine, L. Londar also highlights the extremely positive experience of Ukraine's cooperation with international partners.

F. Lessambo, within the framework of the study of international financial institutions, pays considerable attention to the impact of financial globalization on the modernization of the world financial system and carefully

analyzes the changes that have taken place in the world economy as a result of this complex process. On the one hand, the processes of financial globalization contributed to the strengthening of the financial expansion of developed countries, which ultimately led to the growth of their influence on world financial markets. Liberalization of foreign economic relations and increased capital mobility contributed to an increase in the volume of international investments and the turnover of financial assets.

On the other hand, financial globalization has also led to a weakening of state control over the functioning of developing countries' own finances. This can have negative consequences, such as reducing the resilience of these countries to global financial crises. In addition, high levels of public debt may create a risk of loss of sovereignty for these countries, as they may find themselves dependent on international creditors.

Researchers and analysts have been continuously analyzing an

summarizing the data to reflect the steady increase in the amount of foreign aid given to Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion of its territory. The scientific work, developed by V. O. Naumenko and M. B. Rippa, examines in detail which countries and international organizations began to provide support to Ukraine, studying the instruments and sources of financing, as well as the share of each donor in the total amount of aid provided.

As researchers analyze this data, they find that this aid has a significant positive impact on Ukraine's development and supports it in becoming a sustainable and prosperous society. Joint efforts between countries and organizations from around the world help strengthen security, restore the economy, and improve the quality of life of Ukrainian citizens. As a result, Ukraine continues to grow and develop, thanks to the support of its international partners, and provides an example of how solidarity and cooperation can change people's lives.

Purpose and objectives

The purpose of this article is to analyze the impact and significance of international aid to Ukraine during the war period, particularly in the context of global society and the humanitarian consequences of the conflict. In order to achieve the set goal, the following tasks must be solved:

1. Analysis of the role and contribution of global society in providing aid to Ukraine, in particular the positions of countries and international organizations.
2. Determination of the humanitarian consequences of the military conflict for Ukrainian society.
3. Consideration of the volume and effectiveness of international aid and its impact on the processes of recovery and peace in Ukraine.

Presentation of the main research material and the results obtained

In the current realities of global development, the international community actively supports developing countries in carrying out socio-economic and political reforms. For countries with limited internal resources, international aid is an important determinant in achieving their sustainable independent development as states and complements their own efforts in mobilizing internal resources.

Within the framework of the above, it is worth emphasizing that in today's realities, global society is becoming an increasingly important aspect of international relations and is defined as an association of people and organizations around the world that share common values, interests, and the goal of common development.

International aid, as one of the key components of the modern global community, is defined by a network of cooperation and interaction between states and international organizations with the aim of providing material, financial, technical and humanitarian support to developing countries, experiencing crisis situations, or facing other geopolitical and economic problems, on under certain conditions.

Global society is shaped by a number of key factors. Firstly, it is the convergence of cultures, technological progress and the growth of international communications. Its role in the field of international aid as a catalyst for humanitarian initiatives, which includes non-profit organizations, activists, philanthropists and citizens working for the benefit of developed and developing countries, is extremely important. The public and non-profit organizations demand transparency, accountability, effectiveness of relevant programs, accounting of costs, ensuring access to assistance for the most vulnerable population groups and ensuring compliance with human rights.

The effects of the influence of global society in the context of international aid are multifaceted. First, it is the mobilization of resources to solve crisis situations, and secondly, it is the provision of financial support in the form of medical resources and necessary materials.

In addition, global society contributes to the development of coordinated approaches to solving global

problems. With the help of associations such as the UN, these initiatives are coordinated and interact to solve global issues, such as adapting to climate change or fighting global pandemics.

Analyzing scientific research in the field of international aid, it is impossible not to pay attention to important methodological aspects that affect the development of this field. It is worth noting that Ukrainian science uses general scientific and specialized approaches, such as empirical and theoretical research, as well as legal, political and economic methods. In particular, economic tools, such as financial forecasting and modeling, make it possible to assess the impact of international aid on the economy of donors and recipients. However, Ukrainian researchers often lag behind in the use of specialized methodological tools that are already widely used in world science. For example, game-theoretic models can be useful for analyzing the interaction between donors and recipients of international aid and determining optimal strategies for involving the private sector and civil society [1].

From the author's point of view, international relations in the context of the methodology for the optimization of international aid processes require a complex and orderly approach, innovations and an appropriate model. It is appropriate in this direction to create an integrated methodological platform that would combine general scientific methods (empirical and theoretical research) with specialized methods (legal methods, political science approaches and methods of economic analysis) and would be accessible to researchers, government officials, public organizations and donors from in order to exchange information and analyze data to monitor the implementation of international aid projects, identify problem areas and adjust the aid strategy in real time. This process should be accompanied by the implementation of modern data analysis methods, such as artificial intelligence, to predict the effectiveness of international aid programs and identify new opportunities for optimization, as well as the active involvement of all interested stakeholders, including governments, businesses and the academic community, in the process of developing and implementing the model.

The model of integrated analytics of international aid would contribute to the improvement of management and understanding of the nuances of this process, which should increase the effectiveness and duration of development programs, as well as reduce the risks of conflicts and inconsistencies between participants.

According to the concepts of the 70s of the 20th century regarding the restructuring of international economic relations and the creation of a new economic order, developed industrial countries play a key role in providing aid to recipient countries. It should be noted that the respective donor countries mainly provide assistance at the bilateral level, noting their political interest in preserving their status quo in the international arena [3].

Some researchers argue that international aid provided by benevolent states does not always express good intentions, but can be a real political conjuncture. Donors can use aid to influence the situation of recipients, in particular to support their own geopolitical interests. Such a view arises against the background of skepticism and criticism regarding the effectiveness of aid in the development of transitional societies.

In this context, it can be noted that some researchers attribute international aid to potential political corruption, emphasizing the possibility of its use to impose one's own conditions and achieve political goals. It is appropriate to take into account that such an approach can be approved under the influence of past historical events and differences in the interpretation of international relations.

Additionally, an important aspect of research is the work of L.V. Kurnosenko, which examines the impact of the war on the economy of Ukraine and problems related to the financial assistance received by the state [4]. The author emphasizes the role of financial organizations that supported Ukraine from the first months of the war, in particular, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In general, the international credit market plays a key role in the global financial system and provides mechanisms for attracting capital at the global level. This makes it an important tool for companies, states and investors, and contributes to economic growth and development in the global arena [5, p.37]. However, with this method of attracting funds, it is necessary to carefully assess all the conditions and risks associated with this type of financing, and to develop a debt management strategy to ensure the stability of the state's finances.

The humanitarian consequences of international aid for Ukraine are also undeniable. They can have a positive impact on economic development, stability and innovation in the country, as well as ensure the humanitarian needs of the Ukrainian population. Different economic theories in this aspect also offer different approaches to international aid, and their unification can help to cope with the challenges that Ukraine faces [6, p.17]. Thus, Reinhard Zeltin pointed out the importance of social protection and assistance to the population in times of crisis. Corresponding interpretations are indeed reflected in practice under the current situation, because international aid contributes to the provision of humanitarian needs of the Ukrainian population, including food, medical services and housing [7, p.22].

Russia's military aggression led to serious economic losses for Ukraine. Due to the reduction in the supply of many goods and the disruption of supply chains, the prices of consumer goods for 2022 increased by more than 30%, and GDP showed a downward trend by more than 35% [8]. More than 30% of enterprises have ceased their activities, and 45% of those remaining are only partially operational [9]. This led to a significant increase in the unemployment rate and depressed the precarious economic situation in the country.

Ukraine received more than 113 billion euros from 40 donors during the war. The European Union allocated 52 billion euros, the United States - 48 billion euros for military, financial and humanitarian aid [10].

After a careful analysis of the ratings of the provision of military assistance, the author singled out certain countries whose contribution to the security of Ukraine is impressive in terms of volume and quality (Fig. 1).

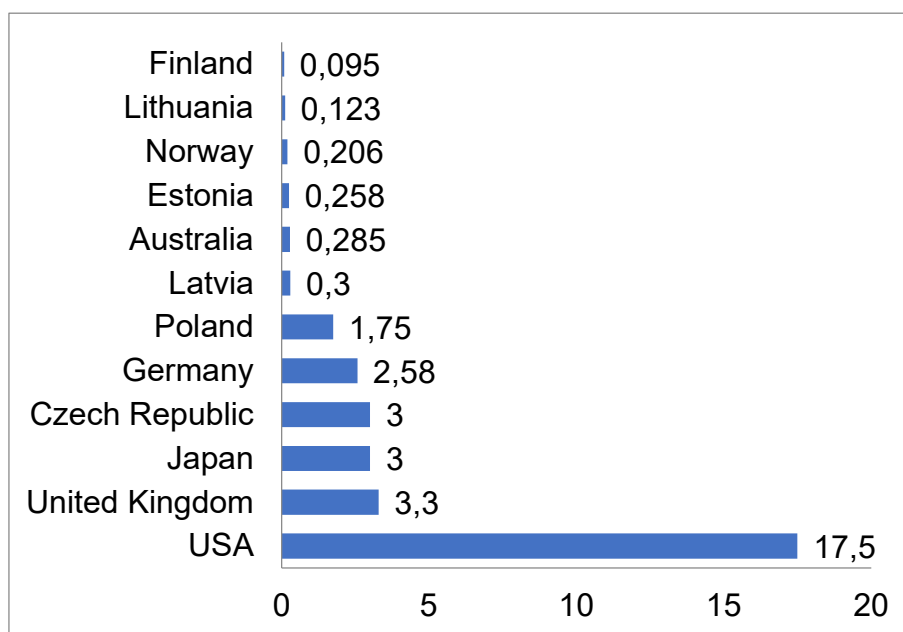


Fig. 1. Military aid to Ukraine during the war, billion dollars USA

Source: compiled by the author based on data [10].

A country that showed itself as a true example of solidarity and support in difficult times was Poland, which accepted millions of refugees, providing housing, clothing, medicine and financial assistance, as well as equipment and uniforms, for a total of 5.1 billion euros. Poland has become an important transit node for the supply of weapons [11].

Great Britain made a significant financial contribution to Ukraine's budget and provided extensive military aid, including the training of 10,000 servicemen [12].

Germany provided significant support to Ukraine in such difficult times. Back in 2014, due to the beginning of the anti-terrorist operation, the non-commercial association "Blue Cross" was born in the city of Cologne. Currently, it provides significant assistance to Ukraine in the form of standardized medical kits, rescue backpacks for doctors, emergency medical aid, etc. The Baby Package project helps internally displaced women by delivering essential items for newborns. Also, with the help of the "Give Warmth" project, the association supplies warm things and equipment for hospitals and kindergartens [13].

In addition, "Blue Cross" actively conducts informational and cultural work, organizing events, panel discussions and conferences with the aim of drawing attention to the problems of Ukraine and Russian aggression.

The United States of America, as a world leader, has also provided extensive aid to Ukraine, including various types of weapons, transportation, defense systems, and medical supplies, totaling more than 44.5 billion euros. The USA leads the list of countries that provide important support to Ukraine [14].

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the contribution of international organizations, in particular the United Nations, in providing assistance to Ukraine is significant. During the past year, the UN allocated more than 4.5 billion dollars. for humanitarian support.

Also, within the framework of the new Action Plan of the Council of Europe for Ukraine for the period 2023–2026, the allocation of approximately 50 million euros is provided for projects aimed at recording Russia's war crimes and minimizing the humanitarian consequences of Russian aggression. Among these projects, an important place is given to the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons and the rehabilitation of war victims.

One of the significant problems provoked by the Russian-Ukrainian war is the mass migration of the population. At the initial stages of the conflict, the flow of migrants from Ukraine was directed mainly to European countries. However, this problem has become truly global, and in the future, under the influence of the food crisis, its consequences may cover the whole world. International financial organizations and donors have undertaken to allocate an extraordinary amount - about 10 billion euros - to support temporarily displaced Ukrainians, both inside the country and abroad [15].

Ukrainian agriculture is going through no less difficult times, caused by circumstances that go beyond the usual challenges facing farmers. War, occupation and changes in weather conditions led to a significant reduction in grain production by 37% in 2022 [16].

The most important tasks for the support of agricultural producers at the present time are obtaining state and international soft loans and expanding export opportunities.

The war in Ukraine is a humanitarian catastrophe and an environmental risk. According to the data of the monitoring of the ecological situation in Ukraine for July 2022, it can be concluded about the significant impact of hostilities on the environment, which poses a threat to future generations. International organizations cannot ignore the corresponding consequences of a global nature, because the results of the environmental aspect of the war will be felt not only by Ukraine, but also by neighboring countries.

The European Union announced the creation of the Trust Fund for Solidarity with Ukraine. It is important to use these funds as effectively as possible and to take into account the environmental requirements of the EU for the restoration of industrial and infrastructure facilities. One of the expedient measures in this direction should be an observation council made up of representatives of donor countries to monitor and prevent corruption. Wasteful price subsidies should be replaced by more targeted subsidies for vulnerable segments of the population, and the economic reconstruction program should be developed with an emphasis on the long-term effectiveness of "green" technologies [17]. The priority is environmental control over investments and cooperation with countries that use renewable energy sources.

Joint financing of eco-industrial parks in post-war affected regions can be an innovative solution that will promote sustainable development, shared use of resources and effective waste management based on the principles of circular economy.

So, at this stage of the research, it is worth highlighting and emphasizing both the positive and negative consequences of international state aid. So, first of all, this is providing the population with the necessary material values, which suffered from the conflict and the unstable economic situation in the country.

Political support, which leads to the strengthening of Ukraine's political position on the international arena, as well as military aid in the form of weapons and training, is becoming important. International aid also draws the attention of the world community to the problems of Ukraine and raises awareness in this direction.

In contrast, international aid entails such results as: geopolitical risks in the form of tensions between different countries and international blocs; insufficient control over the distribution of aid, which promotes corruption; social consequences in the form of psychological problems for the population, in particular injuries, depression and the breakdown of social structures.

From the author's point of view, the most unpredictable and unmanageable consequence for Ukraine may be dependence on foreign aid, which will lead to a loss of control over its own policy and sovereignty. In this context, some economists compare the current situation in Ukraine with the experience of South Korea in the 1950s and 1970s.

Currently, foreign aid already covers half of Ukraine's budget expenditures, which is essentially similar to the situation in South Korea in the past. Long-term crediting of investment projects under state guarantees can become the main financial instrument for post-war reconstruction, in particular because this source of financing is more accessible than foreign direct investment.

Regarding reparations from Russia, which took place in the relevant experience of South Korea, the situation in Ukraine is much more complicated. Frozen Russian assets remain inaccessible, and the prospects of their transfer to Ukraine are almost zero due to the lack of an appropriate legal mechanism. The possibility of obtaining reparations may appear through the decision of an international court, but for now efforts are directed to the criminal prosecution of the crime of aggression.

Conclusions

Thus, despite significant efforts in the field of international aid, the challenge remains to effectively allocate resources, fight corruption, and ensure long-term socio-economic sustainability. However, it is important to recognize that international aid remains an integral part of the global community and can make a significant contribution to improving the lives of millions of people in developing countries.

Finally, the analysis of the impact and significance of international aid to Ukraine during the war period emphasizes the importance of such support both for Ukraine and for global society as a whole. This case has enriched the understanding of how international relations, economic theories and humanitarian aspects are intertwined in periods of crises and military conflicts. Several key conclusions can be drawn from it.

First, international aid has a significant impact on the economic recovery of a country that has experienced an armed conflict. Ensuring financial and economic stability through investment, credit and innovation promotes rapid recovery, which in turn can mitigate the humanitarian consequences of war.

Second, international aid plays an important role in reducing the suffering of the civilian population. Providing humanitarian aid in the form of food, medical care and shelter can save lives and provide minimum conditions for the survival of those affected by the conflict.

Third, the importance of international aid reaches the limit of direct effects and influence. It demonstrates solidarity and support of global society in times of crisis, asserting the importance of cooperation and humanitarian values [18, p.8].

Thus, international aid to Ukraine during the war period leaves a deep mark both in the economic and humanitarian spheres. Unfortunately, in our time we have vivid examples-reminders of the importance of global solidarity and the urgent need to act in moments of crisis to alleviate the suffering of the population and support each other on the road to recovery and peace.

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