

GENESIS OF THE UNRECOGNIZED STATES PHENOMENON IN THE AGE OF INFORMATION WARS ESCALATION (CASE OF NAGORNO-KARABACK CONFLICT)

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In recent years, the phenomenon of unrecognized states in the post-Soviet space has attracted more and more attention from politicians, diplomats, experts, scientists, and the media. In modern conditions, as practice shows, the rules of international law become hostages of different states political interests. This is especially acute in the issues of the new states' recognition/non-recognition and the resolution of ethno-political conflicts.

The revival of the ethno-national consciousness of some nations in the mid-1980s, as a result of the liberalization and democratization of part of Europe, led to the immediate formation of new states, some of which never received international recognition. It is well known that only the collapse of the Soviet Union and the so-called «The parade of sovereignties», in a relatively short time, led to the formation of 19 new states (4 of which have not received, in general or in part, international recognition) and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic among them. It is now the subject of discussion in almost all media in connection with the escalation of the conflict. This is since the international community still attributes the unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh Republic not to the type of negation, toleration, or quasi-recognition, but to the type of boycott [1, P. 35].

The UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the Council of Europe and other international organizations do not recognize the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, while it is recognized by several states in the United States and Australia, and plans to recognize Armenia [2].

If we analyze the information coverage of the conflict in the media, it is significant that in official statements of Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh is never mentioned even as state-like entities or unrecognized states, and even more so as just states.

For a long time, the technology of «neither peace nor war» was used in relation to Nagorno-Karabakh. In less than two decades since the signing of the agreement on the end of Azerbaijan-Armenian war, the official peace process on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group, has not been resolved. Following a meeting between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in January 2012 and the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Karabakh in 2013, the Karabakh negotiation process has entered to a passive phase and has not yet led to a peaceful settlement of the conflict. This situation can be explained by the fact that 2012 and 2013 were electoral, both for intermediary countries (Russia, USA) and for Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan [3]. The German media are emphasizing

increasingly the danger of this escalation not only for the two sides of the conflict, but also for the entire international community, and especially for the Russian Federation and Turkey, relations between which are still tense.

Against the background of Turkey's huge interest in the military events in Karabakh, the country's media are trying to understand Russia's role in this conflict in the South Caucasus. Cumhuriyet further emphasizes that the South Caucasus is of great importance to Russia. First, the region is located on the way out of Central Asia and China to the West, and there are energy lines and trade routes. «For this reason,» - the Turkish newspaper writes, - «Russia's ability to maintain control here means its ability to control Central Asia and increase its weight in the global energy sector (recall how Kazakhstan's connection to the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline violated Russia's interests).»

According to this situation the European media either resort to neutrality or express support for Karabakh. One of the oldest newspapers in Spain «La Vanguardia» published an article entitled «Battle cry in Baku» Karabakh is Azerbaijan! ». Unlike the April 2016 war, the Russian media use an objective approach to analysis of the escalating conflict. Thus, RIA Novosti, Interfax, TASS and others publish information about hostilities, while maintaining relative objectivity. However, these Russian news agencies, mentioning the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, inevitably note that this entity is unrecognized. Moreover, referring to the history of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Russian media note that the conflict is between Azerbaijan and Armenia only.

The situation in Karabakh are covered actively in the Ukrainian media too. In general, the reaction of the media is balanced, and the positions of all parties are presented. There are a few exceptions that published information from Azerbaijani sources, but this was not systemic.

Thus, it is safe to say that the current situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is not clear, and prospects are still blurred. The escalation of the conflict has only once again shown how unstable the South Caucasus is and the need for a deep settlement of disputes by political means, excluding the use of force. The OSCE peace plans do not provide full security guarantees, and therefore need to be refined to consider the significant media impact on the situation. After all, information wars do not stop even when the conflict enters a latent phase and primarily the main means of achieving military-political goals in the 21st century.

References:

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