

Vasyl TKACHENKO,

Doctor of historical sciences

Correspondence-member of the NAPS of Ukraine

Counsellor of the Embassy of Ukraine to Belarus (1998–2001)

UKRAINE AND RUSSIA: IS TEMPORAL CONNECTION OVER?

Eastern Ukraine is experiencing chaos and the Russian intervention. And there is no exaggeration here. The logic of events suggests that when Russia proved to be able to provoke and provide the separation of the Crimea, why not use the proven already pattern to the industrial regions of Eastern Ukraine?

The annexation of the territory is, first, a blow to the status of the Ukrainian state and its security agencies and armed forces. Resentment and disgust that potentially lead to negative consequences dominate not only among the Ukrainian soldiers, but also among the people at large.

Apparently, the Russian side had no possibility to think that it created a powerful anti-Russian complex in the Ukrainian mentality with its aggressive actions. History itself might have taught something. It should be remembered how in 1914 the tsar army having broken in Galicia, effectively ended Moscovism, widespread in the region, with its anti-Ukrainian actions. Closing Ukrainian schools in Galicia, dispersing NGOs and forbidding the Uniate Church, the Russian authorities clearly revealed their true imperial image. This policy caused outrage among the Ukrainian population, so Russophilism as a trend eventually disappeared. Should there be any wonder about the outbreak of anti-Russian sentiment of inhabitants of Galicia which earlier had not had any communication experience with the Russians for almost 600 years? But having acquired such experience sharply rejected it without taking.

Thus, it is violent Russification of the Ukrainian population that began to undermine the foundations of Ukrainian-Russian relations, which provoked Russophobia as a kind of reaction. The situation after the annexation of the Crimea only confirmed the warnings expressed earlier. And Russia has become to position itself more openly and cockily on the European Union, and therefore it will probably be better to speak of it as the «semi-periphery» of the contemporary world-system. But the fact that the fate of European integration of Ukraine will be decided in the

format of negotiation named «troika» — Ukraine, the EU and Russia — also evidences the fact that the situation in Ukraine as a «double periphery» continues being largely kept, and not least because of the position of the European Union (in the Geneva Accord the issue of the annexation of the Crimea was even removed). Moreover, it is likely to remain so until the accession of Ukraine, in some distant future, the EU or NATO. By the way, if the subject of the referendum in early 2014 had been the problem of Ukraine's integration choice, 54.5% of all respondents would have supported joining the European Union, while 23.9% of the population of Ukraine was ready to support joining the Customs Union.

The Euro-Atlantic aspirations of Ukraine have public support of the West and this fact makes consolations. Thus, according to a poll conducted by Research Center The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) in June 2014, 68% of respondents in the USA supports Ukraine's accession to NATO, while 52% of European Union citizens are ready to allow Ukraine to join the EU. At the same time, the research has shown a high «antirating» of Russia. Its foreign policy is unsupported by 71% of Americans and 68% of Europeans. From its part, 72% of Russians oppose the United States and the united Europe is negatively perceived by 52% of Russian respondents. The sympathies of the public on the West are on the Ukrainian side — the majority of western inhabitants are for the further economic and political support for Ukraine «even if it threatens the continuation of the conflict with Russia.»

We hope that the peace plan of the President of Ukraine Poroshenko will put the end to this conflict.