TRANSNISTRIAN CONFLICT: UKRAINIAN VISION

Artem Fylypenko National Institute for Strategic Studies

Is the Transnistrian conflict a unique one?

What is common between the Transnistrian conflict and russian-ukrainian war?



Vladimir Antufeev (Shevtsov) Head of the Ministry of State Security of Transnistria 1992-2012

In July 2014 "deputy prime minister" of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR)



Alexandr Caraman
Vice-president of Transnistria
1990-2001
August 2014 - the Foreign Minister
of DPR



Igor Strelkov (Girkin) 1992 – soldier in Transnistrian cossacks

April 2014 - led a group of militants who seized Sloviansk, "Minister of defence" of DPR

What is common between the Transnistrian conflict and russian-ukrainian war?

	Republic of Moldova 1991- 1992	Ukraine 2014-2020
means and methods	Irregular military formations (guard, TSS, Cossacks, UNSO) Information warfare: discrediting the leadership of Moldova, its armed forces and law enforcement forces inside and outside the country, the formation of a negative attitude to the attempts of the state to regain control over the separatist regions, etc. Direct participation of Russian 14 th Army in the fighting	Irregular military formations (militia, cossacks) Information warfare: discredit of Ukraine, its leadership, the armed forces and law enforcement forces inside the country; the incitement of interethnic and interfaith enmity among the citizens of Ukraine, Direct participation of the armed forces of the Russian Federation in the fighting Economic sanctions Acts of terrorism

What is the place of Transnistria in the military-strategic balance of the Black Sea region?

Changing of military-strategic balance in the Black Sea region



Changing of military-strategic balance in the Black Sea region



32,500 military,

88 artillery systems, 52 multiple launch rocket systems, 372 armored combat vehicles, 113 combat aircraft, 62 combat helicopters, 6 vessels and 6submarines equipped with Caliber cruise missile systems

Changing of military-strategic balance in the Black Sea region

Transnistria Region of Republic of Moldova



1500 soldiers



Above 6000-7000 soldiers, above 18 tanks, above 140 armored vehicles, above 30 MLRS, above 120 artillery systems, helicopters



4000 soldiers, 40 tanks, 120 armored vehicles, above 20 MLRS, towed and self-propelled howitzers; air defense missile system S-300





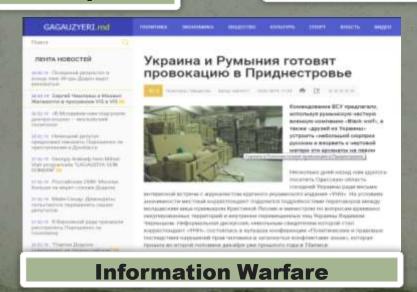
above 2500 soldiers 9 T-72 tanks, 50 T-55 tanks, 95 guns and mortars, above 25 MLRS, 260 armored vehicles, helicopters





Bessarabian People's Republic

Separatism in Odesa, spring 2014





Direct threats	Indirect threats
intelligence activities against Ukraine	necessity to improve security of the Transnistrian part of the border, which diverts
presence of the Russian armed forces units	significant forces from other directions;
numbering 1,500 soldiers and officers on the territory of TMR	threat of blockade of the railway
territory or rivine	communication with the Danube ports;
Transnistrian armed forces (6,000 soldiers,	diagrams ation of courthour districts of Odosoo
artillery, armoured vehicles including heavy armour, helicopters)	disconnection of southern districts of Odessa region from electricity supply from the
	Moldovan hydro power plant
weapons depots at Colbasna station	participation of Transnistrian residents in the
	anti-governmental actions in Odessa region
	broadcasting of Russian TV channels in the
	border areas of Odessa region, information
	warfare
	contrabanda of goods

Ukrainian politics towards Transnistria

- 1992 Ukraine do not recognize Transnistria, but groups of Russian irregular came to Transnistria through Uktainian territory, Ukrainian nationalists groups participated in conflict on Transnistrian side
- 1997 Moscow Memorandum, Ukraine became a guarantor and mediator in the Transdnistria settlement process both with Russia and OSCE. Moldova and Transnistria sides in negotiations
- 2005 "Yushchenko plan " : elections in Transnistria under international monitoring without withdrawal of Russian troops

Ukrainian politics towards Transnistria

- 2005 founding of European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM)
- 2006 new custom rules on Ukrainian-Moldavian border, self-blocade of Transnistria
- 2013 unsuccessful attempt of settlement in 2013 the year of Ukraine's OSCE chairmanship
- 2014 Russian aggression against Ukraine
- 2015 Ukrainian parliament denounced the agreement on transit through the territory of Ukraine of military units of the Russian Federation. New Military Doctrine of Ukraine recognize Russian troops in Transnistria as s military threat 2017 – common Ukrainian-Moldavian border checkpoint

Key lessons of the Transnistrian conflict for Ukraine

- do not recognize separatists, which inspired, supported, financed and armed with Russia as a side of negotiations
- do not use double standards toward separatist
- do not try to use a weakness of your neighbor for immediate profit, think about strategic goals

Why Russia does not recognize Transnistria, as recognized Abkhazia and South Ossetia?

From Kozak Memorandum of 2003 to Donbass separatists demands 2014

- quota for separatist formations (autonomies) in the national parliament;
- granting the right of these entities to independently form the staff of the police, security services, judicial bodies, prosecutors, border guards and other institutions;
- granting broad economic, political (the right to elect their own parliament and president) and cultural autonomy (the status of the Russian language);
- granting the right to harmonize all adopted laws and the right to veto decisions in the field of foreign policy

Is there an alternative to the Russian plans for resolving the Transnistrian conflict?

Demilitarization: changing of format of the peacekeeping mission from military to police under the auspices of the UN, withdrawal of Russian troops and armaments from Transnistria.

Democratization: mutual admission of political parties and politicians to participate in parliamentary elections, ensuring freedom of speech and other human rights and freedoms;

Economic rapprochement: free circulation of the national currency of Moldova – Moldovan leu on the territory of Transnistria, consolidation of banking sistems

TRANSNISTRIAN CONFLICT AND BLACK SEA SECURITY

Thank you for attention