

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	<p>Irregular military formations (guard, TSS, Cossacks, UNSO)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Direct participation of Russian 14th Army in the fighting</p>	<p>Irregular military formations (militia, cossacks)</p> <p>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,</p> <p>Direct participation of the armed forces of the Russian Federation in the fighting</p> <p>Economic sanctions</p> <p>Acts of terrorism</p>

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 6 submarines
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

Abkhazia



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

What risks does Transnistria
have for Ukraine?

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Bessarabian People`s Republic



Separatism in Odesa, spring 2014



Information Warfare

What risks does Transnistria have for Ukraine?



What risks does Transnistria have for Ukraine?

Direct threats	Indirect threats
intelligence activities against Ukraine	necessity to improve security of the Transnistrian part of the border, which diverts significant forces from other directions;
presence of the Russian armed forces units numbering 1,500 soldiers and officers on the territory of TMR	threat of blockade of the railway communication with the Danube ports;
Transnistrian armed forces (6,000 soldiers, 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 Ukrainian 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 a 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 systems

TRANSNISTRIAN CONFLICT AND BLACK SEA SECURITY

Thank you for
attention