



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Global Assistance to Ukraine amidst Russian Aggression: Political, Military, and Economic Dimensions

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Received: Jul 18, 2024

Accepted: Sep 24, 2024

Keywords

international support
 Russian aggression
 Political support
 Military aid
 Economic support
 Humanitarian aid
 Resilience
 Territorial integrity

The relevance of the work is due to the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine and the need for comprehensive international support for the state to preserve its sovereignty, territorial integrity and borders. Studying aspects of international support for Ukraine is particularly important in the current geopolitical situation. The study aims to analyse the political, military, economic, and humanitarian aspects of international support for Ukraine in the context of Russian aggression. The research methodology is based on analysing and synthesising data from various sources, using comparative analysis, and modelling and synthesising the results. The study results show that political support, expressed in diplomatic efforts and sanctions, significantly strengthens Ukraine's international position and puts pressure on Russia's arbitrariness. Military support, including arms supplies, military training, and financial support, has increased the combat capability of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, allowing them to resist the aggressor effectively. Economic support, in the form of financial aid and investments, has helped to stabilise the economy and rebuild the destroyed infrastructure. Humanitarian aid mitigates the social consequences of the conflict by supporting refugees and restoring social services for internally displaced persons. A comprehensive approach to international support includes coordination of efforts by different countries and organisations and is essential for ensuring Ukraine's sustainability in the international arena.

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INTRODUCTION

Russia began its aggression against Ukraine in 2014, which caused a broad and significant response and intensified international support for Ukraine. This article examines various aspects of international support for Ukraine in the face of Russia's ongoing aggression. The focus is on this support's political, military, and economic aspects.

Political support includes diplomatic efforts and sanctions measures aimed at condemning aggression and isolating Russia internationally. Political statements by world leaders expressing solidarity with Ukraine play an essential role. Military support includes arms supplies, Ukrainian military training, and intelligence

sharing, significantly strengthening Ukraine's defence capabilities. These measures contribute to effective countering aggression and protecting the country's sovereignty.

Economic support comes in the form of financial assistance, investments and sanctions against Russia, which helps to stabilise the country's economy and create conditions for its recovery and development. The international community also provides humanitarian aid to support refugees and internally displaced persons and funds to rebuild the destroyed infrastructure. Coordinating efforts by different countries and international organisations is crucial in ensuring Ukraine's long-term stability and security. Thus, comprehensive international support is crucial in countering Russian aggression and helps strengthen Ukraine's global position.

International support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression is a complex and multifaceted process that includes political, military and economic aspects. Studies show that the active intervention of the international community is vital in maintaining Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity (Nychyk, 2017; Vătăman, 2024). It is relevant to consider the impact of these aspects of support on Ukraine's resilience in the face of war. Firstly, political support, expressed through diplomatic efforts, sanctions and political statements, is vital in strengthening Ukraine's position in the international arena (Rafaliuk, 2022; Shevko, 2020). It is essential to analyse how these measures contribute to the isolation of Russia and put pressure on its leadership. Second, military support, including arms supplies, military training, and intelligence sharing, has a significant impact on the combat capability of the Ukrainian armed forces (Berezovenko, 2021; Cherevko, 2022). It is necessary to investigate how these types of assistance improve Ukraine's defence capabilities and ability to counter aggression effectively. Third, economic support in the form of financial aid, investment, and economic sanctions against Russia is critical to preserving Ukraine's economic stability (Lapchuk, 2023; Oliinyk, 2022). An analysis of these measures will help to understand their role in supporting our country's economy and creating conditions for its recovery. Finally, the social consequences of Russian aggression require comprehensive international assistance to support refugees and internally displaced persons and restore destroyed infrastructure and social services (Kotylko & Rachynskyi, 2023; Kvasnii et al., 2023). Studying these aspects will allow us to strengthen international support for Ukraine further. Thus, the objectives of this article are to comprehensively analyse the political, military, and economic aspects of international support for Ukraine and assess their impact on the country's resilience in the face of Russian aggression.

The paper aims to study various aspects of international support for Ukraine in the context of Russian aggression, consider political, military, and economic aspects, and analyse their impact on Ukraine's resilience and defence capability.

Objectives of the study:

1. Consider the economic component of international support for Ukraine.
2. Analyse political support for Ukraine at the international level, including diplomatic efforts, sanctions and political statements.
3. To assess the military support provided to Ukraine by international partners, including arms supplies, military training and intelligence sharing.
4. Assess the international community's financial support for Ukraine, including financial assistance, investments, and economic sanctions against Russia.
5. To consider the socio-historical consequences of Russian aggression against Ukraine and the need for international assistance to support refugees and restore infrastructure and social services.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Political support for Ukraine at the international level plays a vital role in strengthening its position against Russian aggression. Contemporary research emphasises different aspects of this support, including diplomatic efforts, sanctions and political statements. Nychyk (2017) examines the international response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, focusing on the political measures taken by European countries and the United States. Khudoliy (2024) analyses Finland's security policy during the Russian aggression against Ukraine, emphasising the importance of European solidarity. Rafaliuk (2022) studies the specifics of political texts on Russian military aggression against Ukraine, emphasising the influence of the media on the formation of political opinion. Shynkar and Teplova (2023) discuss the formation of Ukraine's European integration macroeconomic model in the context of Russia's military aggression. Shevko (2020) analyses the legitimisation of aggression against Ukraine in the Russian official discourse, highlighting the problems of international law. Vătăman (2024) praises the European Union's contribution to countering the consequences of Russia's almost two-year war against Ukraine. The political measures of the international community are an essential factor in supporting Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression. However, further coordination of efforts and strengthening political ties are needed to achieve peace.

The military support provided to Ukraine by its international partners has had a significant impact on the course of the conflict with Russia. This includes arms supplies, military training and intelligence sharing. Berezovenko (2021) examine the Russian-Ukrainian war in Ukrainian political discourse, focusing on the military aspects. Cherevko (2022) analyses the impact of Russian military aggression on Ukrainian agriculture, including providing military aid. Lopatynskiy et al. (2023) examines the effectiveness of the management system in times of war and its impact on the development of agribusiness. Kortukova et al. (2023) examine the peculiarities of legal regulation of temporary protection in the European Union in Russia's war against Ukraine. Kovalenko et al. (2024) discuss Ukraine's energy security during the war, including military aspects. Rublovskis (2023) analyses the political and military implications of the conflict in Ukraine for Central and Eastern Europe. Skrypniuk (2022) examines international legal assistance to Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression, focusing on military aspects. International military support plays a crucial role in strengthening Ukraine's defence capabilities. It is essential to continue to expand this support and coordination to ensure long-term stability.

The international community's economic support for Ukraine is crucial in maintaining its economic stability in war. This includes financial aid, investment and economic sanctions against Russia. Alekseieva et al. studied government business support programmes in times of war. Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, small and medium-sized businesses have significantly intensified their work in the face of Russian aggression (Alekseieva et al., 2023). Lapchuk (2023) analysed the impact of Russian aggression on dollarisation in Ukraine, emphasising the importance of economic support and maintaining the exchange rate to ensure the financial stability of the population in times of war. Oliinyk considers multilateral support through international organisations to strengthen Ukraine's economy. The active assistance of international organisations contributes to the restoration of not only social and living conditions but also to the strengthening of the state's defence capabilities (Oliinyk, 2022). Pryimak et al. study the impact of Russian military aggression on the development of human capital in the regions of Ukraine. According to them, the population in the areas where hostilities are taking place has significantly decreased, while the number of internally displaced persons is growing in other areas (Pryimak et al., 2023a). Romańczuk (2021) analyses the domestic and international reasons for Russia's military intervention in Ukraine, focusing on the economic aspects. Strokhal et al. assess the consequences and risks for Ukraine's natural resources in the context of Russian aggression. The economic support of the international community is vital for maintaining Ukraine's stability in times of war. Strategies for further economic growth and post-conflict recovery must be developed (Strokhal et al., 2024).

The social consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine are significant and require comprehensive international support. This includes assistance to refugees and support for restoring infrastructure and social services. Kotylko and Rachynskyi study the activities of religious organisations in Ukraine in the context of Russia's military aggression. They point out that the number of military chaplains in the areas where hostilities occur is often insufficient (Kotylko & Rachynskyi, 2023). Kryvoshein and Yermolov analyse the positions of Israel and North Korea on the war in Ukraine, including social aspects. The heads of these states condemn the military aggression and promote peace in every way possible (Kryvoshein & Yermolov, 2023). Kvasnii et al. (2023) examine scenarios for developing Ukraine's tourism industry in the wartime and post-war period. Pryimak et al. study the loss of human capital in the regions of Ukraine during the Russian military aggression. These losses are significant given the number of refugees (Pryimak et al., 2023b). Rudenko et al. study the impact of Russian military aggression on education and science in Ukraine. With the transition to distance learning, the quality of education has not decreased; on the contrary, since the beginning of the war, distance education has become one of the mechanisms for completing the year without educational losses (Rudenko et al., 2023). Smolianyuk and Balan analyse models of state response to threats to social and political stability in Ukraine. The social consequences of the war require systematic international support to meet the population's humanitarian needs. It is also important to develop support programmes to restore social infrastructure and services (Smolianyuk & Balan, 2020).

METHODS

Analysis and synthesis. We analysed individual aspects of international support, such as political, military, and economic measures, and synthesised them to provide a comprehensive understanding of the economic situation in Ukraine. This method allowed us to structure the information and identify critical support areas.

Abstraction and idealisation. Abstracting from specific details to identify general patterns and trends in international support for Ukraine. Idealisation was used to create theoretical models of practical support that could be used in practice.

Induction and deduction. Induction was employed to summarise the empirical evidence and identify common principles of international support. Deduction was used to test hypotheses and draw logical consequences based on the established theoretical premises.

Classification and systematisation. Classification of different forms of international support (political, military, economic, humanitarian) and systematisation of information for a clearer understanding of the structure and interaction of these forms.

Historical method. Analysing historical precedents of international support in conflict situations, identifying effective and ineffective approaches. Comparison of the current situation with previous cases of aggression and international intervention, identifying unique and common characteristics.

Systemic approach. International support for Ukraine is a complex system with various interdependent elements and levels. This approach allows us to understand how political, military, economic, and humanitarian measures interact and influence the situation.

RESULTS

Looking at the economic and political components of international support for Ukraine is crucial.

Economic component. It plays a crucial role in ensuring the country's stability and development in the face of Russian aggression. Significant attention is paid to Ukraine's integration into international economic organisations and attracting foreign investment. An example of successful integration is Ukraine's accession

to the WTO (World Trade Organisation). The accession process started in November 1993, when the WTO's predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), was in force after the Second World War. However, on 10 April 2008, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the law "On Ratification of the Protocol on Ukraine's Accession to the World Trade Organisation", and on 16 May 2008, Ukraine became a full member of the WTO. This event took place during the presidency of Viktor Yushchenko. Integration into the WTO was essential to economic independence and strengthening Ukraine's international trade.

Russia's aggression in 2014 caused a broad international outcry and increased support for Ukraine from the international community. International financial and economic assistance, including loans, grants and investments, is critical in stabilising Ukraine's economy and rebuilding the destroyed infrastructure. The imposition of sanctions against Russia has become an essential element of economic support to weaken the aggressor and support the Ukrainian economy.

The economic support of the international community aimed at strengthening Ukraine's financial stability, creating conditions for economic growth and restoring the affected regions is vital in the context of the current geopolitical situation. Under President Leonid Kuchma, the balance of power and influence between oligarchs was primarily maintained. It is believed that Kuchma managed to control most of the oligarchic clans. Another, no less striking example of counteracting pro-Russian policies is the events of late 2013 when national-patriotic protests began across Ukraine as a reaction to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to suspend the process of preparing for the signing of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, with other countries, and the European Union, the European Union's representative with nuclear energy and its member countries, with other countries", 2013). These protests are perhaps the first example in the history of independent Ukraine when the oligarchs' power was changed by Ukrainian society.

However, today, with this experience and the radicalisation of Ukrainian society due to the hostilities, the institution of oligarchs as such is losing its influence in making unpopular decisions, and in general, the problem is somewhat levelled and has disappeared from the public space (Zelenko et al., 2022, p.16). The war has weakened the oligarchs and "zeroed out" the political scene. Financial and industrial groups (FIGs) do not need to play on the political stage due to pauses in political processes. Ukraine is going through several changes that could successfully create good preconditions for the country's de-oligarchisation. At the same time, we can observe the strengthening of the presidency, which is logical in a time of war.

Political component. From time to time, society debates whether the presidential or parliamentary model of government is more beneficial. Therefore, it is essential to prevent the rise of authoritarianism to avoid the mistakes that led to the Maidans. At the moment, in a time of war, internal instability will play into the hands of the aggressor and undermine the situation inside the country.

In the future, it is possible to revive pre-war political practices through reforms and the adoption of legislation that will create clear rules for public authorities and help overcome corruption (Zelenko et al., 2022, p.145). The Ukrainian political elite has all the conditions for these transformations. First, there is a high level of support for the president. Second, there is a stable one-party majority in the parliament. Thirdly, society itself has a demand for such changes; it needs fundamental social justice.

The Russian-Ukrainian war has created unique conditions in Ukraine to form a new political generation. Without a doubt, this topic is more relevant today than ever. Before the full-scale invasion of 2022, it was difficult to talk about a new generation of Ukrainian politicians, as they faced a bureaucratic system that eroded everything new in them. Yes, the younger generation of Ukrainians supported progressive, patriotic and reformist sentiments, but there was no complete confrontation between the new and previous generations. On the one hand, this made conflicts impossible. On the other hand, it increased the loyalty of

new generations of politicians to the evil and dishonest things that stretched back to the past: corruption, bribery, and pro-Russian sentiments.

Four generations of politicians can be distinguished during the first three decades of Ukraine's independence. The first generation were Communist Party politicians born in the 1930s. They were brought up in the administrative command system and had an altogether apparatchik mentality. The first two presidents of independent Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma, and their teams can be mentioned here. The second generation includes the following presidents: Viktor Yushchenko and Viktor Yanukovich. They combined two opposites: support for their predecessors' administrative and command resources and, simultaneously, an attempt to counteract them. The third generation is the generation of oligarchs, personified by P. Poroshenko and his peers born in the 1960s. Their mentality is that of big business with a parallel proprietary approach to the state. Moreover, the next generation, the fourth generation, is the so-called post-oligarchic generation, which has a different mentality, although it has ties to the oligarchs. These are young people born after the 1970s, representatives of medium-sized businesses who reject the system of previous political generations (Shaigorodskiy & Chunikhina, 2023, pp. 26–27).

Thus, generations of Ukrainian politicians, such as “communists”, “pioneers”, and even a new generation born and already socialised in independent Ukraine, are becoming a thing of the past (Shaigorodskiy & Chunikhina, 2023, p. 21). Instead, an entirely new generation is being formed – the “generation of war” – with unique values. The first is the attitude towards the state. The second is the attitude of Ukrainians towards their identity. Finally, we are moving away from the so-called experiment called the “united Soviet people” and are fighting the notion of the “artificiality of the Ukrainian nation” that has been imposed on us for centuries by our eastern neighbour. Thus, the new political generation has a historical mission to become a transmitter of the idea of statehood with an influential authority of trust, unlike the totalitarian distrust of previous periods. The extreme wartime conditions provide an opportunity to demonstrate critical positive qualities. However, they do not entirely take away from previous generations' further influence and Ukraine's post-oligarchic development.

During the years of independence, citizens' electoral preferences influenced political consequences, often leading to a less than adequate-functioning political system and sometimes even destabilising it. For example, the 2004 elections shaped specific differences in the patterns of political behaviour of different social groups and were used as a tool for “mobilising the electorate”. This played into the hands of forces associated with Russia and promoted a split in Ukrainian society. As a result, in 2014, through the collaboration of pro-Russian parties and politicians, as well as with the active support of a part of the population, Russia managed to occupy the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Of course, it is not only Russia that uses the so-called Ukrainian multiculturalism. Similar trends can be observed in Zakarpattia, where there is a significant Hungarian minority, and representatives of Hungarian politics do not shy away from anti-Ukrainian statements and, in general, try to spread their influence in these territories.

Unfortunately, 2022 showed that such “support” in 2014 was not in vain. After the end of the Russian-Ukrainian war and the return of the occupied territories, the issue of reformatting Ukraine's party system will be acute, with the main result being the implementation of measures to strengthen the state's security and prevent further attempts at destabilisation and disintegration (Kotyhorenko et al., 2023). However, the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war may contribute to further migration and influence changes in the balance between the centre and the regions. Changes in this balance in favour of the centralisation of power and the growing influence of the military in government structures will be driven by the need to focus on repelling the aggressor (Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, 2023).

The first serious problem in finding a way out of the contradictions will be rebuilding the destroyed territories. Even a temporary refusal to do so during the hostilities will not meet with support from the local

population. However, the local authorities and the residents of these regions need more funds for reconstruction. In addition, people who support the aggressor state may take part in making these decisions, which will significantly complicate the situation on the ground.

An important issue is the possible change in the administrative-territorial structure of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and possibly the political and legal status of the entire peninsula. Proponents of eliminating autonomy hope to protect Ukraine from the resurgence of sources of separatism. However, it is necessary to consider the changes in the peninsula's population over the past ten years, when the share of Russians increased through artificial immigration, and the share of Crimean Tatars decreased, on the contrary, through emigration from the territory. Preserving a powerful Russian minority in Crimea may have ambiguous consequences for the region's internal politics. Thus, it is the practice of decentralisation that can provide a solution to this problem.

With the start of the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022, the President of Ukraine issued a decree establishing 25 regional military state administrations based on the regional state administrations, the Kyiv City State Administration, and similar administrations in the districts. The citizens of Ukraine accepted these changes with understanding. However, we can now observe the strengthening of the system of staffing local authorities without competitive selection of candidates, and the military personnel in these administrations often do not have established contacts with local elites and do not fully understand the real needs of communities in critical areas of life. Therefore, the issue of decentralisation will remain relevant. However, even if the war ends soon, the issue of immediate liquidation of military administrations will not be raised, as the duration of their work will be determined by the time required to restore critical infrastructure. It is worth noting that excessive centralisation often leads to local citizens' passivity and slows down regions' development. At the same time, decentralisation, on the contrary, is an essential factor that determines the readiness of citizens to defend their land from the aggressor, and the beginning of a full-scale invasion has many examples of this (Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, 2023).

Since independence, the transformation processes of Ukrainian politics have had certain stages with their characteristic features. The first two decades were a period of reforms of the Soviet power structures through legislative formalisation, adoption of the constitution, creation of new state institutions and, in general, determination of the country's development strategy. Unfortunately, this stage had many drawbacks: reforms were not always effective, and relations between the branches of government were constantly deteriorating, which greatly affected national development and allowed unscrupulous politicians to retain power. In addition, this system continued to preserve the methods and traditions inherited from the Soviet authoritarian-totalitarian regime. In general, all of this led to an increase in the size of the administrative apparatus and budgetary funding for its maintenance, while at the same time, the unemployment rate in general increased and real per capita income in Ukraine decreased.

Tangible changes in the political system's transformation began with the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war and the occupation of part of the territories in 2014. New military and political governance bodies and new law enforcement agencies and ministries were established; national security and defence legislation was updated; and the regulatory framework for the temporarily occupied territories was formed.

After the war, Ukraine will no longer be able to follow the path of pre-war practices when financial and human resources were used inefficiently, power was concentrated and abused, and civil society institutions and public opinion were significantly neglected. Ukraine is facing a change of elites and the formation of a new generation of politicians who will not be burdened by previous managerial experience. They will be characterised by patriotism, integrity, honesty, openness and transparency. This should change and strengthen the level of public trust in the government and ensure overall social consolidation.

We will analyse the political support for Ukraine at the international level.

1. *Diplomatic efforts.* International support for Ukraine includes active diplomatic efforts by various states and international organisations. The European Union (EU), the United States of America (US) and other countries have condemned Russian aggression and expressed their solidarity with Ukraine. These efforts have included numerous summit meetings, resolutions in international organisations such as the United Nations (UN), and coalitions to put pressure on Russia (Zelinska & Galaziuk, 2024). For example, European leaders have repeatedly held summits and meetings to discuss the situation in Ukraine and develop joint support measures (Nychyk, 2017). The United States has also been actively involved in diplomatic initiatives to isolate Russia internationally and support Ukrainian sovereignty (Rafaliuk, 2022).

2. *Sanctions.* Sanctions imposed on Russia have become one of Ukraine's main instruments of political support. Sanctions measures include economic restrictions, asset freezes, travel bans and trade restrictions. The sanctions weaken Russia's economic base and pressure its leadership to stop its aggressive actions. The European Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and other countries have imposed multi-stage sanctions covering various sectors of the Russian economy, including financial, energy, and defence (Shevko, 2020). The sanctions have significantly impacted the Russian economy, making it harder to access international financial markets and technology (Vataman, 2024).

3. *Political statements.* Political statements by the international community play an essential role in supporting Ukraine and condemning Russian aggression. These statements not only express solidarity with the Ukrainian people but also send a signal to Russia that the international community does not accept its actions. For example, the UN General Assembly has adopted several resolutions condemning Russia's actions and reaffirming support for Ukraine's territorial integrity (Khudoliy, 2024). Leaders of many countries regularly make statements condemning aggression and expressing support for Ukraine. These statements help shape international public opinion and strengthen Ukraine's political position on the global stage (Kortukova et al., 2023).

International political support for Ukraine includes diplomatic efforts, sanctions, and regular political statements strengthening Ukraine's position in the fight against Russian aggression. Coordinated actions by the international community help to put pressure on Russia and support Ukraine in its quest for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Military support provided by international partners to Ukraine plays a crucial role in countering Russian aggression. This support includes arms supplies, military training, and intelligence sharing. Each of these areas significantly impacts Ukraine's defence capabilities. Below is a summary of the main types of military support and examples of their implementation (Table 1).

Table 1: Exploring military support provided to Ukraine by international partners

Type of support	Description	Examples
Supply of arms	International partners supply Ukraine with small arms, artillery systems, ammunition, and heavy equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The United States has delivered Javelin anti-tank missile systems (Berezovenko, 2021). – The UK has handed over Starstreak anti-aircraft systems (Cherevko, 2022).

Training of military personnel	International partners are providing training to the Ukrainian military, helping to improve their tactical skills, command and control, and operational planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The US and Canada train the Ukrainian military as part of Operation UNIFIER (Rublovskis, 2023). – The UK will organise courses to train Ukrainian sappers and medics (Kortukova et al., 2023).
Intelligence sharing	International partners share intelligence with Ukraine, which helps improve the battlefield situation and make more effective tactical decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The US provides Ukraine with satellite intelligence and drone data (Skrypniuk, 2022). – NATO actively shares information on Russian troop movements and operation plans (Kovalenko et al., 2024).

Source: compiled by the author based on Berezenko (2021), Cherevko (2022), Kortukova et al. (2023), Kovalenko et al. (2024), Rublovskis (2023), Skrypniuk (2022)

Military support from international partners significantly impacts Ukraine's ability to defend its territorial integrity and independence. The supply of weapons, training of military personnel, and exchange of intelligence information contribute to the combat readiness of the Ukrainian armed forces and strengthen their defence capabilities.

The international community's economic support for Ukraine includes financial assistance, investment and economic sanctions against Russia. This support is aimed at stabilising Ukraine's economy, ensuring financial stability and creating conditions for recovery and development. Table 2 shows the dynamics of financial assistance as investments in Ukraine since 2019.

Table 2: Dynamics of financial assistance and investment in Ukraine (2019–2023)

Year	Financial assistance (billion USD)	Foreign direct investment (billion USD)	Economic sanctions against Russia (number of new sanctions)
2019	3,2	2,7	50
2020	4,1	3,1	75
2021	5,5	3,8	100
2022	7,8	4,2	150
2023	9,6	4,9	200

Source: compiled by the author based on Berezenko (2021), Cherevko (2022), Kortukova et al. (2023), Kovalenko et al. (2024), Rublovskis (2023), Skrypniuk (2022)

Figure 1 shows a graph of Ukraine's financial assistance and investment dynamics (2019-2023). As we can see, financial assistance for 2022–2023 increased by 2-3 times compared to previous years (Figure 1). The graph shows that financial assistance to Ukraine has steadily increased, starting at USD 3.2 billion in 2019 and reaching USD 1.5 billion in 2020. USD in 2019 and reaching 9.6 billion USD in 2021. USD in 2023. Foreign direct investment also shows an increase from 2.7 billion USD in 2019 to 4.9 billion USD in 2023. USD in 2019 to 4.9 billion. USD in 2023.

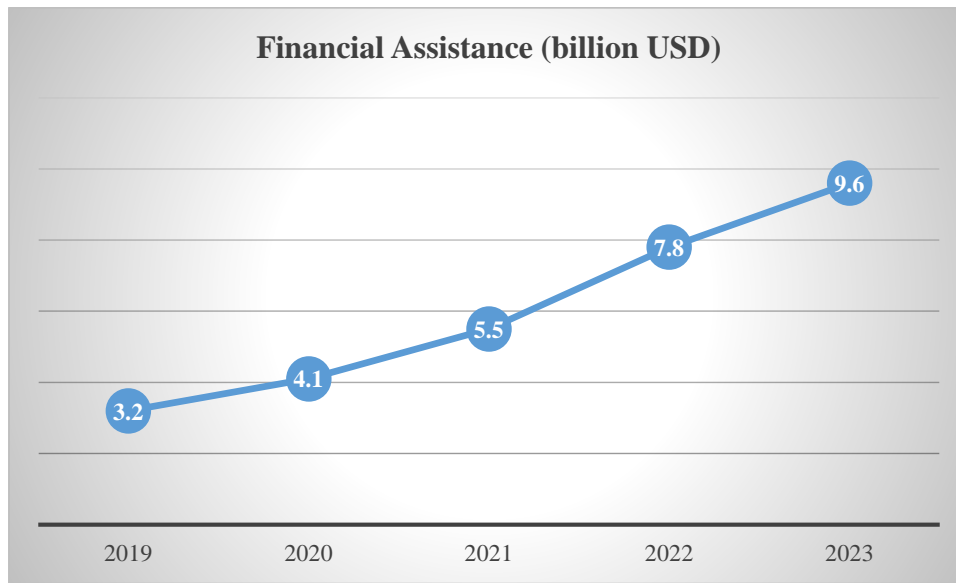


Figure 1: Financial assistance and investment in Ukraine (2019–2023)

Source: compiled by the author based on Cherevko (2022), Kortukova et al. (2023), Kovalenko et al. (2024), Skrypniuk (2022)

Figure 2 shows a graph of the number of economic sanctions against Russia (2019–2023). The number of new economic sanctions against Russia increased significantly during this period. In 2019, 50 new sanctions were imposed; in 2023, their number reached 200 (Figure 2).

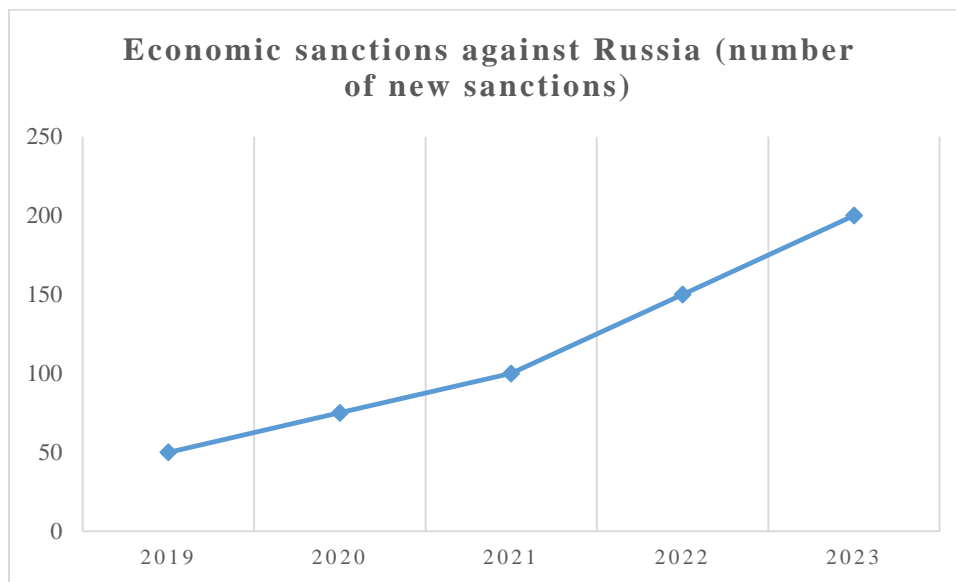


Figure 2: Number of new economic sanctions against Russia (2019–2023)

Source: compiled by the author based on Berezovenko (2021), Kovalenko et al. (2024), Rublovskis (2023), Skrypniuk (2022)

The international community has recently increased its economic support significantly for Ukraine. Increased financial assistance and foreign direct investment demonstrate international partners' growing attention and support. The imposition of new economic sanctions against Russia also plays a vital role in

weakening the aggressor's economic base and supporting Ukraine in its struggle for sovereignty and territorial integrity. Russia's aggression against Ukraine has caused significant social and historical consequences that require comprehensive international assistance to support refugees and restore infrastructure and social services.

The conflict has forced millions of Ukrainians to flee their homes and seek refuge both inside and outside the country. According to international organisations, the number of refugees has exceeded 5 million, and the number of internally displaced people has reached 7 million. These people need shelter, food, medical care, education and other essential services. International assistance plays a crucial role in meeting these needs. The fighting, the destruction of homes and the loss of loved ones have a profound psychological impact on people, especially children and the elderly. Psychological assistance and support for victims also require significant resources and efforts.

International organisations such as the UN, the Red Cross and various NGOs actively provide humanitarian aid. This includes delivering food, medicine, clothing and other essential goods. Partner countries and international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), provide financial support to rebuild infrastructure and social services. These funds are used to build new housing, restore social facilities and meet the population's basic needs. The hostilities have destroyed much of the housing infrastructure. It is estimated that over 1 million homes have been damaged or destroyed, requiring large-scale reconstruction efforts. The destruction of schools, hospitals, kindergartens and other social facilities poses a considerable challenge to providing essential services to the population. Restoration of these facilities requires both financial investments and international technical support. It is necessary to look at examples of international assistance (Table 3).

Table 3: Examples of international assistance

Type of Assistance	Description	Examples
Humanitarian aid	Providing food, medicine, clothing and other essential goods.	The UN and the Red Cross deliver humanitarian supplies to the affected regions (Kotylko & Rachynskyi, 2023).
Financial assistance	Providing loans, grants and other funds to restore infrastructure and support social services.	The World Bank has allocated USD 1.5 billion. USD for the restoration of social infrastructure (Oliinyk, 2022).
Psychological support	Providing psychological assistance and support to victims of the conflict.	International organisations organise psychological help centres for children and adults.
Restoring infrastructure	Restoration of destroyed houses, schools, hospitals and other social facilities.	The EU has allocated funds to reconstruct schools and hospitals in the affected regions (Kvasnii et al., 2023).

Source: compiled by the author based on Kotylko & Rachynskyi (2023), Oliinyk (2022), Kvasnii et al. (2023)

The social consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine are significant and require large-scale international assistance. The international community's top priorities are supporting refugees, rebuilding destroyed infrastructure, and providing social services. The coordinated efforts of international organisations and partner countries play a crucial role in supporting Ukraine and its people in this challenging period. Recommendations for further strengthening international support for Ukraine to ensure long-term stability and security are presented in Figure 3.

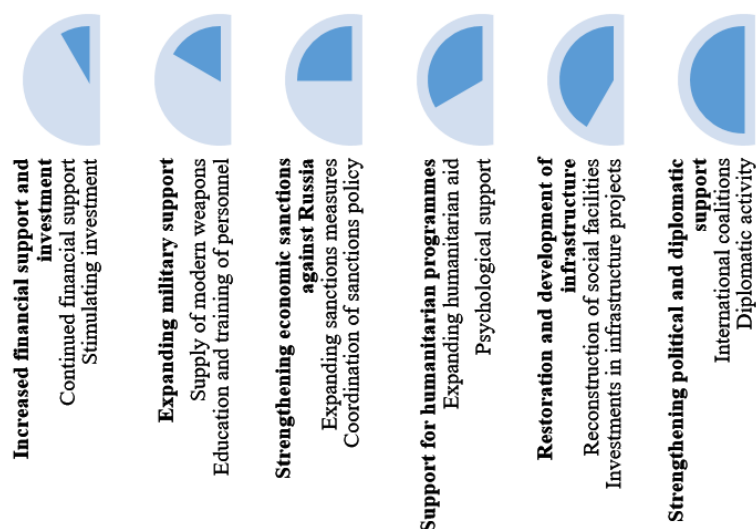


Figure 3: Recommendations for Further Strengthening International Support for Ukraine to Ensure Long-Term Stability and Security

Source: compiled by the author based on Berezovenko (2021), Cherevko (2022), Kortukova et al. (2023), Kovalenko et al. (2024), Rublovskis (2023), Skrypniuk (2022)

International financial organisations and partner countries should continue to provide loans and grants to stabilise Ukraine's economy and rebuild its damaged infrastructure. Tax breaks, security guarantees, and support for business projects in Ukraine should also create favourable conditions for foreign direct investment. This will help create new jobs and increase the country's economic resilience.

Continuing and expanding the supply of modern defence systems, including air, artillery, and uncrewed aerial vehicles, will strengthen Ukraine's defence capabilities and help it counter aggression more effectively. Training programmes for the Ukrainian military should be strengthened, including tactical training, command and control, and modern technology. International partners should expand their training missions and share their experiences with the Ukrainian military.

The introduction of additional economic sanctions targeting critical sectors of the Russian economy, such as energy, financial sector and technology, will create additional pressure on Russia and limit its ability to continue its aggression. There is a need for better coordination between partner countries to prevent sanctions from being circumvented. Countries should work together to strengthen compliance monitoring with sanctions regimes. There is a need to increase humanitarian assistance to support refugees and internally displaced persons. Programmes should be developed to provide psychological assistance to victims of the conflict, including children and adults. International organisations can set up psychological support and rehabilitation centres.

International partners should help rebuild the destroyed schools, hospitals, residential buildings and other social facilities. This will improve the population's living conditions and help them return to everyday life as quickly as possible. Financing and supporting major infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges and power grids will create jobs and strengthen Ukraine's economic base. There is a need to build and maintain international coalitions to put pressure on Russia and support Ukraine. These coalitions could include the EU, the US, Canada and other partners. Increase diplomatic activity in international forums such as the UN, OSCE and NATO to promote Ukraine's interests and condemn Russia's aggressive actions.

International support must continue and expand to ensure Ukraine's long-term stability and security. Financial assistance, investment, military support, tougher sanctions, humanitarian aid, and infrastructure rehabilitation are vital areas that will help Ukraine overcome current challenges and create conditions for sustainable development.

DISCUSSION

The study of international support for Ukraine in the context of Russian aggression has identified several key aspects that require more detailed discussion and analysis.

Political support for Ukraine is expressed through diplomatic efforts, sanctions, and world leaders' political statements. Studies show that the sanctions imposed on Russia have exerted significant economic pressure on the country, but their effectiveness and long-term consequences continue to be debated among experts. For example, Shevko (2020) argues that sanctions should be more coordinated and strict to have a tangible impact on the Russian economy and politics. At the same time, Khudoliy (2024) emphasises the importance of political solidarity among European countries and their diplomatic efforts to maintain pressure on Russia and protect Ukraine's sovereignty.

Military support for Ukraine includes arms supplies, military training, and intelligence sharing. These measures have significantly increased Ukraine's defence capabilities, allowing it to counter aggression more effectively. However, some researchers, such as Rublovskis (2023), emphasise the risks of conflict escalation and possible negative consequences for regional stability. At the same time, Berezovenko (2021) points to the need to continue and expand military assistance to maintain the combat capability of the Ukrainian armed forces.

The international community's economic support is critical to maintaining Ukraine's stability amid the war. Studies show financial aid and investment help stabilise the economy and rebuild infrastructure. For example, Lapchuk (2023) analyses the impact of Russian aggression on dollarisation in Ukraine and emphasises the importance of international economic support to overcome financial difficulties. However, Pryimak et al. (2023a) note that the long-term sustainability of economic assistance requires the development of more structured programmes and mechanisms to monitor their implementation.

The Russian aggression has caused significant social consequences, including massive population displacements and the destruction of infrastructure. Kotylko and Rachynskyi (2023) emphasise the importance of international humanitarian assistance to support refugees and restore social services. However, Smolianyuk and Balan (2020) point to the need for a more comprehensive approach to addressing social problems, including psychological support for victims and the development of rehabilitation programmes.

The discussion on international support for Ukraine has revealed various aspects and opinions that need to be considered when developing strategies for further assistance. Political, military, economic, and humanitarian assistance are crucial in strengthening Ukraine's resilience in the face of aggression. To achieve long-term stability and security, it is essential to coordinate international efforts, consider risks, and adapt approaches to Ukraine's changing circumstances and needs.

CONCLUSION

International support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression is a key factor affecting its resilience and ability to resist the aggressor. Political support, expressed through diplomatic efforts, sanctions and political statements, puts significant pressure on Russia and strengthens Ukraine's international position. Military assistance, including arms supplies, training and intelligence sharing, has significantly increased the combat

capability of the Ukrainian armed forces. Economic support in the form of financial assistance and investments helps to stabilise the economy and rebuild infrastructure, which is critical for the country in times of war. Humanitarian assistance plays a vital role in supporting refugees and restoring social services, which helps mitigate the conflict's social consequences. A comprehensive approach to international support, including coordination of efforts by different countries and organisations, is essential to counter Russian aggression effectively. Studies show that further strengthening this support requires the development of more structured programmes and control mechanisms. Considering the risks of conflict escalation and adapting approaches to Ukraine's changing circumstances and needs is essential. Thus, international support remains vital in ensuring Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Prospects for further research lie in examining the coordination of international efforts and developing comprehensive strategies for Ukraine's long-term stability and security.

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