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Premise for invading regular forces of Russian Federation to Ukraine in August 2014

In this article reveals the events that preceded the tragedy of the Ukrainian nation/nation in the hybrid war imposed by an insidious Russian aggressor. Consideration is being given to the idea of the eternal ties of Crimea and Russia since the end of the 80's, which turned into an aggressive essence of the ideological war against Ukraine. The Orange Revolution caused panic in the Kremlin. And after the revolution of dignity Kremlin decided to use not only all the explicit and hidden methods of conducting a hybrid war, but also direct armed intervention into its internal affairs.

The place and role of the massive invasion of Ukraine by Russian regular troops were analyzed. What preceded one of the bloodiest pages of the Russian-Ukrainian war in the East of Ukraine - Ilovaisk tragedy.

Key words: anti-terrorism operation, aggression, Ukrainian armed forces, voluntary battalions, Ilovaisk tragedy.

Problem statement. One of the most tragic moments of military aggression of Russian Federation against Ukraine. In 2014 was Ilovaisk operation (Battle of Ilovaisk), which the media, politicians and the public dubbed as «Ilovaisky boiler», «Ilovaisk tragedy»³². From which today society can not recover. A lot has already been written about the events that occurred in August 2014. But why did that happen? The reasons for this? These questions are also of interest to ordinary citizens. After all, the official reports of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the General Staff differ with the testimony of the participants of the tragic events under the Ilovaisk.

Therefore, the researches and study of the lessons of the war in the East of Ukraine will help to comprehend the essence, carry out a comprehensive analysis of counteraction to Russian armed aggression and develop recommendations for the leadership of the State and the Armed Forces of Ukraine. But the combat experience gained in the area of the anti-terrorist operation must be taken

³² Kolyada Igor ATO: Ilovaisk offensive operation - preconditions, course, consequences (August 6 - September 3, 2014). Ch.I. Retrieved from : <http://enpuir.npu.edu.ua/bitstream/123456789/15070/1/Kolyada.pdf>.

into account when preparing the Ukrainian army³³. What needs to be put into practice in the preparation and conduct of further military actions, in order to prevent such losses, primarily human.

Analysis of previous researches and publications. The researches on the reasons for the war in the East of Ukraine is reflected in the writings of the national historians Theodor and Galina Turchenko «The Novorossiiia Project (1764-2014)». Where the circumstances of the birth of the Novorossiia project were revealed by the Russian tsarist regime, the attempts of its implementation in 1917 by the interim government, and especially by the Soviet authorities, and after the collapse of the USSR, «Putin's Russia». Deserves attention the work of Vasyl Tkachenko "Russia: the mentality of the aggressor," where the author deeply reveals the aggressive nature of «Putinism». Pay sufficient attention to the study of the regions of Crimea and Donbas, scientists of the Institute of Ukrainian History, which is a separate series of publications - «Studios on the history of the Crimea and Donbas».

In Russian historiography, the issue of Novorossiysk attaches particular attention. In particular, Alexander Shubin in the work «History of Novorossiiia» considers issues from the point of strictly imperial views, which are based not on facts, but on falsifications and are no longer scientific, but propagandist.

Investigating the events of the Ilovaisk tragedy can only be from open sources. After all, the documentation developed by the headquarters in the anti-terrorist operation for the management of parts (joints) during the preparation and conduct of the battle, now closed. Or something was simply destroyed after conducting operations (actions). Yaroslav Tynchenko, Yuri Butusov, Olena Sokolinskaya and Marina Danylyuk should be considered as researchers of the events of the Ilovaisk tragedy of Ukrainian historiography.

Purpose of the article is to reveal the preconditions and reasons for the invasion of the armed forces of the Russian Federation in Ukraine in August 2014, which led to the Ilovaisk tragedy.

The causes of war in the East of Ukraine appeared not in the 2014. In Crimea at the late of the 80's and on the early 90's of the twentieth century. Local separatists, with the support of Russian politics, launched a campaign for the withdrawal of the peninsula from Ukraine and joining the Russian Federation. One of the most important arguments was the idea of the eternal ties of Crimea with Russia. Idea of autonomy began to spread in the early 90's in the Donbas, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhyya, but separatist attitude then did not have support among the population of the region.

Russia used all possible instruments of influence on internal policy of Ukraine. One of those components was implementation on executive positions, including power structures, Russian citizens. Here is some examples. Ukrainian Ministry of defense from February to December 2012 was led by Dmitriy Salamatin and Ukraine security service - Alexander Yakimenko. Even personal security Viktor Yanukovich entrusted to Russian - Vyacheslav Zanevskiy³⁴.

Therefore, it is not surprising when the "D" commander of the anti-terror operation Lieutenant General Ruslan Khomchak noted that in the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions there were no military units for the last ten years. If our military units were deployed there, nobody could blocked

³³ Muzhenko V. during meetings with commanders of brigades and regiments ... 21.11.2016. Retrieved from: <http://www.unn.com.ua/en/news/1620713-boyoviy-dosvid-ato-povinen-vrkhovuvatisya-pri-pidgotovtsi-viysk-v>

³⁴ Magda Ye.V. Hybrid War: Survive and Defeat. - X: Vivat, 2015. - P. 247.

us. From the "demilitarization" of Donbas there was only a base of armored vehicles and rocket-artillery armament³⁵.

How everything was thought out. Apart from the fact that weapons and ammunition were imported from the Russian Federation, it kept its arsenal for the arms of pro-Russian mercenaries. And this state was maintained not only by the last President of the country, Viktor Yanukovich, although he made considerable efforts to weaken the country. But failure, lack of political will and its predecessors, «steersman» of the country to make a tangible impulse, for changes. After all, this passivity was on the verge of criminal negligence³⁶.

Orange Revolution caused panic in Kremlin. They started looking for new ways to keep Ukraine, which established the exact orientation on Europe, under Russian influence. In 2007 information environment was thrown the concept called «Russian peace» by Vladimir Putin in his performance to the creative intelligentsia of St. Petersburg in 2006³⁷.

Kremlin has decided to use not only all explicit and hidden methods of conducting a hybrid war in Ukraine, but also direct armed intervention in its internal affairs.

Russia with its fifth column, has already started deliberately and vigorously implementing in Ukraine a proven scenario of Ukraine's split in Georgia. The first target in this undisguised war on the part of the Russian Federation is the Crimea, followed by the East of Ukraine (Donetsk, Lugansk, Kharkiv).

In January 2014 The National Security Council of the Russian Federation developed a generalized and large-scale plan of action for the destabilization of Ukraine «On the crisis in Ukraine»³⁸. And already on February 27, 2014, «green men» with no recognizable signs seized the house of the government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. This is how began the violent seizure of Crimean autonomy and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation. And after the falsification of the results of the referendum (which took place under the supervision of the Russian military), the accession of the Crimea to the Russian Federation took place³⁹.

28 of February 2014 took place an emergency meeting of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine on the Crimea. At the meeting, during his speech, Defense Minister of Ukraine Igor Tenyukh announced a large-scale preparation for the invasion of Ukraine by the armed forces of the Russian Federation: «38 thousand people, 761 units of armament, 2200 armored vehicles, 720 artillery systems have already been concentrated in the Kiev, Kharkiv and Donetsk directions. a salvo fire, as well as up to 40 shock helicopters and 90 helicopters of combat support and 90 aircraft assault aircraft. In the Black Sea area, 80 military ships appeared in combat duty. We are not ready for full-scale war. I will speak frankly, we needed time and help. Today we do not have army. It was systematically destroyed by Yanukovich and his entourage under the leadership of Russian special services».

Tenyukh brought to the attention of those present that Ukraine could gather «from around the country a military group of about 5 thousand soldiers capable of carrying out combat missions»⁴⁰.

³⁵ Gladkova K., D. Gromakov, V. Mironov and others; artistic Designer Gugalova O. Dobrobati, - Kharkiv: Folio, 2016.- P. 175.

³⁶ Magda Ye.V. Hybrid War: Survive and Defeat. - X: Vivat, 2015. - C. 9.

³⁷ Turchenko G., Turchenko F. Project "Novorossia": 1764-2014. Blood jubilee. - Zaporozhye: ZNU, 2014. p. 4-6.

³⁸ Guy-Nyzhnik P. P. Russia v. Ukraine (1990-2016): from the policy of blackmail and coercion to the war on absorption and attempts to destroy / Pavel Guy-Nyzhnik. - K.: "MP Lesya", 2017. - P. 190.

³⁹ Occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by Russia. Retrieved from: [https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annexia_Krymu_Rossii_\(2014\)](https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annexia_Krymu_Rossii_(2014)).

⁴⁰ Gladkova K., D. Gromakov, V. Mironov and others. - Kharkiv: Folio, 2016. - P. 47-48.

In his speech, the head of the Security Service of Ukraine confirmed the readiness of Russia for the introduction of troops. But he stressed that Americans and Germans are being asked not to take any active action so that Putin would not use this to launch a large-scale land invasion⁴¹.

After this a fair question arises to the NSDC members. What did you do? How have the country been brought to such a state? Were there observers? You were not picked up from the street. You were in power.

Vladimir Putin's violent political power scenario destroyed the Ukrainian-Russian relations that had been built between the two countries and peoples for centuries. The further the exacerbation in the east of Ukraine continued after the annexation of the Crimea, the more definitive was the perception of Russia by Ukrainians.

And the so-called «eastern (Russian) spring» became a time when earlier silent, delayed, overwhelmed troubles burst out in the most terrible and repulsive form. The ideas of the «Russian world» became a catalyst for civil strife, despite the fact that they had nothing to do with the actual problems and aspirations of the population of Donbas»⁴².

The armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine was the next step of the long-planned and organized anti-Ukrainian hybrid war organized by Moscow. For the use of the threat factor of the invasion and use of force, the leadership of the Russian Federation along the state border of Ukraine launched a powerful grouping of troops, which numbered up to 36 thousand troops, up to 100 tanks, about 1,400 armored combat vehicles, 360 artillery systems, about 180 combat aircraft and 120 percussions helicopters.

The need to protect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine's state borders, in view of the violation by the Russian Federation of a number of intergovernmental treaties, as well as taking into account the decision of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly on the use of the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine, from March 2, 2014 Armed Forces Ukraine was put into full combat readiness, and on March 17, 2014, partial mobilization was announced in Ukraine. Since then, the state has started to operate in special conditions⁴³.

In early April 2014, armed pro-Russian units began to seize administrative buildings in eastern Ukraine and announced the creation of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic. In response, April 14, the Ukrainian authorities announced an anti-terrorist operation.

At the beginning of anti-terrorist operation from the Armed Forces of Ukraine, about 1500 soldiers and more than 170 units of armament and military equipment were involved. Mostly these were subdivisions of high-level landing troops now assault and special forces forces⁴⁴.

The subdivisions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine complied tasks for the protection of important objects (airports, military bases, armaments and military equipment). To prevent the deployment of military units and units of the Russian armed forces on the territory of Ukraine, the state border was covered⁴⁵.

⁴¹ Same., P. 49

⁴² Yakubova L. D. Ethnonational History of the Donbas: Trends, Contradictions, Prospects in the Light of the Modern Stage of Ukrainian Nationalization / LD Yakubov; National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Institute of History of Ukraine. - Kyiv, 2014. - P. 110.

⁴³ The White Book of the Antiterrorist Operation in the East of Ukraine (2014- 2016). Armed Forces of Ukraine. - K.: MOU, NUOU, 2017. - P.27-28.

⁴⁴ White Paper-2014. Armed Forces of Ukraine. - K.: MOU, GS of the Armed Forces, 2015. - P. 9.

⁴⁵ ¹⁴ White Paper of the Antiterrorist Operation in the East of Ukraine (2014 2016). Armed Forces of Ukraine. - K.: MOU, NUOU, 2017. - P.31.

Former First Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Admiral I. Kabanenko, already April 12, 2014 confidently stated: "The invasion of the Russian troops in the East occurred. In Slavyansk and Red Liman there operate not separatists, but military intelligence- subversion units. They «help» the separatists in weakening the situation⁴⁶.

On April 15, a subdivision of the 3rd Special Forces Reconnaissance Regiment of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, as well as a division of «Alpha» and «Omega» after a brief storming took Kramatorsk airfield.

From May 2 to May 5 around the Sloviansk and in the area of Kramatorsk, the surrounding areas broke out the first major fierce battles. And Ukrainian group of antiterrorist operation for the first time suffered significant losses. These events clearly showed - a full-scale military operation began in Donbas. On the side of the self-proclaimed republics in the Donbas, armed detachments with a total of about 15-20 thousand people were equipped with armored vehicles, artillery and missile systems of the salvo fire, and inhabited settlements were converted into Ukrainian regiments⁴⁷.

Among the many events, a tragedy under the Volnovaha notices a tragedy. On May 22, 2014, at around 4:30 am near the Volnovakh city of Donetsk region, took place an attack on the Russian terrorist group on the checkpoint of the 51st mechanized brigade whose task was to close the road so that separatists could not get into the city. 17 defenders of Ukraine were killed and 32 soldiers were injured⁴⁸. The main reasons are the lack of military protection and irresponsibility of the commanders of the units. The requirements of the Military Statute were ignored; the unit, depending on the tasks carried out by it, is protected: combat, derivative or sentry, and in all conditions of the situation, in addition - immediate protection⁴⁹.

All this concussed the build-up of forces and tools of antiterrorist operation and territorial defense, improvement of the control system to prevent the spread of destabilization processes throughout the territory of Ukraine.

On May 20, 2014, the headquarters of the antiterrorist operation was formed on the basis of the operational group of the General Staff of the Armed Forces to effectively manage the military units and units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other security forces directly involved in the anti-terrorist operation⁵⁰.

On May 25, 2014, presidential elections were held in Ukraine. During his first working visit to Donbas, the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, presented a peace plan for the settlement of the situation in the eastern regions of the state. The peace plan of the President of Ukraine on the settlement of the situation in the eastern regions of Ukraine consists of 15 steps. Namely:

1. Security blanket for all participants in the negotiations.

⁴⁶ Guy-Nyzhnik P. P. Russia v. Ukraine (1990-2016): from the policy of blackmail and coercion to the war on absorption and attempts to destroy / Pavel Guy-Nyzhnik. - K.: "MP Lesya", 2017. - P. 231.

⁴⁷ Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Retrieved from : https://idruchniki.com/76138/istoriya/agresiya_rosiyi_ukrayini.

⁴⁸ White Book of Anti-Terrorist Operation in the East of Ukraine (2014-2016). Armed Forces of Ukraine. - K.: MOU, NUOU, 2017. - P. 34

Butusov Yuriy. Tragedy in Volnovas: Because war is not a picnic. May 22, 2014 Retrieved from: http://texty.org.ua/pg/news/textynewseditor/read/53718/Tragedija_u_Volnovasi_Tomu_shho_vijna. Fight under the Volnovaha. Retrieved from: http://texty.org.ua/pg/news/textynewseditor/read/53718/Tragedy_u_Volnovasi_Tomu_shho_vijna.

⁴⁹ The combat status of the Mechanized and Tank Army of the Land Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Ch.II (battalion, mouth). - Kyiv, 2016. - P. 192

⁵⁰ White Paper of the Antiterrorist Operation in the East of Ukraine (2014-2016). Armed Forces of Ukraine. - K.: MOU, NUOU, 2017. - P. 35.

2. Exemption from criminal responsibility of those who laid down weapons and did not commit serious crimes.
3. The release of hostages.
4. Creation of a 10 km buffer zone on the Ukrainian-Russian state border. Evacuation of illegal armed formations.
5. A guaranteed corridor for the exit of Russian and Ukrainian mercenaries.
6. Disarmament.
7. Creation in the structure of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine units for joint patrolling.
8. The release of illegally-held administrative buildings in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.
9. Restoration of activity of local authorities.
10. Restoration of the central television and radio broadcasting in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
11. Decentralization of power (by election of executive committees, protection of the Russian language, draft amendments to the Constitution).
12. Harmonization of the governors with the representatives of the Donbas with the election (on condition of agreement of only candidature, in case of discordance - President makes decision).
13. Early local and parliamentary elections.
14. The program of work places in the region.
15. Restoration of objects of industry and social infrastructures⁵¹.

This initiative was supported by the UN, the EU, the OSCE, the leaders of the leading countries of the world, the world community. Also, from June 20 to 30, a unilateral ceasefire from the side of the Ukrainian army. But pro-Russian terrorists ignored peaceful initiatives and did not stop the attacks. In the end, the fighting resumed⁵².

Afterwards, the headquarters of the anti-terrorist operation were subordinated to the forces and means involved in the tasks of isolating the crisis area and for their effective management, it was decided to divide the territory into sectors ("A", "B", "D", later "sector C") and a separate area "M".

From the beginning of June, operations of the antiterrorist operation on the narrowing of the isolation zone, the mopping-up of Russian terrorist groups from certain areas and the establishment of control over them continued. As a result of search-and-shock actions on June 6-7, blocking posts, base posts and base camps of illegal armed units in the area of the inhabited settlement were destroyed. Semenivka and control over Krasny Lyman. June 18-19, 2014, released from illegal armed groups and sabotage and reconnaissance groups of urban-type localities. Yampil and s. Zakitne, which enabled the anti-terrorist forces to block the Sloviansk region from this direction⁵³.

In early July, the forces of the anti-terrorist operation drastically changed the tactics of fighting and moved on to violent offensive actions. Already on July 5, militants were forced under the pressure of Ukrainian troops to leave Sloviansk, suffering significant losses. In fact, all armored troops (up to 7 units of armored vehicles) of this formation were destroyed by Ukrainian artillery and paratroopers. And also Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka, Artemivsk and Konstantynivka were released⁵⁴.

⁵¹ Poroshenko Peter presented a peace plan for settling the situation in eastern Ukraine in Donbass. Retrieved from : <https://www.president.gov.ua/news/petro-poroshenko-predstaviv-v-donbasi-mirnij-plan-z-vregulyu-33044>.

⁵² Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Retrieved from : https://idruchniki.com/76138/istoriya/agresiya_rosiyi_ukrayini

⁵³ White Paper on the Antiterrorist Operation in the East of Ukraine (2014 2016). Armed Forces of Ukraine. - K.: MOU, NUOU, 2017. - P. 35-37.

⁵⁴ Mashovets Konstantin. Chronicle of the Donbas War: from rallies to tanks. retrieved from : <http://mediarnbo.org/2014/10/18/hronika-viyini-na-donbasi-vidmitiingiv>.

At the end of July, separate units of the 24th, 51st and 72th mechanized brigades, the 79th airborne brigade, the 3rd special-purpose regiment and the State Border Service of the "D" sector (the territory along the Ukrainian-Russian border) appeared to be clutched up between the militants the so-called Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic, on the one hand, and Russian military units on the other. On August 7, after three-day fierce battles surrounded by the Chervonopartizanska, Dovzhansky, Diakov's units, they successfully broke out and joined forces with the main counter-terrorist operations⁵⁵.

In early August 2014, Ukraine has been active for about two months for an active phase of the anti-terrorist operation for the forced liberation of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which were controlled by illegal armed groups supported by Russia. During this period, under the control of the forces of the antiterrorist operation, there were about 60% of the territories of the two oblasts. Donetsk and Luhansk were blocked from the north, west and south. Only from the eastern direction, first of all, - from the territory of, the militants could receive weapons and reinforcements.

Foreign journalists on August 15th⁵⁶ recorded a fact, under the disguise of a humanitarian convoy, the movement of columns of military equipment from the side of Rostov region to the territory of Ukraine. This question was raised at a meeting of the Security Council of Ukraine. The President of Ukraine appealed to the leaders of the European Union, Western partners, NATO leaders. Ukraine was supported by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, head of the British Foreign Office Philip Hammond. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Carl Bildt, responded: «Now we are obviously witnessing a military confrontation between the regular forces of Russia and Ukraine. This is a particular name. " And they demanded that Russia immediately withdraw personnel and military equipment from the territory of Ukraine.

For the purpose of the final release of the territories occupied by militants, the plan of the leadership of the anti-terrorist operation in August provided:

1. Restoration of control over the state border with the Russian Federation in order to stop the supply of weapons, ammunition, material and technical means and human labour for militants from the Russian Federation;
2. Division of the territory controlled by militants into several parts;
3. The surroundings of the largest groups of militants and the creation of conditions for their further disarmament, and in the case of resistance - destruction ⁵⁷.

The command of the forces of the antiterrorist operation in order to protect its troops from constant artillery shelling from Russia, took its units from the border and carried active actions in the depths of the districts. The capture of major centers and terrorist resistance units began. Before the militants, for the first time in the war there was a prospect of military defeat. Over the terrorist organizations of

⁵⁵ Igor Koliada, Alexander Kiriyyenko. ATO: Ilovaya offensive operation: preconditions, course, consequences (August 6 - September 2014. / Ch.I. retrieved from: <http://enpuir.npu.edu.ua/bitstream/123456789/15056/1/Kolyada.pdf>.

⁵⁶ Chervonenko Vitaliy Air Force Ukraine. Who fights in the East: a chronology of testimony of Russian troops. Retrieved from : https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/politics/2014/09/140902_russian_army_ukraine_debate_vc.

⁵⁷ Analysis of the anti-terrorist operation and the consequences of the invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine in August-September 2014. The document was prepared by the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine together with the Central Research Institute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Retrieved from: http://www.mil.gov.ua/content/other/anliz_rf.pdf.

the so-called DNR and LNR, there was a real threat to the envelopment and isolation. With further suppressing.

By August 22, it became clear that the military defeat of militants, even in conditions of comprehensive assistance by the Russian Federation, was a matter of several weeks. The only way

to stop this was by direct military invasion of the neighboring country into the Ukrainian territory⁵⁸. Since the end of June 2014, the headquarters of the anti-terrorist operation began to plan an offensive operation to create a corridor between the so-called DPR and LNR. Ilovaysk was identified for the breakthrough in the Debaltsevo area.

The basis of the troops of the sectors (B and D), occupying the front from Savur-Mohyla on the south and with Yelenivka in the southwest (next to Donetsk) were parts of the mobilized: two battalion-tactical teams of the 51st individual mechanized brigade (512 people). The 2nd Battalion of Territorial Defense «Goryn» was on the extreme left flank, in the region of Yelenivka. On the right - in the city of Amvrosiyevka - the 5th Battalion of Territorial Defense «Prykarpattya» (about 400 fighters in each). In the middle (Starobesheva and Komsomolsk) - 39th Territorial Defense Battalion Dnipro-2 and 40th Battalion of Territorial Defense - Kryvbas (31 and 202 people). On the southern flank there were battalion-tactical groups of the 28th separate mechanized brigade and part of the National Guard. In each part there were several hundred people. This were all the troops that held the front of the 100 km stretch.

In the beginning of June 2014, the 39th and 40th territorial defense battalions carried duty in the immediate vicinity of Ilovaysk at checkpoints from Amvrosievka to Kутайніково and from Kuteinikovo to Starobeshevo, respectively. On August 4, both battalions were handed over to Sector B under the commandment of the Lieutenant General Ruslan Khomchak and on August 4 they received a order from him to find out how many separatists are in the Ilovajsk area?

The headquarters of the antiterrorist operation and the Lieutenant General R. Khomchak believed that there were only 30 to 80 armed separatists in Ilovaysk. However, the commander of the battalion «Kryvbas» and his subordinates argued that Ilovaysk is a whole «fortified district». Nevertheless, General R. Khomchak ordered from August 6-7 to capture Ilovaysk by the forces of the Kryvbas Battalion, and also added two tanks and two BMPs from the 51st mechanized brigade and a division of volunteers from the Right Sector⁵⁹. After the offensive failed, conflict arose between the command of the battalion "Kryvbas" and R. Khomchak, result of which the servicemen of this part began to disrespect the headquarters of sector B and sabotage its orders.

On August 10, voluntary subdivisions of the Azov, Donbas and Shakhtar battalions (about 200 people) were put into the sector, which were to carry out the assault on Ilovaysk.

The volunteer units were reinforced by units of the 51st individual mechanized brigade and the 40th Territorial Defense Battalion. The assault group was supported by one tank, one Infantry combat vehicle (ICV) and one armored truck of the KamAZ Battalion «Azov». Shortly after the start of the

⁵⁸ Mashovets Konstantin. Chronicle of the Donbas War: from rallies to tanks. Retrieved from: <http://mediarnbo.org/2014/10/18/hronika-viyini-na-donbasi-vid-mitingiv>.

⁵⁹ Tincenko Yaroslav. August 2014 Ilovaysk Part II August 25, 2015. Retrieved from: <http://tyzhden.ua/Society/144115>.

assault, the tank was put out of action by a self-propelled artillery unit of the enemy. The armored vehicle fell dead, the assault stopped. During the fight ICV was lost and 12 people were killed⁶⁰.

Returning to the checkpoint of the 39th Battalion of Territorial Defense, there they saw a tank, and several ICVs, which were so needed during the offensive. They began to reproach the soldiers - they did not support them. But those negatively expressed themselves to the commander of sector B and said that his orders are doing in their own way. They argued that they knew better how to act in this situation and confirmed it with their further actions. The intelligence of the 40th Territorial Defense Battalion on 11 or 12 August blocked the main highway «Ilovajsk-Khartsyzsk» north of Ilovaysk in the district of Village Green, creating facilities for the successful assault of the city. These positions were successfully maintained by the end of August⁶¹.

In the third assault of Ilovaysk were involved almost all the volunteer battalions that existed at the time: Donbas (220 fighters), Dnipro-1 (78), Peacemaker (74), Svityaz (40, then 40 - 30), «Kherson» (30 fighters) and «Ivano-Frankivsk» (33)⁶².

On August 18, «Donbas» entered Ilovaysk with the support of the consolidated company of the 51st mechanized brigade and the tactical group of the 17th tank brigade (four tanks, four armored personnel carriers, 82 fighters) and secured itself in the western part of the city, followed by a battalion Dnipro-1. During the battles, a third part of the «Donbas» assault team was seriously injured or killed⁶³.

Obviously, the separatist command and the Russian units had their own «strategic plan» to break up the Ukrainian troops. The plan consisted of cheating the volunteers in Ilovaysk and surrounded them from the northwest - from the side of Donetsk, and from the south - from the district of Amvrosievka. Probably, following this plan, part of separatist divisions left Ilovaysk and moved to Donetsk. That is why, starting on August 21, in the Ilovaysk, the reduction in the scope of hostilities was noticed.

The plan of the separatists began to be implemented on August 23 by an offensive on the southern flank - the Sector D. Amvrosievka and the whole territory until the Savur Mohyla were systematically fired by the artillery of the enemy. The combined team of the 93rd mechanized brigade could not settle in the village of Petrovsky - not far from Savur-Mohyla. The group lost to Petrovsky two ICV and one car (URAL) sniper depot, and August 23 was forced to leave Petrovsky and return to Dzerkalne.

It can be assumed that the retreat of the combined company of the 93rd mechanized brigade panickedly affected the 5th Territorial Defense Battalion "Prykarpattya". At lunch on August 23, he took off from his posts and drove to the west.

The escape of the battleship «Prykarpattya» put the part of the National Guard of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine at the extreme right flank of the Sector D in the district of Lisichy village, 8 km from the state border. On the morning of August 23, the guards of the National Guard defeated the detachment of separatists and Russian saboteurs who moved from Russia, but because of the leak of neighbors were forced to leave their positions and retreat to the west. The next day, the National Guard captured the battle in Noviwaniwka, and therefore retreated to the area with. Komsomolsk.

⁶⁰ Fights for Ilovaisk. Retrieved from : showarticleonly] hoveroverlinksintextformoreinfo.

⁶¹ Tincenko Yaroslav. August 2014 Ilovaisk Part II August 25, 2015. Retrieved from : <http://tyzhden.ua/Society/144115>.

⁶² Vakula Sergey. The third assault Ilovaisk as it was. Retrieved from : <http://informer.news/tretij-shturm-ilovajska-yak-tse-bulo/>.

Tincenko Yaroslav August 2014 Ilovaysk Part II August 25, 2015. Retrieved from : <http://tyzhden.ua/Society/144115>.

⁶³ Fights for Ilovaisk. Retrieved from: showarticleonly] hoveroverlinksintextformoreinfo.

The Rhine tactical group of the 28 th separate mechanized brigade north of the Prykarpattya also had to withdraw from its positions and go north to the Kuteinikovo area. Most of the mobilized soldiers went in the direction of the house - after the «Prykarpattya». Only 17 officers and volunteers left the group, which on August 25 took part in the battle with Russian troops under the Mirror and then managed to escape from the environment on their own.

In fact, already in the afternoon of August 23, the front in the Amvrosievka area, which defended the Hawaiian group of Ukrainian battalions from the south, ceased to exist. On the same day, another battalion of territorial defense «Goryn» came from the front and went to the house. He revealed to the separatist detachments the way of attack on the district of Ilovajsk from the side of Donetsk⁶⁴.

And on the night of August 23 to 24, 2014, a massive invasion of Russian regular forces began. The state border crossed eight battalion tactical groups of the armed forces of the Russian Federation. Battalion-tactical groups were created in the following directions:

- Donetsk on the basis of the 6th separate tank brigade; 8th, 17th, 18th, 21st individual motorized; 33rd Mountain Motorized Infantry Brigade; The 31st Separate Assault Brigade, the 247th Airborne Assault Regiment of the 7th Guards Airborne Assault Division, the 331st Guards Paratroopers Regiment of the 98th Guards Division and the 137th Paratroopers Regiment of the 106th Guards Division of Airborne Troops;
- Luhansk - 15th, 35th, 74th. 136th and 200th individual motorized infantry brigades; 104th and 234th Guards Airborne Assault Regiments of the 76th Guards Airborne Assault Division.

The units that were taking part in the occupation of the territory of Ukraine were formed from the troops of the Southern, Western, Central and Eastern military districts; the Airborne Forces, the Navy, as well as the special forces of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Federation. The geography of the annexation of troops practically covers the whole territory of the Russian Federation ⁶⁵.

Russian regular troops quickly moved towards Ilovaysk and Luhansk. Several smaller groups crossed the border near Novoazovsk in the direction of Mariupol.

Only in the Donetsk region, the group of armed forces of the Russian Federation near the Russian-Ukrainian border in the south of the Rostov region accounted for: the personnel - up to 4 thousand people; tanks - up to 20 units; armored combat vehicles - up to 90 units; artillery systems - up to 30 units; Rocketart systems - up to 20 units⁶⁶.

One of the columns of the Russian troops, the number, according to the testimony of Ukrainian officers - up to 100 units of military equipment, in the morning of August 24, was moving just along the way from the border through Amvrosievka to Dzerkalnyi, where there was a base camp for Sector B.

Except from the intelligence, this column, which was moving without any signs of recognition, was seen by military and civilians. For example, along with it, for a long time, two officers of the 93rd mechanized brigade - dressed in a civilian - drove in a private car. The Russian soldiers took our troops for the separatists and waved their hands in peace. The officers, immediately upon arrival to Dzerkalnyi,

⁶⁴ Tincenko Yaroslav. August 2014 Ilovaik Part II August 25, 2015. Retrieved from : <http://tyzhden.ua/Society/144115>.

⁶⁵ Russian Invasion Forces: Retrieved from: [https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Losses_of_Russian_Forces_as_a_result_of_Russian_Engagement_Ukraine_\(2014\)](https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Losses_of_Russian_Forces_as_a_result_of_Russian_Engagement_Ukraine_(2014)).

⁶⁶ The White Paper on the Antiterrorist Operation in the East of Ukraine (2014-2016). Armed Forces of Ukraine. - K .: MOU, NUOU, 2017. - C. 47. Yaroslav Tinchenko. August 2014 Ilovaik Part II August 25, 2015. Retrieved from : <http://tyzhden.ua/Society/144115>.

immediately reported on the column at the headquarters of the antiterrorist operation. But there they said that this, for sure, is our column, so to watch, wait. Captain Koval, the battery commander, saw the Dalai-military military column with no flags and no sign of approval, which was moving to Kутайnikovo. He asked permission to open the fire, but the command did not give consent. Only when the columns began to shoot at the battery and hit two guns, Koval opened fire in response⁶⁷.

There were many reports, but they were not taken in serious manner, the only order order that was issued in response was to «hold on» and «do not panic». In Kiev, they were busy with more urgent issues - preparing for tomorrow's parade.

The next day, Russian regular troops entered the battle with Ukrainian units. On August 25th they finally cut off the Ilovaysk troops from the south, and on the morning of August 27 - from the west. Since then, volunteer battalions and units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Ilovaysk region have been entirely encircled ⁶⁸.

A well-known political expert, Yevgeny Magda, after the commencement of the annexation of the Crimea by the end of summer 2014, shares the next stages of the information-psychological war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The first. (December 2013-February 2014). Discrediting Maidan. The Russian mass media have shown purposefully that what is happening in the center of Kiev is a riot of extremists and nationalists, inspired by the West ...

Second (February - March 2014).Return of the Crimea's peninsula. The efforts of the Russian propaganda machine were aimed at maximizing the demoralization of Ukrainian power, depriving its space for maneuver, suppressing the will to resist of Ukrainian military in the Crimea, ideological support for the annexation of the Crimea and the formation of a favorable international position on this issue ...

Third (Spring-August 2014). Destabilization of Donbas, Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which for a long time served as the electoral reserve of the Party of Regions, became the object of information expansion and penetration of armed groups from Russian territory. Donbas was chosen as an object of action due to the lack of political competition in the region and the dominance of Russian media. This stage was completed by pocket near Ilovaysk, where the Ukrainian troops got encircled⁶⁹.

Conclusion. So, summing up all the foregoing statements, it can be argued that the armed aggression of the Russian Federation regarding the territorial integrity of Ukraine as a independent state is a continuation of the centuries-long expansion of the Moscow State with its imperial aspirations: autocracy, Bolshevism, and Putinism with neo-chauvinism against Ukraine.

Given the historical parallels, it can be argued that the current undeclared war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is being seem as the Patriotic War of the Ukrainian people for the independence of their state.

The Russian-Ukrainian war of 2014 will be forever engraved in the memory of the Ukrainian people who have endured it. This is a page of our history. And life after it will never be as before. And the case of Ilovaysk should become a lesson to avoid the same fatal mistakes in the future.

⁶⁷ Tinchenko Yaroslav. August 2014 Ilovaisk Part II August 25, 2015. Retrieved from : <http://tyzhden.ua/Society/144115>.

⁶⁸ Same.

⁶⁹ Magda Ye.V. Hybrid War: Survive and Defeat. - X: Vivat, 2015. - pp. 289-290.

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