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Maria Zofia Lisiecka*

Doctor of Medical Sciences

National Institute of Medicine in Warszawa

02-507, 137 Wołowska Str., Warszawa, Poland

<https://orcid.org/0009-0003-9543-509X>

Diplomatic Ukrainian-Belarusian relations in the context of a full-scale war

Abstract. The relevance of this study and the stated problem primary lies in the fact that Ukraine has a large common border with Belarus, which is why the political and security situation within it directly affects the national security of Ukraine. It is also worth noting that this topic is not sufficiently disclosed in the works of other domestic and foreign scientists, political scientists and historians. In this regard, the purpose of this scientific work is to study the diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus, as well as the prospects for their development in the context of a full-scale war between Russia and Ukraine. In addition, the tasks of the work are to study the influence of Belarus on the Russian-Ukrainian war. The following scientific methods are the main ones in this research: analysis, induction, synthesis, comparison and graphical methods of presenting information. In the article, the concept of diplomacy is revealed, the procedure for establishing diplomatic relations between states is described. It is considered how Belarus and Ukraine implemented their foreign policy towards each other after the collapse of the Russian Empire and the declaration of independence of the young states. It has been studied the conclusion of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine in 1991 and the course of bilateral relations between the states until 2022. It has also been considered how Belarus contributed to Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, as well as its role in this conflict. Special attention is paid to the course of the Russian-Ukrainian peace negotiations that has taken place on the territory of Belarus in 2022. The materials of the article are of practical and theoretical value for political scientists, historians and other representatives of the scientific community who are interested in the diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Belarus

Keywords: international relations; aggression; history; political science; foreign policy

Introduction

In the modern world, the preservation of peace and stability is the key factor to the development of any state. In addition to military and economic potential, this important task is carried out through diplomatic activities. Since Ukraine and Belarus are historically and culturally close countries, it is natural that after gaining independence in 1991, the countries have begun to develop bilateral political, economic, and humanitarian relations. Although they had good partnership relations, especially in the economic sphere, all the achievements of more than 30 years of cooperation have been erased by Belarus' participation in Russia's military aggression against Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

Thus, the relevance of the stated problem lies in the need for the Ukrainian state to ensure security from the Belarusian border, as well as the importance of changing the authoritarian regime in Belarus so that the two countries can be successful partners in the region again.

A. Kotljarchuk & N. Zakharov (2022) draw attention to the historical and cultural closeness of Ukraine and Belarus. Even the name "Belarus" is associated with the name of the medieval state of Kievan Rus. Based on the name, Kyiv was its center, namely the capital of modern Ukraine. The territories of both states were part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish-Lithuanian Union. Researchers draw attention to the fact that before the division of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth between the Russian Empire, Austria, and Prussia, the only Ruthenian language was used on the territory of modern Ukraine and Belarus, which was significantly different from the Russian language, and it was used in Muscovy. Thus, the modern Ukrainian and Belarusian languages are very close and have a large amount of common vocabulary.

D. Michaluk & P.A. Rudling (2014) studied in their work the diplomatic relations of the young Belarusian

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*Corresponding author



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People's Republic (BPR) and the Ukrainian People's Republic (UPR), which arose as a result of the civil war in the Russian Empire. They draw attention to the fact that the Belarusian state received both political and significant financial support from the UPR. After Hetman P. Skoropadsky took power into his own hands, the relations between states began to develop faster. As a result, a BPR consulate was opened in Kyiv, headed by Professor Mitrofan Dounar-Zapolsky.

Y.V. Mahda (2022) draws attention to the fact that relations between independent Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus (RB) largely depended on the position of A. Lukashenko tried to maintain neutrality in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in the period from 2014-2022. This is explained by the dictator's desire to improve his political positions, namely, to increase the space to maneuver in relations with Russia and Western countries, as well as the desire to continue economic cooperation with Ukraine. Considering the last thesis, he notes that economic cooperation between the countries has been wider than the political one. Thus, as of 2021, Ukraine ranked second in Belarusian exports, second only to Russia.

Studying the role of Belarus in the Russian-Ukrainian war, T.Y. Polovyi (2022) noted the attempts of A. Lukashenko gives the impression of neutrality of Belarus in this conflict. Thus, Minsk (the capital of the Republic of Belarus) became the venue for negotiations on the settlement of the conflict in Donbas. The scientist draws attention to the fact that such a choice of venue for negotiations has been beneficial to Ukraine since the image of the mediator country has made further escalation impossible with the involvement of Belarus in the conflict. Thus, Ukraine received security guarantees for more than 1000 kilometers of the border with Belarus.

D. Klavins (2011) believes that it is necessary to provide a more modern definition of diplomacy so that it corresponds to all the features of this process in the 21st century. Thus, he defines diplomacy as the process of countries' communication with each other and with non-state and supra government global players. He divides modern diplomacy into two parts. The first one is the traditional perception of diplomacy as a manifestation of the state's foreign policy activity in communication with other states. The second one is manifested in the participation of diplomats in the activities of international organizations and the support of dialogue on international platforms. Thus, the main purpose of diplomacy is the establishment of diplomatic relations and their development (Qin, 2020).

The purpose of the work is to study diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus, their history, development, and prospects in the conditions of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Materials and Methods

The following methods were used in the research process: analysis; comparison; generalization; method of matching; classification; graphic methods of presenting the information.

With the help of the analysis method, it was carried out a theoretical collection and elaboration of existing

approaches in the history and political science regarding diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus; was considered the information data from books, electronic articles, monographs, scientific conferences, dissertations, which it was deeply and comprehensively disclosed the aspects and features of bilateral relations between these countries. In addition, this method helped in disclosing the relevance of this issue based on the study of existing works devoted to the stated problem, its features, peculiarities, and approaches to explanation; it also helped in demonstrating the historical prerequisites for the development of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Belarus. The method of comparison made it possible to give brief reviews of the studies of other scientists, to compare the results of these studies, and to identify unexplored issues. In addition, it was identified the problem, purpose, forms, and ways (methods) of analyzing this problem; the plan for conducting research work was drawn up.

The method of analysis was used to identify the regulatory framework for bilateral relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus and to determine the number of signed interstate and intergovernmental documents. In addition, with its help, the key areas of cooperation between the two states were considered, and the most priority ones were identified. It was shown that political relations between countries depended largely on the mood of the leader of Belarus. The method of induction was applied to determine events and factors, which became the reason for the fact that relations between Ukraine and Belarus began to deteriorate. It studied the impact of the Belarusian protests in 2020 and the reaction of Ukraine and the international community to the bilateral relations between the two states. The role of Belarus in the preparation and implementation of a full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine was considered a separate issue, including the fact that Belarus supported the Russian military formations before and during the attack.

In addition, it was determined how Belarus tried to maintain diplomatic relations with Ukraine, even despite its direct participation in the military aggression against Ukraine. It has been noted how the peace negotiations between Russia and Ukraine (which took place on the territory of Belarus) affect the diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus. By summarizing the material and describing the results, it substantiated the aspects of conducted political science research work; the conclusions obtained during the writing of scientific work were systematized.

In addition, using various theoretical methods, it was processed the data obtained during the work; theoretical and practical conclusions, and results of the study were substantiated. Using the method of comparison, it presented a comparative analysis of studies and approaches aimed at a more detailed study of the problem of the deterioration of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Belarus, their history, and prospects for further development of bilateral relations. In addition, using the methods of classification and generalization, it was presented the results of the work; its contribution to political science as a study of international relations was determined.

Results

Diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Belarus after the collapse of the Russian Empire and during the Soviet period. Since diplomatic relations is a fairly broad and complex concept, it is worth trying to define it. Thus, diplomacy is a way to implement the state's foreign policy, to achieve its national interests in a non-military way. Heads of state, government, ministers of foreign affairs, ambassadors, and diplomats can carry out diplomatic activities (Barston, 2019).

Thus, diplomatic relations are the main form of supporting official relations between states. The establishment of diplomatic relations is the result of negotiations between the interested parties or their representatives, which is legally formalized through the exchange of letters, and notes between authorized persons in the state (usually the president, the head of government, or a minister of foreign affairs). The parties agree on the level of diplomatic representation (embassy or mission), and the date of the agreement's entry into force. The severance of diplomatic relations occurs at the initiative of one or two parties through an official announcement of the termination of diplomatic relations with the other. This process is accompanied by the expulsion of ambassadors, consuls, and other diplomatic representatives (Jonsson & Hall, 2005).

As Slavic states, Belarus and Ukraine have closely related cultures and they are predominantly populated by the East Slavic ethnic groups of Belarusians and Ukrainians. Based on this, it does not seem strange that Belarus and Ukraine (which are historically, linguistically, culturally, and ethnically close states) have maintained close relations after the collapse of the Russian Empire. After the declaration of independence of the Ukrainian People's Republic (UPR) and the Belarusian People's Republic (BPR), the representatives of the latter one made efforts to have their independence recognized by the Central Council. This was important for them since the following factors depended on it: the definition of the Ukrainian-Belarusian borders, and the provision of financial assistance to the BPR by the Ukrainian authorities. However, although the Central Council accepted the representatives of the Belarusian People's Republic and recognized their legal personality, they did not formally recognize their independence (Dedurin, 2017).

In the future, the process of negotiations became active after the coup and the establishment of the power of Hetman Pavlo Skoropadsky. As a result, the Belarusian People's Republic received financial support, and the countries mutually opened consulates. Thus, the Belarusian consulates were opened in Kyiv and Odesa, and the Ukrainian consulates – were in Minsk and Orsha. However, the issue of the border and disputed territories was not resolved. After the anti-Hetman uprising and the establishment of the power of the Directory, the financial issues and the conclusion of federative relations between the UPR and the BPR were the main topics of the Belarusian-Ukrainian negotiations, which were not implemented due to hostilities on the territory of Ukraine (Datskiv, 2010).

It should be noted that there were no relations between the republics as such after the establishment of the

Bolshevik regime in them. This was the only political treaty concluded by them: the Treaty on the Establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics with the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) and the Transcaucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic (TSFSR).

Development of diplomatic Ukrainian-Belarusian relations in the post-Soviet period. Diplomatic relations between the already independent Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus were established after the collapse of the Soviet Union on December 27, 1991. In the next few years, the countries exchanged diplomatic representatives. Thus, on June 30, 1992, the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Belarus was opened, and on October 12, 1993 – the Embassy of Belarus in Kyiv. In 2004, the Consular Office of the Ukrainian Embassy (located in Brest) was transformed into the Consulate General of Ukraine (2020).

On August 17, 1995, the official visit of the President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko to Ukraine took place in Ukraine. In the course of this visit, it was signed the Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighborliness, Cooperation, and Friendship between Ukraine and Belarus. This agreement became the foundation of bilateral relations between the countries, as it secured the development of modern relations between Ukraine and Belarus (which are based on mutual trust, respect, and consent). According to it, the parties pledged to be guided by the principles of respect for sovereignty, equality, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, as well as be guided by some generally recognized norms of international law. Ukraine and Belarus have recognized the inviolability of borders existing between them and have confirmed that they have no territorial claims against each other, and they will not put forward such claims against each other in the future. Based on these principles, on May 12, 1997, it was concluded in Kyiv an agreement of unlimited duration between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus on the border. However, this treaty was ratified only in June 2013 (Kondratenko, 2020a). It should be noted that Ukrainian-Belarusian relations are characterized by the absence of territorial claims of the parties to each other.

For 27 years, about 90 bilateral meetings have been conducted between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus, as well as 205 documents have been signed. These include 100 intergovernmental and interstate documents and 105 interdepartmental ones. According to these documents, Ukraine and Belarus cooperate in political, economic, scientific and technical, humanitarian, and other fields (Vasylyshyn, 2017). It should be noted that relations between Ukraine and Belarus directly depended on the political leadership of Ukraine, or rather they depended on the fact of how A. Lukashenko perceived the political leadership of Ukraine. Thus, in 2004, amid the Orange Revolution and the coming of President V. Yushchenko to power (oriented towards Western European institutions), there was a deterioration in interstate relations. Subsequently, they improved, but only in economic terms, while the political relations between the Ukrainian and Belarusian leadership remained relatively tense. In 2010, when V. Yanukovich won the presidential elections, the improvement of relations did

not happen immediately, since Yanukovich nominally also advocated further European integration of Ukraine. However, after he abandoned these plans and announced the reorientation of the state's foreign policy towards the Russian Federation (RF), A. Lukashenko began to support him in every possible way (Vasylyshyn, 2019).

The greatest aggravation of bilateral relations between Ukraine and Belarus was experienced in 2020. In August 2020, mass protests began in Belarus, caused by another falsification in the presidential elections, according to which A. Lukashenko won again. On August 17, 2020, Ukraine recalled its ambassador from Belarus for a consultation to assess the prospects for bilateral relations. On August 28, the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmitry Kuleba said that Ukraine would suspend all contact with Belarus only after being convinced in the absence of moral, reputational, or political damage to Ukraine due to the above-mentioned terms of contact. On September 5, the Ukrainian ambassador returned to Belarus. As a result, the government of Ukraine nevertheless decided not to recognize the legitimacy of the election of Alexander Lukashenko as President of the Republic of Belarus, and it also joined the EU sanctions against him (Talent, 2020).

The following fact became also important for Ukraine's relations: Belarus returned to Russia the detained militants (who were part of the Wagner Group) despite the Ukrainian calls to send the detainees to Ukraine to bring them to justice due to their participation in the conflict in Donbas.

Diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Belarus after February 24, 2022. On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation carried out a full-scale military invasion of the territory of Ukraine, which took place in many directions. The Republic of Belarus was one of them, which provided the Russian armed forces with its military airfields, weapons, and equipment, the ability to launch missiles, and the territory to attack Ukraine from the northern area of the Kyiv region. On February 26, 2022, the Chairman of the State Border Service of Ukraine S. Deyneko responded to these treacherous actions in a letter to the Chairman of the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus A. Lappo (The reaction of..., 2022).

On March 9, 2022, the Belarusian Ambassador to Ukraine Igor Sokol, and 11 other employees of the Belarusian embassy left the territory of Ukraine, using a checkpoint on the border with Moldova. On March 23, 2022, Belarus announced the closure of the Consulate General of Ukraine in Brest. In addition, the diplomatic staff of the Ukrainian mission was reduced to 5 people. A few days later, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine announced a symmetrical response to the actions of Belarus and reduced the number of representatives of the Belarusian embassy in Kyiv. There is an interesting fact: despite the open hostility of the rhetoric and actions of the Belarusian regime towards Ukraine, the diplomatic relations between the countries were not severed (as was done with Russia). It is possible to say that the peace talks between Ukraine and the Russian Federation (which took place on the territory of Belarus) were the biggest manifestation of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus after the full-scale invasion of Russia.

The first round of negotiations began near the Belarusian border on February 28. The Office of the President of Ukraine named the call for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine as the main goals. It ended without urgent agreements. The second round of peace talks began on 3 March. Both sides agreed to open humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of civilians. Russia's put forward the following demands for Ukraine: the recognition of the Russian-occupied Crimea, the independence of separatist-controlled Lugansk and Donetsk, as well as "demilitarization" and "denazification". The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine has stated that although his country is ready to resume negotiations, Russia's demands have not changed and are unacceptable to the Ukrainian state (Lawler, 2022). The third round of talks took place on March 7, amid the continued fighting and bombardment. Ukrainian negotiator and presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak wrote on Twitter the following: "There have been some positive developments in the logistics of humanitarian corridors" (Karmanau, 2022). It is also worth noting that Belarus is now actually not a sovereign state, but it has almost completely become a satellite of the Russian Federation. Given this, as well as the fact that most of the population of the Republic of Belarus does not agree with the policies of Lukashenko and the Russian Federation, Ukraine should maintain adequate relations with the Belarusian people and representatives of the Belarusian opposition (the liberal opposition led by S. Tikhonovskaya and the fighters of the Kastus Kalinovsky regiment) (Zogg, 2022).

Summing up, Ukraine and Belarus (being historically, culturally, and ethnically close) had fairly close diplomatic relations throughout the existence of the two states. However, despite the past close relations and their potential development in the future, the Belarusian regime canceled all diplomatic and economic achievements on February 24, 2022, when it joined the Russian military aggression. Although the Belarusian troops do not participate in the war, the open hostility of A. Lukashenko's towards Ukraine (who usurped the power in Belarus) and his all-around support of the Russian Federation leave Ukraine no other choice than to respond to them symmetrically. It can be concluded that the current state of relations between the two countries does not allow hope for an improvement in bilateral diplomatic relations until a change of power takes place in Belarus and A. Lukashenko's regime bears responsibility for the crimes committed both in Ukraine and towards the people of Belarus.

Discussion

Proceeding from the fact that diplomatic relations of any country are based on international law, it is worth paying attention to the book by E. Denza (2016). According to the book's title, the scientist studies in detail the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. She notes that convention formulates the basic rules according to which the relations between states are established, the exchange of diplomatic representatives is carried out, and the rights and obligations of diplomats are fixed. Such a massive acceptance of the Convention (in the form of

universal rules for the conduct of diplomatic activity) was achieved because a special Commission on International Law was created. The purpose of its functioning was to develop the provisions of the Convention in such a way that it would satisfy the majority of countries. The Commission also introduced and considered amendments to the Convention. Since the diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Belarus is the topic of the presented work, E. Denza's (2016) research on the document (according to which all modern diplomatic relations are based) is very useful.

Since the legal and contractual framework is one of the most important foundations of any diplomatic relations, it is important to consider the work of D. Vasylyshyn (2019). In this work, the scientist conducted a deep analysis of diplomatic and economic relations between Ukraine and Belarus in the period from 1991-2014. He draws attention to the fact that during this time, more than two hundred documents have been signed between the countries that regulate bilateral cooperation in various fields and at different levels. This cooperation was reinforced by the frequent contact between the leaders of countries, heads of government, and representatives of parliaments. The researcher considers the following fact as an outstanding one: the economic ties between Ukraine and Belarus were closer than the political and diplomatic ones. He considers the disagreements in the domestic and foreign policy directions of the development of the two states as the main reason for this. For example, the Belarusian authorities represented by A. Lukashenko did not share Ukraine's intentions for European integration and NATO membership. In the study by D. Vasylyshyn (2019), in contrast to the presented work, the issue of the legal framework of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus is considered in more detail.

Continuing the theme of bilateral relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus, it will be interesting to pay attention to the work of R.M. Kondratenko (2020b), in which he studies the impact of public diplomacy on the development of relations between the two countries. The scientist focuses on the fact that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between states, their main goal consisted of the development of stable and mutually beneficial relations, both political and economic. This is due to the historical, cultural, and geographical proximity of the countries. According to the researcher, it was the economic aspect of bilateral relations that had the greatest development. In his opinion, the desire to maintain stable economic ties became the reason for official Minsk to agree to become a platform for negotiations to resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The results of the scientist's study on the development of economic relations between Ukraine and Belarus coincide with the results of this study.

Speaking about relations between Ukraine and Belarus in the context of Russian aggression in 2014-2022, it is worth paying attention to the work by Y. Preiherman (2022). Author notes that during this period, Belarus tried to adhere to "neutrality" in the issue of supporting one of the parties to the conflict. Thus, A. Lukashenko tried to maneuver between the support of contacts with Europe and the full support of Putin's policies. However, after

the presidential elections in 2020, mass protests of people dissatisfied with the results of the elections were held in the Republic of Belarus. After their brutal suppression, sanctions from the EU and Ukraine were imposed against Lukashenko and Belarus; in turn, Lukashenko was not recognized as a legitimate president. According to the researcher, all this led to the fact that the deepening of relations with Russia became the only foreign policy direction for the development of Belarus. Finally, this resulted in the fact that Belarus became a satellite state of the Russian Federation, providing them with the territory for the passage of troops, weapons, equipment, training grounds for the military, and a springboard for launching missile strikes on the territory of Ukraine. The conclusions of the researcher regarding the impact of the 2020 protests on the possibility of A. Lukashenko for political maneuvering coincides with the conclusions of this work.

Since the mass protests of 2020 in Belarus have had a great impact on the positions of A. Lukashenko concerning Russia, Ukraine, and the European Union, it will be important to consider this point in more detail. For this, the work by N. Chernyshova (2022) "Invasion of Ukraine: How Belarus Became a Pawn of Russia" will be suitable. Until the summer of 2020, A. Lukashenko maintained a certain independence from Russia, which allowed him to implement a strategy of multi-vector policy. Due to such policy, he was able to maintain contacts with Western countries, receive funds from the Russian Federation, and prevent the permanent location of the Russian military in Belarus. However, the outright falsification of the results of the presidential election in August 2020 sparked protests, a scale of which was unprecedented in the history of the young state. Faced with the greatest manifestation of popular discontent during the entire time of his leadership, Lukashenko found nothing better than adopting the most pro-Russian and anti-Western rhetoric. He has made several statements, claiming that the West foments artificial protests, because "support for Lukashenko in the Belarusian society is maximum". According to his opinion, the West's purpose is to destabilize Belarus and turn it into a "bridgehead against Russia". The results of the study by N. Chernyshova (2022) regarding the protests of 2020 in Belarus and their impact on Ukrainian-Belarusian relations coincide with the results of the presented work.

As for the support provided to Russia by the Republic of Belarus, it is worth mentioning the work by S.A. Mudrov (2022). In this work, he notes that Belarus is one of Russia's closest allies, both politically and practically. The self-proclaimed president of Belarus, A. Lukashenko, supports Putin in every possible way, allowing the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation to enter Ukraine from Belarus and use both military and civilian infrastructure to meet the needs of the Russian army. In addition, the researcher focuses on the fact that representatives of the Belarusian regime no longer even try to disguise the hostile rhetoric towards Ukraine and its people. Nevertheless, Lukashenko is trying to save at least some space for political maneuver, by resisting the involvement of Belarusian military units in confrontation with the Armed Forces of Ukraine in every possible way. As in the presented work, the researcher

described in detail how Belarus provided support to the Russian army.

Considering the issue of supporting contacts between Ukraine and Belarus after Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, it is worth paying attention to the work by B. Zogg (2022). In this work, the author argues that Ukraine and Western countries should accept the fact that Lukashenko's regime had no choice but to accept Russia's demands and provide comprehensive assistance to the aggressor state. Therefore, Kyiv and Western countries need to pay attention to the official and unofficial signals given by the Belarusian leadership. Due to this, it will be possible to obtain valuable information within the regime, determine social and political trends in society and political elites, understand how much Belarus has lost its sovereignty, and based on this, develop a plan for further actions regarding Belarus (Karmanau, 2022). Although the conclusions of this work regarding the responsibility of A. Lukashenko's regime for participation in the war against Ukraine does not coincide with the conclusions of B. Zogg (2022), they nevertheless deserve attention.

N. Gould-Davies (2022) believes that concessions on the issue of punishing A. Lukashenko's regime can have extremely negative consequences in the future. In his opinion, the post-war arrangement in the region should provide for clear and confident solutions, since compromises are unacceptable and they will only lead to even greater instability in the future. Thus, after the end of the war, A. Lukashenko and the Belarusian elites must be brought to justice at the same level as Putin and the military and political elites of the Russian Federation. Because the preservation of Ukraine and securing its place among the Western democracies are the main goal of Europe and the West as a whole in this war, democratic transformations within Belarus are necessary, since Ukraine needs to have a secure rear in the form of Belarus. The results of the scientist's work (regarding the fact that concessions in considering the responsibility of A. Lukashenko and his apparatus of power for participation in the war are unacceptable) fully coincide with the results of this work.

Conclusions

Thus, the growing deterioration of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Republic of Belarus is a very important and urgent problem, since the security of the Ukrainian state largely depends on the military-political and security situation on the territory of Belarus.

In this article, it was considered the concepts of diplomacy, the process of establishing and terminating diplomatic relations between states. It was noted that Ukraine and Belarus had much in common in ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and historical aspects since the time of Kievan Rus. For a long time, both states were part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and the Russian Empire. That is why, when the two states declared their independence during the civil war in the Russian Empire, diplomatic relations immediately arose between them, and the then-current Ukrainian authorities tried to help the Belarusians. The bilateral relations between the two states after gaining independence from the Soviet Union were separately considered, including their regulatory and legal framework. Attention was drawn to the fact that political ties between states were inferior in development to economic ones. It was considered the aggravation of diplomatic relations between states after the people's protests in 2020 in Belarus. Attention was focused on the fact that the Republic of Belarus (led by Lukashenko) provided comprehensive assistance to the occupying army of the Russian Federation during a full-scale invasion of the territory of Ukraine, which began on February 24, 2022. It was noted that the desire of Belarus to become a platform for peace negotiations between Russia and Ukraine in March 2022 was a manifestation of A. Lukashenko's desire to maintain contact with the Ukrainian leadership. Finally, it has been concluded that Ukrainian-Belarusian relations are in almost the worst state since their establishment and that the Republic of Belarus is a satellite state of Russia, retaining only an insignificant part of its sovereignty.

The materials of this article can be used by political scientists and historians, scientists involved in the study of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Russia.

It is worth continuing the study and conducting it more deeply, as well as continuing the study of the problem of aggravation of Ukrainian-Belarusian relations. The diagnostics carried out do not exhaust all the features of this political and historical topic and it is required further consideration of the issues such as the preservation of the Republic of Belarus's sovereignty.

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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Марія Зофія Лисецька

Доктор медичних наук

Національний інститут медицини у Варшаві

02-507, вул. Воловська, 137, м. Варшава, Польща

<https://orcid.org/0009-0003-9543-509X>

Дипломатичні українсько-білоруські відносини у контексті повномасштабної війни

Анотація. Актуальність поданого дослідження та заявленої проблеми, перш за все, полягає в тому, що Україна має великий спільний кордон з Білоруссю, через що політична та безпекова ситуація всередині неї прямо впливає на національну безпеку України. Також варто звернути увагу на те, що ця тема недостатньо розкрита у роботах інших вітчизняних та іноземних науковців, політологів та істориків. У зв'язку з цим, мета цієї наукової роботи полягає в дослідженні дипломатичних відносин України та Республіки Білорусь, а також перспектив їх розвитку в умовах повномасштабного війни Росії проти України. Окрім цього, задачами роботи є дослідження впливу Білорусі на російсько-українську війну. В якості основних наукових методів дослідження виступають аналіз, індукція, синтез, порівняння та графічні методи представлення інформації. У статті розкрито поняття дипломатії, описано порядок встановлення дипломатичних відносин між державами. Розглянуто, яким чином Білорусь та Україна реалізовували зовнішню політику відносно один одного після розпаду Російської Імперії та проголошення незалежності молодих держав. Досліджено укладання дипломатичних відносин між Республікою Білорусь та Україною в 1991 році та перебіг двосторонніх відносин між державами до 2022 року. Також розглянуто, яким чином Білорусь посприяла військовій агресії Росії по відношенню до України, а також яку роль вона відіграє в цьому конфлікті. Окрему увагу приділено перебігу російсько-українських мирних перемовин, що проходили на території Білорусі у 2022 році. Матеріали статті представляють практичну та теоретичну цінність для політологів, істориків та інших представників наукового співтовариства, що цікавляться дипломатичними відносинами між Україною та Білоруссю

Ключові слова: міжнародні відносини; агресія; історія; політологія; міжнародна політика
