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Irrational wars in the context of the modern world geopolitical situation: the Ukrainian aspect

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Abstract. The relevance of this article is due to the fact that modern theoretical knowledge on the development of wars and military conflicts is constantly transformed under the influence of the dynamic world geopolitical situation, technological development of weapons and information systems, forms and methods of conducting military operations, which in turn gives rise to the emergence of new types of wars and military conflicts (proxy, hybrid, informational). One of these new types is irrational wars, which have their own specific features of their resolution and conduct. In order to effectively counter them, it is necessary to clearly understand their nature and be able to distinguish them from other types of wars and military conflicts. Therefore, the main goal of the article is to reveal the theoretical and practical essence of irrational wars and the peculiarities of their resolution and conduct through the prism of history, taking into account the peculiarities of modernity. The main methods of research are methods of analysis and synthesis, deduction and induction, as well as methods of expert evaluation. The main results of the article are: the concentration of scientists' attention on the relevance of studying the theory and practice of solving and conducting irrational wars; definition of the key aspects of the development of the conceptual and terminological apparatus of the theory of "irrational wars" and military conflicts; development of an algorithm (sequence) for assigning wars or military conflicts to the class of "irrational"; identification and assessment of controllable and uncontrollable factors that influence the resolution and fueling of irrational wars; analysis of the historical aspect of irrational wars of the 20th and 21st centuries with the definition of wars and conflicts that had signs of irrationality in history; formation of common and distinctive features of hybrid, irrational and proxy wars and conflicts; determining the causes, generators and engines of irrational wars and military conflicts; formed the consequences of the impact of the irrational Russian-Ukrainian war on the geopolitical situation in the world, as well as identified safeguards of irrational wars and formed recommendations on countering their outbreak in the world. The materials of the article can be useful for the country's top leaders, the top command staff of the defense and security forces of the state, as well as scientists and researchers in the field of national security and the development of the defense sphere of the state.

Keywords: armed conflict, geopolitical situation, irrational war, irrational armed aggression, proxy and hybrid wars, National security, forms and methods of conducting military operations, russian-Ukrainian war.

"The first panacea for a badly governed country is currency inflation, the second is war; both bring temporary prosperity, both bring final doom" – Ernest Hemingway

Introduction

Probably, in no field of public knowledge were there so many distortions or, let's say, differences in ideas, as in assessments of the causes of wars and military conflicts. Much depends on the point of view from which to look at events. The influence of personal and group ambitions is probably as widespread as the desire to put the past at the service of the future or to justify the past, that is, the use of the so-called "politics of memory" by the political leadership of the state.

The main elements of which are the distraction of attention from reality by the memory of past achievements providing historical facts` and events` distortion in the direction of creating greatness in the minds of the people in order to form feelings of patience regarding the existing limitations of the quality of life. Today it becomes clear that russia is actively and successfully pumping the technologies of "memory politics" into its society. Today, the main, indisputable circumstance of wars and military conflicts of the 21st century is the irrationality of aggression as such. The concentrated expression of human defects, anti-intellectualism and lack of humanity, hatred and imperial ambitions, terroristic intentions and arrogance characterize wars of conquest today. The actions of the initiators and inspirers of both world wars, as noted, fundamentally contradicted the logic of the social development of their countries, the logic of history, although they became part of history. Therefore, before the start of the aggressions, their initiators had a lot of unsolvable problems, which were unsolvable not because of some peculiarities, for example, a poorly calculated ratio of military forces or intelligence errors, but because of something much more.

In most wars of the 20th and 21st centuries, the parties that waged them never anticipated the public response to their actions. A vivid example of this is the ongoing russian-Ukrainian war. The implementation of invasive intentions, the implementation of mass-scale destruction of people and infrastructure inevitably causes huge social crises, psychological, moral and physical counter-resistance, which develops into a general insurmountable resistance against the war and the forces that caused it. According to the historical experience of wars, in most of them, despite the private military successes of the aggressor, the irrationality of the general determined his ultimate hopelessness. On the one hand, the goals that the conquerors set for themselves on the eve of the outbreak of wars, it would seem, inevitably caused actions of a global scale, a world military conflict.

On the other hand, the aggressor constantly cherished the dream of avoiding a full-scale world war after all, because he was afraid of crossing the red line beyond which everything could explode, including himself. In other words, there is always a limit. Even the most desperate adventurers understand how great the threat of their own death is.

Today it can be seen both in the behavior of the political leadership of russia and their allies. Therefore, they often prefer to act in such a way as to compare the possibilities of achieving their goal with efforts that would not cause unacceptable situations and excessive opposition. So, the best as an ideal, but unattainable option is world domination, but without a world war.

The relevance of studying the theory and practice of solving and conducting irrational wars is an important problem in the modern world, as we are witnessing the growth of conflicts and wars that are extremely complex, unpredictable and do not always obey the usual rules of international law and the logic of war. Today, in the context of the ongoing russian-Ukrainian war and the Arab-Israeli war,

it is necessary to understand that in addition to the study of proxy wars and hybrid wars, it is also necessary to study the development, theory and practice of so-called irrational wars` resolving and conducting, because armed aggression by its nature is doomed to irrationality, and at least a partial understanding of the sequence of this irrationality is extremely important, because irrational wars affect not only the parties who wage them, but also transform the geopolitical situation of the entire world.

Failure to understand the point of tension of the irrationality of the regional conflict can lead to global geopolitical changes in the world, a vivid example of which are the First and Second World Wars, therefore, understanding the problems of solving and conducting irrational wars is an essential component of research in the modern world.

Materials and Methods

The concept of irrationality in war is of an interest not only in the context of scientific research, but also in the field of decision-making by politicians, military strategists and analysts. In today's world, where global conflicts and geopolitical tensions remain relevant, the study of irrational war theory becomes key for promoting peace, security and stability. Understanding the irrationality of war can help avoid unnecessary conflicts and develop effective methods of their resolution.

The concept of "irrational war" can be defined in different ways, the interpretation can vary depending on the context. The Table 1 shows some possible interpretations of the definition of the term "irrational war".

Table 1. Views on the formation of the definition of "irrational war"

No	Term	Definition
1	Irrational war	it is a conflict or military operation that has no strategic sense or justification, or is driven by bad political decisions. This war can cause unnecessary damage and not have a positive impact on the national interests of the country that started it.
2		it is a conflict in which the parties wage war, ignoring alternative ways of resolving the conflict that may be less violent and less destructive. Irrational wars can be motivated by emotion, ideology, or other irrational factors.
3		it is a conflict in which parties try to achieve their goals without considering the cost of those goals or the possible consequences of war. This could lead to the economic and social destruction of both the parties involved and the geopolitical order in the region or the world as a whole.
4		it is a conflict in which the parties wage war without proper planning and preparation, which can lead to underestimation of enemy forces and strategic errors.

These definitions may vary in emphasis and detail, but they generally indicate that an irrational war is a war that does not meet rational criteria, such as strategic calculation or the achievement of specific objectives at a cost of known magnitude. If we consider the connection between the concepts of "irrational war" and "irrational numbers", then it can be noted in the context of rationality and logic that it is possible to define different ways of defining "irrational war", combining them with the idea of irrational numbers, for example:

irrational war as war without justification, that is, from the point of view of irrational numbers, irrational war can be defined as a conflict that has no logical justification or strategic sense, just as irrational numbers cannot be expressed as a simple fraction and have no logical sequences in whole numbers;

irrational war as an irrational activity, that is, an irrational war can be considered as one that is conducted without taking into account scientific, strategic and logical principles, just as irrational numbers cannot be expressed in a simple form and do not lend themselves to the logic of rational numbers;

irrational war as a misunderstanding of the consequences, that is, an irrational war can be considered one in which the parties do not fully understand the possible consequences and risks, similar to how irrational numbers can lead to unexpected mathematical results.

So, all these definitions emphasize the idea of a lack of logical, mental or strategic justification in irrational warfare, similar to how irrational numbers cannot be expressed in a simple and rational way. The study of the historical aspect of wars and military conflicts shows that the internal policy of the leadership of the countries that started the war played a huge role in their desire for external aggression. The fear of social changes in their countries, the fear of impending revolutionary explosions, the loss of power, the desire to divert the attention of the people from the failures of their own policies and internal crises that cause discontent of the masses, all this in one way or another affected the adoption of aggressive decisions, and sometimes determined these decisions. and necessarily under the guise of nationalist propaganda or cheer-patriotism, or the implementation of technologies of the so-called "politics of memory", as well as references to territorial deprivation and injustice or something else.

Historical experience shows that in the consciousness of these people, they were woven into one thing – a vague desire to wage the war and political changes in the country. So, in addition to direct invasion plans, the foreboding and fear of the country's political leadership played a role in the push for transformation both in the country and in the world in general.

World wars became an extreme means of fighting against the horizons of the human spirit, which are moving in their consciousness and mind, against the desire to transform social relations, which were the main signs of the irrationality of these wars that they launched. It is quite natural that those who started them made a terribly hypertrophied bet on the reactionary force and its carrier militarism, believing that it can perfectly solve all problems.

The insanity of some and the limitations of others gives rise to the fact that there is hardly anything more important in the knowledge of history and modernity than the ability to see a logical chain of events and its final result. In the modern world, political leaders need to become closer to historicism of thinking through the chronicle reproduction of facts or abstraction of phenomena and processes. During a responsible approach, one complements the other, one is impossible without the other. Only in the fusion of both approaches is history reproduced in all clarity and instructiveness. Understanding the tone of time, the psychological mood of people sometimes explains events more accurately than existing official documents. Attributing wars or military conflicts to the class of irrational can be a difficult task and can be based on different approaches. One of such approaches is assigning wars or military conflicts to the class of "irrational" is shown in fig. 1.

There are a certain number of signs that can determine the irrationality of war, that is, be their source (Table 2). In general, the analysis of the irrationality of war or conflict requires a comprehensive approach and consideration of all the indicated signs and characteristics, as they may vary in each specific case. Solving and conducting irrational wars are complex processes, and their impact can be determined by various factors (Table 3). Listed in the Table 2 factors are classified by groups of controlled and uncontrollable factors. The overall importance of the factors may vary depending on the specific conflict and geographic region. In addition, it is important to consider that irrational wars are complex phenomena, and the influence of these factors can interact with each other. In fig. 2 and fig. 3 shows the results of an expert survey on the assessment of the importance of the influence of controlled and uncontrollable factors on the resolution and fueling of irrational wars for each of the groups separately. In fig. 4 shows the general estimates of the importance of factors for the entire group of managed and unmanaged factors together. This assessment is general and shows how much each factor can influence the resolution and conduct of irrational wars. The importance of each factor may vary depending on the specific situation and context of the conflict.

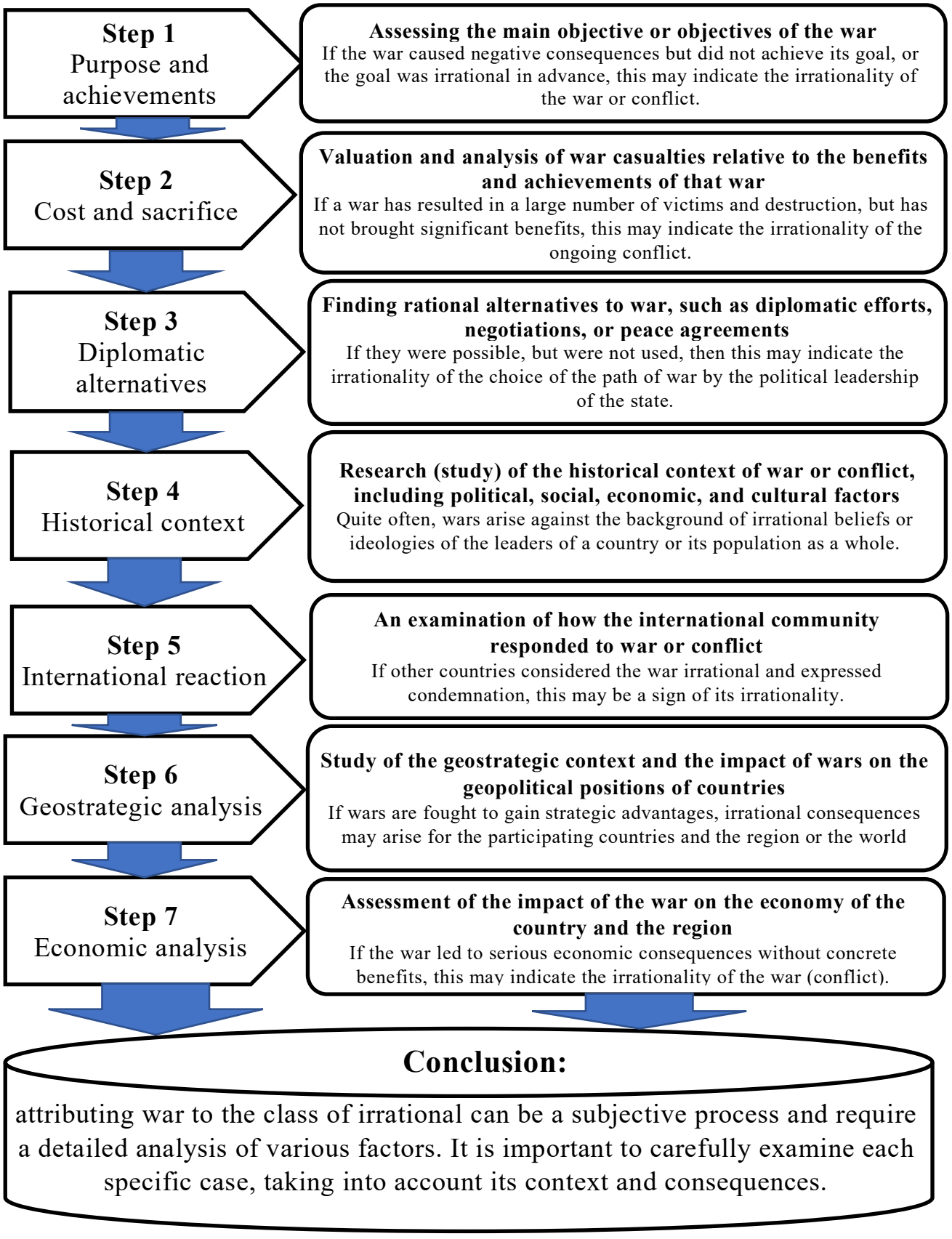


Figure 1. Algorithm (sequence) of assigning wars or military conflicts to the class of "irrational"

Table 2. Signs of the irrationality of war (conflict)

The irrationality of war ($\sqrt{A \cdot B}$ = irrational number)			
No	Party A	No	Party B
Critical difference of religious views and directions of coexistence			
1	Attempted subjugation or violent political cooperation based on religious principles, inciting nationalism or racism	1	Other views on religion and religious centers, divergence of political interests with the party, presence of own nationalist views
Political leadership			
2	A political leader (leadership of the state) who has been in power for a long time	2	A young ambitious leader (leadership of the state) who is in power for a short time
Reasons for war			
3	Lack of a reasonable basis for war and miscalculation regarding its ultimate goals, underestimation of the enemy	3	A clear and understandable goal for the defense of the country or the liberation of captured territories
Proportionality of countries (territory, population, armed forces)			
4	territory 2-5 times more, population 3-5 times more, armed forces 2-4 times more)	4	the territory is 2-5 times smaller, the population is 3-5 times smaller, the armed forces are 2-4 times smaller)
Weapon			
5	The absence of a significant advantage in both the number (15-20 times) and the technology of weapons	5	A loss in the number of weapons to the enemy, but there are ways to replenish them and the availability of technological weapons
Diplomacy			
6	The search for favorable conditions for the end of the war	6	Rejection of diplomatic agreements, one-sided vision of the conditions for the end of the war
Information awareness and moral potential of the population			
7	The formation of one-sided thinking and low information awareness of the population, the development of inter-ethnic enmity	7	High morale of the nation in confronting the enemy, growing hatred of the enemy, heavy casualties, heroism and patriotism
Cooperation and partnership			
8	Loss of international support, decrease in the number of military and economic partners due to illegal actions, non-acceptance of international security rules	8	Increasing the number of allies and partners, economic and military aid in the war, increasing international support for advanced countries, but not introducing peacekeeping military contingents
Geographical location of the country			
9	The desire to take possession of the enemy's advantageous territories (access to the sea, central location, possession of natural resources, etc.)	9	The struggle for the existence of the state and its sovereignty, the preservation of the signs of statehood and military-political leadership, the continuation of the functioning of the economy
Blurredness and specificity of goals			
10	The absence of a clear strategic benefit, that is, the goals of the war do not justify the expenditure of resources (human and economic)	10	Any expenditure of resources is justified by the main strategic goal of liberating the territory of the state
Conclusion: The above signs of the irrationality of war emphasize the difficulty of making reasonable, balanced decisions both before the start of a war (conflict) and in the conditions of its conduct. The presence of a significant number of signs of irrationality between two or more countries contribute to increasing tension and resolving the conflict between the parties, without reducing it to a constructive resolution of the conflict. increase the risk of making unjustified decisions that can have serious consequences for all parties to the conflict. Failure of parties A and B to take into account the signs of irrationality creates an environment of uncertainty, which creates the prerequisites for making unreasonable decisions, leading to a conflict without proper justification, without a reasonable approach to resolving the conflict, as well as with signs of its endless duration.			

Table 3. Controllable and uncontrollable factors that influence the initiation and fueling of irrational wars

No	Factors	Characteristic	Assessment of importance
Controlled factors			
1	Political decisions	Political leaders and governments may make decisions that promote irrational wars, for example because of ambition, religious beliefs, or geopolitical interests.	Importance: high 0.9
2	Economic interests	Protection of economic interests can be a motive for irrational wars. For example, control over resources or markets.	Importance: high. 0.8
3	Sociocultural and religious factors	Ideology, religious views and cultural differences can lead to conflicts.	Importance: high. 0.85
4	Armed forces and military preparedness	The presence of powerful armed forces and the possibility of waging war influence the decision to intervene in the conflict.	Importance: high. 0.75
5	Mass media	The mass media can influence public opinion and help shape military decisions, but their role can vary.	Importance: medium. 0.5
6	Technological development	Technology can influence the conduct of wars, but its role depends on the context of the conflict.	Importance: medium. 0.6
Uncontrollable factors			
1	Ethnic and cultural conflicts	The presence of ethnic or cultural differences can contribute to the birth of irrational conflicts.	Importance: high. 0.85
2	Social instability	Social problems such as unemployment, poverty and inequality can create an atmosphere of instability that promotes conflict.	Importance: high. 0.8
3	Historical conflicts	Previous conflicts and unresolved cases can have long-term effects on relations between countries or groups.	Importance: high. 0.75
4	Geopolitical environment	The geopolitical context, such as a country's location in a region, can influence decisions about military action.	Importance: high. 0.95
5	Ecological problems	Environmental issues, such as the struggle for access to natural resources, can cause irrational wars.	Importance: medium.0.5
6	International cooperation and diplomacy	International conflict prevention efforts and diplomatic initiatives can reduce irrational wars.	Importance: medium. 0.45

The irrationalism of the russian-Ukrainian war consists in the fact that it, like irrational numbers, has signs of infinity, and the threat of its new round can only fade and grow, depending on how and in irrational numbers each subsequent digit in the continuation falls out.

The main aspects of irrationality in the russian-Ukrainian war include:

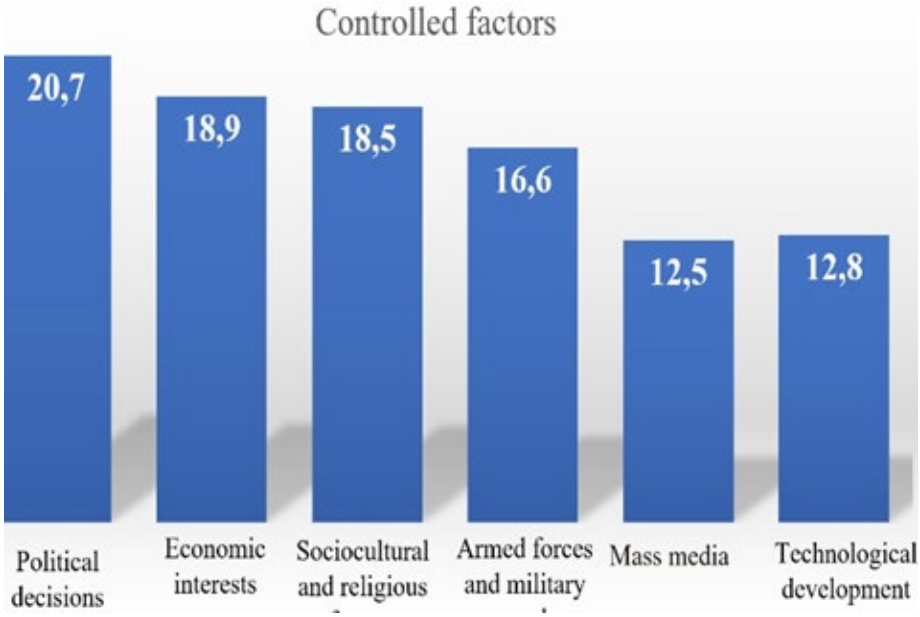


Figure 2. Results of assessing the importance of the influence of controlled factors on the resolution and fueling of irrational wars

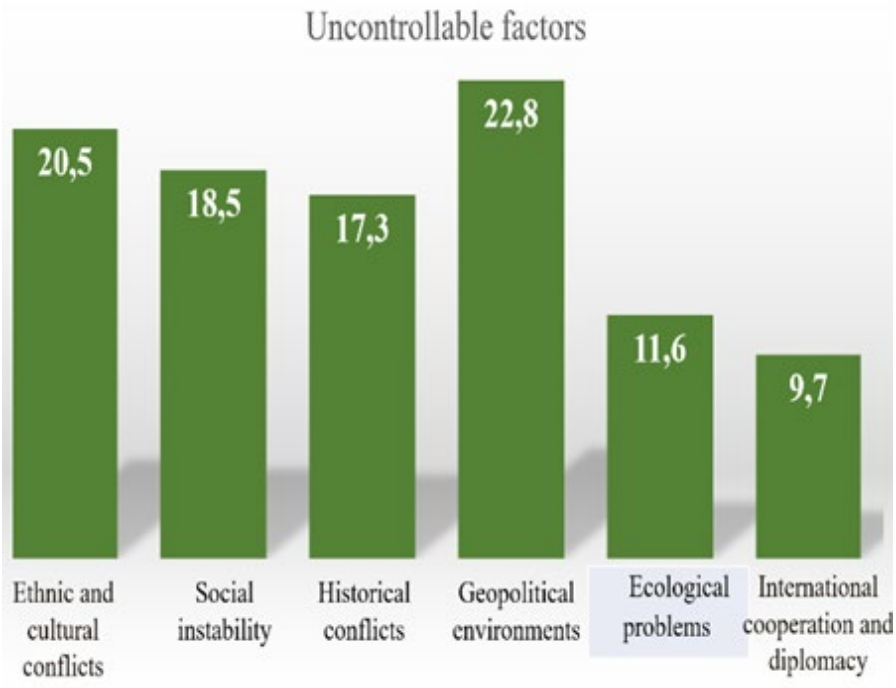


Figure 3. Results of assessing the importance of the influence of uncontrollable factors on the resolution and fueling of irrational wars

political complexity and lack of a rational strategy. The conflict arose after the annexation of Crimea by russia and the rejection of the annexation by the international community. After that, the war in the east of Ukraine began, but russia tacitly acknowledged its participation. The conflict had no clear strategy, and its goals and rationale remained vague and implicit until 2022. After the waging of a large-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, the goals and objectives of the russian-Ukrainian war

had one direction for russia, but after significant resistance from Ukraine, the goals of the war in the leadership of russia were constantly transformed, or we could say adapted to the conditions of the military and geopolitical situation surrounding the war, which reflected the tendencies of belonging to the irrational war. It should not be forgotten that over time any war hybridizes and acquires a cyclical nature, the cyclicality and duration of war arises especially in those conditions, if the aggressor country does not exceed the country it attacked: more than 5-10 times by territory, more than 10 times by human capital (resource); 5-7 times in terms of combat power (weapons, equipment, personnel of the armed forces, reserves); more than 10 times by economic potential and 2-3 times by allies who support their aggression. A vivid example of the beginning of the Second World War is Germany's gradual capture of European countries and the search for allies in order to build up and achieve a balance in the above indicators for an attack on the Soviet Union. Today, the russian-Ukrainian war has all the signs of an irrational, long-term and cyclical war in terms of the activity of military operations;

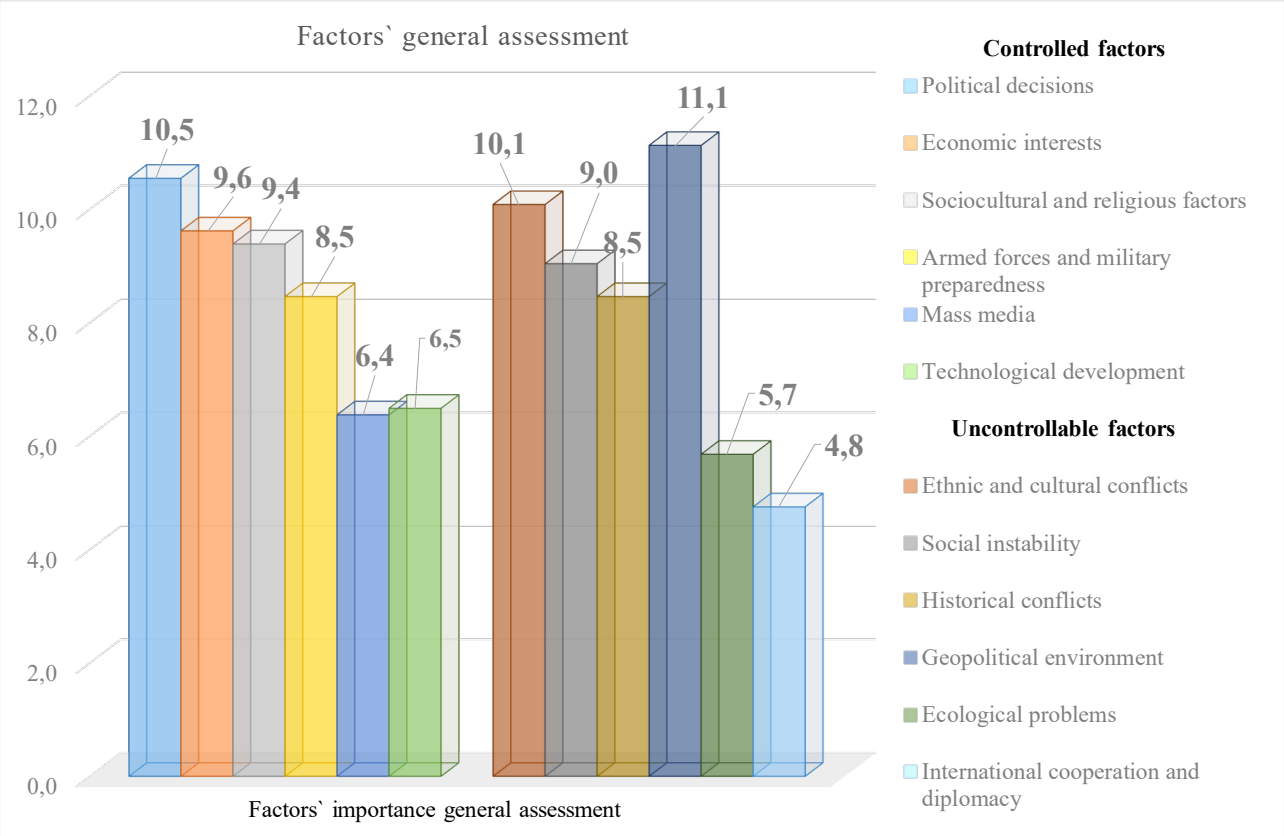


Figure 4. Results of assessing the importance of the influence of a group of controlled and uncontrolled factors on the resolution and fueling of irrational wars (for the entire group of factors as a whole)

humanitarian consequences and great losses. The war resulted in a large number of casualties, a significant number of internally displaced persons and a humanitarian crisis. This has caused significant suffering for the civilian population and has no clear positive results for the russian population either. Humanitarian and ethnic crises arise both on the territory of Ukraine and russia, because the war increasingly acquires features of irrationality, i.e. infinity, and its prolongation forms an irrational, i.e. infinite negative general opinion of the population of the countries regarding the relationship between them, which grows every day and with each person killed and neutralizes even the thought of a harmonious further co-existence and cooperation;

international isolation and sanctions. Russia has become the object of international sanctions and isolation due to its actions in Ukraine. This significantly damaged the russian economy and international status, but the availability of cheap natural resources forces neutral and semi-neutral countries to cooperate with russia for the benefit of their economy, that is, russia is considered as a raw material supply base of natural resources without that most countries of Eurasia cannot imagine their existence, which is also the main argument that the russian-Ukrainian war belongs to the class of irrational, because there is a constant fueling of the unstable economy of russia, which contributes to the stretching of the war in time and bringing it to infinity. A significant number of Eurasian countries are against an aggressive war on the territory of Ukraine, but they are in favor of the stable functioning of their economy even under such conditions, because the stability of the economy is the main indicator of successful political leadership by ruling parties or individual political leaders;

duration and aggravation of the conflict. The russian-Ukrainian conflict (war) has been going on for many years without a clear solution. It caused significant destabilization and economic damage for both sides, and also had an irreparable impact on the relationship between russia and Ukraine for at least several decades, as well as irreversibly affected the geopolitical situation in the world as a whole. This historical fact is a warning, a lesson of careless attitude to the country's own security for most of the countries of both the post-Soviet space and NATO countries. The significant duration and exacerbation of the conflict causes irreversible damage to the ecosystem not only of Ukraine but also of the world as a whole, but unfortunately, until a large-scale global ecological disaster has occurred, the world reacts to the war and its ecological consequences very weakly. Also, the duration of the russian-Ukrainian war is positive for countries in that militarization is one of the key sectors of the economy, but the significant duration of this war is fatal for the economies of weaker countries that do not have their own raw material base and are dependent on subsidies from donor countries.

Like irrational numbers that do not have a finite denominator in decimal representation, the russian-Ukrainian conflict may continue into the long term without a clear resolution, leading to uncertainty and prolonged instability. The impossibility of achieving lasting peace and strategic gains for any of the leading parties makes this conflict irrational in the long term.

The main components of irrational wars are the generators and engines of such wars and conflicts (Fig. 5), but starting the generators is possible only if the main reasons for the formation of the basis for starting the generators appear, which force the main engines of irrational wars to start working.

The main generators of the irrational russian-Ukrainian war include:

the historical geopolitical position of Ukraine, because its geographical location historically evokes the views of other countries regarding the ownership or control of these territories;

territorial issues are one of the key generating causes of the conflict, because the issue of territory, in particular the annexation of Crimea by russia and the war against Ukraine, is an attempt to possess the territories of Ukraine by force;

ideological disagreements between different regions of Ukraine regarding its further development and cooperation with other countries;

the ambitions of the russian government regarding influence on its neighborhood and strategic position in the region also played an important role in the waging of the ongoing russian-Ukrainian war;

the external influences of factors, such as the role of the USA, the European Union and other countries in supporting Ukraine and the introduction of sanctions against russia, created the generating conditions for its long continuation.

The main drivers of the irrational russian-Ukrainian war include:

the emotional charge of patriotism and nationalism in both countries has stimulated movements and actions that may be irrational and serve as catalysts for the perpetuity of ongoing war;

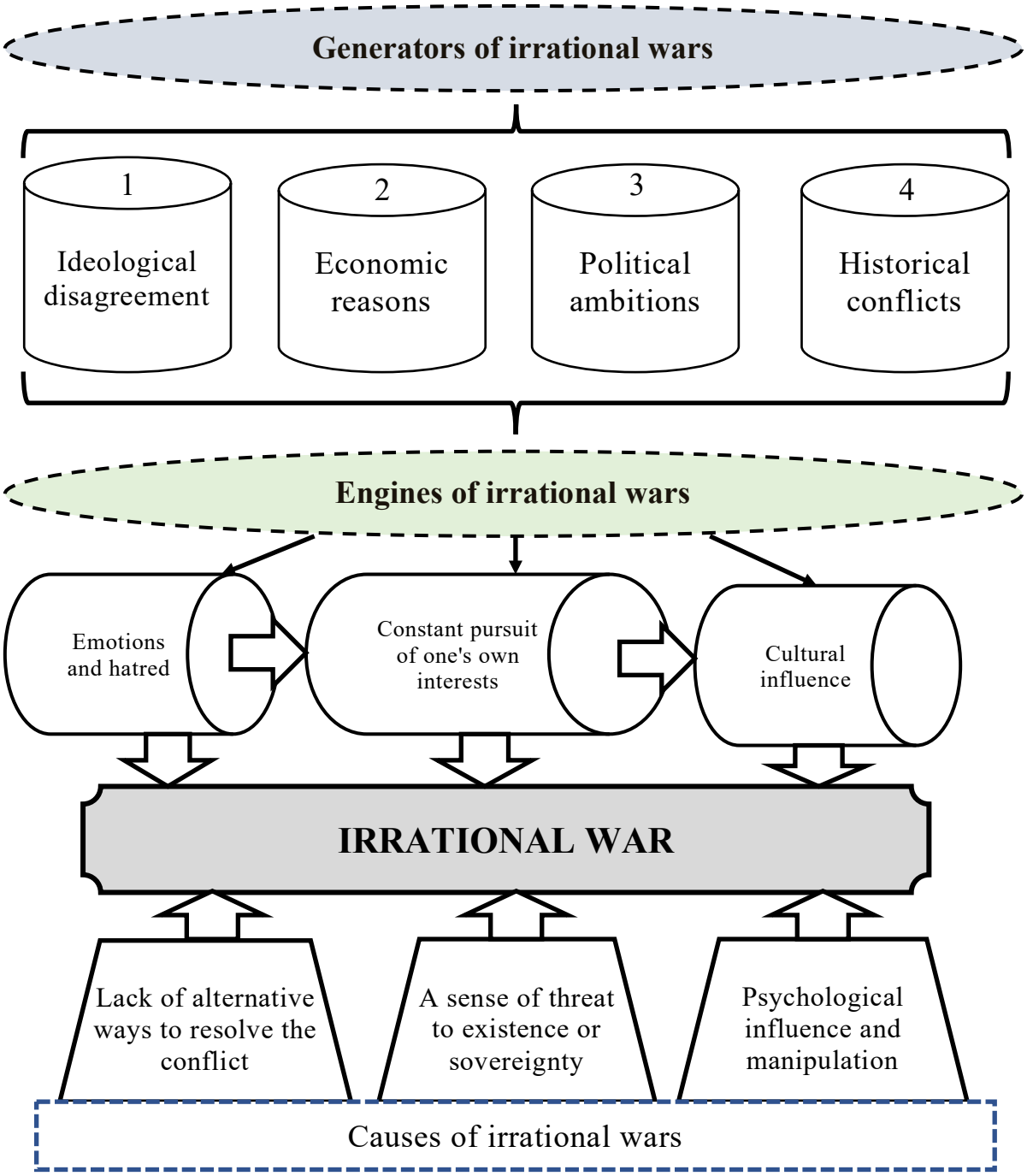


Figure 5. Causes, generators and engines of irrational wars and military conflicts

long-term stereotypes, enmity and hatred, which were cultivated over the years, influenced the psychological mood and decisions of the participants in the conflict, these attitudes were particularly intensified by russia towards Ukraine;

economic reasons, such as resource control or economic sanctions, can lead to irrational actions.

The main elements of the irrational russian-Ukrainian war are:

military operations;

information warfare through the use of disinformation and propaganda to manipulate public opinion;

hybrid warfare, including cyber-attacks, which play an important role in ongoing warfare;

the humanitarian crisis is associated with mass displacement, civilian casualties and human rights violations;

diplomatic attempts to resolve the conflict and cooperation with international organizations, which became part of the response to the war.

The Russian-Ukrainian war is a complex irrational war that has numerous factors and dimensions. Understanding the causes, generators, engines and components of this war is important for analyzing and developing strategies for resolving the ongoing conflict and preventing similar situations in the future.

The main consequences of the irrational russian-Ukrainian war for Ukraine and the world include:

economic and social consequences. The war resulted in severe economic and social losses for Ukraine, including a decline in GDP, destruction of infrastructure and internal population displacement;

geopolitical influences. The russian-Ukrainian crisis has a great impact on the geopolitical situation in the region and international relations, the restoration of which is practically impossible today in most areas;

the humanitarian crisis, which is due to the fact that the russian-Ukrainian war led to a humanitarian crisis with millions of internally displaced persons and refugees both on the territory of Ukraine and around the world;

psychological consequences. The war will leave a mark on the psyche of the population for a long time, especially among children and youth, and the longer it lasts, the deeper the mark and the inevitability of a deep confrontation;

cooperation and reconstruction. In the future, it is important to cooperate with international partners for the reconstruction and restoration of Ukraine, as well as for strengthening peace and stability in the region.

Stopping the irrational russian-Ukrainian war requires determination, diplomatic dexterity and cooperation with the international community from world leaders and the leadership of Ukraine and its leaders to achieve peace and resolve the conflict in the interests of the world as a whole.

In the table 4 views are given on the main consequences of the russian-Ukrainian war for both russia and Ukraine in the short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (2-4 years) and long-term (4-6 years) period.

The general trend is that the duration of the conflict increases the risks and losses for both sides, which can be economic, social and political. A long-term conflict can also lead to deeper changes in the geopolitical landscape of Europe and the world as a whole, as well as create challenges for international relations that can create military tensions in the world and develop into a war on a more global (world) scale.

Results

The modern world is faced with irrational wars, which are characterized by unsystematic and chaotic nature. Irrational wars threaten world stability and security. The generators of irrational wars include territorial, ideological, economic and political factors. Drivers include nationalistic and patriotic sentiments, stereotypes and emotions, as well as economic and geopolitical interests. Personalities, particularly politicians and leaders, can influence the generation and movement of conflict. Their ideological beliefs, ambitions, and leadership styles are important to understanding irrational wars. Irrational wars can include military operations, information warfare, humanitarian crises, and diplomatic efforts.

Effective management of irrational war or conflict, as well as their containment and resolution, require innovative approaches, including active diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, and cooperation

between international organizations. Understanding the generators, engines, and components of irrational wars is key to preventing similar conflicts in the future.

Table 4. Probable consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian war

russia	**Ukraine**
1-2 years (short-term perspective)	
increased war support costs and sanctions may prolong the economic downturn; possible greater internal pressure on the authorities from the citizens due to losses and economic difficulties; international image deterioration and isolation may increase.	additional human and territorial losses; economic and financial challenges due to the continuation of the war; preservation of political instability and corruption.
2-4 years (medium-term perspective)	
prolongation of economic and financial difficulties, possible decline of GDP; strengthening of international isolation and sanctions; increasing public discontent and possible internal pressure on the authorities.	increase in total losses and destruction; worse economic situation and higher social challenges; an attempt to change strategies and approaches in conflict resolution.
4-6 years (long-term perspective)	
significant deterioration of the economic situation and increase in losses; increase in political pressure on the government from citizens; the possibility of further complete isolation and irresistible sanctions.	deep and lasting losses, especially in people and infrastructure; serious challenges for the economy and social services; the need to strengthen diplomatic and peacemaking efforts to resolve the conflict.
Conclusion: In all war-duration scenarios, both sides and the civilian population may face difficulties, but prolonging the war heightens the threats and creates serious challenges for the future of Russia and Ukraine, as well as geopolitical stability in general.	

Irrational wars are characterized by chaos and unsystematic nature, and are a real threat to global stability and peace. The russian-Ukrainian war serves as an example of the complexity and duration of irrational conflicts. The analysis of this war and other similar conflicts makes it possible to draw the following conclusions:

generators and engines of irrational wars include territorial, ideological, economic and political factors. The strong influence of personalities, their ideological beliefs and ambitions deepens irrational wars and conflicts;

irrational wars include military operations, information warfare, humanitarian crises, and diplomatic efforts. These conflicts have a profound and multifaceted impact;

solving and managing irrational wars require complex strategies and innovative approaches. Diplomacy, humanitarian aid, surveillance, peacekeeping operations and international cooperation are important components;

global conflicts require joint efforts and cooperation between countries and international organizations. The international system and rules of the game are important for managing irrational conflicts;

preventing irrational wars involves the use of diplomacy, international treaties, humanitarian aid, education and democratization. It is important to prevent conflicts instead of solving them;

changes in political systems, the fight against corruption and the development of democracy can contribute to stability and conflict prevention.

The russian-Ukrainian war is a complex example of an irrational conflict that requires finding solutions and joint actions in the international community. Understanding the nature and causes of irrational wars helps develop strategies to prevent and resolve them, as well as support world peace and stability.

Discussions

The stronger the weapons become and the deeper the social, economic and other consequences that a world war can cause, the more the aggressor fears a general apocalypse. Irrationalism of the political and military thinking and actions of the leaders of the aggressor countries is not only a property of personalities, but also the result of all connections between them, which logically follow from one another many events and circumstances. A bet on a world war as a means of solving political problems is losing in itself. The private can be something different than the public.

Today, it also becomes clear that the deliberate resolution of an irrational war determined in advance, the russian leader's underestimation of Ukraine's capabilities, its political and psychological mood, and the help of partner countries will also lead russia and its leaders to a political and economic crisis, the consequences of which will take a long time to overcome, and will also ask for help even from countries that are currently on the side of Ukraine.

Can we talk about the logic of war? Aggressors who recognize the rationality of world war have this absurd logic. Initial wrong decisions give rise to other, equally wrong decisions. There is an inexorable escalation of absurdity. The circle of irrationalism expands until its bonds break. Only fighting the aggressor is logical.

Conclusion

The article reveals the main theoretical and practical aspects of irrational wars and defines the peculiarities of their solution and conduct through the prism of history, taking into account the peculiarities of modernity. The main results of the article are: the concentration of scientists' attention on the relevance of studying the theory and practice of solving and conducting irrational wars; definition of the key aspects of the development of the conceptual and terminological apparatus of the theory of “irrational wars” and military conflicts; development of an algorithm (sequence) for assigning wars or military conflicts to the class of “irrational”; identification and assessment of controllable and uncontrollable factors that influence the resolution and fueling of irrational wars; formation of common and distinctive features of hybrid, irrational and proxy wars and conflicts; determining the causes, generators and engines of irrational wars and military conflicts; formed consequences of the impact of the irrational Russian-Ukrainian war on the geopolitical situation in the world. The obtained theoretical and practical results of the conducted research allow to determine the main and additional countermeasures against the initiation and suspension of irrational wars and military conflicts (Table 5).

The materials of the article can be useful for the top political leadership of states, their top command staff, as well as scientists and researchers in the field of national security and the development of the state's defense sphere.

Recommendations

Irrational wars and conflicts will remain complex challenges for international security in the long term. The growing role of cyber security, terrorism, hybrid conflicts, and religious or ethnic tensions will require further improvements in the theory and practice of confronting such conflicts.

Victory in an irrational war requires the political leadership of the country (the President), the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and top-level military leaders to take various measures and actions at several levels (Table 5).

The importance of these measures depends on the specific circumstances and nature of the conflict. The main principle is to harmoniously combine political, military and diplomatic efforts to achieve victory in an irrational war. It is also important to ensure the effective conduct of war, not forgetting about a dignified attitude to human rights and international norms.

Table 5. Measures to achieve victory or stop an irrational war

Management level	Measures and their directions	Their content
Political leadership (President, Parliament)	Creation and adaptation of a strategic plan	must develop or have, and by all means implement, a clear strategic plan for the conduct of war, including goals, objectives, and priorities
	Diplomacy	to carry out active diplomatic work to attract international support, to attract peacekeeping contingents in order to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict and exit from the war
	Effective resource management	to ensure the effective use of all types of resources (human, through the rational distribution of people according to the directions of their effective use; financial through the proper financing of military needs and provision of military personnel; material through their effective use both for the needs of the army and ensuring the vital activities of the state as a whole).
	Public support	maintaining a high level of public support for military action through an effective communication and information campaign
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces	Development of military strategy	defining the main strategic tasks and developing detailed plans for their implementation
	Management of troops	organization and coordination of military operations, ensuring reliable command
	Technical equipment and training	providing the army with modern weapons and equipment and providing high-quality military training
	Ensuring the safety of military personnel	measures to save the lives of military personnel, including medical care and protection
High-level military leaders	Intelligence and information analysis	Collection and analysis of information about the actions of the enemy in order to make informed military decisions
	Psychological warfare	The use of psychological and informational methods to influence the enemy and the local population
	Provision of logistics	Provision of supply and maintenance of military units
	Cooperation with allies	Working with other countries or international organizations to jointly fight the threat

Table 6. The main measures of approaching victory or stopping the russian-Ukrainian war

Management level	Activities	Their characteristics	Evaluation of the importance of measures
Political leadership (President)	Diplomacy and international support	Active work in the international relations domain to attract support from other countries and international organizations to put pressure on russia and find a peaceful solution to the conflict. An attempt to conclude a truce to reduce violence and create conditions for negotiations. Work with international allies and organizations to support Ukraine and bring international pressure on russia	High The political leadership must coordinate all aspects of public administration to achieve victory and ensure Ukraine's future stability.
	Political reforms	Reforming the government, fighting corruption and strengthening democracy to increase the legitimacy and support of the Ukrainian population	
	Economic support	Attracting international investments and developing the economy to provide financial resources for the army and the population	
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces	Military strategy	Development and implementation of an effective military strategy to defend and repel russian forces	Critically important. The commander-in-chief must ensure effective leadership and high readiness of the troops.
	Military coordination center	Creation of a center for effective coordination of actions of Ukrainian troops	
	Mobilization and preparation	Ensuring the maximum mobilization of reserves and training of the military to conduct combat operations	
High-level military leaders	Intelligence and analysis	Gathering and analyzing information about russian actions and strategy to make informed military decisions	High Military leaders must provide intellectual support and maximum effect in the information field
	Humanitarian help	Provision of humanitarian aid to the wounded and displaced persons, as well as safe accommodation of citizens	
	Information war	An effective information campaign to influence public opinion and increase military morale	

The russian-Ukrainian war, unfortunately, is an example of an irrational war, and winning such a conflict or stopping it for a long period of time requires very specific measures and actions. The

country's political leadership (the President), the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and senior military leaders should consider in their activities and take the following measures:

active diplomatic work to attract international support and open channels of international pressure on russia to stop aggression against Ukraine;

creation of an effective military strategy aimed at defending and repelling russian aggressors;

maximum mobilization of internal resources and support of the population to provide defense forces;

implementation of measures to ensure the safety of citizens, including evacuation from the conflict zone and protection of the civilian population;

providing humanitarian aid to those in need and creating conditions for humanitarian organizations;

maximizing work with international allies and organizations to support Ukraine and impose sanctions against russia.

an effective information campaign to reflect the true state of affairs and expose russian propaganda.

In the case of irrational conflicts, such as the russian-Ukrainian war, it is important to make decisions that would reduce human suffering and contribute to achieving a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The development of diplomacy and international cooperation is of great importance for the implementation of such measures.

The russian-Ukrainian irrational war is a complex situation in the modern geopolitical environment, therefore, to win such a conflict, or to stop it on favorable terms for Ukraine, complex actions are required at all levels of state management and its armed forces. The table 3 shows the main measures and their characteristics with an assessment of importance.

In general, victory in the russian-Ukrainian irrational war requires a complex of actions that combine political, military, humanitarian and informational components. It is also important to keep saving lives and supporting citizens in emergency situations as a priority. Stopping the russian-Ukrainian irrational war is a difficult task, but some measures and actions can help reduce violence and find ways to peacefully resolve the conflict.

However, it is important to understand that the success of these measures will depend on many factors, and it may not be possible to stop the war forever, because irrational wars launched in most cases may be cyclical.

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