

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF UKRAINE UNDER MARTIAL LAW

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Martial law in Ukraine, introduced due to the full-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation, has significantly affected the system of international relations of the state. Since February 24, 2022, Ukraine has found itself at the center of global attention, which has led to the intensification of foreign policy activities, the strengthening of ties with Western partners, the increased role of international organizations in supporting Ukrainian sovereignty, and the transformation of the positions of many countries around the world. The purpose of this report is to analyze the main directions of Ukraine's international relations under martial law and to assess their impact on the political, economic, and security situation of the state.

**Changes in Ukraine's Foreign Policy Priorities.** Before the full-scale war, Ukraine was already oriented toward European and Euro-Atlantic integration. After 2022, these priorities became irreversible. The main strategic objective became achieving membership in the European Union and NATO. In June 2022, Ukraine was granted candidate status for EU membership, which became an important diplomatic success under the most difficult wartime conditions. European partners demonstrated unprecedented unity by providing financial, military, and humanitarian assistance, as well as imposing numerous sanctions packages against the aggressor state. In cooperation with NATO, Ukraine has significantly strengthened its interoperability with Alliance structures, receiving modern weapons, technical support, and military training. Although full membership remains an open question, Ukraine has effectively approached NATO standards in the defense sector.

**The Role of International Support in Countering Aggression.** One of the key factors of Ukraine’s resilience has been consolidated international assistance. The United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Australia, and other countries actively support Ukraine both militarily and economically. Military aid includes the supply of air defense systems, tanks, artillery, communication equipment, drones, and ammunition. Economic support is provided through loans, grants, and budget assistance. International financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, have developed special programs to stabilize Ukraine’s economy. In addition, countries around the world have provided large-scale humanitarian assistance—accepting refugees, treating the wounded, and rebuilding destroyed schools and hospitals. This demonstrates the high level of solidarity between the international community and the Ukrainian people.

**Diplomatic Initiatives and International Communication.** Ukrainian diplomacy during the war has become more active, flexible, and initiative-driven. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and members of the government regularly hold negotiations with leaders of states and international organizations, delivering speeches at the UN General Assembly, the European Parliament, and summits such as G7 and G20. One of the most important diplomatic projects has been the “Peace Formula,” proposed by Ukraine in 2022. It includes ten points aimed at restoring peace, ensuring Ukraine’s territorial integrity, punishing the aggressor, and guaranteeing security for all states. The gradual involvement of dozens of countries in discussing this plan demonstrates Ukraine’s growing international authority. Another important aspect is Ukraine’s work within the UN, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, and the International Criminal Court. Ukraine initiated the creation of a special tribunal to investigate the crime of Russian aggression and actively documents war crimes to bring perpetrators to justice.

**Challenges and Problems in International Relations.** Despite broad support, Ukraine faces several challenges in its foreign policy. First, fatigue from the war among certain states sometimes leads to a decrease in the pace of assistance or fluctuations in political positions. Second, the aggressor continues information and diplomatic warfare, seeking to discredit Ukraine on the international stage. Third, it remains difficult to restore pre-war economic ties, particularly with countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, where some maintain neutral or pro-Russian stances. Nevertheless, Ukraine's foreign policy strategy is aimed at expanding its circle of partners, strengthening positions in the Global South, and actively participating in shaping a new system of international security.

**Prospects for Ukraine's International Relations.** After the end of the war, Ukraine will have a unique opportunity to become one of the centers of the new European security architecture. Further integration into the EU and NATO is expected, along with participation in reconstruction through international funds and private investments. Ukraine's role in forming a global anti-war coalition, strengthening energy independence, and developing partnerships in digital technologies and renewable energy will also be significant. Ukraine has all the prerequisites to become an example for other countries fighting for freedom, democracy, and the right to self-determination.

Ukraine's international relations under martial law have undergone profound transformation. The war has become a catalyst for Ukraine's rapprochement with the democratic world, strengthening international solidarity, and rethinking global approaches to security. Ukraine has proven that even under the harshest conditions, it can maintain subjectivity, defend its interests, and shape the global political agenda. The further development of Ukraine's international relations will depend on the successful end of the war, effective diplomacy, and the preservation of international support.