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## The World Order is Changing: What Awaits Ukraine In the New Decade?

**N**owadays, some experts tend to say that we live in an era of so-called power politics that, according to the American bridge player and publicist Ely Culbertson, is “the diplomatic name for the law of the jungle.” And it truly looks so, because even certain political figures of today, when describing the goals and tools of their country’s foreign policy, choose to invoke characters from Kipling’s famous tale “The Jungle Book.”

What it means specifically for Ukraine is that in the new decade it will need not only to solve old challenges, but to urgently find answers to the new ones. All talks of an alleged “coexistence strategy with Russia” are naive at best. Despite all sorts of diplomatic circumlocution, Moscow considers modern Ukraine to be one of its main enemies – literally “a spear aimed at Russia and a locomotive of all anti-Russian actions and anti-Russian initiatives” – to quote Nikolai Bordyuzha, secretary general of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in 2003-16. Clearly, by now, strong anti-Ukrainian views have taken deep roots within Russia’s ruling class, particularly its military and security elite.

Considering the Kremlin’s perception of Russia’s national interests and its long-standing belief that no post-Soviet state is or should be allowed to become a real and viable one, the Russian Federation won’t stop or suspend the policy of creating controlled chaos in the neighboring countries. Consequently, Ukraine should, among other things, expect the distribution of Russian passports to the so-called “compatriots” en masse and not only in the temporarily occupied territories. Other provocative actions by the Kremlin, threats and attempts to use force against Ukraine, like the recent military buildup near its border, also can’t be ruled out.

Here, in Ukraine, we should be also fully aware that any agreement with Russia does not prevent the Kremlin’s new claims, ranging from openly arrogant to completely absurd. After all, Moscow’s main goal is to return Kyiv to its orbit and prevent Ukraine’s rapprochement with NATO and the European Union. Moscow also seeks to impose on Kyiv limited sovereignty – something totally unacceptable for the Ukrainian society that just several years ago arose during the Revolution of Dignity to resist precisely that.

That is why we, Ukrainians, need to create a comprehensive and proac-

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tive strategy of asymmetric containment that would take into account Russia's real potential and offer possible scenarios of adequate counteraction.

An urgent broad support of the Belarus civil society should also be a part of that strategy, since the strengthening of Moscow's influence in the neighboring country will mean a significant threat increase to Ukraine in the nearest future.

Meanwhile, as the human civilization embarks on a new cycle, global politics surely follows. Accordingly, we, in Ukraine, should urgently rid ourselves of provincialism and actively reevaluate the most important issues of the current international agenda.

Foremost, Ukraine should

- Work to deepen cooperation with our main strategic partner, the United States, in all areas,
- Seek to gain the status of its major non-NATO ally, and
- Provide political support for the NATO Membership Action Plan.

We also need to strengthen our relations with other countries that really help us counter Russian aggression such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Turkey, Poland and Lithuania.

There is no doubt that the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, better known as the Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons must remain one of the main instruments of Kyiv's diplomacy. Currently, Ukraine's significant contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security is seriously underestimated – something that should serve as an additional argument in our diplomacy, especially considering Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and military aggression in Eastern Ukraine.

Moreover, in the near future, Ukraine should initiate a broad international debate on this issue, including within the United Nations. After all, the official December 19, 1994, letter with the text of the Budapest Memorandum, signed by Ukraine's, U.S., U.K. and Russia's permanent representatives to the U.N. was delivered to no other than the UN General Assembly. The goal of such discussion should be to develop appropriate tools to protect non-nuclear countries from the pressure by the nuclear ones.

We also need to realize that globalization has already turned from a strange political chimera into a de-facto reality. Obviously, today, epidemiological, environmental, technological, cyber and other problems and challenges have no borders and affect our lives directly and daily.

Meanwhile, the remaining world order, habitually based on the well-

known multilateral institutions established after World War II, has ceased to work and effectively protect the rights of small or sometimes even medium-sized nations that are unlikely to survive on their own. In light of the clear strategic threats to the democratic countries, especially such as the rise of authoritarianism and expansionism around the world, more attention in Ukraine and globally should be paid to the idea of cooperation between the like-minded countries, firstly expressed by Deputy Prime Minister of Canada Chrystia Freeland in her address on Canada's Foreign Policy Priorities on June 6, 2017. Later, that necessity was raised by the U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo in his famous speech on Communist China and the Free World's Future on July 23, 2020, when he said: "Maybe it's time for a new grouping of like-minded nations, a new alliance of democracies." Most recently that objective was justified and further elaborated on by current Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in the speech "A Foreign Policy for the American People" by stressing that not a single global challenge could be met by any one nation acting alone – not even one as powerful as the United States – and promised to revitalize ties with the allies and partners.

At the same time, we witness how every country, even the most developed ones, continues to face problems that, in fact, have originated decades ago. Bright minds around the world, particularly in the U.S., have long sounded the alarm on the growing trends of inequality, cutback of the quality analysis of the pressing global issues in the media, spread of an array of conspiracy theories and disinformation and so on.

In view of that, reassessing the habitual benchmarks and developing national resilience towards current and future challenges and new criteria for success in a rapidly changing environment are becoming the task of utmost urgency for every state. It is especially relevant for Ukraine as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary of Independence later this summer.

It's time Ukraine finally realizes that in the new global reality only the states capable of flexible, effective and highly professional management in all sectors will be able to survive and prosper.

To that end, for starters, we should put an end to the national apathy that was particularly obvious during the last year's local elections. After all, despite all the talk on the critical level of the country's external influences, the plain truth is that the fate of the future Ukraine won't be decided by the foreign capitals, but only by us, Ukrainians. *UQ*