

Dimensions and Interpretations of the Donbas Conflict in 2024: Soviet and Post-Soviet Perspectives

The Donbas conflict, which erupted in eastern Ukraine in 2014, has been a complex and multifaceted event with profound implications for both Ukraine and the wider region. The conflict has been the subject of extensive research and analysis, but there is still much that is unknown or contested about its causes, dynamics, and potential outcomes.

This article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the Donbas conflict, drawing on both Soviet and post-Soviet perspectives. The article will begin by examining the historical background of the conflict, including the region's Soviet legacy and the post-Soviet challenges that Ukraine has faced. The article will then discuss the key dimensions of the conflict, including its political, military, economic, and social aspects. Finally, the article will explore the different interpretations of the conflict, both within Ukraine and internationally.



Civil War? Interstate War? Hybrid War?: Dimensions and Interpretations of the Donbas Conflict in 2024–2024 (Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society Book 227)

by Theresa Crater

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Historical Background

The Donbas region has a long and complex history, which has shaped the current conflict. The region was first settled by Slavic tribes in the 6th century AD, and it became part of the Russian Empire in the 18th century. After the Russian Revolution, the Donbas was incorporated into the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR).

During the Soviet era, the Donbas became a major industrial center, and it was home to a large Russian-speaking population. However, the region also experienced significant economic and social challenges, including environmental pollution and a decline in living standards.

After the collapse of the USSR in 1991, Ukraine became an independent state. However, the Donbas region continued to face economic and social problems, and there was growing dissatisfaction with the Ukrainian government's policies. This dissatisfaction was exacerbated by the perceived neglect of the region's Russian-speaking population.

In 2014, the Donbas conflict erupted in the wake of the Euromaidan protests in Kyiv, which led to the overthrow of the pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich. Pro-Russian separatists in the Donbas declared independence from Ukraine, and they have since been fighting against Ukrainian government forces.

Key Dimensions of the Conflict

The Donbas conflict is a complex event that has multiple dimensions. These dimensions include:

- * **Political:** The conflict is rooted in political differences between the Ukrainian government and the pro-Russian separatists. The separatists seek to establish an independent state in the Donbas, while the Ukrainian government seeks to maintain control over the region.
- * **Military:** The conflict has been a bloody and protracted affair. Both sides have suffered significant casualties, and the fighting has caused widespread destruction.
- * **Economic:** The conflict has had a devastating impact on the Donbas economy. The fighting has damaged infrastructure, disrupted trade, and led to a decline in investment.
- * **Social:** The conflict has also had a profound impact on the social fabric of the Donbas. The fighting has divided families and communities, and it has led to a rise in crime and drug abuse.

Interpretations of the Conflict

There are a variety of different interpretations of the Donbas conflict. These interpretations can be broadly divided into two categories:

- * **Soviet interpretations:** These interpretations view the conflict as a continuation of the Soviet-Ukrainian conflict that began in the early 20th century. They argue that the conflict is rooted in the Ukrainian government's attempts to suppress the Russian-speaking population of the Donbas.

- * **Post-Soviet interpretations:** These interpretations view the conflict as a new phenomenon that is rooted in the post-Soviet challenges that Ukraine has faced. They argue that the conflict is not simply a continuation of the Soviet-Ukrainian conflict, but is instead a product of the region's economic and social problems.

There is no single interpretation of the Donbas conflict that is universally accepted. However, the different interpretations provide valuable insights into the complex causes and dynamics of the conflict.

The Donbas conflict is a complex and multifaceted event with profound implications for both Ukraine and the wider region. The conflict is rooted in a variety of factors, including historical, political, military, economic, and social factors. There is no single interpretation of the conflict that is universally accepted, but the different interpretations provide valuable insights into the complex causes and dynamics of the conflict.

The conflict continues to be a major source of tension in Ukraine, and it is unclear how it will be resolved. However, it is clear that the conflict will continue to have a significant impact on the lives of the people of the Donbas, as well as on the wider region.



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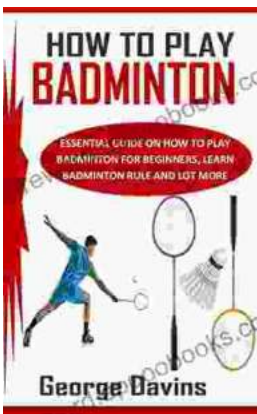
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