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## DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR UKRAINE'S SOVEREIGNTY AND ITS INTEGRATION INTO NATO

*This article presents a comprehensive study of the diplomatic and political support provided by the United States of America to Ukraine between 2014 and 2022, which is considered one of the key factors in preserving sovereignty, safeguarding territorial integrity, and gradually advancing the country's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. It is demonstrated that U.S. policy during this period was systemic and multilayered, combining short-term diplomatic actions with long-term strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening Ukraine's internal resilience and preparing the ground for future NATO membership. The analysis covers official statements and diplomatic declarations consistently rejecting Russia's annexation of Crimea, supporting Ukraine's territorial integrity, and participating in multilateral negotiation formats concerning conflict resolution in Eastern Ukraine. Special attention is given to the renewed U.S.–Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership, signed in 2021, which institutionalized cooperation in security and defense, the rule of law, energy, and emerging challenges such as decarbonization and energy independence. The study highlights the energy dimension of U.S. support, which included backing reverse gas flows, facilitating reforms of Ukraine's gas and electricity markets in line with European standards, and diplomatic opposition to Russian bypass projects such as Nord Stream 2. These measures not only enhanced Ukraine's energy security but also preserved its role as a strategic transit state in the regional energy system. The article also explores domestic political factors within the United States, notably the 2019 episode when the temporary delay of military aid to Ukraine became part of the impeachment proceedings against the U.S. President, thereby complicating bilateral relations in the short term. Nonetheless, the resilience of bipartisan institutional support in Congress ensured the continuity of U.S. assistance, confirming the strategic stability of American foreign policy priorities. The research concludes that U.S. diplomatic and political backing combined mechanisms of international legitimacy, long-term partnership frameworks, and support for structural reforms in Ukraine's security and energy sectors. Overall, this comprehensive approach provided not only tactical advantages but also had strategic implications, strengthening Ukraine's position in the Euro-Atlantic security space and consolidating its role as a reliable U.S. partner in Eastern Europe.*

**Key words:** USA; diplomatic support; political support; sovereignty of Ukraine; Euro-Atlantic integration; NATO; energy security.

**Statement of the problem.** The relevance of researching US diplomatic and political support in preserving Ukraine's sovereignty and promoting its integration aspirations towards NATO is due to the transformation of the international security system after 2014. The annexation of Crimea and the start of the Russian Federation's hybrid aggression against Ukraine have called into question not only the territorial integrity of our state, but also the effectiveness of existing mechanisms for ensuring peace and stability in Europe. In these circumstances, there was an urgent need for support from leading Western partners, among which the United States of America traditionally occupies a leading position. Despite consistent statements of support for Ukraine's sovereignty and

territorial integrity, American policy on the Ukrainian issue has combined several interrelated vectors: diplomatic pressure on Russia, promotion of sanctions policy, support for Ukraine's defence capabilities, and encouragement of the political and security reforms necessary for rapprochement with NATO. At the same time, the issue of balancing rhetorical support with the practical implementation of promised strategic guarantees remains problematic.

The level of readiness of the United States to make long-term commitments to Ukraine's security is also debatable, given the changes in the domestic political environment in America itself and the variability of approaches taken by different administrations. In addition, Ukraine's place in the Euro-Atlantic

security architecture remains unclear, as integration into NATO requires compliance with criteria that take time to implement.

Therefore, the problem lies in determining the real weight of US diplomatic and political support, its impact on preserving Ukrainian sovereignty, and defining the prospects for Ukraine's integration into NATO in the context of current geopolitical challenges.

#### **Analysis of recent research and publications.**

The issue of US diplomatic and political support for Ukraine and its integration aspirations towards NATO is widely covered in scientific and analytical literature. Researchers focus on the evolution of US policy after 2014, when Russian aggression brought the issue of guarantees for Ukraine's sovereignty and security to the forefront of the international agenda. The works of American and European experts (M. Cancian, J. Goldgeier, H. Pifer, analysts from the Atlantic Council, Brookings, CSIS) [1-12] examine the dynamics of military and financial assistance, as well as Washington's role in shaping sanctions policy against Russia. Particular attention is paid to the study of political signals, in particular the adoption in 2024 of a bilateral US-Ukraine agreement on security cooperation, the decision of the NATO Washington Summit on Ukraine's 'irreversible path' to the Alliance, and the creation of the NSATU command to coordinate military support. Official documents from the White House, the US Congress and the Pentagon contain detailed data on the volume and mechanisms of assistance provided, which makes it possible to trace the institutionalisation of support and the transition from situational packages to long-term programmes. At the same time, academic discussions continue to focus on the problem of the relationship between rhetoric and real security guarantees, the pace of internal reforms in Ukraine, and NATO's readiness to extend a clear invitation. Thus, the current state of research is characterised by a combination of in-depth analysis of political declarations and practical assessment of American support instruments, which creates a basis for further study of the effectiveness of this policy in the context of Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration.

**Task statement.** The purpose of this article is to clarify the content and specifics of US diplomatic and political support in ensuring Ukraine's sovereignty and promoting its integration into NATO, as well as to assess the impact of this support on the formation of our state's foreign policy priorities and security strategy.

#### **Outline of the main material of the study.**

The diplomatic and political support provided by the United States of America to Ukraine in the period 2014–2022 is a critically important component of the

foreign policy and security strategy aimed at ensuring sovereignty, territorial integrity and promoting the country's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. Such support is systematic and multi-level, combining operational diplomatic measures with long-term strategic initiatives.

Diplomatic/political support for sovereignty and integration [5]:

1. Consistent recognition of Ukraine's territorial integrity, support for the Minsk/Normandy track and NATO's 'open door policy' without formal membership guarantees. (State Department declarations, joint commission statements.)

2. Renewed US-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Charter (10 November 2021): security and defence, rule of law, energy (including decarbonisation and energy independence) (Table 1).

The consistent recognition of Ukraine's territorial integrity, implemented through official declarations by the US State Department, statements by joint commissions and positions at international forums, creates a strong international legal basis for legitimising Ukrainian sovereignty. Support for the Minsk and Normandy tracks helps strengthen Ukraine's position in negotiations to resolve the armed conflict in the east of the country, and NATO's 'open door' policy, even without formal membership guarantees, sends a long-term signal of support for Ukraine's integration aspirations and consolidates its prospects for joining Euro-Atlantic structures in the future. This approach not only increases Ukraine's diplomatic and political capital in the international arena, but also creates a deterrent effect for potential aggressors by demonstrating the presence of a powerful external partner [7].

The updated US-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Charter, signed on 10 November 2021, formalises key areas of bilateral cooperation, including security and defence, the rule of law, energy policy, and contemporary elements of transformation such as decarbonisation and energy independence. This document enshrines the strategic nature of the relationship, defines specific priorities for cooperation, enhances trust between the two countries, and creates a legal and political framework for long-term partnership. In addition, the Charter serves as a framework document that integrates security, legal and energy dimensions into a single strategy for supporting Ukraine, helping to enhance its ability to respond to external challenges and internal structural problems [3].

Thus, US diplomatic and political support combines the operational legitimisation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the international arena with the long-term formation of a systemic

Table 1

**Support for Ukraine's sovereignty and integration [developed by the author]**

Area	Measures	Result/effect
Recognition of territorial integrity and international support	Consistent recognition of Ukraine's territorial integrity – Support for the Minsk and Normandy tracks – NATO's 'open door' policy without formal membership guarantees	Enhancing the legitimacy of Ukraine's international status, strengthening its position in diplomatic negotiations, supporting sovereignty and territorial integrity at the international level
US-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Charter (2021)	The updated Charter (10 November 2021) covers security and defence, the rule of law, energy (including decarbonisation and energy independence)	Formalising strategic partnership, defining cooperation priorities, enhancing mutual trust and providing long-term support for Ukraine's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures

strategic partnership covering defence, legal and energy dimensions. This comprehensive approach ensures greater resilience to external threats, strengthens domestic institutions, consolidates reforms in the security and justice sectors, and creates the conditions for Ukraine's consistent integration into Euro-Atlantic political, economic and security structures. In the long term, such a support mechanism contributes to the formation of a sustainable national policy, enhances international prestige, and demonstrates the effectiveness of combining diplomatic commitments, strategic partnerships, and reform initiatives to strengthen statehood and security.

The United States' support for Ukraine's energy security is an important element of a comprehensive policy to ensure the country's national stability and sovereignty. It combines technical, economic and political instruments of influence aimed at reducing Ukraine's energy dependence on the Russian Federation, improving the efficiency of the domestic energy sector and strengthening the strategic transit of energy resources through the country's territory (Table 2) [9].

Ukraine's energy security – support for reverse supplies, gas/electricity market reforms, reducing dependence on Russia; political opposition to projects that bypass Ukraine (NS2).

A key area of support is the development of reverse gas supplies and diversification of energy supplies, which allows Ukraine to reduce its direct

dependence on Russian sources and ensure the stable functioning of the energy market even in crisis conditions. Reverse supplies create flexible mechanisms for responding to external shocks and lay the groundwork for the country's energy independence in the medium and long term.

The second important area is the reform of the gas and electricity market, in which the United States provides expert, technical, and programmatic support, promoting the introduction of transparent market mechanisms, the integration of the Ukrainian energy sector into European standards, and the improvement of energy resource management efficiency. These measures are aimed at long-term stabilisation of the energy system, increasing the sector's investment attractiveness, and ensuring effective regulation of the domestic market.

Equally important is the political aspect of support, which manifests itself in opposition to projects that bypass Ukraine, such as Nord Stream 2. Through diplomatic mechanisms, the United States has helped protect Ukraine's transit potential, which is not only an economic resource but also a key geopolitical lever of influence in the region. Political opposition to such projects allows Ukraine to maintain its strategic position, secure transit revenues, and strengthen its international position in the energy sector [11].

Together, these three areas – diversification of supplies, market reforms and political protection of

Table 2

**Ukraine's energy security [developed by the author]**

Focus	Measures	Result/effect
Reverse supplies and diversification of energy supplies	Support for reverse gas supplies and the development of alternative routes	Reducing Ukraine's dependence on energy supplies from the Russian Federation, increasing the country's energy security
Gas and electricity market reforms	Promotion of energy sector reform and the introduction of transparent market mechanisms	Improving the efficiency of energy resource management, integrating the energy market with European standards
Political opposition to Russian energy projects	Opposition to projects that bypass Ukraine (e.g. Nord Stream 2)	Protecting Ukraine's strategic transit potential, preserving economic and geopolitical leverage in the energy sector

interests – form a systematic mechanism for enhancing Ukraine’s energy security, which ensures both a rapid response to external threats and long-term stabilisation and modernisation of the energy sector. US support contributes not only to economic stability, but also to national security, Ukraine’s integration into European and Euro-Atlantic energy systems, and the state’s ability to withstand external economic and political challenges.

Thus, American assistance in the energy sector demonstrates an effective combination of short-term stabilisation measures and long-term reform initiatives, which together form a strategic basis for Ukraine’s energy independence, economic stability and national security.

In autumn 2019, the delay in already approved military aid became the subject of impeachment in the United States; despite this, institutional support for Ukraine from Congress remained bipartisan (Table 3).

The political turbulence in Washington in autumn 2019, which manifested itself in the delay of already approved military aid to Ukraine, became one of the most publicly discussed episodes in bilateral relations during this period.

This incident became a key element in the impeachment proceedings against the US president, demonstrating the high level of political tension within the donor country and showing how internal political conflicts can directly affect the operational implementation of foreign policy commitments. The temporary suspension of aid created real difficulties in ensuring the timely supply of weapons and logistical resources to Ukrainian security forces, which could have a negative impact in the short term on the country’s defence capabilities at a critical moment of escalation of the conflict in the east.

At the same time, an analysis of the reaction of US institutional mechanisms shows that long-term strategic commitments remained unchanged. The US Congress, demonstrating a high level of bipartisan consensus on the need to support Ukraine, continued to provide funding and legal support for defence assistance programmes, as well as support for reforms

in various sectors of public administration. This indicates that even during periods of political crisis within the donor country, strategic foreign policy priorities remain stable, and bipartisan support mechanisms are capable of neutralising short-term political risks.

Furthermore, the 2019 episode showed that domestic political factors in the United States can create significant temporary barriers to the operational implementation of aid, but these barriers do not affect the fundamental provisions of the bilateral partnership. In the long term, this demonstrates that US support for Ukraine is based not on the personal or short-term political interests of individual government actors, but on a systemic strategic consensus that is supported by institutional mechanisms and enshrined in law.

Thus, the political turbulence in Washington in the autumn of 2019 simultaneously highlights the fragility of operational aid channels in the context of internal political crises and underscores the reliability of long-term bipartisan US support, which ensures the stability of the Ukrainian-American partnership. This episode illustrates that the US’s strategic foreign policy commitments to Ukraine remain unchanged and that institutional support mechanisms are capable of compensating for short-term political fluctuations, which is an important factor in the stability, predictability and effectiveness of bilateral relations in the field of security and defence.

**Conclusions.** Diplomatic and political support from the United States during the period 2014–2022 became one of the key factors in ensuring Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as creating conditions for its gradual integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. The comprehensiveness of US policy was manifested in a combination of operational diplomatic steps aimed at international legitimisation of Ukraine’s status and long-term strategic initiatives that consolidated partnership in the legal, defence and energy dimensions.

Firstly, the consistent position of the United States on non-recognition of Russia’s annexation of Crimea, support for the Minsk and Normandy formats, and the declaration of NATO’s open door

Table 3

**Political turbulence in Washington [developed by the author]**

Focus	Event / Events	Result/effect
Political turbulence in the United States	Delay in military aid to Ukraine in autumn 2019, which became the subject of impeachment proceedings	Temporary slowdown in the rapid delivery of weapons; coverage of Ukraine in US domestic political debates
Institutional bipartisan support	Despite the political crisis, the US Congress maintained stable support for Ukraine	Ensuring continuity of funding and military aid, demonstrating the consistency of US foreign policy regardless of domestic political conflicts

policy became an important factor in maintaining international attention to the Ukrainian issue and strengthening its negotiating position. This approach not only provided a legal basis for the protection of territorial integrity, but also created a political effect of deterring external aggression.

Secondly, the signing of the updated Charter on Strategic Partnership in 2021 institutionalised American support, outlining priorities in the areas of security, the rule of law and energy. The document formalised long-term areas of cooperation, strengthened trust between the states and cemented Ukraine's vision as an important partner in the Eastern European region.

Thirdly, the energy dimension of US assistance had not only economic but also geopolitical significance. Support for reverse supplies, promotion of gas and electricity market reforms, and counteraction to Russian bypass projects (in particular Nord Stream 2) increased Ukraine's energy security and reduced its dependence on the Russian monopoly. This made it possible to strengthen the country's internal potential and integrate the Ukrainian energy sector into European standards.

Fourth, the political turbulence in the United States in autumn 2019, which manifested itself in the temporary blocking of military aid, revealed the vulnerability of operational mechanisms, but at the same time confirmed the stability of institutional bipartisan support for Ukraine. Congress maintained a consistent line on providing aid and funding, which indicates that the Ukrainian issue has been consolidated at the level of strategic consensus, regardless of changes in administrations or domestic political crises.

Thus, US diplomatic and political support during the period under review combined elements of international legitimisation, legal consolidation of strategic partnership, energy security and resilience to political risks. As a result, a multi-level framework was formed to strengthen Ukraine's statehood, enhance its ability to withstand external challenges, and create the preconditions for further integration into the Euro-Atlantic security system. This comprehensive approach demonstrates that US support has not only a tactical but also a strategic dimension, aimed at strengthening Ukraine's role as an independent and reliable partner in the region in the long term.

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#### **Черкес І. В. ДИПЛОМАТИЧНА ТА ПОЛІТИЧНА ПІДТРИМКА США СУВЕРЕНІТЕТУ УКРАЇНИ Й ІНТЕГРАЦІЇ ЇЇ ДО НАТО**

*У статті здійснено комплексне дослідження дипломатичної та політичної підтримки Сполучених Штатів Америки України у період 2014–2022 рр., що розглядається як один із ключових факторів збереження суверенітету, територіальної цілісності та поступового просування інтеграції держави у євроатлантичні структури. Показано, що політика США мала багаторівневий і системний характер: вона поєднувала короткострокові інструменти міжнародного впливу з довгостроковими стратегічними програмами, спрямованими на посилення внутрішньої стійкості України та підготовку до членства в НАТО. Проаналізовано офіційні заяви та дипломатичні декларації, спрямовані на послі-*

довне невизнання анексії Криму Росією, підтримку територіальної цілісності України та участь у багатосторонніх переговорах з врегулювання конфлікту на сході держави. Розглянуто підписання у 2021 р. оновленої Хартії про стратегічне партнерство між США та Україною, що закріпила ключові напрями двосторонньої взаємодії, включно з безпекою й обороною, верховенством права, енергетикою та сучасними викликами, зокрема питаннями декарбонізації й енергетичної незалежності. Особливу увагу приділено аналізу енергетичного виміру політики США, який поєднував підтримку реверсних поставок газу, сприяння реформуванню ринку енергетики відповідно до європейських стандартів і дипломатичну протидію російським проектам обходу України (наприклад, Nord Stream 2). Наголошено, що така підтримка сприяла не лише підвищенню енергетичної безпеки, але й зміцненню стратегічного транзитного потенціалу України. Висвітлено також внутрішньополітичні чинники, зокрема епізод 2019 р., коли затримка американської військової допомоги у зв'язку з процедурою імпичменту президента США створила тимчасові труднощі у двосторонніх відносинах. Зроблено висновок, що, незважаючи на політичну турбулентність, інституційна двопартійна підтримка України з боку Конгресу залишалася стійкою, що засвідчує стратегічну сталість американської зовнішньої політики. Підкреслено, що дипломатична та політична підтримка США поєднала інструменти легітимації суверенітету України, формування правових та політичних основ довгострокового партнерства і підтримку структурних реформ у сфері безпеки та енергетики. У підсумку визначено, що така комплексна політика мала не лише тактичний ефект, а й стратегічне значення для інтеграції України у євроатлантичний простір та формування її як надійного партнера США у Східній Європі.

**Ключові слова:** США; дипломатична підтримка; політична підтримка; суверенітет України; євроатлантична інтеграція; НАТО; енергетична безпека