

Dear Peter,

There are several points that I suppose are important.

15th Jan 2023

Firstly, what is happening is not just a local conflict between the two countries. It is convenient to consider it in this way and to appoint the right (good) and the guilty (bad) sides. However, it is obvious that we are dealing with a global geopolitical confrontation in which many countries are involved. Unfortunately, my country turned out to be one of the sides of the armed confrontation. Moreover, Russia initiated the war. But it is wrong to transfer all responsibility only to Russia. We can track how this conflict developed, and different sides were preparing for the military part of it. There would have been no war if the political elites of several countries had not simultaneously allowed its possibility.

Secondly, since the war has been prepared and started, we must accept that it will happen. So far it has not happened, and all sides want to continue fighting. They do not want peace or negotiations. Neither Russia, nor Ukraine, the USA and NATO. The United States and NATO continue to supply weapons to Ukraine, and Ukraine is asking for more.

Although we have little reliable data to make predictions, I tend to think that the war will not end in 2023.

Thirdly, it is necessary to say about the information background. There is a lot of talk about Russian propaganda, but we must admit that propaganda works in all countries, and it differs little in its techniques. Everywhere audiences are mobilized according to the principle of "us" and "them". International media do not become a platform for discussion and consensus-building. This doesn't happen in the public space. The manipulateness of the discourse is amazing. Demonization, silencing, etc., straight out of textbooks (or into new textbooks). Real discussion has been privatized by politicians; even intellectual circles have been taken out of it. Therefore, the discussion that you initiated is very important and valuable.

Regards,
Sergey