

**REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE:  
RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE AND THE NEW  
INTERNATIONAL ORDER – THE PERSPECTIVE  
OF CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE COUNTRIES  
OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH, MAY 31, 2023**

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On May 31, 2023 a scientific seminar entitled “Russian invasion of Ukraine and the new international order – the perspective of Central Europe and the countries of Global South” was held at the University of Gdansk, it was devoted to the issues of the war in Ukraine and Russian aggression against a neighbouring country. The seminar was organized by the Institute of Political Science of the University of Gdansk and the Institute of Geography of the University of Gdansk in cooperation with the Faculty of International Relations of the University of Warsaw and the Faculty of International Relations of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. It was an element of cyclical meetings held by representatives of the Universities of Warsaw, Jagiellonian University and University of Gdansk, aimed at exchanging experiences, research results and integrating Polish academic centres.

The war in Ukraine poses a challenge to global security and the current international order. Therefore, it attracts the attention of researchers and analysts trying to understand its causes and effects. The seminar organizers decided to adopt the perspective

of the so-called semi-peripheral countries and countries of the global south and try to understand the ambiguous attitudes towards Russian aggression. The aim of the scientific seminar was to draw attention to significant differences in the international community's assessment of the war in Ukraine. From the perspective of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, especially the Baltic countries and Poland, the official political assessment of events in Ukraine since 2014 and the subsequent annexation of Crimea is clear: the war in Ukraine is a manifestation of Russian imperialism, and Russia is a threat to the security not only of its immediate neighbours but also to global security. The authoritarian regime in Moscow must be stopped. Assessment of events in Ukraine from the perspective of the so-called the global south is, however, different, and many African and South American countries avoid explicit condemnation of Russian aggression. Therefore, the organizers of the seminar decided to compare these two positions on the war in Ukraine and understand their sources. At the invitation of the organizers, experts from Poland, Ukraine, New Zealand and Mexico took part in the seminar. The confrontation of positions and discussion were intended to help better understand the complex international situation and show different perspectives in assessing the emerging new international order.

The seminar was opened by the Director of the Institute of Political Science, Prof. Arkadiusz Modrzejewski, Ph.D., who introduced the invited guests and presented the issues of the seminar. The language of the seminar was English, and the seminar was divided into two panels: I The war in Ukraine – origins, geopolitical aspects and implications for the world order and II Perspectives and narratives of the countries of the Global South and Central Europe on the war in Ukraine.

The first panel was devoted primarily to the causes and consequences of the war in Ukraine for the international order. The session in panel I was opened by professor Roberto Rabel from the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Wellington in New Zealand, with a lecture entitled "The democratic divide on the war in Ukraine and its implications for world order". Then, one of the most outstanding Polish specialists in international relations, professor Edward Halizak from the University of Warsaw, who in his lecture "Great failure of the West liberal approach toward Russia after the Cold War. Central European Perspective" analysed why American policy towards Russia failed. This issue was approached by Prof. Halizak from the perspectives of the experience of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. These two lectures by world experts in the field of international relations became the basis for further discussion. The basic topic of the panel was developed in subsequent speeches. Professor Agnieszka Bogadał-Brzezińska analysed the causes of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in her paper "The Russian-Ukrainian war and the variables determining the international order". Professor UG professor Jan Wendt, from the Institute of Geography of the University of Gdansk, in the paper "La politique des Etats est dans leur géographie" - geographical aspects of the war in Ukraine", presented an analysis of the conflict from the perspective of political geography, paying attention

to the spatial aspects of the war. Another representative of the Institute of Geography of the University of Gdansk, UG professor, O. Radchenko in his speech “The Genesis of the “Russian World”. Invasion in Ukraine on the Example of Lugansk and Kharkov” presented how the idea of the “Russian world” was formed, which was an ideological justification for aggression for the Russian authorities. It is worth emphasizing that prof. Radchenko analysed the development of this idea from the perspective of the inhabitants of Lugansk and Kharkov, i.e. Ukrainian cities that found themselves at the centre of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Panel I ended with the speech of UG professor Tomasz Michalski, who in his speech presented the results of research conducted together with prof. O. Krukov, devoted to the demographic consequences of the conflict and the threats associated with the potential demographic collapse of post-war Ukraine.

The first panel ended with a discussion on the causes and consequences of the war in Ukraine. This discussion was also an introduction to panel II, in which the panellists tried to compare two different perspectives on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, on the one hand, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, directly threatened by Russian neo-imperial policy, and on the other, the countries of the global south, often sceptical of American concepts of international order.

Panel II opened with a speech by UW professor Maciej Raś “Competing Academic Narratives on the Russia-West conflict: Research Approaches in Poland”, which analysed the formation of the dominant narrative towards the conflict in Poland and its impact on the direction of scientific research. Professor Raś analysed Poland’s attitude to the conflict, pointing to the reasons for Polish involvement on the Ukrainian side. Prof. UJ professor Adrian Tyszkiewicz from the Jagiellonian University, in his speech “(Geo)politically involved, military neutral - Hungary and the Russian invasion in Ukraine”, discussed the controversial, from the point of view of other countries in the region, attitude of the Hungarian government towards Russian policy and aggression against Ukraine. Then prof. dr. Jorge Schavion from the Mexican research institute CIDE (Center for Economic Research and Teaching) presented a speech on the Latin American perspective on Russian aggression against Ukraine and the attitude of Latin American countries towards US global policy. Speech by prof. Schaviona initiated the part of the seminar devoted to the politics of the countries of the global south. Speech by prof. Jakub Zajączkowski from the University of Warsaw was devoted to the Indo-Pacific region. Specializing in the topic of “global south”, prof. Zajączkowski delivered a lecture entitled “The Indo-Pacific region in the EU strategy after Russian aggression against Ukraine”, drawing attention to the growing role of the Indo-Pacific region in global politics and the importance of cooperation between the EU and the countries of the region for maintaining international security. Dr. Edyta Chwiej, in her speech “Russian invasion of Ukraine - the perspective of the Federative Republic of Brazil”, presented Brazil’s position towards the war. At the end of the seminar, two representatives of the Institute of Political Science of the University of Gdansk

presented their speeches: UG professor Marek Rewizorski and UG professor Wojciech Grabowski. The first of them in the paper “Bound to abstain? “The BRICS response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine” presented an analysis of the policy of the BRICS countries towards the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. However, a specialist in the Middle East, prof. Wojciech Grabowski with his paper “Saudi Arabia perspective on war in Ukraine and the order in the Persian Gulf in statu nascendi” drew attention to Saudi Arabia’s position towards the war from the perspective of building a new international order in the Middle East and the interests of the Persian Gulf states.