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Although new methods such as webinars and online courses have been replaced for these conditions and we are still at the beginning of the journey, but it is clear that these measures cannot have the effect of courses and face-to-face training. Culture has always played a role in advancing the fight against crises, and any information, recognition and creation of images and mentalities is carried out through the channel of culture and cultural diplomacy. Iranian Studies Centers operate in several cities of Central Asia and Russia. With the support of the embassy, there are also Persian language classrooms in schools and higher education buildings, and about 2,000 students study Persian as an elective free of charge in various educational institutions [4].

Iran, as a factor of cultural and historical influence in the development of Central Asia, is an indisputable historical fact. It is associated with the development of culture, science, education and religion in the Middle Ages, when Iran was the only center of science and religion for Central Asia, while Persian, along with Arabic, were the languages of science, religion, and poetry. Although the natural influence of Russia in the following periods of history deprived Iran of the status of a scientific center of attraction for the peoples of the region, Iran has always remained as an integral part of the cultural and religious heritage of the peoples of Central Asia. The peculiarities of the current situation in Central Asia do not allow us to talk about the possibility of restoring the role of Iran in the region as an important center of gravity, capable of influencing integration processes in the foreseeable future, both culturally, ideologically and politically. A possible perspective on Iran's actions in Central Asia is to create a platform for dialogue in the field of trade, economic and transport development and dialogue in the field of security to counter the common threat in the face of international terrorism. Especially as a complement to the SCO's efforts in this area.

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AN EVALUATION OF THE EU'S HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO UKRAINE

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Abstract. The armed conflict in Ukraine that escalated in February 2022 became one of the greatest challenges to the international relations and the world order of the 21st century. The

Ukraine as the defending side in this conflict against the world's second-strong army of Russia and is having huge losses in terms of infrastructure, economy and the civilian population. This study investigates the amount of humanitarian aid provided to Ukraine by its main supporter which is the European Union as the closest neighbor and ally. The author analyzes the areas which are composed in this support and the countries of the European Union who supply the most humanitarian aid and the reasons why they keep supporting Ukraine and ignore the threat of Russian aggression and economic aftermath. It is established that European Union, and especially Germany, Poland, France and Baltic states support Ukraine in order to help it survive and find its way to build democracy, and the main areas of the aid are the asylum provision, food and water supplies and healthcare.

Keywords: Ukraine, Russia, European Union, humanitarian aid, Ukrainian conflict

The Ukrainian conflict is one of the major geopolitical catastrophes on the European Union in the 21st century and deserves a comprehensive analysis of its reasons, causes, actors and process. One of the main reasons for this war to occur was the rivalry of the influences of two major powers in Europe which are Russia and European Union that took place in different countries of the post-Soviet region in Eastern Europe. Ukraine is the country that suffered from this rivalry the most due to its dependency from both sides and for a long time it managed to keep balance between them but nothing lasts forever and this balance collapsed which led to the open conflict when Ukraine leaned towards for a strengthening of the relations with European Union. European Union is now also one of the main supporters of the Ukraine in these difficult times and provides it with different kinds of support beginning with the accepting the refugees fleeing from the Ukraine and ending with the supply of the arms and military resources.

In this article the involvement of the European Union to the Ukrainian War shall be quantified by the analysis of the support of main pro-Ukrainian EU states such as Germany, France, Hungary and Poland. Another aspect of this question is the reasons and motives of the EU, and especially of these states, to support Ukraine in this war despite the risks of economic crises and political or even military confrontation with Russia which is also the state of huge influence and economic and military powerhouse. Also, since almost all of the EU member states are parts of the NATO alliance the factor of the American military and economic help should be kept in mind while analyzing this conflict and the EU's involvement in it.

The main aim of the research is to evaluate the European Union's humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, get to know which countries support Ukraine the most and why. To achieve this aim, the following objectives were set: to consider the historical background of the conflict, to explain the meaning, importance of humanitarian aid and what it consists of, to reveal the main areas of humanitarian aid and which countries supply it the most and to discover the main challenges in the provision of the humanitarian aid.

The methods of the research that were used are historical to analyze the background and reasons of the emergence of the conflict, statistical and comparative analyses to analyze the quantity of the humanitarian aid that was provided to Ukraine and what its content and to quantify which country provides the most.

The conflict in Ukraine is a political and military conflict that began in 2014, following the Ukrainian Revolution of the same year. The conflict is centered on the Crimean Peninsula, which was annexed by the Russian Federation in March 2014, and the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, which declared independence from Ukraine and have been controlled by separatist forces with support from Russia. In February 2022, Russian military forces launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine, with ground troops crossing the border and engaging in heavy fighting with

Ukrainian military forces. The conflict has had a devastating impact on the civilian population, with many people forced to flee their homes and seek shelter elsewhere. The situation remains volatile, with fighting ongoing in several parts of Ukraine. The conflict has sparked a major humanitarian crisis, with many civilians in need of assistance.

The European Union (EU) has played a significant role in the Ukrainian conflict. The EU as the main promoter of liberal ideas and democratic assistance in the world saw Ukraine as the country that has potential to reach democracy, if it hasn't already, and to stop being one of the authoritarian dictatorial states of Eastern Europe such as Russia and Belarus. Also, several EU member states, including Poland, Baltic countries and other Eastern European countries that in the past were under Russian control and have strong anti-Russian attitudes. This is one of the main reasons why the EU cannot leave Ukraine without support and to let Russia absorb it or make it its puppet country again. The EU has taken a number of political and economic measures to try to resolve the conflict and support Ukraine. One of the most notable actions taken by the EU was the imposition of sanctions on Russia in response to its annexation of Crimea and its support for separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. The EU has also provided financial assistance to Ukraine, both in the form of loans and grants, to support its economy and its efforts to reform its institutions. The EU has also worked to facilitate talks between Ukraine and Russia, as well as between Ukraine and the separatist rebels in the east, in an effort to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The EU has also sent monitors to Ukraine to observe the situation on the ground and to help ensure that democratic processes are being followed. Additionally, the EU has supported efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict, including refugees and internally displaced persons. Briefly, the EU's role in the Ukrainian conflict has been one of trying to support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, while also seeking a peaceful resolution to the conflict through diplomatic means.

Humanitarian assistance refers to the provision of aid and support to people who are suffering from a humanitarian crisis, such as armed conflict, such as the conflict in Ukraine, natural disasters, and other emergencies that threaten their survival and well-being. The aim of humanitarian assistance is to provide relief to those in need, protect their rights and dignity, and help them recover from the effects of the crisis.

Humanitarian assistance can take many forms, including:

1. Food, water, and shelter: Providing essential supplies such as food, water, and shelter is often the first step in responding to a humanitarian crisis. This can include distributing food rations, setting up temporary shelters, and providing access to safe drinking water.

2. Medical care: People affected by a crisis may require urgent medical care to treat injuries, illnesses, and disease outbreaks. Medical assistance can include setting up clinics and hospitals, providing medicines and medical supplies, and deploying medical personnel to affected areas.

3. Protection: Humanitarian assistance may also involve protecting vulnerable populations such as women, children, and the elderly from violence, exploitation, and abuse. This can include providing safe spaces, counseling, and legal assistance.

4. Education: Access to education is often disrupted during a humanitarian crisis, and children may be unable to attend school for extended periods of time. Humanitarian assistance can help ensure that children continue to receive an education by setting up temporary schools, providing educational materials, and training teachers.

5. Livelihood support: Providing support for livelihoods is important for helping people recover from the effects of a crisis and regain their independence. This can include providing tools and materials for agriculture or setting up small businesses.

In summary, humanitarian assistance is a vital component of responding to humanitarian crises, as it helps meet the basic needs of affected populations and supports their recovery and resilience.

The humanitarian assistance provided to Ukraine is of great importance, as it helps address the urgent needs of the population affected by the conflict and supports their recovery and resilience.

Since the start of the conflict in 2014, the humanitarian situation in Ukraine has deteriorated significantly, with an estimated 3.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including over 5.9 million internally displaced persons [2]. The conflict has disrupted the lives of millions of people, with many forced to flee their homes, leaving them without adequate shelter, food, and water. Humanitarian assistance has played a critical role in providing lifesaving aid to those affected by the conflict, including food, water, shelter, and medical care. It has also helped protect vulnerable populations, such as women and children, from violence and abuse. Additionally, humanitarian assistance has supported the restoration of basic services, such as water and sanitation, which are critical for the health and well-being of the population. Furthermore, humanitarian assistance has helped to strengthen the resilience of affected communities, by supporting livelihoods and helping people regain their independence. By providing support for education and vocational training, humanitarian assistance has helped people acquire new skills and knowledge, enabling them to rebuild their lives and contribute to their communities.

Overall, humanitarian assistance has been crucial in addressing the immediate needs of the population affected by the conflict in Ukraine and supporting their recovery and resilience. Without this assistance, the situation could have been much worse, with more people at risk of death, illness, and other forms of suffering.

The European Union has been a major donor of humanitarian aid to Ukraine since the start of the conflict in 2014. Many EU countries have provided humanitarian, economic, and political support to Ukraine since the conflict began. While all EU member states have contributed in various ways, some have been more involved than others. Here are some of the EU countries that have provided the most support to Ukraine:

1. Germany: Germany has been a key supporter of Ukraine, providing significant humanitarian, economic, and political assistance. Germany is one of the largest donors of humanitarian aid to Ukraine, and has provided over €1 billion in economic assistance since the beginning of the conflict [4].

2. Poland: Poland has been a strong supporter of Ukraine, providing both humanitarian and economic assistance. Poland has also been a vocal advocate for Ukraine within the EU and NATO.

3. France: France has provided significant political and economic support to Ukraine, including sanctions against Russia and support for the Minsk agreements. France has also provided some humanitarian aid to Ukraine. On the 5 May 2022 President Macron announced the additional donations to Ukraine thus making the overall financial aid of \$2 billion [3].

4. Sweden: Sweden has been a major donor of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, providing over SEK 370 million (approximately €135 million) since the conflict emerged. Sweden has also provided support for democracy and human rights in Ukraine [5].

5. United Kingdom: The United Kingdom has provided significant political and economic support to Ukraine, including sanctions against Russia and support for the Minsk agreements. The UK has also provided some humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

6.Lithuania: Lithuania has been a vocal supporter of Ukraine within the EU, and has provided both humanitarian and economic assistance. Lithuania has also supported Ukraine's efforts to join the EU and NATO.

Overall, many EU countries have provided significant support to Ukraine in various forms, including humanitarian aid, economic assistance, political support, and military assistance.

The main areas of humanitarian aid to Ukraine include:

1. Refugees: Since the outbreak of the conflict in eastern Ukraine in 2014 and the subsequent annexation of Crimea by Russia, the European Union (EU) has been accepting refugees from Ukraine. However, there has been a significant increase in the number of Ukrainian refugees seeking asylum in the EU since the start of the Russian invasion in February 2022. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), as of March 2022, over 600,000 people have been displaced by the conflict in Ukraine, with many seeking refuge in neighboring countries, including Poland, Romania, and Hungary.

2. Food assistance: The conflict in Ukraine has left many people unable to access food, leading to widespread hunger and malnutrition. Humanitarian organizations have provided food aid to affected populations, including food rations, vouchers, and cash transfers.

3.Shelter and non-food items: The conflict has also led to the displacement of millions of people, leaving many without adequate shelter. Humanitarian organizations have provided emergency shelter, including tents and other temporary structures, as well as essential household items such as blankets, mattresses, and cooking utensils. It is estimated that 5.9 million people are internally displaced [2].

4.Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH): Access to clean water and sanitation has been disrupted in many parts of Ukraine due to the conflict. Humanitarian organizations have provided safe drinking water, installed latrines and other sanitation facilities, and promoted hygiene practices to prevent the spread of disease.

5.Healthcare: The conflict has also disrupted the healthcare system in Ukraine, leaving many people without access to medical care. Humanitarian organizations have provided medical supplies and equipment, set up mobile clinics, and supported the rehabilitation of damaged healthcare facilities.

6.Protection: The conflict has put vulnerable populations, including women, children, and the elderly, at risk of violence and exploitation. Humanitarian organizations have provided protection services, including safe spaces, counseling, and legal assistance, to help prevent and respond to violence and abuse.

7.Education: The conflict has disrupted access to education for millions of children in Ukraine. Humanitarian organizations have provided temporary schools, educational materials, and teacher training to ensure that children can continue their education.

8.Livelihoods: The conflict has also disrupted the economy in Ukraine, leaving many people without income and livelihoods. Humanitarian organizations have provided support for livelihoods, including cash transfers, vocational training, and business development services, to help people rebuild their lives and become more self-sufficient.

Overall, the main areas of humanitarian aid to Ukraine focus on addressing the urgent needs of affected populations, including food, shelter, water, healthcare, protection, education, and livelihoods. So far, over 13.9 million people have benefitted from humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, thanks to the EU and other donors [1].

The provision of humanitarian assistance in Ukraine faces a number of challenges, including:

1. Access constraints: The conflict in eastern Ukraine has led to restrictions on the movement of people and goods, making it difficult for humanitarian organizations to reach those in need. Access to conflict-affected areas is often limited due to security concerns, bureaucratic obstacles, and damage to infrastructure.

2. Funding gaps: While there has been significant international support for humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, funding gaps remain. Humanitarian organizations require additional resources to meet the needs of affected populations, particularly in the areas of food assistance, shelter, and healthcare.

3. Protection concerns: The conflict has put vulnerable populations, including women, children, and the elderly, at risk of violence and exploitation. Humanitarian organizations working in Ukraine face challenges in ensuring the protection of these groups, particularly in areas of active fighting.

4. Coordination challenges: The provision of humanitarian assistance in Ukraine involves a large number of actors, including international organizations, NGOs, and government agencies. Coordination between these actors can be challenging, particularly in areas of overlapping mandates and responsibilities.

5. Local capacity: Ukraine has limited local capacity to respond to humanitarian crises, particularly in the areas of disaster preparedness and response. Humanitarian organizations working in Ukraine face challenges in building local capacity, particularly in areas of limited government control.

6. Displacement and resettlement: The conflict in eastern Ukraine has led to the displacement of millions of people, both within Ukraine and to neighboring countries. Humanitarian organizations face challenges in addressing the needs of displaced populations, including access to shelter, healthcare, and education.

Overall, the provision of humanitarian assistance in Ukraine faces a range of challenges, including access constraints, funding gaps, protection concerns, coordination challenges, limited local capacity, and displacement and resettlement. Addressing these challenges will require ongoing support from the international community, as well as efforts to build local capacity and promote sustainable solutions to the crisis.

In conclusion, the European Union has been providing significant humanitarian aid to Ukraine since the start of the conflict in 2014, and particularly since the outbreak of the Russian invasion in February 2022. This aid has included funding for basic needs such as food, shelter, and medical care, as well as support for community infrastructure and programs to promote social inclusion and integration for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The EU has also been working closely with Ukraine and its neighboring countries to provide support for refugees and asylum seekers, and has accepted a significant number of Ukrainian refugees into its member states. The EU has a legal framework in place for the protection of refugees and asylum seekers, and member states are required to adhere to international refugee law. Despite the significant efforts of the EU and its member states, there remain significant challenges in providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine, particularly in the context of the ongoing conflict and political instability in the region. These challenges include access to conflict-affected areas, the security and safety of aid workers, and the need for sustained financial and logistical support.

However, the EU's ongoing commitment to providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine is a testament to its solidarity with the people of Ukraine and its commitment to upholding international humanitarian law. Another question is the reason why EU is supporting Ukraine so

strongly. While the democratic values of Ukraine are certainly an important factor in the European Union's support for the country, there are also other reasons why the EU supports Ukraine. One of the main reasons is the EU's commitment to promoting stability, security, and prosperity in its neighborhood. Ukraine is an important partner for the EU in achieving these goals, as it is located between the EU and Russia, and has historically been a bridge between the two regions.

The aim of the research, the evaluation of the European Union's humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and to know which countries support Ukraine the most and why, was achieved and the set objective were fulfilled: to consider the historical background of the conflict, to explain the meaning, importance of humanitarian aid and what it consists of, to reveal the main areas of humanitarian aid and which countries supply it the most and to discover the main challenges in the provision of the humanitarian aid.

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THE THEORY OF CONSTRUCTING HISTORY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STUDY OF CENTRAL ASIAN HISTORY

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The theory of Constructing History challenges traditional notions of history as an objective, fixed record of events, and posits that history is a subjective and constructed interpretation of those events, influenced by a range of factors including cultural norms, political ideologies, and the