

THE GOAL OF TURKISH LEADERSHIP IN ANTI-RUSSIAN ATTACKS FROM THE CRIMEAN PLATFORM IS TO INCREASE BIDDING RATES WITH RUSSIA IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PANISLAMIC EXPANSION

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On the eve of the 30th anniversary of Ukraine, on August 23, 2021, at the initiative of President of Ukraine Zelensky, the Crimean Platform¹ summit was held with the participation of 46 states and international organizations. The establishment of the platform with the goal of its long-term functioning was announced as one of the main events in the framework of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of independence of Ukraine. According to the President of Ukraine Vladimir Zelensky, the launch of the platform will introduce the problem of "de-occupation of the Crimea" into the international agenda on a regular political and diplomatic basis².

Along with the manipulation of geopolitical factors in Syria, Iraq, the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins, North Africa, Afghanistan, Central Asia, the Caucasus and the purchase of Russian weapons, the terrorist assassination of Russian Ambassador Andrei Karlov by Erdogan's former bodyguard can also become an indicator of assessing the lessons of the dynamics of Turkish-Russian relations during Erdogan's rule³.

In this sensitive context, the demonstration by Erdogan's Turkey of an anti-Russian position at the Kiev summit by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu deserves special attention. The Turkish Foreign Minister called on the international community to create a united front against the annexation of Crimea by Russia. In order to comprehend the essence of conflict and assess the strategic scale of the Turkish attack on the interests of the Russian state, we present a quote that reflects the essence of Mevlut Cavusoglu's choice of Russia as the target of the assault:

"Crimea is Ukraine! Turkey expresses strong support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine. The international community must act as a united front in countering this act of violation of international law - the illegal annexation of Crimea⁴."

As we can see, the official position of the Turkish leadership fundamentally contradicts the stand of the Russian authorities. Turkey, represented by its foreign minister, became a co-author of the final Declaration of the Crimean Platform, which substantiates the introduction of new anti-Russian political, diplomatic and economic reprisals, including in the form of tough sanctions against Russia.

To assess the scale of the conflict between Russian and Turkish positions, we consider it important to recall the explanation of the legitimacy of Crimea's self-determination by Russian President Vladimir Putin in response to the most pressing questions posed in 2014 by European news programs on the legality of Crimea's reunification with Russia. Among other questions, President Putin was asked to comment on the legality of the assistance of the RF Armed Forces to the population of Crimea in the conduct of the referendum:

"Russian troops were in Crimea in accordance with an international agreement on the presence of a Russian military base there. And Russian troops really helped the residents of Crimea hold a referendum on their independence and desire to join the Russian Federation. And no one has the right to deny these people the right to exercise the right provided for in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations - the right of nations to self-determination⁵."

Summarizing the first assessments of colleagues from the academic and expert community in Armenia, Karabakh, and from the OSCE MG co-chair countries - Russia, the United States and France, one can come to a conclusion about the goal setting and Turkey's taking up of the role of the leader of attacks against Russia in the establishment of the Crimean Platform and the adoption of its final declaration.

CONCLUSION

Erdogan uses Turkey's participation in the Crimean Platform as an instrument of positional bargaining against Russia, involving the latter in a chain of concessions and surrenders of positions to consistently support the implementation of the Turkish expansionist geostrategy. The behind-the-scenes bidding to the Crimean Platform participants may become an additional resource for Erdogan's Turkey to adjust its bidding to the Kremlin in order to promote neo-Ottoman, Pan-Islamic geo-economic and geopolitical interests in the Greater West and Greater East, including in the post-Soviet space.

It is in this context that Erdogan's behind-the-scenes exploitation of the political and diplomatic resources of the Crimean Platform should be considered with the aim of bargaining with Russia to solve such problems as the self-determination of Nagorno-Karabakh (NKR) and organizing a pan-Turkish corridor through the territory of the Republic of Armenia - in the interests of both Turkey and Azerbaijan.

¹ The State Duma called the Crimean Platform a stillborn initiative. Russian newspaper. Moscow, State Duma, August 23, 2021 - <https://rg.ru/2021/08/23/reg-ufo/v-gosdume-nazvali-krymskuiu-platformu-mertvorozhdennoj-iniciativoj.html>

² Zelensky announced the return of Crimea to the international agenda. Deutsche Welle (DW), Berlin.-Kiev, 23 August 2021- <https://www.dw.com/en/about-dw/s-30688>

³ The assassin of the Russian ambassador to Turkey used to guard Erdogan. The criminal participated in ensuring the security of the country's president. News. Moscow-Istanbul, December 20, 2016- <https://iz.ru/news/653405>

⁴ Cavusoglu: Crimea is Ukraine! The Turkish Foreign Minister called for a united front to oppose the annexation of Crimea. Anadolu Agency, Ankara-Kiev, 23 August 2021 - <https://www.aa.com.tr/ru/политика/чавушоглу-крым-это-украина/2343688>

⁵ Interview of Vladimir Putin to radio "Europe-1" and TV channel TF1. Official site of the President of the Russian Federation. Moscow, Kremlin, June 4, 2014 - <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/45832/videos>