

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34069/AI/2023.66.06.32>

How to Cite:

Vovk, S., Bader, A., Novoskoltseva, L., Mezhenka, O., & Zablotskyi, V. (2023). Mechanisms of determination of armed violence in the modern world. *Amazonia Investiga*, 12(66), 347-354. <https://doi.org/10.34069/AI/2023.66.06.32>

## Mechanisms of determination of armed violence in the modern world

### Mecanismos de determinación de la violencia armada en el mundo moderno

Received: June 10, 2023

Accepted: July 14, 2023

Written by:


**Svitlana Vovk<sup>1</sup>** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6171-4782>**Anton Bader<sup>2</sup>** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3670-5753>**Liudmyla Novoskoltseva<sup>3</sup>** <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1082-7979>**Olena Mezhenka<sup>4</sup>** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1053-5020>**Volodymyr Zablotskyi<sup>5</sup>** <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1032-8993>


#### Abstract


The purpose of the study is to investigate the mechanisms of determination of armed violence in the modern world. The relevance of the study lies in the fact that Ukraine and civil society are experiencing many global problems as a result of the armed conflict, aggression, and violence on the part of Russia, which affect the level of security and life in the country. To stop the escalation of armed conflict and violence, it is necessary to identify the causes of its occurrence. The topic of the study is revealed through the prism of the Russian-Ukrainian war. The general scientific, philosophical, and special methods and approaches were used in the research process. The basic approaches to the study of the topic were systemic and structural-functional. To achieve this goal, a number of tasks were performed. In particular, the work of other scholars was analyzed and the author's own definitions of the concepts of "armed conflict" and "armed violence" were formed. To determine the causes of the escalation of the armed conflict during the Russian-Ukrainian war, the subjective factors that can be influenced


#### Resumen


El propósito del estudio es investigar los mecanismos de determinación de la violencia armada. La relevancia del estudio radica en el hecho de que Ucrania y la sociedad civil están experimentando muchos problemas globales como resultado del conflicto armado, la agresión y la violencia por parte de Rusia, que afectan al nivel de seguridad y de vida en el país. Para detener la escalada del conflicto armado y la violencia, es necesario identificar las causas de su aparición. El tema del estudio se revela a través del prisma de la guerra ruso-ucraniana. En el proceso de investigación se utilizaron métodos y enfoques científicos generales, filosóficos y especiales. Los enfoques básicos para el estudio del tema fueron el sistémico y el estructural-funcional. Para lograr este objetivo, se llevaron a cabo una serie de tareas. En particular, se analizaron los trabajos de otros estudiosos y se elaboraron las definiciones propias del autor de los conceptos de "conflicto armado" y "violencia armada". Para determinar las causas de la escalada del conflicto armado durante la guerra ruso-ucraniana, se analizaron los factores subjetivos sobre los que se puede influir y

<sup>1</sup> Doctor of Political Sciences, Head of Department of of Political Science and Law, Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National University, Ukraine.  WoS Researcher ID: HNO-9123-2023

<sup>2</sup> Doctor of Political Sciences, Director of the Educational and Scientific Institute of History, International Relations and Socio-Political Sciences, Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National University, Ukraine.  WoS Researcher ID: HNI-7944-2023

<sup>3</sup> Candidate of Political Sciences, Associate Professor of the Department of Political Science and Law, Lugansk National Taras Shevchenko University, Ukraine.  WoS Researcher ID: AAD-5980-2022

<sup>4</sup> Candidate of Political Sciences, Lugansk Taras Shevchenko National University, Ukraine.  WoS Researcher ID: IZP-9812-2023

<sup>5</sup> Assistant of the Department of Philosophy and Sociology, Luhansk Taras Shevchenko National University, Ukraine.  WoS Researcher ID: AAX-8839-2020

and changed were analyzed. The subjects of armed violence during a full-scale war were identified.

**Keywords:** Actors of armed violence, armed conflict, conflict escalation, political system, subjective factors of armed violence

## Introduction

The phenomenon studied in this paper is a tool for restructuring the political system. According to this, a change in the political system can be achieved through the establishment of diplomatic, conventional relations, reforms, or the use of hard power, which involves the use of armed violence as an integral component of the exercise of political power (Bader, 2020a). The relevance of studying the mechanisms of determination of armed violence in the modern world is due to the objective conditions that restrict human rights and freedoms and hinder the development of civil society during the long-running Russian-Ukrainian war. Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine is international in nature and creates global challenges that generate problems and transformational changes at the social, political, demographic, energy, raw materials, and economic levels. The problem of establishing peace and diplomatic relations is relevant for Ukraine's development. It can be argued that a form of violence was present in primitive societies, but with its evolution, there were changes in the methods and means of implementing violence. Accordingly, there is a problem of active development of violence in the information society, which has transformed from a non-international armed conflict in the East of Ukraine into a full-scale war. This, in turn, indicates indirect forms of warfare.

The grounds for Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine are subjective factors, in particular the psycho-emotional state of the Russian president. This, in turn, has created a threat to Ukraine's national security. A long-term armed conflict is associated with a number of negative consequences, including increased mortality, an increase in the number of internally displaced persons, refugees, the development of an environmental disaster, and impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Failure to understand the causes of armed violence leads to its recurrence and spread, which destabilizes the political system of the victim state. It is also worth noting that the phenomenon of violence is a social problem, as society is characterized by evil, hatred, struggle in the context of "friend or foe", and aggression. For the aggressor country,

modificar. Se identificaron los sujetos de la violencia armada durante una guerra a gran escala.

**Palabras clave:** Actores de la violencia armada, conflicto armado, escalada del conflicto, sistema político, factores subjetivos de la violencia armada.

the development of armed violence is a historically conditioned condition for the implementation of an authoritarian regime, and there is also the problem of money laundering in war.

The purpose of the study was to examine the mechanisms of determination of armed violence in the modern world. In order to achieve this goal, the following tasks need to be accomplished: 1) to identify the subjective (internal) factors of armed violence on the example of the Russian-Ukrainian war; 2) to identify the main actors of armed violence; 3) to determine the impact on globalization, anti-globalization, and alter-globalization processes.

## Literature Review

Bergmann (2020) noted that the socioeconomic level of a country can influence the development of armed violence. The main actors that increase the number of murders and violence are organized criminal groups, police, and armed forces. The author emphasizes the war between criminal groups and the government that uses force. The study analyzes the process of organization and escalation of the armed conflict. The author identifies the trend of increasing armed violence in El Salvador. The researcher concludes that the escalation of armed violence between criminal organized groups and the state in El Salvador has narrowed the use of conflict means over time, which stops the use of violent methods in achieving political goals.

Pérez Ricart (2022) analyzed the relationship between the presence of a large number of weapons in the hands of civilians and the level of armed violence. The level of violence was analyzed in Latin America. The author refuted the thesis that the presence of weapons always directly affects the increase in violence. However, the author does not rule out the possibility that under certain circumstances of the month and time, the presence of weapons increases violence.

Elfverson and Hoglund (2021), analyzing the urban nature of armed conflict, noted that modern armed violence is increasingly having a devastating impact on cities. The article examined the level and pattern of mortality during armed conflict in 1989-2019. Armed conflicts were considered if the state that initiated the armed violence was its subject.

The study by Galindo-Silva (2021) notes that a democratic regime and open political institutions reduce the likelihood of armed violence, as it contradicts the principles of democracy. Party pluralism reduces the level of armed violence against the one-man rule. During the Russian-Ukrainian war, consolidation of power (Ukraine) versus monopoly of power (Russia) is taking place, which reduces the tragic consequences.

Gassebner, Schaudtand, and Wong (2023) noted that the functioning of criminal groups within the state provides grounds for the development of external armed violence. The researcher emphasized that in order to develop mechanisms and recommendations to reduce the level of armed violence, it is necessary to identify internal factors. Radchenko (2018) defined the essence and impact of modern anti-globalization and anti-globalization trends on the development of globalization.

Anti-globalist sentiments are noticeable in many countries, particularly in South America, where local drug cartels pursue their policy of violence and coercion. Resorting to hybrid methods of pressure, leaders of Colombian mafia paramilitary structures have gained significant power. In particular, Eventon (2016) identified the impact of mafia violence on the development of modern Colombian democracy, characterizing instances of violence as an essential element of the country's political life. On the other hand, Rosen (2021) highlighted the American perspective on the crimes that occurred in Colombia due to mafia wars for drug distribution markets. The researcher's work is valuable for its consistent and balanced legal-political assessment, crucial for understanding manifestations of not only military crimes but also the equally terrifying and brutal mafia wars.

### Methodology

The study uses general scientific, philosophical, and special methods of cognition that reveal the phenomenon of armed violence in the context of a full-scale war. The methodology is based on the principles of analysis and generalization. The systemic and structural-functional approaches to

the study of the topic were the main ones since the functioning of armed violence is considered through the prism of types of political systems by the regime. The inductive method was used to establish the cause-and-effect relationship between armed violence and the type of political system. The structural approach was used to identify the main components of the phenomena of conflict and violence. Using the psychological approach to studying the mechanisms of determination of armed violence, the subjective (internal) factors of President Putin's decision to start the Russian-Ukrainian war were identified. With the help of the conflictological method, the socio-political significance of armed violence in public administration and building foreign relations was established. The deductive method was used to identify the subjects of armed violence in the context of a full-scale war. The comparative method was used to study the impact of armed violence on globalization and anti-globalization processes. The dialectical method was used to consider other points of view and to supplement the results of the study. Using the method of concretization, the phenomenon of armed violence was studied comprehensively in connection with historical conditions. The method of generalization was used to identify the main conceptual ideas of the study.

The theoretical basis of the study was formed by the scientific views and concepts of Ukrainian and foreign scholars who have studied the phenomenon of armed violence, its types, the impact of Russian aggression against Ukraine on globalization, etc. Based on these scientific works, the mechanisms of determining armed violence in the modern world were identified. The main keywords used in the search for materials in international databases were: armed conflicts in the context of globalization, war, causes, armed violence, armed forces.

### Results and Discussion

The Russian-Ukrainian war has demonstrated new dimensions of armed violence in the modern world. In particular, the following possible elements are mentioned:

1. Political conflicts and resistance. Accordingly, political conflicts, however, based on territorial, ethnic, or religious contradictions, can cause armed violence. At the same time, negative election outcomes, authoritarian regimes, discrimination, and inequality can also contribute to the emergence of resistance and conflicts that can escalate to armed confrontation and war.

2. Ethnic and religious tensions. Ethnic and religious tensions can lead to armed violence. This means that mutual rejection, discrimination, and violence on ethnic or religious grounds can create hostility and armed conflict situations of various levels.
3. Economic reasons. Contemporary researchers note that economic problems, such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, and access to resources, can also contribute to armed violence. Struggles for control over material resources, wealth, corruption, and unequal distribution of economic benefits can contribute to the emergence of armed conflict situations.
4. Political and military ambitions. Political and military ambitions of state leaders or political groups may lead to the use of armed force to achieve their goals. Expansion, territory acquisition, and geopolitical strategy are typical policies of the modern authoritarian Kremlin regime.

Accordingly, the emergence and functioning of armed violence in the modern world depends on the type of political system behind the regime. Balatska (2019) noted that armed violence in the modern world is a major component of the political system. There are three types of political regimes: totalitarian, authoritarian, and democratic. Accordingly, the domestic and foreign policy of the state is carried out using the means of armed aggression and violence (totalitarian and authoritarian political system) or the tools of diplomacy (democratic political system). Let us consider the causes of armed violence during the Russian-Ukrainian war (since 2014). The Russian Federation is an authoritarian state in terms of its political regime, in which power belongs to one person - V. Putin. This leads to the hypothesis that the first cause of armed violence is the internal factors of the president, who seeks to defend the power of sole domination through conflict, aggression, and war. An additional factor in the development of armed violence is legal nihilism (Toribio Vazquez, 2021; Rezvorovych, 2022). However, the development and implementation of legal documents on military and civil-military law remains relevant for the regulation of relations (Gorinov & Mereniuk, 2022). Given the existence of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation as the main instrument of political power, their training, preparation, and production of weapons, the phenomenon of armed violence cannot be avoided. In addition, the anti-democratic nature of Russia, different social and economic development leads to the development of armed violence. But to reduce the spread of

armed violence, a democratic state (Ukraine) needs to develop and implement measures to eradicate corruption, which, in turn, provides energy for authoritarian politics to flourish. Kushnarev (2018) noted that the development of political corruption hinders the achievement of sustainable development goals. In today's world, we can observe how Russia is striving to become a hegemonic state, which has caused an armed conflict.

The armed conflict that lasted for 8 years escalated into a full-scale war (since February 24, 2022) between Russia and Ukraine, which can be classified as an escalation. The latter causes the functioning of armed violence, which consists in a purposeful act of destruction and harm. That is, the number of war crimes (murder, torture, destruction of civilian infrastructure, looting, misappropriation of property not caused by the needs of war, etc.), crimes against humanity during armed violence is growing rapidly. However, armed violence includes not only physical destruction but also psychological destruction. In this context, countering information violence and warfare is becoming increasingly important. Macaya-Aguirre and Espinoza (2021), studying violence during the armed conflict in Colombia, noted that the emergence of this phenomenon is due to three aspects: 1) armed violence, including war crimes, including sexual violence, as a means of war; 2) armed violence as an integral part of violence; 3) the development of armed violence as an acceptable practice with a weak evidence base and low level of criminal liability. Currently, about 72 thousand war crimes have been recorded, and only 29 people are criminally liable (Sobenko & Kolomiets, 2023). Accordingly, it is necessary to introduce a renewal and modernization of the judicial system of Ukraine, based on the principles of subsidiarity of the European Court of Human Rights (Kumar, 2021).

The armed violence in different types of political systems can have objective, subjective, or artificially created conditions for the development of this phenomenon. According to Richardson-Little (2021), the main subjective cause of Russian armed violence is the motivation of the actors, the belligerent mood, which is due to the existence of the empire world. A key factor that influences the subjective causes of the war, as well as the formation of certain beliefs about the use of armed violence by Russia, is the high level of armament and availability of military equipment. As well as confidence in the Russian armed forces, which

have better professional and military training, and a subjective idea of victory. In addition, important subjective factors before the outbreak of a full-scale war were weak mechanisms of collective security and the presence of a certain group of people who were engaged in activities on the territory of Ukraine to change public order and the state system, which was beneficial to Russia. We can also identify internal factors of the Russian president that influenced the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war: trauma from the collapse of the Soviet Union, a mental state that was used to being in a state of aggression and violence, the experience of a Chekist in the USSR Civil Service Committee, and the president's rejection of Ukraine as a separate independent state.

The subjects of armed violence are the state and an opposition group seeking to seize power.

Accordingly, armed violence is used to preserve their own interests and power. Bader (2020b),

considering armed violence as a socio-political phenomenon, noted that the main actors include individuals, groups, associations, and socio-political institutions. During a full-scale war, the state of Russia and Ukraine are subjects of armed violence. However, the goals of using armed violence are the opposite. Russia, which initiated the war and is trying to violate its territorial integrity, is the subject of violence, while the Ukrainian side, which has been aggressed, is the object. Accordingly, the Moscow regime seeks to force the opposite side (the Ukrainian government) to follow their political will by using extreme forms of violence. Persons who carry out certain orders (Russian mercenaries or the armed forces) are also subjects characterized by a different level of organization. Armed violence as a socio-political phenomenon has negative and positive consequences at the global level. On the example of the Russian-Ukrainian war (Table 1):

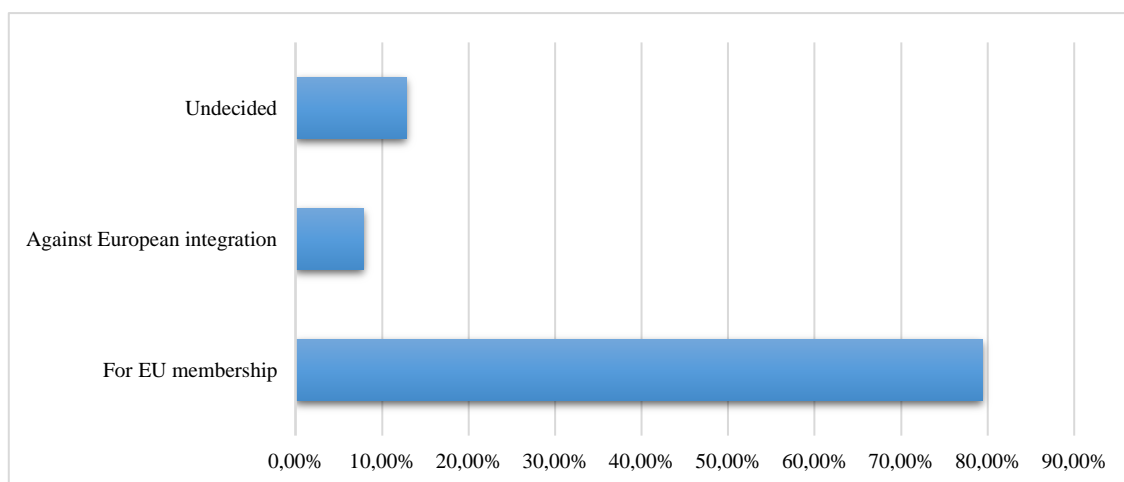
**Table 1.**  
*The impact of armed violence on globalization processes*

Level	Negative effects	Positive effects
Globalization	Decrease in global GDP; Reduction in exports; Rising inflation in developing countries; Rising prices for energy and food products; Food crisis and unsuitable land for agricultural production; An increase in the number of internally displaced persons and migration processes; Unemployment due to the war; Humanitarian crisis; War crimes; Increased government spending on armaments and defense; Intimidation by Russia with a nuclear disaster; Environmental disaster due to high mortality, fires, etc.	China has opened a new railroad route to Europe through the Caspian and Black Sea regions without passing through Russia; Pressure on China to resolve the Taiwan crisis and Beijing's refusal to resolve it by force Unification of NATO and the European Union against the background of providing assistance to Ukraine in the war; NATO expansion; Reducing the number of representatives of the "Fifth Column" group, especially in European countries, especially in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Germany; Expanding the search for alternative sources of fuel, eliminating Russian companies from European markets

**Source:** developed by the author based on (Brusientseva, 2022)

The formation and expansion of a single European family of nations can also be understood as the intensification of globalization processes through the spread of political, cultural, and economic paradigms. Against the

backdrop of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the Eurocentric aspirations of Ukrainians have particularly intensified, as can be seen in opinion polls (Fig. 1):



**Figure 1.** Results of the Survey on Support for Ukraine's European Integration in the Current Context  
**Source:** developed by the author based on (European Pravda, 2022)

The opposite process to globalization is the anti-globalization processes that periodically occur around the world. They are aimed at breaking the system of European values.

A characteristic feature of anti-globalization is that it encompasses a variety of ideological trends, worldview principles, ethical norms, and dogmas (Radchenko, 2018). Adherents of anti-globalization define their own ways and approaches to resolve current contradictions arising from globalization processes and develop new forms of social self-organization. In general, anti-globalization movements act as informal associations that are ready to mobilize and organize joint activities (Radchenko, 2018). The Russian authorities launch this process with the aim of introducing panic, uncertainty, and chaos. The result of successful anti-globalization processes is the rejection of global integrative processes, as the problematic issues are the social standard of living of the population, which is much lower in developing countries. However, the share of people who are against European integration is 7.9% (European Pravda, 2022). Zahra (2023), in her study of anti-globalization and politics during wartime, noted that this phenomenon is triggered by the development of instability and inequality. Accordingly, anti-globalists advocate for a fair and equal development of social life in all countries. Matviychuk-Soskina, Krysovaty, Zvarych, Zvarych, and Ivashchuk (2019) noted that alter-globalization is aimed at spreading global international influence, environmental and local stability, and human-centeredness, as well as integration in economic and cultural aspects. Developing alternative globalization processes support certain globalization processes, in particular European integration, and are aimed at

developing the cultural and axiological component of society. Therefore, modern anti-globalization and alternative globalization movements aim to form their own concept (variant) of globalization and are fighting against further globalization changes of the Western European type.

### Conclusions

The study examines the functioning of armed violence in the modern globalized world in the context of socio-political relations. The author emphasizes that the use of armed violence is an integral part of an authoritarian political system, which is determined by subjective factors. However, at the same time, the means and methods can be used by both the first and the second subject. The only difference is the purpose of using armed violence, which is to destroy or protect civilians and territorial integrity. The results demonstrate that armed violence is a phenomenon that purposefully exerts physical and psychological impact by armed means and is destructive, although it may have some positive elements, including for third parties who are not directly involved in an armed conflict.

The author analyzes the mechanisms of determination of armed violence in the modern world on the example of the Russian-Ukrainian war, which has escalated from an armed conflict in the East of Ukraine into a full-scale war. It is determined that armed violence can be caused by objective, subjective, or artificial factors. In the context of a full-scale war, its outbreak was based on the subjective characteristics of the Russian president. It is determined that armed violence has both a positive and negative impact on the

development of modern globalization processes. Particular attention is paid to the mechanisms of anti-globalization protests, in particular, it is established that they are supported by the Russian authorities, which are trying to use all available tools and mechanisms to stop the process of European integration. For Ukraine, this challenge is extremely important, and the formation of appropriate methods of legal response to the armed violence of the Russian Federation against the Ukrainian population can be considered as relevant prospects for further research.

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