

POSSIBLE LESSONS TO LEARN FROM THE WAR STARTED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AGAINST UKRAINE

*Lieutenant-General (Ret.) Associate Professor
Constantin MINCU, Ph.D**

Abstract: *The author considers that the topic of this article is of interest to active politicians and military of all ranks.*

In the context of the Russian Federation's unreasoned and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine (on 24.02.2022), the concerns of Romania and other countries, historically unlucky to find themselves in what the Russians call their "close vicinity", have increased dramatically. The concerns get bigger as no one knows where this „vicinity" ends, in Berlin or in the Atlantic!?

The paper presents some events and facts of the war's preliminaries and outgoing, which could be used by those with responsibilities in the field of defence in Romania to draw some conclusions and generate accordingly measures.

Let's hope that NATO and the EU have gain some terms with reality and have finally understood who Putin's Russia is and what it wants. Urgent and firm measures are needed to counter the aggressor.

Keywords: *Ukrainian War, Russia, Ukraine, NATO, EU, Romania.*

1. Introduction

In the last four years I have published several articles in the Romanian **Journal of Military Sciences** on the policies of the Russian Federation towards the West, but also towards other state actors in the immediate vicinity and in other parts of the world (articles will be presented in the bibliography). According to some political statements by Russian officials, Ukraine was on the top of list. It turned out, on February 24, 2022, that Putin and his siloviki-oligarchic regime had resorted to unmotivated and unprovoked aggression against its western neighbour.

Despite clear signs that aggression will take place (since 2004), Western leaders have paid little attention to Russia's real preparations for war.

* Entitled member of Romanian Scientists Academy, member of the Honorary Council of the Romanian Scientists Academy, Vice-President of Military Sciences Section. Phone: 0722303015. E-mail: mincu_constantin@yahoo.com.