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## Section 5. Political science

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### AGGRESSION AND GENOCIDE AS A KIND OF ARMED VIOLENCE: TERMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

**Abstract.** The article analyzes the definitions of the concepts “aggression” and “genocide” as types of armed violence presented in Ukrainian and world political science. The definitions of these concepts reflected in international regulatory documents are considered separately.

**Keywords:** aggression, genocide, armed violence, international legal documents, war.

The current precarious world situation, the emergence of new types and methods of armed violence in international relations have created an increased interest among scientists to the said issue. In the conditions of wide possibilities of covert execution, it is especially important to formulate precise definitions of “aggression” and “genocide”. At the end of the XX century – throughout the XXI century there was a whole series of political events, which are drastically differently defined both in the scientific and expert environment, and among political leaders. The same armed conflicts of this period are described as both internal and external political conflicts. In our opinion, the aforementioned issue can be resolved by terminological analysis of different types of armed violence, including aggression and genocide.

Two such types of external armed violence, which provide unilateral use, are aggression and genocide. The term “aggression” has a long history and was first interpreted as “movement towards a

goal”. However, as early as at the beginning of our era, the Latin language began to denote this word as “attack” [5, P. 82]. Currently, dictionaries of different countries roughly interpret this term in the same way. The Oxford English Dictionary defines the considered phenomenon as “Feelings of anger or antipathy resulting in hostile or violent behavior; readiness to attack or confront; the action of attacking without provocation” [12, P. 166]. In the French dictionary it is “an attack using force” [10, P. 309]. In the German dictionary of words of foreign origin, aggression is understood as “an armed attack of the country on one or more other countries” [11, P. 1001].

A detailed analysis of the interpretation of the term aggression in modern American dictionaries is presented in a joint article by A. Karavanov and I. Ustinov. In particular, the article notes that aggression in these publications is generally understood as “unprovoked attack; invasion; habitual aggressive

action or application; primary instinct usually associated with emotional moods” [5, p. 82–83].

In our opinion, the analysis of these authors of the application of the term “aggression” in Eastern countries is quite valuable. A. Karavanov and I. Ustinov note that: “In Chinese, the word “aggression” ... has about 8 connotations ... depending on the scope of application and correlates with such notions and phrases as “severing economic relations”, “confiscation of bureaucratic capital and transfer of land to peasants”, “carrying out actions in all directions”, “turn around”, “total war”, “invade, occupy, encroach on foreign territory”, “criminal attack, violation, counterfeiting”, “unprovoked attack”” [5, P. 83].

Clarification of the fundamental nature of the phenomenon of aggression requires, in our opinion, an analysis of the interpretation of this phenomenon in various scientific areas. In particular, for psychologists it is: firstly, “motivated destructive behavior that contradicts the norms and rules of coexistence of people in society, is harmful to the objects of attack (animate and inanimate), brings physical harm to people or causes them psychological discomfort (negative experiences, a state of tension, fear, depression, etc.)” [4, P. 27]; secondly, “individual or collective behavior or action aimed at causing physical or mental harm or even at the destruction of another person or group” [2, P. 5].

Conflictologists define aggression as “a form of behavior of the participants in a conflict characterized by hostility” [3, P. 4]. In a more detailed conflictological interpretation, aggression is “a purposeful destructive individual or collective behavior that causes harm to the objects of attack (animate and inanimate), causing physical or psychological harm or damage to another person or group of people. Social forms of aggression: terror, genocide, racial, religious, ideological clashes, etc.” [1, P. 3].

Sociology defines this phenomenon as follows: “Aggression (lat. *Agressio* – assault) – behavior aimed at causing physical or moral harm to another

person in order to gain benefit or for self-defense. Aggression in a mild form corresponds to a social norm; severe forms of aggression are morally condemned and/or considered illegal. Pathological form of aggression, destructiveness – attraction to damage and destruction, is contrary to social norms and has no rational justification” (S.A. Kuprienko, Dictionary of Sociology (A-BATYAR) <https://kuprienko.info/kupriyenko-sa-slovník-sotsiologiyi-a-batyar/>). Yu. Kachanova notes the following in her article “Aggressiveness and aggression as sociological categories”: “Aggression in society is violence ... aggression is any form of behavior which is aimed at causing harm to another living being who does not want such treatment” [6, P. 53].

In criminology, aggression is defined as “a form of behavior (specific action) that implements any intention or urge towards the victim (motivated action) and is associated with this intention (inducement) by a certain semantic attitude, objectively aimed at causing harm (damage) to their life or health” [9, P. 93].

Based on the logic of our study, we consider the most productive use of a term that appears in public international law. Therefore, according to the Article 1 of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX) of December 14, 1974 aggression is considered a crime and is defined as “is the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations”. Article 3 of this resolution defines that aggression, regardless of the fact of declaring war, is the following acts:

- the invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State, or any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from such invasion or attack, or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State or part thereof;
- bombardment by the armed forces of a State against the territory of another State or the

- use of any weapons by a State against the territory of another State;
- the blockade of the ports or coasts of a State by the armed forces of another State;
  - an attack by the armed forces of a State on the land, sea or air forces, or marine and air fleets of another State;
  - the use of armed forces of one State which are within the territory of another State with the agreement of the receiving State, in contravention of the conditions provided for in the agreement or any extension of their presence in such territory beyond the termination of the agreement;
  - The action of a State in allowing its territory, which it has placed at the disposal of another State, to be used by that other State for perpetrating an act of aggression against a third State;
  - The sending by or on behalf of a State of armed bands, groups, irregulars or mercenaries, which carry out acts of armed force against another State of such gravity as to amount to the acts listed above, or its substantial involvement therein [7].

This type of external armed violence, which is also recognized as a crime under public internation-

al law, is genocide. Under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998, genocide is an extreme form of discrimination committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Therefore, in view of the above, genocide should be understood as a type of unilateral external armed violence which is recognized as an international crime and which aims at the total or partial destruction of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. In turn, aggression is understood as a type of unprovoked external armed violence that is independent of the fact that a war has been declared and is characterized by the unilateral use of force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State. It should be added that aggression may be used indirectly, but this does not change the nature of the phenomenon and does not remove responsibility for its use in political practice.

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