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Content**   
  
Abstract . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .   
  
List of graphs and diagrams . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 4  
  
List of abbreviations . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5  
  
Introduction . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 6  
  
1. UKRAINIAN INTEGRATION WAY TO THE EUROPEAN UNION WITHIN 1991 – 2022 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 7   
  
1.1. Preparations for the signing of an Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10  
  
1.2. Euromaidan 2014 – Political Crisis in Ukraine . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 15  
  
1.3. Change of power in Ukraine. Russian aggression on Ukrainian territories . . .. . . . . . . . 21  
  
2. PROSPECTS FOR UKRAINE’S ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION . . . . . . 33  
  
2.1. Criteria for joining the European Union . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 34  
  
2.2. Pros and cons for Ukraine and the European Union . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 39  
  
2.3. Ukraine - the status of a candidate for accession to the European Union . . . . . . . . . . . 43  
  
2.4. Time frame for Ukraine's accession to the European Union . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 46  
  
Conclusion . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 52  
  
Bibliography  **Abstract**The topic of the thesis is ambiguous at the moment both for Ukraine and for the European Union. Therefore, this thesis is written and analyzed in order to identify the existing problems that Ukraine and the European Union may face on their way. The study of this topic made it possible to identify all the pros and cons for the government and citizens of both sides. The goal of Ukraine's accession to the European Union is to make a comfortable life for Ukrainians and improve the life of EU citizens.

The key task was to find out whether Ukraine could become part of the European Union, despite the existing problems, such as a war with the Russian Federation. To prepare this bachelor's thesis, a large number of treaties, agreements and sources for studying this study were analyzed, such as scientific articles, as well as official websites of the government of Ukraine and the European Union. The goal of this thesis is to find out whether Ukraine able to become a full member of the European Union and according to what time frame it will be possible to do.

The object of the research is the prospects for Ukraine's accession to the European Union.  
  
The subject of the research is Ukrainian history of the integration towards the European Union from the collapse of the Soviet Union.   
  
To analyze this bachelor's thesis, information was taken from various sources of Ukrainian and European origin, including official documents and sources. The main sources of information were scientific literature, which contained the development of Ukraine's relations towards the European Union, as well as literature that showed the interest of the European Union in such a neighbor as Ukraine. To study the prospects for Ukraine's accession to the European Union, a sufficient amount of information was taken from both sides to make the analysis and conclusions of this study the most objective.  
 **Abstraktus**

Baigiamojo darbo tema šiuo metu yra dviprasmiška tiek Ukrainai, tiek Europos Sąjungai. Todėl šis darbas parašytas ir analizuojamas siekiant nustatyti esamas problemas, su kuriomis Ukraina ir Europos Sąjunga gali susidurti savo kelyje. Šios temos tyrimas leido nustatyti visus privalumus ir trūkumus abiejų pusių valdžiai ir piliečiams. Ukrainos stojimo į Europos Sąjungą tikslas – sukurti patogų ukrainiečiams gyvenimą ir pagerinti ES piliečių gyvenimą.

Pagrindinis uždavinys buvo išsiaiškinti, ar Ukraina gali tapti Europos Sąjungos dalimi, nepaisant esamų problemų, tokių kaip karas su Rusijos Federacija. Rengiant šį bakalauro darbą buvo išanalizuota daugybė sutarčių, susitarimų ir šaltinių, skirtų šiam tyrimui tirti, pavyzdžiui, moksliniai straipsniai, taip pat oficialios Ukrainos vyriausybės ir Europos Sąjungos interneto svetainės. Šio baigiamojo darbo tikslas – išsiaiškinti, ar Ukraina gali tapti Europos Sąjungos nare ir per kokį laikotarpį tai bus įmanoma padaryti.

Tyrimo objektas – Ukrainos stojimo į Europos Sąjungą perspektyvos.

Tyrimo objektas – Ukrainos integracijos į Europos Sąjungą istorija nuo Sovietų Sąjungos žlugimo.

Šiam bakalauro darbui analizuoti buvo paimta informacija iš įvairių Ukrainos ir Europos kilmės šaltinių, įskaitant oficialius dokumentus ir šaltinius. Pagrindiniai informacijos šaltiniai buvo mokslinė literatūra, kurioje buvo aprašyta Ukrainos santykių su Europos Sąjunga raida, taip pat literatūra, rodanti Europos Sąjungos susidomėjimą tokia kaimyne kaip Ukraina. Norint ištirti Ukrainos stojimo į Europos Sąjungą perspektyvas, iš abiejų pusių buvo paimta pakankamai informacijos, kad šio tyrimo analizė ir išvados būtų objektyviausios. **Анотація**

Тема дипломної роботи на даний момент є неоднозначною як для України, так і для Європейського Союзу. Тому ця дипломна робота написана та проаналізована з метою виявлення існуючих проблем, з якими може зіткнутися Україна та Європейський Союз на своєму шляху. Вивчення даної теми дало змогу визначити всі плюси та мінуси для влади та громадян обох сторін. Метою вступу України до Європейського Союзу є забезпечення комфортного життя українців та покращення життя громадян ЄС.

Ключовим завданням було з’ясувати, чи зможе Україна стати частиною Європейського Союзу, незважаючи на наявні проблеми, наприклад, війну з Російською Федерацією. Для підготовки даної бакалаврської роботи було проаналізовано велику кількість договорів, угод та джерел для вивчення цього дослідження, таких як наукові статті, а також офіційні веб-сайти уряду України та Європейського Союзу. Метою цієї дипломної роботи є з’ясувати, чи зможе Україна стати повноправним членом Європейського Союзу та за який термін це можна буде зробити.

Об’єктом дослідження є перспективи вступу України до Європейського Союзу.

Предметом дослідження є українська історія інтеграції до Європейського Союзу від розпаду Радянського Союзу.

Для аналізу даної бакалаврської роботи було взято відомості з різних джерел українського та європейського походження, зокрема офіційних документів та джерел. Основними джерелами інформації були наукова література, яка містила розвиток відносин України з Європейським Союзом, а також література, що свідчила про зацікавленість Європейського Союзу таким сусідом, як Україна. Для вивчення перспектив вступу України до Європейського Союзу з обох сторін було зібрано достатню кількість інформації, щоб аналіз і висновки цього дослідження були максимально об'єктивними. **List of graphs and diagrams**1. Accession of Ukraine to the European Union or to the Customs Union 2013 . . . . . . . . . . 13   
  
2. Elections in Ukraine on May 25, 2014 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 26  
  
3. Accession of Ukraine to the European Union or to the Customs Union – after Euromaidan 2014 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 29  
4. Support of Ukraine’s accession to the European Union and NATO . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 48 **List of abbreviations**

**EU** - European Union;

**US** - the United States of America;

**WOT** - World Trade Organisation;

**DPR** - Donetsk People’s Republic;

**LPR** - Luhansk People’s Republic;

**ATO** - Anti-Terrorist Operation;

**OSCE** - The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

**NATO** - The North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

**NABU** - National Anti-Corruption Bureaucracy;

**GDP** - Gross Domestic Product;

**UK** - the United Kingdom. **Introduction**Ukraine is a European country, which is closely located next to the countries that have been members of the European Union for a long time. For this reason, Ukraine shows its desire to become part of European culture almost immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Ukraine for the European Union is indeed a very important political and economic partner, but at the same time very difficult, since Ukraine has a difficult economic situation and lack of stability (primarily due to the influence of Russia and its occupation of Ukrainian territories since 2014, which always spoils all Ukraine's plans).  
  
Ukraine's accession to the European Union is a very problematic and interesting at the same time for both sides. This theme is quite extensive, but this does not prevent the creation of new political and economic deals between Ukraine and the EU, thereby bringing the accession process closer. Ukraine is a country that is influenced by the politics and economy of other countries such as the US, the Russian Federation, the EU and others. Therefore, Ukraine needs to become stronger and independent from other countries in order to meet all the criteria for Ukraine's accession to the EU and have its own direct influence on other states.  
  
Ukraine's accession to the European Union has been a very interesting topic for the past few years. Year after year, the Ukrainian people wanted and tried to get into the European Union, but each time there were obstacles in the form of external and internal factors in its path. Now Ukraine is ready to become part of the European Union, but this is hindered by the Russian Federation, which attacked Ukraine with a war. Despite this, the Ukrainian government is resolutely on its European path and concludes various agreements with European brothers in order to join the European Union as soon as possible.

Despite external obstacles in the form of a Russian Federation, Ukraine is on its European path and is doing everything possible to get into a European association called the European Union. Now Ukraine is close to it like never before. Now everything depends not only on Ukraine, but also on the whole world, including the European Union, which should help Ukraine defend its democracy, freedom and people's lives by all means. In this war, the whole world supports Ukraine, which means that Ukraine will win and gain complete independence from Russian wickedness. And this means that Ukraine will be able to join the European Union, it all depends on how long it will be able to do it.  
 **1. Ukrainian integration way to the European Union within 1991- 2022**   
  
On July 2, 1993[[1]](#footnote-1), Ukraine for the first time announced its intentions to join the European Union and form a policy towards the EU. In 1993, Ukraine showed the EU that it wanted to join it and conduct a common policy and economy, but it turned out to be not so simple. The first political dialogue between Ukraine and the European Union began only in 1994, 3 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union. But Ukraine could not at that time fully direct its integration into the EU, since the state already had a huge trading partner - Russia. However, since 1994, the Ukrainian authorities have repeatedly said that they want to get into the EU.  
  
On June 14, 1994[[2]](#footnote-2), Ukraine and the EU adopted an agreement on partnership and cooperation in which the states conduct economic policies among themselves, etc. According to this agreement, Ukraine and the EU should become closer to each other. That is why several main priorities were chosen with which the state worked closely: energy, transport, internal affairs of countries, ecology, scientific cooperation (universities, etc.), technology development, as well as trade and direct investment. This agreement entered into force in 1998. Thus, Ukraine understood according to what norms and criteria the EU conducts its economic policy and understood the advantages of trade with members of the association. Thus, a strategic course was chosen for Ukraine's integration into the EU. After 2 years, on September 14, 2000[[3]](#footnote-3), a program for the integration of Ukraine into the European Union was created, in which all the step-by-step stages of the path that Ukraine would face were indicated.  
  
In 2004, the Orange Revolution[[4]](#footnote-4) took place in Ukraine, in which people went to rallies because of election fraud. The debate was between Viktor Yushchenko and Viktor Yanukovych, where the final result was a repeat election in which Viktor Yushchenko won and became president of Ukraine. Almost immediately after the Orange Revolution, the new president of Ukraine announced his intentions to bring Ukraine into the EU. Yushchenko also asked the EU and insisted that Ukraine become part of the World Trade Organization, receive a candidate for EU membership and in the future have full membership in the union. However, the European Union did not fully reciprocate, since Ukraine at that time did not fit all the criteria, and also because in 2004 the EU accepted a large number of member countries into its association.  
  
The great expansion of the European Union[[5]](#footnote-5) took place in 2004 when such countries as Estonia, Poland, Cyprus, Hungary, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Malta and Slovenia became members of the association. In total, there has been a large expansion of the territory of the eurozone. This process has not touched Ukraine. Therefore, on February 21, 2005[[6]](#footnote-6), Ukraine and the EU came up with an action plan according to which Ukraine and the EU cooperated even more closely. This plan did not affect the already existing agreements between the sides, but rather added points to improve bilateral relations. This action plan indicated a lot of things that Ukraine needs to change or improve in its country, for example: corruption (at that time there was a very high level of corruption, which naturally could not please the EU). Therefore, thanks to this plan, Ukraine received quite a lot of profit, such as the expansion of funding for Ukraine by the European Investment Bank of the EU, got the opportunity to join the political position of the EU, and so on.  
  
The terms of the first agreement, which was adopted in 1998, were 10 years long, so on March in 2007[[7]](#footnote-7), negotiations began for the second time and a new agreement was concluded. In 2008, Ukraine became part of the international trade organization, which significantly improved relations between Ukraine and the EU. For this reason, the states have decided to conduct deep economic free trade, which perfectly expands the borders of both states. Negotiations between Ukraine and the European Union began only in March 2007, where new conditions and agreements were agreed upon. On September 9, 2008[[8]](#footnote-8), Ukraine and EU representatives concluded political and economic agreements among themselves, in which the countries will conduct economic activities and close partnership with each other. Thus, these agreements served to ensure that Ukraine began to carry out appropriate reforms to meet the criteria for joining the eurozone.   
  
Within the framework of the European Union, there is an unimpeded passage of borders, which is why on October 29, 2008[[9]](#footnote-9) in Brussels, the Ukrainian delegation met with European officials to discuss the topic of "visa-free travel". The Ukrainian side was asked to cancel visas for Ukrainians, but in the end, this request was heard, but without any results and specific dates. Also, the Ukrainian side at this meeting mentioned that not all EU member states comply with their agreements regarding visas, as there were a sufficient number of complaints from Ukrainians. The main complaints fell on Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, because these countries created very expensive and difficult conditions for Ukrainians through intermediaries, who, of course, increase the tariff due to which the cost of a visa grows and it becomes more difficult to get into the EU. This problem was considered by both the European Union and the Ukrainian side, in which they came to the conclusion that Ukraine will not receive visa-free travel until the issue of the democratic map of the country (population, etc.) is resolved, and this is a long-term perspective.  
  
In 2009, Ukraine and the EU met at the Paris Summit[[10]](#footnote-10) to discuss further trade and cooperation, during which a plan was developed to improve and change existing reforms. This plan was given the name "Association Agreement", which later replaced the old Ukraine-EU action plan, because it is outdated. After 2 years, Ukraine and the EU met again at the 15th summit where they completed discussions and negotiations on the association. Thus, on March 30, 2012[[11]](#footnote-11), the leaders of Ukraine and the EU initialed this agreement, which was divided into 2 parts: economic and political. This agreement considered the political part as interaction between Ukraine and the EU and how political institutions will be arranged, as well as the economic part in which the focus was on trade.  
  
According to Mikal O.K., Garyach Y.P., Gutsal S.A. in their work “European integration of Ukraine: current state, determination of state policy priorities[[12]](#footnote-12)” they argued that the signing of the “Association Agreement” is beneficial for Ukraine both from a political and economic point of view, and also in their work they argued that Ukraine in this agreements should point to its European integration, as well as to a greater economic partnership. One of the statements of the researchers was that the prospect of Ukraine's accession to the EU may be medium or long term. And this is obvious, since Ukraine at that time was not ready to join at the economic and legislative level in order to meet the Copenhagen criteria, as well as the European Union, which was not ready to accept new members into its association, due to conflicts between the founders of the EU and the participants enlargement of the EU which entered in 2004. Therefore, analyzing this situation, the officials of Ukraine and the EU came to the conclusion that they will continue to conduct close economic trade with the possible expansion of Ukraine in the European Union.  
  
**1.1. Preparations for the signing of an association agreement between Ukraine and the European Union**  
  
On February 25, 2010[[13]](#footnote-13), the cadence of the new president, Viktor Yanukovych, began in Ukraine. Almost immediately, after Yanukovych came to the presidency, he announced that he wanted to improve trade relations with the European Union by creating a free trade zone between Ukraine and EU member states, as well as abolish visas for all Ukrainians so that they could travel to EU countries and vice versa. In 2012, Euro 2012 took place between Ukraine and Poland, where the countries received a large number of fans from the EU countries. Yanukovych understood that the abolition of visas for Ukrainians would significantly increase his rating among the country's population, but this goal was not achieved.  
  
On March 30, 2012, Ukraine and the EU initialed the association agreement with the EU in Brussels, where the European side was to sign this agreement. For six months, European leaders have been thinking about this agreement, one of them did not come to signing because of the former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko. As of November 2012, the Ukrainian government wanted to imprison Yulia Tymoshenko, and this greatly influenced the opinion of Europeans. Thus, European leaders tried to stop the process of imprisonment of Yulia Tymoshenko. Throughout 2012-2013, Yanukovych met with EU leaders, but at many of these meetings, European leaders left these meetings, mainly because of Yanukovych and what was happening in Ukraine at that time (the imprisonment of Yulia Tymoshenko and Yuriy Lutsenko). Of course, this influenced the politics and economy of Ukraine, since most of the leaders of the countries of the European Union demanded that Ukraine get a democratic state, and the fact that the Ukrainian government imprisoned its own officials without trial cast doubt on the democratic system of Ukraine for Europeans. European politicians really did not like this situation and therefore they repeatedly stated that Euro 2012 should be canceled and not be held in Ukraine, and that the Deep Free Trade Agreement between Ukraine and the EU would not be ratified, but Euro 2012 was held and quite successfully.  
  
On December 10, 2012[[14]](#footnote-14), the Council of External Affairs of the EU expressed its desire to see Ukraine as a member of the European Union, but on the condition that Ukraine shows decisive improvements in 3 points:   
  
1. Constitutional reform   
2. Electoral reform   
3. Judicial reform

The Ukrainian government heard these recommendations from the EU and the parliament was assembled - the Verkhovna Rada - where the deputies voted by a majority to follow these recommendations. During the year, the Ukrainian government failed to significantly improve these reforms, so on December 2013, the President of the European Council expressed his demands for Ukraine to complete these reforms by May 2014. The former President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych responded to these demands by saying that Ukraine would do everything possible to satisfy the requirements of the European Union. At that time, the President of Ukraine Yanukovych, in addition to rapprochement with the EU, was also negotiating with Russia and some countries of the former Soviet Union (Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan), which really caused misunderstanding on the part of the European Union.   
  
Therefore, at the 16th summit[[15]](#footnote-15), the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barozzu, said that Ukraine cannot negotiate simultaneously with the EU and other countries, and this is logical, because joining the European Union means the full integration of all spheres of state activity, including the entire economy of the country. However, this was not surprising for the Ukrainians, because Yanukovych has always been pro-Russian and tried to play on two fronts with the EU and Russia, but the unraveling customs union with the countries of the former Soviet Union only undermined Yanukovych's reputation with EU leaders.  
  
In 2013, Ukrainians were divided into two camps: to see the way to join the European Union in the future or to join the Customs Union with Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. 47% of respondents voted for signing an association agreement with the European Union, according to a poll by the Unian news agency[[16]](#footnote-16). In turn, 34% of respondents voted for Ukraine's accession to the Customs Union, and 19% of them could not decide and did not give an appropriate answer. Thus, already in 2013, the majority of Ukrainians wanted to conduct trade and other economic relations with the EU than with the Russian Federation.  
  
 Picture 1

Ukraine's accession to the European Union or the Customs Union  
  
In 2013, the representative of the European Union for Enlargement, Stefan Füle[[17]](#footnote-17), said that despite the fact that Ukraine really wants to join the EU, he does not like Ukraine's undemocratic actions, namely the imprisonment of Ukrainian deputies like Yulia Tymoshenko, Yuriy Lutsenko and civil servants. Although he believes that Ukraine and the EU will be able to sign an Association Agreement, because it is beneficial for both sides. The EU representative raised concerns that an agreement between Ukraine and the European Union would not be signed. But Ukrainian officials responded to this statement by saying that this agreement with the EU will be signed and there will be no problems with this.

After this statement, the Ukrainian government began to approach the day of signing the Association Agreement - November 29, 2013. The main task of the Yanukovych government before the signing an Association Agreement was to show that Ukraine is a democratic country and it complies with all the norms and rights of the European Union. Nine days before the signing of the agreement, the EU enlargement representative said that he hoped that the Ukrainian government would pass a number of bills and everything would be ready for the signing of the association agreement, but then everything did not go according to plan.On November 21, 2013[[18]](#footnote-18), the Parliament of Ukraine did not fulfill one of the main requirements of the EU for signing the association - the complete release of Yulia Tymoshenko and give her the opportunity to go abroad for treatment, as she was sick at that time. But on the same day, Yulia Tymoshenko herself stated in her address to the EU that she was ready to be imprisoned if only this association agreement was signed. From November 21, 2013, everything did not go according to plan and weird things began to happen to President Viktor Yanukovych, namely from his statements. That day, Yanukovych announced that he wanted to have tripartite trade talks between the European Union, Ukraine and Russia, which meant that the Ukrainian government had stopped preparations for signing an association between Ukraine and the EU. This statement more than once proves and confirms that Yanukovych was the pro-Russian president of Ukraine, who pursued the interests of Russia itself, and not the Ukrainian people. Prime Minister of Ukraine Mykola Azarov was in cahoots with Yanukovych, so on the same day he said that this agreement, which should be signed on November 29, 2013, would completely destroy the economy of Ukraine, so it is better to trade with Russia.  
  
Before the statements of Yanukovych, on November 13, 2013, Yuriy Lutsenko (one of the main activists of the Orange Revolution) called on the opposition authorities of Ukraine to go to rallies of all people on the main square of the capital if the current government of Yanukovych disrupts the signing of an association agreement with the European Union. November 21, 2013[[19]](#footnote-19), in fact, the preparations for the signing of the association were suspended. Some people didn't like the fact that the signing of the Association Agreement could be thwarted by the government, so young people, mostly students, took to small protests where they were beaten by the police as a result. Of course, the majority of the Ukrainian people did not like this news and people began to take to the streets to protest. The Administrative Court of Kyiv forbade protesters to set up tents and other structures on the main square in the city, but already on November 22, the entire Independence Square was filled with tents with a huge crowd of people. Thus, because of the violation of the court decision, the current government had a misunderstanding with the people, namely, physical clashes between Ukrainians and the police.  
  
On November 24[[20]](#footnote-20), protests against Yanukovych's rule continued, with even more people gathering on the streets. The main demands of the protesters were: the signing of an Association Agreement, the dismissal of Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, and the adoption of all relevant bills in accordance with the criteria of the European Union, what as a result was not done by the authorities. **1.2. Euromaidan 2014 – Political crisis in Ukraine**

As planned, on November 28-29, 2013[[21]](#footnote-21), the Eastern Partnership summit took place - a meeting between Ukraine and the European Union to sign an association agreement. As a result of this meeting, the agreement was not signed, which naturally caused even greater dissatisfaction among all citizens of Ukraine, so the protesters began to act in quite radical ways. The first collision was shed on the night of November 30, 2013[[22]](#footnote-22), when Yanukovych's government, with its special Berkut unit, sent several hundred fighters to disperse this rally.

One of the toughest things that happened was the beating of students, where people filmed it and put it on all social networks and TV channels. This provoked the Ukrainians even more to drastic actions. Opposition leaders such as Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Vitali Klitschko called on all the people of the country to go to the rally, which was later called the "People's Council". The protesters demanded an end to mass repressions and the release of all prisoners. These actions aroused a double opinion among Ukrainians, since such cities as Lviv, Lutsk, the whole of Volyn, etc., supported these rallies, and the other part of Ukraine, like Kharkiv, Donetsk, etc., opposed the violent methods of the opposition.  
  
Initially, the demand of the people who went to the rallies was to sign an association with the European Union, but later the protesters' emphasis changed to the resignation of the Yanukovych government and refusal to join the Customs Union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Thus, the protesters made it clear to the government that they did not like the actions that the Yanukovych government performed, but he did not care. Therefore, Yanukovych met with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss the Customs Union and Ukraine's entry into it. Putin promised huge amounts of money and large supplies of energy supplies to Ukraine (including gas). At this meeting, Yanukovych approved that Ukraine would join the Customs Union and this entry would be beneficial for Ukraine. However, the protesters were not satisfied with these statements by Yanukovych, because all Ukrainians, like the opposition of Yanukovych, were aimed at Ukraine's accession to the EU, as well as the signing of an Association Agreement. After the meeting of President Yanukovych with Vladimir Putin, on the Maidan it became the main slogan "No to the Customs Union", since no one from the Ukrainians wanted this.

Later, the Ukrainian opposition called on all the protesters to overthrow Yanukovych's power, so on the same day the protesters went to the main streets of Kyiv to block the authorities' access to their jobs. People went to the government quarters and began to make "riots" and overthrow the monuments of Lenin, setting up a red-black flag on the site of the monument, symbolizing Ukrainian nationalism.  
  
At the time of the Maidan, many Western representatives of the countries visited Kyiv to see it all with their own eyes and also hold dialogues with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych. During their visit, the Westerners presented with the EU and the US also met with representatives of the opposition authorities to learn more detailed information. Thus, representatives of the European Union recommended to follow the demands of the opposition. Apparently, Yanukovych decided not to listen to the opinion and recommendations of the representatives of the EU countries and decided to disperse the rally and lift the blockade that the protestants had staged. The security forces managed to do this, but later the protesters regained their positions and restored the blockade of the entire government quarter. Thus, looking at this picture, it becomes clear that the Ukrainians are defending their freedom and the right to choose, the goal of the Euromaidan was to sign the Association Agreement, because the Ukrainians really wanted to become part of the European brotherhood.

It was quite obvious that Yanukovych would not be able to disperse the entire Euromaidan by force, since a lot of people gathered on it who wanted to show their position, as well as show dissatisfaction with the current government. Therefore, on December 14, a "Round Table" was created for negotiations between Yanukovych's government and the opposition. At the “Round Table”, Yanukovych said that he did not like the Association Agreement in the form in which it was and carries great risks for the Ukrainian economy. At the end of the negotiations, one of the leaders of the opposition, Vitali Klitschko, said that the authorities did not agree to the demands of the protesters on any of the points.

After a round table and unsuccessful negotiations, Yanukovych's government decided to arrange an "Anti-Maidan"[[23]](#footnote-23), enticing its "Party of Regions" to attract many Ukrainians who support their party and go to the rally. Thus, on December 15, for the first time in the history of Ukraine, two rallies "Euromaidan" and "Anti-Maidan" took place simultaneously. The opposition that sat at the negotiating table realized that the main task before them now is to prevent this and not give Yanukovych the right to sign an agreement on the Customs Union with Putin, so on this day the protesters slightly changed their focus to "No to the Customs Union."  
  
On December 15, 2013[[24]](#footnote-24), the representative of the European Union on the expansion of its association stated that the enlargement of the EU and Ukraine's entry into the association is a long-term perspective. This is logical, since at that moment Euromaidan and the overthrow of Yanukovych's power were taking place in Ukraine. On December 17, Yanukovych was supposed to fly to Moscow to sign the Customs Union, but due to the actions of the opposition, he simply could not do this, but deals were made with Yanukovych to buy Ukrainian "Eurobonds" in exchange for reducing the cost of gas supplied from Russia to Ukraine. Since the "Customs Union" has not been signed, European officials have said that the European Union is still willing to sign an Association Agreement, despite Ukraine signing various kinds of agreements with Russia.  
  
On December 20, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine announced[[25]](#footnote-25) that Ukraine is not going to refuse to sign this Association Agreement and can sign this agreement today without creating a Deep Free Trade Zone between Ukraine and the European Union. A statement was also made that Ukraine will do everything possible to resume the negotiation processes with the EU, but this will take some time and Ukraine needs time to fulfill the points of this agreement. Over time, the Euromaidan was divided into parts: peaceful and radical (after killing of the protesters). The peaceful part wanted to follow the peaceful protests following the example of the Orange Revolution, and the radical part was in the composition and methods of the "Right Sector" who wanted to be on the same waves with protesters, but sometimes using radical methods. Oppositionists like Vitali Klitschko, Yuriy Lutsenko, Yulia Tymoshenko, etc., did not quite agree with the actions of the “Right Sector”, so they tried not to keep close ties with them, but they could not do this, since they shared common interests and the “Right Sector” provided protection of this Maidan and all kinds of support. Both peaceful and radical parts of protesters have been finalized by Petro Poroshenko.   
  
Right Sector activists pursued the same goals as the Euromaidan protesters, but differed in their methods of fighting Yanukovych's power. The reason for this was the radical methods of behavior. Initially, the “Right Sector” positioned itself as an independent organization with its own methods of combating the power of Yanukovych. The leaders of this organization stated that they want to be a third party between the government of Yanukovych and the opposition, as well as to influence changes in state bodies. The main requirements of the “Right Sector” were the reformation of government bodies, such as security, justice, other special services, and so on. Euromaidan and the Ukrainian opposition decided to make an all-Ukrainian march on December 29, 2013[[26]](#footnote-26) to Mezhyhirya (the residence of Viktor Yanukovych, which was eventually privatized by the state), which was attended by thousands of people in cars and any other vehicles, as well as people on foot. When the protesters drove up to the residence, they saw how an armed military group of people was waiting for them, which Yanukovych put in to protect the residence, despite the fact that this protest was peaceful and did not carry negativity. The purpose of this march was to force the authorities to listen to the demands of the opposition and Euromaidan.

The beginning of January 2014 was quite calm, people still took to the streets, some spent the night there in their tents. But on January 16, 2014[[27]](#footnote-27), the Yanukovych government adopted a number of laws, despite the fact that the vote was not made in an honest way with many violations. 10 laws were formed that directly relate to human rights and Ukrainians in general. The toughest were 5 out of 10:

1. Restriction of freedom of speech and dissemination of information on the Internet

2. Adopted laws on extremism

3. Prohibition to collect information on law enforcement cases (court, police, etc.)

4. Rallies and other peaceful gatherings are prohibited

5. Ban on organizations that are funded from abroad

Thus, Yanukovych's government decided not to make peaceful concessions and agreements with activists, but decided to disperse these rallies. The adopted laws, in fact, completely limited the activities of the opposition, including the “Right Sector” organization. In fact, the next stage could be mass repressions of the opposition and civilians who do not like the actions of Yanukovych's government. According to statements from the "Party of Regions" (Party of Yanukovych), the voting took place according to the rules, but there were a lot of violations, about which the faction is silent.  
  
After a few months of Euromaidan, people from the western regions gradually began to pull up on the square of the capital, who also did not agree with the actions of the Yanukovych authorities. Self-defense courses have been held on the Maidan since November, so that in the future, if the Yanukovych government does not want to leave his post peacefully, the protesters planned to seize power by force (not all protesters, but only radical groups of people, for example, the “Right Sector”). Taking power by force was an option that was condemned by the opposition, since the opposition wanted to resolve the issues of Ukraine's accession to the European Union in a peaceful way, without overthrowing the government by violent means.

After Yanukovych signed the laws on January 16, 2014, people began to take to the streets expressing their displeasure. Already on January 19[[28]](#footnote-28), several tens of thousands of people gathered in Kyiv on the main square of the city to condemn the laws that were adopted by the authorities. The protesters called these laws "dictatorial." Apparently, Yanukovych immediately realized that he made a mistake by adopting these laws, because Ukrainians are a people who will defend their human rights to the last. In order to somehow protect themselves, the authorities sent several police units to the square where the rally was held. As a result, there was a fist conflict between representatives of the authorities (the police) and the protesters. At this time, the “Right Sector” once again tried to break into the government quarter, where it was met by the Berkut special group, as a result of which they were stoned. In response, Berkut employees used a prohibited method of defense - a water cannon that can only be used at a certain temperature.  
  
During the protests between the opposition and Yanukovych's authorities, long negotiations continued to stabilize the situation in the country, since the Euromaidan really hit hard on the country's economy and endangered the territorial integrity of the state. During long negotiations, Yanukovych's government made concessions to the opposition and a bill was submitted to parliament to abolish the "dictatorial" laws that were adopted on January 16, 2014. However, the protests did not end, as the demands of the protesters were not made. The protesters demanded that Yanukovych return the constitution of Ukraine, which was in 2004, and also change it from a presidential-parliamentary republic to a parliamentary-presidential one.

Meanwhile, violent clashes between the opposition and the police were still taking place on the Maidan. Protesters began to forcefully seize government buildings. Thus, a crisis occurred in the country and President Yanukovych needed to do something. Therefore, on January 28, Yanukovych decided to dismiss Mykola Azarov and release all the Euromaidan participants who were detained by the police. The Maidan that began in November 2013 was very different from the Maidan in January-February 2014, as most of the protesters became radically opposed to the authorities and rather tough negotiating methods were already being undertaken.   
  
The final conclusion of the Euromaidan was the death of more than 100 protesters, and more than 1,000 people who took part in the protests on the Maidan were injured by the security of Yanukovych government and taken to hospitals. It all started with the fact that on February 18 the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine was supposed to introduce a bill in which the power and powers of the president were to be reduced, but the speaker of the Verkhovna Rada refused to introduce this bill.[[29]](#footnote-29) This made the protesters very angry, so they went to the Ukrainian parliament to express their dissatisfaction. As a result, the protesters clashed with representatives of the authorities (police) and a massacre began. Within a few hours, the power structures of Yanukovych, namely Berkut, pushed the protesters back to the square where the Maidan was taking place. The assault on the security forces against the protesters lasted until the morning of February 19. At the same time, a small number of people with sticks and shields came to the aid of the Maidan in order to at least somehow resist the power structures of power. Thus, armed with shields and sticks, the protesters headed towards the law enforcement agencies in order to drive them away. At this point, one of the officers of the security forces told his subordinates that the protesters with firearms (although this was not the case), thus raising a panic among their fighters. Therefore, the security forces retreated and subsequently used firearms, as a result of which 20 people died and more than a hundred were seriously injured.

Already on February 20, the protesters were able to drive out the security forces, although they received significant losses among the people. After what they saw, the security forces themselves began to go over to the side of the protesters, providing any assistance to those affected by the power and actions of Yanukovych. On the same day, many photos and videos appeared on the Internet, which clearly showed how law enforcement agencies used firearms and simply killed Ukrainian protesters. Through these actions of the Yanukovych government, people began to overthrow him and do everything possible so that this person would not be in power.  
  
**1.3. Change of power in Ukraine. Russian aggression on Ukrainian territories**After the events that took place and the murders in Kyiv on the squares of the capital, people resolutely wanted to overthrow the power of Yanukovych. Therefore, on February 22, 2014, the Parliament of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada[[30]](#footnote-30), decided to put away of Yanukovych's people who supported his policies. The first to leave were Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada Vladimir Rybak and Deputy Speaker Assistant Igor Kaletnikov. After them, Yanukovych's party "Party of Regions" began to disintegrate and many deputies resigned. The deputies of the Vekhovna Rada unanimously voted for a new speaker, Alexander Turchinov became the new speaker, who undertakes to take power into his own hands.  
  
On February 22, Yanukovych disappeared and could not be found anywhere, soon he was found in Kharkov and moved out to Russia. Later, Yanukovych said that all decisions and laws adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine are not legitimate. Interim President Oleksandr Turchynov gave the order to privatize Yanukovych's presidential residence to the state. As soon as people realized that Yanukovych was overthrown from power, they immediately began to scam the deputies of the Party of Regions and others who supported the decisions of Yanukovych's government. Also, Yanukovych was put on the wanted list in accusation that thanks to his orders people were killed in Kyiv. After that, on February 27, 2014, a new Prime Minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, was appointed, which meant the arrival of a new government. However, the presidential elections were to be held in May 2014.  
  
The change of power in Ukraine was supposed to mean a new structure of the state system, namely the complete replacement of old people with new ones, applying various laws and reforms to meet the criteria of the European Union. But unfortunately, the change of power did not give new people the opportunity to improve Ukraine's domestic and foreign policy due to lack of time. The crisis did not end with the change of power, and the Russian Federation strongly influenced this. The reason for this was the escape of Yanukovych to Russia (a contractual plan with Putin), after which some people began to protest, saying that the authorities were infringing on "the rights of Russians." People began to protest in almost all cities of Eastern Ukraine, due to the fact that the new government refused to accept the interests of the Russians, namely further economic and political relations with the Russian Federation, because the path of Ukraine was initially chosen to join the European Union, in fact for this reason and the Maidan was assembled, after which hundreds of people died.

The most interesting thing is that those people who went to the rally for the "Russian language" demanded from the new government not to change it, but to change the state structure of the country (change it to a federalist one, as in the Russian Federation). Already on March 1[[31]](#footnote-31), Russia adopted a permit "to use the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine" under the pretext of helping Ukraine deal with the political situation in the country and to protect the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine. In fact, Russian-speaking people in Ukraine were not infringed upon, and this became an excuse for Russians to simply attack Ukraine and annex Crimea.   
  
During the protests[[32]](#footnote-32), the pro-Russian protesters who were at rallies in Donetsk and Luhansk wanted to change the state into federal districts, but over the course of the protests, people wanted to gain independence for their regions, namely Donetsk and Lugansk. But, most likely, it was not people who wanted it, but Putin’s government, which can only misinform people, conduct propaganda and act by force, shedding the blood of innocent people. Thus, the illegal annexation of Crimea to the Russian Federation happened, despite the fact that many people did not want to be part of Russia. However, it so happened that the majority of Crimeans were still in favor of becoming part of the Russian Federation, since the Parliament of the Verkhovna Rada began to adopt bills that not all residents of Crimea liked. Also, the opinion of the residents of Crimea was greatly influenced by the Russian media, which said that a coup had taken place in Ukraine (Yanukovych's escape), and so on.

The new government of Ukraine tried to regain control over the Crimean territory, but it was almost impossible, since Yanukovych, who was in agreement with Putin, simply ruined the military and weapons of the Crimean peninsula, which even had nothing to defend against. Thus, on February 24, Russian troops completely entered the territory of Crimea and seized all the key authorities. On the same day, people who were against these actions of Russia came out to protest, but the Russian special forces did not care.

On February 28[[33]](#footnote-33), Russia launched a military aggression against the Ukrainian state, using armed equipment and a huge number of soldiers. But the fact is that Russia has been involved in the troubles in Ukraine from the very beginning, starting with the negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the European Union. Proof of this was the captured Russian saboteurs with Russian badges, who during the Maidan fired at law enforcement officers, as well as at Euromaidan activists. Looking at this picture, it becomes clear that for all the time Yanukovych was in power, he plundered the country and did everything possible so that Ukraine would not join the EU, but become part of the Russian Federation.

Starting from March 1, Russia approved the invasion of Ukrainian lands, thereby violating the treaties. Russia invaded the territory of Ukraine with a war, thereby violating the Budapest Memorandum, in which Ukraine gives up its nuclear potential to Russia, and Russia in return guarantees the territorial integrity of Ukraine and guarantees the security of the Ukrainian state. However, the Russian government does not care about the agreements that they concluded and began to wage war with Ukraine.

"Officially" Crimea was annexed to Russia on March 18, having previously held a referendum on March 16.[[34]](#footnote-34) Most of the votes were bought by Russian saboteurs in Crimea. The whole world has condemned and condemns these actions of Russia. Therefore, most countries immediately imposed sanctions on the Russian Federation, but unfortunately Russia is a country with large reserves of natural resources (gas, coal, etc.), so it was quite difficult to introduce full sanctions against Russia. The modern world is so arranged that countries are trying to increase their state economy, and by imposing sanctions, the state spoils not only the economy of the aggressor country (Russia), but also its own, because natural resources are very important both for Europe and for other countries with which Russia trades. At first, the sanctions really shook the Russian economy, but over time, the situation in Russia stabilized, showing that the sanctions do not work.  
  
Quite a lot happened during the events of March-April. The first was the illegal annexation of Crimea to the Russian Federation, and the second is an armed war on the territory of Ukraine, with the previously self-proclaimed Donetsk and Lugansk Republics. Of course, this was all Putin's plan. Starting from April, Russia began to wage a military conflict with Ukraine on the territory of the so called Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic (DPR and LPR). The main actions of Russia on the territory of Ukraine began on April 12, when the security forces began to seize the authorities in the main cities of the regions.   
  
On February 23[[35]](#footnote-35), the Verkhovna Rada decided that Oleksandr Turchynov would act as interim president until the presidential elections to be held in May 2014. It was obvious that the new government of Ukraine would not allow the seizure of its territories just like that, therefore, on 13 April, Oleksandr Turchynov announced an Anti-Terrorist Operation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions[[36]](#footnote-36). The Ukrainian soldiers bravely defended their lands, completely resisting the Russian invaders, but it was not so easy, as the Russians agreed with the local authorities and chose the best positions for themselves in the conduct of hostilities.

The European Union, like most countries of the world, condemned these actions of the Russian Federation and provided economic support to Ukraine. Therefore, Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov signed the political part of the Association Agreement with the EU on March 21, 2014[[37]](#footnote-37). The economic part was to be signed after the election of the president of Ukraine.   
  
The election of a new president in Ukraine took place in May 2014. 22 candidates took part in the presidential elections in Ukraine in 2014, among which the favorites were Petro Poroshenko who received 54.7% of the vote, Yulia Tymoshenko received 12.82% of the vote, Oleg Lyashko received 8.32% of the vote, Anatoly Gritsenko received 5.48 % of votes, Sergei Tigipko received 5.23% of the votes, as well as other candidates who received less than 5% of the votes. Petro Poroshenko won in the first round with 54.7%[[38]](#footnote-38). It is obvious that people chose him, since he took an active part in the Euromaidan, his views lay on European integration, and also promised to end the war with Russia. These promises satisfied the Ukrainians and therefore people voted for him.   
  
  
  
The new president of Ukraine faced a really difficult task - the war with Russia, the annexed Crimea and bad economic situation in a country (since Yanukovych completely plundered the state treasury). Therefore, during the election campaign, the main promises of Petro Poroshenko were[[39]](#footnote-39):

1. End the war with Russia

2. Raise the country economically

3. Make a visa-free regime with the European Union

4. Carry out military reform and also carry out police reform

Most people have been supporting Poroshenko as the new president since the Euromaidan, as he was in favor of bringing Ukraine into the EU, which is what the Ukrainians wanted. Most of the activists and leaders of political movements urged their voters to vote for Petro Poroshenko in the elections held in May. At the end of the elections, Poroshenko won in the first round and on June 7, the inauguration of the new president of Ukraine took place.

Poroshenko set himself the main task of strengthening the army, and he managed to do it. Indeed, the new president managed to achieve a huge result in the military sphere. Since after Yanukovych abandoned the country, the army had about 5 thousand ready-made military personnel, which is very few for waging war with Russia. During his inauguration, Poroshenko announced that his main goal was to achieve peace and prosperity for the Ukrainian people. This innaguration was attended by a huge number of leaders from different countries, both the United States, the leaders of the European authorities, and the presidents of various countries, including Delia Grybauskaite, the President of Lithuania.  
  
The most important thing for Ukrainians at the time of the election of a new president of Ukraine was the settlement of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in the territories of the so called DPR and LPR. Poroshenko understood that in order to win elections, he needed to promise what the Ukrainians really needed, which is why during the election campaign he said that his main task was to end the military conflict. The new president of Ukraine, first of all, began to deal with the settlement of the conflict in the Donbas, having previously warned the Russian military about a 10-day peace treaty in which Ukraine would not fire, so that the Russians who did not want to fight or changed their minds handed over their weapons and left back to their home in Russia. After that the Ukrainian military went into battle and captured a lot of settlements in a day. But Russia needed to capture as many cities as possible in order to force Ukraine to sign agreements that are unfavorable for the Ukrainian government, but this would mean a ceasefire in the Donbas. Therefore, the Russian government during July and August sent a large number of soldiers to seize the territory of Ukraine, and the Russians managed to do this simply because there were more of them than the Ukrainian military, since Yanukovych plundered the entire army.

Thus, due to the superiority in forces, the Ukrainian government was forced to take extreme measures and conclude an unfavorable treaty for Ukraine, which was given the name "Minsk Protocol"[[40]](#footnote-40). Representatives of the so called DPR and LPR were present at the conclusion of this agreement, the former President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma and representatives of the OSCE were also present. This agreement entered into force on September 5, 2014, which implied a ceasefire in the uncontrolled territories of Ukraine - Donetsk and Lugansk regions.

The European Union almost all the time helped Ukraine financially by giving huge amounts of money to keep the country's economy. When Poroshenko came to power, he immediately signed the economic part of the Association Agreement with the European Union on June 27, 2014[[41]](#footnote-41). European politicians considered this day as a great feat in relations between Ukraine and the European Union. In turn, Poroshenko made it clear that he plans to make sure that Ukraine becomes a member of the European Union by 2020, and this requires a lot of work.  
  
Also in September 2014, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine approved the ratification of the Association Agreement with the European Union[[42]](#footnote-42). The new President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, signed it on the same day that the parliament approved this agreement. Within a few months, the EU sent its people to conduct research on Ukrainian society, as well as to create special offices in which the Ukrainian government can apply to receive advice or assistance from the European Union. On January 1, 2016, an agreement between Ukraine and the European Union on in-depth cooperation in the field of trade and the creation of a free trade zone came into effect. This agreement was ratified by Ukraine and all EU countries except the Netherlands, but after some time the Netherlands introduced a bill that approves the ratification of this agreement. Also, thanks to President Petro Poroshenko and the EU member states, since June 11, 2017, Ukraine has been able to travel to the European Union without visas and other bureaucratic red tape. Thus, the Ukrainians who were able to visit the EU began to understand what Ukraine needs to strive for.

Russia started the war of 2014 for a reason, it pursued geopolitical goals that allegedly could threaten the "security" of the Russian Federation. It is not beneficial for Russia that Ukraine become a member of the European Union, since between two large states that strive for world hegemony it is necessary to have a buffer state (in this case, Ukraine), which will not create conflicts between the two large states. But the Russian government probably did not understand that Ukraine is a sovereign, democratic state that does whatever it wants in its country and decides where to join. Ukraine's goal was to join the European Union, and it would be able to do it by 2020, but the countries of the European Union cannot accept new countries that have disputed territories. Therefore, this is the main reason why Russia attacked Ukraine.  
  
On November 20, 2014, a survey was conducted by the Rating sociological group[[43]](#footnote-43), in which Ukrainians were interviewed about Ukraine's accession to the European Union and the Customs Union. The results of the survey showed that 64% of respondents would vote for Ukraine's accession to the European Union, while in 2013 47% of respondents voted. 17% of respondents would vote for a customs union, while the remaining 19% could not decide or did not give an answer. In comparison with 2013, for joining the EU increased from 47% to 64%, and for the customs union from 34% to 17%, not decided - 19%.

Changes in respondents' answers changed due to the Euromaidan and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Even, rather, not because of the Euromaidan, but because of the Russian occupation of Ukrainian territories. Obviously, the Ukrainians, after what they saw in Donetsk, Luhansk and Crimea, simply did not want to have anything to do with Russia, so they decided for themselves to follow the path to the European Union.  
  
After Yanukovych "threw" Ukraine, the country found itself in a very poor economic condition. After coming to power, Poroshenko managed to restore new strength to the Ukrainian economy. For 5 years of his stay in power, he managed to achieve not small economic results. The trade of Ukraine has also changed, and to be more correct, the partners have changed, if earlier Ukraine had business relations with Russia, then after the annexation of Crimea and the conflict in the Donbas, Ukraine began to trade more with the European Union, which significantly brings Ukraine closer to joining the European Union.

Also, one of the rather big achievements of Petro Poroshenko was to achieve the creation of the Anti-Corruption Bureaucracy[[44]](#footnote-44). Thanks to this, all officials and deputies must indicate all their property in declarations, and all calculations were carried out under the supervision of American specialists who are much more experienced in corruption. At the end of his official career, Poroshenko created an anti-corruption court, whose task was to consider the same cases as the National Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Poroshenko was able to achieve considerable results in the development of the Ukrainian army, because Yanukovych completely plundered it, and after her departure there was practically nothing. Poroshenko also held long negotiations with the European Union in order to get the opportunity for Ukrainians to travel without waiting for any documents to be received at the consulates. In 2017, a visa-free regime came into effect, thanks to which most Ukrainians managed to visit Europe for the first time in their lives. Also, thanks to this visa-free regime, several European airlines, such as Wizzair, Ryanair and others, entered the Ukrainian market.  
  
During his reign, Petro Poroshenko managed to make really important reforms that were approved by the European Union. The main reforms were associated with the change of the militia to the police, a huge reform was carried out on deolircharization, decommunization, as well as church reform. The police reform meant changing all the old faces into new young guys who didn't take bribes, hence the corruption became less. This reform was carried out together with the representatives of Georgia, as they managed to carry out this reform at the highest level. The purpose of deolircharization was to reduce lobbyists in political parties, namely the influence of the oligarchs for their financial support of the parties, directly pursuing the goals of the oligarchs themselves. Also, a decommunization reform was carried out, to get rid of all the symbols of the former Soviet Union, by the way, decommunization began since the time of Euromaidan, when protesters began to bring down monuments to Lenin in the main squares of all cities. Also, during the reign of the new president, a church reform was carried out, which included the creation of an independent Orthodox Church, and these actions were recognized by the Ecumenical Patriarch and granted a Tomos of the Autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Despite all the above reforms, the main changes affected the Constitution of Ukraine, namely:   
  
1) Decentralization;   
2) Judicial Reform.

Decentralization[[45]](#footnote-45) is a reform that implies by itself that a special status of self-government is given in regional state institutions. This was done in order to increase the level of efficiency and get rid of corruption, since people were sent to each place of self-government who evaluate and monitor the level of work in a particular area. If earlier, during the time of Yanukovych, money from each region of Ukraine went to the capital - to Kyiv, now it's the other way around, each region decides for itself what to spend money on.

Judicial reform[[46]](#footnote-46) - was adopted in the first place to get rid of corruption, which flourished until 2014 and did not deal with justice, and whoever pays more money won the case. After the adoption of this reform, corruption in the courts has become less than it was before the reform. Now, each employee of the court fills out an annual declaration and there is a clear control of each case that goes to court.

The main achievement for the cadence of Petro Poroshenko was the amendment of the Constitution of Ukraine "on the strategic course of the state towards the acquisition of full membership of Ukraine in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.[[47]](#footnote-47)[[48]](#footnote-48)" These changes to the Constitution were supported by the majority of the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada, almost all, except for the pro-Russian deputies from the Opposition Bloc party, which prevented the government of Ukraine from following its European path. Thus, thanks to these changes by Pertra Poroshenko, Ukraine has determined its path on a legislative basis, proving to the European Union that Ukraine wants to join the union.

These reforms were carried out by Petro Poroshenko to meet the requirements of the European Union, since one of Poroshenko's goals was Ukraine's membership in the European Union. However, during his tenure, this could not be done, despite the great merits in the field of changing the country for the better. Despite this, the European Union carefully looks at the desire of Ukraine and helps to develop not only economically, but also spiritually, attracting Ukrainians and Europeans to visit each other's countries.  
  
Despite its entire history, Ukraine is rapidly wanting to be part of the European brotherhood and fight for its rights and freedom throughout the world, even though it is hindered by "brotherly countries" in the neighborhood. However, Ukraine clearly sees its goal and takes all possible actions, including the creation or change of reforms, in order to achieve the desired result - membership in the European Union.  
  
**2. Prospects for Ukraine's accession to the European Union**  
  
Ukraine's accession to the European Union is a topic that can be analyzed for a long time and each time coming to a different opinion. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, every government in Ukraine has been faced with a choice of where to go. In 2014, Ukrainians helped their entire country to decide on the choice of the path to the European Union, despite the fact that Ukraine in 2014 on the Euromaidan paid for it with the lives of people who wanted to express and show their desire to go towards the EU and NATO. Ukraine has made its choice. But Russia did not approve of the choice of the Ukrainian people, despite the fact that Ukraine is an independent sovereign state. It was beneficial for Russia that Ukraine would remain a "buffer state" between the Russian Federation and the European Union. After Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation, realized that Ukraine wanted to join the EU and NATO, he immediately decided to act after Yanukovych left power, when the country was in a difficult situation. Analyzing the situation, Putin made an important geopolitical decision for himself to attack Ukraine, creating the so-called DPR and LPR, and to annex Crimea in 2014.

President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin did not calm down and to this day prevents Ukrainians from joining the EU and NATO by unleashing a full-scale war on February 24, 2022, calling it a "special operation" in his media. By starting this war, the Russian government wanted Ukraine to give up its goals, desires and ambitions, but the Russian Federation could not break the Ukrainian military and people, as the Ukrainians are fighting for their land, freedom and democracy, once again proving to the European Union the decisiveness of their choice in 2014.

After the start of the war between Ukraine and Russia, the European Union almost immediately condemned the actions of the Russian government and immediately imposed a package of sanctions on the Russian Federation. Also, the EU government began active negotiations with the Ukrainian government on Ukraine's accession to the European Union, as well as financial assistance to the country and social assistance to refugees from Ukraine in European countries.

Now, Ukraine is going through a very difficult time, but Ukraine has its own partners and allies with whom the country has been cooperating for a long time. And during the war, allies such as the European Union and the United States of America help Ukraine by equipping the country and military fighters with American and European military equipment in order to defend their lands much more effectively. Also, help from the allies helps the Ukrainian government to keep the country's economy in good shape, despite the fact that the Russian invaders are shooting at infrastructure facilities, as well as objects of critical importance in the form of factories and workshops for the production of food, clothing, etc. for the population of the country.  
  
The difficulties that the Ukrainian government is facing at the moment does not change the mood of the Ukrainian government and it only means that the European path is the right path to strive for. At the moment, Ukraine has signed and applied for accession to the European Union, which means that soon the EU will consider it and the Ukrainian government will understand on what conditions Ukraine will be able to join the European Union, since the situation in the country is now uncertain due to war with Russia, so it is difficult to determine specific dates.

Providing support to Ukraine in such a difficult time, they introduced the Foreign Ministries of various European countries visited the capital of Ukraine - Kyiv, as well as cities such as Bucha, in which Russian soldiers killed civilians[[49]](#footnote-49). After seeing what Russian soldiers left behind, European officials stepped up sanctions against Russia. Also, the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen[[50]](#footnote-50), guarantees that Ukraine will receive the status of a candidate for accession to the European Union in June, which opens up huge opportunities for doing business and trade between Ukraine and the EU.  
 **2.1. Criteria for joining the European Union**The creation of the European Union took quite a long time and without clear criteria for countries to join this union, since in fact there was no union. Since 1951[[51]](#footnote-51), some countries, such as France, Italy, Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, have concluded an agreement between themselves which was given the name of the European Coal and Steel Community. It was the first association among European countries for joint cooperation. The purpose of this association was close economic cooperation between countries trading in coal and steel, as well as avoiding other military conflicts in Europe after the Second World War.

The second unification took place in 1967, when the European Economic Society, led by Great Britain, Norway, Denmark and Ireland, proposed to merge with the European Coal and Steel Community. Thus, the second unification of countries in the European Union took place. Until 1992, countries that were close to each other on the continent joined the European society, without any specific criteria. For example, Britain officially joined the EU on September 1, 1973, having previously held a referendum in its country among the population, and Norway, Denmark and Ireland in 1972. Greece, Portugal and Spain also applied for membership. Greece officially joined the EU on September 1, 1981, while Spain and Portugal joined only in 1986.  
  
Officially, the name "European Union" falls on 1992[[52]](#footnote-52), when all countries participating in this association voted for its name. In 1992, an agreement was concluded - the Maastricht Treaty, in which all the main provisions of the EU were indicated. The task of this agreement was to unite the countries, on which they chose 3 main points on which the European Union is based:

1. Common foreign policy

2. General domestic affairs policy

3. Economic and Monetary Union

After the adoption of the Maastricht Treaty, several more countries joined the European Union - Finland, Sweden and Austria from January 1, 1995. Some time later, the EU had a single European Central Bank.

The largest expansion of the European Union falls on May 1, 2004[[53]](#footnote-53), when 10 countries joined the EU: Cyprus, Malta, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia and Hungary. The purpose of this association was that most of these countries are small, and some of them were part of the former Soviet Union, so the EU authorities decided to annex 10 countries for cancer and stick together with them as European brothers.

Other European countries that were not part of the European Union, but wanted to get there, were refused. Since the EU government refused to expand, because they are not satisfied with their economic characteristics or problems with democracy. Ukraine also received a refusal, saying that Ukraine does not smell of democracy and that an appropriate government is needed to prove the opposite to us.  
  
Now a little about how the accession to the European Union is going on at this point in time. This is actually a long stage associated with a very large bureaucracy on the part of the EU, since all government bodies are involved in this process, including the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EU Cabinet of Ministers, etc. Of course, until each government body expresses its opinion, it will take a lot of time, but the result is worth it. There are 5 stages for accepting a candidate for membership in the European Union:

1) Consultative stage - communication with the candidate about the prospects.

2) Stage of compliance with EU criteria - assessment stage.

3) Stage of negotiations between the EU and the accession candidate.  
4) Stage of ratification of the agreement with the candidate for accession to the EU.  
5) Implementation stage - after ratification is a full member of the European Union, which accepts and implements all key elements of the EU.

Accession to the European Union, although a long process, is not as long as the requirements of the EU for a candidate to meet the entry criteria. Compliance with the criterion is subjectively the longest and most difficult process, because the candidate country needs to devote a lot of time not only to economic factors, but also to political ones. The conditions for enlargement of the European Union received their name "Copenhagen Criteria" in June 1993. Every European state can apply for membership in the European Union.  
  
According to the Copenhagen criteria, the expansion of the European Union is taking place. In simple terms, a candidate country must meet the basic criteria in order to become a full member of the European Union. There are 4 requirements for a candidate country according to the Copenhagen criteria:

1 - political criterion

2 - economic criterion

3 - similarity criterion

4 - the criterion of "independence"

Each of these criteria carries most of the sub-clauses that must be met by a candidate country that wants to become part of the European Brotherhood. For example, a political criterion means that the candidate's country has freedom, democracy, human rights, and so on. The economic criterion means that the candidate must have a market economy and compete equally with other members of the union. The criterion of similarity assumes under itself 31 points of criteria according to which the candidate has to correspond.[[54]](#footnote-54) The criterion of "independence" implies that the new member of the European Union can fully support its economy and will not undermine the economy of other EU members, the main thing is that the integration of the new member does not undermine the dynamics of the EU.  
  
The most important and difficult criteria for candidate countries to become part of the European Union is the third similarity criterion, because it contains 31 points according to which a candidate must meet. This criterion may take several years to implement in order to meet EU requirements. These criteria look like this:

1. Competition policy

2. Agriculture

3. Free movement of goods

4. Unhindered movement of capital

5. Extended transport policy

6. Movement of labor

7. Freedom to give services

8. Industrial policy

9. Social policy

10. Tax policy

11. Transport policy

12. Monetary Union

13. Statistics

14. Energy policy

15. Fishing

16. Ecology

17. Customs Union

18. Budget allocation

19. Justice

20. International relations

21. Consumer and health protection

22. Compliance with industrial product standards

23. Common foreign and security policy

24. Foreign trade

25. Protection of intellectual property rights

26. Study and science

27. Regional policy

28. Telecommunications

29. Cultural sector policy

30. Policy for small and medium enterprises

31. Scientific activity

Only after the candidate country fulfills each of the above criteria will it be able to join the European Union and have all the privileges of a European state. At the moment, countries that want to join the European Union - the Balkans, etc., should understand that this prospect is long-term for them, since it is not profitable for the European Union to expand its territories at the moment. The only exception that the EU can make is Ukraine, since it is now 2022 and Ukraine has got the opportunity to integrate into the European Union without meeting all the entry criteria, due to the occupation of Ukrainian territories by the armed forces of the Russian Federation.  
  
**2.2. Pros and cons for Ukraine and the European Union**  
The expansion of the European Union by adding one more "brother" in the form of Ukraine to its composition, it is necessary to think about the risks that may be faced. In 2022, the EU and Ukraine are not doing so well. The European Union is in a difficult financial situation, and Ukraine is at war with Russia. Of course, it is very difficult to talk about the expansion of the European Union in the form of adding Ukraine there, since the war could end in a bad way for Ukraine, but Europe and the whole world are helping Ukraine by supporting the state with weapons, the economy, providing life for refugees in the EU and much more.

The current president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, from the first day of his power, insisted that Ukraine become part of the European Union, and at the moment one can observe how his words are slowly coming true. The President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, arriving in Kyiv for a meeting with the President of Ukraine Zelensky, said that Ukraine will receive the status of a European Union candidate in June 2022, which really pleases not only Ukrainians, but also residents of European countries.

It is very important to understand what pluses and minuses Ukraine and the European Union will get when integrating there. Since there is a war going on in Ukraine now, it becomes very difficult to single out all the pros and cons of joining the EU, but there are key points that can affect the future of Ukraine and the European Union.

**Advantages for Ukraine**:

**Economic development:** Ukraine's integration into the EU opens up even greater opportunities for trade, which significantly increases the export of goods, thereby increasing the country's GDP. Imports will also increase significantly. All this will create a large number of jobs + more competition will be created between companies, which will mean lower prices for products and better quality of goods. Also, after the war, a huge number of investors will come to Ukraine, especially construction companies, to rebuild the infrastructure after the damage caused by Russian troops.  
 **Crossing borders and working abroad:** Ukraine has already been able to travel to the European Union during the reign of Petro Poroshenko, but visa-free travel is a temporary relief. Ukrainians within the European Union will be able to easily move from one place to another and do business or work in another country. In Ukraine, there is simply a huge number of specialists who work for little money, and when Ukraine is in the EU, the specialists that the EU countries need will be in demand and paid several times more than in their native country.

**Education:** Many Ukrainians would like to study abroad, but not everyone can afford it, because life in Europe is considered expensive for Ukrainians. But when Ukraine becomes a member of the European Union, many will be able to get a European education and a single European diploma, which is quoted all over the world. And also European students receive scholarships several times more than in Ukrainian universities.

**Territorial integrity:** Each country that is a full member of the European Union has guarantees of the territorial security of its country. It means that if they attack a country that is a member of the EU with a war, then all countries that are part of it will lead their troops to fight and defend the country that was attacked. This is beneficial for Ukraine, since now there is a war with Russia. Of course, Ukraine cannot now become a member of the EU, as there is a war going on and Ukraine does not control all of its territories. But after the war is over and Ukraine defeats Russia in this war, then it will be able to become a full member of the EU, which means the next time Russia attacks Ukraine, the entire European Union will be completely at war against Russia. Actually, therefore, Putin is doing everything possible so that Ukraine and the Balkan countries do not become part of the EU and NATO.  
  
**Culture improvement:** After Ukraine joins the European Union, Ukrainians will be able to show and share all their culture and traditions with all Europeans and show how beautiful the country is.

**Social benefit:** Thanks to the social institutions of the European Union, Ukrainians will be able to receive quite a lot of privileges regarding the expansion of social protection of the population, the formation of the middle class of the population. Also, thanks to this, Ukrainians will be able to travel to resorts in the EU at an affordable price, thereby raising their standard of living.

**Reducing corruption:** Thanks to the standards of life of the European Union and its institutional institutions, practically rid the Ukrainian government of corruption, despite the fact that the incumbent president and his government were not caught in bribes and other dirty tricks, which really increases the level of trust among European officials.

**Growth of tourists:** After the war, millions of European tourists will come to Ukraine to see this great people who fought with Russia for their Ukrainian land, rights, freedom and democracy. Also look at the remaining infrastructure after the war, which will greatly improve the economy of Ukraine. Now the whole world knows about Ukraine and the whole world helps the Ukrainian government to defeat Russia and bring peace and prosperity to the Ukrainian lands.

**Disadvantages for Ukraine**:

**Big market competition:** Competition is a good sign of free trade in the market, but it can play a bad joke on the Ukrainian economy. On the one hand, the Ukrainian economic market is very strong, and on the other hand, some other entrepreneurs can only lose from this. Also, Ukraine completely abandoned all products from bad Russia, including gas and other natural resources that Ukraine bought. This will affect the Ukrainian economy, even though the European Union is now also considering a complete withdrawal of natural resources from Russia.

**Emigration and loss of specialists:** Joining the European Union will give Ukrainians a big push to visit the EU and see how people live there. This may provoke emigration from Ukraine to the EU. Also, many specialists in narrow fields of activity are also likely to leave Ukraine and will work for the economy not of Ukraine, but of another European country. Many Ukrainians have not been abroad, so there is a greater desire to emigrate to the EU, which over time will undermine the country's economy.  
  
**Big taxes:** Within the European Union, there are large tax duties that apply to all areas of life, from the purchase of products to income tax. If in Ukraine the tax is 18-20%, then in European countries taxes can reach about 50%, which is very unusual for Ukrainian citizens.  
  
In general, Ukraine will receive basically only pluses from the European Union and practically nothing will change. Perhaps only a little the economy will suffer, but in general the European Union is so arranged that it will help support the economy and develop it in all directions. After the victory of Ukraine in the war with Russia, the Ukrainian government will fully prepare its economy for accession to the European Union, despite the fact that the Ukrainian economy is now in a difficult state, even despite the fact that other countries are helping. Recovery after the war will be very difficult in economic terms, as a lot of factories and enterprises were destroyed by the Russian Federation, and the infrastructure and airports of many cities in Ukraine were damaged.

If Ukraine receives mainly pluses from the European Union, then the European Union will also receive pluses, but this can also bring minuses. The main advantages relate to the geopolitical influence on the world stage, since the expansion entails certain risks. It should be understood that when Ukraine becomes part of the EU, the entire European Union will border on the territory of the Russian Federation. Most likely, if Ukraine manages to become a member of the European Union, then at the same time Ukraine will become a member of NATO, in fact, this is why Russia is now waging war against Ukraine.

Considering Ukraine as a member of the EU it is necessary to analyze the consequences for Ukraine itself, as well as the consequences for the European Union. Taking Ukraine as an example, this means that the European integration of Ukraine is a rather strong and striking step, since the Ukrainian economy will be modernized, new investments will also come that will develop the country's economy and, in general, Ukraine will stand on the same economic level with the wired EU countries. Thanks to the investments that will be made for Ukraine, the country will be able to create advanced technologies that will also develop the country's economy in the future. Thanks to the EU, Ukraine will be able to create new jobs for its population, and will also allow it to compete with the European market by creating high-quality and relatively cheap goods for consumption.  
  
The European Union will lose practically nothing from Ukraine's accession to the union, since at the time of joining the EU, Ukraine will meet all the criteria. Also, the EU will get a fairly good trading partner in the form of Ukraine. The whole world knows that Ukraine has a very fertile land and it is possible to grow a lot of food and at a cheap price, which is really profitable. In general, the entry of Ukraine is beneficial for the European Union, since it is a very important political and economic partner that plays no small geopolitical role in the modern world.  
  
**2.3. Ukraine - the status of a candidate for accession to the European Union**

Ukraine is a democratic country that complies with Article 2 of the EU Treaty[[55]](#footnote-55), a country that respects and follows European values, a state that respects freedom and human rights, and above all, it is a European state located in the very center of Europe. For many years Ukraine has been fighting and striving for freedom and democracy in order to take the European path and join the European Union. Despite external problems such as the Russian Federation and Putin's stinking government, Ukraine does not deviate from the chosen path and follows the EU. Despite the war, the Ukrainian government, led by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, signed an application for membership in the European Union on February 28, 2022[[56]](#footnote-56).

Thus, the Ukrainian government shows its great desire to become part of the EU. "The best decision, if you can praise the European Union at once, then take Ukraine to your warehouse. - a quote from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmitry Kuleba[[57]](#footnote-57). This is a statement, indeed, with which it is hard to disagree, but it is not as simple as it seems in words, since the European Union has certain enlargement rules that cannot be violated. It is simply impossible to make Ukraine a full member of the EU for at least several reasons:

1) War in Ukraine

2) Long acceptance process

The second reason is not as significant as the first, since the process of acceptance, etc. can be accelerated, but the first reason plays a more difficult and important role. It should be understood that according to EU rules, a country that wants to join the European Union should not have disputed territories. Of course, the whole world knows that Crimea, Donetsk, Kherson, Mariupol, Lugansk and other cities are the territories of Ukraine, but Ukraine does not control them now or only half controls them. But even knowing this, the EU cannot accept Ukraine. If the EU violates the admission rules and makes exceptions at this stage and accepts Ukraine immediately into the EU and makes it a full member, then this will mean that the entire European Union, including Ukraine, will be at war with Russia. It should be understood that almost all EU countries are members of NATO, and if countries that are members of NATO will fight, then this means that the United States will also fight. And most likely it will mean a third world war, since Russia, the USA, France, etc. have nuclear weapons that will simply destroy the whole world.

The European Union understands that it is impossible to accept Ukraine as a full member of the EU, so a series of meetings were held between the President of Ukraine and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, where the President of the European Commission announced that Ukraine would join the European Union and receive the status of a candidate for accession to the EU. From a meeting in Kyiv with President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky and Ursula von der Leyen, she stated that Ukraine would receive this status around June 2022.  
  
The status of a candidate for accession to the European Union will open up new prospects for the development of its economy for Ukraine. New investments simply modernize and improve the economy in a difficult time for Ukraine. Also, the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky filled out the questionnaire in 1 week, while other European countries that have been going through the same procedure for years. The President of Ukraine officially received the completion of the questionnaire from the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, at a meeting in Kyiv. This questionnaire is necessary in order for Ukraine to receive the promised status of a candidate for joining the European Union.

There are currently 27 members in the European Union (was 28, but the United Kingdom decided to leave the EU), and there are still countries on the European continent that can apply for membership in the European Union. At the moment there are several candidates for EU membership, namely Albania, Serbia, Turkey, North Macedonia, Montenegro and naturally Ukraine. To put it bluntly, Turkey could already become a member of the EU as it did several decades ago, in other respects it can do now, as it meets all the Copenhagen criteria, however, the Turkish government has decided for itself to maintain close economic relations with the European Union, but not to enter into its composition. Perhaps in the future Turkey will decide and become a member of the EU. Among all other candidates for joining the European Union, the most promising country is Ukraine, since at the moment Ukraine has fulfilled almost all the criteria, changed its legislation, and also created an excellent stable market economy, which meets the requirements of the EU. The only thing that Ukraine needs now is to defeat Russia in the war and follow it to the European Union.

It is worth understanding what the status of a candidate for entry into the European Union will give Ukraine, what are the pros and cons. In general, the status of a candidate opens up awesome opportunities for any state in terms of economic growth, investment in the state, improved technology, sponsorship of various projects, and other bonuses associated with social benefits for Ukrainians. According to the rules of the European Union, members of the EU itself and candidates for EU accession have essentially the same benefits and funding bonuses, which means that Ukraine will be able to receive 12 billion euros annually, since the European Union allocates a budget every year that equalizes and stabilizes the economy EU candidates. By the way, the annual budget of Ukraine was 40 billion euros and this is in fact 30% of the Ukrainian budget, which is really nice for the country's economy. In general, this money is given for leveling the economy or maintaining it, for the social needs of the population, as well as for defensive capacity, in the post-war period, the EU is likely to allocate more money for the defense of Ukraine, since the country was unlucky with its neighbors from the east.

Also, a nice bonus for candidates for joining the European Union are various grants for education, medicine, and culture. That is, in fact, the European Union creates the best conditions for its candidates, as it already does for members of the EU itself. The European Union helps and develops the economy and standard of living of the country that will be part of the EU in the future. Thus, Ukraine, due to the infusion of money and investments from the European Union, will equalize the financial situation of the country in order to correspond to other members of the European Union. The post-war period will be very difficult for Ukrainians, as it will be necessary to rebuild houses, infrastructure and, in general, money will be needed to restore the activities and life of the country, but Ukraine is lucky that it has European friends who will help restore the country's economy, pouring their money into the development of the state. Is it beneficial for Ukraine? Yes, Beneficial.  
  
Now, Ukraine is in an awkward position due to Putin's rule and the war in the Ukrainian territories, but the government of Ukraine just got the perfect opportunity to apply at this moment. This war played very well into the hands of the Ukrainians and the Ukrainian government, since finally people began to understand who is really our "brother" and who is simply killing civilians in a neighboring country, calling it a "special operation". No matter how it sounds, but Ukraine now has such circumstances that play into the hands of Ukraine itself, namely the possibility of rapid integration into the European Union, which really pleases every Ukrainian. Since the Euromaidan, Ukraine did not want to have anything to do with Russia and sought to take the path of the European Union, but Putin is like a thorn in the ass that does not allow Ukraine to develop and join the EU. This time, he will not be able to turn Ukraine off the European path.

Thus, it becomes clear that the expansion into the European Union and obtaining the status of a candidate for Ukraine is a very profitable deal both for Ukraine itself and for the European Union. Ukraine receives annual bonuses in the form of funding, grants, study grants + scholarships for Ukrainian students, open trade with European countries, and in return, the EU receives an expansion of its borders, an excellent economic partner and a new member of the European Union in the form of Ukraine. This expansion will be beneficial for Ukraine and the EU, which means a win-win situation.  
 **2.4. Time frame for Ukraine's accession to the European Union**The expansion of the borders of the European Union is a very long and difficult process that can drag on for many years. Every time the EU expanded its borders, there was a misunderstanding about what would happen next with the European Union and whether it would fall apart due to a different balance of countries in the union. Ukraine's accession to the European Union causes the same concerns now among the member countries of this association, and some countries are skeptical about EU enlargement. For example, the UK left the European Union because the British economy was the best in the EU and was dragging behind countries that were many times worse. And it is logical for Britain to leave the European Union, but at the moment the United Kingdom is trading closely with all the countries of the European Union, so the EU has not experienced any significant losses in the economy.

Ukraine's accession to the European Union is a very difficult and uncertain process, since Ukraine has received the opportunity for accelerated integration into the EU and great concessions are being made for this country, since there is a war going on in Ukraine now. It is impossible to analyze Ukraine's accession to the European Union if it is not understood how the war is going on now and what will happen next. It is enough to analyze the situation in Ukraine in order to begin to understand how the war is going and how it will end. Russia has sent all its forces to the east of Ukraine in order to create a land passage to the Crimean peninsula, for this it is necessary to capture several territories in which hostilities are now taking place: Donetsk, Lugansk, Kherson, Zaporozhye, Kharkiv and Nikolaev regions. Russia needs them so that Ukraine would no longer have access to the sea and begin to control and protect Crimea, which was illegally occupied by Russia in 2014. The Russian forces significantly outnumbered the Ukrainian ones at the beginning of the war, but after some time and help from European countries, Ukraine began to receive weapons, thanks to which it is possible to deter the Russian attack.  
  
During the war between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, a survey was conducted among Ukrainians by the Rating sociological group on March 1, 2022[[58]](#footnote-58). This survey showed that 86% of respondents support Ukraine's accession to the European Union, and 76% of respondents support NATO accession - these are the highest figures since the collapse of the Soviet Union. A month later, the same sociological group "Rating" conducted a second poll on March 30-31[[59]](#footnote-59), in which the indicators updated their record which reached 91% of those polled for Ukraine's accession to the EU. Support for joining NATO dropped slightly to 68% of respondents at the end of March. According to these indicators, it becomes clear that Ukrainians are determined to become part of the European Union and NATO, as the country respects the values ​​that the European Union follows.

Analyzing how the war is going, it becomes logical that Ukraine will be able to become part of the European Union as early as 2024-2030. Most likely, by the end of 2022, the war with Russia will be over in favor of Ukraine, since sanctions are now imposed on Russia and every day the Russian military only loses its equipment and crew. It is currently difficult for the Russian economy to do business, etc., since almost all the funds from the country's economy go to military spending. The most important and interesting thing is what territorial borders Ukraine will have at the end of the war. Most likely, Ukraine will regain all territories, including Donetsk and Luhansk, and regain control over all other cities that are now captured by Russian invaders. Taking Crimea back will be very problematic and unlikely, since this requires very large military forces, of which there will not be so many to capture Crimea back. Most likely, the integration of Ukraine into the European Union will be within the framework of the whole of Ukraine, except for Crimea.Thus, after the end of the war by the end of 2022, Ukraine will be able to continue its path to the European Union, but for this it is necessary to at least restore its economy. There may also be another scenario of events that is not beneficial for Ukraine - this is a long hybrid war, as it has been with the DPR and LPR since 2014. Ukraine needs to obtain a complete ceasefire throughout its territory in order to follow its path to the European Union. This is also understood by the underdeveloped Russian government, which will try to keep and prevent Ukraine from continuing its integration path into the EU.

At the moment, the situation is unclear, since the war has stopped in one place and battles are being fought for key points in important cities in the East of Ukraine. The goal of the Rashists is to seize the coast, put Donetsk and Lugansk under full control and cut off Ukraine from the sea. At the moment, the Ukrainian army is fighting with all its might, but it is necessary to have weapons, which are currently scarce. Ukraine asked for help from the European Union and other allies of the country for the supply of weapons, and they gave the go-ahead. When Ukraine has all the weapons supplied by the US and the EU, it will be much easier for Ukraine to defend its territories and this war will end faster with a victory for Ukraine.

The timing of the end of the war depends on many factors, primarily on Russia and Ukraine itself. But it also depends on other countries, including the US, the European Union and Turkey, as an intermediary between Ukraine and Russia. The only way to end the war is to sign a peace treaty. At the moment, there are no negotiations, as Putin wants to seize more Ukrainian territories in order to put his conditions before the Ukrainian government. Of course, Ukraine will not make concessions to the crazy president of the Russian Federation and will sign a peace treaty only on favorable terms for Ukraine. Do not forget that now arms supplies from "brotherly" EU countries are going to Ukraine that help Ukraine, and this can play well into Ukraine's favor and sign an agreement on favorable terms for Ukraine. But for this it needs to wait for supplies and then go on a counteroffensive, so that Ukraine would regain its territories and be able to compete with the Russian Federation in weapons not only in quantity, but also in quality. It was then that the Ukrainian government will be able to sign a peace treaty beneficial to Ukraine. The ideal scenario is to end this war by the end of 2022, but looking to the future is difficult and there can be many different scenarios.  
  
If the war is over by the end of 2022, then there is an ideal alignment for Ukraine and for the Ukrainian government as a whole. The reason for this will be that the recovery of the economy will not take as much time as if the war continued in the flesh until 2024-2025. At the moment, Ukraine has lost a lot of infrastructure in large cities such as Kharkiv, Nikolaev, Kyiv, Mariupol and many others. It will not take much time and effort to restore the infrastructure, since immediately after the end of the war, many European investors will enter the Ukrainian market and pour their money into the reconstruction of the country[[60]](#footnote-60). The economy has also suffered as so many people have moved abroad, entrepreneurs have closed their businesses, and large companies and factories have simply ceased operations as Russian troops fire on factories and critical sites. Factories that survive after the war will be able to function and return to the working environment, then entrepreneurs will not be able to regain their business so quickly, since at first it will be in little demand, unless of course this is a construction business.

Any war ends with peace and the signing of a peace treaty between the countries that fought. Of course, the Ukrainians will defeat Russia, as we are fighting for our territory and the freedom of the entire population. Having started this war, Russia made it clear to the Ukrainians that Russia is the enemy of the Ukrainian people and should not have anything to do with them. After the war, the Ukrainian government should make a complete barricade of the border with the Russian Federation, like North and South Korea. The only question that arises is what territories Ukraine will have after the war. Russia plans to retain control of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions up to their administrative territories. But if the Ukrainian military can ensure that everything remains before the start of the war, this will be a defeat for Russia with shame.

Already now it is necessary to consider a plan for the reconstruction of Ukraine after the war with Russia. Firstly, it is necessary to avoid the suffering and pain of many people after the war. Secondly, it needs to understand what Ukraine can get and what to take away at the end of the war. And thirdly, this plan is needed so as not to repeat the mistakes of history, namely, the Marshall Plan[[61]](#footnote-61), which came into force only in 1948, 3 years after the end of World War II, which was too late. The restoration of Ukrainian economy will be long and difficult, despite the fact that now the whole world is trying to help and is developing various plans to help and support the country after the war. The preparation of a plan for the restoration of Ukraine should be carried out by the allies of Ukraine, since the government of the country now simply does not have the time and concentration to come up with a plan. Now all the efforts of the Ukrainian government are aimed at providing military support for their troops. That is why other countries should deal with the plan in order to use it immediately after the war and bring the country into order as soon as possible.

This plan is also necessary for Ukraine to join the European Union, since the sooner Ukraine can get back on its feet after the war, the sooner it will join the European Union. Ukraine will integrate into the European Union under the accelerated accession program, since Ukraine, like the government of Ukraine, has long proved that it appreciates all the values ​​and qualities of the European Union and supports democracy in all directions. Thus, after the war, Ukraine is waiting for entry into the European Union, but no one can say how long it will take to become a member of the EU. From the perspective of Ukraine, it would like to join as soon as possible, preferably before the year 2024, so that Russia would not be tempted to attack Ukraine again. But if look from the side of the European Union, then the full integration of Ukraine will take the next 5-10 years.  
  
It would seem unusual, but the European Union is already helping Ukraine in all areas, despite the fact that there was never such communication before the war. From the beginning of the war, Europeans began to treat Ukrainians differently and began to understand what a difficult story the Ukrainian people are going through. The war in Ukraine has pushed Europe to talk more and more about Ukraine, to help it, and in the near future is pushing to see Ukraine as part of the European Union. Now, there is a war in Ukraine and a difficult time in the country - the state is fighting for survival, for its freedom, for democracy and for all its people. The European Union sees this and tries to help as best it can by creating various programs for Ukraine to accelerate integration into the EU. The sanctions that the world imposes on Russia become a very big support for Ukraine, but even more sanctions are needed, namely sanctions on natural and energy resources that are supplied from Russia to the EU. When the whole world refuses to trade with Russia, then the Russian economy will simply collapse, since it is based only on energy. The sooner the EU, the US and the rest of the world put Russian sanctions on the energy sector, the sooner Ukraine will defeat Russia in the war.  
  
Ukraine has every chance and prospect to join the European Union in the next 5-10 years and prove to the whole world that Ukraine is a democratic country that appreciates and respects the values ​​of the European Union, such as human rights and democracy. Now, it all depends on how much the world will help Ukraine fight the Russian Federation for its freedom and democracy. The faster and stronger the whole world will help Ukraine, the sooner the war with Russia will end, the sooner Ukraine will join the European Union. Ukraine will be in the European Union.  
  
**Conclusion**

Despite its long and very difficult history, Ukraine is struggling with all the internal and external difficulties that arise on its way to the European Union. At the moment, Ukraine is going through a very difficult moment and the European Union, despite its own problems, is helping Ukraine in the war with the Russian Federation by supporting it in the financial, military and social spheres of life. Summing up the conclusion from this thesis, it becomes clear that Ukraine is a free democratic state that respects and follows human rights, and other criteria that the European Union follows. After weighing the pros and cons in the thesis, it is clear that the cons are not so significant against the background of the pros that Ukraine and the European Union will receive from integration.  
  
At the moment, Ukraine is fighting for its country, for its land, for its rights and freedom, as well as for the democratic values that the state has been building since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The arrival of Russian military soldiers on Ukrainian soil, who only want to destroy and kill, only strengthened the faith of Ukrainians and the correctness of their choice, which was secured by the 5th President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, by amending the Constitution of Ukraine about the European integration path to the EU and NATO.  
  
Based on its history, Ukraine has been striving for many years and continues to strive to become a member of the European Union, despite the fact that external irritants constantly interfere with it. However, Ukraine was able to prove to the EU that the country is ready to become part of the European Union and proves it to this day, defending the values ​​of a democratic state. The European Union's assistance to Ukraine also shows that the EU really needs Ukraine, not only as a trading partner, but as a country that respects the values ​​of the European Union, which were enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty establishing the EU.

The war in Ukraine made it clear to the current government who is a real "friend" for the country and who is a real "enemy". Consequently, the Ukrainian government is already drawing conclusions and understanding with whom it wants to cooperate and with whom it does not. The conclusions of the current state of Ukraine were made in the direction of the path to the European Union, since it is the European countries that are now helping Ukraine financially in terms of providing funds to the country, as well as to refugees who came from Ukraine to the European Union.

The prospects for Ukraine's entry into the European Union are quite obvious and clear. Everything depends only on the time when Ukraine can become a full member of the EU. At the moment, Ukraine receives the status of a candidate of the European Union, which already opens up huge opportunities for the Ukrainian economy. Ukraine will be able to become a full member of the European Union only after the war ends in the country and European investors and entrepreneurs will help restore the country's economy in order to join the union.  
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