

POTENTIAL RISKS AND SECURITY THREATS TO GEORGIA ARISING FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates potential military and security threats to Georgia originating from the Russian Federation, with a focus on the Adjara region, in the context of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The study aims to identify the channels through which these threats may materialize and to evaluate their implications for national and regional security.

A mixed-methods approach was employed, including document and content analysis, literature review, and examination of reports from research institutions and government bodies. Primary data were collected through structured surveys and social polling, followed by qualitative analysis of the findings.

Fieldwork provided empirical insights into the perceived threats facing Georgia, highlighting the multidimensional nature of risks, which encompass conventional military threats, hybrid warfare tactics, and broader strategic challenges. The results contribute to a deeper understanding of Georgia's security environment and inform policy considerations for mitigating potential risks from the Russian Federation.

Keywords: Russia-originated threats; national security; military risks; hybrid warfare; regional security; strategic challenges;

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, developments at the global and regional levels have fundamentally altered Georgia's national security environment.

In the early 20th century, Georgia already fell victim to Russian aggression and existed under Soviet occupation for seventy years. Having regained independence in 1991, the country again faced political and economic destabilisation provoked by the Russian Federation (National Security Concept of Georgia, 2013).

In the early 1990s, aggressive separatist movements instigated by Russia escalated into armed confrontation. These conflicts resulted in the ethnic cleansing of Georgians — a fact recognised by the United Nations, the OSCE, and the European Parliament (United Nations Economic and Social Council, 1995).

With the aim of violating Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Russian Federation launched another military aggression in August 2008. Russia's unlawful actions were confirmed by the report of the European Union's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission. The occupation of Georgian territories by the Russian Federation