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Ukraine's Journey to Recovery, Reform and Post-War Reconstruction: A Blueprint for Security, Resilience and Development.

By Silviu Nate (Edt.), Springer 2025

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Abstract. This collective work offers a comprehensive investigation into the multifaceted implications of the Russo-Ukrainian War for Ukraine's post-war rebuilding, linking it directly to European integration and broader economic interconnection. The volume, edited by Silviu Nate, emphasizes that Ukraine's peacebuilding potential is dependent on strategic planning, rapid reforms, and the adoption of sustainable development principles, with particular attention paid to harmonizing Ukrainian legislation with EU standards. The book addresses critical areas including the geoeconomic challenges of rebuilding, the complex legal landscape of compensation mechanisms for war damages, and the role of international norms in a global anarchic system. Key themes encompass the intersection of security logic with reconstruction, the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the transformation of public policy to resist Russian cultural expansion, and the need for a zero carbon footprint in rebuilding. Ultimately, the manuscript serves as a crucial resource for policymakers and international institutions by providing actionable policies for Ukraine's sustainable rebuilding and resilience.

Keywords. Post-War Reconstruction; Ukraine-EU Integration; Security and Resilience; Sustainable Development Goals; War Compensation Mechanisms; International Law.

JEL. F52; H84; K40; O19; Q01.

Book Review

Ukraine's *Journey to Recovery, Reform and Post-War Reconstruction: A Blueprint for Security, Resilience and Development*, edited by Silviu Nate, is a comprehensive and timely volume that provides a multidisciplinary, forward-looking analysis of Ukraine's future amidst and following the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War. Published within the *Contributions to Security and Defence Studies* series, the book transcends traditional geopolitical analysis by treating post-war reconstruction not merely as a matter of financial aid, but as a complex, interlocking project encompassing security, legal reform, economic development, and environmental sustainability. The central objective is to offer a "blueprint" for stakeholders—ranging from policymakers and international institutions to business leaders and security specialists—to navigate the intricacies of rebuilding a conflict-afflicted state and facilitating its deep integration into the Euro-Atlantic community.

The collective work is explicitly positioned to address the multifaceted implications and critical encounters of the war, confronting the imprint of belligerent actions with the complex legal landscape surrounding compensation. A strong current throughout the volume is the urgency of

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harmonizing Ukrainian legislation with EU standards, positioning the reconstruction effort as an integral part of the country's bid for EU accession.

Part I: Geopolitical Dynamics and Security Frameworks

The initial chapters situate Ukraine's reconstruction within the broader geopolitical context. Andriy Stavytsky's contribution analyzes the "Global Power Shifting Tendencies" influenced by the conflict's outcome, tracing the conflict's origins to Russia's historical expansionist inclination and its reliance on resource exports, which are challenged by the modern world's shift toward technological development. Silviu Nate further examines the "Regional and Euro-Atlantic Security Logic in Ukraine's Reconstruction," arguing that victory, a just peace agreement, and security guarantees are crucial prerequisites for successful rebuilding.

The volume challenges the alleged virtues of a "rules-based order," suggesting that international norms are often substituted for hegemonic ambitions, forcing weakened states into a cynical game of survival. The book emphasizes that success in geopolitical competition requires the ability to combine creative tools, noting the essential role of strategic communication in shaping public awareness and national resilience. Mykola Nazarov's chapter specifically investigates National Resilience and Post-war Reconstruction, emphasizing that social stability—the ability of communities to return to a state of equilibrium—is the foundation for recovery. This section concludes with a look at the far-reaching global impact of Ukraine's reconstruction, which is seen as an opportunity to reshape the geopolitical and economic landscape of Eurasia and potentially rewire pathways of world commerce.

Part II: Economic, Development, and Digitalization Strategies

A major segment of the book is dedicated to the economic dimensions of recovery and reform. Antonia Colibășanu provides a "First Look at the Geoeconomic Challenges of Rebuilding Ukraine," noting that Western support for Ukraine's resilience is an integral first phase of the reconstruction project. The book champions the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a roadmap for renovation, outlining steps for sustainable development until 2030, which includes prioritizing clean and resource-efficient practices. The post-war project is explicitly envisioned from a European perspective, where sustainability is paramount.

Digitalization emerges as a critical component, explored in chapters on "The Digital Battlefield" and "A Critical Infrastructure Protection Perspective". The authors propose recommendations to enhance Ukraine's resilience against Russian hybrid attacks, including shoring up critical infrastructure protection. This strategic focus on technology aligns with the goal of creating "growth points" based on communities to stimulate the entire state to recovery. Furthermore, the book includes a chapter on the "Transformation of Public Policy in Ukrainian Book Publishing," which is framed as a critical basis for resisting Russian cultural expansion during and after the war.

Part III: Legal, Environmental, and Sectoral Reforms

The volume dedicates substantial space to the necessary legal and environmental frameworks for post-war Ukraine. Several chapters dissect the complex issue of war compensation, including:

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- "Common Issues of Compensation Mechanisms and the National and International Regulatory Sources".
- "The Tort of Armed Aggression Principles Applied by the Russian Federation Against Ukraine".
- "Procedural Issues in Compensation Cases: Insights from Court Practice in Ukraine".
- The use of European Court of Human Rights Judgements as an instrument for recovery and EU accession.
- The legal complexities of War-Related Moral Damage under Ukrainian and international practice.

On the environmental front, the book advocates for rebuilding Ukraine on the principle of a Zero Carbon Footprint, linking environmental and energy security. The research highlights Ukraine's potential role in enabling the EU's resilient green energy transition and sustainability. This includes efforts to address environmental information security and the consequences of manipulation in this domain.

The final chapters delve into institutional and human capital reform, including the imperative of Reforming Intelligence in Ukraine—examining its past, present, and future—to align with the principles of democratic governance. It also addresses the "Formation of Competencies for Managers of Sustainable Development in Ukraine", emphasizing the need for leadership development at the community level to drive the sustainable functioning of society.

Overall Assessment and Conclusion

Ukraine's Journey to Recovery, Reform and Post-War Reconstruction is an indispensable academic and practical resource. Edited by Silviu Nate, it successfully integrates perspectives across politics, military, economics, law, and environmental science to produce a coherent and action-oriented "blueprint". Its major contribution is its insistence that Ukraine's recovery must be strategic and holistic, directly addressing the root causes of vulnerability while simultaneously focusing on deep integration with the West through EU accession. The focus on community-level resilience and the practical legal and economic challenges of compensation make it highly valuable for stakeholders. The book is a testament to the idea that the ongoing conflict, while devastating, presents a crucial opportunity for Ukraine to remodel its system towards greater security, resilience, and sustainable development.



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