

## BOOK REVIEW



Тымчук, Д., Карин, Ю., Машовец, К., Гусаров, В. **Вторжение в Украину: Хроника российской агрессии Брайт Стар Пабблишинг**, Киев 2016, 240 pp, ISBN 978-966-2665-85-7

The current monograph, written in the Russian language by four Ukrainian officers, *Вторжение в Украину: Хроника российской агрессии (Invasion in Ukraine: Chronicles of Russia's Aggression)* from the “non-governmental” organization *Center for Military and Political Studies*, which is located in Kyiv (“Information Resistance”)<sup>1</sup>, belongs to the field of Russian military and information operations studies.

Obviously, the quantity of articles or other studies that in some way are dedicated to or connected with questions about the Russian hybrid war, the Russian aggression in Ukraine and the Russian information war are quite remarkable<sup>2</sup>. It is essential, however, to note that in those papers and books a profound analysis, which is based not only on open sources, but on information that was collected by a group of people from the non-governmental organization “Information Resistance” since Russia occupied Crimea in February–March 2014, is not given

This book is written by Ukrainian military and information operation experts, and it is a very important and profound analysis of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, e.g. the military, but also the psychological and information operations. Ideas presented in this book are fresh, interesting and in general the book gives a very good overview of the conflict in the Donbass. It is well structured and written in good and very clear way.

---

<sup>1</sup> Information Resistance, <<http://sprotyv.info/en/about-us>> (last access 30 August 2016).

<sup>2</sup> See e.g., **Sazonov, V.; Müür, K.; Mölder, H.** (eds.) 2016. Russian Information Warfare against the Ukrainian State and Defence Forces: April–December 2014. Combined Analysis. NATO Strategic Communication Centre of Excellence, Riga; **Müür, K.; Mölder, H.; Sazonov, V.; Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt, P.** 2016. Russian Information Operations against the Ukrainian State and Defence Forces: April–December 2014 in Online News. – Journal of Baltic Security, Vol. 2, Issue 1, pp. 28–71; **Pabriks, A; Kudors, A.** (eds.) 2015. The War in Ukraine: Lessons for Europe. The Centre for East European Policy Studies. Rīga: University of Latvia Press; **Howard, C.; Puhkov, R.** (eds.) 2014. Brothers Armed. Military Aspects of the Crisis in Ukraine. Minneapolis: East View Press; **Darczewska, J.** 2014. The Anatomy of Russian Information Warfare: the Crimean operation, a case study. – Point of View, No. 42 (May 2014), Warsaw: Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich im. Marka Karpia.

The book *Invasion in Ukraine: Chronicles of Russia's Aggression* consists of the following four chapters: Chapter 1: *Stages of Russian aggression and tactics of actions* (Этапы российской агрессии и тактика действий), Chapter 2: *Russo-terroristic armed forces in the Donbass: structure, strength, weaponry* (Российско-террористические войска на Донбассе: структура, численность, вооружение), Chapter 3: *Weapon of Russian aggression* (Оружие российской агрессии), Chapter 4: *Special features of Russia's information war* (Особенности информационной войны России).

It could be mentioned here that the first three chapters (pp. 6–208) form one big section or unity – these chapters are dealing with Russian aggression, weaponry, tactics, different periods of aggression, weapons, the equipment of Russian and pro-Russian forces, the development of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine and other question related to the military conflict in the Donbass.

The last chapter of book, *Special features of Russia's information war* (pp. 209–240), gives profound overview of the Russian information war in Ukraine.

Unfortunately, this book has no references or footnotes, which is the biggest flaw. Nevertheless, it should be mentioned here that it is written in quite a scientific, analytical way and based on interesting sources. It should also be mentioned that this study has no general conclusion, no bibliography, and no indices. A general conclusion would help the reader to get a short overview of the book's content. Indices would allow to find important information, e.g. names, terms, etc. more easily.

To sum up, we are dealing with a necessary and very useful new study dedicated to the Russian hybrid aggression in Ukraine. As a final comment, I would add that I believe LTCol. ret. Dmitry Tymchuk, LTCol ret. Yuriy Karin, Col. Konstantin Mashovets and Col. ret. Vyacheslav Gusarov from the NGO *Information Resistance* have been very successful in analyzing the Russian hybrid war and information operations against Ukraine.

**VLADIMIR SAZONOV**, Lecturer in Eastern European and Russian Studies at the Baltic Defence College and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Tartu