ПОТОЧНИЙ КОНТРОЛЬ
з дисципліни
«Іноземна мова спеціальності»

для галузі знань: 29   «Міжнародні відносини»

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освітньо-професійна програми: «Міжнародна інформація»

 Курс – 4   Семестр – 7, 8

Завдання поточного контролю

Assignment 1

Raise the issue.

1 Is global warming real? Why does Davos end with disagreement on climate change?
2 How did South Africa tackle the problem of plastic bags? What was the argument? How did manufacturers and shoppers react?
3 Is it time to halt the rise of plastic packaging? Or are we wrong and it is time to stop worrying about plastic packaging?

Assignment 2

Translate from English into Ukrainian.

Why Is Hungary Blocking Ukraine's Western Integration?

For the first time since the Maidan revolution, Ukraine's road to the transatlantic community is being actively blocked not only by Russia but by an EU and NATO member state as well: Hungary. While Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has been a vocal critic of sanctions and is one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's strongest allies within the EU, Hungary has generally followed the NATO and EU mainstream in supporting Ukraine politically. That has changed, however, since the adoption of a controversial education act in Ukraine this autumn, which Orbán's government objects to—but his argument seems more of a pretext to cover up the real cause.

Prior to the approval of the new law, Hungary had been actively aiding Ukraine. Hungary was among the first EU member states to ratify the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. Hungary's policy toward Ukraine has largely been in line with that of its Western allies, including voting to support the sanctions and resolutions against Russia. Hungary also supported Ukraine's visa-free travel to the EU—partially for selfish purposes, of course, given that more than 150,000 ethnic Hungarians live in Ukraine.

Early on, however, there were some controversial moves. In May 2014, right after the annexation of Crimea, Orbán demanded autonomy for Hungarians in Transcarpathia (a territory of Ukraine that belonged to the Austro-Hungarian monarchy until the end of the first World War). This move, unsurprisingly, drew heavy criticism from Ukraine and Poland. In September 2014, just three days after Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller visited Orbán, the Hungarian government temporarily suspended the "reverse flow" gas transfers to Ukraine. And Orbán's state-owned media often took a strong pro-Russian angle when talking about the Maidan and the crisis in Ukraine.

Despite these factors, until fall 2017 Hungary was with the EU mainstream in its relations with Ukraine. But that before the Verkhovna Rada's vote on the legislative package on education, which curbs the rights of ethnic minorities to education in their mother tongue. The law states that Ukrainian will be the main language in schools, placing restrictions on teaching in minority languages beyond the primary school level.

After the legislation was passed, Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó declared that Hungary would "block" every issue important to Ukraine in international organizations, including Ukraine's European and NATO integration, which would be a very challenging process

even without these obstacles. Hungary also pledged to initiate the withdrawal of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. Following up on these promises, the Hungarian ambassador to NATO indicated that the country cannot approve a NATO-Ukraine meeting at the ministerial level, and it was downplayed to a lower level meeting.

There is no question that the education act is controversial, and some other EU member states also criticized it—with some good reason. Hungary, Greece, Romania, and Bulgaria complained together at the OSCE, as they saw this law as discriminatory. Poland raised criticism as well. But no other country reacted as aggressively as Hungary.

Hungary's heated reaction was condemned by Germany's ambassador to Ukraine, although he also agreed that the language provision in the text was a "mistake." Thirty-seven Lithuanian members of parliament called the Hungarian government's behavior "unacceptable." Eleven NATO member countries (the United States was not among them) complained about Hungary's obsession with Ukraine.

Unsurprisingly, the Kremlin has used the Hungarian position against Ukraine. Putin's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov referred to the concerns raised by the Orbán government as proof that the law is "ill-conceived." The Hungarian "veto" in NATO was praised by Russian propaganda channels Sputnik International and RT.

Hungary's other moves are also suspiciously in line with Russian goals. In Vienna, with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the same table, Szijjártó asked for the deployment of OSCE observers to Transcarpathia, to monitor atrocities against ethnic Hungarians by Ukrainian nationalists there. It was part of a political game aimed at relativizing Russia's dirty game in the Donbas by playing the "nationalist Ukraine" card.

But why did Hungary react this way? For both pragmatic and ideological reasons. Betting on doomsday scenarios for Western liberal democracies, Orbán regards Putin as an important ally and illiberal role model. And there are some important energy deals, such as the MET Group project, which are profitable for pro-governmental financial interests. Russia's Rosatom will build a nuclear power plant in Hungary from a Russian credit line, and the Russian state-owned company is expected to subcontract lucrative deals to economic circles behind the ruling Fidesz party. In the end, the Hungarian government became a tool of Russian foreign policy without recognizing it.

Interestingly, Orbán has stated that there should be "something" between Hungary and Russia— "we may even call it Ukraine." But as he and his advisors must know, a pro-Russian, formally neutral puppet country would fall short of being a cornerstone of Hungarian national security. With Ukraine's pro-Western foreign policy orientation, Hungary's position and security can improve considerably. Thus, it is Hungary's main security interest to cement this change by aiding the former's integration process.

By immediately vowing to block Ukraine's European integration process, Hungary not only shot itself in the foot, but also gave the Kremlin multiple opportunities to achieve its own objectives. Pro-Russian propaganda in Ukraine can claim that membership in the EU and in NATO is unattainable for the country, and the pro-Western Poroshenko administration could be discredited for failing to meet its foreign policy goals.

The Hungarian government must reconsider its approach. Some immediate diplomatic responses were, of course, neccessary. But Ukraine will not join the EU and NATO in the near future, which means that Budapest will have ample time to monitor the implementation of the new Ukrainian education law and negotiate with the incumbent Ukrainian administration before considering hindering Ukraine's future integration prospects. The Orbán regime should realize that its own policy goals are at stake in Ukraine and pursue its long-term interests over

short-term benefits: as one of the states that would profit the most from Ukraine's integration, Hungary should help its eastern neighbor economically and politically.

The international community, and especially Poland and Bulgaria, should try to convince the Hungarian government to tone down its criticism; policymakers should also conduct diplomacy behind the scenes about their opposition to the education law. The United Kingdom and the United States should communicate clearly with Hungary as well, increasing pressure on the country to be more diplomatic toward Ukraine and more loyal to its Western alliances in this conflict.

The Hungarian ultimatum is contrary to the foreign policy interests of the transatlantic community. It is against the interests of Ukraine. And it is against the interests of Hungary itself. It seems to help only one country's geopolitical efforts: Putin's Russia.

Assignment 3

Translate from English into Ukrainian

Syria's bloody civil war enters its 10th year with the government of President Bashar al-Assad appearing to be consolidating his hold on power, backed by crucial military and political support from Russia and Iran.

The conflict began when Syrians took to the streets on March 15, 2011, to protest against Assad's government, which then launched a brutal crackdown that has led to a conflict that has killed more than 370,000 people and displaced millions.

Geir Pedersen, the UN special envoy for Syria, said on the eve of the anniversary: "The suffering of the Syrian people during this tragic and terrible decade still defies comprehension and belief."

U.N. chief Antonio Guterres wrote on Twitter this week that "a decade of fighting has brought nothing but ruin and misery."

The conflict at times has resembled a proxy war among world powers, with Moscow and Tehran backing Assad while the United States and Turkey have supported differing rebel groups.

The Islamic State (IS) militant group also entered the fray and were opposed by all other sides. They have been driven from most of their strongholds, although some extremists continue to hold out in Idlib Province in the northwest of the country.

"Nine years of revolution illustrates the extent of the suffering we have known, between exile, bombings, and deaths," Hala Ibrahim, a rights activist who lives in Idlib Province, told AFP news agency.

"I left my university, my house, which was bombed. We've lost everything," the woman in her 30s said.

Syrian forces, backed by Russian warplanes, have heavily bombarded in the province, targeting the remaining rebels, but they have also killed an estimated 500 civilians -- along with dozens of Turkish forces, who are attempting to create a buffer zone in the border region, raising the possibility of an armed conflict between Damascus and Ankara.

The United Nations says that a million people have been forced to flee, creating a humanitarian disaster and threatening to ignite a new migrant crisis in Europe.

A cease-fire came into effect this month in the northwest, with Turkish and Russian forces set to carry out joint patrols in Idlib, but violations of the truce are often reported.

Russian state-run TASS news agency reported that the first joint Russian-Turkish patrol of the M-4 Highway connecting Al-Hasakah and Aleppo in northern Syria will take place on March 15. The UN has brokered talks among warring parties, while Russia, Turkey, and Iran have held simultaneous negotiations -- often in Kazakhstan -- but a wide-ranging solution remains difficult to find.

The so-called "Astana format" talks have been held in the Kazakh capital since 2015. A new round was scheduled for March, but Kazakh Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tileuberdi said it is unlikely they will take place as planned.

Assignment 4

Translate from English into Ukrainian

Army of Volunteers Mobilizes to Battle Coronavirus

More than half a million people in Britain signed up to help the National Health Service cope with the coronavirus epidemic in just 24 hours, following a government call for volunteers Wednesday, as fears grow that the country's outbreak is following a similar trajectory as that of Italy and Spain, where thousands of people have died.

Across the world, people are stepping forward to help the most vulnerable, offering hope that societies can overcome the huge disruption caused by the virus.

Britain's prime minister praised the huge response to the government's call for volunteers. The British government has been criticized for delaying a nationwide lockdown until this week. Only time will tell if it was the correct approach, said Kalipso Chalkidou, professor of global health at Imperial College London. Until that answer is forthcoming, volunteers across the world are stepping forward to help battle the coronavirus. In Georgia's capital, Tblisi, charities have switched from operating soup kitchens to delivering hot meals to older and vulnerable people stuck at home. In Nairobi, volunteers are checking in on elderly residents and spreading information on preventing transmission. In Poland, huge numbers of people have signed up on social media to help with anything from grocery shopping to dog walking. In Italy, which has suffered the highest number of deaths globally, local churches are helping to feed the elderly, sick and most at risk.

COVID-19 has forced one-quarter of the world's population into lockdown. It also has prompted millions of people to volunteer to help their communities and their respective countries — a heartening demonstration of strength in the face of adversity.

Couples in Quarantine: Stress, Anxiety, Fear of the Unknown

With all the havoc it's wreaking across the globe, the coronavirus outbreak is naturally having an impact on couples and their relationships. Family therapists are conducting sessions remotely as patients are confined to their homes.

They say even the most subtle differences in temperament can be aggravated because of the outbreak's stress. It's a time when every domestic decision can seem to have impossibly high stakes, from going to the grocery store to deciding who gets quarantined together.

The 60-something husband works in the food industry and still insists upon leaving every day for work, saying he needs to keep his business afloat. His frightened wife desperately wants him to stay home. For another couple, in the midst of a separation, the bitterly fought issue is the kids and whether they can safely see friends. One parent is allowing it in an effort to be the "fun parent"; the other bitterly opposes it.   And for still another couple, it's simply about grocery shopping. She fills the cart, and he accuses her of hoarding unnecessarily. She argues that they need to be prepared. Scenarios like these are playing out in urban high-rises, suburban homes and tiny rural communities across America as couples try to navigate what has abruptly become the "new normal" during the coronavirus outbreak. Described by therapists, lawyers or the couples themselves, they reveal how even the most subtle differences in temperament or coping strategy can be painfully exacerbated under the incredible stress and anxiety that the outbreak is causing. It's a time when every domestic decision can seem to have impossibly high stakes, says Catherine Lewis, therapist and faculty member at Ackerman Institute for the Family in New York, from the seemingly small — whether to go grocery shopping — to the fraught calculus of which family members should isolate together. "This pandemic is making us all think about our relationships, because you really cannot do one thing without it impacting somebody else,," says Lewis, who's been conducting therapy sessions remotely. "It's such a powerful example of how interconnected we all are." Added to that, Lewis notes, is the utter helplessness of having no idea how long the situation will last.

Assignment 5

Raise the issues.

1 Types of corruption. How does corruption affect global economy? What are the consequences?

2 Why is eliminating corruption crucial?

3 How can governments progress in fighting corruption? What are the ways to stop corruption?

4 Which corruption scandals were Europeans institutions involved in? How was the corruption scheme disclosed? What was the scheme? What is EU doing?

Assignment 6

Raise the issues.

1 Should education be for all? Is it worth getting a degree? Should graduates pay for it or should responsibility fall to the taxpayer?

2 Should we reserve universities for the elite? Do you really know what you will be doing when graduating? Why? Why not?

3 Why do you think the problem of super-commuting is getting worse in the US? Why do people have to commute so far? Why do you think some people choose to super-commute and satisfied? What attracts them?

Assignment 7

Raise the issues.

1 Should Iran get the bomb? Why? Why not? How could crisis over Iran's nuclear program end?

2 What is a breakout capability? Why do we have to be concerned about that?

3 Do you think punishing a state through economic sanctions prevent from developing nuclear program?

4 Do you think the USA and Israel have the right to bomb Iran if it keeps developing its nuclear program?

Assignment 8

Raise the issues.

1 What are types of man-made disasters? What do you think is the worst man-made disaster? Why? Describe it.

2 What are types of natural disasters? What do you think is the worst natural disaster? Why? Describe it.

3 Why is Hungary blocking Ukraine's western integration? What are the reasons?