
THE SWEDISH MODEL OF NEUTRALITY POLICY: AN EXPERIENCE FOR UKRAINE

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Considering the Swedish model of a “neutral” state as an experience for Ukraine, it should be noted that Sweden belongs to the small group of countries that build their foreign policy on the values of human rights, democracy and international cooperation. International law and democratic values are key principles that determine Sweden’s interests in relations with other countries.

Sweden opposes isolationism and selfishness in international politics.

According to the Swedish Foreign Ministry, Swedish foreign policy must remain active, fearless and constructive. At present, the main priority of the government’s foreign policy is to preserve a principled and cohesive European Union, Sweden’s “most important foreign policy arena.”

The Swedish economy is currently one of the strongest and most stable in Europe. Sweden is an active member of the European Union, which gives it options and opportunities to solve its economic problems.

Since independence, Ukraine has not joined any economic, military or political union, trying to meet the new challenges facing it in the military, political and economic spheres. At present, the country, as at the beginning of independence, is at a crossroads.

The current level of political contacts between Sweden and Ukraine is slightly lower than when the Swedish Foreign Ministry was headed by Carl Bildt. As one of the initiators of the Eastern Partnership, he devoted much of his attention to Ukraine, the largest country of the initiative. It is through his efforts that Sweden has become one of Ukraine’s main advocates and mentors on the path to European integration, countering attempts to question Ukraine’s European future in Kyiv or Brussels, as well as in Moscow.

To pursue an effective policy of neutrality, states also need a strong and capable army that can defend the “position of neutrality” of their state at any time. And here, too, Ukraine and possible supporters of the “neutral” status of our state may be disappointed. And the main one among them is the extremely insufficient funding of the Ukrainian army.

Thus, analyzing the Swedish model of a “neutral” state: experience for Ukraine, it should be noted that today Sweden continues to provide significant assistance and support to Ukraine, but it should be noted that the latter has somewhat lost its priority status in Swedish foreign policy. The Eastern Partnership remains important, especially in the context of security and peace promotion in the region, but its future remains uncertain. In recent years, Stockholm’s main focus has been on solving the EU’s internal problems and global development. At the same time, Kyiv is focusing its main efforts on other areas, not forgetting its strategic friend in the North.

Sweden has a number of military, economic and geopolitical principles of its policy of neutrality. In fact, Sweden can afford to pursue a policy of neutrality due to its economic development and geopolitical location. Another issue is Ukraine. Unable to adequately fund its own path of neutrality, and having a contiguous maritime and territorial border with Russia on its side, Ukraine must develop elements to guarantee its territorial integrity. As a result of this issue, the only effective guarantee of Ukraine’s territorial integrity is NATO integration.

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