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The Revolution of Dignity (2013–2014) and Its Educational Impact: Civic Identity Formation and Social Science Education in Ukraine

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Abstract

The article examines the 2013–2014 Revolution of Dignity as a defining historical event that transformed Ukraine by influencing its political evolution, national self-definition, and European integration trajectory. It is considered a pivotal stage in the country's democratic development and geopolitical reorientation. The study aims to analyze the causes, driving forces, and consequences of the Revolution of Dignity, as well as to determine its role in reshaping Ukraine's domestic and international positioning. The research design integrates historical-comparative analysis, evaluation of official documents, online data collection, and a review of Ukrainian and foreign academic literature. This comprehensive approach makes it possible to trace continuity between earlier civic movements—such as the Revolution on Granite and the Orange Revolution—and the Revolution of Dignity as successive phases of democratic transformation. The findings demonstrate that although the refusal to sign the EU Association Agreement triggered the protests, their deeper causes lay in systemic corruption, authoritarian governance, and the concentration of power. The Revolution revitalized civil society, accelerated Ukraine's movement toward European integration, and

marked a decisive break with Soviet imperial legacies. The article also examines the educational dimension of the Revolution of Dignity, in particular its impact on the development of civic education, the political socialization of youth, and the teaching of modern Ukrainian history. The Revolution of Dignity was not merely a domestic protest movement but also a geopolitical turning point that redefined Ukraine's role in Europe, intensified decommunization processes, strengthened national identity, and affirmed the European course as a safeguard of sovereignty.

Keywords: geopolitical consequences, civil society, Euromaidan, national identity, Revolution of Dignity, Ukraine, political socialization, educational transformation

Introduction

Independence Square in Kyiv has repeatedly been a focal point where Ukrainians have expressed their views, defending democratic values and the right to independent development of the country. Ukrainians have repeatedly gathered at Independence Square in Kyiv to defend democracy. In particular, the first such meeting took place. In 1990, the Revolution of Dignity took place here, which confirms the Ukrainian people's desire for freedom of national spirit and movement towards a national idea. During these protests, Ukrainian youth advocated for a democratic course of development and against the then-dominant communist regime in Ukraine (Kalyta, 2024). This event had a profound impact on the country's development and was one of the factors that contributed to the collapse of the USSR. On November 21, 2004, the Orange Revolution began in the same place, triggered by election fraud (Aslund & McFaul, 2006). Nine years later, on the same day, the Revolution of Dignity began (Tsekhosh, 2023). Each of these events was an important step in the formation of Ukrainian society and its awareness of the power of unity in the struggle for a better future for their country.

It is possible to characterize the Revolution of Dignity of 2013–2014 among the main catalysts for the formation of modern Ukrainian statehood. The event created a deep impact which transformed the political structure and united all citizens while strengthening their sense of national identity. Research conducted recently demonstrated that these events represent both Ukrainian democratic values' defense and deep transformations within the social and political structure (Zelinska, 2025). The Revolution needed various conditions which had developed throughout multiple years. The following factors include political elements together with economic and social components which have caused a significant change. Information wars now primarily focus on changing the mental and value-based beliefs which citizens and social groups hold. The process of democratic state-building in Ukraine depends heavily on cultural and linguistic values (Radchenko et al. 2023).

Relevancy of the event for in the modern Ukrainian history makes it a necessity to analyze its causes and consequences. As noted, it determined not only the further direction of the state's development but even its approach to foreign policy (Stebeletsky, 2025). Therefore, a deeper study of such aspects will contribute to a better understanding of the political, economic, social, and cultural context of modern Ukraine, its role in the changed geopolitical conditions, and the formation of a new global security system (Totska, 2025).

It is important to emphasize that the educational dimension of the Revolution of Dignity is not only a secondary consequence of political transformations, but acts as an independent factor of social change. The educational system in the conditions of post-revolutionary development performs the function of transmitting new values, forming critical thinking and consolidating democratic practices in the minds of the younger generation. That is why the analysis of the educational impact of the Revolution of Dignity requires integration with the political and social context, which allows us to consider it as a complex phenomenon of societal transformation.

Literature review

One of the first systematic academic analyses of the Euromaidan legacy in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war is the monograph *Civil Society in Post-Euromaidan Ukraine: From Revolution to Consolidation*. It examines the development of Ukrainian civil society and its role in democratization, state-building, and conflict resolution, highlighting key trends such as volunteerism, grassroots activism, digital engagement, and evolving relations between civil society and the state (Burlyuk & Shapovalova, 2018).

Mosin (2025) systematizes the coverage of the Revolution of Dignity in foreign scholarship, highlighting its role in shaping the modern Ukrainian nation, influencing the political landscape, and redefining Ukraine's geopolitical position. Particular attention is given to interpretations of Maidan as a symbol of the struggle for democratic values and a catalyst for large-scale social and political transformations.

Kotsiuk et al. (2025) examine the relationship between recent revolutionary events in Ukraine and the Revolution of Dignity as a reflection of national values and cultural heritage. The collection *Revolution of Dignity: On the Path to History* explores its theoretical, methodological, and museological dimensions, focusing on its impact on social structures, collective memory, and the construction of historical narratives (*Revolution of Dignity: On the Path to History*, 2020).

The role of civil society in democratization has attracted significant scholarly attention. Studies, including a special issue of *Law and Politics*, interpret the Revolution of Dignity as a space for value-based civil society formation, where Maidan emerges not only as a physical site but as a symbol of democracy, dignity, and civic responsibility (Burlyuk et al., 2017; Burlyuk & Shapovalova, 2018; Shveda & Young Ho Park, 2016).

Research also highlights the importance of political discourse during Euromaidan, emphasizing its role in shaping public perception and reinforcing state narratives (Ybañez, 2025). At the same time, scholars underline the continuity of Ukrainian протестних рухів, linking the Revolution of Dignity with earlier uprisings and its role in the evolution of statehood and national identity (Kalyta, 2024; Aslund & McFaul, 2006; Tsekhosh, 2023; Radchenko et al., 2023).

The geopolitical consequences of the revolution and subsequent Russian aggression are also widely discussed, particularly in terms of regional security transformations and strategic miscalculations (Kotoulas & Pusztai, 2022; Osborn & Ostroukh, 2021). Furthermore, scholars emphasize the importance of integrating both international and local academic perspectives to ensure a comprehensive understanding of these events (Lochan, 2024; Makedon et al., 2024b).

Modern research in the field of civic education emphasizes that revolutionary events act as catalysts for the renewal of educational content and pedagogical approaches. In particular, works on the theory of civic education emphasize the importance of using current historical events as a tool for the formation of civic competence, political culture and skills for participation in democratic processes. In this context, the Revolution of Dignity is considered as a case-oriented resource for learning, which contributes to the development of analytical thinking, value reflection and awareness of the role of a citizen in state-building processes.

Methodology

Theoretical and methodological framework and logic of the research design

The methodology of this study is based on a multi-level framework combining historical-comparative analysis, a political-institutional approach, and the concept of social mobilization, while also integrating the educational dimension of the analyzed events. This includes examining the impact of the Revolution of Dignity on civic education, youth political culture, and the role of educational institutions in social mobilization and the teaching of social science disciplines.

The Revolution of Dignity is interpreted as a complex process of structural transformation rather than an isolated protest. The methodological model is grounded in a multifactorial approach, considering three interconnected levels: macro-political, social, and symbolic. The macro-political level addresses institutional and geopolitical changes; the social level focuses on self-organization and network mobilization; and the symbolic level reflects shifts in national narratives and political identity.

The research follows a sequential logic, moving from structural preconditions to protest dynamics and long-term consequences. Validation is ensured through cross-referencing diverse sources, allowing for a balanced and interpretative analysis.

Additionally, the study used an educational-analytical approach that involves assessing the impact of socio-political events on the content of curricula, educational practices, and processes of political socialization of youth. This allowed integrating the analysis of transformations in the field of education into the overall research model and considering the education system as an indicator of profound social changes.

Source base and principles of material selection

The empirical corpus of the study is formed from several types of sources. It includes official state documents, parliamentary resolutions, statements of government structures, materials of international organizations, analytical reports, media publications, and scientific works dedicated to the events of 2013–2014. Sources were selected based on three criteria. First, relevance to the chronological period November 2013 – February 2014 and subsequent stages of transformation. Second, the institutional or social significance of the source. Third, the possibility of verifying factual information through alternative channels.

Particular attention was paid to comparing internal and external assessments of events. Materials from Ukrainian sources were analyzed in parallel with international reports and expert opinions. The methodological procedure for systematizing sources is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Scheme of formation and processing of the source corpus

Stage	Source type	Selection criterion	Analysis method	Authenticity check	Expected result
1	Official documents	Institutional weight	Content analysis	Comparison with archives	Detection of legal changes
2	Parliamentary materials	Regulatory significance	Discourse analysis	Comparison with protocols	Analysis of political positions
3	Media materials	Mass distribution	Narrative analysis	Cross-check	Definition of media frames
4	Reports of international organizations	International status	Comparative analysis	Comparison with local data	Assessing the external context
5	Analytical research	Academic reputation	Critical analysis	Checking citation sources	Theoretical generalization
6	Sociological surveys	Representativeness	Statistical analysis	Sample verification	Determining public sentiment
7	Expert interviews	Professional competence	Qualitative analysis	Comparing positions	Interpretive synthesis

Source: developed by the authors

This approach reduces the risk of bias in the research.

Methods for analyzing protest dynamics and structural changes

A combination of historical-chronological methods and collective action theory was used to study the dynamics of the protest. Events were reconstructed in a chronological sequence, allowing us to trace the escalation from peaceful protests to violent confrontation.

The mechanisms of self-organization were analyzed through a network approach. Horizontal connections between protest participants, the role of volunteer structures, and the influence of social media as a mobilization tool were investigated. In this context, identifying turning points was particularly important. It was at these points that the transformation of a local protest into a national movement took place. Political and institutional analysis was applied to assess changes in the system of government after 2014. Constitutional amendments, anti-corruption initiatives, security sector reforms, and foreign policy reorientation were considered. The analytical model for assessing consequences is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Model for assessing structural transformations

Sphere	Initial state	Triggers for change	Evaluation method	Short-term effect
Political system	Concentration of power	Protest events	Institutional analysis	Government reformatting
Legal sphere	Limited accountability	Public pressure	Regulatory analysis	Adoption of reforms
Civil society	Fragmentation	Self-organization	Sociological analysis	Participation growth
Security	Vulnerability to external influences	Russian aggression	Strategic analysis	Defense sector reform
Media space	Political dependence	Alternative platforms	Discourse analysis	Strengthening pluralism
Economy	Oligarchic structure	Sanctions and reforms	Comparative analysis	The beginning of deregulation
Identity	Post-Soviet ambivalence	Symbolic mobilization	Cultural analysis	Consolidation of society
Geopolitics	Balancing between blocks	European integration course	Foreign policy analysis	Reorientation towards the EU

Source: developed by the authors

Verification, interpretive synthesis and limitations of the study

The final stage involved integrating the results of different methods. Cross-comparison allowed us to identify both consistent trends and contradictions. Some processes unfolded unevenly. Some reforms demonstrated a quick start but slow implementation. The interpretative synthesis is based on the assumption that the Revolution of Dignity became a catalyst for long-term transformations. At the same time, the methodology recognizes the existence of limitations. Access to some archival materials is complicated. Sociological data from different years have a different sample. The political assessment of the events remains a subject of discussion. Despite this, multi-channel verification of sources and the use of different analysis methods ensure a sufficient level of validity of the results. The methodological model remains open for further expansion. And, perhaps, this openness is its main advantage.

Results

The processes under study were based on key perturbations that arose after Ukraine's withdrawal from the USSR. These included its orientation toward a European vector of development, a departure from the Soviet legacy, de-Sovietization and de-communization, as well as the search for a new architecture of the socio-political and economic system.

Since 1991, Ukraine has been caught between two opposing paths of civilizational development:

- the desire to integrate into the European space, which meant democratizing the state and reducing economic and political dependence on the Kremlin;
- the desire to return the country to the sphere of influence of the Russian Federation, including its integration into an economic and political union with that state (House, 2003; Lewis, 2006).

The Russian Federation's attempts to maintain comprehensive influence over Ukraine through manipulation of the state language, regional cultural characteristics, national memory policy, as well as through financing and control of Ukrainian politicians loyal to the Kremlin and restrictions on civil rights and freedoms, have been key triggers of mass protests in Ukraine's modern history.

In 2013-2014, Ukrainian society experienced such phenomena as the "Revolution of Dignity" and "Euromaidan". Students and academics played an important role in the development of the protest movement. It was student initiatives that were among the first to organize actions in support of Ukraine's European integration. Universities became a space for active discussions, civic mobilization, and political participation of young people. Many higher education institutions held open lectures, public discussions, and academic meetings dedicated to the Euromaidan events. Such activity of the educational environment contributed to strengthening the relationship between education, civic responsibility, and democratic participation. The

“Revolution of Dignity” is a generalized name for the protest mood of the Ukrainian population in 2013-2014, when the people staged peaceful rallies against the adoption of laws and movements that would violate their sense of national identity and dignity. At the same time, the protests in Kyiv on November 21, 2013 and February 22, 2014, which stretched from Shevchenko Boulevard to European Square and took place mainly on Independence Square, aimed at overturning the decision to suspend preparations for association with the European Union.

In the post-revolutionary period, these processes acquired an institutional character. Educational programs were supplemented with courses on civic education, human rights, and modern history of Ukraine. An important result was the introduction of interactive teaching methods, including case studies, discussions, and simulations of democratic processes. Thus, the educational sector not only reflected the consequences of the Revolution of Dignity, but also became an active tool for consolidating its values in society.

It was following the GDP growth stuck around zero when the revolutionary atmosphere eventually matured in 2012-2013. What further reinforced the backdrop were the increasing authoritarian tendencies of the regime. These included but not limited to increasing restrictions on the activities of the opposition, the imprisonment of its leaders Yuriy Lutsenko and Yulia Tymoshenko, and the strengthening of security forces while weakening public control. Opportunities for legal protest were also curtailed, and divisions within the political and business elites deepened due to the corruption of the Yanukovich regime and the use of state institutions for personal enrichment (Alessandro, 2021; Ray, 2025).

The immediate factor that triggered the Revolution of Dignity was a sharp change in foreign policy. Throughout 2013, Ukraine intensified its movement towards European integration, preparing an association agreement with the European Union and the creation of a free trade zone. This took place under constant pressure from Russia, which sought to prevent Ukraine’s rapprochement with the EU. Temporarily, these steps contributed to a certain consolidation around Yanukovich’s regime among part of society and the political elite. However, in early November 2013, under pressure from Vladimir Putin, Yanukovich suspended the process of European integration and set a course for cooperation with the Customs Union. This was reflected in the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of November 21, 2013, which referred to the suspension of preparations for agreements with the EU and the resumption of “active dialogue” with the Russian Federation (The issue of concluding an Association Agreement between Ukraine, on the one hand, and the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, on the other hand, 2013).

Looking at the direct results of the revolutionary upsurge, it can be identified key achievements that had a significant impact on Ukrainian society. These changes, which manifested themselves in the short term, are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Achievements of the Revolution of Dignity for Ukrainian society in the foreseeable future

Result	Description of the result
Ukraine's steps towards European integration	Despite the specific nature of its foreign policy, the EU can no longer ignore Ukraine and perceive it as part of the "Russian world." The focus is on Ukraine's foreign policy.
Significant national revival	Ukrainians have demonstrated their resilience and determination, their commitment to European values and freedoms. Despite the challenges that lie ahead (notably the Russian-Ukrainian war), it is clear that a return to subjugation is no longer possible. Although Putin's regime continues to live under the illusion of the revival of the USSR and perceives Ukrainians as "bad Russians," the events of the revolution and the subsequent resistance and struggle of Ukrainians demonstrate that this categorically does not correspond to such stereotypes. Focus on reflecting national dignity and national identity.
Maidan became the foundation for the crystallization and actualization of diverse political and civic structures and activists.	Quite unexpectedly, structures that were previously considered irrelevant to the political scene and labeled as "radicals" or "remnants of the past," or even people who were completely unknown to anyone (Cossack Gavrilyuk, Right Sector), demonstrated high potential. Focus on "cleansing" the government.
Radical clarification of the position of the ruling political circles	Yanukovych and his associates have openly betrayed Ukraine and revealed their true intentions. By bowing to Kremlin influence and suppressing protest sentiment in Ukraine, he has definitively deprived himself of any chance of remaining in power by legitimate means after his presidential term expires. Commitment to democracy.
The process of replacing Soviet thinking and established imperial-Soviet stereotypes intensified.	The most striking manifestation of this is the revival of Ukraine's traditional form of popular rule based on historical Cossack traditions. This is precisely how life on the Maidan was organized during the protests. Many of the Maidan participants went straight from there to defend Ukraine against the Russian invasion. It should be noted that Maidan is not the "backyard of Europe," as the Russian media tried to portray it, but represents the greater Ukraine with its unique values and traditions. For Old Europe, this phenomenon was also something completely new and unusual. Focusing on European policy and defining Ukraine's own policy vector.

Source: compiled based on (Profile: Ukraine's ousted President Viktor Yanukovych, 2014; Wilson, 2020; Shevchenko, 2014; Yakimenko & Pashkov, 2018)

The impact of the Revolution of Dignity in 2013–2014 and Russian aggression made Eurasian integration unlikely for Ukraine. Eurasian integration is now perceived mainly as cooperation with the aggressor. However, today's level and nature of pro-European preferences in Ukraine are characterized by a qualitatively new motivation: on the one hand, citizens have become more aware of the complexity and length of the European integration process, and on the other hand, they understand the naturalness of European development for Ukraine as a means of preserving national statehood in the face of Russia's aggressive influence.

For a long time, it was believed that the level of a state's development was determined by its ability to ensure the economic and technological security of its citizens. However, the growing role of media technologies and their use to influence society have seriously shaken these beliefs. As L. Nahorna notes, a "fourth component" has been added to the traditional three components of sustainable development (economic viability, social equality, and environmental responsibility): the social and cultural activity of citizens (Nahorna, 2011, p. 4). The formation of geopolitical orientations of citizenship in Ukraine was largely determined by the fact that the country was located between two powerful integration currents – European and Eurasian – which differ significantly in their goals, conditions, and nature. The choice of citizens was influenced by the legacy of the Soviet and post-Soviet periods of history and internal socio-political changes, as well as significant external factors. In such conditions, a core of supporters of European integration gradually formed and strengthened in Ukrainian society.

The role of nationalism in the events under study was often misunderstood. For some, it did indeed play a motivating role. However, in most cases, the cause-and-effect relationship was different. Protests arose first, which later became the catalyst for the so-called "revolution of values". This meant not only the symbolic removal of Soviet monuments, which finally went down in history and graced the front pages of the world's media, but also the return of nationalist elements to the public consciousness. For example, the slogan "Glory to the heroes!" took on a new meaning, because the present day also gave Ukraine its own heroes who deserve to be honored. The national flag and symbols are more widely perceived as symbols of support for the state in times of turmoil, rather than just part of a specific historical context.

Thus, what might have seemed like extreme nationalist tendencies in Kyiv were not in fact such. The protests were devoid of narrow ethnic or class contexts and embodied a popular resistance in terms of good and evil, with citizens standing up against the Yanukovych regime and its supporters (Wilson, 2020, pp. 353–354). This confrontation became an important stimulus for a deeper awareness of the importance of the country's independence and sovereignty, as well as for strengthening the desire for integration with the European Union and Euro-Atlantic structures.

Discussion

At the present stage of human development, there is an increase in various information, communication, and socio-political risks, as well as threats to national security. This is due to the active penetration of the global information space into all aspects of state and society (Dovgan et al., 2023).

The events of the Revolution of Dignity also had a significant impact on the development of civic education in Ukraine. After 2014, educational institutions began to pay more attention to the formation of democratic values, human rights and active citizenship. The examples of the Euromaidan events are increasingly used in school and university curricula as an illustration of the role of civil society in democratic transformations.

Integration of the experience of the Revolution of Dignity into the educational process contributes to the formation of the so-called "active civic position". This is manifested in the ability of students to analyze socio-political processes, participate in public initiatives and realize their own responsibility for the democratic development of the state. This approach corresponds to modern European educational standards, which emphasize competency-based learning and the development of soft skills.

From the perspective of social studies education, the Revolution of Dignity serves as a key example of collective action and civic mobilization, showing how social movements shape political culture, critical thinking, and civic responsibility. This experience is relevant not only for Ukraine but also for other countries undergoing democratic transformations.

A central trigger was the planned EU Association Agreement, aimed at political association and economic integration, which was widely supported by Ukrainian society as a framework for reforms. The government's sudden decision in November 2013 not to sign the agreement, under pro-Russian policies, sparked widespread protests and mobilization (How did the Revolution of Dignity (2013–2014) cement the European path for Ukraine?, 2024; Mankovska, 2025).

In December and January, the government tried to suppress the protests by passing so-called "anti-protest laws" (PACE may strip Ukraine of its voting rights at the session for violence against Maidan activists, 2014). On January 19, 2014, violent clashes broke out on Hrushevsky Street, resulting in the first casualties. On January 23 and 24, a wave of protests swept across Ukraine (Kozlyuk, 2018). On February 21, 2014, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, by a majority vote (386 deputies), reinstated the 2004 Constitution of Ukraine, passed a law granting amnesty to protesters, and introduced the provisions of the UN Convention against Corruption (Plenary session on February 21, 2014. Information Management Department of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2014).

On the night of February 21-22, 2014, Yanukovych fled to Russia with his close associates. In response, 328 members of parliament supported a resolution on the

“self-removal” of the President of Ukraine and the appointment of new elections on May 25, 2014 (Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine “On the self-removal of the President of Ukraine from the exercise of constitutional powers and the appointment of early elections of the President of Ukraine”, 2014).

The main factor that led to the Revolution of Dignity and the activation of the political position of a significant part of Ukrainians was the attempt by Viktor Yanukovich's regime and his entourage to radically change Ukraine's course of European integration, directing its policy towards dependence on the Russian Federation. Moreover, increased political repression, systematic violations of citizens' rights and freedoms, and failures in the socio-economic sphere also played a crucial role. The culmination of the popular resistance against the usurpation of power was the events of Euromaidan, which were preceded by significant protests (Wilson, 2020, pp. 346–349; Yakimenko et al., 2021). Civil society in the period after the Orange Revolution (2004–2005) was characterized by a decline in trust in state institutions, as well as manifestations of the so-called post-Orange syndrome (Pardo, 2011; Kuzio, 2016).

The rise of authoritarian tendencies in Russia contributed to the intensification of similar processes in Ukraine. Under such circumstances, the Ukrainian society's struggle for democracy inevitably fueled the popularity of calls to stay away from Moscow. Thus, the choice between democracy and authoritarianism in Ukrainian history has once again been linked to a geopolitical choice: rapprochement with Western democracies, in particular with the EU, or with Russia (Yakimenko et al., 2021, p. 130).

The geopolitical dynamics following Euromaidan attracted considerable scholarly attention, especially with the onset of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. Ukraine's domestic transformations and European-oriented reforms gained international support but also provoked opposition from certain actors, complicating diplomatic relations. The war intensified existing conflicts and exposed critical regional security vulnerabilities. Recent research highlights that analyzing these processes improves understanding of current international relations and Ukraine's strategic position (Kotoulas & Pusztai, 2022; Bondarenko et al., 2022; Makedon et al., 2024a).

Here one could wonder the circumstances that prompted Russian officials to intensify their aggressive and revisionist policy on Ukraine. Arguably these include the decisive victory of pro-Western political forces in 2014 during the Euromaidan protests, Ukraine's attempt to move closer to the European community, and the general geopolitical context. We can argue that what they were intending was to preserve what they considered to be legitimate national interests. We should note that the Russian-Ukrainian war began in 2014 when Russia invaded Ukraine, occupied Crimea, and supported the seizure of large parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions by pro-Russian separatists. In the Eastern Ukraine, pro-Russian groups and Russian troops sought to establish control over these territories by creating the so-called Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic. These entities

eventually served as a basis for further aggressive actions in 2022. Interestingly, Russia tried to distance itself from any official labeling prior to the escalation of war in 2022 while trying to maintain an image of a legitimate authority in the country's international relations. During this period, in 2015, the Minsk agreements were signed by Ukraine and Russia. However, disagreements over the terms of their implementation effectively blocked the implementation of the agreements (OSCE published the memorandum signed in Minsk (document), 2014).

The escalation of Russian aggression, culminating in the full-scale invasion in 2022, further reinforced Ukraine's European orientation and societal consolidation. (Butusov, 2022; Voice of America, 2022; Vytkaľov et al., 2022).

Today, it is clear how badly the Russian dictator miscalculated his assessment of Ukraine. The Ukrainian people did not accept the Russian invasion. On the contrary, they rallied and began fierce resistance. What was planned in the Kremlin as a quick and victorious military operation turned into the largest armed conflict in Europe since World War II. At the same time, although the scale of Putin's mistake is obvious, it should be noted that he is not the only one in Russia who succumbs to such illusions (Osborn & Ostroukh, 2021).

On the other hand, The Ukrainian government has always taken into account the Ukrainian people's desire for European integration when making decisions about foreign policy. Arguably this was even the case when Yanukovich was president. Over the past few decades, Ukraine's foreign policy has consistently focu European integration. However, its implementation has been hindered not only by Russia's opposition, but also, and most importantly, by the Ukrainian government's reluctance to undertake the major reforms necessary to make society more democratic and combat corruption. Arguably these reforms made a more successful European integration process more possible.

Thus, the educational effect of the Revolution of Dignity goes beyond the national context and can be considered as a universal model for the transformation of civic education in conditions of democratic change. The experience of Ukraine demonstrates that education is capable not only of responding to socio-political challenges, but also of shaping long-term value orientations of society.

Final Considerations

Therefore, it would not be wrong to argue that the Revolution of Dignity (2013-2014) remains as a key turning point for Ukraine's future. The event produced major effects which shaped the political and national and geopolitical path of the nation. The event appears to us as the final point of an extended battle between two opposing development approaches. The first factor involves Ukraine's entry into European community structures and adopt democratic principles. On the other hand, the second element describes Russia's efforts to maintain Ukraine under its sphere of influence.

The government decision to halt Association Agreement preparation with the European Union under then President became the official starting point for the nationwide demonstrations. The fundamental reasons behind this situation included the economic breakdown of society together with political power theft and extensive corruption and the government's failure to protect citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms.

The movement brought about a major increase in national pride which united civil society organizations and restored Ukraine's traditional system of popular governance. It is possible to suggest that the revolution accelerated the processes of de-Sovietization and de-communization, and also forced a rethinking of the meaning of national symbols and slogans by giving them new relevance. By proving that the European integration is perceived much beyond then a merely economic development part, it significantly strengthened the country's European vector of development. It ultimately became a means of preserving statehood and sovereignty in the face of growing Russian aggression.

One of the consequences was the Russia's escalated aggression. It manifested itself in the occupation of Crimea, the war in eastern Ukraine since 2014, and the subsequent full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022. These events finally destroyed the myth of a "single people" and mobilized the Ukrainian community to actively resist.

Taken these all into consideration, one can argue that Maidan has become a symbolic "melting pot" where various political and civic initiatives were formed and tempered. Through it these actors demonstrated a considerable level of self-organisation and solidarity. We can argue that it created conditions which led to the growth of civil society and its essential position for protecting the nation. The Revolution of Dignity established itself as a movement which brought fundamental changes to Ukraine's path of development. Important changes also occurred in the field of education. The events of Euromaidan contributed to a rethinking of the content of civic education, the teaching of modern history, and the formation of national memory. School and university curricula began to more widely cover issues of democratic participation, human rights, civic responsibility, and the role of social movements in the development of the state. Thus, the Revolution of Dignity became not only a political turning point, but also an important educational experience that continues to influence the formation of the political consciousness of the younger generation. The nation achieved its European alignment through this process and made the country more resistant to foreign attacks. It continues to impact how Ukraine presents itself to the world and its position within global relations.

Of particular importance is the fact that the Ukrainian educational system has acted not only as a reflection of post-revolutionary changes, but also as an active agent of their dissemination. Through curricula, academic discourse, and civic education, democratic values are institutionalized, ensuring their long-term reproduction in society.

The results obtained defined the Revolution of Dignity not only as a completed historical episode, but as a long-term structural process, the consequences of which continue to shape Ukraine's political architecture. The events of 2013–2014 changed the nature of interaction between the state and civil society. A new model of accountability emerged. And a new model of demanding accountability from the authorities. The implications have institutional and cultural dimensions. Institutionally, this means consolidating mechanisms of accountability, transparency, and European integration orientation. Culturally, there is a rethinking of collective identity, a strengthening of the role of symbolic politics, and the formation of a new national narrative. These processes are not linear. They move in fits and starts, sometimes through crises. The prognostic aspect is linked to the further transformation of the security environment and political institutions. Maintaining the democratic vector depends on the state's ability to maintain a balance between reforms and social stability. At the same time, society is showing a growing willingness to mobilize in the event of a threat to its values.

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