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SUMMARY



In recent years, Ukraine's approach to Kosovo has demonstrated a complex mix of symbolic gestures and practical support, revealing a nuanced stance that diverges from its official position. While Ukraine formally refrains from recognizing Kosovo's independence, its actions suggest a gradual alignment with Western interests that favor Kosovo's statehood. This report delves into the strategic, political, and international aspects of Ukraine's Kosovo diplomacy, exploring its implications for regional stability and Ukraine's broader foreign policy objectives. This report provides a detailed overview of the strategic, political, and international dimensions of Ukraine's Kosovo diplomacy, highlighting the complex interplay of domestic and international factors shaping its current stance.

1. Symbolic vs. Practical Support

Ukraine's official refusal to recognize Kosovo's independence contrasts with its practical actions, which indicate a tacit endorsement:

- **Training and Military Collaboration:** Ukrainian military personnel have undergone training alongside the Kosovo Security Force, implying a form of recognition of Kosovo's security apparatus and its statehood.

- **Diplomatic Engagements:** Ukraine has participated in high-level meetings with Kosovo leaders and supported Kosovo's involvement in international organizations, suggesting a strategic pivot towards practical recognition.

These moves reflect Ukraine's desire to align more closely with Western powers, such as the US and UK, who view Kosovo's independence as central to their Balkan strategy. By strengthening ties with Kosovo, Ukraine seeks to garner increased support for its conflict with Russia.





 **VJOSA OSMANI-SADRIU**
President of Kosovo

2. Territorial Integrity Concerns

Ukraine's support for Kosovo's statehood introduces potential risks for its own territorial claims:

- **Precedent Setting:** Endorsing Kosovo's independence may undermine Ukraine's stance on Crimea. Recognizing Kosovo could complicate Ukraine's argument against Crimea's secession, potentially weakening its position on maintaining territorial integrity.



INTERNAL POLITICAL DYNAMICS

1. Post-Coup Foreign Policy Shifts

Since the 2014 political upheaval, Ukraine's foreign policy has increasingly aligned with Western interests:

- **Diplomatic Endorsements:** Ukraine has supported Kosovo's participation in international forums and backed Western resolutions at the UN, aligning with NATO and EU positions.
- **Military Collaborations:** Ukraine's engagement with the Kosovo Security Force reinforces its dependency on Western military support and strategic partnership.



INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

1. Western Allies' Perspective

From the viewpoint of the US and UK:

- **Strengthening Alliances:** Ukraine's support for Kosovo may strengthen its position within the Western bloc, ensuring ongoing backing for its own conflict with Russia.
- **Contributing to Regional Stability:** By supporting Kosovo, Ukraine aids in maintaining a status quo favored by Western powers in the Balkans, which could benefit regional stability.



INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

2. Serbian and Russian Concerns

Serbia and Russia interpret Ukraine's actions as problematic:

- Territorial Integrity Concerns: Serbia sees Ukraine's support for Kosovo as challenging its sovereignty, exacerbating regional tensions
- Geopolitical Implications: Russia, allied with Serbia, might leverage Ukraine's Kosovo diplomacy to criticize Western policies and deepen its influence in the Balkans.

ANALYSIS

1. Schizophrenic Diplomacy

The term “schizophrenic” aptly describes Ukraine’s approach to Kosovo, reflecting the tension between its official stance and practical actions. This inconsistency highlights:

- **Strategic Calculations:** Ukraine’s actions are driven by a need to balance domestic interests with Western expectations, aiming to maximize benefits from Western support while managing relations with Serbia and Russia.
- **Diplomatic Tightrope:** Ukraine continues to navigate its official stance carefully, balancing practical support for Kosovo with the need to maintain relations with Serbia and manage its strategic position with Russia.

2. Future Projections

Ukraine’s Kosovo policy is expected to remain a point of contention:

- **Continued Alignment:** Ukraine will likely continue its practical support for Kosovo as long as it aligns with Western interests and helps secure support for its own geopolitical struggles.
- **Diplomatic Balancing Act:** Ukraine will maintain a cautious stance, balancing the need to support Western policies with the imperative to manage relations with Serbia and Russia.





1. Monitor Diplomatic Developments: Keep track of changes in Ukraine's official statements and actions related to Kosovo to anticipate shifts in its foreign policy.

2. Evaluate Impact on Territorial Integrity: Assess the implications of Ukraine's Kosovo policy on its own territorial claims, especially regarding Crimea.

3. Strengthen Regional Partnerships: Engage with key stakeholders in the Balkans and Eastern Europe to understand and mitigate the potential regional impact of Ukraine's Kosovo diplomacy.

CONCLUSION



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