

IWI Europe Leads Featured in Euromaidan Press: The “Accidental” Hardening of Ukraine

Description

In a recent article for *Euromaidan Press*, authors Dr. Olga Chiriac (Director, Europe Focus Area) and Nicholas Krohley (Resistance Hub Lead) examine how two decades of Russian hybrid warfare unintentionally transformed Ukraine into a uniquely resilient state. While Moscow’s long-term campaign of political interference, economic pressure, and sub-threshold aggression was designed to destabilize, it instead served as a grueling stress test that forced the evolution of Ukrainian civil society and military infrastructure. The piece offers a sobering warning: European nations, currently lacking this decades-long hardening process, may find themselves dangerously unprepared for the speed and intensity of future threats.

For the irregular warfare community, this analysis underscores a critical paradox: persistent gray-zone pressure can inadvertently build the very national resilience it seeks to destroy. As practitioners and policymakers look toward the future of European security, understanding Ukraine’s path from vulnerability to “accidental” fortress is essential for developing proactive defense strategies in an era of constant competition.

[Read the full article at Euromaidan Press here.](#)

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