

The PhD thesis aims to carry out a research on the political and economic background of the armed conflict in the Donbas region in the years 2014/15. **The main hypothesis** of the research is that external causes of the conflict were more crucial, than internal ones. **The main research questions** are:

- *Which factors determined the initiation of the armed conflict in the Donbas – internal ones or rather external?*
- *Could the armed conflict in the Donbas region in 2014/2015 be defined as a civil war in Ukraine or is it a contemporary Ukrainian-Russian war?*

The main goal, the subject, the main hypothesis, methodology, the structure and the outline of the thesis, research questions, and objectives were presented in **the introduction**. **The first chapter** particularizes the main theoretical terms and definitions, such as region, conflict, separatism, terrorism, collaboration, war and others. **The second chapter** describes history of the Donbas region from the late medieval times up to year 2014. In **the third chapter** theoretical and historical materials from the previous chapters were applied in order to describe the set of circumstances and facts, which according to the author became essential to initiate the armed conflict in the region. In **the fourth chapter** the armed conflict in the region from its very beginning to the second summit in Minsk in 2015 was analyzed in details. In **the fifth chapter** eventual perspectives and scenarios for solving the armed conflict were distinguished and analyzed. Detailed **chronology** of the armed conflict was described in the **appendix**.