

Martin Kragh (Ed.)

Security and Human Rights in Eastern Europe

New Empirical and Conceptual Perspectives on Conflict Resolution and
Accountability

With a foreword by Fredrik Löjdquist

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Foreword

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A project on human rights and security in Eastern Europe was undertaken in 2021 related to the Swedish OSCE chairpersonship. This project was initiated by Dr. Martin Kragh and Dr. Andreas Umland at the then Russia and Eurasia Program at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs and was then taken over by the Stockholm Centre for Eastern European Studies when it was established in March 2021.

This was a major undertaking shedding light on how security, respect for democracy, human rights, rule of law and international law are interconnected in the conflicts in Eastern Europe. The relevance of these questions needs not be explained further as Russia continues and has escalated its aggression against Ukraine, in flagrant violation of international law and the principles and commitments underlying the European security order.

The project resulted in the texts gathered in this book, providing a rich source of analysis and policy recommendations on the conflicts in Eastern Europe.

Many important lessons are to be found in these texts: the interrelation between internal repression and external aggression, how the conflict managing mechanisms are in themselves part of the battlefield, how the framing and understanding of the nature of these conflicts play a crucial role, the effects of these conflicts on human security and human rights, etc.

Painful questions arise: have the efforts of the international community been conflict solving, conflict managing or conflict conserving? Has the ambiguity as to how to frame these conflicts—internal or interstate conflicts—been

constructive or destructive? Have the attempts to “freeze” these conflicts contributed to lessen human suffering or prolonging and legitimizing violations of international law, including international humanitarian law?

It's my hope that the findings presented in this book continue to be studied by researchers, analysts, journalists, diplomats, politicians, military officers, civil society activists and practitioners of all kinds.

Given the very practical and political relevance of these questions, it's appropriate that this is the first book publication by the Stockholm Centre for Eastern European Studies. I sincerely thank the authors and everyone else who have contributed to this project, making this book possible.

Fredrik Löjdquist

Director of the Stockholm Centre for Eastern European Studies at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs