

## Summary

The aim of the doctoral thesis is to analyze the political and legal doctrines of unrecognized states in the context of shaping imperial policy by contemporary Russia. The author examines entities that belong to the Russian Federation's "direct sphere of influence": Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Nagorno Karabakh, Donetsk, and Lugansk People's Republics. The work focuses on a comparative analysis of these entities based on selected categories such as the level of development of their quasi-statehood, the model of government and the way of organizing social and political system, national doctrine, attitude to social values, as well as legal Soviet heritage and form of legislation. The thesis of the study says that analyzed bodies, even though they share the experience of being part of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, do not present one common political and legal doctrine. The author indicates selected characteristic concepts and elements of the political and legal systems of the examined quasi-states, such as the nation-army concept and militarized social democracy of Artsakh, ethnocratic components in Abkhazia, and South Ossetia systems, or the idea of the multinational people of Transnistria. For this purpose, the study analyzes legal acts of these units, especially their constitutions, and compares them with the official discourse of the authorities, as well as the practice. The study examining various organizational structures and identity components of the indicated entities, it addresses the problem of the definition of quasi-state. The clash of various categories describing quasi-statehood with the real functioning of the analyzed units resulted in the resignation of using the term of quasi-state in the context of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics. Instead, the author created a term of 'predatory unit' as more adequate for describing the purpose and level of organization of these kinds of entities. One of the main goals of the study is to analyze the evolution of Russia's imperial practices, that are manifested, inter alia, in supporting and creating unrecognized states in post-Soviet territories. The tools and tactics used by the Russian Federation do not

create a new model of the empire, but became, in fact, repetition and modification of practices used in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union.