THE POLITICAL-ECONOMIC DYNAMICS IN MOLDOVA: UNREVEALING THE IMPACT OF SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

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A trade war is an economic conflict between countries characterized by rising tariffs and other protectionist measures. These actions are often taken in the wake of business practices deemed unfair or to protect domestic industries and jobs. When one country raises tariffs on another country‘s exports, it can lead to retaliatory measures, creating a cycle of rising tariffs and counter-tariffs. Trade sanctions are legal restrictions on trade with a particular country. Sanctions can be imposed unilaterally by a single country or multilaterally when agreed upon by several nations or international organizations.

International Relations Theory emphasizes power dynamics between states and the pursuit of national interests. Theories highlight the role of institutions, norms, and economic interdependence in shaping international relations. It is important to examine Moldova‘s involvement with the European Union, its aspirations for European integration and the implications of sanctions on these processes.

Economic theories such as comparative advantage and the gravity model help to understand Moldova‘s trade patterns and the potential impact of sanctions on its economy. Dependency theory examines unequal relations between developed and developing countries. We analyze Moldova‘s economic dependence on Russia, especially in sectors such as energy, trade and remittances, and the vulnerabilities it creates in the context of sanctions.

Conflict theory focuses on power struggles and social inequalities within societies. We examine how sanctions against Russia exacerbate internal tensions within Moldovan society, unevenly affecting different social groups and potentially leading to political instability or social agitation.

Neoliberal institutionalism emphasizes the role of international institutions and regimes in facilitating cooperation and managing conflict. We evaluate the effectiveness of international organizations, such as the World Trade Organization and the European Union, in mediating the impact of sanctions on Moldova and in promoting.

Moldova has made progress in its reform agenda but faces threats to stability from internal groups and external actors. Since the beginning of Russia‘s war of aggression against Ukraine, efforts to destabilize Moldova have increased. The EU‘s support includes strengthening Moldova‘s resilience, security, stability, economy, and energy supply. The EU also launched the EU civilian mission in Moldova (EUPM Moldova) to enhance security sector resilience against hybrid threats and foreign interference. The European Union has recently adopted a new sanctions framework specifically targeting

actions aimed at destabilizing the Republic of Moldova. This framework allows the EU to impose sanctions against individuals responsible for supporting or implementing actions that undermine Moldova‘s sovereignty, independence, democracy, rule of law, stability, or security. The EU recognizes Moldova as one of the countries most affected by the fallout from Russia‘s illegal invasion of Ukraine. The new sanctions regime aims to strengthen Moldova‘s resilience by targeting those who attempt to destabilize the country. Sanctions may be applied to those that interfere with or threaten democratic political processes, particularly elections.

Moldova should keep up its efforts to lessen its reliance on the Russian market and diversify its trading connections. Mitigating the economic risks associated with sanctions can be achieved by investigating prospects in emerging markets and fortifying trade ties with European Union member states. Through infrastructure development, human capital investment, and economic diversification, the government should make investments to increase resilience to external shocks, including sanctions.

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