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SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL MECHANISMS FOR STRENGTHENING MILITARY PATRIOTISM

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Abstract

This article examines the theoretical and practical aspects of strengthening military patriotism in the context of modern geopolitical instability and hybrid threats. The study analyzes patriotism not only as a moral value, but also as a critically important cognitive resource and a “force multiplier” that ensures national security. Using the strategic experience of Uzbekistan as an example, the article explores the integration of historical heritage with modern military educational technologies. Furthermore, it proposes strategic approaches aimed at ensuring cognitive security and strengthening the unity between the army and the people within an increasingly digitalized global environment.

Keywords: Military patriotism, cognitive security, national identity, hybrid warfare, psychological resilience, military-patriotic education, social cohesion, force multiplier.

Introduction

By the third decade of the 21st century, wars and geopolitical confrontations have expanded beyond the boundaries of traditional geographical space, taking on an increasingly complex and multi-layered character. Struggles are now conducted not only on land, air, or sea, but also in the informational, cyber, and particularly cognitive domains. The cognitive domain—the field of influencing human thought, worldview, values, historical memory, and social consciousness—has become one of the most vital strategic directions of modern conflict. From this

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perspective, contemporary competition between states is determined not only by military potential or economic power but also by the ability to manage public consciousness, shape the worldviews of the youth, and reinforce national unity.

Amidst intensifying global ideological struggles, military patriotism is emerging as a critical intellectual and psychological shield for state sovereignty. This is because military patriotism represents more than just a love for the Motherland or respect for historical heritage; it defines a serviceman's spiritual and psychological readiness, self-sacrifice, sense of responsibility, and preparedness to defend national interests. Especially in an era of widespread information attacks, ideological manipulations, and false propaganda, a serviceman's possession of robust ideological immunity has become a strategic factor in national security.

The experience of modern military conflicts demonstrates that even armies equipped with the most advanced weaponry, AI-based systems, and high-tech superiority cannot achieve high operational effectiveness if their personnel lack sufficient patriotic motivation, combat spirit, and spiritual stability. While military equipment and digital technologies may enhance the technical aspect of warfare, the human factor – will, loyalty, psychological readiness, and a sense of duty toward the Motherland – remains the decisive force. Consequently, modern armies are placing particular emphasis on developing human capital and preparing servicemen ideologically and spiritually.

Today, the formation and strengthening of military patriotism are viewed not merely as a socio-pedagogical task but as an integral and vital component of state defense capability. This process requires educating the younger generation as individuals who are loyal to national values, appreciative of historical heritage, ready to defend state interests, and possess a high civic stance. In the military education system, forming an effective model of military patriotism through the harmony of modern pedagogical approaches, psychological preparation,

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information security culture, and the foundations of national ideology is of urgent importance.

Furthermore, in an age dominated by digital communications and social networks, the risk of alien ideas and destructive ideologies infiltrating the minds of the youth is increasing. Under such conditions, military patriotism manifests as a vital factor that spiritually unites citizens, mobilizes them around national interests, and encourages them to protect state independence. Therefore, the development of military patriotism remains a top priority of state policy and is recognized as a key guarantee for ensuring national security, social stability, and state sovereignty.

From a **military-scientific perspective**, military patriotism is regarded as one of the primary strategic resources for ensuring national security and stability. In the modern security paradigm, patriotism is interpreted not merely as a moral-ethical category, but as a vital factor determining the combat potential, psychological stability, and long-term **operational resilience** of the armed forces. Amidst contemporary globalization, information warfare, and hybrid threats, a state's defense capability is directly dependent not only on technical assets or economic power but also on the ideological unity and level of loyalty toward the Motherland among citizens and servicemen.

Military patriotism is a complex and multifaceted socio-psychological construct that expresses an individual's identification with the state, the nation, and society. According to scientific approaches, this concept is formed through the harmonious integration of three primary components: **cognitive, emotional, and behavioral (volitional)**.

1. The Cognitive Component. The cognitive component involves the internalisation of a knowledge system regarding national history, state independence, national values, geopolitical interests, and national security. This component enables a serviceman to comprehend the strategic importance of

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defending the Motherland, correctly evaluate state interests, and understand the nature of modern threats. **Historical memory** and national self-awareness form the core of this component. An individual who deeply understands their history and values the heroism of their ancestors is significantly less susceptible to external ideological influence.

Furthermore, the cognitive component is closely linked to the development of **critical thinking** skills within the modern information space. In the context of information warfare, it is crucial for a serviceman to be able to analyze manipulative information, distinguish false propaganda, and maintain a conscious stance against ideas contrary to national interests. Consequently, military education systems place particular emphasis on history, political science, security theory, and ideological preparation.

2. The Emotional Component. The emotional component is manifested in an individual's psychological connection to the Motherland, their sense of national belonging, and respect for state symbols. This component fosters national pride, inspiration from ancestral courage, and a sense of shared destiny with society. A strong emotional bond plays a critical role in maintaining a serviceman's **mental stability** during complex and dangerous situations.

Psychological research indicates that individuals who strongly identify with the nation and the state possess higher combat spirit, collective solidarity, and a sense of responsibility. Within military units, the presence of shared values and goals strengthens unity and aligns personal interests with the collective mission. From this perspective, state symbols, military traditions, and the memory of historical heroes serve as vital tools in shaping the emotional foundations of military patriotism.

3. The Behavioral (Volitional) Component. The behavioral or volitional component is the practical expression of patriotism. It signifies an individual's

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readiness to act decisively in defense of state interests, fulfill service duties with responsibility, and demonstrate self-sacrifice when necessary. It is this component that elevates military patriotism from a mere emotional feeling to the level of **real operational activity**.

In a military context, the volitional component is manifested through discipline, courage, endurance, loyalty to orders, and the ability to make rapid decisions under pressure. Experience from modern conflicts shows that servicemen with strong motivation and spiritual preparation can effectively resist even a technically superior opponent. Therefore, fostering **combat spirit** and patriotic motivation is viewed as a strategic task in the armies of developed nations.

Patriotism as a “Moral Force Multiplier”. In the context of modern security, patriotism functions as a **“Moral Force Multiplier.”** It serves as an internal source of spiritual power that enhances the efficiency of existing military, economic, and technological resources. Armed forces with high levels of military patriotism are capable of long-term resistance in complex geopolitical environments, maintaining high combat readiness, and strengthening internal cohesion.

In the current era of escalating **asymmetric threats** – including terrorism, information attacks, cyberattacks, hybrid wars, and ideological sabotage – patriotism becomes a factor that enhances the **strategic resilience** of society. Since the primary goal of such threats is to foster mistrust, chaos, and spiritual depression within a society, a nation with strong military patriotism demonstrates a high level of **“Ideological Immunity.”**

In societies where military patriotism is robust, citizens are more prepared to understand and defend national interests. This creates an effective defense mechanism against external ideological interventions, radical ideas, and manipulative information campaigns. The concept of **“Ideological Immunity”** refers to the ability of the individual and society to consciously resist harmful ideological influences.

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In today's digitized world, ideological threats are often carried out without weapons. Attempts to influence social consciousness through social networks, mass media, and digital platforms are intensifying. Consequently, developing military patriotism is becoming a vital factor in ensuring the stability of not just the military system, but society as a whole. Educating the younger generation in the spirit of national values, strengthening historical memory, and fostering loyalty to state interests are recognized as top priorities of national security policy.

From a **military-scientific perspective**, military patriotism is regarded as one of the primary strategic resources for ensuring national security and stability. In the modern security paradigm, patriotism is interpreted not merely as a moral-ethical category, but as a vital factor determining the combat potential, psychological stability, and long-term **operational resilience** of the armed forces. Amidst contemporary globalization, information warfare, and hybrid threats, a state's defense capability is directly dependent not only on technical assets or economic power but also on the ideological unity and level of loyalty toward the Motherland among citizens and servicemen.

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