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NATIONAL IDENTITY AS A FACTOR OF STATE SECURITY

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Abstract

The article highlights such an urgent problem as ensuring the national security of the state. It is necessary to form a national identity to resist internal and external threats. The authors define this category and analyze its structure. Based on the results of the study, conceptual conclusions are formulated on the formation of policies that contribute to national security through the formation of national identity.

Keywords

National identity – State security – Multiculturalism – National culture – Political elite

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Introduction

Currently, one of the priority functions of a modern legal state is ensuring national security. Until recently, this issue was within the competence of a separate public legal entity, its internal bodies and institutions without involving external actors. However, the globalization processes that have engulfed all actors and their activities predetermined the global nature of threats and challenges. An individual country is not able to effectively resist them under the current circumstances so other state entities and their alliances come into play.

The study of these issues for the Russian Federation is more important than ever. This is largely due to recent events related to the application of political and economic sanctions against Russia and its subjects, as well as the situation aggravated by internal problems, in particular corruption, which in one way or another undermines the people's confidence in the state authorities and their representatives. In this regard, the relevance of considering national identity as a factor of state security increases.

First of all, it is advisable to study the existing scientific points of view of Russian and foreign scientists on the essential and content characteristics of the definition of "national identity" within the framework of this research and analyze how it affects the security of the state.

Literature review

A.S. Galoyan examines the concept of "national identity" from a philosophical point of view. In this aspect, national identity is a kind of collective, socio-cultural identity of the individual, which implies a sense of inclusion of the individual in a certain national community, identification with it as a whole, a sense of their connection with the other members of this community¹. The foundation of its education is the fact of belonging to a certain national community.

In the philosophical sense, the structure of national identity consists of the following elements:

- cognitive (understanding of an individual's own belonging to a particular nation, awareness of being a member of it);
- affective (individual sense of belonging to a particular nation, experiencing a sense of unity with it and belonging to it and the national culture, evaluating the qualities of one's nation, its significance in the world, as well as one's membership in it);
- behavioral (concern for the fate of one's nation, which is directly realized in the actions of its representatives).

L.V. Tomaichuk suggests understanding national identity as a multidimensional concept that is formed by national elites and the state and consists of recognizing an individual's own belonging to the state and political community, as well as identifying

¹ A. S. Galoyan, *Globalizatsiya i problema natsionalno-kulturnoi identichnosti: diss* candidate of philosophical sciences (St. Petersburg: Saint Petersburg State University, 2015), 38.

himself/herself with a certain ethnocultural community². Analyzing this interpretation, it can be observed that the author claims that the construct is formed only by the state and national elites. It is not entirely clear what place ordinary citizens occupy in the formation of national identity.

Also, the presented definition makes it possible to distinguish such components as a state, civil, socio-cultural, and ethnic in the structure of national identity.

V.N. Ivanov points out the dynamic nature of national identity³. It, being the self and identity of the people, is not achieved. This means that this category is in constant motion, continuously updated, transformed, and modified. Each successive generation is different from the previous one. At the same time, the forms of national identity are directly affected by the transformations taking place in the economic and political spheres. Depending on this, the role of national identity in ensuring the safety of the nation and the security of the state increases or decreases.

In the 1990s, E. Smith expressed an opinion about the dynamic nature and historical influence of national identity that nations must necessarily refer to the past, the myths in the process of forming national identity⁴. This is necessary to justify their specificity, as well as to confirm their collective identity. This can be done through a variety of rituals, ceremonies, myths, as well as history and art.

O.I. Zaznaev pays attention to the issues of determining the national identity of Canadians⁵. On the one hand, it is an independent state that has existed for a long period, on the other – Canada is constantly experiencing tremendous influence from its powerful neighbor America due to its geographical location. Thus, some foreign experts claim that Canadians have experienced inferiority for centuries, which united them and predetermined the emergence of an acute desire to search for national identity⁶. Analyzing the policy on the formation of Canadian national identity, it is possible to conclude that Canada is characterized by multiculturalism, which is a very contradictory conclusion. This position can be logically explained by the fact that the phenomenon of multiculturalism is characteristic of many countries, not only Canada, and it can hardly be regarded as an exceptional feature. Not all citizens of this country share the presented point of view about the benefits and opportunities of multiculturalism; some of them insist on preserving their cultural identity at any cost. In their opinion, the multiplicity of cultures can negatively affect socio-economic development, territorial integrity, and national security in general. The principle of multiculturalism does not imply unity based on any values, but, on the contrary, separation. All this calls into question the position that it is possible to form the national identity of the country under consideration with the help of multiculturalism.

² L.V. Tomaichuk, *Formirovanie natsionalnoi identichnosti na postsovetском prostranstve (na primere Ukrainy i Respubliki Belarus): abstract for the degree* (St. Petersburg: Saint Petersburg State University, 2013), 16.

³ V. N. Ivanov, "Vliyanie globalizatsionnykh protsessov na natsionalnyu identichnost na sovremennom etape", *Fundamentalnye issledovaniya* num 8 (chast 4) (2014): 1004

⁴ A. Smith, "National identity and the idea of European unity", *International Affairs* Vol: 68 num 1 (1992): 67.

⁵ O. I. Zaznaev, "Kanadskaya natsionalnaya identichnost: problemy formirovaniya. Uchenye zapiski Kazanskogo universiteta", *Seriya Gumanitarnye nauki* Vol: 154 num 1 (2012): 228.

⁶ J. Bickerton y A. G. Gagnon, *Canadian Politics* (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 2009), 178.

It should be emphasized that national identity has a huge potential in strengthening the national security of the state. I.P. Skvortsov points to this in his research, drawing attention to the fact that the lack of strategic self-determination, loss of state identity, and a sense of national self-awareness will certainly lead to negative results, in particular, the impossibility of clearly articulating and defending national interests⁷. At the same time, changing attitudes to national identity can solve several geopolitical problems and socio-economic problems.

Results and discussion

It is necessary to pay attention to the fact that economic, political, and other factors are most often mentioned during the discussion of national security issues. The phenomenon of national identity is remembered only when a group of the population enters the arena that is quite hostile to the authorities, propagating opposite ideas and values and is ready to cooperate with other states to overthrow the present system⁸. However, there are other indicators of identity that are no less dangerous for the security of the state. In particular, this refers to such important moments as the loss of stability, the collapse of real ideas about yourself, disorientation, and the invalidity of generally accepted norms and values.

E.K. Obrinskaya notes that the Russian Federation is undergoing a period of crisis of national identity⁹. At the same time, this crisis is becoming more and more systemic, covering all social groups and especially young people as the most vulnerable social group. The following problematic points can be identified, which are most characteristic of the current stage of development:

rather weak cognitive potential of self-identification;

high level of ethnic conflicts among the younger generation;

insufficient attention on the part of state bodies to this issue in terms of implementing an effective identity policy;

lack of a holistic vision of the future around which young people and older generations can build further prospects and see real opportunities for their implementation in the context of the development of society as a whole.

Identifying the main causes of the current situation plays a huge role in forming an effective strategy to overcome it.

Ensuring the security of the state is a complex process that requires serious intentions from all participants in the relationship. At the same time, it is important to observe several points that are of conceptual significance. Among them, it is advisable to highlight the following:

⁷ I. P. Skvortsov, "Potentsial identichnosti v ukreplenii natsionalnoi bezopasnosti Rossii", *Obshchestvo i parvo* Vol: 4 num 50 (2014): 281-284.

⁸ A. V. Ponedelkov; A. M. Starostin y A. A. Starostin, "Natsionalnaya bezopasnost sovremennoi Rossii v kontekste problem natsionalno-gosudarstvennoi identichnosti", *Uchenye zapiski SKAGS* num 3 (2015): 123-129.

⁹ E. K. Obrinskaya, "Problema identichnosti v kontekste obespecheniya natsionalnoi bezopasnosti", *Simvol nauki* num 10-1 (2016): 205-209.

It is necessary to develop a project of national identity that has a Russian significance concerning all citizens, which is based on the principles of political and legal equality, common ideology, civil institutions, and territory;

It is advisable to update the worthy historical and cultural past, which is common to all citizens of the state, and maintain traditions that have a direct impact on the formation of a patriotic position. At the same time, this can be done by appealing to the arts, education, the media (including through Internet technologies), and civil society institutions;

Pay close attention to the issues of the civilizational identity of all major ethnic groups that live on the territory of a particular state. This refers to drawing clear parallels between the national identity of the Slavs and the Eastern Christian civilization, the Caucasian peoples – with the Islamic civilization, etc. Reference to civilizational identity is of great importance for a clear understanding of the "friend-or-foe" relationship as a mandatory feature of the identification process;

Preservation of national identity through comprehensive maintenance of native languages, religion, traditions, customs, and art that does not violate the rights and legitimate interests of third parties;

Special attention should be paid to creating a positive image of the state, as well as forming its own loud and clear position, which will be heard and perceived by the international community.

Conclusion

Thus, today, the issues of national security of the state are particularly acute in the context of universal globalization and integration. In the course of the study, it was found out that it is possible to resist internal and external threats due to a well-formed national identity and awareness of citizens of their belonging to a particular nation and state.

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