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## **RESEARCH METHODS OF NATIONAL SECURITY AS AN OBJECT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

## **МЕТОДИ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ ЯК ОБ'ЄКТА ПУБЛІЧНОГО УПРАВЛІННЯ**

*The article defines the essence of the national security category and the theoretical foundations of its institutionalization in the context of the security system and public administration. National security is presented as a set of organizational, legal, resource, and other elements, the functioning of which is characterized by a triune nature. It is aimed at strengthening statehood, forming public safety, and ensuring the sustainable development of society, while also encompassing a comprehensive study of socio-political processes and phenomena affecting national security, institutional interaction structures, and the system of national interests and values acting as objects of protection. Six management characteristics of national security as an object of public*

*administration have been systematized (from the existential nature of threats to temporal multi-layeredness), with a management challenge and a corresponding European standard defined for each.*

**Keywords:** national interests, national priorities, national security, socio-economic development, state security.

У статті визначено сутність категорії національної безпеки та теоретичні засади її інституціоналізації в контексті системи безпеки та публічного управління. Національну безпеку представлено як сукупність організаційних, правових, ресурсних та інших елементів, функціонування яких характеризується триєдиною природою. Вона спрямована на зміцнення державності, формування суспільної безпеки та забезпечення сталого розвитку суспільства, а також охоплює комплексне дослідження соціально-політичних процесів і явищ, що впливають на національну безпеку, інституційних структур взаємодії та системи національних інтересів і цінностей, які виступають об'єктами захисту. Систематизовано шість управлінських характеристик національної безпеки як об'єкта публічного управління (від екзистенційної природи загроз до темпоральної багатосаровості), для кожної з яких визначено управлінський виклик та відповідний європейський стандарт.

**Ключові слова:** національні інтереси, національні пріоритети, національна безпека, соціально-економічний розвиток, державна безпека.

Problem Statement. The formation of a democratic Ukraine is taking place in a complex domestic and international environment. Contradictory tendencies in the state's reformation, alongside the ambiguous influence of various external and internal factors, significantly complicate the issue of its self-identification in a changing world. In terms of core value orientations, Ukraine has made a conscious and vital choice: civil society, a social and legal state, a market economy, a security system, and integration into the European space. This necessitates a rethinking of the problems of secure and sustainable socio-economic development, as well as a scientific analysis of complex social

phenomena and processes according to the needs and conditions of the current stage of state-building. Given this, it is essential to conduct a comprehensive study of the scientific foundations for the institutionalization of public administration in the field of national security.

The importance of updating and ensuring the development of Ukraine's national security structure highlights the problem of theoretical development and scientific substantiation of this universally recognized institution inherent in modern state-building. Fundamentally, the entire complexity of the transformation process within the country is concentrated on the issue of ensuring its security, which acts as both a prerequisite and the primary goal of reforming Ukrainian statehood at the current stage.

Analysis of Recent Research and Publications. General and specific problems of national security are reflected in the scientific works of such scholars as [1, 2, 3, 4].

The purpose of the study is to analyze the research methods of national security as an object of public administration.

Presentation of the main material. At the beginning of the 21st century, humanity reached the conclusion that there is no alternative to the secure development of peoples and the sustainable functioning of states. At the same time, new threats and challenges indicate that this task still requires significant efforts from both the global community as a whole and each nation, people, and state individually.

As scholars rightly note [2], the modern understanding of national security reflects an objective process of integration of states and peoples in vital spheres of public life, as well as the strengthening of their interconnection and interdependence in forming a secure world and the unity of international, regional, and national security.

The concept of security in its most general form can be defined as the ability of an object, phenomenon, or process to maintain its core characteristics, parameters, and essence when facing pathogenic factors that exert a negative influence. Security characterizes not so much a state as the properties of an object manifested in relations, connections, and interactions with other objects. The level and intensity of negative, detrimental, or destructive influence on an

object, from the standpoint of maintaining its security, have certain limits of tolerance. Exceeding these limits during interaction may cause a partial, significant, or complete change in the object, the loss of its qualitative characteristics and properties, and, ultimately, the loss of its original meaning.

Therefore, when disclosing the content of the security concept, it is particularly important to identify destructive factors of a sudden or latent nature with sufficient destructive intensity – those that significantly affect the realization of the essence of an object, phenomenon, or process.

As is well known, security in a broad sense is a system of conditions and factors in which the state and society function and develop organically according to objective laws, delegating to the administrative apparatus the right to stimulate positive processes and tendencies, as well as to correct negative deviations while protecting the country from threats in the external and internal environments. Regarding the concept of the security of a social subject, it should be noted that it is historical in nature, includes an axiomatic aspect, and is directly related to the subject's ability to perceive and anticipate threats of pathogenic influences and respond effectively to them: namely, to take active steps toward their early detection, localization, prevention, or the neutralization of their undesirable consequences. Thus, the individual is the primary object and subject of security—if only because, among all living beings, only humans possess the ability to perceive surrounding reality [4].

It is generally accepted that the foundation of the dialectics of security, including national security, consists of the physical survival of society, the preservation of state sovereignty and territorial integrity, a high level of citizens' capacity to face dangers and threats, and the guaranteeing of normal conditions for full-fledged life, well-being, and spiritual self-expression. Consequently, ensuring security is not an end in itself but a condition for the development of citizens and the state, and for the fullest and most comprehensive satisfaction of their interests and needs.

Security is a paramount human need alongside the need for food, water, clothing, shelter, and information. It has political, economic, military, social, legal, environmental, spiritual, and other aspects; it accounts for international universal (regional) or domestic (national) features of its provision; and it may

be systemic (polystructural) or fragmentary (monostructural) in nature. It is a strictly scientific category which, without being kinesthetically tangible, reflects in its essence and content the viability and resilience of various objects in the material world.

General security theory includes and actively operates with such basic concepts as international security, regional security, national security, military security, political security, economic security, environmental security, information security, social security, life safety, etc. This list of concepts can be extended indefinitely depending on the goals and scientific aspirations of the researcher.

Despite the fact that all these concepts contain the term security – which etymologically means the absence of danger or the ability to effectively resist it – they all differ in nature and, in terms of content, sometimes overlap or even exclude one another. This indicates an insufficient level of systematization of these concepts and the imperfection of their methodological elaboration.

At the same time, an analysis of the security concept shows that authors, while operating with different terms in this field, often invest them with the same meaning. In this regard, the concepts of international and regional security appear most advantageous in a scientific and applied sense. Thus, international security is understood as certain relations and agreements reached between countries, under which the participants in these relations are not threatened by military, economic, or other expansion that may involve encroachment on territorial integrity, sovereignty, and other social values. The doctrine of international security, guided by the interests of human survival in the face of growing global threats, is based on a reasonable limitation of armaments by states and the allocation of a sufficient amount of funds to the security and defense sector (approximately 3–5% of GDP), as well as a resolute refusal to use military force in conflict-prone socio-political situations and, conversely, the use of dialogue as the primary means of reaching compromise in such conflicts and international disputes. [1].

Regional security characterizes the qualitative state of relations established between a group of countries in a specific region of the world, which excludes or minimizes the impact of threats of military aggression or

other encroachments on the sovereign existence of these states. It follows that regional security systems represent a part of the global security system, provided that their functioning aligns with the goals and principles of international security. Thus, we are essentially dealing with the aforementioned type of security – international security, but regional security is limited to the framework of specific territories of the globe.

Through the prism of "human existence" security, as well as the security of the animal and plant world, life safety is revealed, which currently develops primarily as an academic discipline for students in higher education institutions. Substantively, "human existence" security concerns anthropogenic and technological impacts on the relationship between humans as biological beings and the environment, defining directions for organizing protection in this area against negative influences. This type of security is ensured by regulating various mechanisms of human behavior to preserve the population and protect the natural material world (fauna, flora) necessary for normal life.

Despite the general theoretical significance of these concepts, they have a rather distant relation to the types of security that are objects of the state's protective activities.

As an interim conclusion, we have reached the point where all our life activities are nothing other than ensuring our own security in particular and national security as a whole. In our opinion, this is not an entirely correct approach to researching the "national security" category, as it does not allow for seeing something specific in it that would distinguish it from other socio-political categories. It fails to provide grounds for separating it into a distinct scientific theory with its own system, methodology, object, and subject, which would allow scientific research in this field to be raised to a new qualitative level.

It has been determined that the complexity of modern cognition of the "national security" category also lies in the fact that it replaced the category defined back in 2003, which in turn was preceded by the "state security" category. Consequently, despite the established use of the term "national security," it has never been fully developed theoretically. Primarily, this is because this concept, as well as the content of national security, is defined in

domestic science rather spontaneously, as a trend [2].

State security has objectively existed for a long time and, as noted above, is a derivative of the activities of state security agencies themselves. The term "state security," like the term "national security," is borrowed from abroad. During the Soviet period, national security was not doctrinally linked to other types of security (public, social, etc.). State security was brought to the forefront to emphasize the specifics of the agencies ensuring it; essentially, it represented the subject of their activities and thus determined special methods and means of carrying out these activities. Therefore, scientific research related to security problems was mainly conducted in scientific institutions of the state security system and was mostly classified. For these reasons, such research usually pursued the specific corporate goals of the department ensuring state security and directly depended on the ideological directives received by this department from the country's top party leadership, which certainly excluded scientific reliability and the complete objectivity of the results.

In this context, it is important to consider the security of the individual as a fundamental component of the triad of objects of protection in the security system. It is also vital to define the conceptual apparatus of this security, systematize its types, and identify the primary ones that have a direct and immediate relation to the security of the nation and form a special subject of law enforcement activity regarding its provision [1].

Conclusions. Thus, conceptually, the national security of Ukraine is understood as the security of its multinational people as the bearer of sovereignty and the sole source of power in the state. Consequently, this type of security is viewed as a state of protection of the individual, society, and the state in all spheres of life against external and internal threats, achieved through the implementation of a unified state policy in this direction. Furthermore, as previously noted, in the modern domestic understanding, the term "national security" is used – as in other civilized countries – to denote everything pertaining to the Ukrainian state and its society within equal and sovereign relations with the outside world. Security is not something tangible or material. It is an ideal category employed to characterize the state of specific objects of the material world in relation to other natural or social objects.

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