

CrossRef DOI of original article:

# 1 Sociology of War as a New Task of Ukrainian Sociology

2 Khymovych Oksana Stepanivna

3 Received: 1 January 1970 Accepted: 1 January 1970 Published: 1 January 1970

4

---

## 5 **Abstract**

6 The events taking place in modern Ukraine actualize military issues. The future of Ukraine as  
7 a sovereign state depends on an objective assessment of the situation and the adequacy of its  
8 perception. The role of sociology as a science that focuses on understanding social reality, in  
9 our case -war, is essential in this aspect. Its consequences are felt not only for Ukraine, but  
10 also for the international community. Direct observation of events taking place in Ukrainian  
11 realities forms an invaluable experience of the researcher. One of the features of sociology as a  
12 science is its research strategy: systematicity and complexity. With the aim of a  
13 comprehensive and systematic analysis of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the article offers a  
14 review of military issues through the prism of micro-, meso-, macro-and mega-level approaches.

15

---

16 **Index terms**— war, sociology of war, micro-, meso-, macroand mega-level approaches of sociological analysis.

## 17 **1 Introduction**

18 today, more than ever, the study of military issues is relevant not only among the military, but also among civilian  
19 researchers (scientists). Despite the fact that war as a social phenomenon is as old as human society itself, the  
20 need for a thorough understanding of it has only recently become relevant for Ukrainian society.

21 The role and importance of military force in world politics, the political activity of many states and a certain  
22 part of non-state actors is not only not decreasing, but has a tendency to increase. At the same time, the nature of  
23 wars and armed conflicts undergoes significant changes -both in terms of their social and political circumstances,  
24 and in terms of the forms and methods of conducting armed struggle. For some time, after the end of the Second  
25 World War, most of the scientific research that dealt with this issue focused on the maintenance of peace, the  
26 humanization of the world community, the elimination and deterrence of war as a way of solving armed conflicts.  
27 The world's political, intellectual, social and religious leaders have directed their long-term efforts to prevent the  
28 recurrence of war on a global scale (in Europe in particular, which became the main theater of two world wars).  
29 Despite these efforts, the war on the European continent started again. Thus, wars not only do not lose their  
30 relevance, but also acquire new forms of "human" cruelty, evil, violence and aggression. And you should not  
31 indulge yourself with illusions that as society develops, its cultural and educational level increases, and people's  
32 well-being increases, relations between them will become more harmonious. This means that the sources of  
33 militarism are hidden not only in external threats to national security, but also exist in the social institutions  
34 themselves. The well-known saying of the ancient Roman historian Cornelius Nepotus is appropriate in this  
35 context: "If you want peace, prepare for war."

36 Throughout the independence of Ukraine, the sociological discourse of military issues was characterized by a  
37 certain marginality, due to various reasons 1 . We will mention only a few of them: low social demand for the study  
38 of military issues (before the beginning of the large-scale invasion of Russia); the prevalence of social technologies  
39 regarding the manipulation of public opinion that "it is possible to overcome any social problems, so long as  
40 there is no war in independent Ukraine"; lack of internal consolidation of sociologists regarding research vectors  
41 (sociology of war and sociology of the army) ??Yakovenko, Grychnuk, 2015;Khobta, 2016; ??alagin, 2012). For the  
42 most part, sociological studies of military issues were conducted in Ukraine unsystematically (selectively, ad hoc,  
43 often situational and fragmented) and, unfortunately, insufficient. Separate aspects of the mentioned problems  
44 can be found in the scientific works of E. Afonin (formation of the army as a social institution; peculiarities of  
45 the social behavior of military personnel, etc.) (1994), O. Mazurika (modern trends in the reproduction of the  
46 army as a social institution) (2001), Yu. Kalagina (prerequisites and peculiarities of the institutionalization of

### 3 RESEARCH RESULTS

---

47 the military contract service in Ukraine) (2008), Solnyshkina A. (peculiarities of the functioning of the military  
48 organization) (2009) and others.

49 The scientific tradition of sociological analysis of war and its consequences, as S. ?hobta (2016, p. 126)  
50 rightly notes, is just beginning to take shape in domestic sociology. In particular, the understanding of the  
51 multivariability of war, its essence and characteristics, socio-political content, etc. are reflected in the works of  
52 such domestic scientists as I. Rushchenko (features of the Russian-Ukrainian hybrid war) (2015), A. Yakovenko  
53 (social consequences of the military conflict) (2014), S. Khobta (history of war research, war as an object of  
54 sociology) (2016), M. Trebin (theoretical and methodological aspects of war research; armed struggle in Ukraine  
55 in the context of modern trends in military affairs) (2014, 2015) and others.

56 Therefore, the lack of an established research tradition in the direction of the outlined problems is clearly  
57 visible already at the beginning of the large-scale intrusion.

58 The war that is being waged in Ukraine today, to some extent, expands the subject field for professional  
59 analysis in modern sociology. So, the question arises as to what research vector is relevant for a sociologist in the  
60 context of war, what exactly serves as the subject of sociology's analysis.

61 The scientific interest of domestic scientists in military issues is conditioned by the events unfolding in Ukraine  
62 since 2014 (first the military conflict in Donbas, the annexation of Crimea, and now the full-scale invasion of  
63 Russia). Thus, the social reality forms an urgent task -to intensify the research of the specified problem from the  
64 perspective of sociology, which significantly enables a more thorough understanding of the essence and features  
65 of the modern Russian-Ukrainian war and forecasting its impact.

## 66 2 II.

### 67 3 Research Results

68 Sociology as a science involves the understanding and analysis of social factors in various aspects of human activity.  
69 War is also the result of human activity, and therefore needs the attention of sociologists. The subject field of  
70 the sociology of war focuses on the causes of war, its nature (limited or total), the conditions for its deployment  
71 and support, the achievement of peace, consequences (immediate and distant), etc. It should be noted that the  
72 consequences of the war are not limited to the chronological framework of its conduct or the immediate results. Its  
73 consequences "mean the character of changes in the arrangement of socio-economic, political and spiritual forces  
74 between states and within them, resulting from military actions, losses incurred and the degree of realization of  
75 the goals of the warring parties. The historical role of this or that war must be evaluated by its consequences  
76 only within the framework of one era, since a new era also needs a new solution to the problem of war and peace"  
77 ??Trebin, 2015, p. 33).

78 One of the features of sociology as a science is its research strategy: systematicity and complexity. For the  
79 purpose of a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the Russian-Ukrainian war, we propose to consider the  
80 military issues through the prism of micro-, meso-, macro-and mega-level approaches and to trace the research  
81 vector proposed by us in those empirical studies that are currently, since the beginning of the large-scale invasion  
82 of Russia, implemented in Ukraine.

83 As you know, the mega-level refers to the analysis of world society as a single global megasystem, its diversity,  
84 in particular, the peculiarities of the formation of international relations and the existence of supranational  
85 phenomena. In this "key", the sociology of war could analyze the following military issues: types of wars  
86 (hybrid, informational); phases of wars, their scale (short-term (blitzkrieg)/long-term); geopolitical attitudes  
87 regarding the issue of peace and war on the world stage; military violence; rules of warfare; the role of  
88 international institutions (including NATO and the EU) in deterring and preventing military threats; military  
89 and political challenges; issues of risks and international security under conditions of nuclear war; the issue of  
90 militarization/demilitarization of the world community; arms trade; international terrorism; aggression etc.

91 The problems of issues that have been actualized since the beginning of Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine,  
92 and which illuminate the main aspects of the mega-level of sociological analysis, are chronologically presented in  
93 Table 1 On the other hand, as we can see, there is a lack of research that would relate to such aspects as we have  
94 defined, such as the types and phases of wars, their scale, military-political challenges, risks and international  
95 security under conditions of nuclear war, arms trade, international terrorism.

96 The macro-level of sociological analysis is a broad context of social analysis, represented in the format of  
97 the entire society, its culture, and mentality. The subject of research here is general laws of social changes in  
98 society, processes of social transformation, social conflict and social mobility of people (for example, migration).  
99 Therefore, at the macro-level, it is appropriate to investigate the readiness/unreadiness of society for effective  
100 functioning in war conditions, the level of trust in state institutions, the military organization of society, public  
101 opinion regarding military campaigns, the military doctrine of the state, forced migration of the population  
102 during the war, the issue of refugees, internally displaced persons, filtration camps for the civilian population,  
103 etc. Most aspects of the macro level of sociological analysis are reflected in a number of studies (see Table 2). In  
104 view of the information presented in Table 2, it is appropriate to note that such macro-level aspects of sociological  
105 analysis as the military organization of society, public opinion regarding the military doctrine of the state, the  
106 issue of filtration camps for the civilian population, certain aspects of the functioning of society in conditions of  
107 war, are currently left out research attention of sociologists.

108 The meso-level of sociological analysis is based on the study of social organizations and social institutions,  
109 that is, associations of people that have their own established structure of relations, history of formation and  
110 distribution of functional duties within a single social association. Here, relations acquire the character of  
111 impersonal, which is determined by the fulfillment of job instructions, social roles of managerial direction, that  
112 is, those that involve influence on other people -members of a social organization or institution. This level involves  
113 the study of social communities, as well as associations of people, for example, public ones, which go beyond  
114 small groups in terms of their quantitative composition, as well as classes, social strata, large collectives. So,  
115 at the meso level, the subject of analysis of the sociology of war, in our opinion, is military-civilian relations in  
116 the development of civil society, linguistic aspects, features of the provision of humanitarian aid, volunteering,  
117 the provision of medical aid, etc., which are reflected in the following studies (see Table 3). As we know, the  
118 micro-level of sociological analysis involves the analysis of the processes of direct interpersonal interaction in the  
119 conditions of people's stay in the social space of their immediate environmentfamily, circle of friends, group of  
120 peers, work team, etc. This level is often associated with the sociology of small groups, or microsociology, which  
121 studies group influences, mechanisms of social interaction in direct personal (contact) interactions of individuals.  
122 This initial level includes the basic forms of social related to a person's place in the social space of relations:  
123 social status, social role, social function, social position, etc. Therefore, at the micro level in the sociology of war,  
124 it would be appropriate to analyze such issues as civilian activism, voluntary initiatives and formations, mutual  
125 support and interpersonal relations during the daily challenges and threats of war, resources for ensuring the  
126 life of the civilian population during war, emotions and fears of civilians population, stress resistance, personal  
127 safety, etc. Most of the aspects of the mentioned issues are highlighted in the studies conducted in Ukraine in  
128 March-June 2022 (see Table 4). As can be seen from Table 4, the micro-level of sociological analysis of military  
129 issues is the most represented in the research vector.

## 130 4 III.

### 131 5 Conclusions

132 In view of the above, it is appropriate to note that social reality gives us an invaluable opportunity for a thorough  
133 analysis of military issues through the prism of sociology (to record the state of society, its transformation in the  
134 conditions of war; to study the consequences of military actions, "cultural trauma" experienced by the citizens of  
135 Ukraine, first of all, those regions where active hostilities are taking place); outline the social factors that made  
136 it possible to resist aggression and move towards victory, etc.).

137 Having analyzed the modern sociological empirical base on the specified issues related to the war, we come to  
138 the conclusion that military issues are covered only partially, and not systematically and comprehensively. That  
139 is, most studies conducted during a large-scale war reveal only certain aspects of the problem (mainly related  
140 to the study of public opinion regarding certain processes or structures). The significance and considerable  
141 number of these studies cannot be denied. At the same time, it is worth noting that the most in demand  
142 is a permanent assessment of the situation in Ukraine. The conducted research is aimed at situational and  
143 point-by-point determination of the situation rather than a systematic study of military issues. The results  
144 of qualitative sociological studies conducted in Ukraine during the large-scale invasion of Russia are lacking.  
145 Qualitative research methods would make it possible to analyze the problems of war at the local level in more  
146 detail. However, the security issue of conducting such surveys is much more important today. Most of the studies  
147 presented in the above tables were conducted by computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) based on a  
148 random sample of mobile phone numbers.

149 Most of the studies conducted in Ukraine relate to the situation of the civilian/peaceful population during  
150 the large-scale war in Ukraine. However, wars are fought primarily to paralyze or destroy an enemy's army, as  
151 this is the most effective tool of strategic violence available. of the war ("the burden" imposed on society) are  
152 being updated on the agenda; "price" of its consequences (immediate and remote). And here sociology is only  
153 at the starting positions of the specified problem. The proposed directions can only be a guideline for further  
154 research practice and analysis of sociologists. Summarizing the above, it is appropriate to note that, despite the  
155 complexity of the phenomenon of war, its rapid fluidity and variability as a phenomenon, a fourlevel sociological  
156 analysis is appropriate for the purpose of its comprehensive and systematic study.

157 The war that is being waged in Ukraine today is aimed at non-military (civilian) and carries out stealth strikes  
158 on the least protected objects or targets that do not take a direct part in the conduct of the war. Therefore,  
159 in our opinion, there is a moment of insufficient analysis of war as a social phenomenon and social problem in  
160 sociology both at the empirical and at the theoretical and methodological levels.

161 It is obvious that researchers will return to this question many times, when Ukraine wins the war, in peacetime.  
162 Empirical sociological research should be expanded and continued. After all, issues of getting out <sup>1 2 3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ? ?????????? ?????? ?????????? ?????????????? ?????????????? ?? ?????????? ?????????????? ?????????????? ??????????????  
????????? ?????????; ??????? ?? ??????? ?????????? ?????????? ?????, ??? ?? ??? ???? ??? ?? ?????? ?? .??.

<sup>2</sup> ?????????? ?????????? ?????????? ???-??? ??? ?????? ? ?????? ? ?????? 2014-2021 ??.

<sup>3</sup> Volume XXIII Issue IV Version I

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

---

### 1

- 1 1.03.2022 Assessment of the guilt of the peoples of Russia and Belarus (Sociological Group "Rating")
- 2 3- 4.03.2022;  
14- 15.03.2022;  
28- 29.03.2022 development of events) (Info Sapiens)
- 3 8- Assessment of international support to Ukraine (Sociological Group 9.03.2022 "Rating")
- 4 12- The fourth national survey of Ukrainians in war conditions (assessment 13.03.2022 of the situation, russia's intentions and reaction of Ukrainians, support for joining NATO) (Sociological Group "Rating")
- 5 18.03.2022 The fifth national survey: Ukraine in war conditions (assessment of confidence in victory, threats of crisis situations, attitude towards European countries, feasibility of negotiations with russia, creation of military alliances) (Sociological Group "Rating")
- 6 30- Seventh nationwide survey: Ukraine in war conditions (assessment of the 31.03.2022 situation, confidence in victory, foreign policy sympathies) (Sociological Group "Rating")
- 7 10- 18.04.2022 language issue) (Sociological Group "Rating")
- 10 8- Eighteenth nationwide survey: attitude of Ukrainians to foreign countries 9.10.2022 (assessment of the situation in the country, assessment of the nuclear threat, attitude to the countries of the EU, the USA and the East) (Sociological Group "Rating")
- 11 20- Reconstruction of Ukraine and international aid (international aid in 21.11.2022 reconstruction, prevention of Russian aggression, attitude towards Germany) (Sociological Group "Rating")

Omnibus (study of the attitude of Ukrainians and russians to each other: the opportunity to write to ordinary russians/Ukrainians, whatever they write, the guilt of the Russians in the invasion of Ukraine, sympathy for the citizens, support/nonsupport of the invasion of the territory of Ukraine, are ordinary citizens responsible for military operation in Ukraine) (Info Sapiens) 8 18-19.06.2022 Thirteenth national survey: foreign policy orientations (situation assessment, confidence in victory, attitude towards international leaders, foreign policy sympathies) (Sociological Group "Rating") 9 27-28.06. 2022 IRI survey: socio-political views (citizen attitudes (views of the future), international relations, geopolitical directions, assessment of power, negotiations, sources of information, economic

---

**2**

Year	?	Research	The main issues of the research and the companies that implemented it Nationwide survey: Ukraine at war (assessment of the level of trust in the armed
2023	1	time frame 26- 27.02.2022	forces, the actions of the President) (Sociological Group "Rating") Ninth nationwide survey: socio-economic problems during the war (change of residence, return home, availability/absence of work, evaluation of the "Victory
2	26.04.2022	Gardens" initiative, questions regarding the availability of a plot of land and the "garden" planting initiative, Easter celebration, international aid, attitude towards	international leaders) (Sociological Group "Rating")
3	27.04.2022	Tenth nationwide survey: Ideological markers of war (perception of the May 9 holiday, Sociological	Group "Rating")
5	19- 24.05.2022	Omnibus (perception of the Russian-Ukrainian war) (KIIS)	Small and medium-sized businesses during the war: research for CIPE (assessment of business development and war losses, needs and obstacles to business
) (G	September 2022	development due to war, overcoming corruption, effectiveness of institutions) (Info Sapiens)	Global Jour- nal of Hu- man So- cial Sci- ence

© 2023 Global Journals

historical memory of the Second World War, attitude towards defenders of Ukraine, attitude towards historical figures, dismantling of symbols of totalitarianism, attitude towards nationalities, language issue). (Sociological Group "Rating") 4 18-19.05.2022 The twelfth national survey: the dynamics of the assessment of the image of the state (the development vector of Ukraine, its assessment, hopes for the future, the generalized image of the Ukrainian state in the minds of the population) (

Figure 2: Table 2 :

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

---

3

?

Research The main issues of the research time and the companies that implemented it

1

19.03.2022 sixth national survey: the language issue in Ukraine (linguistic self-identification, use of languages in everyday life, status of Ukrainian and Russian languages) (Sociological Group "Rating")

2

15.03-

1.04.2022

Info Sapiens)

4

23- Fifteenth national survey.

24.07.2022 Ukraine during the war. Employment and income (assessment of the situation, assessment of economic opportunities, request for entrepreneurship, adaptation strategies, external migration, recovery of the country, post-war reconstruction) (Sociological Group "Rating")

5

23- Fifteenth national survey.

24.07.2022 Ukraine during the war. Attitudes about cynicism (dynamics of cynicism indicators, socio-demographic groups) (Sociological Group "Rating")

6

6- Sixteenth national survey.

7.08.2022 Ukraine during the war. Portrait of veterans in Ukrainian society) (Sociological Group "Rating")

October-

November

2022

7

5 ?????? ?????????????????? ??????????: ?????????? ?????????? ?? ??? ?????? (19 ?????? 2022). ??????. 2022. ua/research/ukraine/shestoy\_obschenacionalnyy\_opros\_adaptaciya\_ukraincev\_k\_usloviyam\_voyny\_19\_november\_2022.pdf. ?????? ?? ?????? (????????? 2022). ?????? 04.04.2022. URL: [https://razumkov.org.ua/napriamky/bizhentsi-nastroi-ta-otsinky; D?"](https://razumkov.org.ua/napriamky/bizhentsi-nastroi-ta-otsinky; D?)????????? ?????????? ?????????????? ? ?????????????? ??? ??? ??? ??????. Info Scom.ua/ua/publication-single-page?id=231, ?????????? ?????????????????? ?????????????? ?????????? ??? ??? ?????? 2022). ??????. 27.07.2022. URL: [https://ratinggroup.ua/research/ukraine/pyatnadcat\\_obschenaci\\_zanyatost\\_i\\_dohody\\_23-24\\_iyulya\\_2022\\_goda.html](https://ratinggroup.ua/research/ukraine/pyatnadcat_obschenaci_zanyatost_i_dohody_23-24_iyulya_2022_goda.html),

Figure 3: Table 3 :

---

**4**

Year 2023  
)  
G  
(  
Global Journal of Human Social Science -

Figure 4: Table 4 :

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

---

## 163 .1 ?

164 Research time frame The main issues of the research and the companies that implemented it

165 [Visnyk and Shevchenka] , Lnu Visnyk , Tarasa Shevchenka . 5 p. . (in Ukrainian)

166 [Kharkivskoho and Karazina] , Visnyk Kharkivskoho , V N Karazina . 1148 p. . (in Ukrainian)

167 [?????????? ?????????????????? ??????????: ??????? ???????, ??????? ?? ??????? ?????? pdf?fbclid=IwAR217v3tPfCD4wvMr0

168 ‘?????????? ?????????????????? ??????????: ??????? ???????, ??????? ?? ??????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????.

169 08.12.2022. [https://ratinggroup.ua/research/ukraine/dev\\_yatnadcyate\\_zagalnonac\\_onalne\\_opituvannya\\_anom\\_ya\\_v\\_ukra\\_nskomu\\_susp\\_lstv\\_20-21\\_listopada\\_2022.html](https://ratinggroup.ua/research/ukraine/dev_yatnadcyate_zagalnonac_onalne_opituvannya_anom_ya_v_ukra_nskomu_susp_lstv_20-21_listopada_2022.html).

170 ©2023GlobalJournals pdf?fbclid=IwAR217v3tPfCD4wvMr087smUpUXSH3\_5yB\_K9sFTi47TsYHc

171 dfa\_nPdPH-G4; ?????? ?????????????????? ??????????: ??????? ? ?????? ??????, 26 ?????? 20220.

172 18-19 ?????? 2022. 2022. Info Sapiens. 19.10.2022. 17-18 ?????? 2022. 6 ?????? 2022. 29c8b7d5de3de02ef3

173 a697573281953. 18-19????? 2022. 8-9 ?????? 2022. XXIII p. . (IV Version I References Références

174 Referencias)

175 [Trebin ()] ‘Hibrydna’ viyna yak nova ukrains’ka real’nist’. M P Trebin . *Ukrains’kyi sotcium* 2014. 3 (50) p. . (Hybrid” war as a new Ukrainian reality. in Ukrainian)

176 [Mazuryk (ed.) ()] *Modern trends in the reproduction of the army as a social institution (sociological aspect): PhD thesis*, O V Mazuryk . K. (ed.) 2015. (in Ukrainian)

177 [Solnyshkina ()] ‘Peculiarities of social problems of the military organization of Ukrainian society: PhD thesis abstract’. A A Solnyshkina . Z 2009. (in Ukrainian)

178 [Kalahin ()] *Razvitiie voiennoy sotciolohii. [Development of military sociology]. Metodolohiia, teoriia ta praktyka sotciolohichnoho analizu suchasnoho suspilstva*, Yu A Kalahin . 2012. 18 p. . (in Russian)

179 [Rushchenko ()] *Rosiys’ko-ukrains’ka hibrydna viyna: pohliad sotcioloha [Russian-Ukrainian hybrid war: a sociologist’s view]*, I P Rushchenko . 2015. Kharkiv: FOP Pavlenko O. H. (in Ukrainian)

180 [Khobta ()] *Sotciolohiia viyny yak zavdannia ukrains’koii sotciolohii*, S V Khobta . 2016. (Sociology of war as a task of Ukrainian sociology)

181 [Sources: Website Sociological Group Site of the] ‘Sources: Website Sociological Group’. *Site of the*, Kyiv International Institute of Sociology. (Rating)

182 [Afonin ()] ‘Stanovlennia Zbroynykh syl Ukrayny: sotci’lni ta sotcial’no-psycholohichni problem [Formation of the Armed Forces of Ukraine: social and socio-psychological problems’. E A Afonin . Kyiv: Interhrapnik 1994. (in Ukrainian)

183 [Metodolohiia] *Teoriia i praktyka sotciolohichnoho*, Metodolohiia . XXIII. IV Version I

184 [Trebin ()] M P Trebin . *Sotciolohiia viyny: ukrains’kyi kontekst*, 2015. (Sociology of war: the Ukrainian context)

185 [Yakovenko ()] *Ukrainskoie obshchestvo i voiennyi konflikt: pervyye otsenki sotcialnykh posledstviy*, A V Yakovenko . 2014. (Ukrainian society and military conflict: first assessments of social consequences)

186 [Values (assessment of the situation (in which direction Ukraine is moving), confidence in victory, general mood, assessment of the country, image of the future, national identity, language issue, rejection of the Russian issue, attitude towards nationalities, value orientations) (Sociological Group’ 17-18.08. *Seventeenth National Survey: Identity. Patriotism*, 2022. (Rating)

187 [Kalahin ()] ‘Viys’kova sluzhba za kontraktom: sotcial’nyi vymir [Military service under contract: the social dimension]’. Yu A Kalahin . Kharkiv: Kharkiv National University of the Air Force named after Ivan Kozhedub 2008. (in Ukrainian)