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Sociology of War as a New Task of Ukrainian Sociology

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Abstract

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

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

1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 II.

3 Research Results

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

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

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

The problems of issues that have been actualized since the beginning of Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine, and which illuminate the main aspects of the mega-level of sociological analysis, are chronologically presented in 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 defined, such as the types and phases of wars, their scale, military-political challenges, risks and international security under conditions of nuclear war, arms trade, international terrorism.

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

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

4 III.

5 Conclusions

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

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

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

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

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

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² ????????????? ????????????? ????????? ???-??? ??? ????????? ? ?????? ? ?????? 2014-2021 ??.

³ Volume XXIII Issue IV Version I

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- 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 8-9.03.2022 Assessment of international support to Ukraine (Sociological Group "Rating")
- 4 12-13.03.2022 The fourth national survey of Ukrainians in war conditions (assessment 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 30-31.03.2022 Seventh nationwide survey: Ukraine in war conditions (assessment of the situation, confidence in victory, foreign policy sympathies) (Sociological Group "Rating")
- 7 10-18.04.2022
language issue)) (Sociological Group "Rating")
- 10 8-9.10.2022 Eighteenth nationwide survey: attitude of Ukrainians to foreign countries (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 20-21.11.2022 Reconstruction of Ukraine and international aid (international aid in 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	
	2	26.04.2022	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 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)
) (September	Small and medium-sized businesses during the war: research for
G		2022	CIPE (assessment of business development and war losses, needs and obstacles to business
Global			development due to war, overcoming corruption, effectiveness of
Jour-			institutions) (Info Sapiens)
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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 18-19.05.2022The 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 :

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Year 2023
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Figure 4: Table 4 :

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

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

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