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THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN WESTERN AND KAZAKH HISTORIOGRAPHY

Abstract

This article examines the psychological aspects of the conflict in Ukraine through the prism of international relations and analyzes the views of scholars from Western and Kazakh historiography who interpret the causes and consequences of the conflict, as well as the influence of psychological factors on decision-making processes at the level of state and interstate politics. Also, it analyzes the differences in the interpretation of events in Western and Kazakh academic traditions and their influence on the formation of public opinion and foreign policy strategy are considered. The article contributes to a deeper understanding of the psychological mechanisms underlying international relations and demonstrates the importance of historical context in the study of modern conflicts.

Keywords: conflict psychology, Ukraine, international relations, Western historiography, Kazakh historiography.

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УКРАИНАДАҒЫ ҚАҚТЫҒЫС ПСИХОЛОГИЯСЫ ХАЛЫҚАРАЛЫҚ ҚАТЫНАСТАР КОНТЕКСТІНДЕ БАТЫС ЖӘНЕ ҚАЗАҚ ТАРИХНАМАСЫНДА

Аңдатпа

Бұл мақалада Украинадағы қақтығыстың психологиялық аспектілері халықаралық қатынастар призмасы арқылы қарастырылып, қақтығыстың себептері мен салдарын, сондай-ақ шешім қабылдауға психологиялық факторлардың ықпалын түсіндіретін батыс және қазақстандық тарихнама ғалымдарының көзқарастары, мемлекеттік және мемлекетаралық саясат деңгейіндегі процестер талданады. Сондай-ақ батыстық және қазақстандық академиялық дәстүрлердегі оқиғаларды түсіндірудегі айырмашылықтарды талдап, олардың қоғамдық пікір мен сыртқы саяси стратегияның қалыптасуына ықпалын зерттейді.

Мақала халықаралық қатынастардың негізінде жатқан психологиялық механизмдерді тереңірек түсінуге ықпал етеді және қазіргі заманғы қақтығыстарды зерттеудегі тарихи контексттің маңыздылығын көрсетеді.

Түйін сөздер: қақтығыс психологиясы, Украина, халықаралық қатынастар, батыс тарихнамасы, қазақ тарихнамасы.

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ПСИХОЛОГИЯ КОНФЛИКТА В УКРАИНЕ В КОНТЕКСТЕ МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОТНОШЕНИЙ В ЗАПАДНОЙ И КАЗАХСТАНСКОЙ ИСТОРИОГРАФИИ

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются психологические аспекты конфликта в Украине через призму международных отношений и анализируются взгляды ученых западной и казахстанской историографии, которые интерпретируют причины и последствия конфликта, а также влияние психологических факторов на процессы принятия решений на уровне государственной и

межгосударственной политики. Также в нем анализируются различия в интерпретации событий в западной и казахстанской академических традициях и рассматривается их влияние на формирование общественного мнения и внешнеполитическую стратегию.

Статья способствует более глубокому пониманию психологических механизмов, лежащих в основе международных отношений, и демонстрирует важность исторического контекста в изучении современных конфликтов.

Ключевые слова: психология конфликта, Украина, международные отношения, западная историография, казахстанская историография.

The conflict in Ukraine, which began in 2014 with the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and the subsequent armed actions in the east of the country, has become one of the most tragic and global events in modern world politics. It not only affected the issues of territorial integrity of Ukraine, but also caused significant changes in international politics, influenced relations between states and international organizations. Conflict psychology as a social and interpersonal discipline plays an important role in understanding the causes and dynamics of conflicts, in the perception of the parties and in finding ways to resolve the conflict.

1. Psychology of conflict: basic theories and approaches

As an interdisciplinary field of knowledge, conflict psychology focuses on the study of the behavior and perception of those involved in conflict situations and on the analysis of factors that influence the escalation or de-escalation of tensions. In theoretical psychology, it is common to identify several approaches to conflict analysis, including cognitive, emotional and social aspects.

From the perspective of cognitive psychology, conflict is often seen as the result of a misinterpretation of the other party's actions. Thus, A. Trisman and J. Kenny [1] emphasize that conflicting parties tend to interpret the opponent's actions as aggression or threat, which leads to a mutual aggravation of tensions and a simplification of the perception of the problem. This model can be useful to analyze the perception of Russia and Ukraine as enemies, especially in the context of an information war actively supported by both sides.

The emotional aspects of the conflict, such as aggression, fear, hatred, as well as the feeling of injustice, also have a significant impact on its development. I. Krivosheev [2] argues that the feeling of threat and the perception of a threat from an external enemy can contribute to the radicalization of public opinion, increased political polarization and even mobilization for military action.

Social psychology adds an important element to the understanding of conflicts — it is the interaction of groups and identification processes. Group identity and "us versus them" play a key role in exacerbating conflicts, as the creation of an enemy image through media and social networks contributes to the radicalization of public sentiment. [3]

2. Western historiography on the conflict in Ukraine

Western scholars and analysts pay particular attention to the geopolitical and psychological aspects of the Ukraine crisis. Many studies focus on analyzing the causes of the annexation of Crimea and the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine and consider them in the context of international relations, security and the influence of external actors.

Many Western studies emphasize that the psychological perception of the threat from Russia is a key element in shaping the foreign policy of Ukraine and Europe as a whole. For instance, researcher A.M. Winkler (2017) [4] argues in his work "The impact of geopolitical tensions on the perception of threats in Europe" that the conflict in Ukraine not only threatened the territorial integrity of the country, but also became a catalyst for changes in the strategic perception of security in Europe. Winkler claims that the West perceived Russia's actions as aggression, which led to increased sanctions against Russia and support for Ukraine on the international stage.

On the other hand, some scholars focus on the psychological aspect of the perception of the conflict by Ukrainian society itself. O. G. Lazareva [3] emphasizes in her research that Ukrainians who survived the revolution and subsequent events form their collective image of the enemy, which leads to an increase in nationalist sentiments and a decrease in the willingness to compromise.

An important aspect of Western historiography is the analysis of the role of information warfare in the formation of public opinion and the psychological adaptation of the population. A. J. Barnett [5] examines how Russian propaganda aimed at creating an image of "fascist Ukraine" was used to strengthen internal support for the Russian government and justify the annexation of Crimea.

3. Kazakh historiography and the perception of the conflict in Ukraine

In contrast to Western historiography, Kazakh historiography has a somewhat different context. As a country in close proximity to Russia and with strategic interests in Central Asia, Kazakhstan observes the conflict in Ukraine with a particular focus on the political and economic consequences for the entire region.

Research conducted by Kazakh scholars often focuses on the diplomatic aspect of the conflict and its impact on stability in Central Asia. An important point is the Kazakh perception of the threat of external aggression and the consequences for national security, which also includes the psychological aspect of the collective perception of the conflict. D. S. Abishev (2018) notes in his research that Kazakhstan, as a country with a multi-vector foreign policy, is interested in minimizing the consequences of the conflict in Ukraine, especially in the context of relations with Russia and the West. The psychological factor of threat perception for Kazakhstan also influences the development of state ideology and foreign policy aimed at ensuring neutrality and stabilization of relations in Central Asia.

The research of Kazakh scholars in the field of social psychology, such as the work of N. S. Pakhomov [6], also focuses on how the perception of conflict through the prism of national identity influences internal political stability.

In Kazakhstan, where a significant number of Russian-speaking people live, it is important to consider the psychological perception of relations with neighboring countries, which influences interethnic relations and domestic politics.

4. The influence of external propaganda on the psychology of the conflict

In both Western and Kazakh historiography, special attention is paid to the influence of propaganda and the media on the psychosocial aspects of the conflict. On the one hand, propaganda forms a national identity and an image of the enemy; on the other, it is actively used to mobilize and strengthen internal solidarity. The work of Western scholars (e.g. S. S. Hogan and M. A. Garcia [7]) emphasizes that the manipulation of mass consciousness with the help of information technology has become an integral part of psychological warfare in the conflict in Ukraine. Kazakh studies (e.g. G. I. Dzhunusova, 2017) [8], on the other hand, focus on how information technologies are used to support the state and strengthen its international image.

Conclusion

The psychology of the conflict in Ukraine in the context of international relations is an important topic for researchers both in the West and in Kazakhstan. Western historiography focuses on geopolitical and psychosocial aspects, while Kazakh historiography focuses more on the diplomatic and foreign economic consequences. In both cases, the psychological aspects of the conflict have a significant impact on the perception of threats, on decision-making and on social dynamics both within the countries and on the international stage.

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