

SOCIO-PHILOSOPHICAL FEATURES OF DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF MILITARY SERVICE AMONG YOUTH IN THE DIGITAL ERA: A CYBERSECURITY PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract: *This article explores the socio-philosophical features of developing a culture of military service among the youth of Uzbekistan in an era defined by rapid globalization and pervasive digital technologies. The primary objective of the study is to reveal the defensive function of military service culture as a vital "cognitive shield" in the minds of youth amidst escalating information warfare, cyber threats, and hybrid conflicts. Based on socio-philosophical, synergetic, and axiological approaches, the article analyzes the adaptation processes of traditional defense concepts to modern technological realities. The findings indicate that national security in the digital space is ensured not only by physical weaponry and tactical readiness but predominantly by the intellectual capacity, independent logical thinking, and robust ideological immunity of the younger generation. By comparatively examining the occupational and institutional models found in Western military sociology, the study substantiates the practical advantages of a unique national model for Uzbekistan. This model is strategically based on the synthesis of historical continuity—specifically the justice-oriented heritage of the Timurids and the intellectual patriotism of the Jadid movement—and modern digital*

education technologies, such as the integration of virtual reality (VR) in military training. Ultimately, the study concludes that in the digital age, military service culture serves not merely as a constitutional or legal obligation, but as the highest form of personal socio-cultural development and the most reliable intellectual guarantee of national security..

Keywords: *Social philosophy, military service culture, cybersecurity, information threats, ideological immunity, digital era, cognitive defense.*

1. Introduction

At the current stage of societal development, characterized by the unprecedented advancement of information and communication technologies (ICT) and pervasive globalization, ensuring security and developing a military service culture has transcended its traditional boundaries, acquiring a new socio-philosophical significance. In modern international relations, the proliferation of "hybrid wars," cyber threats, and information-psychological attacks has fundamentally altered priorities in the defense sector. Under such conditions, the primary factor ensuring victory and stability is no longer solely human manpower or military hardware, but human capital, intellectual capacity, and digital literacy. From this perspective, cultivating a culture of military service in the minds of the youth has become a fundamental mechanism for maintaining state stability.

In philosophical and sociological literature, military service culture is examined through various theoretical lenses. In Western sociology, military structures are generally analyzed within two major frameworks: the *institutional model*, based on values and duty, and the *occupational model*, which relies on pragmatic and material incentives (Fransen, 2019). Furthermore, military culture is often interpreted as a strict set of normative behaviors, ethical principles, and values that guarantee state

security (Grebenkov, 2011; Grigoryev, 2000). However, the distinct reality of the digital age is that defending virtual and ideological boundaries has become significantly more complex than protecting physical borders. In complex, open social and information systems, constant fluctuations exist, and the minds of the youth are the most vulnerable territory to manipulation (Tajibaev & Akhmedov, 2022). This necessitates an approach to the problem that steps outside the traditional legal-military framework and embraces a comprehensive socio-philosophical and technological perspective.

In the context of the New Uzbekistan, developing a culture of military service among youth is not merely a practical exercise in enhancing defense capabilities but a unique socio-cultural phenomenon. The epistemological and axiological foundations of this phenomenon are rooted, on the one hand, in historical continuity—the principles of justice in the Timurid state and the intellectual patriotism of the Jadid movement. On the other hand, it is driven by the humanistic nature of modern defense strategies and innovative digital educational tools, such as the virtual reality (VR) technologies integrated into the "Temurbeklar Maktabi" (military academic lyceums). A robust military service culture acts as a resilient "cognitive shield" that protects youth from the destructive influences of mass culture and psychological manipulation.

The objective of this research is to systematically analyze the socio-philosophical laws, mechanisms, and axiological features of forming a military service culture among the youth of Uzbekistan in the context of globalization, where the digital age and cybersecurity threats are intensifying. Furthermore, the study aims to substantiate military culture as a cognitive defense system for the individual, thereby revealing its stabilizing significance in the modern information space.

2. Historical Continuity as a Cognitive Shield Against Information Warfare

In the context of the digital age, where social networks and digital platforms act as arenas for ideological confrontation, the concept of a "cognitive shield" becomes an ontological necessity for national security. A socio-philosophical analysis indicates that a cognitive shield cannot be constructed in a vacuum; it requires a robust historical and axiological foundation. For the youth of Uzbekistan, this foundation is derived from the synthesis of the Timurid era's military-administrative justice and the intellectual patriotism of the Jadid (national awakening) movement.

Historically, the Jadid intellectuals realized that enlightenment and independence were intrinsically linked to a modern understanding of military and technological capabilities. According to Qosimov (2004), for the representatives of the national awakening, enlightenment was not merely about literacy, but about cultivating individuals capable of placing national interests above all and defending their rights in an increasingly complex world. In the contemporary digital environment, this translates into digital literacy and ideological immunity.

When youth are grounded in their historical continuity, they develop a resistance to the destructive psychological manipulations prevalent in cyberspace. The historical memory acts as an "attractor" in the complex, non-linear system of the modern information society, guiding the youth through points of bifurcation and preventing cognitive chaos (Tajibayev & Axmedov, 2022). Consequently, military service culture ceases to be a mere physical obligation and transforms into an intellectual duty, forming a collective ideological immunity against cyber threats and the homogenizing effects of global mass culture.

3. Epistemological Evolution: Virtual Reality (VR) and Cognitive Defense

The rapid development of information and communication technologies requires an epistemological shift in how military service culture is understood and taught. It is no longer sufficient to rely solely on mechanical discipline; modern military culture demands independent logical thinking and the ability to process vast amounts of digital information. The integration of advanced technologies into military education represents a critical phase in this evolution.

A prime example of this epistemological transformation is the "Temurbeklar Maktabi" (military academic lyceums) in Uzbekistan. These institutions serve as strategic laboratories where historical values are synthesized with innovative digital education. The integration of Virtual Reality (VR) technologies into the curriculum has created a phenomenon of "simulational epistemology." Through VR, cadets model complex strategic and combat situations in a virtual environment, which mathematically enhances their speed of perception and decision-making capabilities.

From an epistemological standpoint, VR technologies in military education elevate the culture of military service from physical defense to a high-level cognitive and technological security system. By operating within a virtual environment, young military personnel learn to identify the mechanisms of information attacks and the structure of cyber threats. This technological modernization ensures that the modern defender is not just a "combat machine" but an "intellectual subject" capable of analytical thinking and strategic forecasting. Ultimately, the integration of digital tools like VR aligns the military culture with the

cognitive style of the younger generation, making national defense an intellectually engaging and axiologically profound endeavor.

4. Conclusion

The socio-philosophical analysis of developing a military service culture among the youth of Uzbekistan in the digital era reveals a fundamental paradigm shift: modern defense is no longer defined exclusively by physical boundaries and traditional weaponry, but by cognitive resilience and ideological immunity. In an age characterized by global information warfare and cyber threats, true security starts with the individual. It requires a profound internal transformation where the youth perceive military service not merely as a constitutional obligation, but as a conscious moral duty and an intellectual shield.

This study demonstrates that the stability of military culture in the contemporary information society depends on the successful synthesis of historical continuity and technological innovation. The axiological foundation, drawn from the justice-oriented military strategies of the Timurid era and the intellectual patriotism of the Jadid movement, provides young people with an unshakeable national identity. Simultaneously, the epistemological adaptation through modern digital tools—such as the integration of virtual reality (VR) in military academic lyceums—equips them to navigate and neutralize complex cyber-psychological manipulations.

Ultimately, cultivating a culture of military service in the digital space means fostering an "intellectual defender." By transforming historical memory into a cognitive shield and utilizing technology to enhance strategic thinking, the state ensures that its youth are prepared to counteract both physical and ideological threats. The continuous evolution of this culture guarantees that the intellectual and moral

readiness of the youth remains the most reliable foundation for national security in the 21st century.

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