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NATIONAL INTERESTS OF UKRAINE AS THE BASIS FOR COUNTERING RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

The article analyzes the formation of national interests and values and their public awareness during the period of Independence of Ukraine. It is noted that the study of Ukrainian national interests and values and their public awareness during the period of Independence is quite relevant and appropriate within the framework of the development of both theoretical and methodological problems and applied tasks of domestic political science at the current stage of development of Ukrainian society. The category of “national interests” in domestic political science has not yet been covered sufficiently. Therefore, a theoretical analysis of the category of “national interests” is carried out, as well as an analysis of the problems of their formation and awareness throughout the Independence of Ukraine. The update on the problem of Ukrainian national interests is due to the establishment and consolidation of Ukrainian sovereignty, the establishment of the national consciousness of the Ukrainian people. The categorical apparatus of the national interests and values is considered. It is concluded that today the main national interest of Ukraine is the struggle for state independence against the neocolonial ambitions of Russia, the defence of its right to its own political development.

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National interests are the vital interests of the people, reflecting the aspirations of citizens to ensure stable and sustainable development of society and minimize social threats.

Keywords: *national interests, independence of Ukraine, aggression of Russia, Ukrainian nation, neo-imperialism, counteraction to the armed seizure.*

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Національні інтереси України як основа протидії російській агресії

У статті здійснений аналіз формування національних інтересів і цінностей та їхнього суспільного усвідомлення у період Незалежності України. Зазначається, що дослідження українських національних інтересів й цінностей та їхнього суспільного усвідомлення у період Незалежності є досить актуальним і доречним у межах розробки як теоретико-методологічних проблем, так і прикладних завдань вітчизняної політології на сучасному етапі розвитку українського суспільства. Категорія «національні інтереси» у вітчизняній політичній науці поки що не отримала достатнього наукового висвітлення. Тому здійснюється теоретичний аналіз категорії «національні інтереси», а також аналіз проблем їхнього формування й усвідомлення в умовах державної Незалежності України. Актуалізація проблеми українських національних інтересів обумовлена утвердженням та укріпленням Української державності, усталенням національної свідомості українського народу. Розглядається категоріальний апарат проблематики національних інтересів і цінностей. Робиться висновок, що сьогодні головним національним інтересом України є боротьба за державну незалежність проти неоколоніальних амбіцій росії, обстоювання свого права на власний політичний розвиток.

Національні інтереси – це життєві інтереси народу, що відображають прагнення громадян до забезпечення стабільного та сталого розвитку суспільства та мінімізації соціальних загроз.

Ключові слова: національні інтереси, незалежність України, агресія Росії, неоімперіалізм, українська нація, протидія збройному захопленню.

General formulation of research and its topicality. In the current wartime, Ukrainian scientists tackle new challenges when it is essential to outline national interests and values in retrospect and in the current state after having studied the previous state of the problem. Initially the scientists require to carry out a research to establish a new security strategy and develop Ukraine in a social manner.

The study of the state of national interests and values is the foundation that can help Ukraine, which is in a unique and peculiar situation, when there is an urgent demand for finding a new paradigm of stability. The multi-crisis state of Ukrainian society indicates that it is imperative to

determine ways to overcome issues immediately in such spheres of life as spiritual, social, and tangible. The task is quite complicated, since all the above areas are entirely affected by the war.

We witness extraordinary events when extremely crucial changes are taking place for the Ukrainian citizens and the world as a whole: the establishment and consolidation of Ukrainian sovereignty, the establishment of the national consciousness of the Ukrainian population, in which national interests and values structurally have a special place (this category is the leading basis, the backbone of national consciousness), the underlying factor for developing a civil society.

Therefore, the study of Ukrainian national interests and values and their public awareness throughout the independence is quite relevant within the framework of both theoretical and methodological problems and practical tasks of domestic political science at the current stage of development of Ukrainian society.

Analysis of recent studies and publications in which the solution of the specified problem was initiated, demonstrates that there are numerous scientific developments of such researchers as G. Kissinger, R. Aron, W. Lippman, G. Morgenthau, K. Waltz, J. Rosenau and others. The above-mentioned researchers indicate that the category of national interest is quite abstract, because the parameters of this scientific term are determined by the worldview and system of values that dominates in a certain society or state, and politics is the most important means of implementing national interests.

Ukrainian researchers like I. Kresina and I. Alekseienco studied the issues of national interests in the ethno-state works with a thorough analysis of national consciousness. O. Dzioban, V. Bielievtseva and V. Nastiuk devoted their scientific research to the problem of protecting the national interests of Ukraine. Among domestic scientists, it is worth noting the scientific achievements of the team of scientists of I.F. Kuras Institute of Political and Ethno-National Studies of the NAS of Ukraine. O. Maiboroda, I. Kuras, Yu. Rymarenko, M. Mykhalchenko et al. considered issues related to the content and analysis of national interests in the context of studying individual socio-political aspects of nation-building, nationalism, national psychology, etc., as well as public awareness and the search for ways to harmonize national interests by Ukrainian society. V. Kotyhorenko, V. Voinalovych in collaboration with colleagues, paid attention to the ethno-political analysis of regional values. National interests and values

draw attention of such domestic scientists as B. Savchuk, V. Horbulin, A. Kachynsky, L. Shkliar, S. Teleshun et al. from the point of view of security, legal, cultural aspects of ethnopolitics and ethnogenesis, etc.

Special attention is paid to the profound annual monitoring of the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, which, in their study, comprehensively cover the state of Ukrainian society. It is especially worth noting the contribution to the study of national interests and values of Ukrainian society of such scientists of the aforementioned scientific institution as V. Reznik, S. Dembytsky, O. Zlobina, Ye. Holovakha, O. Shulga, N. Panina, A. Ruchka et al. At the same time, it is worth mentioning that the issues associated with the terminological characteristics of national interests and values, the definition of their essence, analysis and comprehensive assessment of their awareness by Ukrainian society during the years of independence remain insufficiently studied.

80 — ***The aim of the article*** is to analyze the theoretical foundations of the concept of “national interests” and the features of their formation in Ukraine during the resistance to full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation, to determine the priority national interests of Ukraine in the current situation.

Discussion and Results. The category of “national interests” in domestic political science has not yet been covered sufficiently. On the one hand, this category is relatively new, it has recently entered our scientific discourse. On the other hand, for the most part, political scientists, as a rule, pay attention mainly to the political or economic aspects of national interests. At the same time, a large layer of general theoretical questions about the essence and content of national interests still remains on the edge of the attention of specialists.

Understanding the essence of national interests is largely facilitated by the rules of formal logics of such interrelated concepts as “interests” – “needs” – “national interests”.

It is important to emphasize that social features and the social type of interest have their origins in its essence. This was also noted by representatives of the Enlightenment era, calling interest an object that is inextricably linked in people’s understanding with their idea of their own happiness. Helvetius noted that “the spiritual world is in a subordinate position with respect to the law of interest, just as the physical world is in the same position with respect to the law of motion. For individuals living

on our planet, interest is a kind of magician capable of changing their idea of any subject” (Helvetius C. A. 2015, 34). In the following historical period, the concept of “interest”, acting as a driving force of social, state and legal development, did not lose its significance, since the entire spectrum of things that people fight for is related to their interests.

The category of “interest” cannot be limited only to needs, since interests are a more voluminous concept. In addition to needs, they also include methods and tools for their satisfaction. For example, there are not only needs, ways and means of their implementation, but also interests that are not related to the needs of currently existing subjects of social relations (future generation interests). The social component of interest is connected precisely by the method of implementing the need, since the directions and tools for achieving interest can lie in the legal or non-legal field.

Neither justice, nor mercy, nor truth, enter into enter into such judgment for the judgment has preceded the evidence. Yet a people without prejudices, a people with altogether neutral vision, is so unthinkable in any civilization of which it is useful to think, that no scheme of education could be based upon that ideal. Prejudice can be detected, discounted, and refined, but so long as finite men must compress into a short schooling preparation for dealing with a vast civilization, they must carry pictures of it around with them, and have prejudices. The quality of their thinking and doing will depend on whether those prejudices are friendly, friendly to other people, to other ideas, whether they evoke love of what is felt to be positively good, rather than hatred of what is not contained in their version of good (Lippman W. 1949, 127).

At the same time, it is undeniable that the state is an exceptional comprehensive model of harmonizing interests within existing communities and the entire society in general, as well as it is the one that is preserving the unity of the nation. G. Hegel emphasized that there is a connection between the individual and the state, and the state is the result of a combination of two different primary sources: collective interests and the interests of individuals, which constitute the whole, which is interpreted as collective interests. Both primary sources, in his opinion, “are in close interrelation, in fact, they exist to complement each other and at the expense of each other, constantly passing into each other” (Hegel G. V. F. 2001). “State” and “nation” act as one social subject, and not two separate subjects. The modern state cannot exist without the nation,

just as the nation cannot exist without the state, there is a close dialectical relationship between them.

Of the three human factors of a qualitative nature which have a bearing on national power, national character and national morale stand out both for their elusiveness from the point of view of rational prognosis and for their permanent [and often] decisive influence upon the weight which a nation is able to put into the scales of international politics (Morgenthau H. 1973, 329).

At the same time, it should be emphasized that national interest is a reflection of the interest of the state and the interests of civil society; these categories “are not only in a meaningful connection with the category “national interest”, but also determine its content to the highest extent”.

82 — It is worth noting that in modern science there are different opinions on the understanding of the category “nation”. As a rule, this concept means a state-organized people as well as multi-ethnic, socio-cultural and political association of the population at a given historical period of time. At the same time, “nation” is regarded as a political association of compatriots who live in a particular state, are aware of their belonging to this state, regardless of nationality, religious preferences, native language and other differences.

The ethnic principle is the starting point for the creation of a nation. The titular ethnos gives the name to the nation and the state, acts as the primary basis for the nation. Nowadays, there is an increasing tendency to identify the nation with the community of the state and civil society. It is the community of civil society and the state that is most characteristic feature to define the nation. Therefore, the national interest lies in ensuring the most urgent needs of society and the state. At the same time, national and state interests form a close connection with each other, they are interconnected and mutually determined.

Whatever level and forms of governance analysts seek to clarify, they must confront two underlying forces at work in human affairs: one is the dynamics of change and the other concerns the ever greater complexity that the changes are fostering. Whether it involves a local community, a national state, a developing society, a geographic region, or the global system, comprehension of the goals, processes, and institutions of governance cannot be advanced unless they are assessed in a transformative context marked by increasingly complex actions and interactions among public and private organization (Rosenau J. 2006, 129).

The analysis shows that today the meaning of the term “national interests” is expanding. In one case, this concept is presented in conjunction with foreign policy activities, because it symbolizes a nation, a state, the functions of which include protecting its own interests in the world political system; in other cases, national interests are considered in the context of solving internal political tasks (as a means of studying foreign policy). Indeed, national interests are certainly determined by the position of the state that it occupies in the international arena and are revealed during the analysis of its historical path and current position in the international system.

There are different approaches to defining national interests. The term “national interests” was introduced into modern science and practice quite recently. At the official level, it began to be used in scientific works only in 1935, after its legitimacy was confirmed by inclusion in the Oxford Encyclopaedia.

However, spears are still being broken in disputes about what is meant by the concept of “national interest” and what role it plays as a scientific category in the mechanism of legal influence, etc. Disputes are mainly due to differences of opinion about the essence and structure of this concept, its role and meaning.

As V.S. Pavlenko notes, national interest is the most important guideline for independent political activity of nationally oriented forces in the sphere of state power. National interest is one of the main conditions for people to acquire national and cultural identity, in addition, it expresses in a concentrated form those goals and ways of achieving them that secure for national movements a particular political status both within the state and in the international arena (Pavlenko V.S. 2022, 85).

A. Redkina argues that it is from Ukrainian national interests that we can derive the content of Ukrainian national values (Redkina A. 2023, 147). In addition to this, O. Lisnychuk highlights a whole segment that can be identified as the discourse of national interests of Ukraine and within which attempts are made to articulate and designate common images, identities, and strategic guidelines for Ukrainian society (Lisnychuk O. 2009, 85).

Economists consider national interests through the prism of the state's financial security. Thus, V. Shary and I. Shary note that “the main condition for the state's ability to implement an independent financial and economic policy in accordance with its own national interests” and as “the state of the

economy, in which the formation of positive financial flows of the state is ensured in the volumes necessary to fulfil its tasks and functions” (Shary V., Shary I. 2024, 462).

In this regard, we consider it crucial to express the following opinion: the national interest retains its leading positions for absolutely all countries on the planet. Therefore, treating it with neglect would be not just a mistake, but rather a threat. Scientific development of national interests is both useful and necessary.

National interests are the vital interests of the people, reflecting the desire of citizens to ensure stable and sustainable development of society and minimize (eliminate) social threats.

Leaving aside the problem of threats to national interests (after all, this is a topic for separate consideration), we emphasize that in fact there is an equal sign between the vital interests of the people and national interests. This brings us closer to understanding the specifics of this phenomenon.

84 — Based on this message, we will try to distinguish individual features of the national interest (interests), which, we believe, will allow us to get closer to understanding the essence of this phenomenon, as well as present the authors’ definition of national interests. And we shall start with the observation that national interests are primarily the interests of the state as a representative of the interests of the entire society, of the entire Ukrainian people. In our opinion, in this case, national interests are equated with state interests, which in practice does not always happen. An example is the conflicts of private interests that arise periodically with state interests.

An essential feature of national interests is their dialectical relationship and interdependence with the needs of the state and society. And although, at first glance, interest and needs are identical concepts, interest is the more voluminous of them, since it also includes tools and methods of satisfying needs. At the same time, needs are the initial interest, they actually form their basis.

When identifying the features of national interests, the most important of which is their conditioning by a concept such as “nation”. The development of a set of national interests is known to occur consistently and over a long period of time in conditions of a complex historical interweaving of various factors in the economic, social, cultural, political and national-psychological spheres. It is for this reason that there is a strong connection with the carriers of these factors and national interests.

The following question should be focused on: “What are the people and its history like?” National interests are strongly interconnected with such a phenomenon as the self-determination of the nation. This approach is based on an integral theory of the nation, which allows us to bring together all the characteristics of national life in their commonality and cohesion (national solidarity).

As a sign of national interests, their democratic nature is considered (here we mean the national interests of our state). As an example, we can cite a number of reforms carried out in the country (administrative, judicial, etc.), the creation of a favorable information climate, the development of democratic institutions, the strengthening of the role of public opinion, etc.

Along with the stated, characteristic feature of national interests, there is also their economic component, which allows us to solve the problem of ensuring the well-being of our state and society.

In this regard, the topic of defining national interests is diverse, and its issues lie in the need to provide appropriate conditions for economic well-being and ensure the protection of the domestic producer; in maintaining and improving the quality of the material, cultural and moral state of the life processes of a specific social community; in the implementation of duties and obligations dictated by the geopolitical position of the state, its role in the sphere of foreign economic relations and connections. It is economic well-being that is connected with national interests. In other words, national interests are determined by the economic state of a particular country.

As Henry A. Kissinger notes globalization views the world as one market in which the most efficient and competitive will prosper. It accepts – and even welcomes – the fact that the free market will relentlessly sift the efficient from the inefficient, even at the cost of economic and social dislocation.

But the extreme versions of globalization tend to neglect the mismatch between the world’s political and economic systems. Unlike economics, politics divides the world into national units. And while political leaders may accept a certain degree of suffering for the sake of growth in their economies, they cannot survive as advocates of near-permanent austerity – especially if their policies can be presented as imposed from abroad (Kissinger Henry A. 2023).

Nuclear weapons have become an essential factor. Nuclear weapons eliminate neither the use of force nor the importance of balancing behavior. They do limit force at the strategic level to a deterrent role, make estimating the strategic strength of nations a simple task, and make balancing easy to do. Multipolarity abolishes the stark symmetry and pleasing simplicity of bipolarity, but nuclear weapons restore both of those qualities to a considerable extent. Nuclear weapons have yet another beneficial effect on the relations of the nations that have them. Conventional states shy away from cooperating for the achievement of even large absolute gains if their uneven division would enable some to turn their disproportionate gain into a military advantage. Because states with second-strike forces cannot convert economic gain into strategic advantage, an important part of the relative-absolute gains problem is negated. And since nuclear countries cannot make important gains through military conquest without inviting retaliation, the importance of conventional forces is reduced (Waltz K.1993, 46).

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Continuing the characterization of the features of national interests, we note their systematicity. This feature lies in the fact that national interests are always a systemic phenomenon with their own elements that allow us to talk about the content of national interests. At the same time, the elements of national interests are characterized by interaction, hierarchical subordination, corresponding functional relationships, etc. The key feature that national interests are elements of the system is strict subordination, which involves achieving the main goal of their implementation. It is based on it and its development that all other components of the system of national interests are created. We consider it appropriate to add complexity to the systematicity as a feature of national interests since national interests are always a complex phenomenon that includes a wide variety of factors in the economic, social, political and cultural spheres.

We will also include their awareness among the essential features of national interests. Its essence lies in recognizing the commonality of national interests and their necessity as one of the most important goals of the state. At the same time, the ability to realize and clearly imagine national interests, their role and significance for the life of society and the state is essential. In general, national interests are always oriented towards achieving one or another goal. National interests are a motivated model of required measures and a pre-emptive representation of the process of achieving the proposed situation by the system, determined by reason.

Another feature of national interests is their integrative nature. Integration (from the Latin *integratio*) allows various elements and parts to be combined into a single whole in the process of its development. The above fully applies to national interests: in the process of their development, they streamline and increase the level of organization of components (elements) that are part of the content of national interests.

A characteristic feature of national interests is ensuring the territorial integrity and territorial unity of the state, as well as ensuring political stability in society as the most important component and characteristic feature of national interests.

And finally, national interests are determined by the state and prospects for the development of the national economy; are most closely related to interests in the social and spiritual spheres of society.

The distribution of power in the world and the general international environment also matter. The link between the survival of particular great powers and the stability of systems is also weakened by the fact that not all changes of number are changes of system. That bipolar and multipolar systems are distinct is widely accepted. Systems of two have qualities distinct from systems of three or more. What is the defining difference? The answer is found in the behavior required of parties in self-help systems: namely, balancing. Balancing is differently done in multi- and bipolar systems. Though many students of international politics believe that the balance-of-power game requires at least three or four players, we saw in Chapter 6 that two will do. Where two powers contend, imbalances can be righted only by their internal efforts. With more than two, shifts in alignment provide an additional means of adjustment, adding flexibility to the system. This is a crucial difference between multi- and bipolar systems (Waltz K.N. 2008, 327).

As a result, the considered features of national interests (their list can be continued) give grounds to talk about their essence in relation to national security, the content of which these interests cover.

Considering the current national interests of Ukraine, the following should be highlighted. Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine has definitely intensified the process of national self-determination, stimulating the readiness of Ukrainians to resist external invasion and protect the independence of Ukraine. Currently, the main thing for the absolute majority of our people is the struggle for state independence, defending their right to their own future and the future of their own country. National

interests and values are the basis for the formation of national goals. In turn, national goals are the main state task, the implementation of which should ensure the implementation and protection of national interests and values. Therefore, national goals are indicative marks on the way to building a new security model for Ukraine. Over the years of independence, Ukraine has not overcome noticeable differences in regional and linguistic indicators, regarding views on our historical heritage. The first sharp surge in the consolidation of Ukrainians occurred after the first wave of Russian aggression in 2014, the second - after the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on February 24, 2022. Currently, there is a rapid change in the value and normative system of society, as Ukraine has entered an era of radical social transformations. Social instability, which is caused by current changes in society, is only increasing. Further research into national interests and values is extremely relevant and appropriate for domestic political science. There is a need for constant monitoring of both foreign and domestic political vectors of the opinions of the population of Ukraine, scientific study of value (individual and societal) orientations, since the consolidation of Ukrainian society is, unfortunately, so far only situational. Further scientific research should be devoted to research on the search for a solid common foundation for the cohesion of Ukrainian citizens.

It is necessary to finally clearly realize that for Ukraine, which entered the 21st century with unclear prospects for its further existence, today there is an opportunity in the conditions of a new geopolitical reality to finally formulate its national interests and values and defend the right to its own historical path of development.

The national interests of Ukraine today include: the creation of an effective civil society, increasing the efficiency of state authorities and local self-government, the development of democratic institutions to ensure human rights and freedoms; achieving national harmony, political and social stability; guaranteeing the rights of the Ukrainian community abroad. It should be noted that the oligarchic regime of electoral democracy in Ukraine has not been dismantled even after the Revolution of Dignity, which poses new challenges for the state.

National interests require the establishment of a “middle class” as it is confirmed by the experience of various European countries, including those that until recently belonged to the “empire of evil and lies” and the so-called “socialist commonwealth.” The share of the population that

makes up the “middle class” should be at least 60%. Then the democratic regime will finally receive its social base and the Ukrainian state will reach a fundamentally different, modern level of development.

In general, it should be emphasized that today the question should no longer be about the reset of power, but about the RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UKRAINIAN STATE, because after the declaration of independence, national-democratic forces, as a rule, retreated, and the national upheavals during the Orange Revolution and the Revolution of Dignity at the highest state level were devalued. A *parliamentary republic* should be introduced in Ukraine, which will overcome the dichotomy of power and bring the political system of Ukraine closer to the best European models. This is especially crucial in view of our prospect of full membership in the European Union

It is necessary to adhere to the *strategy of proactive development* as the dominant state policy of national security aimed at building a civilizational model, which is characterized by the following features: the establishment of a new method of production based on high technologies, complex automation, robotization, informatization and innovative “knowledge economy”, as well as a multi-component economy in the economic sphere; the formation of a new social structure of society, where the leading role will be played by the intellectuals (knowledge elite) for the emergence of a free, creative, capable of creativity worker, adapted to the new mode of production in the social sphere; overcoming the dominance of the oligarchy (wealth elite) and the alienation between man and the state, the coming to power of a new national knowledge elite, the establishment of real democracy, accompanied by the democratization of the political, economic and social spheres; there will be a return to the traditions of Ukrainian national culture while ensuring the national and cultural development of national minorities and ethnic groups in the spiritual sphere.

Today, it is significant to move to a pro-active position in the information policy of the state, in particular in matters of countering information aggression. In the conditions of a hybrid war, the Ukrainian government must pay priority attention to the development of the following areas of political communication, which will allow effectively resisting aggression from the fascist regime of russian president putin:

- development of asymmetric and unpredictable actions that put the enemy in an awkward position (such as the actions of Ukrainian volunteers);

- public relations (activation of the patriotic “third sector” in the conflict zone and its information support in the Ukrainian media with broadcasting to the occupied territories);

- public diplomacy and military measures in support of public diplomacy (broad coverage of peacemaking initiatives of official Kyiv);

- de-oligarchization of the Ukrainian information space;

- information events of international military cooperation (comprehensive coverage of the largest cooperation projects with developed countries of the world in the field of cooperation in the military sphere in the information field of Ukraine and the countries providing assistance);

- civil-military collaboration (active coverage of the volunteer movement and the movement of resistance to aggression in the occupied territories);

- actions in cyberspace, including social networks (countering the aggressor’s information attacks and the formation and promotion of new Ukrainian-centric myths, recreating the foundations of national historical memory as a lever of national identity);

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- involvement of key leaders in holding information events (covering the peacemaking initiatives of the President of Ukraine, the Prime Minister of Ukraine and all Ukrainian statesmen involved in resolving the complex set of problems related to the Russian aggression against Ukraine);

- internal communication (systematic work with the personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to clarify the current state policy of Ukraine);

- information operations and campaigns (development and launch in the national information space with broadcasting of special campaigns - the antithesis of the aggressor’s information attacks to the occupied areas);

- development of specialized military journalism;

- re-profiling and opening of new “think-tanks” on countering the hybrid aggression of the Russian Federation;

- launching conceptual wars: opposing the “people’s republics” of Ukrainian national narratives in the concept of information war;

- updating the legislative framework in the field of information policy.

In the immediate post-war perspective, Ukrainian national interests require focusing our efforts on:

- 1) implementation of internal reforms aimed at ensuring the democratic development of the state and society, the rule of law and a market economy;

2) economic development and achieving a high standard of living for citizens;

3) ensuring stability and security in the state and the region.

These goals determine the priorities of Ukraine's foreign policy, which are:

- integration into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions;
- development of cooperation with neighboring states and strategic partners;
- active regional policy aimed at ensuring democracy, stability and economic prosperity in Eastern Europe;
- expansion of Ukraine's share in world GDP.

Thus, overcoming the enormous difficulties caused by the aggression of the Russian Federation, Ukraine continues the process of expanding its diplomatic presence in the world, gradually becoming an influential European and world state, increasingly turning into a real and active subject of international relations that has its own national interests.

Conclusions. The category of "interest" includes not only needs, but also methods and tools for their satisfaction.

In the implementation of their interests, the "state" and the "nation" act as one social subject, not two separate subjects. Modern state institutions cannot exist without a nation, just as a nation cannot exist without a state; there is a close dialectical relationship between them. National interests are always based on ensuring the most urgent requirements of society and the state.

Currently, the meaning of the term "national interests" is expanding. In one case, this concept is presented in combination with foreign policy activities, since it symbolizes a nation, a state, the functions of which include protecting its own interests on the world stage; in other cases, national interests are considered in the context of solving internal political tasks, as a means of researching foreign policy.

National interests are the vital interests of the people, reflecting the desire of citizens to ensure stable and sustainable development of society and minimize social threats.

National interests are always a complex phenomenon that includes a wide variety of factors in the economic, social, political and cultural spheres. Currently, the main national interest of Ukraine is the struggle for state independence, defending its right to its own future and the future of its own country. Under the conditions of continued hostilities, it is crucial

to move to a proactive position in the information policy of the state, in particular in matters of countering information aggression from Russia.

Ukraine should adhere to a strategy of proactive development as the dominant state policy of national security. It is essential to implement the entire complex of internal reforms, the purpose of which is to ensure the democratic development of the state and society, the rule of law and a socially oriented market economy.

The first systemic step in the post-war period should be the re-establishment of the Ukrainian state. A parliamentary republic should be introduced in Ukraine, which will overcome the dichotomy of power and bring Ukraine's political system closer to the best European models.

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