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Stratagems of political and legal development of Ukraine: problems of actualization and scientific comprehension

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Abstract

The aim of the article is to consider the priority areas of state policy and outline initiatives that are of strategic importance to Ukraine. The research topic is state programs (strategic initiatives) in the field of education and science, security and defense, information that will provide the opportunity to lay the foundation for positive changes in society. The study applies methods of scientific knowledge such as the dialectical method, the monographic method, the methods of analysis and synthesis, the system and structural method, the grouping and classification method, the abstract and logical method. The reasons, factors and processes that led to Ukraine's prolonged stay under the influence of oligarchic capital are investigated. In addition, they consider the prerequisites for the preservation of elites that hinder the democratic development of the Ukrainian state. It is concluded that the introduction of democratic institutions in post-totalitarian countries requires, first of all, a concentration of efforts in the fields of education and science, information policy, national security and defense.

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Keywords: deoligarquization; civil society; political and legal development strategy; formation of the State; political development.

Estrategias de desarrollo político y jurídico de Ucrania: problemas de actualización y comprensión científica

Resumen

El objetivo del artículo es considerar las áreas prioritarias de la política estatal y esbozar las iniciativas que son de importancia estratégica para Ucrania. El tema de investigación son los programas estatales (iniciativas estratégicas) en el campo de la educación y la ciencia, la seguridad y la defensa, información que brindará la oportunidad de sentar las bases para cambios positivos en la sociedad. El estudio aplica métodos de conocimiento científico como el método dialéctico, el método monográfico, los métodos de análisis y síntesis, el método de sistema y estructural, el método de agrupación y clasificación, el método abstracto y lógico. Se investigan las razones, factores y procesos que llevaron a la estancia prolongada de Ucrania bajo la influencia del capital oligárquico. Además, se consideran los requisitos previos para la conservación de las élites que obstaculizan el desarrollo democrático del estado ucraniano. Se concluye que, la introducción de instituciones democráticas en los países post-totalitarios requiere, en primer lugar, una concentración de esfuerzos en los campos de la educación y la ciencia, la política de la información, la seguridad y defensa nacional.

Palabras clave: desoligarquización; sociedad civil; estrategia de desarrollo político y legal; formación del Estado; desarrollo político.

Introduction

Globalization and crisis challenges have been particularly acute for Ukraine in recent years and coincided with a turning point in the formation of national Statehood and its main political institutions. Today, our country is being tested for strength, and its leading political forces, government and citizens must show the will to independence, the ability to overcome internal divisions and contradictions, the desire and ability to actively and creatively integrate into a dynamically developing world.

The course of reforms performed in all spheres of life of the State and society is the adequate and the only possible response to the challenges of today. The new modernization strategy as a priority of political reform envisages first of all the creation of a modern, competitive Ukrainian State, the defining characteristics of which are the rule of law and developed legal culture, balanced representative democracy, strong self-government, disciplined and mobile state management.

Modernization of political institutions and changes in the political consciousness of citizens are necessary to optimize management processes in the country, improve economic life, attract investment and transition to an innovative model of social development.

Sadly, the change of elites is one of the most pressing problems on our way to positive changes. Domestic elites are closely associated with oligarchs, some of who have very serious influence on the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, state agencies, ministries, political parties. The main shortcomings of our country – corruption, lack of rules, monopolization of specific sectors of the economy – are all ideal conditions for oligarchic business, which is associated with political power.

Thus, the purpose of the article is to outline the spheres that are of strategic importance for Ukraine, and propose several generalized initiatives to overcome the crisis, which affects our country nowadays.

1. Methodology

In order to achieve the goal of the Article, the following general and special methods of scientific knowledge are used.

Dialectical method is applied for the comprehensive examination of the problem under consideration and its main aspects.

Monographic method helps in the study of scientific works of scholars, who examined the features of the elite, including political one.

The methods of analysis and synthesis, as well as system and structural method make it possible to identify the factors that hinder the democratic development of the Ukraine.

The method of grouping and classification is applied for the definition of the key areas that need to be developed in order to ensure the sovereignty and subjectivity of our State. The same method is used for identifying the main problems in these areas.

Abstract and logical method is helpful in formulating the relevant conclusions and suggestions.

2. Literature Review

Considering the processes of elite change, it is worth noting that this problem was studied by a number of scientists. For example Pareto (Welty, 2016: 53-54) stressed on the structural heterogeneity of the elite itself. Thus, he highlighted those “who directly or indirectly play a prominent role in the management of society and constitute the ruling elite and the rest of this class, which forms the non-governing elite”. He considers the latter counter-elite – a group of people with elite features but a number of restrictions on access to governance, including social (innate) status and a number of other barriers in society to its lower classes. At the same time this group has a great desire to replace the existing elite.

Mosca (1995) reveals this category as a number of people occupying high positions in accordance with the level of their influence and socio-political power. In his scientific work he was trying to comprehensively study the issue of social inequality, stressing on the common feature for all social systems – the existence of a separate layer that realizes the influence and control of others; “the emergence of people causes society. The existence of society requires the creation of a State. Accordingly, the State will have a minority governing and majority governed by the minority”.

According to Michels (1994: 91), “there can be no political class in any developed and civilized society. The social majority will be forced to recognize its power and accept the idea of the emergence and influence of the oligarchy”. Michels is the author of one of the laws of political life – the “iron law of the oligarchy”. It is that any democratic system for the formation of stability is forced to create a bureaucratic structure or elect leaders who acquire significant powers. The result is the usurpation of power by leaders or the bureaucracy, leading to the transformation of democracy into an oligarchy.

Lasswell (2005) provides rather wide interpretation of leading elite: these are people who occupy key positions in government; persons who previously occupied them and remained loyal to the regime; individuals who do not belong to formalized government institutions, but have a significant influence on decision-making in them; oppositionists with political weight; family members of government officials.

Another position of scholars on the relationship between elected democracy and the elitism of power is relevant for modern Ukrainian realities. Thus, Dai and Ziegler (1984:154) point out that the ruling elite have real powers in the State, but its support (or lack thereof) by citizens determines both the results of the election process and the duration and effectiveness of these powers. In particular, the authors point out that “It is the political actions of the elite that mainly shape their understanding and attitude to politics and not vice versa”.

Karabushchenko *et al.*, (2018) prove that the elite should always have its own idea, otherwise its existence would be meaningless. Only an anthropological elitology can find and define this idea, because each elite is a group of individuals endowed with some elite qualities, or the ones imitating them.

3. Results and Discussion

Risks of Oligarchic Rule. Under certain circumstances, the public demand for the deelitization of oligarchs may be transformed into another mass protest. In Ukraine, for thirty years of independence, no conditions have been established for professional implementation of educators, scientists, doctors, journalists, engineers, *etc.* All so-called non-profit professions are in deep decline. Market relations have gradually transformed into market thinking – a liberal economy transforms society into a market environment. Nevertheless, it is obvious that either health, politics, friendship, or family relationships cannot be market-based per definition. The only criterion for a person's success is the size of his (her) fortune. If wealthy, then successful (and *vice versa*), and besides, for most people it does not matter how this affluence is accumulated. Therefore, there is still a high tolerance for corruption – perhaps the only way to grow rich rapidly and get recognized; and to join the corrupt rent, one must become an official and / or a politician. Such “values” have become firmly established in public consciousness and education. Hence, oligarchic rule harms not only economic development, but also destroys the system of value orientations of society. As a result of the introduction of European values of democracy and commonwealth against the background of a deep axiological crisis, it becomes a difficult problem to solve.

The simultaneous implementation of State programs (strategic initiatives) in the field of education and science, security and defense, information policy will provide an opportunity to lay the foundation for subsequent changes, renewal of domestic elites and the formation of a mature civil society capable of protecting national identities. Without investments in education and science, without a targeted information policy, it is impossible to get rid of the mutual stigmatization of the West and East, right and left forces, the privatization of patriotism by individual political parties and the pragmatic use of national ideas for political dividends.

Let us consider each of the directions and try to outline the initiatives that are of strategic importance for the Ukrainian state. Education and science, national security and defense, and information policy are directly related to the formation of human capital, the intellectual potential of the State. Thereby, the relevant ministries and departments cannot, by

definition, work in the 'fire brigade' mode, their every short-sighted step can negatively affect in the future both the subjectivity of the Ukrainian state and its size, defense capability, and sovereignty.

Problems in Education and Science. Restoration of Ukraine's intellectual potential is possible through the introduction of effective and deliberate changes in the system of education and science. Educational initiatives should be divided into three conditional levels: preschool education, secondary education, and university programs. The academic environment requires special attention: in addition to the restoration of scientific schools, it is necessary, on the basis of a comprehensive expert analysis (including the situation in the country as well as comparative studies of foreign experience in supporting and motivating scientists and scientific schools), to form a system of government research orders (primarily social and humanitarian, where the effect is not always obvious, but fateful, since it lays the foundations of sovereignty, security, and national consolidation).

Preschool education should be considered in the light of a number of current challenges facing humanity today: growing employment rates, digitalization of all spheres of public life, declining demographics, the destruction of the institution of family, the loss of a culture of upbringing, and so forth. The state should establish favorable conditions for the further birth and education of future citizens of Ukraine (taxpayers, military servants, law enforcement officers, doctors, teachers, engineers). This requires a significant increase in the level of services and accessibility of children's medicine / preschool education, and a strengthening of the role of the state in children's upbringing. Kindergartens should become centers of primary social life cognition, where there is a room for both the individual and for social relations. Self-awareness and the practice of applying a common "we", where everyone has their own view of certain phenomena, but is able to interact with other individuals, be a leader and be capable to cooperate with people, to obey and persuade - the way to a holistic civil society and a strong state formation. For this reason, kindergarten is the first step towards a mature citizenship, a center of civic culture and patriotic education. Folk, religious, national holidays and the most important dates in the history of Ukraine, state symbols, history and geography of the country should take an honorable place in the program of preschool education.

Aesthetic education should be a binding element of secondary (school) education, along with the conventional subjects. Playing musical instruments, visual arts, theater, chess, team sports contribute to the harmonious development of young Ukrainians, capable of creative thinking and beauty creation – and in life, in human relations - prevent aggressive moods and attitudes, which, unfortunately, we observe in schoolchildren today (bullying, suicide, *etc.*). Interschool debates among high school

students on topical public issues contribute to the interest of school graduates in social processes and the preparation of future voters for the implementation of civil rights and obligations.

Knowledge of a foreign language (preferably not one) should provide fluency and communication, the ability not only to use gadgets, but also to write essays, read and analyze foreign literature in the original, participate in international school competitions, make reports to foreign audiences, and the like. Digital and media literacy have long been at the forefront of the school curriculum. After all, modern children are becoming increasingly vulnerable to the challenges of an Internet-based society.

Returning to a 10-year term of secondary education will allow avoiding not only a demographic crisis in the future, but also preventing a GDP deficit in the years to come. Currently, the state has extended the stay of children under parental care for at least 5 years (12 instead of 10 years - school, 6 instead of 5 - university, 4 instead of 2 - postgraduate study, which for some reason is deemed to be a level of education, not scientific activity), which will soon respond to social imbalance, the lack of taxes and fees, the leveling of the institution of family, retirement age increase, and so forth.

Taking into account the loss of children's interest in the processes of cognition, it is worth revising the concept of school education and reducing the number of classes to 12 students, allowing teachers to work better and assess the level of knowledge of students. Basic subjects should provide an appropriate level of knowledge so that there is no need to re-study history at the university, and reproach students for not knowing Ukrainian or a foreign language. And such conditions require not a reduction in the number of schools (as is happening now), but the construction of new, more comfortable classrooms, theater studios, sports arenas, and the like. If the state requires talented and motivated citizens, then now it is necessary to attend to establishing favorable conditions for the education of an intellectually powerful nation.

Tertiary education should also contain elements of civic education. Participation in student and interuniversity debates, conferences, public reports, and team competitions on professional skills will involve young citizens in social processes and will contribute to the formation of a mature civil society. Those disciplines of the social and humanitarian complex that do not repeat the school curriculum should be studied in universities, - political science, sociology, social psychology, jurisprudence, foreign language (in connection with the future profession with relevant skills - translation of foreign texts on the relevant subject, political and legal culture, personnel management, management of organizations, *etc.*). In the meantime, the proportion of disciplines taught in parallel and simultaneously in the state and foreign languages should be increased.

Involving students in research activities will ensure the selection and continuous replenishment of scientific personnel and a highly competitive scientific environment. In general, the transition from individual to mass education has negatively affected the quality of the latter (*Barrett 2003; Huzyk 2004; Ryzhov 1991*). Therefore, it is necessary to pay more attention not to the usual sale of seats in the classroom (training under pricey contracts), but to select the most capable and talented applicants capable of mastering academic disciplines. Accordingly, it is necessary to step away from the monopoly of external independent evaluation and allow universities to conduct competitive examinations of applicants.

Special attention should be paid to the professional selection and training of special services / law enforcement officers. In the early 2000s, as a result of the destructive policies of the government, access to these professional environments was granted to casual, unmotivated cadets who entered special education institutions with the aim of further monetizing their positions and professional powers. A significant number of entrants were enrolled 'at request', not at the call of heart. It was during this period that specialized higher education became widely available to oligarchic capital. Shadow entrepreneurs, traders and corrupt officials were well-aware of the importance of integrating 'their people' into the law enforcement system. Since then, the situation in the field of national security has only deteriorated, the students of that time now hold the positions of heads of departments, divisions in law enforcement agencies and courts. Consequently, such cadres are interested in inhibiting any changes and reforms, refusal of self-purification, and sabotage of orders of the state leadership.

The intellectual potential of human capital is the main wealth of any state. The scientific community is called to increase it, accumulate knowledge, and apply research results for the benefit of the state. Unlike technological means of imitating human activity, scientific knowledge should become the basis for social processes management, information security and defense, foreign and domestic policy, upbringing, education, and implementation of values and guidelines.

Effective public administration requires scientific, qualified, informational, expert, and legal support. Making important decisions requires careful investigation of the relevant processes and possible consequences. The value of modern science lies in the ability to foresee, predict, and explain the causes of the occurrence of certain phenomena and patterns.

Development of scientific potential is impossible without restoration of illegally lost by virtue of 'grief reforms' (bureaucratization and corruption of the attestation system of scientific personnel, lack of a scientist's academic freedom due as a result of coercion to "join" to fake expensive publications in "certain" scientometric databases, creation of absolutely

superfluous structures in the system of secondary and higher education for 'quality assurance', *etc.*) and establishment of scientific schools, revival of traditions, without providing state orders for research institutes, without involving the scientific community in finding ways to solve urgent social problems, analyzing and jointly generating state-important and socially significant decisions.

Science is the intellectual power of the state that provides the ability to solve the most complex problems. The level of science directly affects the level of education, politics, economics, medicine, sports, literature, technological progress and even language. Not everyone is able to engage in scientific activity, just like not everyone is able to achieve significant results in sports or art. Therefore, for most ordinary citizens, the academic world is something detached from reality, incomprehensible, and not valuable. But statesmen (who consider themselves the elite) are obliged to realize the importance and value of scientific knowledge, which ensures the strength and sovereignty of the state, its sustainable development, and prospects in a globalized world.

Who is Currently Shaping the Ideological Agenda in Ukraine?

The information policy of the state is now almost entirely dependent on the media holdings owners, which in our country, with the light hand of Boris Nemtsov, are called "oligarchs". The Ukrainian oligarchy is not just big capital and not business in the usual sense, it is a combination of monopolies in strategic sectors of the economy, media, and politics. Oligarchs are the puppeteers of the overwhelming majority of political forces. Media resources and significant corruption capital provide an opportunity to influence strategic government decisions, appoint loyal people to key government positions, promote or discredit certain political actors as a result of information campaigns in order to form in the public consciousness of likes / dislikes towards certain politicians, officials, public figures or organizations.

Deelitization of oligarchs, or de-oligarchization of Ukrainian politics and economy, is complicated by the influence of the latter on the editorial policy of the information market subjects. Oligarchic capital invests considerable funds in media business to protect monopolized assets - the main sources of enrichment. Media is an umbrella under which the beneficiaries of Ukrainian corruption hide from the law and public condemnation. Wherefore, the first step towards the de-elitization of oligarchs is to deprive the latter of influence on the editorial policy of the controlled media. The implementation of these measures requires not only the political will of the state leadership and public awareness of the pressing need for these actions, but also the synchronous work of all relevant state institutions.

The unification and consolidation of the population, divided according to the external historical and political vector of the development of

Ukraine, should become an obligatory task of the state information policy. It is necessary to determine the factors influencing the segmentation and polarization of the population, to level their influence and at the same time to generate and actively implement new messages aimed at forming a single national information field in all spheres of life of the average Ukrainian.

The state at all levels should ensure the formation, direct and control the implementation of information policy eligible to ensure the growth and education of young elites capable of protecting national interests and the coming to power of political actors with state ideas and values. Under such conditions, the historical heroes of Ukrainian politics, who, by the forces of modern domestic political elites and foreign centers of influence, divide the country into different opposing camps, will have to give way to new historical figures and events that can become a unifying factor.

The formation and implementation of national information policy is designed to overcome the anti-state polarization of society. Part of the predominantly artificially polarized Ukrainian society, in contrast to the political polarization of its closest neighbors (Poland, Romania, Hungary, Russia, *etc.*), does not identify itself with the sovereign Ukrainian republic in which they live. Destructive propaganda and political agitation forms in such a part of the Ukrainian population a desire to create their own state formations, associate themselves with another state or nostalgic for Ukraine as a part of the Soviet Union.

The situation in Ukraine requires a change in the perception of the political elite of the role and objectives of information activities of the state from pro-oligarchic to state, which provides not only protection of economic and political interests of individual financial and industrial groups, but also, above all, safeguards Ukraine as an independent self-sufficient subject of foreign policy processes. This requires a transformation of the paradigm of state information policy implementation from sacrificial, defensive, to offensive, which involves not only repelling information attacks and responding to identified information threats, but establishing a single mechanism for protecting and promoting national interests in external and internal information spheres.

Since the Russian Federation's aggression, Ukraine has begun to take its first active steps to counter the hybrid war, which was actually lost in Donbass and Crimea in 2014 - accumulated resources and Ukraine, though not systematically, began to organize broadcasting of television and radio channels in the temporarily occupied territories. However, until now, despite the lessons of recent history, at the state level there is no active systematic offensive work to counter information propaganda and the influence of foreign states along the entire perimeter of Ukraine's territory. Ukrainian media should protect the minds of the population of border regions, just as the State Border Guard Service protects our physical borders. Today there

is a disappointing picture in the western regions of Ukraine - broadcasting of electronic media in Hungary, Poland and Romania is widespread. At the same time, the coverage of Ukrainian terrestrial media not only does not extend to the border regions of neighboring countries, but also has large gaps in the territory of Ukraine, which in 2019 increased further with the transition from terrestrial analogue to terrestrial digital television broadcasting (Boiko, 2021). One of the main reasons for the decrease in the coverage of the television signal is the control of the national operator of digital broadcasting LLC "Zeonbud", which is a monopoly, a number of domestic oligarchs who pursue their own political goals, acting contrary to the interests of Ukraine, sometimes taking the position of the aggressor state (Zaxid.net, 2019).

The state of regional media deserves special attention, especially during the crisis caused by the global pandemic of 2020. Most of the regional media, almost the only source of local news for the population of the older age group (by the way, the most electorally active), has undergone significant financial difficulties and is on the verge of survival. Some of them have already ceased to function, creating an information vacuum in some regions, which can potentially be filled with an information product unfriendly to Ukraine. In such a situation, state support for the print media is needed, which will not only protect the minds of Ukrainians from hostile messages at the local level, but also establish favorable conditions for the viability local elites, which are largely independent of oligarchic capital. For instance, during 2020, a number of developed countries, realizing new potential threats, in various forms supported both journalistic activities and, in particular, the print media (Canada, Great Britain, *etc.*) (Nikitushyn, 2020).

The situation with the lack of opportunities for the local population to watch regional TV channels with pro-Ukrainian news content in the occupied territories of Donbass requires a state reaction, which encourages residents of these territories to look for alternatives on TV channels controlled by the aggressor state.

Deoligarchization Roadmap. Let us consider a number of initiatives that, in our opinion, will lead to a loss of oligarchic capital's interest in media-business. The political capitalization of the media is shaped by political talk shows, political advertising / campaigning, and meanings that are laid down by editorial offices when reporting news and journalistic investigations. How one or another politician looks on TV determines his / her ratings and popularity among voters. No media outlet is able to reach such a large audience as television. Accordingly, the main tools of political influence are political talk shows, political advertising, and campaigning (especially during election campaigns). By depriving private TV channels of the right to political promotion, the state will force private media sector, which is still controlled by oligarchs, to gradually focus on disseminating information

and entertainment content, and the only acceptable form of political agitation - political debate - should be conducted on public broadcasting sites, which are still absent in Ukraine (the legal form of ownership “UA: Public Broadcasting” indicates that the so-called Public Television is de facto state-owned, not public - JSC “National Public Television and Radio Company of Ukraine”, registered on February 20, 1995, form of ownership: state; founder: the state represented by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine). Thus, one of the preconditions for deoligarchization of the information environment should be the establishment of a truly public broadcasting, which would be financed exclusively by TV viewers and advertisers, and the state’s participation would be limited only to collecting the “television tax” and transferring funds to public broadcaster. Concurrently, it is important to restore independent sources of media funding: to allow print and broadcast media to advertise alcohol and tobacco products.

Since the ban on advertising of these products, the level of tobacco and alcohol consumption has increased several times instead of the expected decline. Blind adherence to EU advertising regulation standards has led to deep crisis in the media industry. The young state, trying to comply with democratic canons, to demonstrate loyalty to Western standards, was forced to ban advertising of these products in the media. In the meantime, developed countries such as Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, etc., assessing the proportionality of the social consequences of tobacco and alcohol advertising and the loss of the main source of media income, and with it the independence of their editorial policy, refused to impose such restrictions, explaining their position by the public expediency of ensuring the independence of the media from financial-industrial groups or political parties.

These states not only preserved the culture of print media, but also prevented the reduction in the number of publications by ensuring economic freedom and equality of the media business with other market participants. By adopting restrictive legal constructions, the Ukrainian authorities provoked a crisis in the print media market, most of which ceased to exist, and some were forced to join oligarchic media holdings, losing not only independence but also the principles of professional journalistic ethics. At the same time, there were no restrictions on the advertising of sugar and sugar-containing foods, although the harm to the human body from their consumption is not less. The legislator also does not limit the production of meat with the use of killer preservatives, which have an extremely negative effect on human health. This approach to advertising regulation is populist and destructive. Biased adherence to EU standards puts domestic markets in an unfair, uncompetitive position. The current state of the economy of Ukraine does not allow the introduction of restrictions relevant to countries with a highly developed economy, and the consequences media oligarchization are more shocking for society than the advertising of

tobacco and alcohol in newspapers. The experience of the economic crisis of 1998-1999 showed that the media, which the reader trusts, are able to cope with financial difficulties on their own, if tools for selling advertising are not artificially limited.

The next precondition for freeing the information space from the manipulative whims of the oligarchs should be a ban on financing the media from abroad: no offshore companies or foreign loans, foreign owners, or investors. Sources of media funding should be transparent and domestic, at least for the period of external aggression / annexation / occupation of Ukrainian territories. As long as the country is at war, neglecting information security requirements is criminal.

Particular attention should be paid to the establishment of etheric quotas for educational, children's and social content by changing licensing conditions. At the same time, the state can order the creation of appropriate programs on broadcast channels, and media outlets will receive an additional source of oligarchs-independent funding.

Post-revolutionary changes in legislation on cinematography, television, and radio broadcasting in 2014-2015 pushed the oligarchs to look for new ways to continue cooperation with economic entities of the aggressor state. There appeared such concepts as joint (Russian-Ukrainian) production, the Russians began to create part of the content directly in Ukraine and also to continue to sell low-quality audiovisual products to domestic TV channels, full of nostalgia for the Soviet period. It is necessary to revise the regulatory regulation of economic activity with business entities of the Russian Federation. Barter, cooperation, collaboration, sale, or purchase of content from Russia should be strictly prohibited.

The same applies to any contacts between officials of our state and representatives of the Russian authorities, that are used by the latter to strengthen the position of influence in the domestic political and legal system. The ban should be in effect until the complete de-occupation of Donbass and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Therefore, appropriate changes should be made to the Art. 111 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (Law Ukraine 2001). As noted in the National Security Strategy of Ukraine (President of Ukraine. 2020), State sovereignty, territorial integrity, democratic constitutional order and other vital national interests should also be protected from non-military threats from the Russian Federation and other states, including attempts to provoke internal conflicts.

National security and defense agencies have been the target of the Kremlin's intelligence operations for many years. The reformatting of the apparatus, the formation of information transparency of the authorities and the elimination of complete corruption require the restoration of the efficiency of the special services and the law enforcement system. Public

confidence in law enforcement institutions is measured by the level of protection of citizens and general security in the country. “Do not steal, do not lie and ensure equal opportunities for all” - the implementation of these demands of Ukrainian citizens to the government requires immediate removal of obstacles on the way to restoring the effectiveness of domestic intelligence services.

It is the Security Service of Ukraine that should become the institution that will launch an attack on the subjects of political corruption, detect and disclose the facts of betrayal of national interests, and contribute to the formation of the principles of integrity of public authorities.

With regards to law enforcement agencies: there is a need to establish local municipal police and introduce democratic procedures for appointment to senior positions in law enforcement and judicial bodies. The election of the local police chief, prosecutor and judges will help restore public confidence in the state, strengthen the accountability of officials to electorate and lay the foundation for the formation of a competent, effective government.

The aforementioned initiatives will contribute to the renewal of government institutions, effective protection of the population, values, interests, resources, and sovereignty of the Ukrainian state.

Conclusion

The introduction of democratic institutions in post-totalitarian countries requires, first of all, a concentration of efforts in the fields of education and science, information policy and national security and defense. Without the introduction of transparent and effective mechanisms for the functioning of these institutions, one should not hope for the inclusiveness of politics and the economy, democratization, and the spread of European values of equality and freedom. The latter are directly dependent on the quality of the state and the maturity of civil society, capable of forming an effective state apparatus and democratic control of government.

For almost 30 years of independence, the Ukrainian republic has managed to overcome a number of obstacles on the way to independence, freedom, and self-determination, but these steps are critically insufficient to become a full-fledged member of the European community.

Hence, today, it is extremely important for the ruling elites to realize the need to restore and develop the intellectual potential of Ukraine, its human capital, to implement a state information policy designed to unite Ukrainians around the achievement of the common good and to restore the viability of special services and law enforcement agencies. These are the levers on which the government and society can rely to achieve strategic

goals in overcoming the consequences of the shameful communist past and the complete de-oligarchization of domestic politics and economy.

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