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ON POSSIBLE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES OF SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON PREDICTING THE MANIFESTATION OF WARS

The paper attempts to reveal certain methodological socio-psychological features of the study, forecasting the manifestation of wars in order to determine the optimal ways to overcome them. Modern types of wars, in addition to armed ones, are outlined, based on the resource involved, which include: psychological, political, informational, diplomatic, economic, hybrid proxy, and others. It is shown that the manifestations of wars can have preparatory, main, and final periods. It is emphasized that the key socio-psychological feature of wars is conflicts in which violent and aggressive actions are implemented. It is noted that the main psychological factors of wars are mainly both open and hidden various motives, goals, and actions implemented by the leadership of states or leaders of certain social groups. It is shown that in military and other branches of psychological science, research on the features of wars in relation to their socio-psychological content is still insufficient. It is stated that in modern conditions, the problem of the socio-psychological content of predicting the manifestation of wars is becoming relevant both in connection with the possibilities of their prevention and ways of optimal overcoming. Certain methodological approaches of personal, systemic, activity, cybernetic, mathematical modeling and others are presented, which can be used in the cognition of the socio-psychological content of various signs of war. It is noted that it is psychological science, which is integrated with virtually all spheres of human activity, that can act as a consolidator in the interdisciplinary knowledge of socio-psychological forecasting of various manifestations of wars. Two stages of possible methodological approaches in the study of socio-psychological forecasting of the features of the manifestation of wars are highlighted. At the previous stage, an organizational and activity game is proposed as a methodological tool to search for plausible conceptual models of predictive assessments regarding wars and the formation of teams of researchers. The second, applied, main part provides theoretical and empirical, socio-psychological research aimed at determining strategically pragmatic predictive assessments regarding the content of various signs of war and optimal ways to overcome them.

Key words: *military conflicts, types of wars, interdisciplinary research, strategic, methodological principles, predictive assessments, organizational and activity game, models.*

Introduction and the current state of the research problem. The problem of understanding the psychological content and manifestation of various wars and their characteristics is the subject of numerous direct and indirect studies (McFaul, 2021; Nidhi, Singh, Kumar, 2022; Люттвак, 2024; Кочубейник, 2024, et al.). It should be noted that in studies of various branches of psychological science, as well as those carried out at the interdisciplinary level, there are significant developments that are constantly updated and mainly relate to ensuring the content of the specific technical, operational, tactical and strategic features that can be implemented in the process of preparing for war and waging it (Сунь Цзи, 2012; Стичишин, 2022; Ромашіна, 2022; Родзінська, Данилюк, 2024; Траверсе, 2024; Чебікін, 2025, et al.).

Unfortunately, there is still a lack of specifically focused socio-psychological research on the possibilities of predicting the features of the manifestation of wars in order to prevent and overcome them. And this is despite the fact that the efforts aimed at such research and the obtained prognostic socio-psychological assessments and other data regarding the prevention of armed wars are incomparable in

terms of the scale of human, material and other resources in their conduct. It should also be noted that in people's lives, along with numerous ecological, epidemiological, technogenic and other socially dangerous conditions, armed wars are the most tragic in their consequences.

In modern conditions, in addition to armed wars, such varieties as political, diplomatic, informational, economic, psychological, hybrid, proxy, and others that rely on their specific resources have begun to spread actively (Крисько 1999, Michaelfall, 2021; Koryt, 2023; Myron, Lambregi, 2023, et al.). Each of such wars still requires extensive systematic research to clarify the essence of their content and socio-psychological characteristics, which, unfortunately, are defined ambiguously. It should be added that military operations, expeditions, and states are also not always called armed wars. It is known that during certain periods of their development, these and other signs of wars can act both separately and in combination, having different consequences.

It can be argued that the key psychological characteristic of armed wars is a conflict in which violent and aggressive actions with tragic consequences are implemented

(Polmyron, 2023; McFate, 2023, et al.). Each such conflict can have preparatory, main and final periods. The above mentioned periods have different constituent features of their course, which also require clarification of their socio-psychological characteristics. For example, the latter can appear in the form of defeat – victory with the conclusion of a certain peace agreement or the cessation of only armed military actions between the parties involved in this process for a certain time with the continuation of diplomatic, economic and other actions. Today, there is still a multifaceted interpretation of the content as reconciliation and peace, which also complicates the search for pragmatic, socio-psychological approaches to predicting the characteristics of these processes.

In addition to the above said, it should be noted that the specificity of the tools for learning the characteristics of the final period is also insufficiently studied, taking into account both external and internal socio-psychological features that may characterize it. It is known that during this period a new phenomenon arises, such as the socio-psychological syndrome of war of people involved in it, which is negatively reflected in their consciousness. In the latter case, we can talk about negative changes in various socio-psychological manifestations at the level of their moral characteristics. It is the latter that can destroy important socio-psychological, spiritual, democratic human values in society that are clearly observed in the modern world.

Unfortunately, psychological science, integrating virtually with all spheres of human activity, despite the existing potential of its capabilities and achievements, is still not sufficiently involved in the study of such negative socio-psychological complex conflicts and their consequences.

If we consider the purely psychological nature of various human non-military conflicts, there are sufficient developments that are used mainly at the level of resolving intrapersonal, interpersonal, various intergroup relationships, and others (Зарицька, 2019; Тихомирова, Посталовський, 2023, et al.).

It is known that military psychological science is also constantly developing, taking into account the features and specifics of modern plans for waging wars at the tactical and strategic levels (Лісовий, 2021). There are important scientific and practical achievements (Романішин, 2022, et al.) regarding the provision of a system of various types of psychological training of militarians; the possibilities of their psychological selection; the assessment and formation of the necessary types of psychological readiness of militarians; psychological support of militarians and their support in extreme conditions of combat operations, etc. For the sake of fairness, it is also important to point out to the existing significant scientific and psychological achievements aimed at overcoming various negative psycho-emotional states of people suffering from military conflicts (Данилюк, Травець, 2024). Here there are indeed successes on the example of various implementations of scientific and methodological developments by numerous insti-

tutions, services and centers that provide psychological assistance to people, including military personnel, who are in crisis states from wars.

However, in military and other branches of psychology, there is a lack of specifically focused modern research at the strategic level specifically on the socio-psychological prediction of wars and their prevention.

It is well-known that the main psychological factors of wars can be both open and hidden various political motives, goals, actions, etc. The latter, as a rule, are implemented at the state and international levels. Herewith, key decisions regarding wars are made mainly by the leadership of states or certain leaders of social groups on the basis of data from specialists subordinate to them, relying on their own personal characteristics, professional training, experience, etc. Such decisions can have both supporters and opponents, who also rely on their interests. At the same time, the latter often present their positions in both optimistic and dramatic forms. This is especially clearly evident in the socio-psychological technologies of political propaganda. Without a sufficiently objective and holistic socio-psychological assessment of the motives, goals, probable actions and other factors of the emergence of wars (without taking into account the possible tactical and strategic features of their conduct and completion), as well as overcoming the consequences, the state may plunge into a protracted state of crisis (Осьодло, 2022; Пояркова, 2023; Коргут, 2023; Чебикін, 2025, et al.).

Regarding the definition of methodological approaches to research aimed at predicting the socio-psychological features of the manifestation of modern wars and overcoming their consequences, there are only some data in which they are considered indirectly (Кризько, 1999; Лісовий, 2021; Осьодло, 2022; McFate, 2023; Люттвак, 2024, et al.). Similarly, we can also talk about interdisciplinary research in psychology with other branches of science, which would reveal methodological tools for predictive assessments of the socio-psychological characteristics of wars. This state of affairs is extremely dangerous, since in the modern globalized world the number of wars does not decrease, and the consequences become even more tragic.

Aim. That is why in our work we set the goal of identifying certain methodological approaches to the possibilities of studying the socio-psychological features of predicting various manifestations of it as the basis for their prevention and optimal overcoming of the consequences.

Tasks. To achieve the goal, two interrelated objectives were set: first, to summarize both direct and indirect data that may be relevant to the subject of the study; second, to reveal certain methodological approaches that can be used for the socio-psychological features of predicting the content of the manifestation of wars.

Research results. As shown by the analysis of the prediction of various characteristics of military conflicts signs, representatives of state leadership, political figures, numerous specialized institutes, centers, services, departments, individual analysts, experts, and others declare directly or indirectly. In their open informational, analytical, and prognostic positions, the data of psychological research are almost not

traced. In addition, the available forecasts are mainly covered situationally, not pragmatically enough, often illusorily with elements of socio-psychological tools of military propaganda (Morelli, 2001) and do not sufficiently take into account the objective causes of wars, socio-psychological data regarding their content, as well as the available resource capabilities and interests of all direct and indirect parties that may be involved in such a conflict. Due to the limited representation in such forecasts of a strategic scientific, maximally pragmatic and comprehensive socio-psychological assessment in the relevant models of the possibilities of avoiding wars and overcoming them, states find themselves in difficult conditions with tragic consequences (Осьодло, 2022; Пояркова, 2023; Чебикин, 2025, et al.).

Based on various studies (Лісовий, 2021; Кочубейник, 2022; Пояркова, 2023; Люттвак, 2024, et al.), it can also be argued that the development of methodological foundations of the socio-psychological content of military conflicts requires comprehensive interdisciplinary approaches. First of all, we can talk about the need to integrate scientists from such branches of psychology as general, social, political, military, legal, diplomatic, economic and others. Interaction with recognized scientists from other branches of science dealing with this problem is also important in this approach, since both strategic and tactical socio-psychological forecasts should also be based on objective data from various scientific and applied studies. The latter include historical, philosophical, sociological, economic, demographic, engineering, legal and other data. In this sense, psychological science can serve as the most consolidating means for various scientists in understanding both social and military conflicts.

Conducting such research requires the establishment of various complex teams of scientists representing not only psychological but also other sciences. The experience of using such teams of scientists is currently quite widespread in the study of complex problems both on open and closed topics in the field of fundamental and applied sciences. Such a methodological approach, taking into consideration the aim of our research, is desirable to implement in two stages, namely: the preliminary one – as theoretical and methodological, and the main one – as applied theoretical and empirical.

Regarding the previous, supposedly short-term stage, it can be oriented towards solving such tasks as, firstly, creating conditions for attracting a sufficiently large number of scientists who possess systemic strategic thinking and work in academic establishments, universities, as well as various institutions; secondly, forming from them certain complex team subgroups; thirdly, consolidating the activities of such scientists in subgroups of interaction aimed at finding different options for solving the tasks set in relation to the subject of research and their protection of the results; fourthly, selecting from these teams scientists who have demonstrated high creative potential of strategic thinking in relation to methodological approaches at a comprehensive and systemic level of possibilities for studying the socio-psychological features of predicting the manifestation of wars.

As a tool for organizing such interaction at this first stage, it would be possible to use the methodology and principles of a specially oriented and modernized platform of weekly organizational and activity games (Фурман, 2023), aimed at forming numerous systemically interconnected predictive models without taking into account the organizational and final period when using it. The main resource of such a game should be aimed at activating the manifestation of creative, strategic thinking of its participants using generalized actions that would allow forming predictive models of different periods of wars and ways to prevent or optimally overcome them. Several weekly games of this kind can be held with the direct participation of psychologists, philosophers, political scientists, and scientists from other fields of knowledge. Interaction in such games allows scientists to give a real chance to demonstrate their systemic, strategic, and creative potential both in subgroups and during intergroup interaction regarding the search for theoretical and methodological approaches to the formation of plausible conceptual models of socio-psychological features of predicting different periods of the emergence of wars and their overcoming.

Preliminary key tasks for building such models may include: revealing reliable and valid methods of predictive assessments, based on the methodological principles of activity-based, personality-oriented, systemic, cybernetic, game, mathematical modeling and other approaches using a wide range of diagnostic procedures that cover important components of various socio-psychological features; clarifying the socio-psychological content of various military conflicts; outlining and systematizing risky decisions in this process, probable causes of their occurrence; determining the principles, periods of their manifestation, as well as possible preventive measures; presenting the necessary organizational conditions and stages of conducting such an applied theoretical and empirical research, and others.

Based on experience, we noted that such interdisciplinary search and consolidated efforts in the conditions of free group interaction when using this game activity aimed at the formation and presentation of various pragmatic, socio-psychological, creative positions on solving the tasks set will allow individual scientists, based on their own creative thinking potential, to change the subgroup or stop further participation in it in the first days. As experience shows, there can be a significant number of the latter. At the final summarized stage of such a game, when each subgroup protects its developments from theoretical, methodological and conceptual socio-psychological data, as well as their generalization, it will allow: first, to obtain in a relatively holistic form a methodological basis of conceptual models with alternative positions of cognition of socio-psychological features of forecasting the possibilities of the content of different periods of wars, their prevention and overcoming of consequences; secondly, to determine the probable final composition of the scientific complex team or a certain number of them, among which there may be a coordinating one. In the latter case, the teams can be formed in different directions in relation to the specifics of

the tasks of cognition of the research subject. At the end of this stage, the selected scientists are involved in the preparation of a program of empirical in-depth research on the problems of socio-psychological forecasting of the features of the manifestation of wars, their bias and optimal overcoming of the consequences. They also present this program for approval in the established manner. In fact, following these results, the second stage is already beginning, aimed at large-scale deployment of in-depth applied theoretical and empirical research.

Discussion. The presented standpoints regarding the analysis of the subject of the study outline a wider range of problematic issues not only of the socio-psychological features of the manifestation of wars, but also of others that are important in their content. All of them require their own more in-depth modern scientific and methodological research, especially this concerns the clarification of ambiguous interpretations of the numerous signs of the socio-psychological characteristics of wars, the factors or causes that determine them, the requirements for the objectivity and pragmatism of the obtained data when considering them, generalizing, etc. The scientific and theoretical positions set out in the work regarding methodological approaches to the socio-psychological content of war expand and clarify existing data (Maheshwari, Sindg, Vainit, 2022), regarding their understanding as socio-psychological conflicts in which violent and aggressive actions are implemented, the description of modern types of wars according to their main resource of action, i.e. armed, economic, political, and others. In contrast to numerous psychological studies of various aspects of war (Крисько, 1999; Люттвак, 2024; Кочубейник, 2024), the problem of socio-psychological forecasting of the stages of wars at the preparatory, main and final levels has been updated. The methodological foundations for assessing various features of wars have been expanded (Сунь Цзи, 2020; McFaul, 2021; Корот, 2023) taking into account the two-stage approach to studying their socio-psychological content, namely the preliminary one, as a theoretical-methodological one, and the main one, as an applied theoretical-empirical one. At the same time, the methodology and principles of a specially oriented platform of weekly organizational activity games have been proposed as a research tool in the preliminary one. The oriented tasks and conditions for its implementation are presented for determining teams of scientists who possess creative, systemic and strategic thinking, capable of preparing an applied research program, based on the principles of activity-based, personality-oriented, systemic, interdisciplinary, cybernetic, game and other approaches. Attention is focused on foreseeing the possibility of using various diagnostic methods for a comprehensive assessment of probable signs of war.

Summarizing the above-said, we note that this is only one of the possible plausible strategies of the theoretical and methodological approach presented by us regarding the cognition of the specifics of forecasting the socio-psychological features of the manifestation of wars. Of course, it also requires a number of refinements and additions. This

may concern the conditions for forming teams of scientists who will specialize in various socio-psychological aspects of developing both direct and indirect socio-psychological methods for comprehensive interdisciplinary research into the features of predicting the possibility of periods of war, preventing them, and overcoming their consequences.

Based on the above-mentioned, preliminary **conclusions** can be drawn.

1. The problem of determining methodological approaches to the study of socio-psychological features of forecasting modern wars in order to prevent them and optimally overcome the consequences, despite its high relevance, remains insufficiently disclosed.

2. It is shown that in the modern development of humanity, the number of wars in which the key socio-psychological characteristic is conflict, where violent, aggressive actions aimed at the destruction of human values are implemented, is increasing. In addition to armed wars, political, diplomatic, informational, psychological, economic, proxy and other wars are conditionally distinguished based on their dominant resources. The peculiarities of insufficient consideration of various objective motives, goals, actions and other data regarding the psychological characteristics of wars, which can act as important indicators in predictive models of their manifestation, are noted.

3. It is ambiguous interpretation by specialists in different fields that complicates the process of building predictive socio-psychological characteristics of types of wars, their periods and various features.

4. It is emphasized that psychological science, which is integrated with virtually all spheres of human activity, can act as a consolidator in a comprehensive interdisciplinary study of the features of socio-psychological forecasting of the manifestation of wars.

5. Two stages of methodological approaches are distinguished regarding the possibilities of cognizing socio-psychological forecasting of the features of the manifestation of wars, namely: preliminary theoretical-methodological and basic, as applied theoretical-empirical.

At the previous stage, an organizational and activity game was proposed as a methodological tool with the involvement of a significant number of psychologists and other scientists in the search and formation of reliable conceptual models of predictive assessments regarding the manifestation of wars, in order to prevent and overcome their consequences. Also at this stage, the formation of teams of scientists is envisaged, who will prepare a comprehensive plan of the research program on various prognostic, socio-psychological models of the manifestation of wars for their implementation at the second applied theoretical and empirical stage.

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ПРО МОЖЛИВІ МЕТОДОЛОГІЧНІ ПІДХОДИ СОЦІАЛЬНО-ПСИХОЛОГІЧНИХ ДОСЛІДЖЕНЬ ІЗ ПРОГНОЗУВАННЯ ПРОЯВУ ВІЙН

У роботі зроблено спробу розкрити певні методологічні соціально-психологічні особливості дослідження, прогнозування прояву війн для визначення оптимальних шляхів їх подолання. Окреслено сучасні різновиди війн, крім збройних, виходячи із задіяного ресурсу, до яких можна віднести: психологічні, політичні, інформаційні, дипломатичні, економічні, гібридні проксі та інші. При цьому показано, що прояви війн можуть мати підготовчий, основний та завершальний періоди. Наголошено, що ключовою соціально-психологічною ознакою війн виступають конфлікти, в яких реалізуються насильницькі та агресивні дії. Зазначено, що основними психологічними чинниками війн переважно виступають як відкриті, так і приховані різні мотиви, цілі, дії, що реалізуються керівництвом держав чи лідерами певних соціальних груп. Показано, що у військовій та інших галузях психологічної науки досліджень з особливостей війн стосовно соціально-психологічного їхнього змісту ще недостатньо. Констатовано, що в сучасних умовах актуального характеру набуває проблема саме соціально-психологічного змісту прогнозування прояву війн у зв'язку як із можливостями запобігання їм, так і пошуку шляхів оптимального подолання. Наведено певні методологічні підходи – особистісний, системний, діяльнісний, кібернетичний, математично-моделюючий та інші, що можуть бути використані у пізнанні соціально-психологічного змісту різних ознак війни. Наголошено, що саме психологічна наука, яка інтегрована фактично з усіма сферами людської діяльності, може виступати консолідуючою у разі міждисциплінарного пізнання соціально-психологічного прогнозування різних проявів війн. Виділено два етапи можливих методологічних підходів у дослідженні соціально-психологічного прогнозування особливостей прояву війн. Запропоновано на попередньому етапі як методологічний інструмент організаційно-діяльнісну групу з пошуку вірогідних концептуальних моделей прогнозування оцінок стосовно війн та формування команд дослідників. На основному, другому, прикладному, етапі передбачено теоретико-емпіричні, соціально-психологічні дослідження, спрямовані на визначення стратегічно прагматичних прогнозування оцінок стосовно змісту різних ознак прояву війни та оптимальних шляхів їх подолання.

Ключові слова: військові конфлікти, види війн, міждисциплінарні дослідження, стратегічні, методологічні принципи, прогнозування оцінки, організаційно-діялісна група, моделі.

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