

Issues of Information and Ideological Security: Experience for Uzbekistan

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Abstract. The article discusses issues of theoretical and practical provision of information and ideological security. The experience of foreign countries has been studied, regulatory documents that ensure the information and ideological security of various states have been analyzed. In modern international relations, information wars, i.e. the principle of “defeating the enemy without fighting” is playing an increasingly important role. Leading countries of the world paid attention to information wars in the early 1960s. With the development of information technology and social networks, methods of waging information wars have expanded. Nowadays, information resources are more important than military ones. Thus, studying the experience and methods of foreign countries makes it possible to create effective countermeasures. It is very important to study the experience of foreign countries and identify the main directions of information attacks in relation to Uzbekistan.

Keywords: information and ideological warfare, information security, information security system

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Introduction

The socio-economic reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan are the fundamental basis for development. The formation of a new world system in the international arena and changes in the balance of power in the Eurasian space will not fail to affect our domestic and foreign policy.

In order to achieve their geopolitical and geo-economic interests, states competing for leadership in the international arena are trying to pull Uzbekistan into their orbits. To achieve these goals, an “information attack” is carried out not only in the foreign media themselves, social networks, but also in radio and television programs in our country, in commercials.

Today, issues of ensuring national security are moving to the political and information sphere. In this regard, there is a need to resolve issues of shaping the consciousness and thinking of the people, enhancing their worldview. At the same time, it is necessary to improve the spiritual, educational and propaganda system, and coordinate the activities of government bodies.

It must be stated that any National Ideology is a shell of national interests, and its task is to ensure the cohesion of the individual, society and state. National ideology covers a set of different names and views in each country. For example, in the USA you can see the “American Dream”, embodying the ideas of liberalism, in Japan the “Japanese spirit”, expressing the unified idea of the emperor and the people, and in the PRC, you can see Confucian ideas based on the slogan “It doesn’t matter whether the cat is white or black, the main thing is so that she catches mice (不管黑猫白猫，能捉老鼠的就是好猫).” Ideological defeat, in the case of the former Union, leads to the collapse of the country.

The information-ideological war is a struggle between national ideologies. Therefore, along with ensuring national, economic and social security, it is necessary to systematically conduct monitoring; carefully analyze the political reality that arose during the implementation of the assigned tasks; pay special attention to issues of information and ideological security.

The intensification of globalization processes makes the issue of ensuring information and ideological security increasingly relevant. Information and ideological warfare is a product of the globalization process, and in current conditions we can say that it has become an extremely sharp instrument of ideological influence, serving the interests of various political forces and centers.

Great people who left a deep mark on the history of mankind also effectively used “information weapons,” which at all times were far superior to military weapons.

In particular, Sun Tzu, in military confrontation, put the informational and psychological impact on the enemy in the first place: war is a path of deception, the constant organization of false attacks, the spread of misinformation, the use of tricks and tricks.

Purpose of the study: identifying and presenting the main directions of information attacks in relation to Uzbekistan.

Materials and methods

The general scientific analytical research method and systematization method made it possible to show the main directions of the information war in relation to Uzbekistan and give proposals for countering information challenges and threats. The method of specific historical analysis was also used to present the situation in the Republic of Uzbekistan. With its help, materials from the National Security Agency, discussion of the draft budget of the US Agency for Global Media, and legal acts: National Security Act, United States Informational and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, United States Informational and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, US Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy and others were analyzed.

Results

The importance of information security in the conduct of domestic and foreign policies of states

The foundations of modern information and ideological warfare have been put into practice since the 1960s. Information warfare is considered a cheaper and more effective practice for undermining social stability and negatively affects the national interests of rival countries or in countries where the geopolitical interests of leading states come into contact.

Issues of information and propaganda confrontation have been studied and applied at all times. As E.Ya.Yakovlev notes:

The scope, scale and possibilities of ideological struggle have expanded enormously in recent decades. All countries became its arena, and all humanity became its object. The scientific and technological revolution has unprecedentedly expanded the arsenal of its methods [15:48].

It is also worth noting the collection of articles “Truth against demagoguery and lies,” which analyzes the goals and methods of large-scale ideological sabotage carried out by propaganda centers [10].

Let us note the works of E.B.Chernyak. In his book “Five Centuries of Secret War”, based on a wide range of sources, he reveals the role of information and propaganda in major political events of modern history, shows how dangerous a weapon the information war is in the clash between “the forces of reaction and progress” [14].

The work of Chinese researchers also deserves attention. In particular, in the collections of Chinese scientists “Counterbalance to Threats. The activities of the alliance of major powers in making strategic decisions” [18] and “Details of democracy: studies of modern American politics” [16] analyze the activities of the United States and Western countries in the information sphere, the policy of double standards, the implementation of color revolutions and the overthrow of persons they dislike.

Information-psychological warfare appeared as a form of confrontation at a certain stage of development of methods of information-psychological influence and represents the most socially dangerous form of this confrontation, carried out by violent means of influencing the information-psychological sphere of the enemy in order to solve strategic problems [11].

Research in the field of information and ideological warfare began in the 1960s in think tanks in Western countries.

In particular, in the United States, the conduct of information and ideological warfare is entrusted to the National Security Agency (NSA)¹ and the US Agency for Global Media²

¹ National Security Agency/Central Security Service. Available from: <https://www.nsa.gov>

² The proposed budget of the US Agency for Global Media has been published. Available from: www.svoboda.org/a/29830353.html

(USAGM, which began operations in 1999, from 1953 to 1999 – Information Agency, USIA)³, and in the PRC to the Information Department of the State Council (国务院新闻办公室)⁴, Cybersecurity Administration of the People's Republic of China (国家互联网信息办公室)⁵ and Central Cybersecurity Commission (中央网络安全和信息化委员会办公室).

The US Military Charter defines it as follows: “Information warfare is the act of influencing the citizens of a foreign state/adversary country by taking “truth” out of context and leading them to a false conclusion through false evidence”⁶.

Teachers of the Academy of Military Sciences of the People's Republic of China Wang Baotsun and Li Fei note that:

Information security is understood both in a narrow and in a broad sense. The so-called “information warfare on the battlefield” is the essence of “command and control warfare” in a narrow sense... In a broad sense, the creation of an “information warfare” system is of great importance. Along with the military/security level, it is necessary to pay attention to: 1) causing damage to the information system of a potential enemy; 2) striking at the enemy's information flow; 3) limiting the capabilities of the society management system and adequate response to negative impacts⁷.

An analysis of the experience of foreign countries shows that to increase the effectiveness of propaganda it is important to pay attention to:

1. to the field of publishing and media.
2. activity on social networks.
3. public propaganda and agitation.
4. the field of secondary education and higher educational institutions.
5. research work.
6. to the sphere of cultural and educational work.

These areas cover all central and regional levels of government and ensure a unified state policy in the field of information and ideological security.

Experience of foreign countries in carrying out information wars

The United States has extensive experience in conducting information and ideological warfare. The US government has been working in this direction since the 1960s. Since then, the United States has created radio stations Voice of America and Freedom, through which it promotes its ideological views. The United States works closely with other Anglo-Saxon countries – the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

3 US Agency for Global Media: USAGM. Available from: <https://www.usagm.gov>

4 国务院新闻办公室 <http://www.scio.gov.cn>

5 国家互联网信息办公室. Available from: <http://www.cac.gov.cn>

6 Information Operations. Joint Publication 3-13. November 27, 2012. Incorporating Change 1, November 20, 2014. Available from: https://www.jcs.mil/Portals/36/Documents/Doctrine/pubs/jp3_13.pdf

7 Wang Baocun, Li Fei. Information Warfare. Liberation Army Daily, June 13, 1995. Available from: https://irp.fas.org/world/china/docs/iw_wang.htm

In 1947, the National Security Act was passed in the United States⁸, on the basis of which a unified system for ensuring National Security was created. The conduct of information and ideological warfare, according to the Law, is entrusted to the US Security Council.

In the United States, the implementation of information and propaganda activities is entrusted to the Information Agency (USIA), which was created by decision of the US Congress on the basis of the US State Department. The main goal of USIA is to take action against any type of information directed against the United States both abroad and within the country.

Smitha-Mundta law⁹, adopted in 1948, laid the legal framework for US outreach activities. Under the Act, the US Secretary of State

responsible for the preparation of information about the United States, its people and its policies, and for its dissemination through the media, publications, radio, films, and other media, as well as information centers and instructors abroad¹⁰.

At the same time, the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy (ACPD) was also introduced in the United States under the Smith-Mundt Act. This structure is tasked with disseminating information about the United States and shaping public opinion in various international circles.

This commission is also entrusted with the task of assessing the process of support, information, and influence on the country's activities among the foreign public. The ACPD reports to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and Congress. The Under Secretary of State for Social Diplomacy and Public Affairs leads the work of the Organizational Affairs Commission.

Currently, all government departments and agencies in the United States are tasked with disseminating information about the policies, activities, and fundamental values of the United States¹¹.

According to the Smith-Mundt Law¹², as advocacy bodies, two commissions were initially created – the US Information Advisory Commission and the US Advisory Commission on Information and Educational Exchange. In accordance with the Mutual educational and cultural exchange program – Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961¹³ the US Advisory Commission on Educational

8 National Security Act. Available from: <https://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780195385168/resources/chapter10/nsa/nsa.pdf>

9 United States Informational and Educational Exchange Act of 1948. Electronic Library of Congress: Public Law 80-402, 62 Stat. 6. Passed Congress/Enrolled Bill: Jan 27, 1948. Available from: <https://2009-2017.state.gov/documents/organization/177574.pdf>

10 United States Informational and Educational Exchange Act of 1948. Electronic Library of Congress: Public Law 80-402, 62 Stat. 6. Passed Congress/Enrolled Bill: Jan 27, 1948. Available from: <https://2009-2017.state.gov/documents/organization/177574.pdf>

11 US Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. Available from: <https://www.state.gov/about-us-u-s-advisory-commission-on-public-diplomacy/>

12 United States Informational and Educational Exchange Act of 1948. Electronic Library of Congress: Public Law 80-402, 62 Stat. 6. Passed Congress/Enrolled Bill: Jan 27, 1948. Available from: <https://2009-2017.state.gov/documents/organization/177574.pdf>

13 Fulbright-Hays Act (see Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961). Available

Exchange was renamed the US Educational and Cultural Advisory Commission. And in 1977, both commissions were merged into the US Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

The ACPD consists of 7 members who are appointed by the President of the United States for a term of 3 years and confirmed by the Senate. Participants should not be more than 3 people from the same political party. The Commission's Executive Director oversees day-to-day operations and actively works to develop constructive solutions to improve public diplomacy around the world with legislative and executive bodies, as well as NGOs, business and academia¹⁴.

Despite the fact that the People's Republic of China was founded on the basis of a communist worldview, the national ideology is based on Chinese culture. Control over the implementation of the national idea is carried out by the Information and Propaganda Department of the Central Council of the Communist Party of China. This department develops basic instructions and gives appropriate instructions to all regional departments¹⁵.

In China, all kinds of propaganda tools are actively used to promote national ideology. Particular attention is paid to outdoor advertising, which reflects Chinese culture and the ideas of Confucianism, television and radio.

Ideological propaganda in the PRC is aimed at children in preschool educational institutions. Serious attention is paid to propaganda work in schools and higher educational institutions.

Speaking to party activists, Chinese President Xi Jinping noted:

Various hostile forces at home and abroad are always trying to force our party to change its banner and name... However, some of us and even some party comrades do not clearly see the secret hidden in this: they think that Western "universal values" have existed for hundreds of years, so why can't they agree with them? Why can't we borrow political discourse from the West? If we accept this, we won't have much loss, so why should we spoil it? Some people consider Western theories and Western discourse to be the golden rules and unknowingly become supporters of Western capitalist ideology. If you are in doubt about right or wrong, you can judge things from afar and test things up close... Typical examples are countries like Iraq, Syria and Libya!¹⁶

Substitution of ideological views?!

The information and ideological war waged by the United States and Western European countries is based on the ideas of liberalism. On the one hand, being free is the inalienable right of any person, but, on the other hand, the opposite happens. Using the cover of protecting human rights, aggression and interference in the internal affairs of other states are carried out.

from: <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title22/chapter33&edition=prelim>

¹⁴ US Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. Available from: <https://www.state.gov/about-us-u-s-advisory-commission-on-public-diplomacy/>

¹⁵ 国务院新闻。人力资源和社会保障部宣传中心。 Available from: http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/xgk2020/fdzdgnr/zjg/zsdw/201802/t20180206_288041.html

¹⁶ 习近平：在全国党校工作会议上的讲话（2015年12月11日）。 Available from: <http://cpc.people.com.cn/n1/2016/0501/c64094-28317481.html>

Assessing the current state of international relations, American political scientist Francis Fukuyama notes:

What we are probably witnessing is not just the end of the Cold War or another period of post-war history, but the end of history as such, the completion of the ideological evolution of humanity and the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of government. This does not mean that in the future no events will occur and the pages of the annual Foreign Affairs reviews on international relations will be empty – after all, liberalism has so far won only in the sphere of ideas and consciousness; in the real, material world, victory is still far away. However, there are serious reasons to believe that it is this ideal world that will ultimately determine the material world <...> From the Hegelian point of view, it is important that political liberalism follows economic liberalism - more slowly than many had hoped, however, - apparently inevitable¹⁷.

The US National Security Strategy, adopted in 2006, states:

The United States must defend freedom and justice because these principles are true and right for all people everywhere... The United States Government will work to promote human dignity in word and deed, advocating for freedom and against human rights violations, and devoting appropriate resources to promoting these ideals¹⁸.

This document is a program of the US government, which requires the adaptation of other liberal ideas in the world to this system.

Shukurjon Islamov in his article entitled "(For)What is spirituality needed?" notes:

Interestingly, it is becoming increasingly clear that our society perceives spiritual promoters as a category of stupid people in white shirts and ties. Both pro-Westerners and pious people frown when it comes to representatives of spirituality<...> I have not heard that the Center for Spirituality and Enlightenment or the Youth Union, which are considered a center for promoting spirituality, have taken initiatives against any form of forced labor or lawlessness. <...> ...ordinary people express their problems to journalists who write on current social issues, and leaders, seeing journalists, become cautious¹⁹.

At the moment, ideas of liberalism are increasingly being promoted in Uzbekistan, which do not always correspond to national traditions. Often in feature films, advertising, on banners, in clips, ideas of enrichment and immorality are promoted, and scenes that do not correspond to the national mentality are shown.

You can give examples of the article by Eldar Asanov (the word "freedom" was used

¹⁷ Fukuyama F. The End of History and the Last Man; Per. from English M.B. Levina. Moscow: ACT: JSC NPP Ermak, 2004: 9 and 14.

¹⁸ The National Security Strategy – 2006. Available from: <https://history.defense.gov/Portals/70/Documents/nss/nss2006.pdf>

¹⁹ Islamov Sh. Why do you need spirituality? May 20, 2018. Available from: <https://blog.xabar.uz/post/nima-ga-kerak-ma-naviyat>

13 times)²⁰, by Sanjar Saida²¹, Said-Abdulaziz Yusupov²², by Mirakmal Niyozmatov (the article was published on the website turon24.uz, which no longer exists, the article talked about the transition to Western values and the word “freedom” was used 26 times.

Conclusion

At the present stage, the use of smart power in information warfare is intensifying. An analysis of information and ideological security in Uzbekistan shows that there is no comprehensive system for organizing spiritual education, organizational, practical and scientific research work to protect national interests and basic values, especially youth, from information, ideological and political threats is insufficient; there is no coordination of government organizations, civil society institutions and the public; cooperation between public and private media is not established.

Based on scientific analysis, it is clear that the main directions of the information war aimed at Uzbekistan are being conducted in the following areas:

1. attacks on the dignity and activities of heads of state, deputies and members of the government;
2. an attempt to undermine the essence of political, economic and social reforms, the desire to nullify people’s trust in these processes;
3. defragmentation of society by dividing it into different social and national groups and creating conflict situations;
4. destruction of national spiritual values, propagation of inhumane values, dissemination of LGBT ideas;
5. creating a negative image of law enforcement officers – internal affairs officers, national guards, military personnel, representatives of security services;
6. popularization of people with Western liberal views, preparing the ground for their further advancement, turning them into “national heroes.”

To counter information challenges and threats, it is necessary to:

1. Develop a unified state policy; legal, structural and ideological foundations for ensuring information security.
2. Create a system for identifying, assessing and forecasting sources of both internal and external threats.
3. Develop a comprehensive/systemic coordination of the activities of government bodies and information and media services, taking into account ensuring the country’s national interests in the information sphere.

²⁰ Asanov E. Be careful, “manaviyat”! August 26, 2018. Available from: <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2018/08/26/manaviyat/>

²¹ Said S. We need new values. August 27, 2018. Available from: <https://www.gazeta.uz/uz/2018/08/27/munosabat/>

²² Yusupov A. Original spirituality is not contrary to democracy! About the lack of spirituality of “spiritualists”. August 29, 2018. Available from: <https://www.gazeta.uz/uz/2018/08/29/manaviyat/>

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