

**NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
IN THE CONTEXT
OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES**

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The scientific article is devoted to the study of the problem of the current state, factors and conditions of national security of the Republic of Moldova in the context of regional and global challenges. The article focuses on the assessments of various researchers and public opinion on the priority and most acute challenges to the national security of the Republic of Moldova.

The prospects for stabilizing the political situation in the region are considered, taking into account the coordination of the positions of all interested parties. This should have a positive impact on the socio-economic state of the region and on the possibility of integration into the European Union.

The experience of political construction of post-soviet states with accents that provoke uneven development of territories has led to the emergence of many conflicts, as well as to a significant differentiation in the standard of living of the population of the new States.

At different levels of social management, the interests of subjects differ. Historical experience shows that governance based on an imbalance of interests, discrimination of certain social strata and groups leads to General destabilization in society, challenges and threats to security at the regional level. Examples of this situation are the conflicts concerning the left-bank regions of Moldova, South-Eastern Ukraine, Abkhazia and others. As a socio-political category, national security can be viewed from two main points of view:

- firstly, as the position of the state at the international arena, the state of internal public relations of the state, based on the protection of the state, national interests, excluding the resolution of disputes and differences between them by force, pressure or threats;

- secondly, as a set of actions of social institutions, factors, conditions for ensuring opportunities for socio-economic development, the protection of the state as a subject of international relations in the implementation of its interests, the resolution of contradictions and conflicts through non-violent methods.

In this case, productive coordination of positions and interests as a condition for effective national security becomes the basis for the growth of the population's well-being, positive image of the state and opportunities for its development in the modern world order. The success of state development and national security is assessed in three main areas: political stability, economic prosperity, and the state's defense capability, depending on certain internal and external parameters.

When conducting statistical observations and assessing the level of security, countries assess the most powerful impact of a certain list of threats. In the global ranking of the safest countries, the list of assessed threats to the country's security is as follows: the number of internal and external violent conflicts; the level of distrust of the authorities; the politically unstable situation; the potential for terrorist acts; etc. [1].

The emphasis on national interests, national identity, and sovereignty, in the context of the globalized world economy, numerous migration flows and the liberalization of customs regimes, combined with the lack of guarantees for other ethnic minorities, leads to disagreements in society, making it weaker and more vulnerable. Unfortunately, this way, the priority of the interests of the indigenous population without regard to ethnic minorities in Ukraine and Moldova led to the protracted domestic political conflict, economic destabilization, the deterioration of the country's positions in the world ranking for security. Moreover, the consolidation of the national imbalance of interests at the strategic level has become characteristic for Moldova.

Thus, among the problematic aspects of the national security Strategy of the Republic of Moldova [2], insufficient attention was paid to the integration of ethnic minorities, guarantees for the preservation of their cultural and linguistic identity, and this is one of the acute points in the social atmosphere of the region, obstacles to the Transnistrian settlement. The lack of agreement in the highest echelons of power on this issue, the unwillingness to agree on interests leads to a lack of progress in the negotiation process for the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict.

As for the main threats to the national security of the Republic of Moldova we can identify the following:

- political threats, such as internal political instability, terrorism and abuse of human rights;

- economic threats such as poverty, increasing differentiation between rich and poor, migration to more economically favorable areas, and the impact of conflicts in an unstable neighboring state;

- social threats such as aging of the majority of the population, ethnic conflicts, crime, transnational drug trafficking, illegal trade[3, p. 58].

To find out public opinion on the issue of priority threats and challenges to the national security of the Republic of Moldova, was conducted a poll on the topic "Modern challenges to national and international security". The conducted sociological survey provided the following social opinion about the threats to national security: political instability – 77.5% of respondents, economic instability – 70 %, unemployment – 65% of respondents, mass migration – 42.5 %, influence of external factors on the foreign policy of the Republic of Moldova; Transnistrian conflict – 27.5 %, lack of patriotism – 20 % of respondents.

It is noted that the most serious security challenges are based on the economic interests of political actors. In the current situation, most of them benefit from the current situation. Therefore, the negotiation process on the issue of the Transnistrian settlement is also stalled.

In these conditions to get out of this situation, it is necessary to have a comprehensive system for ensuring national security, taking into account the balance of interests and prospects for strengthening it in the context of developing cooperation between national agents and European integration. Cooperation can be based on various joint activities, in particular, in the field of culture and education, including in the field of positive information exchange. As well as the reform of the political and legal framework of the national security sector and the subsequent alignment of regulations with the reformed political and legal framework; the creation of a national capacity for strategic planning and analysis in the field of national security and defense and making it functional can be effective in such case. Speaking about integration with the European Union it also can give an impetus to economic strengthening, political and democratic transformations and reforms that will generally contribute to raising the level of civilization of the Republic of Moldova, but to realize these prospects we need to work together.

An important point in this situation is to optimize integration costs and neutralize potential threats and risks, so that the benefits of consolidation are higher than the costs of this process.

So, the optimal solution for the Republic of Moldova to strengthen its national security will be paramount in stabilizing the national economy, development of mechanisms of coordination making management policy decisions at different levels of government, the reform of democratic institutions, development of international economic relations on a qualitatively new level and settlement of the Transnistrian conflict, taking into account the positions of all stakeholders.

References:

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