ARMENIAN STUDIES IN THE SYSTEM OF INFORMATION SECURITY

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Armenian studies constitute a certain sphere of academic researches. Branches of Armenian studies - history, literature, architecture, etc., are manifestations of our civilizational identity, which in turn had brought new content to our system of values (and continue doing so), which are the basic components of the national security system. Thus, Armenian studies are essentially a national civilizational and state-building discipline guaranteeing national information security with cognitivemeans.

Admittedly, such interpretation of Armenian studies suggests a deeper application of the discipline's concepts and results in education system, as well as practical/political affairs[1], which may have a positive impact in the area of modern national political thought. This cause-and-effect relationship explains the fact that to date there are only few interdisciplinary researches juxtaposing and combining the fields of Armenian studies (or for that matter, any other scientific disciplines) and politics. Yet this would have allowed not only uncovering the commonalities between the fields, but also developing their complementation mechanisms and application formats in the aspect of information security.

Given the challenges that Armenian society has to face[2], such statement of problem appears quite critical. With the mentioned realities in mind some observations of the said problems are presented here below, with a prior brief deliberation on some of the modern and significantly expanded views on national security.

In the area of security the highest priority is currently assigned to the safety, effective setup and development of the society's spiritual/intellectual resources. In this context the traditional approaches to and definitions of warfare have changed: presently the politics and strategies are carried out mainly through the so-called "soft power" and "information warfare" which is part of the former. It has to be noted in this regard that spiritual/cultural issues are encompassed in the information security, which in turn is a component of the national security.

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[1] Հարությունյան Գ., Հայագիտության ազգային ռազմավարության որոշ դրույթներ, Գլոբուս, 2007, 1(9), էջ 3:

[2] Both Armenian states – the Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic – are in no war, no peace situation; Armenian communities in the Near East are at the verge of extinction due to geopolitical developments and generally there are many problems in Diaspora.

It is known that the theory of information warfare and methods employed in it have qualitatively evolved in the recent period[3]. Armenia and the Armeniancy are involved in such warfare for some well-known reasons, and in these terms are in the risk zone. In such conditions our intellectual and political elite must develop a strategy adequate to the existing challenges, which should take into account the following circumstances.

Security doctrines usually assign key importance to the protection of so-called "critical infrastructures", construed as the most essential military/political, socio-economic and information structures, incapacitation of which leads to a failure of the whole security system. We contend that the status of "critical infrastructure" must be assigned to the systems and structures that safeguard spiritual/intellectual development, as their failure may lead to demoralization of the society. Such approach is currently gaining ground in the world[4] and it appears, such an approach may be used in Armenia as well[5].

Informational factor has acquired a decisive role in almost all fields of activity of an individual, society, state and nation. In the rapidly changing world only the one having information has a chance to follow be adequate and respond to the new realities. Today various informational activities and informational warfare have moved to political plane and are one of the main *geo-ideological tools in geopolitical and geo-economical spheres*.

The perception of the system of values in the society is not a static category, since it changes depending on the historical, military/political developments, as well as evolutionally or revolutionary ones. Today it is substantially influenced by printed and electronic mass media through widely spread, targeted and/or supposedly chaotic information flows, which to a considerable extent form the global community's way of thinking, mindset and hence, also the system of values.

In terms of informational organization of Armeniancy the following favourable fundamental factors exist[6]:

The idea of the Motherland and the existence of the Republic of Armenia (RA) and the Artsakh Republic (NKR);

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[3] The so-called "second generation" network information warfare is worth mentioning, which pursues the following main objectives: 1. to disintegrate the adversary's social/moral bases and the system of values; 2. to impose own cultural code in the consciousness of the adversary's (or sometimes even the ally's) society through manipulative technologies.

[4] See: Гриняев С., О взгляде на проблему безопасности критической инфраструктуры в государстве Израиль, http://www.csef.ru/index.php/ru/component/csef/project/-/-/-?id=3229.

[5] Harutyunyan G., Armenian studies as "critical infrastructure", «21-րդ ԴԱՐ», 2013, N 6. Հարությունյան Գ., Հայագիտությունը որպես անվտանգության «կրիտիկական ենթակառուցվածք», Հայագիտությունը և արդի ժամանակաշրջանի մարտահրավերները։ Հայագիտական միջազգային երկրորդ համաժողովի զեկուցումների ժողովածու, Երևան, 2014, էջ 512-515:

[6] Harutyunyan G., Information Problems of Organization of Armeniancy. – See in: The Main Issues of Western Armeniancy's Claims (International research and political conference), Cyprus, Nicosia, April 18-19, Collestion of Conference Papers, 2008, p. 168.

The idea of the Armenian unique civilization

The memoires of the Armenian Genocide and the Hay Dat (Armenian Cause).

The number of Armenians living abroad twice outnumbers those living in the Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic, that's to say, the information support problem of all the Armeniancy is a bigger problem than the one of Armenia. At the same time, an important positive factor to boost the Armenian information security system is the development of information and communication technologies.

An important role in the national identity is attached to the informational factor. Today, global information flows, which are not controlled by the given society-nation-state, generally constitute a threat to the identity[7].

It has to be noted that study of the problems in this area requires consideration of certain peculiarities of our history of the last hundred years.

The *Armenian* Genocide and loss of the Western Armenia have deeply and tragically impacted the psychology and worldview of our society, especially the Diaspora. The Diaspora part of the Armeniancy is also characterized by the fact that they undergo not only intra-ethnic or global influences, but also national/civilizational ones specific to the countries of their residence.

As a result of geopolitical processes of the last two centuries the Armeniancy of Eastern Armenia has changed the socio-ideological environment of its social being several times. This has led to considerable, sometimes controversial, substantive transformations in the approaches to the society's system of values.

The study of the public's system of values is currently viewed as a crucial matter, and for example, *World Values Survey (WVS)*[8], an international organization, conducts extensive studies around the world. The research outcomes are used in making both economic and political decisions and particularly, the so-called "color revolution" technologies are anchored on knowledge of socio-psychological characteristics of a given society. The research conducted by the mentioned organization suggests that the population of Armenia is in the cultural domain of the countries, where traditional and survival values prevail. Currently studies of values system in Armenia are conducted by the Chair of Psychology at the Yerevan State University. Also, impacts of the information environment on the system of values are studied at the Noravank Foundation [9].

However, it is evident that the activities implemented in this area are not sufficient and furthermore, are far from gaining applied significance. Such situation often causes

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[7] As a simplest example of the informational war against Armenia and Armeniancy the following example is presented. "On February 23 the Turkish network resource Takvim.com.tr spread information that 100 outstanding US businessmen, including Bill Gates and Warren Buffett had send a letter to George W. Bush with an appeal not to recognize the Armenian Genocide. The article was presented only in Turkish. Later the Turkish Daily News reprinted the material in English. Soon the Azeri network mass media put the "news" into circulation, thereafter it was presented by the whole Armenian press without checking the sources. As a result the Armenian office of Microsoft Company had to make an official denial" (Martirosyan S., Some Issues of Informational Security of Armenia, 21-st CENTURY, 2008, 1(3), p. 69).

[8] See http://worldvaluessurvey.org

[9] See, for example, Իդեոլոգեմները ՀՀ տեղեկատվական տարածքում, Երևան, «Նորավանք» ԳԿՀ, 2013.

controversial comments in the political-information arena, which in no way contributes to the establishment of an effective national security system and implementation of relevant political strategies[10].

It must be especially emphasized that a closer relationship between Armenian studies and the policies, as well as their practical use seem impossible without an appropriate information policy, and this is applicable also to other problems unrelated to the system of values.

It is obvious that the Armenian information security system must include the complex of information problems concerning not only Armenia [this concept, in terms of *information*, assumes the Republic of Armenia, the Artsakh Republic and Javakhk], but also Armenians living all over the world - in Diaspora[11]. Thus, the Armenia's and Armeniancy's information security functions, naturally, are interconnected and must be at least mutually complementary and what is more desirable - dwelled on synergetic principle.

From the standpoint of organization and security of the Armeniancy this new political and informational situation implies both challenges and new opportunities. At present development and competitiveness of nations, states and civilizations are unambiguously conditioned by the level of their conceptual approaches to national security.

According to experts, the concept of national security is a single whole of three constituent parts - military-political security, social and economic security and informational security. In their turn the above mentioned fields are independent and each of them is a unity of several other interlinked component parts. Particularly, informational security is an extensive and pithy conception, which includes not only the security problems of informational-technical systems but also everything concerning civilization, cultural, spiritual, psychological, intellectual, cognitive and organizational fields, which are the objects of Armenian studies in Armenian reality. It can be stated that the notion *information security* is noticeably connected with human, public and national factors than the other components of national security.

Coordination and assessment of national resources are one of the key functions of the national and, particularly informational security system. Among them are strategic resources, inportant for the Armeniancy's security:

- Civilizational resources,

- Technological resources (human, intellectual, creative, scientific, technical, and purely information resources),

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[10] Հարությունյան Գ., Ինտեգրացիայի որոշ հիմնախնդիրների մասին արժեքային համակարգի համատեքստում, Գլոբուս, 2013, 4(37), էջ 20:

[11] RA National Security Strategy, Yerevan, 2007.

- Material (enterprising, production - trading, financial and other entrepreneurial capacities),

- Organizational, meaning self-organizational capacities, ability to create structures necessary to display tenacity (including the state, community, political, public, economic institutional organizations and formats), and carry out national functions and programs through such structures.

Solution of organization problems firstly supposes clarification and systematization of Armeniancy's *information security's* problems. It is necessary to single out the following:

- Assessment of information resources of Armeniancy and creation of new resources;

- Development of a system for their efficient and safe functioning;

- Providing Armeniancy with all the necessary information on Armenia and Armeniancy based on Armenian studies and adequate spheres of research;

- Development of infra-Armenia and external propaganda concepts and technologies and their practical implementation, working out elements of contemporary information policy (public policy, noo-politics, mediapolitics, mobile politics) and implementing them to address Armeniancy's political, economic, cultural and other issues;

- Implementation of educational, academic, political and other Pan-Armenian programs;

- Conceptual elaboration of Pan-Armenian net-centred organizational system and by means of it shaping the joint information field of Armeniancy, etc.

Numerous issues require joint political/governmental and academic/expert discussions aimed to find solutions for the problems under consideration.

Obviously, the Armenian system of values with its civilizational traits is one of the cornerstones that has ensured our national/historical continuity. For example, the Armenian Army, which being based on the millennia-old Armenian military art and the best patriotic traditions, has been restored during the heroic battles of the victorious Artsakh liberation war.

From the point of view of information security Armenian studies are important in research, elaboration and systematization of millennia-old Armenian civilizational and national values based on creative activities of the Armenian people and their application in cultural and educational, political and governmental spheres in the Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic on the benefit of the national security of the whole Armenian nation.