SECURITY CULTURE -
A NEED OF THE POPULATION

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This article is dedicated to Security Culture. Security culture represents the active and conscious engagement of citizens in managing the state's problems and supporting institutions in preventing threats to national security. This involves understanding and assimilating information, attitudes and values related to the political, military and economic aspects of society. As a moral, educational and formative guide, security culture aims to prepare citizens to contribute to the protection of national values. National security is not only a concern of the state, but also of its citizens, and security culture plays an essential role in their involvement in ensuring stability and protecting national values. This culture emerges from the experience and consciousness of citizens and encompasses cognitive, evaluative and emotional aspects, influencing the way they perceive and respond to threats. Building a strong security culture requires an education that would enable society to thrive safely and adapt to the rapid changes in the security environment. Close collaboration between education and security institutions is necessary to ensure the relevance, updating and application of education programs in the real context of security threats.

Key words: Security, security culture, strategic culture, education, civil protection, threats, dangers, safety.

1. INTRODUCTION

Security is one of the major concerns of humanity, and the recent wave of terrorist attacks on European territory has highlighted to an even greater extent the need for action in this area by the European Union.

But security cannot be effective and sustainable without education and culture in this area.

The classic concept of Johann Gottfried Herder (a German thinker, theologian and cultural historian) suggests that culture is a historical process of development and

ennoblement (elevation) of human abilities. Herder emphasizes the idea of the determining role of "sciences and arts", as well as the connection with the Enlightenment ideal of progress.

In the social systems theory of other philosophers, the concept of "culture" has been used to characterize values and other components of the system of social action. Culture thus guides action by establishing values that guide behavior. For example, the concept of "political culture" of Almond Gabriel (an American political scientist who chaired the Committee on Comparative Politics of the Social Science Research Council for many years and served as president of the American Political Science Association (APSA) from 1965 to 1966. In 1981, he received the APSA's James Madison Award, which recognizes a political scientist who has made "distinguished scholarly contributions" during his career) was based on this understanding of culture. [5, p.8].

Security culture represents the active and conscious commitment of citizens in managing state issues and supporting institutions in preventing threats to national security. This involves understanding and assimilating information, attitudes and values related to the political, military and economic aspects of society. Being a moral, educational and formative guide, security culture aims to prepare citizens to contribute to the protection of national values. [8].

We are currently witnessing a permanent change in the security environment. This transformation is characterized by the fact that previously the emphasis was on the conventional military dimension. Today this dimension is no longer the only obvious one, even if there are still theaters of war. Threats and risks to the security of states have changed quite a lot, in particular a multitude of risks and threats of asymmetric type have emerged. For example - illegal and secret migration, terrorist threats, hybrid actions, cyber attacks, incidents from within; threats associated with spontaneous new technologies (such as drones, 5G, artificial intelligence); challenges related to climate change; disruption of supply chains; and interference in the electoral process. Speaking about the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it has put a strong focus on the security of individual states, but also on European security, testing the capacity of Europe's critical infrastructure, crisis preparedness, strategic value chains and crisis management systems, as well as the ability of our societies to resist manipulative intersections and

disinformation. These challenges also occur beyond our borders, with a clear interconnection between internal and external security.

According to the European Security Strategy at the Romanian Dialogues@MAE, the European Union has sought to adapt to the new security environment and has made a number of significant advances, such as the adoption, in December 2013, of the Comprehensive Approach [4] to external conflicts and crises, which is already being implemented in the Horn of Africa or the Sahel region, the Maritime Security Strategy and the related Action Plan, or the Strategy and Action Plan for the Gulf of Guinea. A Political Framework on Systematic and Long-Term Defence Cooperation, as well as the Political Framework on Cyber Defence, were also adopted, both of which will play an important role in the efforts to strengthen the Union's military and cyber capabilities. Furthermore, in response to concerns over gas supplies, the EU launched its own energy security strategy in 2014. This includes measures such as increasing energy efficiency, producing its own energy and completing infrastructure connections to redirect energy resources in the event of a potential crisis.

But let's talk about national security. National security is not only a concern of the state, but also of its citizens, and security culture plays an essential role in their involvement in ensuring stability and protecting national values. This culture emerges from the experience and consciousness of citizens and encompasses cognitive, evaluative and emotional aspects, influencing the way they perceive and respond to threats. Along with cognitive and informational aspects, security culture is closely linked to the concept of strategic culture, which refers to ideas, emotional and behavioral reactions related to threats.

2. SECURITY CULTURE

Security culture represents the active and conscious commitment of citizens in managing state issues and supporting institutions in preventing threats to national security.

According to sociological surveys [6], external propaganda is seen as an effective tool of manipulation, especially in the context of the lack of information regarding the real state of affairs in the world, as well as in the immediate vicinity of our state.

Scientific researcher, first degree, National Intelligence Academy "Mihai Viteazul", National Defense University Carol I, Ruxandra Buluc, defines security culture as "the result of social interactions that

take place in groups, organizations, communities, societies concerned with social security issues, which have in common certain learning and knowledge accumulation processes in accordance with the requirements of individuals regarding trust, protection and safety" (Buluc et al. 2019). Security culture is the end result of security education, including through continuing education, by promoting values, norms, attitudes and actions related to the assimilation of the concept of national security.

A good example of education through the practical implementation of security culture within society is Finland. This country has a long history of prioritizing national security and promoting a strong sense of civic duty among its citizens. For example, Finland's Total Defense Concept represents an approach to national security that extends beyond traditional military defense to encompass all aspects of returning to normality in society. In Finland, military service is mandatory for almost all male citizens, which strengthens the country's defense capabilities and cultivates a sense of responsibility among the population. In addition, Finland attaches great importance to the preparation of citizens in the field of civil protection, providing citizens with training in emergency situations and first aid.

The Finnish government invests in public education campaigns aimed at informing citizens about security threats and the importance of preparation. By collaborating with communities and civil society organizations, the Government strengthens the resilience of its society in the face of external threats. [8]. The military conflict in Ukraine directly affects the security of the states in the Black Sea region, as well as neighboring countries. Analyzing the current political and military situation in Ukraine, we come to the conclusion that every state in the world, especially those in the former USSR – must be able to provide guarantees for the security (protection) of its population. But there are 21 countries in the world without armed forces, which have either given up or been forced to disband their own armies, which does not increase the security of the respective states. Many of the 21 countries have typically had a long-standing agreement with a former occupying country; an example of this is the agreement between Monaco and France[10], which has existed for at least 300 years.[1] The Marshall Islands[11], Micronesia, Monaco and Palau[12,13] do not have the right to a say in their country's defense. Thus, they have little influence in international relations.

These are just a series of examples that support the need for a new approach to security culture and the preparation of a nation to cope with the changes generated by the evolution of the security environment.

The basis of building a developed, strong, democratic society is the population of this country. Namely, each individual citizen represents the brick that underlies the fortress and the building of a strong society is done only through education. A society built on values, skills, patriotism, integrity and strategic vision is a society that can guarantee the rule of law, safety and national security. The quality of human capital is the key factor for economic and non-economic development, such as improved health, civic and social involvement, a better climate of security and social comfort. Education is not only a good and an end in itself, but, in the long term, the most important factor for the sustainable development of the country. By virtue of large time lags between the allocation of resources and the achievement of results, the education sector requires interventions and support as early as possible to face the new challenges of the contemporary world. Surely an educated population, with an advanced security culture, will never be easy to manipulate or lure into the net of lies and threats [9 p.279]. Therefore, the security culture, through understood and correct education, significantly increases national security.

If we refer to the states that have achieved a high level of security culture, then according to the analyses in the field, we can talk about Norway. This country, through large investments in its civil and military training and through close collaboration between the civil community and state authorities, has managed to adapt to regional threats, maintaining a stable balance and strengthening its national security. Poland, in turn, has strengthened its security culture by promoting education and awareness of its importance among the population. Investments in defense and close collaboration with NATO allies have strengthened the country's resistance against external threats, including with regard to challenges in cyberspace and adversary propaganda.

Similarly, Estonia, which was aware of its vulnerabilities, invested heavily in cybersecurity and in strengthening cooperation with NATO and EU partners. Estonia has countered cyber threats and unfavorable external influence, namely through

education, awareness and advanced technologies.

It is interesting how security culture is promoted in neighboring countries, in the immediate vicinity of the Republic of Moldova, for example in Romania. According to the magazine "Security Culture. Sources and Resources". Intelligence at your service. https://intelligence. sri.ro/cultura-de-securitate-surse-si-resurse, in Romania, citizens have the opportunity to create a solid security culture both through the use of open sources and thanks to the efforts of an authority such as the Romanian Intelligence Service. SRI is concerned with achieving security education, through the use of several training means, with the involvement of OSINT, but also through concrete actions, such as: meetings with civil society representatives, round tables, conferences, debates or various partnerships with academic or research institutions, scientific communication sessions. The "Terrorism Near Us" campaign, carried out between 2004 and 2010, had as its target audience public authorities, pupils, high school students, students and took place in the form of information sessions both in Bucharest and in other cities, with the aim of presenting the danger of terrorism. The "SRI in 50 minutes" series of meetings, launched by

SRI in 2013, presented students and teachers with new information about SRI, about the risks specific to the current security environment, offering recommendations on how to react in certain risky situations. The round table on the theme "Society, Democracy, Intelligence" (2008) had among its objectives the assessment of civil society's expectations and perceptions of SRI's activity, as well as the need to strengthen public communication in the area of intelligence. We can also mention the debate "Social Media Evolution: A Look into the Future" (2015), on the topic of risks felt at the level of society with the revolutionization of relational thinking and communication under the impact of social media. [7].

The references to the nominated countries provide useful benchmarks for the development of security culture.

State security is an integral part of national security.

An important role in ensuring state security belongs to Civil Protection.

3. STATE SECURITY AND CIVIL PROTECTION

A component of state security is Civil Protection. This essential component of national security has the role of preventing and managing

disasters through organizational, technical and informational measures of a humanitarian nature, aimed at protecting the population and material assets. Civil Protection is not a separate entity, but an integrated pillar in the security strategy of a state, its activities being carried out through a multitude of planned and coordinated actions.

We refer to the state's possibilities to react correctly and promptly in the early phase of the escalation of Exceptional Situations of a conflict nature (combat actions). According to the Law of the Republic of Moldova "On Civil Protection" No. 271-XIII of 09.11.1994, Civil Protection of the Republic of Moldova is a system of measures and actions, undertaken on a state-wide scale in peacetime and wartime, in order to ensure the protection of the population, property in the event of natural and ecological disasters, accidents and catastrophes, epiphytoties, epizootics (ext. some contagious diseases), fires, as well as in the case of the application of modern means of destruction. Civil Protection is organized according to the territorial principle throughout the territory of the Republic of Moldova in accordance with the existing state system and administrative leadership. [1, art.4]. Protection of the population in the event of the occurrence of exceptional situations

(conflict and non-conflict) from the damaging factors of catastrophes natural and technological and uninterrupted work of objects, are tasks of great importance for all local public management bodies, executive bodies and managers of objects of the national economy. The direct management of the civil protection system is the task of the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations. [2, art.8]. The performance of service within the Service by citizens of the Republic of Moldova is carried out in accordance with the legislation in force [2, art.17]. In the Government Decision № 282 of 14.03.2005 for the approval of the Regulation on training in the field of civil protection, published: 25.03.2005 in the Official Gazette No. 46-50 art. No. 338, the categories of the population mandatorily involved *in the training process in the field of civil protection*, as well as the tasks and basic forms of training the population for actions in case of exceptional situations, this being a component part of national security.

Security culture plays an essential role in involving citizens in ensuring stability and protecting national values. This culture arises from the knowledge, awareness and experience of citizens and includes practical and emotional aspects, influencing the way in which they are likely to respond to potential threats.

Thus: 1. In the process of training in the field of civil protection, the following are trained:

   a. heads of public administration authorities (hereinafter - chairmen of emergency committees);
   b. employees of public administration authorities, including those authorized to resolve issues related to the prevention and liquidation of the consequences of exceptional situations (hereinafter - authorized employees);
   c. persons trained in the sphere of production and service, who are part of civil protection formations (hereinafter - the staff of civil protection formations);
   d. persons trained in the sphere of production and service, who are not part of the governing bodies and civil protection formations (hereinafter - the employed population);
   e. persons not trained in the sphere of production and service (hereinafter - the unemployed population);
   f. persons studying in educational institutions, regardless of their profile, type of ownership and organizational-legal form (hereinafter - pupils and students).

2. The basic tasks of training in the field of civil protection are:

   a. training of all categories of the population on the rules of conduct and the main methods of protection in case of exceptional situations, methods of providing first aid, rules for the use of individual and collective means of protection;
   b. training (advancing) of leaders of all levels on actions related to the protection of the population and the territory in case of exceptional situations;
   c. training of leaders and employees of public administration authorities, enterprises, institutions and organizations in the skills of training and management of forces and means belonging to the civil protection system;
   d. the acquisition by the employees of the civil protection forces of their obligations and their training for actions in case of exceptional situations;
   e. the knowledge by the students of the destructive factors of the possible exceptional situations on the territory of the country, of the rules of conduct, the acquisition of the notions of providing self-help and medical aid;

f. the knowledge by the students of the international conventions and the legislation of the Republic of Moldova in the field of civil protection, of the principles of organizing the protection of the population, material goods and cultural values of the country, the ways and means of functioning of the national economy in exceptional situations. [3,p.1, 2].

Strategic Culture shapes national security concepts, military doctrines, organizational structures of the armed forces, weapons systems, war styles, and almost every other aspect of a state's defense policy and strategic behavior. However, it is difficult to define and identify strategic culture in a systematic way, and researchers discuss several definitions of the concept.

4. STRATEGIC CULTURE

In 1977, the American political scientist Jack Snyder, in his research works, developed the concept of strategic culture, in which he tried to understand and explain the culture and behavior of leaders soviet, compared to American, in the context of the Cold War; this is considered a precursor of the concept of security culture (Lantis 2002, 87-113).

Strategic culture represents a system of strategic values, combined with:

- a system of experiences and realities of present and future requirements;
- a system of projecting the value effect in the dynamics of action and;
- a system of evaluation and forecasting of military action for the implementation of a political decision.

In other words, strategic culture is dependent on political culture, which reflects the aspirations of the people, the specifics of society. If a society does not register its culture, then no achievements take place and no changes occur. Strategic culture is also dependent on economic culture, which refers to the knowledge, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors that influence the economic actions and decisions of individuals and society. It includes not only the technical aspects of the economy, but also the moral and social dimensions, explaining why people act differently in different economic contexts. Strategic culture is also dependent on social culture, which refers to the totality of norms, values, beliefs, customs, knowledge, arts and institutions specific to a human group or society. This not only shapes social behavior, but also influences the

way in which individuals interact, organize themselves and perceive the world around them.

Thus, *Strategic Culture* is presented as a *system of systems*, therefore as a metasystem, with complex functions in: *strategic theory; strategic art; and in strategic practice.*

But, strategic culture is not subordinate to political culture and is not part of it, it is only an instrument of it. Strategic culture is presented as interdisciplinary, dependent on other cultures, resulting from the interconditioning of the three major components of strategy, namely: strategic theory; strategic art and strategic practice.

Strategic cultures have been created by all strategic schools in the world. In the methods of preparing and conducting wars, reference is not always made to the concept of "strategic culture", but this does not mean that without a good strategic culture, there can be something qualitative and sustainable, in terms of the theory, art and practice of war.

In other words, the quality of war depends, to a large extent, on the quality of the strategic culture that supports and sustains it. This connection between security culture and strategic culture highlights the importance of the emotional and behavioral influence on the individual

and collective reactions of citizens to various security situations. But in order to proceed (act) correctly in such situations, permanent training (education) is necessary.

Therefore, education plays a fundamental role in building a culture in general and a security culture in particular, which allows society to thrive safely and dynamically adapt to the rapid changes in the national and international security environment. In this regard, close collaboration between educational and law enforcement institutions is necessary to ensure the importance, updating and application of education programs in the real context of security threats. Therefore, security culture is vital in the information age we are living in, in which we all need orientation points both at the personal and state levels.

5. CONCLUSIONS

According to the security and StratCom expert, Elena Mârzac, in the Republic of Moldova there is a low level of information, poor institutional transparency and inadequate communication in the security sector, which requires better awareness and access to information. It is vital to ensure a general understanding of security and its importance for the democratic development of the state. The involvement of civil society and non-

governmental organizations in the reform of the security sector is also crucial.

Given the linguistic and cultural diversity, communication should be adapted with information available in Romanian and Russian, in order to reach all segments of the population and to promote active participation of citizens. Every citizen can contribute to this effort by adopting preventive behavior and reporting suspicious activities.

To build a strong strategic and security culture, an education is needed that would allow society to thrive safely and adapt to the rapid changes in the security environment. Close collaboration between educational and law enforcement institutions is necessary to ensure the relevance, updating and application of education programs in the real context of security threats. A society built on values, skills, patriotism, integrity and strategic vision is a society that can guarantee the rule of law, national safety and security. Thus, education in the field of national security, through the development and reception of security culture, is a necessity for the population.

Strategic culture and security culture are topics that represent a theme of deep research in the future. Thus, their awareness and correct understanding will allow us to preserve our national values, ideals, customs and traditions as a nation and as a country for future generations.

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