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## ОСОБЛИВОСТІ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ МЕНТАЛЬНОСТІ УКРАЇНСТВА В МІЖНАРОДНІЙ ПОЛІТИЦІ

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Зроблено аналіз історичних передумов формування національної ментальності українства та визначено особливості ментальних сутностей з погляду традиційно-побутової системи. Означено духовне підґрунтя української ментальності та основні риси українців, які були успадковані від Візантійської культури. Виділено геополітичний образ України в контексті формування геополітичних прагнень країни. Застосовано дихотомії національного характеру для формування особливостей національної ментальності українства в міжнародній політиці.

*Ключові слова:* ментальність, українська ментальність, національний характер, дихотомії національного характеру, геополітика.

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### PECULIAR FEATURES OF UKRAINIAN NATIONAL MENTALITY IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

The analysis of historical prerequisites of the formation of Ukrainian national mentality has been done as well as the peculiarities of mental contents in terms of traditional household system have been defined. The author designated the spiritual foundation of Ukrainian mentality and basic features of Ukrainians that were inherited from the Byzantine culture. The geopolitical image of Ukraine within the framework of geopolitical aspirations of the country has been outlined. The dichotomies of national character have been applied in order to form the peculiar features of Ukrainian national mentality in international politics.

*Key words:* mentality, Ukrainian mentality, national character, dichotomies of national character, geopolitics.

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### ОСОБЕННОСТИ УКРАИНСКОЙ НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ МЕНТАЛЬНОСТИ В МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЙ ПОЛИТИКЕ

Сделан анализ исторических предпосылок формирования украинской национальной ментальности и определены особенности ментальных сущностей с точки зрения традиционно-бытовой системы. Отмечена духовная подоплека украинской ментальности и основные черты украинцев, которые были унаследованы от Византийской культуры. Выделен геополитический образ Украины в контексте формирования геополитических устремлений страны. Применены дихотомии национального характера для формирования особенностей украинской национальной ментальности в международной политике.

*Ключевые слова:* ментальность, украинская ментальность, национальный характер, дихотомии национального характера, геополитика.

**Problem setting.** The formation of Ukrainian mentality is characterized by complex historical circumstances, including: geographic location at the crossroads of East and West, a considerable amount of time without the inherent state system, and belonging of Ukrainian people to different mental groups [12]. The main factor that designated the prerequisites for the formation of the peculiar features of Ukrainian mentality was the location of Ukrainian state between the East and the West, the North and

the South that originally determined the presence of two often incompatible types of mentality in the Ukrainian mentality: Western (rational, materialistic) and Eastern (inactive) .

**Recent research and publications analysis.** Various aspects of Ukrainian national character were examined by V.Antonovych, S.Bilokin, D.Dontsov, V.Doroshenko, M.Drahomanov, I.Franko, M.Hrushevskiy, M.Khvylovyy, V.Khramova, M.Kostomarov, O.Kulchytskyi, Yu.Lypa, V.Lypynskiy,

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M.Mikhnovskiy, I.Nechui-Levytskyi, Ye.Onatskyi, O.Potebnia, M.Shliamkevych, B.Tsymbalistyi, V.Yaniv, Ya.Yarema, S.Yarmus, P.Yurkevych and others.

National mentality was under consideration in the works of Yu.Boiko, A.Bychko, I.Bychko, D.Chyzhevskiy, V.Doroshkevych, L.Hamal, Ya.Harasym, P.Hnatenko, I.Hrabovska, I.Mirchuk, M.Produm, M.Rozumnyi, A.Shvetsova, I.Starovoit, V.Vasyliiev, O.Yushchyshyn.

**Paper objective** is to determine the peculiar features of Ukrainian national mentality in international politics.

**Paper main body.** The distortion of Ukrainian national character is due to the absence of independence of state over the course of history that caused shifting the blame for the failures of the country to the external factors that are exaggerated. In other words in the national mentality Ukrainians' perception of their essence is in the image of the land owner who does not have the opportunity to be a boss there due to the external factors. This correlates with such Ukrainian traits as reluctance to take responsibility, tolerance and lack of ambition.

While Ukrainian lands were part of such countries as the Russian, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and others, Ukrainian mentality experienced significant influence through culture and traditions of other countries. This explains such a feature Ukrainian mentality, as the absence of national unity:

- the Galician people feel a closer connection to the culture of Western Europe, Poland, Austria, Germany, where Greek Catholic Church is prevailing. Their peculiar features are the following: individualism, respect for property, love for work, patriotism, conservatism;

- the residents of Central, Eastern and Southern Ukraine have always considered social issues as important. Their peculiar features are the following: anarchism, reliance on a wise ruler, collectivism, work habit.

As a result of repressive actions on the part of the states, which included Ukrainian lands, in relation to the Ukrainian elites the role of Ukrainian leaders in the development of Ukrainian state was diminished, what caused such a feature of Ukrainian mentality as conservatism (as a protection mechanism of native values from the one's imposed from outside) and distrust in the native elite, as it may once again betray the national interests for his/her own benefit.

Apart from that quite striking in the Ukrainian mentality is a totalitarian trace, which according to the research of national scientists, manifests itself through the following features:

- lack of will – unwillingness to undergo changes by means of personal efforts, along with the formal manifestation of activity; the aim is to create an impression, not to achieve a specific result;

- sense of personal inconsistency due to a lack of professionalism and motivation;

- shift of responsibility;

- hope for the external factors that will solve the existing problems [5].

According to O. Yushchyshyn, the basic features of Ukrainian mentality are the following:

- emotional and sensitive nature;

- the key role of soul (heart) (“cordotsentrychnist”);

- dualistic integrity of unconscious and superconscious, irrational and rational, feelings and will [14].

The peculiar features of Ukrainian national mentality are clearly manifested in the traditional household system. In particular, P. Hnatenko notes that Ukrainian family plays a key role in the formation of Ukrainian mentality [4]. Indeed, the dominant role of a woman is most clearly manifested in Ukrainian family. The same goes for the cult of the earth, which, according to most scientists, led to the cult of a woman, who personifies goodness and love, rather than aggression (the male principle). Therefore, among the peculiar features in Ukrainian mentality – the key role of soul (heart) and emotionality, traits that are inherent in the female principle.

As for the role of father in the family, it is represented by the economic functions (material support of the family) and functions of physical punishment. Therefore often the Ukrainian government is identified with violence and subordination to it is possible through fear, not respect.

Except for the dominance of the female principle in mentality of Ukrainians another peculiar feature of Ukrainian mentality is absorption in nature.

As regards the spiritual ground of Ukrainian mentality, here the distinctive feature is dual faith, as a matter of fact after the introduction of Christianity its principles have been built over the principles of paganism, so many rites of these two beliefs are combined and none of them is present in the pure form. Hence the supernatural factor is amplified in Ukrainian mentality.

The considerable influence on Ukrainian mentality within the framework of formation of geopolitical aspirations of Ukraine was caused by the Byzantine culture, where the main characteristic of the system constituents of the geopolitical image of Ukraine in the psycho-mental matrix are stochasticity and lack of systematicity.

Thus, the main features, which Ukrainian nation inherited from the Byzantium are the following:

humiliation of an individual to the level of “eternal student”, perception of deviant behaviour as the manifestation of a kind of aristocracy, dominance of past over future, constituent – is the one who has the power, shift of personal responsibility, ritualism and imitativeness, recognition after death, unintentionality, perspective through the prism of spectacular situation, indifference to others, covering each other’s backs, anarchism and corruption, dependence on the past, relying on fate, identification of knowledge of original reasons (“Wisdom”) with power, continuous extremes that are the indispensable companion of psycho-culture; the more gifted an individual is, the more obstacles and institutional filters he encounters.

In order to define the peculiar features of Ukrainian national mentality in the international politics we applied the dichotomies of parametric estimate of national character according to C. Jung, which include: extraversion/introversion; rationality/irrationality; emotionality/pragmatism; intuition/sensing; externality/internality; and gender dichotomy. Thus, peculiar to Ukraine as a society are:

1) introversion, which is manifested in such traits of Ukrainians: they prefer to be at their homes, on their territory; they are traditionalists; they feel better within their families, communities, and not in the larger circles; they support civil society; they are patient, smooth-tempered, non-aggressive, passive, stubborn, personal freedom is very important for them; they don’t like drastic changes, they are reserved; they are oriented on internal work for self-affirmation and self-actualization; they are dreamers; they are individualists with aspirations for their own land; they are not able to obey; they live with a perception of reality.

Specifically the perceptions, which define the existence of Ukrainians, become the reasons for their disappointment, when the reality does not correspond to the idealistic image that is in the head of every Ukrainian, wherein each of these images is specific. If Ukrainians are asked how they perceive the phrase “independent Ukraine”, there will be some interesting results.

Researchers, who studied the peculiar features of Ukrainian mentality also indicate introversion of Ukrainians:

– “...Among Ukrainians there are a lot of individuals, who are aloof, individualists ...” (Yu.Boiko) [3];

– “the outstanding feature of Ukrainians – is aspiration for the “spiritual intimacy” (D.Chyzhevskiy) [13];

– “...the Ukrainian – is an introverted human being, with a strong sense of an individual self” (I.Mirchuk) [2].

– “Ukrainian nation is not a sunny nation of day. The day with its routine, prosperity, vanity, is not our nature. We are not the nation of deep night. Irrational wild night is also strange for us. We are exactly the “evening” nation. The lyrical beauty of evening, poetical twilight – they constitute the essence of Ukrainian soul” [11]. Some researchers refer to the term “light apocalypticism” instead of “evening” mentality as “... anticipation of the positive ending of human history in the new quality” [10]. It’s worth noting that in the Middle Ages the apocalypse had the meaning of “feeling the threshold at which there is joy, renewal, rebirth of life” [6].

Quite a few scientists compare Ukrainian and Indian cultures, that are united by introversion. The establishment of Hellenic-Byzantine Orthodox version of Christianity, which was aimed at introverted individual, has become complementary to the eastern fundamental principle [7]. The characteristic features of “Hindu psychological type” is emotionality, weakness of will power, rejection of restricted lifestyle, independence [1].

M.Rozumnyi qualifies Ukrainians as Buddhists within the framework of the peculiarities of their mentality [9]. M. Produm indicates that Ukrainians – are “ethical-intuitive introverts” (alias – “Dr. Watson”, “Peacemaker”) [8] and determines that it would be better for Ukrainians to develop “logical-sensory extroversion” (alias – “Sherlock Holmes”, “Administrator”), as it best compliments their essence [8].

2) irrationality, which is manifested through: the lack of commitment to the perception of anything in detail; the abstractiveness of conceived ideas, without their exact implementation; the lack of differentiated perception of the world.

3) emotionality, the characteristic features of which are the following: non-conventional reasoning, which is based on experience, and not on the mental process; diffuseness of rules and principles; infusion of emotions to other cultures; creativity instead of rationality; lack of pragmatism; inability to learn by experience; impulsiveness; mythologization, tendency to create mythologems; unconstructive nature of feelings; recurrence of errors; opposition to reforms; reflexivity, which does not encourage actions; constant change of views; altruism; non-aggressiveness.

Emotionality of Ukrainians is fulfilled in their reactions to certain problems, when instead of constructive solution of the issues, accusations and search for guilty ones take place, when there is no one to take responsibility. An example of this attitude is the situation where the child is sick, and parents instead of providing treatment, accuse the child of falling ill.

4) intuition of Ukrainian people is manifested in: the tendency towards reflection; the spirituality of culture, which is experiencing one day a rise, another day a fall. In Ukraine reflection concerning the situation is prevailing over the possibility of its overcoming, the main thing is sense.

5) externality of Ukrainians with the striking emotionality, the examples of which are the following: unwillingness to bend the knee to the figures of authority; inaction and isolation from the real world. Ukraine has always focused on the opinion of other nations and representation offices, when the main thing for Ukraine is not how everything actually works inside the system, but how it should look like to the outside elements, ie the country enhances efficiency only when the representatives of other organizations are going to visit it in order to monitor the specific process.

6) female traits of gender dichotomy (femininity) of Ukrainians, which are eloquently manifested in: the lack of will to act; the consumption rather than creation; the unwillingness to make real changes and the desire to only describe them; the transformation

of reforms into the ideas that there is no one to implement; the romanticism and suggestibility; the attainment of attraction via lyricism; the tragicalness; the insecurity; the need for ally; the focus on individual interests.

In this wise, the basic peculiar features of Ukrainian national mentality in international politics are the following:

orientation toward narrow, personal and family issues that puts personal interest above the national (introversion);

shift of responsibility on the external factors;

lack of a unified position of different forces that represent different parts of Ukraine in the international arena;

dominance of emotions over will (the ability to infuse peculiar emotions to international community (female traits of gender dichotomy, emotionality);

stochasticity and lack of systematicity in solving international problems (as a result of the trace of Byzantine mentality, irrationality, intuition);

dependence on external forces, countries (focus on the external impulses due to the inability to act, externality).

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