
CONFERENCE ARTICLE

**FACTORS FOR ENSURING NATIONAL SPIRITUAL SECURITY UNDER CONDITIONS OF
INFORMATION-PSYCHOLOGICAL INFLUENCES**

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the important factors for ensuring national spiritual security in modern conditions where information-psychological influences are intensifying from a socio-philosophical point of view. As a result of the widespread use of digital technologies and global communication tools, new forms of influencing public consciousness are emerging. In such conditions, preserving and developing national values, historical memory, cultural heritage, and national identity becomes an urgent task.

KEYWORDS

National spiritual security, information-psychological influences, information threats, ideological security, media literacy, critical thinking, ideological immunity, national values, national identity, social consciousness, information space, disinformation, manipulation, digital culture, spiritual stability, information security.

INTRODUCTION

In today's era of globalization and digital transformation, information is becoming an integral part of human life. As a result of the rapid development of information and communication technologies, information exchange on a global scale has accelerated to an unprecedented level. On the one hand, this creates broad opportunities for the development of society, while on the other hand, it causes the intensification of various information threats and ideological pressures. Especially under conditions of information wars, influencing human consciousness and worldview is becoming one of the main strategic tools. From this point of view, the issue of ensuring national spiritual security acquires urgent importance. Preserving national values, customs, and traditions, protecting the younger generation from various alien ideas, and forming a strong spiritual immunity in them are among the important tasks of today. Threats arising in the information space may have a negative impact not only on an individual person, but also on social stability and national development.

Main Part

With the Republic of Uzbekistan gaining independence at the end of the twentieth century, its position as an independent subject in the information space began to take shape. As a sovereign state, Uzbekistan today is defining its path not only as a country developing economically and politically, but also in the field of information. This requires considering the provision of information security as an important component of national security. In modern conditions, non-traditional forms of preparation in information security are gaining special importance. This preparation includes not only mastering technological tools, but also a critical approach to information, ensuring ideological stability, and forming digital culture. As a result of the rapid development of information technologies and the disappearance of information boundaries, the importance of such preparation has increased even more. Ignoring it may have a negative impact on the internal stability of the state and its foreign policy position. Information security also appears as a means of forming and protecting the political image of the state.

Through information, the achievements, reforms, and development results of the state are conveyed to the world community, which serves to strengthen its reputation in the international arena. At the same time, proper management of information flows helps to soften existing problems and resolve them constructively.

In modern society, information security appears not only as a technical or organizational issue, but also as a complex social phenomenon with deep philosophical content. It means the process of ensuring the stability of the individual, society, and the state in the information space and protecting them from accidental and deliberate informational threats. From this point of view, information security includes not only technological protection measures, but also the protection of human consciousness, thinking, and the system of values. From a philosophical point of view, information is a category that reflects existence, acquires meaning through human perception, and plays an important role in social relations. Regardless of its source and form of expression, it directly influences the formation of social consciousness as a set of knowledge about persons, events, and processes. Therefore, any threat to information is actually directed at the human process of cognition, the possibility of free thinking, and the spiritual world. Protecting information emerges in this process as an important philosophical and practical task. It means systematic activity aimed not only at preventing existing threats, but also at eliminating their negative impact on social consciousness. This process is based on the principles of coherence, complexity, and continuity, and aims to protect human interests and national values. Mass information, by its essence, is regarded as a powerful tool influencing the consciousness of the broad public. Its openness and accessibility, on the one hand, ensure freedom of information, while on the other hand, create opportunities for the rapid spread of various ideological threats. Therefore, responsibility, ethical criteria, and loyalty to national interests are of great importance in the activity of mass media. Documented information is interpreted as a means that consolidates existence in material form and preserves social

memory. It plays an important role in transmitting human experience from generation to generation and, at the same time, requires the criteria of reliability and accuracy in ensuring information security.

The concepts of secret and confidential information appear as important legal and philosophical categories in the modern information space. In particular, clear definitions of types of information are given on the basis of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 439-II of December 12, 2002, "On the Principles and Guarantees of Freedom of Information," and Resolution No. 296 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan of November 7, 2011, "On Measures to Implement Resolution No. PQ-1572 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of July 8, 2011."

In accordance with these legal documents, secret information is documented information whose use is restricted in accordance with legislation but which is not classified as state secrets. This definition reflects the need to preserve public interests, security, and order in the use of information. From a philosophical point of view, secrecy expresses the balance between human freedom and social responsibility.

Confidential information is documented information whose scope of use is limited by legislation, and it is closely connected with personal inviolability, trust, and moral relations. This concept plays an important role in ensuring mutual trust and stable social relations in society.

In the context of the acceleration of globalization processes and the intensification of geopolitical relations, being active and protected in the information space is becoming a strategic necessity for developing states. This situation, especially in the field of information provision and information security, requires "armament," that is, the formation of modern knowledge, technology, and ideological stability. From a philosophical point of view, this process is interpreted as the state's self-awareness, protection of its interests, and aspiration to strengthen its place in global information flows.

Today, information security has become an integral part of political processes and requires global and regional cooperation. From this point of view, the signing by the heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) of the "Agreement on Digital Mass Media and Ensuring Information Security" in Tashkent also indicates the need to strengthen cooperation in the information sphere, ensure common security, and jointly combat modern threats.

Views on the issue of information security must be formed in accordance with today's interests and the dynamics of global processes. This is because, in the present era, the world community is developing in political, economic, and cultural life on the basis of new information technologies and the paradigm of the "information society." This shows that information has become not only a communicative tool, but also a strategic resource and an instrument of geopolitical influence. According to researchers, in the modern world, managing and controlling information flows is one of the important indicators of state sovereignty. For example, Manuel Castells, in his theory of the "network society," emphasizes that information technologies have fundamentally changed the structure of society and brought the mechanisms of power and influence to a new level. In his view, a subject that is able to manage information flows achieves superiority in the global arena.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan as well, the Internet and digital technologies are covering broad segments of the population and accelerating the country's integration into the global information space. According to statistical data, the sharp increase in the number of Internet users in recent years has increased the intensity of information exchange and, at the same time, has also created new risks. Therefore, information technologies are currently regarded as a driving force of social development. However, modern mass media have a dual nature: in a positive

sense, they ensure development, openness, and knowledge exchange, while in a negative sense, they may also become a means of manipulation, dissemination of false information, and ideological pressure. Researcher Joseph Nye, in his concept of "soft power," scientifically substantiated that states expand their sphere of influence precisely through information and communication tools. This means that mass media may often serve the interests of major states.

The increasing complexity of global political processes also requires Uzbekistan to pay special attention to information security. From this point of view, improving methods of ensuring information security in order to protect national interests is becoming an urgent task. In scientific sources, methods of ensuring information security are usually divided into four main groups: legal, organizational, technical, and economic.

Legal methods include the creation and improvement of a system of regulatory legal documents governing the information sphere. In particular, strengthening the legislative framework for ensuring information security in Uzbekistan is regarded as an important factor in ensuring regional security. Studies show that in the absence of effective legal mechanisms, the possibilities of combating information threats are significantly reduced.

Organizational, technical, and economic methods serve to ensure information security in practical terms. In particular, creating an information security system and continuously improving it, identifying biased information and taking effective measures against it, and preventing the spread of destructive ideas in national consciousness and thinking are among the important tasks. In addition, introducing means of information protection, strengthening the system for protecting state secrets, and establishing licensing mechanisms in this field are also of great importance. In general, modern studies show that information security is not only technical protection, but a complex system closely connected with the protection of social consciousness, political stability, and national interests. Therefore, in ensuring it, it is important to harmonize a scientific approach, international experience, and national characteristics.

Conclusion

In conclusion, information security is one of the most important strategic factors ensuring the stable development of the state, society, and the individual under modern conditions of globalization. The sharp increase in information flows, the widespread introduction of digital technologies, and the increasing complexity of geopolitical processes are leading to the intensification of various risks and threats in the information space. Therefore, information security should be considered not only as a technical or legal issue, but as a complex system with deep socio-philosophical and spiritual significance. Information security also serves to strengthen the political image of the state in the international arena, protect national interests, and preserve the spiritual stability of society. From this point of view, for developing states such as Uzbekistan, ensuring information security remains one of the priority areas requiring constant attention and a comprehensive approach.

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