

## VALUE ORIENTATIONS OF UKRAINIAN STUDENTS IN THE CONDITIONS OF WAR IN 2022–2023

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The relevance of the problem. War is a global event that has serious consequences in all spheres of society. Young people, as the most dynamic and open to change segment of society, do not stay away from these processes. The war in Ukraine has had a profound impact on society, including on the values and priorities of young people: it has led to a reconsideration of life goals and worldview. As a result, young people face new challenges and risks that require adaptation and change.

Our goal in this study is to identify modern value orientations, their dynamics in the context of war, and to study the impact on the processes of adaptation of the younger generation to new living conditions.

Materials and methods. According to the purpose of the study, we used the method of theoretical analysis of the problem. Based on the results of the theoretical analysis, we adapted the questionnaire by S. Schwartz, which was used to make an in-depth analysis of the modern worldview and conduct an empirical study of the value orientations of modern Ukrainian youth in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war of 2022–2023.

The theoretical analysis of the issue has shown that war, as an extreme stressor, makes adjustments not only to the human psyche, but also to the worldview of the individual in his or her future existence. Value orientations are a meaning-forming category, a worldview that guides people in achieving their life goals and choosing their life priorities. Thus, a person's worldview is formed under the influence of various factors, such as external events, culture, upbringing, personal experience, and undergoes transformational changes over time.

The theoretical basis of our study is the theory of basic human values by S. Schwartz, which states that there are ten universal values that are an important part of human experience [1]. At the same time, in Erik Erikson's work "Childhood and Society" [2], the scientist argues that there are five basic values, including: trust, independence, initiative, striving for excellence and

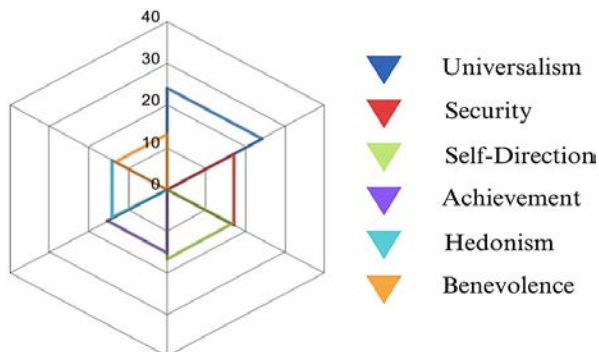
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identity. These values are formed with the stages of personality development and are closely related to the theory of human mental development. Also, it is impossible not to mention Viktor Frankl and his fundamental work "Man's Search for True Meaning. A Psychologist in a Concentration Camp" [3]. The author describes his own experience of living in extremely extreme conditions (survival in the Auschwitz and Dachau concentration camps). V. Frankl argues that there are three main groups of values: creativity, experience, and relationships, and these priorities are an important factor in determining the meaning of life. Even if a person cannot realise his or her priorities, he or she can still lead a meaningful life by professing his or her own values [3]. It should also be noted that many modern scholars are actively researching this topic to understand how values shape our behaviour and society [4; 5].

**Research results.** An empirical study of the value orientations of Ukrainian students in the context of the war of 2022–2023 was conducted in October 2023. The study involved 118 people, with an average age of 17–22 years (95.8%). Based on the results of the survey, we identified five main worldview orientations of Ukrainian youth according to the methodology of S. Schwartz, namely: "Universalism"; "Security"; "Achievement"; "Altruism"; and "Independence" (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Leading value orientations of Ukrainian youth in the context of war in 2022–2023**

As can be seen from Figure 1, the main five value aspects contribute to the personal development of young people, despite the difficult times of war in Ukraine; this develops altruistic traits and the desire for self-realisation in young people. It is important that the priorities that are currently relevant are important for the development of society in the future. Young people who

profess the above values are resilient, more likely to succeed, and will form a new, decent society despite the difficulties.

A detailed analysis of the respondents' answers shows that the first and most important category in our time is security. Schwartz describes people who prioritise this group as those who are more likely to avoid risky situations. The majority of respondents pointed out the importance of this value category, which is justified by the fact that in times of war, young people, and society as a whole, are more acutely aware of the value of life, home, and family, as insecurity threatens our future.

Achievement is one of the most important values for young people. 76.2% of respondents reported a conscious desire to demonstrate their abilities and achieve success in life. This statistic can be explained by the young age of the respondents, as they are often in the process of becoming a personality and strive for self-realisation.

Altruism is one of the most important values for young Ukrainians, which is confirmed by the results of our survey, in which 73.7% of respondents reported a desire to help others and take care of others. It is also important to note that the category "Universalism" is the most popular and is also very related to altruism. The driving goals of such value orientations are understanding, tolerance, and protection of the well-being of all people and nature. Such people are in harmony with themselves and the world around them. This high level of altruism is probably due to the war in Ukraine. Due to the numerous tragedies that occur almost every day, young people feel the need to help others and contribute to the country's recovery. The altruism of young people is a vivid example of their solidarity and humanity. It demonstrates that young people are not indifferent to what is happening in their country and are ready to do everything possible to help those in need.

In addition, the vast majority of respondents indicated that independence is really important in the category of questions for determining the priority of "Independence" according to Schwartz. 78.9% of the respondents are encouraged to engage in free independent activities, it is important for them to rely on themselves and be independent. This value is especially important for young people in Ukraine. Independence allows young people to feel in control of their lives and make decisions on their own. It is also important for personal development and success in life.

#### Conclusions.

1. War, just like any crisis, presents difficult challenges for both society and individuals. However, despite all the difficulties, young people continue to actively develop and form their values. An irresistible desire to comprehend and influence the world, to continue acquiring new knowledge and developing their personalities are the main features of this process. It is important to note

that the war, despite its negative impact, caused only partial changes in this process, without stopping it completely.

2. The sense of security is one of the key values for young people, especially in times of war, when stability and protection become extremely important.

3. The gradual increase in the need to help others observed among young people is a positive signal. It indicates a high level of humanism and compassion among the younger generation. This need can be driven by a variety of factors, such as a deep desire to help others, a sense of importance, or simply a desire to contribute to a better world. Altruism, as an important value, helps young people to feel part of something bigger than themselves.

In all of this, it is important to emphasise that the findings are important for a deeper understanding and analysis of youth development in war. They reflect the resilience of the younger generation and their ability to adapt to the negative impacts of difficult circumstances. The above indicators emphasise the importance of certain values that help young people overcome difficulties and contribute to personal growth and the formation of qualitative characteristics of a mature society.

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