

## SECTION 4. POLITICS IN UKRAINE

DOI <https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-517-4-8>

### SCIENTIFIC THESAURUS OF THE POLITICAL CULTURE OF UKRAINIAN YOUTH

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The topic of youth political culture is especially relevant in the context of transformational changes occurring in Ukrainian society, particularly in the rebuilding of governance, education, and other systems. Modern Ukrainian society is highly interested in developing the political culture of the younger generation, forming political values and orientations, and involving youth in the country's political life.

Youth serve as a powerful driving force for social change and transformation across various spheres of activity. Therefore, the effectiveness of political socialization among young people is of paramount importance. The adoption of norms, values, ideologies, and behavioral patterns by youth significantly impacts not only their individual future but also the development of society and the state as a whole.

Political culture is grounded in a specific historical and national-psychological features of a society's political life. It reflects the level of general cultural development and evolves alongside other cultural forms, such as legal, moral, aesthetic, and pedagogical culture. Together, these elements shape the moral and political environment of a society, providing individuals with a certain level of freedom coupled with responsibility, rights, social protection, and respect for dignity.

A comparative analysis of scholarly works, particularly by I. Levytska, indicates that political culture reflects the process by which societies, nations, classes, and other social groups comprehend political relations while developing their own essence and abilities as actors in political life. The concept of "youth political culture" is understood as a dynamic phenomenon shaped by social power, economics, and spiritual dynamics within a state.

Sociological research on the political culture of Ukrainian citizens typically addresses aspects such as interest in political processes; level of awareness about legal and political institutions, significant events of political life; attitudes toward significant political events, perspectives on the state's internal and external policies; political values and orientations (support of certain political courses and organizations), level of civic and political participation; and political efficacy (self-perception about ability to influence political processes and decision-making).

According to various researchers, the political culture of Ukrainian youth today is quite diverse yet characterized by common features and trends influenced by factors such as changes in the socio-political environment, the impact of mass culture, and shifts in values and youth education approaches. It's important to understand that political culture is not a static concept but a complex, evolving process adapting to new conditions, with modern Ukrainian youth serving as both witnesses and participants in this evolution.

M. Morar highlights that modern political science lacks a unified approach to defining the concept of "political culture." Some scholars view it as a distinct form of culture, a mode of spiritual and practical activities, that reflects and embodies national values and interests, shaping citizens' political views and participatory skills (e.g., V. Bebyk, M. Holovaty, V. Rebkalo). Others define it as a set of views, beliefs, orientations, and behavioral patterns determining people's relationship with the political sphere and their levels of political activity and civic engagement (e.g., N. Panina, Yu. Pakhomov, N. Churilov).

Ukraine is currently experiencing a crisis of value-based and worldview foundations, manifesting in the loss of moral guidelines, worldview uncertainty, blurred societal values, social differentiation and fragmentation. Dehumanization of society, cruelty and violence, the erosion of dignity and human life as core principles has been influencing the social life.

Low level of political culture, as noted by N. Boiko, hinders the development of mechanisms for reconciling societal interests, interferes with proper responding to contemporary challenges and addressing the crisis of national identity [1, p. 361].

Youth, as a driving force of society, plays a vital integrative role by uniting and enhancing the experiences of previous generations while promoting social progress. This is a unique social group, which plays a key role in development of humankind. Youth is a peculiar mirror that reflects social being, realities and conditions of their life.

At the same time youth is the social transformer, stimulating development and profound changes of social life, often overlooked by the majority of citizens. Youth embodies intellectual potential, creativity,

innovative thinking, and fresh perspectives. Free from fear of the future, they act as catalysts for new ideas, initiatives, and life forms. They naturally oppose conservatism and stagnation, and actively facilitate society's renewal.

However, M. Pyren emphasizes that youth often exhibit individualism and pragmatism, showing a neutral attitude toward contemporary authorities and limited expectations from them for positive change [3, p. 110].

The political culture of youth in Ukraine is a critical factor in assessing the state of democracy and the political system in whole. Active youth participation in political life and high level of political consciousness indicate a healthy democratic development and a robust civil society in Ukraine. Therefore, fostering and supporting youth political culture is essential for ensuring sustainable democratic development in Ukraine.

By nurturing political culture among youth, Ukraine can enhance democratic processes. Youth can be the source of new ideas, approaches, and initiatives, influencing the country's political atmosphere and key decision-making. They may also serve as a strong force for political reform, combating corruption and other negative issues in politics.

This way, political culture, as a part of general culture, encompasses historical experiences, memory of social and political events, political values, orientations, and skills directly affecting political behavior. Political culture of youth is an important element of stability and development of the country. Involving young people in political life and public activity, developing political education and forming the right values and moral principles will help ensure sustainability of democracy and development of the country as a whole. The political culture of modern Ukrainian youth has its positive and negative sides, which depend on many factors, such as the socio-economic situation, political situation, mass culture, etc. However, despite all the difficulties, modern youth has the potential to become an active force that can influence the political life of the country and contribute to development of democracy. Therefore, it is important to provide young people with opportunities for self-actualization and active participation in public life, develop political education and dialogue between generations, promote the formation of values and moral principles. Such measures will help improve the political culture of youth, ensure the sustainability of democracy and development of the country.

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