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THE INFLUENCE OF NATIONAL CULTURE AND HISTORICAL PATRIOTIC TRADITIONS ON THE FORMATION OF MILITARY PATRIOTISM IN YOUTH

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Abstract: The article provides a scientific and theoretical analysis of the role and mechanisms of influence that national culture and historical patriotic traditions play in shaping a sense of military patriotism among the youth. Furthermore, scientific proposals have been developed regarding factors influencing the upbringing of young people in the context of globalization, the preservation of national identity, the strengthening of cooperation among families, *mahallas* (local communities), and educational institutions, and the fostering of a patriotic spirit in the younger generation.

Keywords: Patriotism, national culture, military service, traditions, youth upbringing, spiritual immunity, globalization.

INTRODUCTION: The 21st century—known as the Information Age—has permeated every sphere of society with its rapid pace and intensity. While this brings positive aspects, negative consequences are also gradually emerging. Today, the upbringing of the youth has become a pressing issue of primary importance, as young people represent the country's future and the promise of tomorrow. We can see that the traditional methods of education and upbringing once employed in schools and educational institutions have become outdated and now require a new approach. The primary reason for this is that, alongside the advancement of science and technology, the worldview, mindset, and thinking patterns of young people are also evolving.

In the past, military service was a source of honor and pride for young men; unfortunately, the reality today is that some young people view the army merely as an institution that restricts their privileges and freedoms while demanding strict discipline and accountability. The presence of such young people in society—however few—necessitates a deeper examination of this issue. In essence, the army is a military collective that molds a boy into a young man, instills a sense of duty and responsibility toward family, the Motherland, and parents, and serves as a vital foundation for his future life; it plays a crucial role in shaping young people into moral, disciplined, and responsible individuals. When the upbringing of youth is grounded in national culture and historical patriotism, that education becomes comprehensive, impactful, and enduring. This research explores the role of national culture and historical patriotism in youth development, as well as the moral qualities that emerge in young people through the harmonization of national and universal human values, illustrating these concepts with both theoretical and practical examples. While globalization processes drive progress across various sectors of society and foster the emergence of new approaches, they also contribute to a sense of alienation regarding military patriotism among the youth. Several reasons and factors account for this; notably, young people constitute the majority of social media users today. Consequently, there is a growing interest among youth in the cultures, lifestyles, and characteristics of other nations.

The rise of economic and social problems and unemployment within society. The emergence of international migration flows resulting from young people remaining unemployed for extended periods and failing to engage in specific professions or sectors;

Insufficient emphasis on military-patriotic education in schools, colleges, and families. Consequently, the rising generation lacks a comprehensive understanding of the national army, and certain negative attitudes toward military service have emerged.

So, how should one act in such a situation? Time never stands still, nor can it be turned back. Under these circumstances, grounding the upbringing of youth in national culture and historical patriotism represents a positive solution to the problem. "National identity" entails exalting the nation and defending its interests; it encompasses feelings of national pride and dignity, as well as a sense of pride in the nation's language, literature, art, religion, customs, values, nature, and clear skies.

"National culture" is the aggregate of values, customs and traditions, language, religious views, literature and art, spiritual values, and national attire and cuisine that are specific to a particular nation.

National culture introduces the nation to the world, fosters a spirit of loyalty to the Motherland among the youth, preserves national identity, and ensures mutual harmony within society. Historical patriotism is the sentiment of knowing and valuing the people's enduring past, way of life, and pride in their ancestors, as well as the courage and self-sacrifice demonstrated by national heroes and military commanders and the history of national liberation movements.

Our people cherish sayings such as "Your own home is your sanctuary," "Your homeland is your golden cradle," and "Better to be a beggar in your own land than a king in a foreign one." The true essence of these expressions lies in the manifestation of a profound sentiment—historical patriotism—which has taken shape in the consciousness of our people over millennia and been passed down from generation to generation.

The influence of national culture and traditions of historical patriotism on the upbringing of youth is evident in the following aspects:

Serving as a source of moral education for young people; just as a sapling requires proper care from its earliest stages to grow straight, bear fruit, and put down deep roots, so too does a child need nurturing. Since ancient times, our ancestors have approached the upbringing of children with great seriousness. From childhood, they instilled noble virtues such as honesty, industriousness, integrity regarding the rights of others, truthfulness, respect for parents, and the practice of honoring elders while showing kindness to the young.

It is no coincidence that the 16th-century scholar Khurrami of Bukhara emphasized in his work *Ravzat al-Oshiqin*: "The counsel of elders for children is like a gardener tending to a sapling"[2].

Preserving national identity; national identity entails remembering history and looking toward the future by drawing conclusions through a comparison with the present day. "National self-awareness is defined as a sense of belonging to a specific nation, taking pride in the positive deeds of ancestors, showing respect for past national values and customs, and drawing inspiration from the achievements of one’s nation and compatriots"[3].

Through the influence of national culture and historical patriotism, young people develop a sense of pride in their homeland’s history, a feeling of national dignity and honor, and respect for great historical figures.

Our national culture has long upheld the tradition of checking on, respecting, and cherishing one's parents. However, today, an increasing number of young people console themselves with the thought that "I spoke to them on the phone" or "we chatted online."

Checking on elderly parents, showing them affection, and visiting them in person are concepts deeply rooted in our culture. After all, affection, the strengthening of family ties, and genuine care are noble values that arise not from a distance, but through direct, face-to-face interaction.

Love for the homeland—along with the duty to protect, cherish, and contribute to its development—is instilled in a child from infancy, hand-in-hand with national culture and values. "If the sense of patriotism is cultivated from infancy, it endures until one's last breath"[1].

Military-patriotic education for young people is never something that happens suddenly, through a specific program or... It is not formed through a single instrument; rather, its formation, emergence, and development constitute a spiritual value that evolves over years under the influence of those around the individual—parents, mentors, neighbors, and peers. First, a sense of patriotism takes shape in a person. Subsequently, the sense of military patriotism—an integral component of the former—develops.

In the national culture of the Uzbek people, infants are raised in a *beshik* (traditional cradle). When a child is born into a family, a *beshik* is purchased for them. The birth of subsequent children does not necessitate the purchase of a new cradle; instead, they are raised in the same one used by their older siblings. In some Uzbek households, one can even find cradles that have served two or three generations. Wherever a *beshik* is present, mothers sing *alla* (lullabies). Through these lullabies, the infant finds solace and rest. A mother’s affection and her hopes and dreams for her child are instilled in the child's heart through the *alla*. Early upbringing begins in the child's mind with the mother's lullaby.

CONCLUSION: Another manifestation of the national culture—deeply rooted in the local mentality—is the practice of all family members gathering around the dining table to share a meal. A distinctive aspect of this tradition is that the wise counsel and Eastern-style upbringing imparted by grandparents and parents play a crucial role in shaping each individual's character. As elderly grandparents share stories of their life experiences, youth, and family lineage, or recite verses and chapters from the Holy Quran around the table, they instill noble values such as justice, patience, respect for parents, love for the Motherland, hospitality, a strong work ethic, cleanliness, reverence for ancestors, and honesty. Raising young people in the spirit of national culture and historical patriotism serves as a vital factor in fostering a sense of patriotism within them. It is no coincidence that the Jadid figure Munavvarqori Abdurashidxonov, while urging fidelity to culture in child-rearing, emphasized that "only by educating the younger generation is it possible to awaken the nation, liberate the Motherland, elevate the people's spirituality, and improve the quality of life."

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