

МЕТОДОЛОГІЯ, ТЕОРІЯ ТА ІСТОРІЯ ДЕРЖАВНОГО УПРАВЛІННЯ

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INTEGRATION, CONSOLIDATION AND THEIR SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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The article reveals the essence of integration and consolidation of society, the place and role of the main spheres of social life, their interconnection in strengthening the capacity of an integrating and consolidating society. The priority directions and ways of public and state policy in the economic, political, social and humanitarian spheres are analyzed, aimed at strengthening the capacity of the integrating and consolidating society.

Key words: integration, social integration, consolidation, social development, public administration, public policy.

ІНТЕГРАЦІЯ І КОНСОЛІДАЦІЯ ТА ЇХ СУСПІЛЬНІ ВИМІРИ

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У статті розкрито сутність інтеграції і консолідації суспільства, місце та роль основних сфер суспільного життя, їх взаємозв'язок у посиленні інтегруючого та консолідуючого суспільство потенціалу. Проаналізовані пріоритетні напрями та шляхи публічної, державної політики в економічній, політичній, соціальній та гуманітарній сферах, спрямовані на посилення інтегруючого та консолідуючого суспільство потенціалу.

Ключові слова: інтеграція, соціальна інтеграція, консолідація, суспільний розвиток, державне управління, публічна політика.

Challenge problem. At the present stage of fundamental changes in the Ukrainian society, the creation of conditions for deepening the internal integration and consolidation of the country, its general integration, in particular, the European integration, is gaining momentum. Transformational changes in the system of social relations should be aimed at ensuring economic, political, social and humanitarian security, consolidation in each of these spheres of universal values, the realization of which is a powerful integrating and consolidating Ukraine resource. The above determines the importance of implementing a systematic and consistent public policy in the country, based on the best European and world experience in accelerating the reform of the main spheres of social life, and would ensure the country's transformational course in the European perspective.

Analysis of recent publications on the subject. There are many researches in the foreign and national scientific literature regarding issues of integration and consolidation of society, in particular, European integration (works by J.Berry, T.Parsons, A.Radcliffe-Brown, V.Gorbulin, E.Libanova, S.Pirozhkova and etc.). At the same time, there is a lack of works that

would explore the features of the impact of social development processes on the integration and consolidation of society in the context of a significant increase in threats to national security, acute crises and challenges, limited resource capabilities, in particular in the new democracies, to which Ukraine belongs.

The purpose of the article is to investigate the essence of integration and consolidation and problems of the development of the social sphere of Ukrainian society as a factor in deepening the integration and consolidation processes in the country.

Statement of the main concept. The formation of society is connected with the aspiration of people to contact each other, unity, cohesion, cooperation, solidarity, various forms of association, which is the basis of social co-operation. Scientists believe that these processes of initial, voluntary or violent consolidation can be called as social integration. Thereafter, such integration gradually becomes more complex, becomes more diverse, manifested in the economic, then political, and subsequently cultural forms. Later, the processes of social integration began to be identified as social integration (the term "social" in its broad sense means public).

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The emergence of civilizations and within them – individual states, as a consequence and forms of manifestation of the internationalization of human existence, this leading trend of world civilization development, led to the emergence of even greater differentiation of the components of social integration. At the same time, as E. Durkheim notes, mechanical integration, which took place in archaic societies, gives way to the integration of organic, based on the principles of the division of labor and the exchange of services between social actors [1, p. 233].

The natural aspiration of the human, social communities for unity, consolidation as the basis of social co-operation and integration was widely reflected in the philosophical and political thought of that time. Even in the 15th and 17th centuries in the Renaissance and Reformation, philosophers began to reflect on the nature of society and social relations, the origins of social solidarity, social co-operation and integration, which ultimately became the form of the theory of social contract.

Thomas Hobbes's social contract must put an end to the natural state of disintegration – the “war of all against all”. With this aim, individual citizens voluntarily restrict their rights in favor of the state, which must ensure the peace and security for all. In the writings of Milton and Sydney, especially in the work of John Locke, “Two treatises on state government”, a person in the natural state lacks the rights, but their provision, which in the process of social integration people are found in the state created by them on the basis of a social contract precisely for this purpose [2].

Jean-Jacques Rousseau paid considerable attention to the political and philosophical awareness of the role of social integration in the development of humanity in the work “On Social Contract, or Principles of Political Law”. According to Rousseau, social integration is a ground for the transition of humanity from the “natural state” to civilization development, which is associated with the emergence of private property, inequality and, as a result, acute social contradictions. All this led to the necessity of concluding a social contract, which is reduced to the following provisions: each one of us transfers to one another the common heritage and the above common will leadership of his personality and all his rights, and as a result, for us all together, each member becomes an indivisible part of the whole [3]. This transformation of each into an indivisible part of the whole already coincides absolutely with the philosophical and theoretical definition of the category “integration”.

Immanuel Kant noted that, in the course of social integration, all members of the society renounce

their external freedom, so that at the same moment they can accept this freedom as members of the community now considered as a state [4]. Consequently, according to Kant, the state becomes an integrative phenomenon that marks the qualitative evolutionary leap of society from the primitive to the civilized state.

Considerable attention was paid to the social integration issues by Herbert Spencer, and later by Tolkotte Parsons. G.Spencer considered social integration as an indispensable condition for the functioning of parts and institutions of society, the creation of social aggregations, and the stages of its growth. In the opinion of the scientist, to increase the adaptive capacity of society, there are two processes: differentiation and integration. T.Parsons, analyzing the concept of the social system, states: in order for such a system to exist, it must be capable of integration, as well as adaptation, achievement of purpose and preservation of the model [5, p. 50–55, 101]. The term “social integration” was widely used by G.Simmel, E.Durkheim. In modern sociology, it is used in functionalism, microsociology, systemological theories, and so on.

The philosophical substantiation of a fundamentally new role of political integration of a non-violent but voluntary type has become a ground for a new European understanding of the world as a complex political system, where the forceful resolution of contradictions is not the main and only (as it was before the New Time) “mechanical” means, moreover, it is undesirable, which should give way to “organic” – voluntary political integration. The emergence of such a new player in the field of political philosophy, as an international political system, has led to the emergence of a new subject of political integration – the state and a new structural element of such integration – of interstate association [6].

Thus, integration (from Latin *integrum* – integer, lat. *Integratio* – restoration of the union into a whole, combination, interpenetration. Integration is the unification of any elements (parts) into integrated whole, the interconnection and the formation of interconnections. The study of multilateral integration factors in society is most closely connected with this type of integration as social integration.

Social integration (integration in society) is a process and a state of combining the constituent parts of society, especially individuals and groups into a single social integrity or system. Integration in society is a process of consolidation and unification of political, economic, social, cultural, state and public structures within the region, country, and the world. The authors of the short encyclopedic dictionary

“Philosophy of Policy” understand social integration as a set of social processes, through which there is a combination of the whole parts and elements of society that were previously heterogeneous. Integration is one of the fundamental ground for the existence itself and functioning of the social community. It can be both individual and social [7].

The term “social integration” is used in the broad and narrow sense. In the broad sense, social integration is the existence of structured relations, the process of establishing the optimal ties between relatively independent social objects (individuals, groups, social classes, organizations, states, business entities, subjects of socio-humanitarian area, etc.) and their further transformation into a single, integrated system in which the coordinated and interrelated parts of it are based on common goals and interests. Social integration is the process and the state of the combination of the constituent parts of society, especially individuals and groups, into a single social integrity or system. Social integration means the involvement of people with disabilities in society as full members of it, who take an active part in all spheres of life. In the broad sense it means all forms of integration – economic, political, cultural and social (in the narrow sense).

In the narrow sense, social integration should be considered as the processes of combining the social integrity of parts and elements or the system of the actual components of the social sphere of the life of a society, which exists along with the economic, political and cultural spheres, but which significantly affect it. In the narrow sense, social integration also means the adoption of an individual by other members of the group. In defectology – successful socialization of the individual, which overcome the negative effects of the situation associated with its defect.

The concept of “social integration” has two meanings: firstly, it characterizes the process and the stage of combination of different in quality of social elements in a functionally unified organism, system, integral education; (for example, the economy, the financial system, the labor market, employment of the EU); Secondly, it records the process of joining a certain system (integrity) that has already been formed, one or another social particle (group, individual), which merges with the system and acquires signs of its structural, constituent element (joining of new countries to the EU). Consequently, in the first case we are talking about the plurality of interacting elements in the process of connection, in the second – about entering the system and merge with it of individual elements or phenomena (integration into the system).

Social integration is observed at different levels of society, in different societies. At the level of small (contact) groups, it acts as a meaningful equivalent of such concepts as “cohesion”, “consolidation” and is one of the characteristics of group dynamics (L.Festinger, A.Zender). At the top level, integration is identified with the “functional unity of the social system” and can be hypothetically represented as a pointer to its viability (A.Radcliffe-Brown, T.Parsons). Despite the fact that “functional integration” mainly characterizes the state of the system or a certain social integrity, social integration as such can not be limited to the functional-static aspect, because it is available in the process of change, social development as a certain dominant combination phenomena at one or another stage of it (integrative tendencies) [7].

The term “social integration” relates to the concept of social differentiation and social disintegration. These pair relationships are fundamentally different and can not be confused. Social integration and social differentiation are processes or states that are mutually interconnected and mutually complementary, which makes the system (society, group, state) “alive” and moves, is in a steady state, if a dynamic balance is established between them. Consequently, social integration and social differentiation constitute functional unity: social integration arises and exists only where there is differentiation, multiple divisions, and the latter can only take place within a certain social integrity [8].

The correspondence of social integration and social disintegration characterizes another aspect of the process of functioning and development of a particular society – a moment or a stage of natural decay, shredding, simplification of the system, its reduction to separate parts, some of which perish, and others – acquire independent existence. (The collapse of empires, the withdrawal of Ukraine from the USSR, and the United Kingdom from the EU). Disintegration can also mean not the disintegration of the system as a whole, but the loss of it from only its individual elements, parts that begin to operate under the new algorithm and move in the “direction” [8].

It should also considered that individual and group integration is due to the biogenic, psychogenic and sociogenic components of the individual (group), which, having fallen into an unusual social environment, is forced to adapt to the typical traditions, rules of conduct, morals, and so on.

Integration at the level of society is associated with the social processes of assimilation, adaptation, socialization, acculturation, etc., and reaching for considerable length of time considerable territorial

boundaries, acquires the character of state education, or, at most, civilization.

As was already noted, integrative processes are relevant to both existing social systems and those that are just established. Social integration in the matured social systems acquires the character of the complexity and strengthening of the links between the elements of the social system, the structuring of management, the improvement of its integrity and organization. In just established social systems, integration consists of recreating a new social quality during the merger of various elements and components of the transformation of these components in the direction of their coherence and ordering, the creation of new social institutions and management systems [8].

Social integration is implicated with consolidation processes. Consolidation is a process targeted on strengthening, uniting, combining anything (individuals, social groups, organizations, movements, society, etc.).

In any society, a certain system of factors, determinants, which more or less influences its association, unification and, eventually, productive social integration and consolidation. The formation of such factors is essentially influenced by the national features of a particular country, the degree of maturity of social relations, etc.

In the system of factors that determine the dynamism of the processes of social integration and consolidation the priority place belongs to various types of social life – social relations. Practice shows that the depth of the processes of social integration is determined by the totality of social relations, the level of their stability, sustainability, innovation orientation. Each particular historical type of society corresponds to a certain level of maturity of social development, which is determined by spiritual, political, economic social relations, which ultimately determines the dynamics of socio-integration processes.

It is important to take into account the complex, contradictory relationship of social relations – spiritual, political, economic, social and their reverse deterministic influence on the effectiveness of such a socio-integrated policy, in formulating and implementing state and public policies targeted on deepening the processes of social integration and consolidation. Functioning and development of all social relations major types has a decisive influence on the processes of social integration and consolidation. In its turn, in-depth social integration and consolidation significantly accelerates the development of social relations, transformational changes.

In the structure of the elements of social life, which significantly affect the sustainability of the de-

velopment of any society, its integration and consolidation of the important place belongs to the economic sphere. Economics, economic relations directly influence the processes of social development, social sphere, first of all on ensuring the country's social security, promoting social integration, social peace. After all, without a mature economy there can be no developed social sphere, stable social security of society, people's well-being, developed middle class – the key structural components of an integrated and consolidating society of national stability.

But the society inclusive potential of Ukrainian economy does not show signs of a sustained upward trend. The positive impact of economic reforms on a sustainable, consolidating country's development was clearly insufficient. For a long time, economic reforms were being implemented at the expense of social factors, which had only a destructive effect both on social security of people, and on the integration and consolidation of society, the imbalance of its integrity. Another destructive factor of the economy, which essentially slowed down and continues to hinder its integration and consolidating society's influence on sustainable development, national stability is its shadow character. In addition, a number of other destructive phenomena, contradictions, and problems that have not only contributed to the expansion of the economic field of deepening the foundations of the integrated and consolidating societies, but also narrowed it, negatively influenced the national security.

In the system of social relations, which have a particularly significant influence on the integration and consolidation of society, determine its state, an important place belongs to political life, first of all, political relations. Political relations, especially in the transition period, the era of socio-political transformation, largely determine socio-economic progress or regression of society, enrichment of the content, forms and dynamics of the processes of integration and consolidation of social development, or their relaxation.

However, the process of Ukraine political system reforming, in addition to the positive transformations, associated with the enrichment of the political space, the adoption of new progressive political realities, led to a number of problems, contradictions, deformations that negatively affected the integration potential of society, slackened its consolidating development, weakened as a political, and national security of the country. They are as follows: a slow process of transformation of the state-oriented type of organization of political life into a human-oriented; imbalance of power, profound alienation of citizens from power; unjustified strengthening of the role of separate go-

vernment structures; slow process of government decentralization; the slow pace of judicial reform, the purge of the judiciary, the establishment of justice fairness; the crisis of the public administration system, the low efficiency of the civil service institute, etc.

Taking into account the abovementioned, it is possible to formulate certain conclusions and recommendations for the improvement of public policy regarding the transformation of social relations as a factor in overcoming or reducing the impact on society of disintegration processes and deepening its integration and consolidation. Such deepening will be facilitated by the implementation of a number of tasks.

In the economic sphere:

– strengthening the social orientation of economic policy, filling it with social content in order to ensure social security on the basis of: increasing the solvent demand of the population, especially in the way of a consistent approximation of the level of wages and state social security to the Eastern European standards;

– the realization of the demand created by the society for the development of a genuine market economy, the features of which should be: a system of checks and balances in the form of immutable institutions of private property, a strong middle class, developed entrepreneurship, effective and publicly controlled public oversight bodies, fair justice, active civil institutions;

– ensuring inclusive growth based on the orientation of the results of economic development on improving the quality of life of citizens and overcoming inequality;

– a substantial reduction in the level of the shadow economy, the dismantling of systemic corruption as a basic imperative, which should form the basis of national consensus on the model of economic development;

– provision of property rights as the basic institution of economic development of society;

– reforming the tax system as a factor in increasing social justice;

– expansion of international economic cooperation, which should deepen economic, in particular, integration processes based on European values, etc.

In the political sphere:

– creation of political and legal conditions for the establishment in Ukraine of a new concept based on human-oriented, natural law capable of effectively reflecting and advocating the social interests of human;

– harmonization of the system of authority relations, overcoming of contradictions between the main branches of authority, creation of conditions for the completion of the formation of the system of checks and balances;

– the devolution of power, the strategic task of which is: the change of the philosophy of power in Ukraine – the adoption of the principle “state for a citizen”: ensuring the real influence of citizens on the adoption of political and managerial decisions;

– the completion of the reform of the judicial system, the construction of a new judicial system targeted on the realization of the right of every citizen to a fair trial of his case by an independent professional and impartial tribunal;

– creation of effective mechanisms for clearing the judicial system from unprofessional, corrupt and politically engaged judges;

– the establishment of European standards of justice; in particular, the reform of public administration: overcoming the managerial crisis, strengthening the efficiency of the state apparatus and developing a democratic model of effective public administration in order to ensure the quality implementation of administrative services of citizens, etc.

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