

## STRATEGIC CULTURE AS A DETERMINANT OF NATIONAL SECURITY IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPT OF MILITARY NEUTRALITY – THE WORD OF THE EDITOR –

This issue of "Vojno delo" is dedicated to the presentation of research efforts in the implementation of the second phase of the scientific project of the Strategic Research Institute "Strategic culture as a determinant of national security in support of the concept of military neutrality". It is necessary to remind that the results of the first phase of the project were presented in "Vojno delo" No. 8/2019, provoking positive criticism from the scientific community, and this issue was included in the literature for postgraduate studies at relevant faculties, which is special honour for the authors.

The members of the Department for Security Studies of the Institute have been engaged in the implementation of the second phase of the project, as well as selected individuals from the wider scientific and professional community, who have studied the issue of strategic culture. Therefore, this is a kind of "a coalition of the willing", ready and capable to contribute not only to the execution of this project, but also to efforts to expand and scientifically verify knowledge in the field of strategic culture in the Serbian scientific community. These are: Miloš Knežević, Aleksandar Gajić, Vladimir Ajzenhamer, Maja Stojimirović, Jasna Veljković, Dušan Kesić, Darko Glišić, Srđan Starčević and Srđan Blagojević, who we sincerely thank for their cooperation.

Unlike the first phase of the project, which dealt more thoroughly with the essential determinants of strategic culture in general, this phase is mainly focused on discovering some characteristics of the Serbian strategic culture, considered in more specific political, socio-economic and security conditions. Namely, the existence of a relatively cohesive group that shows consistent behaviour towards politically important (strategic) issues is a sufficient condition for the knowledge about strategic culture. Such a complex subject of research necessarily requires interdisciplinarity in its study. Therefore, scientific knowledge has been used from the field of political sciences and law, i.e. international relations, more specifically - strategic thought and geopolitics and geoeconomics, then international law, constitutional and administrative law, and also security and historical sciences, especially military and diplomatic history, and sociological and psychological sciences.

The structure of papers in this special issue of "Vojno delo" is defined by the project task according to the following parts:

- the concept of strategic culture,
- tradition as a factor of strategic culture,
- geopolitics and geoeconomics as factors of strategic culture and
- strategic culture and neutrality.

The consideration of the Serbian strategic culture without the use of empirical research cannot be considered reliable. Therefore, the results of the analysis of research on the state of security culture and mental health of young people in the Republic of Serbia can be found among these covers. The researchers have made an effort to present the characteristics of the Serbian strategic culture in relation to some of the key challenges that modern Serbia faces, such as: military neutrality, military service, the attitude of an individual and community towards comprehensive defence, transit and transition, violent takeover of power and its protagonists, ethnic and religious factors, as well as the attitude towards global hegemon. The consideration of the US strategic culture within the Serbian strategic culture may, at first glance, seem inappropriate, but the fact is that any value analysis that does not include the relationship to the hegemon is not complete. This is particularly important if we have in mind that the US will continue to be a significant factor in international politics, regardless of the fact that the establishment of a polycentric global order is announced.

As it can be seen through very mentioning of the research subject, it is a very complex issue, which requires from researchers "in-depth analysis" of flows that are often hidden in the "labyrinths" of hard-to-notice long processes that have shaped the Serbian strategic culture throughout history. The researchers have also encountered the problem of presenting research results because the form of a scientific paper has often proved to be insufficient. Therefore, some papers are greater than the usual form, which should certainly not be attributed to the insufficient effort of the authors to rationally "format" them, but to the complexity and subtlety of the topics they have considered.

It is important to mention the attitude towards critical views and theses that can be found in the papers of this journal. It is clear that all of them are adequately explained and well intentioned because the conditions for social progress can be created only through creative critical thinking. It can be said that critical thought is necessary and that it is a precondition for timely identification of problems, their analysis and overcoming in a purposeful and rational way, which is the objective of strategic studies of strategic culture.

In hope that this project will contribute to the affirmation of the study of strategic culture in Serbia, we present to the scientific and professional public the results of the second phase of the scientific project "Strategic culture as a determinant of national security in support of the concept of military neutrality".

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