ATTITUDES TOWARDS WAR, SOCIAL-GROUP IDENTITY, AND PERSONAL AGGRESSION

SUMMARY

The development of human civilization also implies a revision of our understanding of war, as a categorization of old and new, as goals, not only the imposition of certain policies related to the imposition of identity, but also as gaining access to the state for certain groups. In this context, studying nationalism, alienation and the related opposition of parts of societies, replacing values and moral norms with new ones, (some considered shortcomings in the past period) from a psychological perspective would allow for a more complete understanding of war

The aim of the empirical study is to study the interrelationships between concepts such as attitudes towards war, identity and individual aggression, nationalistic and patriotic attitudes, and the cultural orientation of individuals.

Self-report questionnaires were used to determine the levels of nationalism/patriotism (Schatz et.al.,1999; Staub, 1997), national (Roth, et. al., 2005) and social-group identity (Visintin et.al.,2016), individualism/collectivism (horizontal and vertical) (Singelis et.al., 1995), aggression (Webster et.al., 2015) and attitudes towards war (Dupuis, & Cohn, 2011), as well as a sense of level of anxiety about one's own security (Radoslavova & Velichkov, 2005). All instruments were adapted for the purposes of the study for the Bulgarian population by confirming the factor structure, a check was made for the validity and reliability of the measurement by conducting a pilot study with the participation of 100 respondents. The study was conducted in the period from April to June 2025. with a sample of 276 respondents, divided into three social groups - military personnel and security personnel, students and learners and others - production, services, civil administration, teachers. The choice of specific social groups was made in the context of contribution to the creation of the gross domestic product of the state, as well as the complex socio-political situation and the economic and social crisis on a global scale.

The most important results show that:

- The level of identity is related to attitudes towards war by creating nationalistic and patriotic attitudes in the respondents.

- Military personnel have the most pronounced national and social-group identity, nationalistic (blind loyalty to the state) attitudes, pro-war attitudes and readiness to defend the national homeland, but also with the lowest levels of individual aggression (aggressive reactions).

- It is characteristic of the "Other" group that they would support probable military actions only in the event of positive changes for society and the state, but not solely out of blind loyalty to it. The lowest levels of national and socio-group identity are observed in the group of students, but also the highest levels of aggressive reactions.

- Sociodemographic characteristics influence the identity and cultural orientation of individuals, as well as individual aggressive reactions and attitudes towards war, with those living in small towns or the capital supporting war to a lesser extent than those living in large cities, with those living in small towns also being more aggressive (verbal aggression); those with families are more nationalistically oriented and have lower levels of aggressive predisposition, as well as more pronounced vertical collectivists than non-family respondents (vertical collectivism, expressed only in a narrow family circle); respondents with secondary education are more pronounced horizontal individualists than those with higher education (low power distance), as well as more strongly bound nationally, connected to national traditions, while those with higher education are more civically oriented.

Keywords: war, identity, aggression, nationalism, patriotism