

THE MODERN TRANSFORMATION OF WARFARE: INFORMATION WARFARE AND MANIPULATION.

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada urush fenomeniga axborot-kommunikatsiya texnologiyalarining o‘ziga xos ta’siri ijtimoiy-falsafiy nuqtai nazardan tahlil qilingan. Zamonaviy raqamli muhit, sun’iy intellekt, kiberhujumlar, dronlar va axborot urushlari an’anaviy harbiy qarama-qarshilik shakllarini tubdan o‘zgartirayotgani asoslab berilgan. Shuningdek, urushning makon va vaqt chegaralari kengayib, uning gibrid va tarmoqli xarakter kasb etayotgani ko‘rsatilgan. Shu bilan birga, axborot texnologiyalari orqali jamoatchilik ongiga ta’sir o‘tkazish, manipulyatsiya va psixologik bosim mexanizmlarining kuchayishi urush fenomenining yangi qirralarini yuzaga chiqarayotgani yoritilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: urush fenomeni, axborot texnologiyalari, axborot urushi, “Axborot qurollari” tushunchasi, axborot qarshi kurash.

СПЕЦИФИЧЕСКОЕ ВЛИЯНИЕ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫХ ТЕХНОЛОГИЙ НА ФЕНОМЕН ВОЙНЫ

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Аннотация: В данной статье анализируется специфическое влияние информационно-коммуникационных технологий на феномен войны с социально-философской точки зрения. Утверждается, что современная цифровая среда, искусственный интеллект, кибератаки, беспилотники и информационная война коренным образом меняют традиционные формы военного противостояния. Также показано, что границы пространства и времени войны расширяются, и она приобретает гибридный и сетевой характер. В то же время подчеркивается, что усиление механизмов влияния на общественное сознание, манипуляции и психологического давления посредством информационных технологий раскрывает новые аспекты феномена войны.

Ключевые слова: феномен войны, информационные технологии, информационная война, концепция «информационного оружия», информационные контрмеры

THE SPECIFIC IMPACT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ON THE PHENOMENON OF WAR

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Abstract: This article analyzes the specific impact of information and communication technologies on the phenomenon of war from a socio-philosophical perspective. It is argued that the modern digital environment, artificial intelligence, cyberattacks, drones and information warfare are fundamentally changing the traditional forms of military confrontation. It is also shown that the boundaries of space and time of war are expanding, and it is acquiring a hybrid and networked character. At the same time, it is highlighted that the strengthening of mechanisms of influence on public consciousness, manipulation and psychological pressure through information technologies is revealing new aspects of the phenomenon of war.

Keywords: phenomenon of war, information technologies, information warfare, the concept of «information weapons», information countermeasures.

The phenomenon of war is one of the most integral and complex aspects of human history. Since ancient times, it has remained at the center of attention for philosophers, politicians, and intellectuals. Throughout the course of societal development, war has been interpreted not only as an armed confrontation between states but also as an expression of inherent human conflicts, the pursuit of power, and the contradictions between justice and competing interests. Therefore, the study of war should not be confined solely to military or political categories; rather, it should be examined as a multifaceted social phenomenon with profound philosophical significance. For this reason, investigating the concept of war from a broader philosophical perspective remains an important and relevant scholarly task. Under the influence of information technologies, which have become a defining symbol of the twenty-first century, the phenomenon of war has undergone profound transformation. The concept of “information weapons” has gradually entered the discourse of military theory and strategic studies. This concept is highly flexible and multidimensional in nature. The process of globalization has expanded and strengthened the scope of its application. Information weapons may be understood as a variety of methods and instruments designed to exert manipulative influence on an adversary.

As noted by scholars, “war, as a social phenomenon, is changing its position within the contemporary socio-cultural space, while information warfare is becoming increasingly normalized.” In this context, war is no longer confined to the framework of traditional armed confrontation; rather, it is increasingly shifting into the information domain. Through the manipulation of public consciousness, information weapons have become an effective means of weakening opponents without direct military engagement. Consequently, war as a social phenomenon is acquiring new forms, and information warfare is gradually being perceived as a regular and legitimate feature of the contemporary socio-cultural environment. This development necessitates a global rethinking of the concepts of truth, freedom of consciousness, and moral responsibility. It should be emphasized that information technologies constitute the fundamental basis of information warfare, whose central objective is to create a perception of complete freedom under conditions where genuine objective freedom is absent. In this context, a new form of power emerges, determined largely by control over mass media and information channels. As T. Leary aptly observed, “instead of fighting for territory and possessing super-powerful weapons, attention should be focused on consciousness, on the unified field of world



consciousness.”

In the contemporary world, human consciousness has become a primary target of information attacks. Information technologies have proven to be more effective than many traditional instruments of power, serving as tools for shaping, controlling, and manipulating individual and collective consciousness. As a result, the center of modern power and warfare is no longer the physical battlefield but rather the sphere of information and human consciousness. This transformation confronts humanity with new challenges concerning freedom, truth, and the autonomy of the human mind. Information technologies are employed to systematically and strategically undermine an adversary's reputation before the international community, to provoke panic among the population of a target state, and to achieve a variety of other political and psychological objectives. One of the most effective mechanisms of information confrontation is the construction of the image of the “Other” as a source of threat and aggression. This approach increases the likelihood of successfully manipulating individuals and shaping in their consciousness the desired representations of the “Other” and the “Enemy.” The foundation of this technique lies in manipulation. As scholars have noted, “in contemporary society, manipulative technologies have acquired a systemic character, influencing both public and individual consciousness and penetrating all spheres of social life.” In our view, manipulative technologies in modern society have become systematic and enduring instruments for shaping both collective and individual consciousness. Through politics, culture, the economy, and the information environment, they have permeated virtually every sphere of social life, creating new challenges to independent thinking and freedom of consciousness. As a consequence, the boundaries between truth and falsehood are becoming increasingly blurred, while the importance of moral responsibility and critical thinking continues to grow. In this context, the ability to critically evaluate information and resist manipulative influences has become an essential condition for preserving intellectual autonomy and democratic values in the digital age. The rapid growth of information technologies and the expanding opportunities for their application have contributed to the spread of information warfare across all spheres of social activity. The concept of “information” has become so broad and multifaceted that it can no longer be associated exclusively with any single form of human activity. At the same time, the accelerated development of information technologies and their widespread use have transformed information warfare into an integral component of everyday social life. As a result, information warfare now extends beyond the military and political domains, influencing economic, cultural, and personal spheres as well. Consequently, the concept of information itself is no longer confined to a specific field of activity; rather, it has emerged as a universal force that permeates economic, political, cultural, and individual life alike.

This transformation highlights the growing significance of information as a strategic resource and a means of influence in contemporary society. In the digital age, control over information flows increasingly determines the ability to shape public opinion, direct social processes, and exercise power, thereby making information one of the most valuable assets in modern global interactions. This situation necessitates a reassessment of human responsibility within the information space, as well as a reconsideration of the notions of freedom of consciousness and the criteria for perceiving truth. Today, the rapid development and application of information technologies have transformed information into a source, mechanism, and guarantor of changes across all spheres of social life. The problem of power is increasingly being defined as a problem of access to and control over information: “whoever possesses information rules the world; whoever loses information loses power.” In other words, those who control information—its organization, volume, and distribution of flows—effectively govern society itself by shaping and manipulating public consciousness. In the process of developing



information and communication technologies that are capable of transforming and regulating the quantity of information, the potential of informatization in governance continues to expand. Within this framework, power increasingly relies on information flows and exercises control through their management. It has become evident that a significant portion of modern information resources is often not used for the collection of socially necessary data, but rather for the covert regulation of power, mass governance through the influence on public consciousness, and its “scanning” and “diagnosis.” As M. Trebin rightly notes, “the information weapon, by its nature, is not a means of physical violence against an individual, yet it is capable of initiating powerful material and energetic processes and directing them toward the achievement of the ultimate goals of war.” Accordingly, the development of information and computer technologies contributes to the transfer of violence into the domain of virtual space.

The rapid development of information and computer technologies has fundamentally transformed the nature of violence. While traditional forms of violence were associated with physical force, direct coercion, and overt repression, in contemporary society they are increasingly shifting toward virtual, symbolic, and psychological forms. This process does not imply the disappearance of violence; rather, it indicates its transformation into more invisible and complex manifestations. The advancement of information and computer technologies does not eliminate violence but relocates it into virtual space, rendering it less visible and more socially acceptable in form. Therefore, one of the primary challenges facing modern society is to understand technology not only as a source of convenience and progress, but also as a domain of ethical responsibility. Information technologies also provide the capacity to model and simulate conflicts. Due to the high level of development of globalization, the internet, and other information systems, information warfare can now be conducted at any point within the information space. Information confrontation represents a struggle between the intellectual resources of opposing sides, manifested in various forms and modalities. In conclusion, in the modern world, information technologies no longer function merely as tools for transmitting data; rather, they have become instruments for controlling and shaping human consciousness. In other words, they can influence what people think, how they make decisions, and how they perceive the world. This process does not necessarily restrict human freedom; on the contrary, individuals often perceive themselves as free, while in reality their decisions and consciousness are subject to external influence. As a result, through modern technologies, societies are managed, political and social decisions are shaped, and human values and worldviews are transformed. At the same time, this process makes issues of information security and the autonomy of consciousness increasingly urgent, as the human mind has effectively become one of the most important strategic resources of the contemporary era.

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