

ANALYSIS OF THE LITERATURE ON THE CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION- PSYCHOLOGICAL SECURITY

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Abstract

This article examines the experience of the People's Republic of China among the leading foreign countries in the effective implementation of tasks related to ensuring the information-psychological security of the individual. This experience is aimed at the moral development of the individual and the formation of information culture and immunity against information-psychological threats.

Keywords: Information, information security, information-psychological security, information society, information-psychological security of the individual.

Introduction

Methodology and Analysis

Today, in many countries, the development of the system for ensuring the information-psychological security of the individual is carried out along legal-regulatory, organizational-technical, and moral-psychological educational directions. These serve to create conditions for shaping the consciousness of the individual both individually and collectively, to identify and eliminate information-psychological threats directed at the individual, and to enhance the effectiveness of mechanisms that prevent the individual from falling under the influence of information-psychological threats.

The state policy of developed and developing countries in ensuring information-psychological security proceeds in harmony with increasing the share of the information technology sector in the country's gross domestic product and the widespread introduction of digital technologies into various spheres of social life. In particular, studying the experiences of countries where the share of information technologies in GDP is high—such as the Republic of Korea (9%), Japan (5.5%), China (4.9%), and India (4.9%)—will contribute to the development of information technologies in our country.

At the same time, the People's Republic of China—one of the countries with advanced information technologies—has established strengthened control in cyberspace and is moving toward widely mobilizing the country's citizens to prevent problems emerging in the virtual sphere.



Compared to other countries, China is a leader in terms of the number of members of the “World Wide Web” audience; 649 million of the country’s population use the Internet, of whom 86 percent use mobile Internet. In turn, the number of social network users in China has reached 257.22 million people, and the number of users of mobile messengers has reached 350 million. The majority of them are people aged 10 to 30 [4].

Intensive use of social networks is increasing the process of virtualization in Chinese society. This situation is especially more visible among the youth.

According to research conducted in 2010 by the McKinsey & CO foundation, it was found that 70% of the population of China’s 60 largest cities spend their free time on the global network. It was also revealed that Chinese youth spend an average of 4 hours a day on mobile messengers and social networks, downloading various videos and music and engaging in other entertainment conversations. This situation prompted the introduction of certain organizational-institutional changes in China’s public administration regarding strengthening control over the Internet network.

In particular, the following requirements were introduced for Internet users:

- Use of “firewall” systems to block networks such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Wikipedia;
- Prohibiting block-hosting services to blog readers who have not registered on the basis of their real biographical data;
- Prohibiting registration under various pseudonyms;
- Considering comments left anonymously on blogs as illegal actions.

In addition, to control social networks, new rules were introduced on China’s most popular network “Sina Weibo” to restrict the activities of those who organize various destructive virtual groups and those who disseminate messages that form a mood of protest. In particular, each person registered on the social network is given 80 points. If a social network user forms illegal virtual organizations, carries out actions that incite subversive activities, or engages in activities such as holding meetings not established by law and organizing protest demonstrations, they are deprived of the existing 80 points as a punishment and their social network account is removed from the list of users. Furthermore, the actions of global network users are monitored from the time they register their activity on the network. In order to implement such a function, in 2006 a special police department that controls the Internet was established in China. Currently, this institution, which has 30,000 employees, monitors compliance with rules on social sites, online forums, and social networks in cyberspace. The main tasks of the Internet police are to determine the criteria for the level of information system security and to find specific methods of protecting them, to deliver information related to ensuring information-psychological security to Internet users, to establish a security regime on the Internet, to conduct criminal case materials arising from the use of electronic data and documents, to develop mechanisms for warning against computer viruses and other dangerous information, to develop precise methods for granting state permits for the sale of information products, to supervise and guide the provision of information security, and to develop measures to prevent offenses on the Internet. In practice, their main task is aimed at cleaning the global network from destructive information [5].



In addition, the following can be included among the bodies that control the Internet in China: the State Council Information Office (the Administrative Bureau of Internet Propaganda and the Center for the Study of Public Opinion); the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (the Internet Bureau and the Bureau of Information and Public Opinion); the Ministry of the Information Industry (the Center for Registration of Illegal and Immoral Information on the Internet); the Ministry of Public Security (the Bureau of Computer Control and Inspection), etc.

In the organizational direction of developing the system for ensuring the information-psychological security of the individual, China is widely cooperating with the public to prevent threats entering through the virtual space. In this regard, in 2001 the “Internet Users Society” was established in China, the members of which assist public administration bodies in developing the global network and reducing its negative impacts. In addition, there are more than 2 million patriotic hacker virtual groups in China’s national Internet segment, which are engaged in deleting messages that pose a threat to the stability of the country.

The legal-regulatory direction of ensuring information-psychological security in China has been improved with legal documents such as the “Sectoral Convention on Self-Governance on the Chinese Internet Network,” the “Rules on Self-Governance to Prevent the Dissemination of Pornographic and Negative Information on the Internet and Social Networks,” and the “Convention on Boycotting Malicious Software.”

Furthermore, since April 2014, the State Chancellery for Informationization and Internet Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Informationization and the Ministry of Public Security, has been engaged in activities to identify information on web resources that negatively affects the lifestyle of youth, to delete such information, and to identify and bring to justice those who disseminate messages of a destructive nature.

In the moral-psychological educational direction, one of the largest measures related to preventive work is the extensive use of information-communication technologies to strengthen the culture of reading among youth. In this regard, in recent years in China, popularizing the use of e-book applications created for downloading to mobile devices and tablets has become one of the main directions of state policy. As a result of such measures, the number of readers among Chinese youth has increased by 75 percent, and they spend an average of 86 minutes a day reading e-books [6]. In turn, this serves the formation of the individual’s information culture and information-psychological immunity.

Conclusion

In general, the experience of the People’s Republic of China in ensuring the information-psychological security of the individual is aimed at the moral development of the person and the formation of information culture and immunity against information-psychological threats; in turn, this serves human development and the increase of competence related to information. In an era where, against the background of the development of information-communication technologies, non-traditional information-psychological threats that negatively affect the security of the individual in the global information space are also increasing, the study of foreign experiences leads to the conclusion that the information-psychological security of the individual emerges as a result of the state’s policy in the field of security and in the field of



information, and that it should include legal-regulatory, organizational, technological, information-analytical, and personnel support. In this, increasing the individual's moral-psychological potential is of great importance, and the efforts of states in this direction are carried out in harmony with state policy in the fields of education, mass media, and arts and culture.

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