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## **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCHING SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES, THE THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL BASES OF COUNTERTERRORISM IN THE STATE SECURITY SYSTEM**

*A comprehensive theoretical and methodological analysis has been carried out of academic approaches to understanding the nature of terrorism and organising countermeasures against terrorist threats within the national security framework in the context of globalisation. The evolution of scientific conceptions regarding the terms "terrorism" and "terrorist activity" has been examined, and the main conceptual approaches to studying their content have been identified. The impact of globalisation processes on the increasing complexity of modern terrorist threats, in particular their transnationalisation, networked organisation and the use of the latest technologies, has been analysed. Methodological approaches to studying the organisational aspects of counter-terrorism as a component of national security are summarised, including systemic, institutional, risk-oriented and interdisciplinary approaches. The necessity of establishing a scientific foundation for developing an effective model to enhance the capacity of the state counter-terrorism system is substantiated.*

**Keywords:** *terrorism, counterterrorism, national security, globalisation, theoretical and methodological foundations, terrorist threats, national counterterrorism system, organisational mechanisms.*

**Statement of the problem.** In the current context of the transformation of the international security environment, the issue of counter-terrorism has taken on particular relevance due to the rise in global threats, the emergence of hybrid forms of conflict, and the increasing complexity of challenges facing the national security system. Terrorism is one of the key factors destabilising state governance, capable of undermining political stability, economic security and public trust in state institutions.

Globalisation processes have contributed to the transformation of terrorist activity, which has taken on a transnational character, incorporated the latest information technologies, and become an integral part of modern conflicts. The issue of counter-terrorism has become particularly relevant for Ukraine in the context of armed aggression by the Russian Federation, accompanied by the use of hybrid warfare methods, which encompass elements of state terrorism, sabotage, information operations and psychological influence.

In this regard, there is a need for a systematic examination of the theoretical and methodological foundations of counter-terrorism in the context of ensuring national security, which lays the groundwork for formulating effective policy

decisions and developing new models for the functioning of the state system for countering terrorist threats.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** At the current stage of development of the security environment, Ukraine's state counter-terrorism system is operating in conditions where the nature of threats and risks has become significantly more complex, due both to global transformative processes and to specific challenges arising from the Russian Federation's full-scale armed aggression. The use of hybrid methods of influence, including information and psychological operations, cyber attacks, sabotage and subversive activities, as well as attempts at political destabilisation and economic pressure, necessitates the strengthening of the state's institutional capacity in the field of preventing and countering terrorist activities in accordance with national security strategic priorities [1].

The legal framework for counter-terrorism in Ukraine is set out in the Law of Ukraine "On Combating Terrorism", which establishes the fundamental principles, responsible bodies and mechanisms for implementing state policy in this area [2]. Further development of the state response system is provided for in the Concept for Combating Terrorism in Ukraine, which sets out

directions for improving the coordination of activities by state authorities, enhancing the effectiveness of preventive measures and strengthening institutional mechanisms for countering terrorism [3].

Leading Ukrainian scholars, notably V. Gorbulin, O. Litvinenko, V. Antypenko, V. Lipkan and G. Perepelytsia, whose scholarly works have significantly influenced the development of the theoretical, methodological and applied foundations for ensuring national security in the context of modern terrorist threats. A synthesis of the results of their research allows us to observe the emergence of a comprehensive scientific understanding of terrorism as a multidimensional socio-political and security phenomenon, requiring a systematic interdisciplinary approach to the prevention and neutralisation of terrorism.

The academic work of these scholars has contributed to the development of conceptual frameworks governing the functioning of the state counter-terrorism system, the improvement of strategic planning in the field of national security, and the justification of the need to integrate political, legal, organisational and law enforcement mechanisms for responding to contemporary threats. Their works have established approaches to analysing the transformation of the security environment under the influence of globalisation processes, hybrid conflicts and international instability, which has made it possible to identify priority areas for the development of state policy in the field of preventing terrorist activity.

In international academic and strategic documents, terrorism is regarded as one of the key threats to global security, requiring a comprehensive approach to prevention and response. In particular, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy identifies the need to combine legal, political, socio-economic and information tools in the fight against terrorist activities [4]. Similar approaches are reflected in European Union legislation, which establishes common standards for countering terrorist activities, criminalising relevant offences and preventing radicalisation [5].

Current trends in the evolution of terrorist threats, including the use of modern technologies, network structures and new forms of financing, are reflected in Europol's analytical reports, which emphasise the need to adapt national security systems to new challenges [6]. NATO's strategic documents also identify terrorism as one of the main asymmetric threats of our time and stress the

importance of a collective response and strengthening states' resilience to crises [7].

The methodological principles of risk assessment in the field of security, particularly in the context of countering terrorist threats, are reflected in international risk management standards, which provide for the systematic identification, analysis and mitigation of threats [8]. At the same time, Council of Europe documents form the legal basis for international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, emphasising adherence to the principles of the rule of law and human rights [9, 10, 11].

A number of analytical studies by international organisations have highlighted the use of modern technologies by terrorist actors and the need to take these factors into account when formulating national security policy [12]. The experience of developing national counter-terrorism policies in leading world powers, particularly the United States of America, demonstrates the importance of an integrated approach combining preventive, law enforcement, intelligence and military tools [13].

US strategic documents emphasise the need to utilise all instruments of state power, including diplomatic, military, intelligence and law enforcement mechanisms, to counter global terrorist threats and strengthen international security partnerships [14].

Thus, an analysis of recent research – encompassing the work of domestic and international scholars, as well as strategic documents – indicates the existence of a comprehensive regulatory and conceptual framework in the field of counter-terrorism, which requires further development, given the transformation of the security environment, the proliferation of hybrid threats and the need to enhance the effectiveness of the state response system.

**The purpose of the article** is to systematize the of theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of counter-terrorism as a key component of national security, taking into account contemporary challenges and the experience of the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine.

**Summary of the main material.** In the current context of developments in the international security environment, the issue of terrorism is becoming particularly pressing due to the increasing complexity of global threats, the emergence of new forms of violent activity, and the transformation of traditional mechanisms for influencing society and state institutions. Terrorism is increasingly viewed as a complex systemic threat

of a multidimensional nature, encompassing political, social, economic, informational and psychological aspects, which necessitates the development of comprehensive approaches to its study and counteraction at national and international levels [4, 7].

Ukrainian scholars view terrorism not merely as a criminal law issue, but also as a complex security phenomenon linked to the transformation of international relations and the emergence of hybrid conflicts. Thus, V. Gorbulin emphasises that modern threats are complex in nature and require an integrated approach to ensuring national security, which involves a combination of military, political, informational and economic instruments [15]. V. Lipkan substantiates the systemic nature of terrorist threats and emphasises the need to formulate a coherent state security policy based on the concept of national security as an integrated system [16].

Amid the dynamic changes in the security environment, the ability of terrorist actors to adapt to new conditions and utilise modern technologies and communication tools has become particularly significant; this facilitates the coordination of destructive activities and the spread of radical ideologies, whilst complicating the work of law enforcement and security agencies. This is highlighted by O. Litvinenko, who emphasises the growing role of the information environment and the need to develop strategic communications as a means of countering modern threats [17]. Analytical materials from international organisations also point to the growing role of information technologies, network structures and the latest financial mechanisms in the implementation of terrorist strategies, which necessitates the continuous improvement of systems to counter such threats [6, 12].

From a theoretical perspective, terrorism can be viewed as an instrument of political influence aimed at achieving strategic objectives by creating a climate of fear, destabilising society and undermining trust in state institutions. Strategic documents of international organisations emphasise the need to develop a comprehensive counter-terrorism policy that combines legal, institutional and preventive mechanisms, and also provides for the development of international cooperation in the field of security [4, 9].

The legal framework for counter-terrorism in Ukraine is set out in the Law of Ukraine "On Combating Terrorism", which establishes the legal basis for the prevention, detection and suppression of terrorist activities, and defines the powers of the

relevant state authorities [2]. At the same time, the strategic directions for the development of the national security system, including countering terrorist threats, are set out in the National Security Strategy of Ukraine and the Concept of Combating Terrorism, which provide for improving the effectiveness of state policy, strengthening coordination among actors in the security and defence sector, and developing mechanisms for responding to crisis situations [1, 3].

Globalisation processes have a significant impact on the evolution of terrorist threats, as they create conditions conducive to the spread of destructive ideologies, the formation of transnational networks, and the use of cutting-edge technologies in unlawful activities. As H. Pereplytsia notes, global security processes are shaping a new threat architecture in which military and non-military instruments of influence are combined [18]. European legislative acts and analytical reports confirm the need to improve legal regulatory mechanisms and strengthen coordination between states in the fight against terrorism [5, 6].

The analysis of terrorism is particularly relevant in the context of contemporary military conflicts, notably the full-scale war waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which is accompanied by the systematic use of methods bearing the hallmarks of terrorist influence, including attacks on civilian infrastructure, information and psychological operations, and attempts to undermine social stability. In this context, some Ukrainian researchers (notably A. Sytnyk) highlight the phenomenon of state terrorism as an instrument of hybrid warfare and the need to establish mechanisms of international legal accountability for such actions [19]. Strategic documents of international organisations emphasise the need to counter such threats within the framework of a comprehensive security policy and to strengthen states' resilience to crises [7, 11].

The methodological framework of the study is based on the application of a systemic approach, which allows terrorism to be viewed as a component of the broader system of national and international security, an institutional approach aimed at analysing the role of state and international institutions in countering threats, as well as a risk-oriented approach, which involves identifying and assessing threats in accordance with international risk management standards [8]. The importance of using risk-oriented models to formulate effective security policy is emphasised by V. Lipkan [16]. An interdisciplinary approach

ensures the integration of the legal, political and social aspects of the study, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

The need for research into the theoretical and methodological foundations of counter-terrorism lies in systematising contemporary approaches to understanding this phenomenon against the backdrop of a changing security environment, in particular given the impact of armed conflicts as a factor in changing the forms and methods of terrorist activity, as well as in defining the conceptual foundations for improving state policy in the field of countering terrorist threats.

The practical significance of the findings will facilitate their use by government bodies and the security and defence sector in the process of drafting strategic documents, improving the regulatory framework, planning measures to prevent terrorist threats, and enhancing the effectiveness of the crisis response system. The research findings may also be utilised in the training of specialists in the field of national security and in the development of scientifically grounded approaches to strengthening national resilience.

Consequently, a comprehensive study of the theoretical and methodological foundations of counter-terrorism in the context of a changing security environment provides the academic basis for developing modern approaches to ensuring national security and enhancing the effectiveness of the system for countering terrorist threats.

### **Conclusions**

The analysis conducted indicates that, against the backdrop of the current transformation of the security environment, terrorism is taking on the characteristics of a complex systemic threat to national security, characterised by multidimensional manifestations, a high degree of adaptability, and the ability to integrate into various spheres of social relations. Its contemporary forms go beyond the traditional understanding of it as the activity of non-state actors and are increasingly manifesting themselves as complex destructive practices that combine military, informational, economic and psychological instruments of influence on the state and society.

In this context, it has been established that globalisation processes and the rapid development of digital technologies create additional opportunities for the transformation of terrorist

threats, providing new channels for coordination, financing and information influence, which significantly complicates the activities of actors in the security and defence sector and necessitates an enhancement of their institutional and analytical capabilities. At the same time, contemporary military conflicts, in particular the Russian Federation's full-scale aggression against Ukraine, demonstrate the use of practices bearing the hallmarks of state terrorism, which highlights the need to broaden theoretical approaches and refine the conceptual framework in the field of research into terrorist phenomena.

The application of systemic, institutional, risk-based and interdisciplinary approaches has made it possible to view terrorism as a component of a broader system of national security and to identify key areas for improving the effectiveness of state policy in the field of countering threats. The results obtained confirm the advisability of improving the regulatory and legal framework, developing strategic planning mechanisms, strengthening inter-agency cooperation and introducing the latest risk assessment tools with a view to enhancing the state's resilience to destructive influences.

Consequently, a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical and methodological foundations of counter-terrorism in the context of contemporary challenges lays the groundwork for the development of a more effective national security system, focused on the timely identification of threats, their forecasting and neutralisation, as well as on strengthening the state's institutional capacity in the face of hybrid risks and prolonged military aggression.

Further research should focus on developing comprehensive models to enhance the capacity of the state counter-terrorism system, taking into account the transformation of the contemporary security environment and lessons learned from military conflicts. Particular attention should be paid to an in-depth study of mechanisms for integrating risk-oriented approaches, the latest analytical tools and digital technologies into the processes of forecasting and preventing terrorist threats. Another promising area is the study of organisational and inter-agency coordination mechanisms for security and defence sector actors in the context of hybrid challenges. The results of such research could form the basis for further improving state policy and establishing an effective system for ensuring national security.

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## **ЗНАЧЕННЯ ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ НАУКОВИХ ПІДХОДІВ, ТЕОРЕТИКО-МЕТОДОЛОГІЧНИХ ЗАСАД ПРОТИДІЇ ТЕРОРИЗМУ В СИСТЕМІ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ДЕРЖАВНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ**

*Здійснено комплексне дослідження теоретико-методологічних засад протидії тероризму як важливої складової системи забезпечення державної безпеки в умовах трансформації сучасного безпекового середовища. Актуальність дослідження зумовлена зростанням рівня глобальних загроз, поширенням гібридних форм протистояння, розвитком цифрових технологій та транснаціоналізацією терористичної діяльності, що значно ускладнює діяльність державних інституцій у сфері безпеки. Особливої значущості ця проблема набуває для України в умовах повномасштабної збройної агресії російської федерації, що супроводжується застосуванням елементів державного тероризму, інформаційно-психологічних операцій, диверсійної діяльності та інших деструктивних практик.*

*Систематизовано й узагальнено сучасні наукові підходи до дослідження теоретико-методологічних засад протидії тероризму в системі забезпечення державної безпеки з огляду на трансформацію безпекового середовища та досвід сучасних воєнних конфліктів.*

*Визначено такі завдання дослідження: проаналізувати еволюцію наукових підходів до розуміння сутності тероризму та терористичної діяльності; дослідити вплив глобалізаційних процесів і розвитку сучасних технологій на трансформацію терористичних загроз; узагальнити концептуальні підходи до організації протидії тероризму в системі державної безпеки; визначити ключові напрями вдосконалювання державної політики у сфері запобігання та протидії терористичним проявам.*

*Методологічну основу дослідження становить сукупність загальнонаукових і спеціальних методів наукового пізнання. Зокрема, застосовано такі підходи: системний, що дає змогу розглядати тероризм як складник ширшої системи національної та міжнародної безпеки; інституційний, який спрямований на аналіз ролі державних і міжнародних інституцій у протидії терористичним загрозам; ризик-орієнтований, що передбачає ідентифікацію, оцінювання та прогнозування загроз відповідно до сучасних стандартів управління ризиками; міждисциплінарний, який забезпечує інтеграцію правових, політичних, соціальних та безпекових аспектів дослідження.*

*Результати дослідження свідчать, що в умовах трансформації міжнародного безпекового середовища тероризм набуває рис комплексної системної загрози державній безпеці, яка характеризується багатовимірністю проявів, високим рівнем адаптивності та використанням сучасних технологій. Установлено, що глобалізаційні процеси сприяють формуванню транснаціональних мереж, поширенню деструктивних ідеологій та використанню новітніх інформаційно-комунікаційних інструментів для координації терористичної діяльності. Узагальнено сучасні наукові підходи до розуміння тероризму як складного соціально-політичного і безпекового феномену, що потребує комплексного міждисциплінарного аналізу.*

*Обґрунтовано доцільність удосконалення нормативно-правового забезпечення, розвитку механізмів стратегічного планування, посилення міжвідомчої взаємодії суб'єктів сектору безпеки і оборони, а також запровадження новітніх інструментів оцінювання ризиків та прогнозування загроз. Доведено, що комплексне дослідження теоретико-методологічних засад протидії тероризму створює наукове підґрунтя для формування ефективної державної політики у сфері безпеки, спрямованої на своєчасне виявлення терористичних загроз, запобігання їм та нейтралізацію, а також для підвищення інституційної спроможності держави в умовах гібридних викликів.*

**Ключові слова:** *тероризм, протидія тероризму, державна безпека, глобалізація, теоретико-методологічні засади, терористичні загрози, державна система протидії, організаційні механізми.*

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