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ANALYSIS OF ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST HYBRID WARFARE CONDUCTED THROUGH THE INSTRUMENT OF SOFT POWER AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE AGAINST THE FIGHT

Abstract: Soft power is the most powerful and extensive instrument of hybrid warfare, the theoretical and conceptual basis of which was laid by the leading American professor and hybrid warfare researcher Joseph Nye. With the spread of hybrid warfare, it has firmly become the main component of the conduct of this war. It is also worth noting that the instrument of soft power, as the most extensive component of the conduct of hybrid warfare, is used in the most powerful form by large-scale international actors against the so-called "vulnerable" small target countries.

Due to its small size, Georgia is a country with the so-called "mid-size" condition, that is, it is a so-called "vulnerable" state of small size and scope. However, it is also worth noting that due to the geographical location of our country, the status of a strategic country, our country is more attractive and interesting for foreign states in the context of conducting hybrid warfare. Due to Georgia's status as the center of the Eurasian corridor, our country is the only so-called "hub" of the transit corridor. It is through our country that the transit of East-West cargo flows is possible. It is through Georgia that cargo can be transported from Asia to the European continent. These circumstances increase the importance of our country by one or two. These circumstances must be taken into account and are critically important for our country's operation and positioning in the foreign arena.

Key words: soft power, threats, international security, threats, state security.

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Introduction

Georgia, with its geographical location in the central space of the South Caucasus, is a country with the status of the so-called Eurasian corridor, connecting Europe and Asia. Based on the above circumstances, our country is a vulnerable state, a so-called target for hybrid warfare. Hybrid warfare is actively being waged against us from various geographical areas. Georgia is a target for hybrid warfare. The interest of foreign special services in our country is quite high. Taking into account the above factors, which are added to the ongoing tectonic changes in the international security architecture and the regional or geopolitical landscape, all this

increases the so-called intelligence interest in our country.

Since the beginning of 2022, the regional and geopolitical changes, especially the hostilities that began in Eastern Europe, the war in Russia and Ukraine, and the hostilities that began in the Middle East at the end of last year, have led to significant changes in our region. It is worth noting that the hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the South Caucasus region, which are taking place within a radius of just 200-250 kilometers from the state border of our country, pose a significant threat to the security environment of our country. The aforementioned hostilities in 2020 for the first time went beyond the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and

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took the form of direct military clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan. These processes have become a critical threat to the national security of our country, as hostilities were taking place just 100 kilometers from the state border of Georgia. There was a threat of hostilities spreading to the territory of Georgia, although all necessary measures were taken to prevent such a scenario from happening.

It is worth noting the increased load and greater function of the Old Silk Road, or in fact the road connecting Europe and Asia, which will ultimately prepare solid and fertile ground for the mobilization of additional economic and strategic resources. Clear steps are already being taken in this direction so that the so-called Middle Corridor project can be launched at full capacity.

In recent times, certain adjustments have been made to the country's foreign policy orientation, namely, the course and trajectory have become more flexible, the so-called diversification of the foreign policy course has taken place, the emergence of a multi-vector orientation, which is expressed in the fact that instead of a sharply reactionary single-vector course (only pro-American), the country has begun to define a multi-vector or multi-vector orientation, which includes the fact that the pro-Western course is maintained, but a clear line of European integration is emerging, which has already been reflected in concrete results. The country has begun to define a so-called pro-Asian orientation towards Asia, which was expressed in the signing of a strategic partnership document with the People's Republic of China, which has already resulted in tangible results in the form of the introduction of visa-free travel from China (the population of our country can stay in the People's Republic of China for 30 days). In addition, Georgia is considered a Chinese-approved and already The modernized foreign model "One Road, One Belt" also includes the existing international transport trade economic flow project.

The modernization models of the Old Silk Road (the line connecting Europe and Asia) are being gradually implemented and developed, Georgia is actively acquiring the function of the so-called middle corridor, or the main transit arterial hub connecting Asia and Europe from the solid status of the existing Eurasian corridor. All these factors are becoming critically important in terms of our country's economic development, ensuring national security, and, among other things, resolving the problem of territorial integrity. Especially along the Asian axis, using the China factor in relation to the Russian Federation, the aforementioned circumstances, in particular, the increase in the geopolitical importance and positioning of our country on a regional scale, are not in the interests of certain countries, which, in the

context of waging hybrid warfare, are actively using the soft power instrument against the state security of our country. For the effectiveness of combating the soft power instrument as the most powerful and widespread component of hybrid warfare, consolidated resistance from the entire national security system of the target country is critically important.

The involvement of all relevant agencies within the national security system and the neutralization of hybrid threats arising from the use of soft power instruments through joint coordinated efforts. Due to the complexity and multifaceted nature of the soft power instrument, it represents a kind of multifunctional component, the implementation of which will damage several leading areas of the country targeted by hybrid warfare, primarily security, as well as military, economic, cultural, scientific and technical spheres.

Given the above circumstances, it is critically important to combat soft power with a complex multifunctional and consolidated strategy. Given the resources available in the Georgian national security system, the country is able to provide appropriate resistance to the conduct of hybrid warfare using soft power instruments. This resistance is reflected in specific results. However, it is worth noting that due to the complex nature of soft power, effectively combating it, or demonstrating a conditionally high level of resilience, is a difficult task not only for small, vulnerable states like our country, but also for much stronger, non-vulnerable countries. There is no proven model against soft power in the direction of completely neutralizing the threats posed by it.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we can note that the Georgian national security system and the relevant operational agencies within it, based on the existing operational technical, material, technical and human resources, are capable of providing sustained resistance to the damaging activities carried out using the main tool of hybrid warfare, "soft power". The actions taken against the tool of soft power deserve high praise based on the current reality, and the resources available in the context of the fight against it represent a sufficient volume to carry out successful operations against the said tool. However, it should be noted that due to the power of the soft power instrument, its complexity and peculiarities, combating it is a difficult task and, in addition to local resources, combating it requires international cooperation, especially joint actions among strategic partner countries. It is especially important to cooperate with large-scale actors that have sufficient experience in combating this instrument.

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