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FUNCTIONING OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN TIMES OF WAR

Introduction. In conditions of martial law, the issues of the functioning of the political and socio-economic spheres of the state, as well as the effective activity of civil society, acquire special significance. It is the effectiveness of this society and its institutions that play a key role in strengthening democracy and ensuring freedom in a modern democratic state. The maturity of civil society, which guarantees the protection of the interests of all segments of the population, has been repeatedly emphasized in the speeches of the President of Ukraine. This confirms the relevance of the study of this topic.

Today, it is undeniable that the democratic development of a modern state is impossible without the presence of an effective civil society, the formation of which took place during a certain historical period. Let us consider the definition of this concept from different points of view in a historical context. The term «civil society» has deep roots in Western political science, where scientists have proposed various interpretations of it. Thus, one group of scientists considers civil society as a peaceful community of citizens who are under the protection of the state. Others define it as a set of social organizations that exist between the family and the state. The third point of view emphasizes the role of private organizations that contribute to the formation of civic virtues and protect society from tyranny. The fourth group of researchers identifies civil society with the bourgeois social order.

Today, there is no single, clearly defined concept of civil society in the scientific community. Domestic researchers Yu. Melnychuk and I. Vinnychuk define it as a society that represents the will and interests of citizens and does not remain indifferent to the state.

Given the different approaches to interpreting this concept, we can offer our own definition. In our opinion, civil society is a social structure that is formed under the influence of democratic transformations and aims to ensure the ability of citizens to influence the socio-economic development of the state in order to achieve the public good.

To substantiate the above, three key components were identified. The first of them is democratic transformations, when considering which it is worth referring to the opinion of E. Golovakha regarding such changes. He notes that «transformation

does not have an ultimate goal if it is a consequence of natural evolution or forced unexpected changes. At the same time, the transformation process, conditioned by reformist or revolutionary forces, predetermines the direction of social changes and the goals that need to be achieved. Transit, in turn, is only one of the types of transformation that has its own specific «destination point».

In the process of the formation of Ukrainian civil society, one can trace the transformation under the influence of reformist and revolutionary forces, the vivid examples of which are the «Orange Revolution» and the «Revolution of Dignity». The culmination of these changes was the military aggression of the Russian Federation, which led to the formation of a new civil society.

The main areas of activity of public and charitable organizations in modern military conditions include: support for the army and veterans, assistance to war victims and internally displaced persons, development of culture, sports and tourism, educational initiatives, legal support and protection of human rights, support for socially vulnerable groups and people with special needs, environmental projects, social entrepreneurship, as well as scientific and analytical research and consulting.

In modern conditions, the activities of public and charitable organizations play a key role in strengthening and developing civil society. Transformational processes are aimed at changing public consciousness. As E. Holovakh notes, public consciousness is transformed in the following areas: affirmation of national and civic identity, strengthening citizens' trust in state authorities, bringing state institutions closer to the needs of society, and rethinking value orientations.

Let us note that in a modern democratic state, value orientations are formed on the basis of the political organization of society. Typically, the system of values is enshrined in the country's legislation, reflected in ideological policy and implemented through the strategy of socio-economic development of both the state as a whole and individual regions, finding its expression in the political course.

Modern values of the Ukrainian state provide, first of all, for adherence to democratic principles, independence, territorial integrity, social protection of citizens, freedom of speech, as well as guaranteeing human rights and freedoms.

Adherence to these values can also be one of the key tasks of civil society, which, in turn, allows us to move on to considering the second important component of its goal - ensuring effective socio-economic development of the state.

Thus, the sustainable socio-economic development of the state can be a consequence of the functioning of a democratic civil society. It is assessed by the quality and standard of living of the population, which are determined through quantitative indicators in absolute and relative values. As a rule, the quality of life is measured by absolute (natural) indicators, while the standard of living is measured by monetary ones.

It should be noted that the indicators of the effectiveness of civil society are a component of the assessment of the quality of life according to various methods. Thus, the European Statistical System Committee methodology includes the indicators of «public life» and «political stability». It also provides for the assessment of public administration according to such indicators as institutions and public services, the absence of discrimination and equal opportunities, and an active civic

position. In turn, the International Living methodology analyzes the aspect of freedom through indicators of civil liberties and political rights.

Thus, the activation of civil society is manifested in the activities of public and budgetary organizations, which, using their potential, can influence the socio-economic development of the state. At the same time, state authorities can apply the economic and organizational mechanism of state regulation, which includes the following components:

- implementation of measures aimed at strengthening the potential of public organizations to promote sustainable development of society;
- development of relevant and socially significant areas of activity, programs and projects, the financing of which will be carried out on a competitive basis;
- creation of a mechanism for involving public organizations in monitoring the activities of public authorities;
- implementation of measures to activate the activities of trade unions at modern enterprises of various forms of ownership.

It should be noted that the goal of socio-economic development is the creation of public good. According to the definition of O. Cheslavskiy, public good is considered as a four-dimensional model 4WIN («Good for me – good for you – good for society – good in the future»). Thus, the activities of public organizations are the third component of this model, which is gradually transformed into the fourth.

It should be emphasized that the concept of public good involves the state satisfying the needs of the population both directly and indirectly on an equivalent basis, in particular through the taxation system. At the same time, civil society plays a key role in ensuring this balance, since «the balance between it and the state is an important factor in stable democratic development, and its violation leads to excessive concentration of power, alienation of citizens and political passivity of society».

Conclusions. Thus, it can be argued that the main purpose of the existence of civil society is its ability to influence the effectiveness of the socio-economic development of the state in order to form the public good, especially under conditions of democratic transformations. This influence is ensured by the activities of public organizations, which constitute the foundation of civil society. It is important to emphasize that the presence of an active and effective civil society is one of the key principles of the functioning of a democratic state.

References:

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