

THE ROLE OF INTELLIGENCE PROPAGANDA IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE STATE

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Abstract

Intelligence activity is an important branch of ensuring the national security of the state. It is carried out in relation to foreign states and its purpose is to pursue the interests of one's own state in the international arena, as well as to identify threats coming from foreign countries, timely inform the authorities and assess risks for planning preventive measures.

Intelligence propaganda is used as one of the important tools in intelligence activities. The government, diplomatic sources, political parties, non-governmental sector, authoritative persons, spy apparatus are the important forces of this process. As for the important means of intelligence propaganda, mass media and social networks deserve special attention. Accordingly, intelligence propaganda can be used to strengthen the national security of one's own state, at the expense of damaging the national interests of foreign countries.

Keywords: intelligence activity, intelligence propaganda, public opinion, violent overthrow of the government

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The effectiveness of the intelligence actions in the target state by the spying country is significantly determined by the organization of propaganda activities on the target state, in the international arena, in the process of their planning. Active use of scientific approaches in these processes is an important basis for success. Accordingly, in the process of establishing and strengthening the solid system of national security of their country, all states take active measures against intelligence propaganda from foreign countries, using both agency apparatus and technical means.

According to the Glossary of Intelligence Terms,¹ According to the explanatory dictionary of intelligence terms, propaganda is one of the most important methods of active measures (covert activities), counterintelligence actions against it are also carried out by covert activities. The analysis of intelligence activities shows that any action of an intelligence-operational nature is unsuccessful if the public mood provided by appropriate intelligence propaganda does not exist:

- ❖ the object of intelligence in the state;
- ❖ in the international arena;
- ❖ in their own state.

Intelligence (hostile/damaging) propaganda is one of the types of ideological terror, the target group of which is the population of the state, and the result of the impact is the involvement of members of the target group in activities against their own state.

Like intelligence activities, intelligence propaganda should be carried out continuously, so that the target groups do not have the opportunity to perceive the real processes, to find ways out of the problem.

For example, if intelligence propaganda is carried out with the aim of violently overthrowing the existing institutions, then propaganda actions can be conventionally planned as follows:

I (before the coup d'état) stage:

⇒Undermining the reputation of the government of the object of intelligence (object in the country, in the international arena, in the spying state);

II (in the process of coup d'état) stage:

⇒Increasing the scale of damaging the reputation of the government of the intelligence object state, organizing a positive attitude about the members of the new government (in the object country, in the international arena, in the intelligence state);

III (After the coup d'état) stage:

⇒Justifying the actions taken, undermining the reputation of the former government of the intelligence object state, organizing a positive attitude towards the new government (in the target country, in the international arena, in the intelligence state).

The forms of activity in the listed direction for hostile activities in the field of "ideology and politics"² were actively used by the intelligence services and are still being actively used today. Their main goal is to implement the interests of the spying state in the country of the object of

¹ Intelligence Service of Georgia Special Training and Retraining Center Explanatory Dictionary of Intelligence Terms. (Compilers of the dictionary: Brigadier General Vakhtang Kapanadze, Colonel Giorgi Surmava, Doctor of Medicine Marina Gegelashvili, Nugzar Babutsidze, Davit Bazhgadze, Vitali Mikhelidze, Ilia Narimanidze, Akaki Tsintsadze) Second edition with changes and additions. Tbilisi 2013.
<https://dspace.nplg.gov.ge/bitstream/1234/9822/3/SadazgvevoTerminebisGanmartebiti%20leksikoni.pdf>;

² T. Endeladze. Foreign intelligence services. Technical University of Georgia, St. Grigol Feradze Tbilisi University. Tbilisi. 2007 p. 103;

intelligence, which is achieved by organizing such destabilizing processes on the operational situation, such as intelligence provision:

- ⇒ Inspiring religious, ethnic, regional conflicts in the target country;
- ⇒ Intergenerational conflict in the target country;
- ⇒ causing confrontation, disobedience between the authorities in the target country;
- ⇒ The object is to inspire confrontation with other states of the country;
- ⇒ Creation-activity of terrorist and bandit groups in the target country and others.

Accordingly, the object and the spy should be considered as areas of study for the intelligence and counter-intelligence services of the state, in foreign states:

- ✍ Attitudes between religious, ethnic groups;
- ✍ Dependences between the groups settled in the state, according to the corners;
- ✍ Attitudes between generations in the state;
- ✍ Dependencies between governmental groups and others.

All the actions of the spying country are aimed at unjustified discrediting of the country's institutions and government, which simplifies the conditions for establishing control over the political, economic, military, scientific-technical and ecological levers of the state. Accordingly, within the framework of the counter-intelligence organization, the objects of intelligence should be under the active control of the state's special services, those persons, groups of persons, organizations that are engaged in unjustified discrediting of existing institutions and authorities.

The use of such a method as ideological subversion plays an important role in the operational actions of an intelligence nature towards the target country of intelligence.

At the time of ideological subversion, the object of intelligence is to have an ideological-political influence on the people living in the state. It is one of the important tasks, as a result of which anti-state attitudes should be inspired, which is a favorable condition for increasing the scale of criminal attitudes that destabilize the operational situation. Practically, an opportunity is created through psychological influence to involve the population of the country targeted by the intelligence in activities harmful to the interests of their own state.

During World War II, Nazi Germany utilized propaganda as a tool for intelligence gathering and psychological warfare to bolster its national security agenda. Under the leadership of Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi regime established a sophisticated propaganda apparatus aimed at shaping public opinion domestically and internationally. Through radio broadcasts, films, newspapers, and rallies, the regime disseminated propaganda to promote its ideology and demonize perceived enemies.

Nazi propaganda often distorted facts and fabricated narratives to manipulate public perception. For example, the regime used propaganda to downplay military setbacks, exaggerate victories, and incite anti-Semitic sentiments to justify its policies, including the

Holocaust. Nazi propaganda played a crucial role in maintaining domestic support for the regime and rallying Germans behind the war effort. Moreover, by spreading disinformation and sowing confusion among Allied forces, Nazi Germany sought to gain a strategic advantage on the battlefield.

During the Cold War, both the Soviet Union and the United States engaged in extensive intelligence propaganda campaigns to advance their respective national security agendas. The Soviet Union employed sophisticated disinformation campaigns to manipulate public opinion in both domestic and foreign arenas. For example, Operation INFEKTION, a Soviet disinformation campaign in the 1980s, aimed to spread the false claim that the United States had created the HIV/AIDS virus as a biological weapon. This campaign not only aimed to discredit the United States but also sow discord and confusion among its allies. In response, the United States established various intelligence agencies, such as the CIA, to counter Soviet propaganda and protect its national security interests. The CIA's covert operations, including psychological warfare and information dissemination, were integral in shaping public perceptions and maintaining the credibility of the US government.

The intelligence propaganda efforts of both the Soviet Union and the United States had significant implications for national security. Misinformation and propaganda not only influenced public opinion but also shaped policy decisions and international relations.

Among the covert operations (including psychological warfare and information dissemination) of the United States Intelligence Agency (CIA), Operation **Paperclip (1945-1959)**³ stands out. Following World War II, the CIA, along with other U.S. intelligence agencies, recruited German scientists, engineers, and technicians, including former Nazis, through Operation Paperclip. These individuals were brought to the United States to work on various projects, including military research and development, with the goal of gaining an advantage over the Soviets.

Operation TPAJAX (1953)⁴: While primarily aimed at Iran, this CIA-led operation had implications for Soviet interests in the region. It orchestrated the overthrow of Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, who was seen as sympathetic to communism and potentially aligning with the Soviet Union. This operation was motivated partly by Cold War concerns about Soviet influence in the Middle East.

It should be noted that the intelligence propaganda efforts of both the Soviet Union and the United States had a significant impact on the national security of these states. Intelligence propaganda and disinformation not only influenced public opinion, but also helped to make the right political decisions, both inside and outside the country. Intelligence propaganda was

³ A. Jacobsen, (2014). Operation Paperclip: The Secret Intelligence Program to Bring Nazi Scientists to America. Little, Brown and Company.

⁴ O. Gogilava; Z. Gogenia, The United States of America and the 1953 coup in Iran. Tbilisi, 2019. <https://openscience.ge/handle/1/584>

seen as an effective tool to maintain strategic advantage and protect national interests during the Cold War.

Important directions for the organization of ideological terror may be:

- Deliberate, unjustified discrediting of the level of democracy in the sovereign state;
- Creation of anti-state (mass media and/or political party and/or non-governmental organization and others) groups;
- Demoralization of the society and government of the target country, which is an important driver of the breakdown of political unity;

Ideological terror, the result of propaganda actions used by intelligence services, is one of the tools without which the important goals and tasks of intelligence activities cannot be solved.

Using it, it is possible to systematically create inspiring moods of conflicts, mass protests, coup d'etats, seizing political, economic, military, scientific-technical and ecological levers, which have a devastating effect on the operational situation of the country, the object of intelligence, and therefore on national security. The objects of influence and penetration of ideological terror are:

- Constitutional structure of the target state, ruling party, opposition party, government;
- structures implementing agency-operational activities of the target country;
- combat capability of the population and armed forces of the target state;
- social, ethnic, religious groups of the target state;
- spiritual unity of the population of the target state;
- traditions of the population of the target state;
- Relations of the target state in the international arena.

The most sensitive and vulnerable groups for the implementation of the above-mentioned directions are:

- People who, in their conversations, express their opposition to the constitutional structure of their state and the government, their willingness to participate in their harmful organization in various forms;
- former members of gangs who have been convicted;
- members of terrorist groups who have been convicted;
- Persons convicted of inciting ethnic, religious and regional conflicts and participating in these conflicts and others.

The role of scientific, cultural, educational, humanitarian organizations is important in the organization of ideological terror. During the Cultural Revolution in China (1966-1976), Mao Zedong's regime used cultural, educational, and scientific institutions to propagate his ideological vision and suppress dissent. Maoist ideology was promoted through mass campaigns aimed at purging "counter-revolutionary" elements from cultural, educational, and

scientific institutions. Artists, intellectuals, and educators were targeted for their perceived ideological impurity. The Red Guards, composed primarily of students and young people, were mobilized to enforce ideological conformity and suppress dissent. They targeted individuals and institutions deemed to be deviating from Maoist orthodoxy.

Schools and universities became battlegrounds for ideological struggle, with students encouraged to denounce teachers and classmates suspected of ideological heresy. Curriculum materials were rewritten to reflect Maoist ideology, and scientific research was subordinated to political objectives.

Cultural artifacts, historical sites, and religious institutions were targeted for destruction or desecration as symbols of feudalism and bourgeois ideology. Traditional customs and practices were suppressed in favor of revolutionary fervor. The Cultural Revolution resulted in widespread violence, social upheaval, and psychological trauma, as individuals and communities were subjected to intense ideological pressure and forced to conform to Maoist dictates. Dissent was ruthlessly suppressed, leading to a climate of fear and suspicion.

During its rule in Afghanistan, the Taliban used control over education to propagate its extremist ideology and enforce societal conformity.

The Taliban implemented a strict Islamic curriculum in schools, emphasizing religious teachings and extremist interpretations of Sharia law. Subjects such as science, history, and literature were taught through the lens of Taliban ideology, promoting intolerance and hostility towards non-Islamic beliefs.

The Taliban imposed restrictions on cultural practices deemed un-Islamic, banning music, art, and forms of entertainment. Cultural institutions were targeted, and historical artifacts considered idolatrous were destroyed.

The Taliban controlled access to humanitarian aid, using it as a tool for coercion and control. Aid organizations were required to adhere to Taliban directives and restrictions, limiting their ability to operate independently and provide assistance impartially.

Through the education system and cultural restrictions, the Taliban engaged in social engineering to mold society according to its ideological vision. Women and girls were particularly targeted, facing severe restrictions on education and employment opportunities.

By controlling education, culture, and humanitarian aid, the Taliban perpetuated an environment of ideological terror, enforcing conformity to its extremist ideology and suppressing dissenting voices. This contributed to the perpetuation of violence and instability in Afghanistan.

The success of actions during ideological terror is largely determined by the involvement of persons in authority in the listed sectors in actions against their own state. Ideological terror can be considered as a set of terrorist acts carried out on the human psyche, constituting an information war against the country. In this regard, it is important to carry out such processes as, as a result of intelligence organization, publishing compromising materials about the first

person and/or member of the target country's political party, non-governmental organization and/or company in open sources;

Publication of scientific, journalistic publications/programs to the detriment of the country's interests through television, radio broadcasts, the press, an object of intelligence in the state, in the country organizing the intelligence, in the international arena.

In 2016, elements within the Turkish military attempted a coup d'état allegedly orchestrated by the Gülen movement. The Gülen movement, led by Fethullah Gülen, had infiltrated various state institutions, including the military, judiciary, and police, over several decades. Gülenists operated covertly within the military, planning and coordinating the coup attempt without detection. Gülenist officers used their positions to mobilize troops and seize key locations, including airports and government buildings. The coup plotters utilized propaganda to justify their actions and disseminate misinformation. Communication channels were used to coordinate operations and rally support. The coup attempt failed due to insufficient support within the military and strong resistance from loyalist forces. The Turkish government launched a massive crackdown on Gülenists, purging thousands from the military and other institutions.

In 2019, a coup attempt against Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, allegedly backed by opposition leaders and foreign actors, failed. Opposition leaders, supported by elements within the military, organized a coalition to oust Maduro's government, citing corruption and economic mismanagement. The coup attempt reportedly received backing from foreign actors, including the United States and several Latin American countries, which publicly condemned Maduro's regime. Despite initial defections, the majority of the military remained loyal to Maduro, thwarting the coup plotters' attempts to seize key installations and gain control. Both sides engaged in propaganda efforts, with the government portraying the coup attempt as a US-backed conspiracy, while opposition leaders framed it as a popular uprising against a repressive regime.

Intelligence services participate in the particularly active phase of ideological terror, uniting various segments and inspiring anti-state activities. With their moral and financial support, segments are created in which groups and organizations acting against the interests of their own state are united. With the use of appropriate forces and means, ideological terror will achieve:

- establishment of nihilistic attitudes;
- formation of an opposition with anti-state sentiments under the guise of a democratic image;
- To inspire insecurity on the part of the state by instilling fear and panic by creating illegal armed, bandit groups;

- As a result of socio-economic dissatisfaction, ethnic and religious conflicts, a small rally turned into a large-scale, mass disorder, violent disruption of the constitutional order, and other processes.

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