

INFLUENCE OF THE ECONOMIC FACTOR IN THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SYSTEM

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Abstract: *Addressing the issue of the role of the economic factor in the national defense system can only be successfully achieved by taking into account the synergistic action of all factors that contribute to the state's defense capacity and the relationships between these factors. In this article, we have defined the concepts of national defense, the state's defense capacity, the economic factor and the components of this factor. The economic factor includes all material and spiritual resources, exploitable primary and reserve resources, human resources and the creative potential of citizens. The economic factor reflects the degree of development of all branches of the national economy. Analyzing the components of this factor, one can deduce the state of the economy of a state, which is of interest for assessing the economic and military strength of a country.*

The issue of the importance of the economic factor in the national defense system is vast and extremely complex, so it is almost impossible to treat it exhaustively in this article.

Keywords: *economic factor, national defense system, defense capacity, national defense, components, resources, national economy, branches.*

The two military conflagrations and the recent wars, including the Russian-Ukrainian war, prove with certainty that today more than ever the consolidation of national defense is not based exclusively on the military potential of a state, but also on other factors, among which the economic factor holds a leading place.

The phrase defense potential or military potential of a state has over time had expressions such as: military capacity or war capacity of the state.

National defense is a concept defined by the result of the action of a complex of factors of a material and spiritual nature linked by close interaction relationships that determine the necessary and sufficient conditions for the defense of the state against any form of aggression to safeguard national independence and sovereignty. The country's defense capacity represents the result of the set of technical-material, human, scientific, psycho-moral, social and cultural possibilities that the state has, which through their mobilization give rise to the defense power against any aggression, including military, on the one hand, and on the other: the art of capitalizing with maximum effectiveness on these resources in accordance with the objective requirements and goals of the armed struggle.

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The state's defense capacity stands out as a synthesis whose power is in direct relation or depending on the economic and political power of the state, with the moral state and military and cultural training of citizens, with the level of endowment of its armed forces and the other components of the national defense system, with the level of preparation of the territory for defense, with the technical-scientific and demographic possibilities of the state. It contains elements and connections that reach all material and spiritual areas of the nation and presupposes an evolution intrinsically linked to the levels of economic and social development of the state. The process of strengthening the defense is indivisible, interdependent and unitary, ensuring the optimal correlation between the economic and social development of the state and the strengthening of national defense. General Hîrjeu declared himself against the narrow, unilateral approach to the issue of national defense, stating that: "*the strength of an army is the result of its material and moral powers*"¹.

The military power of a state depends on the number and value of the population, the level of economic and cultural development, etc. The economic factor plays a decisive role in increasing the defense capacity of any state and in that it enhances other factors (objective and subjective) on which this capacity is based.

The economic factor includes all material and spiritual resources, exploitable primary and reserve resources, human resources and the creative potential of the country's citizens. This factor reflects the degree of development of all branches of the national economy (agriculture, industry, transport, telecommunications, construction, trade, services, etc.), the economic, technical-scientific and financial power of the state.

All of this is quite complex; thus, material assets include: fixed assets in the field of material production and the immaterial sphere; unfinished investments; stocks of raw materials and materials from the production process; reusable materials; other resources.

Spiritual means and values include: the stock of science and technology; the stock of culture; the stock of information, etc.

The category of natural resources includes: renewable resources (agricultural, forestry, water resources and other categories); renewable resources in volume (water stocks, hunting, fishing, etc.); non-renewable resources (fuel resources, metals, etc.).

Human resources have the following structure depending on age: I young people, who do not produce; II working age and III pensioners.

Therefore, from the analysis of the components of the economic factor, the state of the economy of a state can be deduced, which is of

¹ C.N. Hîrjeu, *Studii și critice militare*, Bucharest, 1921, p. 370.

particular interest for assessing the economic and military strength of a country.

It is interesting to assess the importance, place and role of the economic factor in establishing the military power of a country. It seems that the military power of a country lies in its economy - the more developed it is, the greater its military power. That is, military power is directly related to the national economy of the respective country.

Among the problems raised by a war, one of the most important is the economic one. In other words, in addition to the military front, the economic one is equally important.

The factors on which military potential depends have been classified over time into: 1) ponderable and imponderable factors; 2) passive and active factors; 3) present (current) factors and future (potential) factors, etc. Material, economic factors can be quantified more easily and accurately than social, moral, political factors.

Among the present (current) factors were considered: military forces from peacetime, their armament, trained reserves, materials from warehouses, military industrial capacities, etc. Among the future factors were understood the following: human resources, agricultural resources, clothing equipment, financial resources, the moral factor, etc.

So the present (current) factors were considered those from peacetime, and the future factors were those from war.

Vitzu Ioan proposed the following relationship for war potential (P): $P = mv/t$, where m is the totality of forces and materials, v represents the active factors (will and force) and t - the time necessary to execute the mobilization². If the product $m \cdot v$ increases, and time t becomes shorter, the potential for war will be greater.

Methods are needed to calculate national defense power, such as, for example, the method proposed by the Inter-American Military College: $P_p = (C + E + M) (S + W + P)$, where P_p is the overall power, C represents the critical mass (a sum of the coefficients of the population and the area of the state), E is the economic power of the state, M is the military power of the state, S represents the strategic purpose, W is the will of the citizens to carry out the military strategy, and P is the influence of the state's political conditions and its ability to train allies³.

For a more correct understanding of the economic factor and its role in national defense, it is necessary to analyze and compare, from a quantitative and qualitative point of view, industry, agriculture, transport, energy, telecommunications, trade and raw material reserves. In addition, it

² Vitzu Ioan, *Potențialul de război al marilor puteri*, Cernăuți, 1939, p. 10.

³ Victor Stănculescu, Gheorghe Anghel, *Factorul economic și rolul său în întărirea capacității de apărare a patriei*, Military Publishing House, Bucharest, 1984, p. 20.

is necessary "to use a whole system of indicators: absolute economic potential, relative economic potential, level, economic structure, dynamics, technical-qualitative and efficiency, as well as indicators expressing the viability of the economy"⁴.

There is a discipline called Military Economics, which deals with the study of the dialectical correlation between the economic factor and the state's defense power (capacity), the economic relations formed in the economy in correlation with scientific research, production, exchanges, distribution and consumption of those necessary to strengthen the state's defense capacity, the way of manifestation and action of economic laws in case of war.

Current research/studies of economic-military problems and the role of the economic factor in war are conducted in the following directions: "the quantity and proportion of resources that can be allocated for national defense; the efficiency with which these allocated resources are used; the demands to which the economy is subjected in order to achieve an appropriate defense capacity; the influence of the contemporary technical-scientific revolution on the correlation of economy-national defense-war; the emphasis on the industrialization and technologization of armies; ensuring the functioning capacity of the economy in the event of a classic, conventional, as well as nuclear war"⁵.

The great powers are taking measures to prepare the economy for its functioning in wartime, especially in the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war. The changes that have occurred in the sphere of correlation of the economic factor - defense capacity - war have led to the shift of the center of gravity of the preparation of the national economy for defense in peacetime.

Therefore, if the strengthening of military power is not based on economic development, on the growth of the economic power of the state or if military power is achieved to the detriment of economic development (growth), then the real defense capacity of the state will be weakened. For the purpose of defending the country, the correlation between the power of the national economy and defense capacity has determinations generated by the technical and material requirements of the subsystems that make up the national defense system, the complexity of the situations of preparation and waging war and the very difficult conditions for their resolution.

These complex situations can only be successfully dealt with by a unitary national economy, developed with a diversified structure that can move from peacetime production to wartime production in the shortest possible time, so that it can satisfy all the requirements necessary for

⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 21.

⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 22.

conducting armed struggle in the best possible conditions. In conclusion, through the manner of designing economic policy, through its quality, and through the firmness of its implementation, it can be a factor that slows down or stimulates the economic development of a state, and the impact on defense capacity can be negative or positive. Therefore, the impact of economic policy on defense capacity is directly reflected in the volume of investments in capital goods, in the creation of military production capacities or the modernization of existing ones through budgetary allocations in the field of national defense for the purpose of equipping the army and for research and development in the field of national defense.

In this sense, a main role is played by sectoral policies, i.e. industrial policy, agricultural policy, policies in the field of economic and social infrastructures, etc. Industrial policy should ensure the development of the main industrial branches (energy, steel, machine building and chemical industry) and leading industrial branches (electronics, robotics, microelectronics, etc.) and the creation of its own, modern, optimally structured defense industry. Starting from the need to have a technical and material support necessary for national defense, any state must have a military industry or military industries⁶. Former Prime Minister Petre Roman pursued a policy of deindustrialization of Romania. Since then, the deep crisis that the Romanian military industry has gone through began, which must be revived immediately in the current conditions of war near our eastern border.

The issue of the importance of the economic factor in the national defense system is so vast and complex that it is impossible to treat it exhaustively in this article. Therefore, it will be treated in more depth in a future work.



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⁶ Gheorghe Anghel, Corelațiile dintre politica economică și capacitatea de apărare a țării, *Gândirea Militară Românească*, nr. 2/1995, pp. 24-25.