

The Role of Ukrainian Studies in Ukraine's National Security and Exposing Russian Fakes

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The article analyzes the role of Ukrainian Studies in Ukraine's national security and the exposing of Russian fakes. It has been found that the Russo-Ukrainian War has become a huge challenge for Ukraine and Ukrainians, as it is being waged not only by military (conventional) means but also through information warfare and propaganda. It is revealed that Russian aggressors (Rashists) are attempting to defeat Ukrainian citizens not only on the battlefield but also in the information space, promoting a "Rashist" worldview and convincing Ukrainians of their inferiority. They also impose Putin's ideology of the "Russian World" and imperial myths about the "single people," "blood brothers – Russians and Ukrainians," and similar narratives on the Ukrainian nation, thereby attempting to restore the USSR 2.0 in the format of "Great Historical Russia." It is shown that Russian myths are utilized as a powerful tool of hybrid warfare to falsify historical events, create false ideas about socio-political reality, and form a false social reality for the objects of information influence. As a result of these systemic actions, Ukraine's national security faces the threat of significant weakening. It is emphasized that Ukrainian Studies, as an interdisciplinary integrative science and an independent educational discipline, possesses great potential and real opportunities to actualize the intellectual achievements of Ukraine's humanitarian elite to strengthen national security, reinforce national identity, and refute the propaganda myths and fakes of the Russian aggressors (Rashists). It is demonstrated that an important component of strengthening Ukraine's national security and national identity, and refuting Russian myths, is the creation of an appropriate legal framework that will enhance legal support for countering Russian propaganda narratives. It is established that Ukrainian Studies in the 20th and early 21st centuries contributes to the strengthening of Ukrainian national identity in Ukraine as a vital part of national security, thereby actualizing Ukrainian ethnic formation, state formation, nation formation, and ethno-cultural formation. It is concluded that Ukrainian Studies can become the national and worldview ideology of the Ukrainian Independent United State.

KEYWORDS

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Introduction

During the hybrid Russo-Ukrainian war that began on February 20, 2014, and especially after February 24, 2022, when the full-scale invasion of racist troops into Ukraine began, Ukrainian national security faced major challenges. The aggressor decided to test the ability of the citizens of the Ukrainian state to preserve sovereignty, remain an independent subject of international relations, and guarantee stable political, economic, social, and ethnocultural development under martial law. In these extreme conditions, the Ukrainian government and civil society use various factors to stabilize and strengthen national security, among which Ukrainian Studies have great potential. Ukrainian Studies

is, first of all, an interdisciplinary, complex, integrative science, an independent academic discipline, and should become the national ideology of the Ukrainian state. Ukrainian Studies in the 20th and early 21st centuries actively contributes to strengthening national security and establishing Ukrainian national identity both in Ukraine and abroad, thereby actualizing Ukrainian ethnic, state, nation, and ethno-cultural formation. Ukrainian Studies also help refute Russian myths, fakes, and falsifications of Ukrainian history, contribute to the consolidation of the Ukrainian political nation, and bring victory over the aggressor closer. Therefore, the active involvement of Ukrainian Studies will help protect national security and significantly strengthen Ukrainian national identity in Ukraine and beyond, thereby



contributing to its preservation and progressive development in the 21st century.

Analysis of recent sources, research, and publications. Characterizing professional studies that have initiated the solution of this issue, we can state that the systematic study of the role of Ukrainian Studies in the national security of Ukraine and the refutation of Russian fakes has not yet become a comprehensive object of scientific research. However, some important aspects of this issue are being studied by scientists both in Ukraine and abroad.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the "Russian world," which was actively promoted by V. Putin and his team, became one of the main factors influencing Ukrainian national security and its consistent destruction. The fundamental narrative of the "Russian world", which was systematically disseminated by Kremlin propaganda, was the thesis about the "fraternal Russian and Ukrainian peoples", about the commonality of their origin, history, language, culture, etc. These issues and in general the problems of the hybrid Russo-Ukrainian war and its impact on modern socio-political, spiritual and cultural processes have been highlighted in recent years in the works of Ukrainian and foreign scholars, who have done a lot to create the image of an independent and sovereign Ukraine, to protect its national security in, first of all, the most falsified areas of the humanitarian space of the Ukrainian state.

V. Brekhunenko characterizes Russian myths about the territory and civilizational code of Ukraine, Ukrainian statehood, the origin of Ukrainians and the Ukrainian language, Ukrainian-Russian relations, the Ukrainian church, the Holodomor of 1932–1933, the Ukrainian Cossacks, Ivan Mazepa, and Crimea, which are aimed at undermining national security and destroying Ukrainian statehood (Brekhunenko, 2017). L. Yakubova examines the specifics of the political technology of the anti-Ukrainian geopolitical doctrine of "Russian World" as an instrument of military aggression, its history, tests in Donbas and Crimea, and the negative impact on Ukrainian national security (Yakubova, 2018). After the outbreak of the Russo-Ukrainian war in 2014 and the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula, which dealt a severe blow to Ukraine's national security, a new myth of "Our Crimea" emerged, intended to justify Russia's aggressive policy in the eyes of the world. S. Gromenko reflects on the supposedly primordial Russian Crimea and on Russian accusations of its illegal annexation to Ukraine (Gromenko, 2019).

The Russian establishment and racist propaganda constantly convince the citizens of the Ukrainian state that only the Russian Orthodox Church (hereinafter referred to as the ROC) and its branch in Ukraine, the so-called Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate (hereinafter referred to as the UOC-MP), have God's blessing, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate (hereinafter referred to as the UOC-KP) is schismatic, and its faithful are some kind of lost "sheep" who must be returned to the ROC and the UOC-MP as soon as possible. This racist fake aims to significantly slow down the state-building, nation-building, and ethno-cultural development of Ukraine and turn Ukrainian Orthodox Christians into fanatics of the "Russian world." Researchers pay significant attention to debunking these Russian myths, fakes, and falsifications of Ukrainian history. Thus, S. Chorna traces the history of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (hereinafter referred to as the UOC) from the end of the 10th century (the Baptism of Kyivan Rus-Ukraine in 988) to the present day from the perspective of the Russian struggle against the independence of Ukrainian Orthodoxy,

since the subordination of the UOC to the imperial ROC significantly weakened Ukrainian national security (Chorna, 2021). Y. Fihurnyi, O. Semenova, L. Otroshko, O. Shakurova analyze the development of Ukrainian Orthodoxy in the context of the revanchist policy of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (Fihurnyi et al., 2022). V. Krysachenko, A. Zadorozhnyia, Y. Lebedeva, Y. Fihurnyi characterize the actions of the ROC as an apologist for modern Russian aggression against Ukraine and Ukrainians (Krysachenko et al., 2023). R. Dodonov, A. Fesenko, V. Glazunov, I. Kapritsyn, O. Stoliarchuk investigate the religious situation in the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk region and the propaganda fakes produced by the invaders (Dodonov et al., 2025). O. Predko, M. Ptytsia analyze the peculiarities of the functioning of religious faith in the context of the Russo-Ukrainian war (Predko, Ptytsia, 2025).

The collective monograph edited by O. Salata highlights the negative role of propaganda resources in creating myths in Ukrainian science and the public space, refutes myths and anti-myths about the Second World War in foreign historiography, and analyzes the process of creating the Soviet myth in the 1920s and 1930s, and how all these narratives influenced the understanding of the importance of national security (Salata (ed.), 2021). Another collective monograph edited by V. Kotsur examines the origins and features of the neo-imperial, totalitarian ideology of racism, aimed at destroying the national security of the Ukrainian state, leveling national and cultural values, and forming an inferiority consciousness of Ukrainians; the influence of historical and political myths on the ideologemes of the "Russian world"; and the role of the autocrat and war criminal V. Putin in implementing the practice of racism and genocidal policies towards Ukraine and Ukrainians (Kotsur, 2023).

American historian Timothy David Snyder emphasizes the identification of history and politics in V. Putin's speeches with the official policy and geopolitics of Russia. This poses a huge danger to national security, because when history and politics are combined, pseudo-myths and fakes come to the fore, aimed at achieving various ideological goals, often through military means and terrible repression (Snyder, 2022). In the book by British journalist and writer Otto English, using the example of ten major historical manipulations, it is revealed how historical fakes have shaped historical knowledge about certain events, how they are reflected in the present, and how modern politicians use them to achieve their own goals (English, 2022).

The Holodomor genocide of 1932–1933, which led to millions of victims of the Ukrainian people, was a consequence of the anti-Ukrainian policy of Bolshevik Russia. Refuting Russian falsifications of Ukrainian history will help to understand both the tragedy of the Holodomor-genocide of 1932–1933 and strengthen Ukraine's national security. The truth about the genocide of Ukrainians and the crimes of the Stalinist regime in the 1930s was one of the first to provide a reasoned analysis of Jones Richard Vaughan Gareth (2001). James Earnest Mace comprehensively recreated the most horrific pages of the totalitarian past, convincingly proving the truth about the artificiality and anti-Ukrainian orientation of the Holodomor of 1932–1933 (Mace, 1983).

Despite these publications, the problem of understanding the actualization of Ukrainian Studies in protecting the national security of the Ukrainian state and strengthening Ukrainian national identity in Ukraine and beyond during

the Russo-Ukrainian war remains relevant and requires further scientific study. Since, in order to defeat the Russian invaders, there is an urgent need to consolidate the Ukrainian political nation, which will take place primarily on a solid foundation of Ukrainian-centric worldviews and ideas regarding the fundamental interests of Ukrainians and their implementation in the Third Millennium.

Problem statement. The relevance of the study of this problem lies in the fact that, by understanding the role of Ukrainian Studies in protecting the national security of Ukraine and in strengthening the Ukrainian national identity in Ukraine and beyond, we have the opportunity to briefly characterize its essence, its impact on Ukrainian ethnic, state-building, nation-building and ethno-cultural processes, and possible measures of the Ukrainian authorities to accelerate the victory over the Russian invaders. The scientific novelty of the work lies in the development of a topical issue, which, despite many publications on this topic, remains insufficiently studied and therefore requires further professional studies.

The purpose of the study is to analyze the role of Ukrainian Studies in protecting the national security of Ukraine by strengthening Ukrainian national identity in Ukraine and abroad and refuting Russian myths, fakes, and falsifications of Ukrainian history.

Research methods

The methodological basis of the article is systemic, integrative, axiological and comparative approaches, the use of which makes it possible to create an interconnected, active, and effective experimental interdisciplinary platform in various sciences, in particular Ukrainian Studies. The principles of historicism, systematicity, objectivity, comprehensiveness, continuity, worldview, and anthropology are applied, the implementation of which in modern Ukrainian Studies is confirmed by its growing interest in the problems of the worldview, mentality of the Ukrainian people, social approach, and alternativeness, which will make it possible to supplement and deepen existing knowledge, to comprehensively characterize the socio-historical development of Ukraine and Ukrainians in the conditions of the Russo-Ukrainian war, and to refute numerous Russian pseudoscientific falsifications and fakes aimed at discrediting the historical past and cultural heritage of Ukraine. The methods used are analysis, synthesis, logical, systemic, historical-chronological, historical-situational, comparative, biographical, etc. The study also uses classical methods of scientific knowledge: truth, provability, consistency, etc. A contextual understanding of Russian falsifications and myths of Ukrainian history involves examining the ways in which they affect the humanitarian national security of the Ukrainian state, its social, political, and other contexts. The contextual approach as a methodological strategy that reflects the dependence of a phenomenon, event or text on a specific context, that is, on the set of circumstances, conditions and factors that surround and influence them, involves the analysis of Russian falsifications, fakes and myths of the history of Ukraine, considering them in the broader context of various circumstances in which they arose and developed. It is this contextuality that makes it possible to develop effective strategies to counter disinformation and strengthen national security and strengthen the national identity of Ukraine.

Research Results

With the restoration of its independence in 1991 and for a fairly long period, Ukraine and Ukrainians remained in

the post-Soviet informational, humanitarian, political, economic, spiritual, financial, military, historical, educational, and cultural space that the Russian authorities tried to control. The former metropolis tried its best to stop Ukraine's movement towards a European democratic community, as it had successfully done to Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. The long-term inhibition of Ukraine's European integration and Euro-Atlantic course led to the inhibition of reforms in its political, economic, financial, military, and cultural development. For a long time, Kremlin ideologues have tried to spiritually enslave Ukrainians, systematically using Russian myths, fakes, and falsifications of Ukrainian history. Russian military aggression, initially hybrid (from February 20, 2014), and from February 24, 2022 a full-scale war, was aimed at finally resolving the so-called "Ukrainian question", that is, to destroy Ukraine as a state, eliminate the Ukrainian political nation and obtain a powerful political, economic, financial, military, cultural and human resource for the restoration of the USSR-2 in the format of the modern Russian superpower (neo-empire) of "Greater Historical Russia" under Putin's leadership. Currently, the total destruction of Ukraine and Ukrainians is taking place both on the battlefield and in the humanitarian sphere, therefore, in order to strengthen national security and strengthen the national identity of Ukraine, Ukrainian scholars must make considerable efforts to debunk Russian falsifications and myths that are aimed at discrediting Ukrainian statehood and significantly weakening national security. Ultimately, this ideological direction is important in the civilizational confrontation with the autocratic Eurasian neo-empire and will contribute to Ukraine's victory.

Main hypotheses and ideas of the research:

(1) The modern hybrid Russo-Ukrainian war is not only a military struggle for territory, but also an information war against the civilian population and the capture of the mass consciousness of Ukrainians to weaken national security and the final liquidation of the Ukrainian state.

(2) In the modern information world, myths are acquiring a new importance and are one of the most effective tools of informational influence on the mass consciousness of ordinary citizens as well as the political, business, military and intellectual elite.

(3) Russian myths are used as a powerful tool of hybrid warfare to falsify historical events and create false ideas about socio-political reality and form a false social reality of objects of information influence. As a result of these systemic actions, Ukraine's national security will be at risk of significant weakening.

(4) Ukrainian Studies as an interdisciplinary integrative science and an independent educational discipline has great potential and real opportunities to actualize the intellectual achievements of the humanitarian elite of Ukraine to strengthen national security and strengthen national identity and refute propaganda myths and fakes of racists.

(5) The main direction of demythologizing and deoccupying the mass consciousness of Ukrainians is to free themselves from the "myth of a single Russian and Ukrainian people" and eradicate from the collective consciousness the ideas about the ethnic, national, political, historical, cultural and religious unity of the Ukrainian and Russian peoples.

(6) An important component of strengthening national security, strengthening the national identity of Ukraine, and refuting Russian myths is the creation of an appropriate legal framework that will strengthen the legal support for countering racist propaganda narratives.

(7) An important mechanism for destroying Russian myths about Ukrainian history is the formation of new ideas about the place of Ukraine, Ukrainians, and Ukrainian society in the world civilization of the present and the future. 8). Ukrainian Studies should become a powerful national ideology, the foundation of Ukraine's national security, a strong ideological core of the Ukrainian state, the Ukrainian political nation, and the Ukrainian national identity.

Discussion

The Ukrainian people have long been distinguished by their love of freedom and an unbridled desire for freedom. When traitors and Moscow proxies tried to force them back into Russian captivity, they responded with a revolutionary movement. The Ukrainian national revolution of the early 21st century is a phenomenon that forever changed the fate of Ukraine and Ukrainians. It began on November 21, 2013 and continues to this day, since its main tasks, namely the destruction of the clan-oligarchic system, the development of a competitive market economy and civil society, and the entry of the Ukrainian state into the European Community (hereinafter referred to as the EU) and the North Atlantic Defense Alliance (hereinafter referred to as NATO), have not yet been accomplished. However, one of the important tasks of the revolution was accomplished – the Eurasian vector of the movement, which was championed by pro-Russian Ukrainian politicians, was abolished, and instead the Euro-Atlantic vector was activated. That is why, on February 20, 2014, Russian revanchists first launched a hybrid aggression against Ukraine by Ukrainians, and on February 24, 2022, a full-scale war. The Russo-Ukrainian war is, first of all, a civilizational confrontation between autocracy and democracy, between the Eurasian Russian neo-empire and the European Ukrainian state. This war is characterized by the following specific features: complexity, combining geopolitical, geostrategic, geoeconomic, socio-political, socio-political, socio-cultural, ethno-cultural, ideological, religious, national, ethnic, territorial, economic, cultural and other factors; extensiveness, for the first time since the end of World War II, hostilities of such a scale are taking place on the European continent, using almost all types of modern weapons (except nuclear), the length of the fronts (line of combat clashes) is measured in thousands and tens of thousands of kilometers, the involvement of more than a million mobilized citizens in the fighting armies, the injection of huge financial resources into the economy, etc.; With intensity and aggressiveness, the racists, in order to achieve their strategic goal of eliminating the Ukrainian state and the Ukrainian political nation, are pursuing a genocidal policy in Ukraine, ruthlessly destroying people, critical infrastructure, the economy, cities, villages, cultural monuments, museums, etc., kidnapping children, and generally doing everything possible to force Ukrainians to capitulate. Despite all the efforts of the racists, the Ukrainian state has survived, the Ukrainian political nation has shown its viability, and the Ukrainian Defense Forces are exhausting and destroying the Russian attackers.

However, Russia's occupation and genocidal war against Ukraine is being waged not only with traditional, so-called "conventional" weapons, but also with the involvement of modern innovative technologies, including Putin's ideology of the "Russian world" and information factors aimed at splitting Ukraine, weakening national security, destroying the national identity and national consciousness of Ukrainians, and disorienting their worldview.

One of the main destructive factors of the aggressor country is a powerful information and propaganda campaign to discredit Ukraine and Ukrainians, in particular manipulative fakes and falsifications of the history of Ukraine (myths about: "fraternal Russian and Ukrainian peoples"; "indifference of Ukraine to Kyivan Rus and promotion of its exclusive "Russianness"; "Pereyaslavl Agreement of 1654 as an "age-old voluntary act" of reunification of Ukraine with Russia"; "imperial project "Novorossiya" as primordial Russian lands"; "creation of Ukrainian statehood personally by V. Lenin"; "the famine of 1932–1933 became a tragedy for the entire Soviet people, and not exclusively a genocide for Ukrainians and was not planned by J. Stalin, it became a consequence of temporary food difficulties caused by weather anomalies and mistakes of local authorities"; "Ukraine as an integral part "Russian world", "on the "non-canonically" of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine", etc.), thanks to which the Russians are trying to legitimize and justify their aggressive goals. To accelerate the victory over racists, Ukrainians need to use all available resources, including humanitarian ones. The actualization of Ukrainian Studies will contribute to the intensification of the national-patriotic education of Ukrainian citizens, which in turn will significantly strengthen Ukrainian national identity in Ukraine and beyond.

Ukrainian Studies, according to P. Kononenko (the creator of modern Ukrainian Studies and founder of the Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies), is a holistic system of scientific, integrative knowledge about Ukraine and global Ukrainians as a unified geopolitical reality, developing in the inseparability and integrity of space and time.

This interdisciplinary, holistic science system, in turn, consists of the following main components (concentrates):

- Ukraine – Ethnos
- Ukraine – Nature and Ecology
- Ukraine – Language
- Ukraine – Nation and State
- Ukraine – Culture (Material and Spiritual): encompassing education, art, literature, philosophy, religion, economics, law, valedology, science, and the army.
- Ukraine in International Relations
- Ukraine – Mentality and Destiny
- Ukraine – Historical Mission

According to P. Kononenko, the main task of Ukrainian Studies is not only the comprehensive revival of historical memory but also the creation, based on the lessons of the past, of prerequisites for a thorough understanding of the pressing problems of the present and the determination of further prospects and ways to achieve the goals of Ukraine and global Ukrainianism in the near and distant future. (Kononenko, 2006: 17; 24).

With the restoration of Ukrainian statehood in 1991, Ukrainian Studies began to develop actively. In early 1992, the Institute of Ukrainian Studies was founded at the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv State University, which in 2000 was reformatted into the Scientific Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, and in 2024, after the fourth reorganization, it returned to the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University (hereinafter referred to as the Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies of Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University).

Departments of Ukrainian Studies were opened in many universities and institutes of Ukraine, and in secondary educational institutions Ukrainian Studies were taught as an invariant and variable academic discipline. However, at the beginning of the 21st century, Ukrainian Studies as a systemic academic discipline and a complex integrative science began to rapidly lose its position in the educational

and humanitarian space of Ukraine. All this resulted from the fact that pro-Russian and anti-Ukrainian narratives began to prevail in many spheres of state, social, civic, and cultural activity. They caused extremely great harm to the educational, linguistic, cultural and general human legitimate needs of citizens of the Ukrainian state, significantly weakened the national security of Ukraine in general and the national identity of Ukrainians in particular.

Ukrainian national identity is a holistic set of worldviews, views, concepts, and ideas regarding the fundamental interests of the Ukrainian nation and the search for effective means and ways to ensure them. In general, Ukrainian national identity is a long-term and painful process of the Ukrainian people realizing their belonging to the European world civilization and a special Ukrainian political nation through independence-nationalization, getting rid of the colonial inferiority complex (Little Russianism), and the final destruction of the rudiments of the totalitarian era. We are convinced that the concept of "ethnos" characterizes, first of all, an ethnic community of people who live in a certain area, have a common history, culture, language, way of life, etc., but do not have their own state (have not received political self-determination). Whereas the term "nation" means the highest stage of development of a human ethnic community (people, ethnic group, etc.), when it acquires statehood, consistently builds its own national state, implementing in practice the national idea (the essence of which lies not in some fantastic inventions, but in the specific ability of any ethnic group to create its own state, become a nation and have, protect and build its statehood). Thus, with the restoration of the Ukrainian state in 1991, Ukrainians gradually, but not always consistently, created a national government (executive, legislative, and judicial), a national competitive economy, national finances, a national army (the Armed Forces of Ukraine), national law enforcement agencies, national culture (traditional, classical, and modern), a national information space, national security, national education, national science, a national elite, national consciousness, national sports, etc. Thus, the essence of Ukrainian national identity lies in the complex interweaving of innate and acquired traits, mythologized ideas and real images, and its main component is the conscious, rational choice of a Ukrainian citizen, which is based on national consciousness, political will, political culture, citizenship and civic national-patriotic position (*Figurny 2012: 143*).

Currently, there is an urgent need for scientific understanding and significant strengthening of Ukrainian national identity among citizens of the Ukrainian state, as it actively consolidates the political nation and strengthens Ukrainian national security, which is of great importance during war.

Ukrainian national security is the ability of the Ukrainian state and the Ukrainian political nation to maintain its own sovereignty, be an independent subject of international relations, protect territorial integrity from enemy encroachments, and provide for the military, political, economic, financial, cultural, social, and other needs of the life of Ukrainian society.

In 2018, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine "On National Security of Ukraine". It defines the foundations and principles of national security and defense, the goals and basic principles of state policy that will guarantee society and every citizen protection from threats and contribute to the establishment of Ukrainian national and civic identity. In particular, it states: "National security of Ukraine is the protection of state sovereignty, territorial

integrity, democratic constitutional order and other national interests of Ukraine from real and potential threats" (*Law of Ukraine "On National Security of Ukraine", 2018*).

In 2020, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed Decree No. 392/2020 "On the Decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine of September 14, 2020 "On the National Security Strategy of Ukraine". It defines the main directions of state policy in the field of national security, in particular: priorities of Ukraine's national interests and ensuring national security, goals and main directions of state policy in the field of national security; current and projected threats to national security and national interests of Ukraine, taking into account foreign and domestic conditions; main directions of the state's foreign policy activities to ensure its national interests and security; directions and tasks of reforming and developing the security and defense sector; resources necessary for its implementation. The Strategy states that Ukraine strives for peace, which is the key to the development of the state, and a person, his life and health, honor and dignity, inviolability and security are the highest social value. The ultimate goal of implementing the Strategy is to establish a free, prosperous, and safe Ukraine, where the rule of law prevails, where everyone can realize their talents and abilities, where people breathe clean air, drink clean water, and with which their children and grandchildren will associate their fate. The strategy is based on three main principles of state policy in the field of national security: 1) deterrence - the development of defense and security capabilities to prevent armed aggression against Ukraine; 2) resilience - the ability of society and the state to quickly adapt to changes in the security environment and maintain sustainable functioning, in particular by minimizing external and internal vulnerabilities; 3) interaction - the development of strategic relations with key foreign partners, primarily the EU and NATO and their member states, primarily the USA, and pragmatic cooperation with other states and international organizations based on the national interests of Ukraine. The priorities of national interests are: upholding independence and state sovereignty; restoring territorial integrity within the internationally recognized state border of Ukraine; social development, primarily the development of human capital; protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens of Ukraine; European and Euro-Atlantic integration (*Decree No. 392/2020*).

For a total victory over the Rashists, it is not enough to defeat them on the battlefield. We must completely defeat the aggressor in the humanitarian, spiritual, cultural, and informational spheres. Great efforts must be made to actualize Ukrainian Studies in protecting Ukraine's national security by strengthening Ukrainian national identity in Ukraine and refuting Russian myths, fakes, and falsifications of Ukrainian history. Therefore, it is necessary to finalize the reform of the humanitarian space of the Ukrainian state, rid it of its colonial, totalitarian legacy, eliminate the influences of the "Russian world" and create a modern competitive Ukrainian national education and a Ukraine-centric informational and humanitarian space.

The approval by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated June 30, 2021 No. 673 of the "State Targeted Social Program of National and Patriotic Education for the Period Until 2025" became an extremely important step of the executive branch for the development and implementation of a nationwide policy of national and patriotic education in the Ukrainian state (On approval...).

It is important that for its implementation, the combination of efforts of the Ukrainian authorities, civil society, and

citizens of the Ukrainian state is extremely important. Ukrainian Studies as a worldview system should become an important element of the national-patriotic education of Ukrainian youth, and its introduction into the educational and humanitarian space of Ukraine in the conditions of the undeclared Russian-Ukrainian hybrid war acquires significant state significance. Since Ukrainian Studies are an integral part of Ukrainian national education and the national humanitarian space, they have every right to a place in the educational program of primary, secondary and higher educational institutions of Ukraine (Figurny, Shakurova 2023: 333).

That is why there is an urgent need to return the academic discipline "Ukrainian Studies" to the school curriculum of secondary educational institutions and educational and training programs of higher educational institutions. Since Ukrainian Studies help to comprehensively understand the origin of the Ukrainian people, to comprehend the thorny path of its state formation and nation-building, to comprehend modern problems and prospects for further development; to increase the role and significance of the Ukrainian language as a national value, an important means of interethnic communication and a significant factor of national identity; to overcome the post-colonial and post-totalitarian destructive consequences in the consciousness of the population of Ukraine; to popularize and preserve the cultural heritage and cultural values of Ukraine; to promote the establishment of family values and the active involvement of the family in the process of national and patriotic education; to overcome the linguistic and cultural inferiority of Ukrainians; to increase a sufficient level of knowledge about prominent figures of Ukrainian statehood, fighters for the independence of Ukraine; to actualize the active participation of citizens in educational, scientific, and administrative activities through the prism of state formation, nation-building, and raising the prestige of Ukraine at the global level (*Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine*. (2021).

On January 1, 2023, the Law of Ukraine No. 2834-IX "On the Basic Principles of State Policy in the Sphere of Strengthening Ukrainian National and Civic Identity" signed by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky on December 13, 2022, entered into force. The law defined the goal, objectives, principles, directions, and features of the formation and implementation of state policy in the field of strengthening Ukrainian national and civic identity as a component of ensuring the national security of Ukraine, guarantees the participation of citizens of Ukraine, Ukrainians abroad, public associations, and other civil society institutions in its implementation, and defines the powers of state authorities and local self-government bodies in this area (*Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine*, 2022).

For the first time, the essence of the following concepts has been defined at the legislative level of Ukraine: "Ukrainian national identity" – a person's stable awareness of belonging to the Ukrainian nation as a distinctive community, united by a name, symbols, geographical and ethno-social origin, historical memory, a complex of spiritual and cultural values, in particular the Ukrainian language and folk traditions; "Ukrainian civic identity" – a stable awareness by a citizen of Ukraine, a Ukrainian abroad of his or her political and legal connection with Ukraine, the Ukrainian people and civil society; "national-patriotic education" – a comprehensive educational process aimed at establishing Ukrainian national and civic identity, forming defense consciousness on the basis of social and state

(national) values of Ukraine, social activity and responsibility, readiness to effectively fulfill the civil and constitutional duty to protect national interests, state independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine; "military-patriotic education" – a comprehensive educational process aimed at forming defense consciousness among citizens of Ukraine, readiness for national resistance, increasing public significance and respect for military service, motivating citizens to acquire the necessary competencies in the field of security and defense; "civic-patriotic education" – a comprehensive educational process aimed at making citizens of Ukraine aware of their own responsibility for the development of a successful country and the importance of caring for the welfare of the Ukrainian people; "spiritual and moral education" is a comprehensive educational process aimed at the formation and development of spiritual and moral values of citizens of Ukraine, Ukrainians abroad, as well as foreigners and stateless persons who are in Ukraine on legal grounds, based on the socio-state (national) values of Ukraine (*Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine*, 2022).

The leading goal of state policy in the field of strengthening Ukrainian national and civic identity is to achieve unity in Ukrainian society by overcoming contradictions of a socio-cultural, linguistic, and regional nature on the basis of the European and Euro-Atlantic course, ensuring compliance with constitutional guarantees of human and civil rights and freedoms. The main objectives of state policy in the field of strengthening Ukrainian national and civic identity are: 1) formation among citizens of Ukraine, including children and youth: an active civic position based on respect for human rights, spiritual values of the Ukrainian people, national identity; defense consciousness and civic resilience; patriotism; respect for state symbols, state language, socio-state (national) values of Ukraine, understanding of their importance for the formation of the state; 2) formation and preservation of Ukrainian national identity among citizens of Ukraine who are aware of their belonging to the Ukrainian nation, as well as among Ukrainians abroad; 3) ensuring the development of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of all indigenous peoples and national minorities of Ukraine; 4) elimination of the influence of the aggressor state (occupying state) in the information, educational, and cultural spheres of Ukraine; 5) activation of the activities of civil society institutions to achieve the goals of state policy in the specified area; 6) dissemination of information about war veterans, formation in society of traditions of honoring the memory of fallen (deceased) war veterans; 7) formation of citizens' readiness to fulfill the constitutional obligation to protect the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine (*Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine*, 2022).

In 2025, the Parliament adopted the Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of the State Policy of the National Memory of the Ukrainian People" (Reg. No. 13273). This decision was an important step towards strengthening the protection of national security, establishing a policy of national memory, professional awareness of the history of Ukraine, and shaping a future based not on Russian myths, fakes, and falsifications, but on verified sources and scientific works. The legal document introduces a number of new concepts into the legal field for the first time, including "the war for the Independence of Ukraine", "national memory", "state policy of the national memory of the Ukrainian people", "historical anti-Ukrainian propaganda", "crimes against the Ukrainian people", "place of memory of the Ukrainian people". At the level of the law, the definition of the term "racism" as a hybrid totalitarian ideology that

combines elements of Russian chauvinism, imperialism, communist and Nazi practices is fixed for the first time. The main principles, tasks and directions of the policy of national memory are determined, the forms of perpetuation of memory and mechanisms for preserving places of memory are outlined. The document stipulates that the restoration and preservation of national memory, the protection of the state language, and the protection of cultural heritage are matters of national security. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine must develop and adopt the State Strategy for the Restoration and Preservation of the National Memory of the Ukrainian People. Important innovations include establishing rules for naming and renaming streets, squares, and institutions in accordance with the laws on decommunization and decolonization. The law will contribute to strengthening national unity, countering racist information propaganda attacks, refuting Russian myths, fakes, and falsifications of Ukrainian history, preserving historical truth, and perpetuating the memory of key events and figures of the Ukrainian people (*Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2025*).

In turn, Ukrainian scholars have also actively participated in protecting Ukraine's national security by producing intellectual products (monographs, collections, articles, theses, reports at scientific forums, etc.), which will contribute to strengthening Ukrainian national security, strengthening Ukrainian national identity in Ukraine and beyond, and refuting Russian myths, fakes, and falsifications of Ukrainian history. Thus, in 2025, scientists of the Research Institute of Ukrainian Studies of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv are carrying out fundamental and applied research works (hereinafter referred to as R&D):

1. "Exposing Russian falsifications and myths of the history of Ukraine as a component of the humanitarian security of the state" (head of the R&D (2025–2027) – Figurnyi Yu.S.);
2. "Modern Ukrainian military literature: typology, issues, genres, introduction into the educational process" (head of the R&D (2025–2027) – Vaskiv M.S.);
3. "Material and spiritual losses of the population of Ukrainian Polissya as a result of the Russo-Ukrainian war and their overcoming" (head of the R&D (2025–2027) – Trachuk O.V.);
4. "Ukrainian Studies practices in the field of affirming the national identity of youth as a factor in the consolidation of Ukrainian society" (head of the research project (2025–2027) – Gazizova O.O.).

Thus, Ukrainian Studies is an integrative science about Ukraine, Ukrainians, and world Ukrainians in civilizational development. Ukrainian Studies is an important academic discipline that forms in pupils, students, teachers, and lecturers a comprehensive understanding of the past, present, and future of the Motherland. Also, Ukrainian Studies should become a powerful national ideology, the foundation of Ukraine's national security, a strong ideological core of the Ukrainian state, the Ukrainian political nation, the Ukrainian national identity, and every conscious Ukrainian. The centuries-old history of the Ukrainian people shows that only by having its own state can it continuously develop in space and time and confidently realize itself as a unique ethno-cultural civilizational complex. One of the main principles of Ukrainian statehood is national ideology. It should be a significant unifying force that is able to unite the Ukrainian people and successfully counteract any challenges and threats to the national security of Ukraine. Ukrainian Studies should become an important element, and in the future, the basis of national ideology. Ukrainian

Studies and Ukrainian love as a state ideology will become a driver for completing the process of forming a civil society and a Ukrainian political nation, a guarantor of national security, a catalyst for the functioning of a democratic, legal, high-tech, strong and prosperous national state. Ukrainian Studies will consolidate the citizens of the Ukrainian state and help to win the Russian-Ukrainian war. The Ukrainian Independent United State enables comprehensive development of both the individual and the Ukrainian people, and thereby actualizes the political, economic, cultural and military development of the world civilization of Homo Sapiens.

Conclusion

Having analyzed the role of Ukrainian Studies in protecting the national security of the Ukrainian state by strengthening Ukrainian national identity and refuting Russian myths, fakes, and falsifications of Ukrainian history, we have reached the following conclusions:

1. The modern Russo-Ukrainian hybrid war is not solely a military struggle for territory, but also an information war waged against the civilian population. Its goal is to capture the mass consciousness of Ukrainians to weaken national security and ultimately eliminate the Ukrainian state.
2. The ontological essence of "Ukrainian Studies" is characterized as an interdisciplinary, complex integrative science and a systemic academic discipline.
3. The phenomenon of "Ukrainian national identity" is conceptualized as a set of worldview ideas, views, concepts, and notions regarding the fundamental interests of the Ukrainian nation and the search for effective means and ways to ensure them.
4. The essence of "Ukrainian national security" is defined as the ability of the Ukrainian state and the Ukrainian political nation to maintain its sovereignty, act as an independent subject of international relations, protect territorial integrity from hostile encroachments, and ensure the military, political, economic, financial, cultural, social, and other vital needs of Ukrainian society.
5. Russian myths are used as a powerful tool of hybrid warfare to falsify historical events, create false ideas about socio-political reality, and form a false social reality for the objects of information influence. As a result of these systemic actions, Ukraine's national security faces a significant risk of weakening.
6. Ukrainian Studies, as an interdisciplinary integrative science and an independent educational discipline, possesses great potential and real opportunities to actualize the intellectual achievements of Ukraine's humanitarian elite to strengthen national security, reinforce national identity, and refute the propaganda myths and fakes of the Russian aggressors (or racists).
7. An important component of strengthening national security, reinforcing Ukraine's national identity, and refuting Russian myths is the creation of an appropriate legal framework that will strengthen the legal support for countering Russian propaganda narratives.
8. Ukrainian Studies can become the national and worldview ideology of the Ukrainian Independent United State.

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Роль українознавства у національній безпеці України та спростуванні російських фейків

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У статті аналізується роль українознавства у національній безпеці України та спростуванні російських фейків. З'ясовано, що російсько-українська війна стала величезним викликом для України й українців, оскільки вона ведеться не тільки військовими (конвенційними) засобами, а й інформаційно-пропагандистськими. Виявлено, що рашисти намагаються перемогти громадян Української держави не лише на полі бою, а й у інформаційному просторі, пропагуючи рашистський світогляд і переконуючи українців у їх неповноцінності. Також вони нав'язують українській нації путінську ідеологію «русского мира» та імперські міфи про «єдиний народ», «єдинокровних братів – росіян й українців» тощо, тим самим намагаючись повернути СРСР 2.0, але вже у форматі «Великої історичної Росії». Показано, що російські міфи використовуються як потужний інструмент гібридної війни з метою фальсифікації історичних подій і створення помилкових уявлень про соціально-політичну реальність та формування хибної соціальної реальності в об'єктів інформаційного впливу, внаслідок цих системних дій національна безпека України перебуває під загрозою суттєвого послаблення. Підкреслено, що українознавство як міждисциплінарна інтегративна наука й самостійна навчально-освітня дисципліна має великий потенціал і реальні можливості актуалізувати інтелектуальні напрацювання гуманітарної еліти України для зміцнення національної безпеки та посилення національної ідентичності й спростування пропагандистських міфів і фейків рашистів. Показано, що вагомим складовим зміцнення національної безпеки, посилення національної ідентичності України та спростування російських міфів є створення відповідної юридичної законодавчої бази, яка дозволить зміцнити правове забезпечення протидії пропагандистським наративам рашистів. Встановлено, що українознавство у XX–на початку XXI ст. сприяє посиленню в Україні української національної ідентичності, як важливої частини національної безпеки, тим самим актуалізуючи українське етнотворення, державотворення, націєтворення та етнокультуротворення. Розкрито, що українознавство може стати національно-світоглядною ідеологією Української Самостійної Соборної Держави.

Ключові слова: Україна, українці, українознавство, українська національна безпека, *українська національна ідентичність*, спростування російських фейків, російсько-українська війна.

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