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The Problem of Borders and Georgia's Security Challenges in the Information Age

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Abstract. In the new information age, the security of modern Georgia, as well as other countries, is generally conditioned by many new challenges and threats. Moreover, the provision of its national security is to some extent also in the border security of Georgia. The global challenges of the information age have revealed the modern trends, containing the serious threats, which are reflected in national security: gradually reducing the influence of states, facilitate the penetration of state borders etc. In the information age, the concept of border management is changing significantly; it is quite difficult to solve the problem completely at the level of a state, and even in certain circumstances it becomes unimaginable. Appeared an objective need to intensify international cooperation in this direction. This can be practically reflected in the organization of an integrated border management system, which has been widely introduced in recent years.

Keywords: border security; information age; information security; national security; state border.

Introduction

The formation of borders and border areas is very actual problem. It is affected by a whole complex of different factors. State border protection is one of the most important components of ensuring national security and it includes legal-political, economic, military-operational, operational-investigative, engineering-technical, regime, organizational, ecological, sanitary and a set of other measures related to the protection of the state border, which ensures the inviolability of the state border, the implementation and control of the rules established in the border zone, border line and border crossing points, as well as the protection of state, private and public interests.

Main Part

The endless of delimitation of the state borders of Georgia, which began in 1993-1994 through bilateral commissions, poses problems not only the process of ensuring border security, but also the political, economic and social stability of the region. Unfortunately, except of the border with the Republic of Turkey, the rest of the state border of Georgia with the neighboring countries – the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan and the Republics of Armenia – during the Soviet period marked only an administrative border and the process of its delimitation has not been completed yet and, consequently, the demarcation has not been carried out.

The situation on the state border between Georgia and the Russian Federation is especially difficult. Due to historical conditions and the current situation, the Georgian-Russian state border is of an unstable (military) type, characterized by border conflicts and the frequency of wars. The Georgian-Russian border has a barrier-dividing function. It is distinguished by a high level of militarization on the side of Russia. Communication on the border is minimized. The population lives in constant tension. There is a special regime at the border. Cooperation between the parties is almost non-existent. The main challenge for Georgia's National Security is the occupation of a significant part of Georgian territory by the Russian Federation and the militarization of the occupied regions (Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region). The military aggression of August 2008 showed that the possibility of resumption of large-scale or limited military action by the Russian Federation against Georgia is a factor to be constantly considered [1].

The occupation of Georgian territories and the uncontrolled situation in the occupied regions, in addition to negatively affecting the political, social and economic stability of the country, also provide fertile ground for the growth of smuggling and various cross-

border crimes, including for transnational crimes such as trafficking in drugs and weapons, kidnapping, trafficking in stolen cars, importing counterfeit currency, and more. The occupied regions may also be used to plan and carry out terrorist acts on the territory of Georgia and to illegally transport components of weapons of mass destruction.

The existence of conflict hotspots in neighboring countries is also alarming and a significant challenge to Georgia's National Security. In addition to the potential for these conflicts to spill over into Georgian territory, there is a possibility that the transition to an intensive phase of conflict in the region could pose specific threats, such as refugee flows and the threat of armed groups entering the country, smuggling and other forms of cross-border organized crimes. There will also be a threat to the stable and smooth operation of transport and energy projects in the Caucasus [2].

Delayed delimitation and demarcation processes with the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, and the consequent inability to establish a physical line of state borders, obviously complicate the border protection process, creating border incidents, conducive to political speculation on border issues.

In terms of ensuring border security, it is clear that despite efforts, existing risks and dangers are not properly considered. Strategic documents do not adequately address the full range of threats [3].

The provisions of the border security policy are largely shared: military force cannot ensure the protection of the state border from illegal migration, international terrorism, the risk of epidemics, environmental catastrophes, etc., but some have been refined. Tightening border barrier functions is ineffective and has a negative impact on the economy and public relations, therefore, in such a situation, it is better to develop border areas cooperation with the participation of

regional and local governments in neighboring territories; General systemic approaches to border protection are being developed and implemented.

After involvement in the European Neighborhood Policy of Georgia (2004), the establishment of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia (2009), Georgia's involvement in the Eastern Partnership Policy (2009) and the signing of the Association Agreement with the European Union (2014), the country received new opportunities and tools for better formation of border areas and cross-border cooperation [4]. But this is not enough, because the developments and processes in the modern world require a new approach to solving this problem in accordance with the requirements of the new era.

In the information age, the concept of border management is changing significantly; it is quite difficult to solve the problem completely at the level of a state, and even in certain circumstances it becomes unimaginable. There appeared an objective need to intensify international cooperation in this direction. This can be practically reflected in the organization of an integrated border management system, which has been widely introduced in recent years [5].

Sources of information, information resources, information and user connection procedures, these are the elements of the border environment information environment that make up the information system of

this structure. Particular attention needs to be paid to the development of border infrastructure and modern technical equipment of border bodies [6]. Technological backwardness in the most important areas of information, telecommunications and communications must be overcome, which is largely determinant of full-fledged border protection in the information age.

Conclusion

In the new information age, the security of modern Georgia, as well as other countries, is generally conditioned by many new challenges and threats. Moreover, the provision of its national security is to some extent also in the border security of Georgia. The global challenges of the information age have revealed the modern trends, containing the serious threats, which are reflected in national security: gradually reducing the influence of states, facilitate the penetration of state borders etc.

Border protection is closely connected to the provision of national security, therefore, it is crucial to clearly define the national interests relevant to modern reality, to identify expected external and internal threats, and to develop appropriate border policies, because this problem has given special urgency to the processes developed in the information age, against the background of the unprecedented development of information and telecommunication technologies and the diversity of transnational unpredictable threats.

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ანოტაცია. საინფორმაციო ეპოქაში თანამედროვე საქართველოს, როგორც სხვა ქვეყნების უშიშროება, ზოგადად, განპირობებულია უამრავი ახალი გამოწვევითა და საფრთხით. მეტიც, გარკვეულწილად, მისი ეროვნული უშიშროების უზრუნველყოფა უკავშირდება საქართველოს საზღვრების უშიშროებასაც. ინფორმაციული ეპოქის გლობალურმა გამოწვევებმა სერიოზული საფრთხეების შემცველი თანამედროვე ტენდენციები გამოავლინა, რომლებიც გავლენას ახდენს ეროვნულ უშიშროებაზე: სახელმწიფოების გავლენის თანდათანობითი შემცირება, სახელმწიფო საზღვრებში შეღწევადობის ხელშეწყობა და ა.შ. ინფორმაციულ ეპოქაში საზღვრების მართვის კონცეფცია მნიშვნელოვნად იცვლება, ერთი ცალკე აღებული სახელმწიფოს დონეზე პრობლემის სრულყოფილად გადაჭრა საკმაოდ რთულია და გარკვეულ ვითარებაში წარმოუდგენელიც კი ხდება. გაჩნდა ამ მიმართულებით საერთაშორისო თანამშრომლობის გააქტიურების

ობიექტური საჭიროება. ეს პრაქტიკულად შეიძლება გამოიხატოს საზღვრების მართვის ინტეგრირებული სისტემის ორგანიზებაში, რაც უკანასკნელ წლებში ფართოდ იწერება.

საკვანძო სიტყვები: ეროვნული უშიშროება; ინფორმაციული ეპოქა; ინფორმაციული უშიშროება; საზღვრის უშიშროება; სახელმწიფო საზღვარი.

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Проблема границ и вызовы безопасности Грузии в информационную эпоху

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Аннотация. В информационную эпоху безопасность современной Грузии, как и других стран, в целом обусловлена множеством новых вызовов и угроз. Более того, обеспечение ее национальной безопасности в какой-то степени также связано с безопасностью границ Грузии. Глобальные вызовы информационной эпохи выявили современные тенденции, содержащие серьезные угрозы, которые отражаются на национальной безопасности: постепенное уменьшение влияния государств, облегчение проникновения через государственные границы и т.д. В информационную эпоху концепция управления границами существенно меняется; полностью решить проблему на уровне государства довольно сложно, и даже при определенных обстоятельствах это становится невообразимым. Возникла объективная необходимость активизировать международное сотрудничество в этом направлении. Это может быть практически отражено в организации интегрированной системы управления границами, которая широко внедряется в последние годы.

Ключевые слова: безопасность границ; государственная граница; информационная безопасность; информационная эпоха; национальная безопасность.

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