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POLITICS OF NATIONAL MEMORY
IN AN OPEN SOCIETY (UKRAINIAN CONTEXT)

The article is dedicated to the research of relevant problems in the formation of an open society and building a strong state in Ukraine. The author justifies the necessity of the clear strategy of national memory politics development, the formation of a new unified national and cultural identity, and young Ukrainian political nation.

The author analyzes basic concepts of Western scholars regarding memory problems, particularly: M. Halbwachs, J. Assmann, P. Nora, P. Konnerton and others. Most of them use the term ‘collective memory’, which was introduced into scientific circulation by M. Halbwachs. At the same time, significant attention is paid to structural and functional analysis of collective memory as a social phenomenon, distinguishing different types of memory, which, to some extent, influence the formation of national identity.

The author specifically writes about such subtypes of memory: M. Halbwachs’s collective, historical, autobiographical and J. Assmann’s cultural and communicative (live) memory.

The author identifies two main trends to address issues of national memory policy in Ukrainian society: excessive and insufficient.

In the context of the second trend the author analyzes specific ‘victim memory’ as a kind of collective mechanism which leads to forgetting the past events that were experienced by a society as traumatic.

Based on the data of sociological research the author concludes that Ukrainian society has formed a new identity. The main unifying factor for the present Ukrainian society is the experience of recent and present events related to the Revolution of Dignity and the War with Russia. These events are interpreted by most as a story that can unite the nation. This leads to the formation of a new
system of values, new heroes, and a new national identity. That is why the primary task for the Ukrainian intellectual elite is to actively form extensive discussion regarding this subject.

State institutions should formulate a clear strategy of the national memory politics and develop a mechanism for its implementation.

The author believes that this mechanism should consist of the following components:

1) an obligation to remember its history;
2) a clear formulation of key values of collective memory;
3) the development of basic methodological principles for the implementation of mnemonic practices (traditions, celebrations, rituals commemorate national heroes);
4) a clear formulation of the policy strategic objectives and also expected effects of the educational process.

**Key words:** politics of national memory, collective memory, national identity, cultural memory, communicative memory, political nation.