The study of military culture as the task of modern ethnology

PhD Mykola BEKH, M. Rylsky Institute of Art Studies, Folklore and Ethnology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

The search for new research topics, approaches and problems is one of the trends of modern ethnology. An important component of ethnocultural processes in Ukrainian society was and remains military culture, which includes a set of war-related material and spiritual elements that manifest both in the civilian and military life of the ethnic group. We note that researchers of modern Ukrainian society retain a certain bias towards military culture, while, if necessary, operate with categories characteristic of the beginning of the last century. The specifics of war and military activity, which are often associated with death and violence, were not inherent in the traditional culture of the Ukrainian peasantry, the main quantitatively prevailing population, which was actively studied by local ethnologists. Another reason why ethnologists neglected the military culture of Ukrainians, as a separate scientific niche, was the study of aspects of military professional affairs by sociologists, heraldists, archivists, etc. It should be noted that military culture is an integral part of ethnoculture and is characteristic of all social groups of society, passing through the spiritual sphere of Ukrainians and their life activities. In particular, the elements of folk culture are related to the attitude to war and military affairs, the cult of the military, the everyday features of both the military and their family members. All these aspects can be observed today among different generations of Ukrainians. In addition, modern Ukrainian society supports and celebrates a significant number of holidays associated with important military events of the state or service in the army. First of all, these are the Days of Remembrance and Reconciliation and Victory over Nazism (May 8–9), the Day of Defenders of Ukraine (October 14), and the Day of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (December 6). It is worth noting that since the time of occupation of the territory of Ukraine, the days dedicated to commemorating Ukrainian military personnel have become more and more popular among citizens. Therefore, the fixation of phenomena and processes related to the military culture of Ukrainians in the context of social and political realities is relevant and needs to be studied.

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