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# Civilized War in the Context of War Theory and Military Art

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**Abstract.** The relevance of the study is stipulated by the need to substantiate the system of prerequisites under which it is already possible, if not to completely eliminate war as a social phenomenon, then to make armed struggle, as the main criterion of war or armed conflict, civilised and humane. Such prerequisites are: civilised international policy of the world's states - the creation of interstate and supranational institutions; strengthening of trust and mutual respect between states; globalisation of social policy – the growth of ties between social systems and national cultures, which contributes to the formation of public consciousness; development of international humanitarian law as a regulator of the behaviour of the subjects of armed confrontation. The main purpose of the article is to emphasise that the idea of civilized behaviour of the subjects of armed confrontation should first of all be based on certain theoretical statements in the science of war, which is divided into two branches in well-known studies: "the science of war", which is one of the sciences of sociology; and "the science of warfare", as a theory of military art. The work uses a comprehensive approach that includes the following methods: historical analysis, comparative analysis, problematic and chronological analysis, and retrospective research, etc.The main results of the article are as follows: a certain contribution to the science of warfare through the introduction of the new concept of "civilized war" into the existing conceptual apparatus and its interpretation; a certain contribution to the theory of military art through the supplementation of the system of principles of military art with the principles of civilised behaviour, which should be understood as the development of the system under the influence of the situation when society is looking for ways to humanise warfare. The universality of these principles lies in their influence on both the principles (rules) of a soldier's behaviour in battle and some principles of command and control. The implementation of the principles of civilized combat behaviour forms a new behavioural model of a warrior, which, in

addition to the defined rules of engagement, includes their projection onto moral and ethical norms and legal regulators. The practical significance of the study is that the implementation of theoretical considerations regarding the possibilities and prerequisites for making wars civilised requires active organisational measures to form certain institutional structures and a mechanism for implementing the rules of civilised behaviour in the processes of training and use of troops. The legality and legitimacy of the formation and functioning of institutions and the mechanism for implementing civilised behaviour is a lever for the strict implementation of the provisions of international humanitarian law in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The materials of the article can be used by the heads of the military authorities of the Defence Forces of Ukraine, as well as for further research by scholars in the field of security and defence.

**Keywords:** war, armed conflict, civilized war, moral and ethical norms, international humanitarian law, principles of military art, rules of conduct on the battlefield, principles of command and control, institutional structures, mechanism for implementing rules of conduct.

*"Modern civilization will not perish unless it does so through its own act of self-destruction."*

*Ludwig von Mises*

**Introduction**

The theory of globalization of the world economy, which declared the possibility of liberalizing international relations and reducing the threat of wars through the unification and integration of national economies by creating international economic unions, unfortunately, has not been tested in practice. The realities of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries show a significant difference in geopolitical views and positions of some countries, which in many cases leads to confrontation even within economic unions. One of the prerequisites for armed conflicts and wars is a situation where the geopolitical views of the leaders of individual states on world order are colored by ambition and the desire to become a leading force of our time. A striking example of this behavior of the leadership of an authoritarian state was Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine. Vague, confusing statements about: historical justice - recreating the Soviet Union; strengthening state security - preventing NATO's expansion to the east; fighting neo-Nazism - liberating the Ukrainian people from their history - fighting for independence are becoming realities in specific plans: to recreate the empire, to take the lead in international politics, to unite states with authoritarian regimes around them. This geopolitical position of Russia is due to a number of factors, namely:

powerful resource potential of the country, which allows both to develop its own economy and to influence the economies of other states dependent on Russian resources, especially energy resources, which strengthens the country's position not only in the global economy but also in world politics. It is the situation of the termination of Russian gas transit through Ukraine that has led to a policy of excessive loyalty to Russia on the part of such EU members as Slovakia and Hungary;

transformation of the political system of the Soviet Union without significant changes, appropriation by Russia of the achievements of all republics in science, economy, and victory in the Second World War allowed Russia to maintain the role of a real global actor.

All the years of Russia's existence have been a period of formation of a latent statehood, whose people exist in conditions of limited sovereignty and under the veil of national traditions, and whose political elite, which governs the state, assumes all legislative, military and political supremacy. The majority of the country's population is poisoned by the ideology of Russia's greatness, for the sake of which it is ready to live in poverty for some time, as interpreted by Russian propaganda, to fight everything that stands in the way of the state's imperial geopolitical intentions. In a situation when

the government is unable to establish its own sovereignty over historical lands, turning a significant part of its territories into a Chinese protectorate, trying to show the world its geopolitical ambitions, the political elite of Russia starts a war with Ukraine, gaining support from the population and, thus, the opportunity to rule the country for some time; helplessness and passivity of international security organizations. Expectations of specific decisive actions from the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and many others in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine were manifested in formal statements, most of which were interpreted as "strong condemnation."In particular, the UN is currently unable to comply with the main provision of its Charter "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" given the inability to influence the behavior of states. The question of the relevance and effectiveness of the UN in a situation of war and peace was raised during the Yugoslav war, and the Russian-Ukrainian war confirmed the problems of the international security architecture.

At the same time, despite the fact that there are factors that distance the prospects for peaceful coexistence of states, as well as the current manifestation of these factors in the real situations of the Russian-Ukrainian, Iranian-Israeli, and Syrian wars, the progressive international community is trying to find ways, if not to completely eliminate the threats of war, then to liberalize military operations, which will reduce the number of human casualties and the devastating consequences of such a social phenomenon. The defining achievement of the international community on the way to humanizing warfare is international humanitarian law (IHL) as the most effective civilized way of behavior for parties to armed confrontation. In a general sense, civilized behavior of subjects of communication or relationships is behavior based on mutual respect, humanity and justice without violating the moral and ethical norms existing in a particular society. In situations where relationships are limited to a specific legal sphere, the term "lawful behavior" is usually used. If these concepts are adapted to the behavior of the subjects of armed conflict, taking into account the fact that, in addition to legal restrictions (IHL), there are moral and ethical aspects that are determined by the subject's education, cultural level, and customary norms in the territories of birth and residence and affect the subject's objective attitude to legal norms, it is more appropriate to use the concept of "civilized behavior" and to call a war waged in compliance with international humanitarian law and moral and ethical aspects of the behavior of subjects of armed confrontation a "civilized war".

The active convergence of such sciences as sociology and the science of war - the recognition of war as a sociological phenomenon, carefully avoiding the features of such a phenomenon provided by the famous "Clausewitz triad" - people, armed forces, state administration [1], the legal prohibition of wars by the UN Charter, which deprived such a phenomenon of any legitimacy (the declaration and conduct of wars, regardless of any circumstances and reasons, is an illegal act) [2], the use of the term “armed conflict” instead of “war” in official international documents has led to a revision of the classical theory of war. The rejection of the most important feature of war, such as armed forces and armed confrontation, has led to the active use in international relations of concepts such as diplomatic, economic, energy, and information warfare, which are more related to the theory of the origin of war than to the theory of war as a means of resolving conflicts through the use of weapons. At the same time, one can agree with the expediency of using such concepts, of course, without giving them the status of categories of the science of war, in the sense that international and interethnic disputes can and should be resolved without the use of weapons. The relevance of research on the possibility and necessity of civilized warfare, as a significant achievement in the global community's quest to humanize armed conflict, lies in the following: providing and substantiating the interpretation of the concept of “civilized warfare” as a new category in the theory of warfare; developing a system of principles of military art as an objective process influenced by a situation in which society is seeking ways to humanize war; determining the conditions under which war can take on the character of civilized behavior by the parties to an armed conflict; highlighting the barriers to the practical implementation of the theory of civilized warfare.

The scientific article also suggests ways to solve the problem of practical implementation of theoretical concepts of civilized warfare, in particular, the introduction of a set of organizational measures for the formation of institutions and mechanisms for the implementation of rules of civilized behavior in the processes of training and deployment of troops.

**Materials and Methods**

According to research by N. N. Golovin [3], modern science about war should be divided into two branches: the "science of warfare," as a theory of military art, and the "science of war" which is one of the sciences of sociology. At the same time, as John Stuart Mill [4] argues, the theory of military art, i.e., the science of warfare, can only obtain a correct starting point from the science of war, which studies the nature and essence of this phenomenon. Such statements point to the use of the deductive method of research – a separate proposition, in this case "civilized war," is formed from the general, in this case, war, its nature and character. Given the understanding of war by the classics of the science of war as an armed confrontation between states or certain groups within a single state using organized armed forces [5–7], modern researchers of war offer a more precise interpretation of this social phenomenon depending on the conditions and causes of its emergence and manifestation, namely: civilizational war [8], hybrid war [9], and irrational war [10]. According to well-known theories of the origin of war, the interpretation of the concept of "civilized war" as an armed confrontation with adherence to the principles (rules) of civilized behavior can take on different meanings (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Views on the interpretation of the concept of "civilized war" according to different theories of the origin of war

| Theories of the origin of war | Literary source | Possible interpretation of the concept "civilized war" |
|---|---|---|
| War is a continuation of politics by violent means and is associated with a change in relations between political actors. The direction of war is determined by politicians. They also control that this direction is maintained; that the political will is realized. The military executes the political will. | Encyclopedia of Modern Ukraine: a multi-volume scientific and encyclopedic edition. Kyiv: Institute of Encyclopedic Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, 2009 [11]. | A civilized war is a derivative of a civilized state policy, when, even in a situation of armed conflict, the belligerent state tries to resolve it in a civilized way, minimizing human losses and destruction. |
| War as a form of social conflict. Humans are prone to using violent methods to achieve their goals. War remains the highest form of conflict, the ultimate and radical means of resolving a conflict situation.. | Fursina N. A. Theory of the emergence of military conflicts and wars. Economy and State. 2018. № 12. С. 81-88 [12] | Civilized war is the performance of specific social functions by the subjects of armed confrontation, assumed or imposed on them, with an understanding of universal values and compliance with moral and ethical standards of behavior. |
| War is a conflict between the armed forces of states, contrary to the international legal prohibition of war as a means of resolving disputes. International law provides for rules, norms, and laws that must be followed by states involved in war and their military personnel. | Large Encyclopedic Dictionary. Edited by Yu. S. Shemshuchenko. Kyiv: Yurid. Dumka, 2012. 1020 p. [13] | A civilized war is a war (armed conflict) conducted in compliance with internationally recognized legal norms of conduct for subjects of international law. |

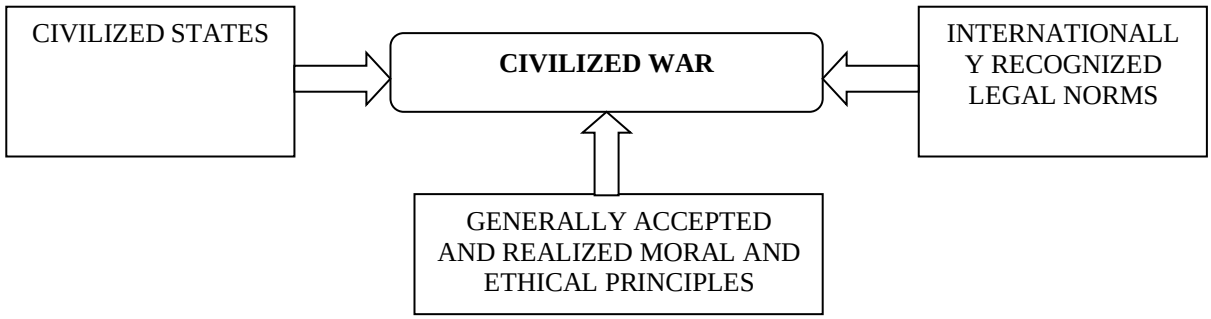



**Figure 1**. Conditions for war as a social phenomenon to acquire the status of a civilized war

Unfortunately, the process of transition to civilized warfare is currently facing significant political, sociological, and legal barriers (Figure 2).

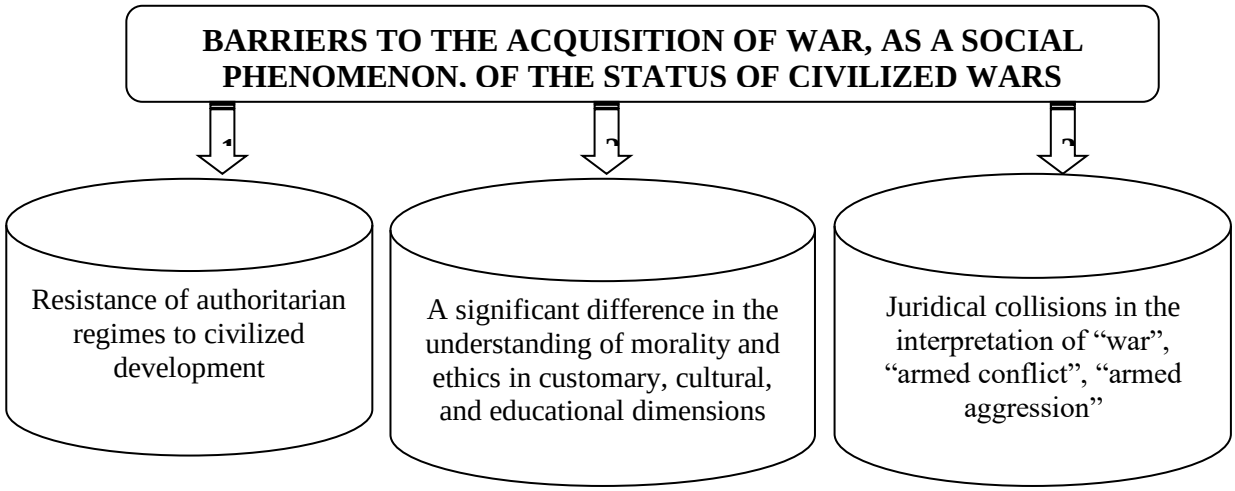



**Figure 2.** Barriers to the transition to civilized warfare

The current global policy of many states is creating a situation of civilizational conflict, which, unfortunately, in many cases escalates from economic and technological competition into armed conflict, which, in military terms, has been dubbed civilizational wars. The Russian-Ukrainian war is a typical form of civilizational war, in which the despotic Eurasian civilization, represented by Russia and some other countries, has stood in the way of Ukraine's transition to a democratic European civilization. According to M. Berdyaev's research, Bolshevism is the third manifestation of Russian great power, Russian imperialism – the first manifestation was the Moscow kingdom, the second was Peter's empire. Bolshevism proved to be the most faithful to some of the age-old Russian traditions, methods of governance, and rule by violence [14]. Modern Russia is a reflection of Bolshevism with a slight change in the form of government, with the dominant essence of the despotism of Eastern civilizations. With its vast natural resources, such an imperial-type state keeps its people in poverty and without rights, postponing the inevitable social explosion by waging civilizational wars against sovereign states with a democratic vector of development. Some Western politicians vainly hope that Russia's imperial appetites will be satisfied with the war against Ukraine, and that other countries will follow. In other words, as long as there are authoritarian regimes based on despotism and great power chauvinism, understanding that their existence and position in the modern global order can only be secured through armed conflicts with progressive, democratic civilizations, there will be barriers to

the provision of possible armed confrontation of a civilized character.

As we know, wars are started by states, but fought by people. A distinctive feature of modern armed conflict is that, in addition to the regular armies of the warring states, the battlefield may also include private military companies, mercenaries from other states, international military contingents, and civilians with various motivations. In a civilized war, the behavior of all direct and even indirect participants in the armed struggle should be based on a common understanding and observance of moral and ethical norms, an awareness of the need to respect human beings and the value of their lives and health. The behavior of an individual in crisis situations, especially in situations of armed conflict, is primarily determined by their attitude towards the people who surround them and interact with them. Civilized, humane behavior is defined as providing immediate assistance to a person in distress, even in conditions of real danger to one's own life. Uncivilized, cruel behavior is saving oneself at the cost of another person's life and health, personally posing a threat to a person's life and health, causing suffering to people, or calmly watching others do so [15, 16].

Given that a person's behavioral model is shaped by a significant number of diverse factors, including genetic inheritance, upbringing, social status, culture, health, and even psychological (mental) reactions to specific situations, the process of transitioning to a global community that combines different civilizations and nations to a single set of moral and ethical principles of behavior is quite long and complex. For example, attempts in the Soviet Union, even under a party dictatorship, to give all nations and peoples the status of a single “Soviet people” failed. In other words, the formation of an atmosphere of adherence to the principles of moral and ethical behavior by individuals in the process of armed struggle, at the global level, which is a prerequisite for civilized warfare, is a certain barrier to the global community's acquisition of such a social phenomenon. At the same time, certain hopes for the reality of the situation of the dominance of unified national moral and ethical principles of behavior in armed struggle are given by studies that substantiate the significant influence of the environment and social factors on the formation of a behavioral model of the individual in the modern geopolitical space [17–18]. In other words, humanity's active movement towards a civilized world may accelerate the situation of civilized wars.

A certain barrier to giving armed struggle a civilized character is that international law does not provide a clear definition of the concept of “war.” Attempts to convince the international community that replacing the term “war” with the term “armed conflict,” when virtually all scientific publications on this phenomenon are dominated by terms such as “civilizational war,” “hybrid war,” and “irrational war,” in the classical understanding of war as “state, armed struggle, people,” may reduce the threat and consequences of armed confrontation more than the prohibition of nuclear weapons, seem cynical, to say the least. And there is confusion in the interpretation of the main legal regulator of war, international humanitarian law. According to one interpretation, IHL is a set of international legal norms and principles that regulate the protection of war victims; according to another, it is a branch of law that establishes rules for the conduct of armed conflicts with the aim of limiting violence. The interpretation of armed conflict as any armed clash between hostile parties involving the use of military force does not coincide with the classical interpretation of war as a social phenomenon. Therefore, attempts by some researchers to define armed conflict and war as one and the same, differing only in the fact of whether war has been declared or not, become a legal conflict when, despite differences in the interpretation of the situation, attempts are made to regulate it with the same legal acts. Civilized behavior, which is the essence and content of civilized warfare, requires actions based on a full understanding of the situation, the goal, and the order of actions in that situation. Considering that the situation itself may require significant adjustments to both the goal and the order of actions, certain legal conflicts regarding the uniform interpretation of such complex crisis situations as armed conflict may be a certain barrier to the realization of the international community's aspiration to make wars civilized, as an important step towards eliminating such a phenomenon as war from the sphere of international relations.

Military art, as the science of warfare, is based on a system of principles and basic rules that, if followed, can lead to victory. The study of any system, in this case, the system of principles of military art as a set of interrelated and interdependent rules and recommendations for the preparation and conduct of combat operations, involves the use of a systematic analysis method that allows determining the role, significance, and influence of each component on the results of the functioning of the system as a whole, as well as the possible reaction of the system to changes in its composition or functionality. The theory of civilized warfare specifically provides for the introduction of a new component into the system of military principles – the principle (rule) of civilized behavior. The system's response to innovation can only be assessed (predicted) with a detailed understanding of the system itself, providing a definition of the objectivity of such an assessment.

The modern system of principles of military art includes two components: a subsystem of principles of warfare (basic rules of conduct for soldiers); subsystem of principles of troop leadership (rules of operation of command bodies during the preparation of troops for combat operations and leadership of troops during the performance of their assigned tasks).

In turn, each subsystem acts as an independent system that combines specific principles (rules and recommendations) within its scope.

The system of combat principles covers such basic rules of soldier behavior in combat as: intelligent movement (maneuver) – “first suppress, then run”; caution (real perception of danger) – danger is always real in combat; prioritization of actions – “destroy what is most dangerous at the moment”; aimed fire – “if you don't hit, you will be hit”; resourcefulness – “use what you own and what is around you”; observation – “if you didn’t see them, they saw you”.

The system of military leadership principles, as part of the system of military art principles, originated in the era of Alexander the Great's wars (more than 2,000 years ago), who was the first to realize the importance of leadership in armed conflict. After a long and complex path of development, trials, and tests, they are now defined by a set of rules and recommendations, the essence of which is the same for all levels of leadership (strategic, operational, tactical), and the content is determined by the complexity and scale of the tasks at each level of the military hierarchy, as well as the current or predicted situation. The main principles of troop leadership are:

single command – the commander is vested with full authority over subordinates;

personal responsibility of commanders (superiors) for decisions made and results of tasks performed – failure to achieve specified results, significant losses, violation of established deadlines – this is primarily the fault of the commander (unreasonable decision, mistakes in the process of its implementation);

centralization of leadership combined with initiative from subordinates – modern combat operations are conducted in accordance with the senior commander's plan, coordinating the efforts of all forces and resources, with the assumption of broad initiative from subordinates;

constant knowledge and deep analysis of the situation, prediction of the course of events – allows you to highlight the main, most essential aspects of the situation and identify factors that complicate the completion of the task at hand;

firmness and persistence in implementing approved decisions and plans – helps to eliminate possible confusion, panic, and, in the case of a commander, uncertainty, doubts about the correctness of actions, and sometimes even lost faith in victory;

high level of organization and creativity in the work of leadership bodies – commanders and staffs at all levels must act as a single cohesive team, with a clear division of tasks and functions between performers and coordination in their work;

Knowledge of personnel, reliance on subordinate commanders – the personnel of units and military formations are the direct creators of tactical art, in many cases correctly determining the techniques and methods of combat operations. The modern system of principles of military art is shown in Fig. 3.

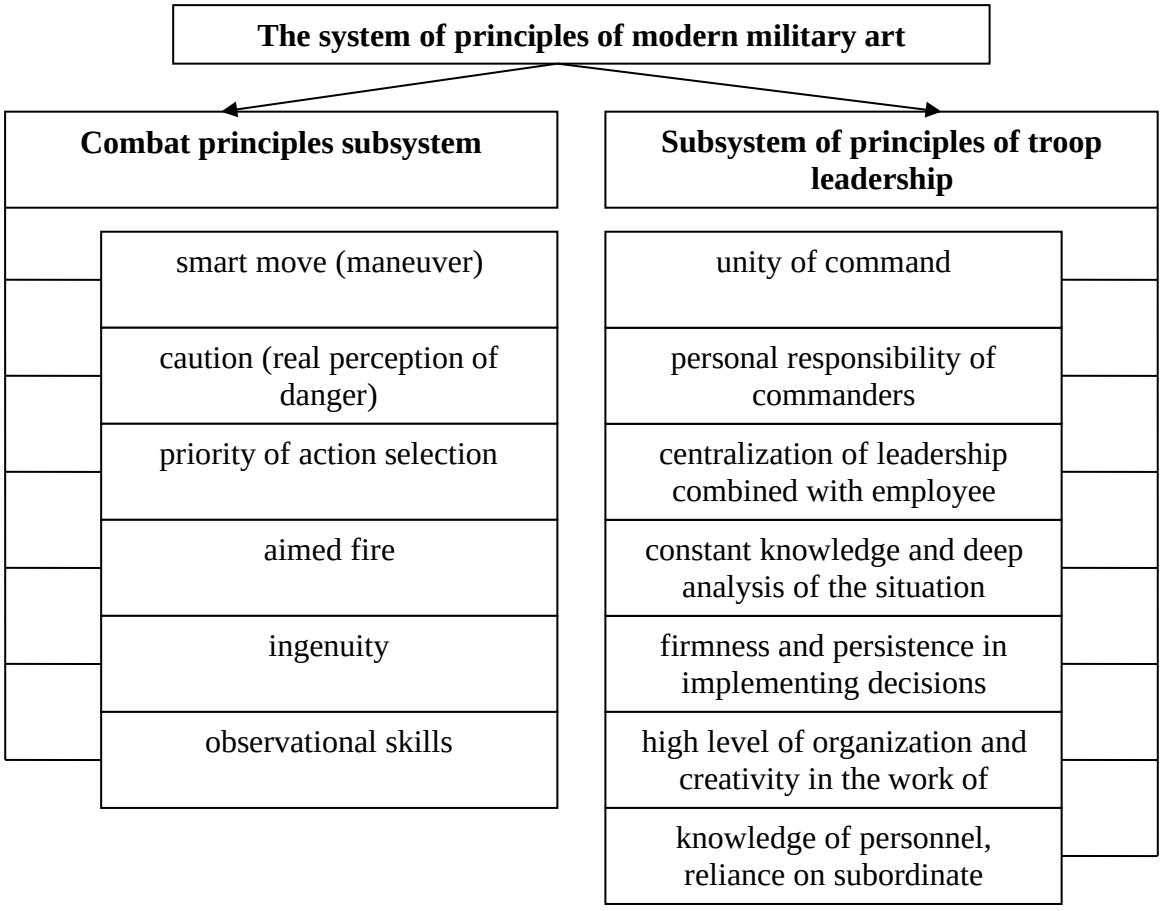



**Figure 3.** Modern system of principles of military art

The introduction of the principle of civilized behavior into the system of military art should be understood as the development of the system under the influence of a situation where society is looking for ways to humanize war as a social phenomenon, which, unfortunately, continues to exist as a form of resolving international and national conflicts. The universality of this principle lies in its influence on both the rules of conduct for soldiers in battle and certain principles of military leadership. The introduction of the principle of civilized behavior into the subsystem of principles of combat forms a new behavioral model for soldiers, which includes, in addition to the rules of combat, their projection onto moral and ethical norms and legal regulators. The subsystem of principles of troop leadership responds to such challenges by clarifying and expanding the content of certain principles at different levels of leadership.

The principle of personal responsibility of the commander: at the strategic level, it provides for the responsibility of leadership bodies at this level for developing a concept for the humanization of operations (combat actions) in civilized warfare; at the operational level, it determines specific plans and instructions for implementing the principle of civilized behavior in accordance with the purpose and specifics of the use of specific operational groups (e.g., aviation, radio-technical troops, anti-aircraft missile troops, unlike ground forces, only indirectly come into contact with the enemy), the tactical level of leadership is delegated responsibility for the implementation of measures to introduce civilized behavior on the battlefield.

The principle of constant knowledge and analysis of the situation, when it comes to the need to follow the rules of civilized behavior, at the tactical level involves constant monitoring of the battlefield for compliance with moral and legal norms, at the operational level – analysis of the

information provided, at the strategic level – development (refinement) of conceptual provisions in accordance with the development of the situation.

The principle of high organization and creativity in the work of leadership bodies, in a civilized war, has gained additional meaning: at the strategic level – interaction with international human rights organizations; at the operational level – work with investigative and prosecutorial authorities; at the tactical level – recording and determining the nature of possible violations of the rules of civilized behavior. Aspects of the possible impact of introducing the principle of civilized behavior on the system of principles of military art are shown in Fig. 4. One of the most important stages in the process of acquiring the capacity for civilized warfare by the state and its armed forces is the formation of an organizational and regulatory mechanism for introducing civilized behavior into the system of training and practice for the performance of tasks assigned to all state and non-state structures that may participate in armed conflict. Civilized behavior, as the main feature of civilized warfare, is a model of social behavior of individuals and certain social institutions during armed conflict, based on adherence to moral and ethical principles and established legal norms.

If we project this onto the Armed Forces of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the AFU), the mechanism for implementing rules of civilized behavior is a set of measures and means (instruments) that are carried out and used by relevant institutions formed within the armed forces in the processes of training and deploying troops, with the aim of minimizing human casualties and destruction during armed conflict. The measures that comprise the mechanism for implementing rules of civilized behavior may include the following:

*analysis and assessment*. This involves determining the level of knowledge and understanding among Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel of the importance and procedure for complying with the rules of civilized behavior. This is an ongoing process during combat training, with a focus on specific operations (periods of combat operations), taking into account the specific characteristics of the armed conflict environment;

*determining approaches to planning*. It is essential to take into account the dynamics of environmental challenges through the prism of the enemy's behavior, the mood of the population in areas of potential armed conflict, and the training and discipline of the contingent of troops that may be involved in the operation (combat operations).

*developing options for action in accordance with possible risks (enemy countermeasures)*. It is advisable to plan responses to risks – unlawful enemy behavior – at three levels: personal – the training and level of awareness of individual soldiers can bring the situation within certain moral and legal parameters; at the process level – changing the previously defined sequence of actions required to localize and eliminate a specific risk; at the organizational level – changing the entire previously planned and defined course of action for this environment (operational development of response options);

*selection of variants of action with detailed planning.* Among the identified alternatives, it is necessary to choose a variant of civilized behavior that will allow effective control and management of the situation of legality and morality in the current or predicted circumstances;

*measuring the effectiveness of plan implementation*. Leadership structures at all levels of the command hierarchy require data to measure progress in implementing the mission, plan, and specific actions, both in terms of preparing troops for civilized behavior and in terms of adhering to moral principles and legal norms on the battlefield. This requires measures to establish a system for the continuous collection and systematization of information, involving a wide range of methods, from surveys and observation to analysis of the media.

The Armed Forces of Ukraine already have the prerequisites for creating such a mechanism – namely, the institution of legal advisers and the institution of military chaplains.

The statutes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine grant the right to perform the functions of legal advisor to the brigade commander's assistant for legal work (legal advisor) during armed conflict. Advising the commander on legal training issues allows personnel to acquire knowledge of international humanitarian law, and explaining the norms of IHL to the commander directly during

combat operations helps to apply this knowledge on the battlefield [19].

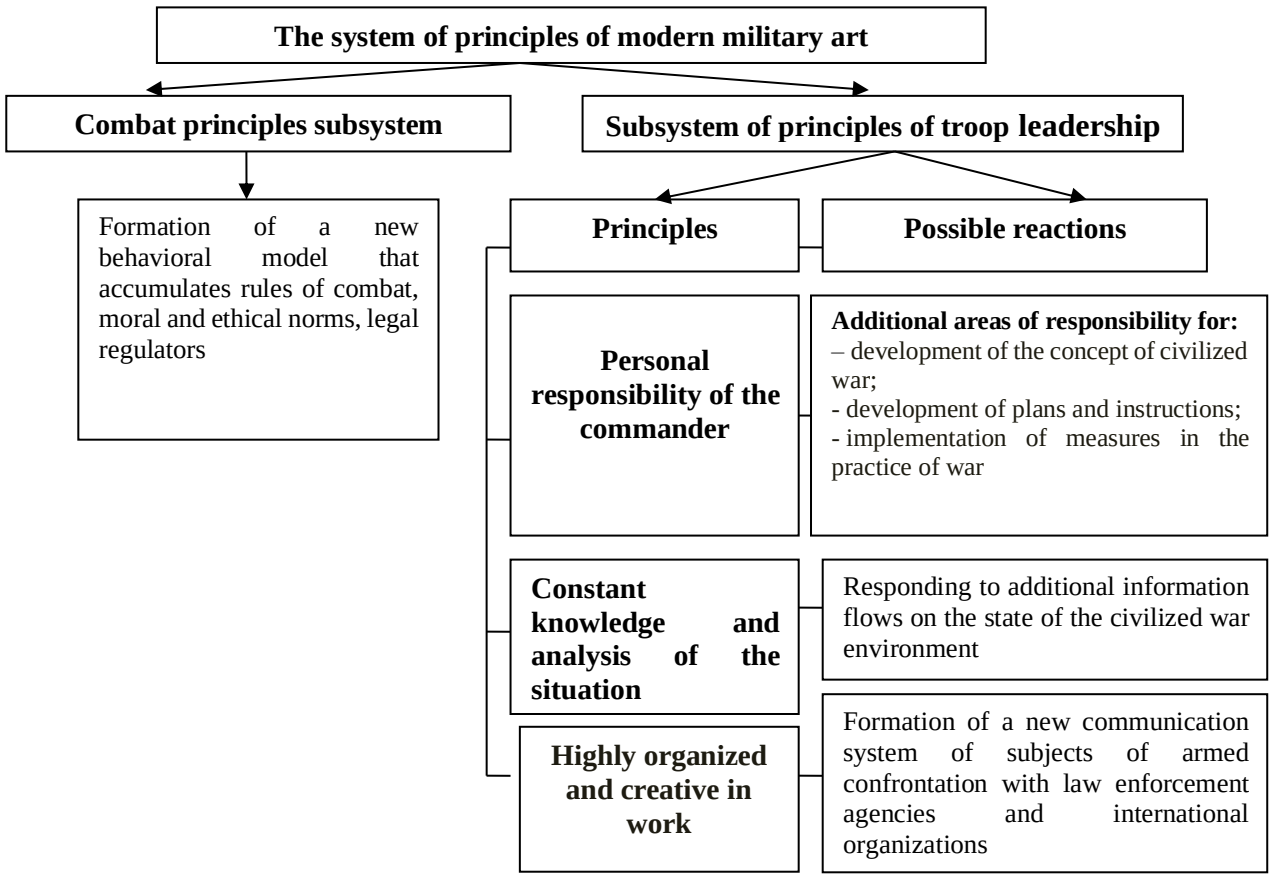



**Figure 4.** Aspects of the possible impact of the introduction of the principle of civilized behavior on the system of principles of military art

At the same time, legal regulation, as a component of civilized behavior in civilized warfare, is not limited to consultation and explanation. A whole range of work is needed, from the development of conceptual provisions for the implementation of IHL norms in the training and deployment of troops to the constant monitoring of compliance with legal provisions. In other words, the tools for implementing IHL norms in order to achieve a situation of civilized warfare must include an organizational component, such as a network of institutions at hierarchical levels of military leadership, with different functions and powers.

An important tool for implementing the training and deployment of troops is the introduction of military chaplains in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Looking at the results of this practice in the US Army, it is important to note that chaplains directly influence the morale of army personnel and therefore must always meet the highest professional, moral, and ethical standards [21]. According to research by S. Skurikhin, at all times, in addition to pastoral care, an important part of the military clergy's activities has been the moral support of military personnel and the cultivation of universal human virtues in them [22].

That is, as the practice of foreign armies shows, in the toolkit for implementing civilized behavior, the institution of military chaplains can be an effective instrument of moral support for the military. The legality and legitimacy of the formation and functioning of institutions and mechanisms for the implementation of civilized behavior, both in peacetime and in conditions of armed conflict, are determined by legal instruments, namely military legislation, which directly implements the

norms of international humanitarian law and serves as a lever for the strict enforcement of IHL provisions in the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

The functioning of the mechanism for implementing civilized behavior requires a constant exchange of information both within the system – between and within levels of leadership – and with the external environment – international human rights organizations, investigative bodies, the prosecutor's office, etc. The tools for such exchange are communication channels organized by various means and methods of communication.

The effectiveness of the mechanism for implementing rules of civilized behavior in the training and deployment of troops is significantly influenced by material and technical tools, including material incentives, technical means (tools) for movement, observation, automatic recording of possible incidents, equipment for training classrooms, training centers, and training grounds. The measures and tools for forming the mechanism for implementing rules of civilized behavior are shown in Fig. 5. The mechanism for implementing rules of civilized behavior can be developed in terms of both measures and tools, in line with changes in the geopolitical situation.

**Results**

The enormous human casualties and widespread destruction resulting from armed conflicts and wars are prompting the international community to seek ways to liberalize such social phenomena. Even in situations where armed struggle remains one of the ways to resolve both international and national disputes, there are opportunities to give armed confrontation a civilized character, which, without excluding the use of weapons, manifests itself in the observance by the parties to the armed conflict of the rules of civilized behavior – universal moral and ethical principles and internationally recognized legal norms, which can reduce human suffering, infrastructure losses, and negative impacts on the natural environment. Even in the well-known definitions of the nature of war, one can find aspects that confirm the possibility of giving this phenomenon a civilized character (Table 2).

In other words, analysis of the nature and character of wars gives us reason to be confident in the possibility of democratizing its main features (according to Clausewitz, these are the state, the people, and the armed forces), namely: the state – a civilized state; the people – social activity; the armed forces – legal regulation of the methods and means of waging armed struggle.

The existence of preconditions for civilized behavior during armed conflicts allows us to propose an interpretation of this concept as a new category in the science of war. Civilized war is an armed confrontation between civilized states in compliance with generally accepted and conscious moral and ethical principles and internationally recognized legal norms of behavior aimed at minimizing human casualties and destructive consequences.

It is possible to steer armed conflict in a certain moral, ethical, and legal direction provided that the principles of military art, both in theory and in practice, are developed accordingly.

Given that combat tasks are carried out on the battlefield by soldiers (units), while target identification and operation (combat action) planning are the priority of leadership bodies, both the rules (principles) of soldier conduct and the principles of troop leadership and control have been supplemented and substantiated. Despite the fact that civilized warfare, in the full sense of the term, is still a project for the future, measures are needed today to overcome the barriers standing in the way of this future in order to bring it closer. The fact is that even with a universal instrument of legal behavior – international humanitarian law – a multitude of theoretical calculations regarding the code of honor of the military from soldier to general, and a series of scientific studies that attempt to prove that Ukraine is already a civilized state that is simply mistakenly not accepted by Western European civilization, this is a necessary but not sufficient condition for acquiring the capabilities of an international actor to give possible armed conflicts a civilized character and wage a civilized war.

**Table 2.** Prerequisites for giving wars a civilized character

| **Determination regarding the nature of war and its character** | **Aspects that determine the possibility of giving war a civilized character** |
|---|---|
| War as a continuation of *politics* | Politics is the strategic activity of government bodies and the state. As a subject of world politics, the state can make decisions at the international level, including decisions on how to implement its policies at both the state and national levels. Civilized state policy is policy for the people and in the interests of the people. Today, most countries in the world choose civilized development. Civilized states are the path to civilized warfare. |
| War as the most radical phenomenon in the resolution of social *conflicts* | The global community's understanding that even regional and national conflicts can lead to a global geopolitical catastrophe has intensified social influence on the nature of armed confrontation. Anti-war organizations, religious communities, and volunteer movements are trying to alleviate the suffering of people in conflict zones, help wounded and sick soldiers, and organize prisoner exchanges. Today, society is ready to support and contribute to the implementation of the concept of civilized warfare.. |
| War is a phenomenon in which the warring parties choose methods and means of armed struggle, guided by the principle of *"victory at any cost."* | Attempts by a warring state to fight according to the principle of "victory at any cost" can lead to serious consequences for the state itself. An example of this is Russia's behavior in the Russian-Ukrainian war, when massive missile and air strikes targeting Ukraine's civilian infrastructure were met with retaliation: the destruction of oil refining facilities and the economic crisis in the western regions of the Russian Federation. The establishment and enforcement of internationally recognized legal norms can contribute to wars being conducted in a civilized manner, reducing the number of human casualties and the scale of destruction. |

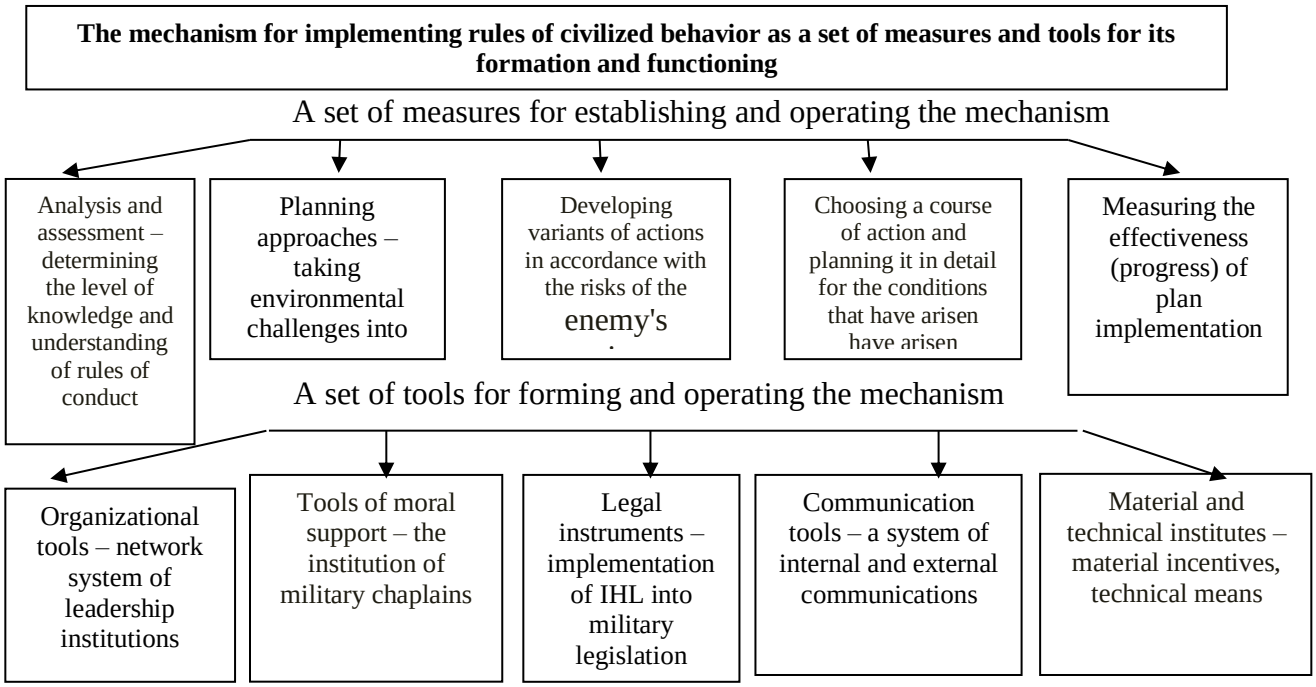



**Figure 5.** Measures and tools for forming a mechanism for implementing rules of civilized behavior

Already now, there is a need for practical leverage, a mechanism for implementing rules of civilized behavior in possible scenarios of armed conflict, as a set of measures and means (instruments) *implemented and used by relevant institutions formed in the armed forces in the processes of training and deploying troops in order to minimize human casualties and destruction during armed conflict.*

**Discussions**

Does it make sense today to study the possibilities and prerequisites for making wars civilized? War is primarily a manifestation of power, which is ensured by such destructive means as weapons. More than 10% of the global economy and science is involved in the production of weapons and their components, the design of new types of weapons, and research into the most effective methods of their use in order to increase human casualties and the scale of destruction. The confidence that in the near future, even if wars remain a social phenomenon, they will gradually become civilized is based on the fact that the world develops not as a result of force, but as a result of its intellect. Humanity understands that the path to peaceful coexistence, when armed confrontation in the resolution of disputes will only be a sad memory, lies through the gradual acquisition of an increasingly civilized character by this social phenomenon – adherence to universal moral and ethical principles and internationally recognized legal norms. Civilized behavior of warring parties should become one of the principles of military art, both on the battlefield and in the practice of troop leadership. However, this should not be perceived as a rejection or disregard of the basic principles (rules) proven by centuries of practice, compliance with which leads to success in armed struggle, but as their development under the influence of the will and desire of a civilized community to make such situations more humane. The course and consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian war suggest that the idea of giving wars a civilized character is futile. It is quite clear that certain advances towards civilized warfare, as reflected in the norms of international humanitarian law and various codes of military honor, are an important but insufficient condition for giving armed conflict a civilized character. Effective levers are needed to put these theoretical developments into practice. Such levers are the relevant institutions that need to be formed within the structure of the Ukrainian Armed Forces' leadership system. This could be a mechanism for introducing rules of civilized behavior into the processes of training and deploying troops.

**Conclusion**

The article considers the possibilities and conditions for giving modern armed conflicts and wars a civilized character. Taking into account theoretical scientific explanations of the causes of wars and the peculiarities of war as a social phenomenon, an interpretation of the concept of “civilized war” is proposed. An important result of the article is the definition and justification of the possibility and conditions for the humanization of armed struggle, even in situations where international and national disputes are still being resolved through the use of weapons. Taking into account that the science of war and the science of warfare – the art of war – are closely related as the general and the particular, any development of the general affects the state of the particular.

If civilized warfare is based on adherence to moral and ethical principles and legal norms of conduct for parties to armed conflict, then the principles of armed struggle and military art must also undergo corresponding changes. The article proves that civilized warfare contributes to the development of both the principles (rules) of conduct for soldiers on the battlefield and the principles of military leadership. important theoretical achievements of humanity – international humanitarian law, codes of military honor, etc., as prerequisites for civilized warfare – can be put into practice if there is an effective lever, a mechanism for implementing rules of civilized behavior in the processes of training and deployment of troops.

**Recommendations**

The dream of the global community to live in peace and harmony may remain just a dream for a long time to come if no efforts are made to bring it closer to reality.

**Table 3.** Measures to create an environment of civilized warfare

| Scope of imple-mentation | Imple-mentation level | Events and their content |
|---|---|---|
| Political sphere | Internatio-nal | Humanization and democratization of politics – activities aimed at creating intergovernmental, supranational institutions (G7, G20) – strengthening trust and mutual respect between states – the path to a civilized world order. |
| | | Transition from confrontation to partnership and cooperation – resolution of possible territorial claims, reconciliation of different views on the geopolitical structure of the world, differences in religious and national sentiments through compromise and mutual concessions. |
| | | Globalization and the expansion of international relations have led to a shift in focus from the arms race to solving economic problems by involving as many countries as possible in global economic processes. |
| | National | Forecasting, timely detection, prevention, and neutralization of external and internal threats to national security—gaining experience in preventing disputes from escalating into armed conflict, finding ways to resolve potential conflicts through democratic means. |
| | | Pursuing an active international policy – participating in international peace and security operations, actively cooperating, primarily with countries bordering Ukraine. |
| | | Active cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – collective security, curbing the intentions of individual radical leaders to disrupt geopolitical stability. |
| Social sphere | Internatio-nal | Globalization of international social policy – the growth of connections between social systems, national cultures, and human interaction with the environment, which contributes to the formation of public awareness of the importance of living in an environment of universal natural harmony, rather than one of destruction. |
| | | The international social concept of building an environment of peaceful coexistence for future generations contributes to increasing social responsibility for preserving humanity's historical heritage and natural balance. |
| | | International social work—the declaration of internationally recognized fundamental human rights to life, freedom from violence and torture regardless of nationality or social status—allows people to make conscious choices for themselves, including on the battlefield. |
| | National | Ensuring strict observance of constitutional rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens contributes to strengthening democracy and the spiritual and moral pillars of the state's population. |
| | | Ensuring stability, civil peace, and mutual understanding in society, preventing manifestations of extremism, contributes to the formation of a person's understanding and desire to live in peace and harmony. |
| | | Ensuring interfaith stability and preventing religious conflicts, preventing confrontation between different churches – fostering a common understanding of human values and moral and ethical principles. |
| Organizational and legal sphere | Internatio-nal | Improving the international human rights system will eliminate the practice of responding solely with statements of "grave concern" and enable effective international influence on the situation of war and peace. |
| | | Improving the international human rights system will eliminate the practice of responding solely with statements of "grave concern" and enable effective international influence on the situation of war and peace. |
| | | The development of international humanitarian law as a regulator of the behavior of parties to armed conflict will enable a timely response to the challenges of the modern environment, generated both by the emergence of new means of armed struggle and the introduction of new methods and means of warfare. |
| | National | The direct implementation of international humanitarian law norms into military legislation will enable the formation of a system of legal education within the armed forces, providing knowledge and understanding of international law norms, the implementation of which is an important component of civilized warfare. |
| | | The development of the principles of military art will give the rules of conduct for soldiers on the battlefield and the basic rules of leadership for leading troops of a civilized character. |
| | | The formation of institutions and mechanisms for implementing moral and ethical principles and legal norms of conduct in the processes of training and deploying troops will enable the gradual practical implementation of theoretical concepts of civilized warfare. |

Even in a situation where war remains one of the tools for resolving international and national disputes, there are prerequisites for making wars more civilized, which will reduce the number of human casualties and minimize destruction. This is precisely why persistent, purposeful work is needed not only to develop and substantiate the very idea of civilized warfare, but also to find the tools for the practical implementation of this idea. If we assess the situation objectively, civilized

warfare is a phenomenon of the future, and even if there are prerequisites for such a situation to become a reality, it is only possible to bring this future closer by reasonably defining and actively implementing a set of political, social, legal, and military measures aimed at creating an environment conducive to civilized warfare (Table 3). The measures outlined above can serve as guidelines for making armed conflicts more humane, as well as a basis for the development of both the science of war – through the introduction and justification of a new category of "civilized war" – and the art of war – through the addition of a system of principles for leading and managing combat operations. However, it should be understood that the process of implementing these measures and their success depend on many factors. It may take a long time, but it brings humanity closer to the realization of a great dream – to live and work in peace and tranquility.

**Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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## Цивілізована війна в контексті теорії війни і військового мистецтва

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**Анотація.** Актуальність дослідження зумовлена необхідністю обґрунтування системи передумов, за яких вже сьогодні є можливість якщо не повної ліквідації війни як соціального явища, то надання збройній боротьбі, як основному критерію війни чи збройного конфлікту, цивілізованого, гуманного характеру. Такими передумовами є: цивілізована міжнародна політика держав світу – утворення міждержавних, наднаціональних інституцій; зміцнення довіри і взаємоповаги між державами; глобалізація соціальної політики – зростання зв'язків соціальних систем, національних культур, що сприяє формуванню у суспільства свідомості; розвиток міжнародного гуманітарного права, як регулятора поведінки суб'єктів збройного протистояння. Головною метою статті є наголошення, що ідея цивілізованої поведінки суб'єктів збройного протистояння має насамперед набути певних теоретичних викладок у науці про війну, яку у відомих дослідженнях розділяють на дві галузі: на "науку про війну", яка є однією з наук соціології; та "науку про ведення війни", як теорію військового мистецтва. У роботі використано комплексний підхід, що включає методи: історичного аналізу, порівняльного аналізу, проблемно-хронологічного аналізу та ретроспективного дослідження тощо. Основними результатами статті є: певний внесок у науку про війну через упровадження в наявний понятійний апарат нового поняття "цивілізована війна" і надання його трактування; певний внесок у теорію військового мистецтва через доповнення системи принципів військового мистецтва принципами цивілізованої поведінки, які потрібно розуміти як розвиток системи під впливом ситуації, коли суспільство шукає шляхи гуманізації війни. Універсальність цих принципів полягає у їхньому впливі як на принципи (правила) поведінки воїна в бою, так і на деякі принципи управління військами. Упровадження принципів цивілізованої поведінки ведення бою формує нову поведінкову модель воїна, яка передбачає,

крім визначених правил ведення бою, їхню проєкцію на морально-етичні норми і правові регулятори. Практична значущість полягає у визначенні, що реалізація теоретичних викладок щодо можливостей і передумов надання війнам цивілізованого характеру потребує активних організаційних заходів з формування окремих інституціональних структур і механізму впровадження правил цивілізованої поведінки у процеси підготовки і застосування військ. Законність і правомірність формування і функціонування інституцій і механізму впровадження цивілізованої поведінки є важелем неухильного виконання приписів міжнародного гуманітарного права у Збройних Силах України. Матеріали статті можуть бути використані керівниками органів військового правління Сил оборони України, а також для подальших досліджень науковцями у сфері безпеки і оборони.

**Ключові слова:** війна, збройний конфлікт, цивілізована війна, морально-етичні норми, міжнародне гуманітарне право, принципи військового мистецтва, правила поведінки на полі бою, принципи управління військами, інституціональні структури, механізм упровадження правил поведінки.