

# Deformation of Personality as a Consequence of a Hybrid Warfare

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**Abstract:** The article deals with the results of the theoretical and empirical research of the problem of deformation of a personality as a consequence of a hybrid warfare.

To verify the theoretical conclusions concerning the phenomenon of deformation of a personality as a result of the hybrid warfare the main component of which is the informational and psychological influence on the population, the authors conducted a survey aimed at revealing the features of deformation of personalities of children of school age at the individual (psycho-physiological) and social and psychological levels

It has been empirically verified that a part of the population of Ukraine experienced deformation of their personalities as a result of the hybrid warfare which is revealed at the individual (interchange of stable and critical psychical states, processes and features, mechanisms of social development, etc.) and psychological (negative changes at all the structural spheres of a personality – motivational, cognitive, volitional, interpersonal and creative ones) levels.

A conclusion has been made about the necessity to provide social, psychological and pedagogical assistance for the population of Ukraine in order to overcome and minimize the negative personal deformations as a result of the hybrid warfare aimed at further successful socialization and development of a personality.

**Keywords:** *personality; deformation of a personality; hybrid warfare; social; psychological and pedagogical factors; survey.*

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## Introduction

It goes without saying that postmodernism cardinally reviews the social sphere: the society is viewed upon as a fragmentary, mosaic, unregulated formation; the ideas about the determinancy and directivity of the social development is changed by the awareness of its ambiguity and diversity; the hierarchical center-peripheral pattern of the world is substituted by the understanding of a radical variety and equivalence of different ways of life. The refusal from the classical forms of the social life is expressed in the forms of simulation, globalization, denationalization, deterritorialization, diffusion of differentiation. The fragmentation of the modernistic picture of the world leads to the destabilization of the social order, to the demolishing of the social. Instead of the social groups, classes and nations, there appears a mass – an analogue of “the black hole”. In the ethical propositions and evaluations, cynicism, skepticism, and irony prevail in all their perverted forms.

Postmodern theories of the society outline and interpret the possibilities and potentials of the actual and possible social problems characteristic of the modern world: social indifference of people, individual and social differentiation, ideological compulsion and manipulation.

In this connection, we find it reasonable to analyze possible deformations of a personality as a consequence of a hybrid warfare which is the subject of our research.

Hybrid warfare has become an object of scientific research in different spheres of knowledge – military science, history, philosophy, sociology, political science, law, economics, pedagogy, psychology, social work, medicine, journalism, informational technologies, etc.

For instance, the main features, components, forms and methods of hybrid warfare have been analyzed by Beccaro (2018), Hoffman (2007), Hoogensen (2018), Malksoo (2018), Puyvelde (2015), Renz (2016), Renz & Smith (2016), Ștefănescu & Papoi (2018) and others. The scholars have emphasized that a hybrid warfare is a war with a combination of principally different types and means of warfighting: 1) classical means with the use of armed forces and military hardware, 2) the use of non-professional forces and militarized units (citizen soldiers, militants, “little green men”, etc.) and 3) informational technologies.

Such scholars as Arquilla (1999), Floridi (2008), Libicki (1996), Rubtcova & Pavenkov (2017), Shulman (1999), Waltz (1998) and others have proved that the main component of any hybrid warfare is the

informational war the underlying essence of which is the informational and psychological influence on a person. The means of informational warfighting include informational and psychological weapons which represent a combination of forms, methods and techniques of an implicit influence (manipulation) of information in the informational space of the victim country (mainly via mass media) in order to affect the individual and collective consciousness and subconsciousness of people aimed at transforming their psychic and operating (controlling) their behavior and activities in a desired manner.

A detailed and profound analysis dealing with the description of psychological mechanisms of manipulation with the collective and individual consciousness of the population in conditions of the hybrid warfare in the east of Ukraine is reflected in the works by Allison (2014), Jones (2014), Lynch (2018), Woo (2015), Wood & Todd (2018) and others.

However, the phenomenon of deformation of personality as a consequence of a hybrid warfare both on the theoretical and empirical levels remains scantily investigated. We understand the phenomenon under analysis as a complex of negative changes in the structure of personalities experienced by the population of the east of Ukraine that appeared as a result of the hybrid warfare.

The objective of the article is a scientific substantiation of such a phenomenon as deformation of personality as a consequence of a hybrid warfare.

## **Materials and methods**

The following complex of scientific methods have been employed while writing this article, namely: *theoretical ones* – the analysis of sociological, psychological, pedagogical literature, statistic documentation in order to understand the essence and consequences of the hybrid warfare in Ukraine, to determine the state of development of the problem of deformation of personality as a result of hybrid warfare in Ukraine at an inter-disciplinary level; analysis, synthesis, generalization – to substantiate the theoretical foundations of the research (essence and structure of personality, deformation of personality); *empirical ones* – observation, survey, expert evaluation and self-evaluation, biographical method, Buss-Durkee Inventory (Buss & Durkee, 1957) and questionnaire of Ch. Spielberger (Spielberger, 1983) (State-Trait Anxiety Inventory) to empirically confirm the presence of such a phenomenon as deformation of a personality as a consequence of the

hybrid warfare in Ukraine; *methods of mathematical statistics* to process, evaluate and interpret the results of the survey.

In order to verify our theoretical conclusions concerning the phenomenon of deformation of a personality as a result of the hybrid warfare the main component of which is the informational and psychological influence on the population, we conducted a survey aimed at revealing the features of deformation of personalities of children of school age at the individual (psycho-physiological) and social and psychological levels.

The research was held on the basis of the Luhansk regional branch of the International charity organization (ICO) “Charity Foundation “SOS Children’s Villages International” which in 2014 after the occupation of Luhansk was displaced to the town of Starobilsk of the Luhansk region controlled by the Ukrainian government.

In 2014, the ICO started and is going on at present the realization of three projects aimed at free of charge social, pedagogical and psychological assistance for children from displaced families as well as for the citizens of Ukraine who suffered from the conflict on the territory of the Luhansk regions, namely:

1. Social help for families that appeared in difficult situations and for families of IDPs from the zone of the operation of united forces (OUF).
2. Strengthening of communities for ensuring the needs of vulnerable families in the north of the Luhansk region (the cities of Starobilsk and Severodonetsk).
3. Qualified psychological services for IDP children and families in Starobilsk and Severodonetsk of the Luhansk region.

The international partners of the ICO in the realization of these projects are the governments of Austria and Japan as well as UNICEF and UNDP.

At present, more than 250 families that contain 508 IDP children who appeared in difficult life conditions are under the patronage of the ICO “SOS Children’s Villages International”. About 650 children and their families from the controlled and non-controlled territories by the Ukrainian government annually receive the necessary support simultaneously.

508 IDP children who appeared in difficult life conditions took part in our survey. The procedure of choosing the participants of the survey was made on the basis of 100% coverage of IDP children registered in the ICO. The second group of those who took part in the survey was made of experts in the amount of 300 persons that represented the children’s parents, their teachers and the employees of the ICO.

The object of the research is to reveal the deformations of children's personalities at the individual (psycho-physiological) and social and psychological levels.

The basis of the research of deformation of children's personalities at the social and psychological level made the structure of a personality that we have described above. Since the deformation of a personality means a complex negative changes in the structure of a personality which appeared as a result of the hybrid warfare, it was logical to assume that the level of deformation depends on a number of negative changes that take place in the development of a personality at all the structural levels (motivational, cognitive, volitional, interpersonal (social) and creative ones): the lower the level of the development of a personality is, the higher is the level of his deformation. Taking into account that a personality's deformation is a complex internal state of a man, in order to define the level of the development of his spheres, we used the methods of estimation of the general index of satisfaction developed by V. Yadov (Yadov, 1972) (modifications by N. Kuzmina's and A. Reane's ones) which allow revealing the hidden (latent) positions of a child and an expert (parents, teachers, ICO's employees) concerning the level of deformation which they might not be aware of themselves.

## **Discussion**

Without going deep into the discussion about the correlation between the biological and the social in the formation of a personality, it is possible to scientifically state that any man possesses certain individual (psych-physiological) and psychological qualities which in their interaction with certain social factors can display either positive or negative social behavior from the point of view of a concrete society. Not only biologists, but also psychologists - for example, Carlson (2008), Gersick & Rubenstein (2017) - have convincingly revealed the dependence of the social behavior of people from the psycho-physiological processes that take place in a man's organism as well as the mechanisms of influence of one and the same social factors on different types of psycho-physiological organization of people. History knows a lot of examples when identical social conditions brought some people to crimes and others to heroic deeds because every person has his own genetic organization, a unique individual way of reaction to the social impact of the environment. During the active phase of military operations and occupation of certain territories in the east of Ukraine it was not difficult to observe that one and the same social situations were

differently accepted and interpreted by different people even of the same age, the same referent group, the members of one family. Therefore, different personalities can obtain different social experience from objectively identical social situations.

In order to reveal the roots of deformation of personality in conditions of the hybrid warfare in the east of Ukraine, let us give characteristics to its following three components: the individual one, the psychological one, and the social one.

Individual characteristics of a personality include his mental and physiological qualities. Mental individuality is a unique peculiarity of every man's psychic, a dynamic combination of psychical processes (sensations, perceptions, impressions, memory, imagination, attention, will), states (emotional ones – moods, affects, anxiety; volitional ones – resoluteness, embarrassment; cognitive ones – concentration, thoughtfulness, etc.) and qualities (temper, character, abilities, world outlook, knowledge, convictions) of a personality.

Between the mental processes, states and qualities of a personality, there exist strong direct and reverse links. For example, a man's psychical state influences the course of psychical processes. It can be transformed into a personality's quality which, in its turn, can predetermine the appearance of a certain state. The combination of mental processes, states and qualities of a personality forms a man's psychological potential and preconditions the level of efficiency of his socialization (social development).

Physiological qualities of a personality (the development of central nervous system, locomotor apparatus, sensory system and other systems, the character of metabolism and energy exchange, etc.) also influence the process of socialization and individual development of a personality at different stages of ontogenesis. Understanding the regularities of the course of physiological processes makes it possible to predict their changes under different social conditions and opens possibilities to interfere in the course of physiological processes in a desired manner.

Psychological qualities of a personality are connected with an individual's characteristics at all structural levels. The structure of a personality is first of all a psychological notion. There are no doubts that any personality represents a self-controlled biosocial system of the highest complexity and that the elements (sub-structures) of a personality interact between one another at the psychological level.

At present, psychology has developed a number of well-grounded theories of personality structures which are used for the analysis of different categories of people (see the overviews in Engler (2008), Friedman &

Schustack (2015), McLeod (2017)). In order to characterize a personality that suffered deformation as a result of the hybrid warfare in Ukraine, we have chosen the structure of a personality developed by M. Shevandrin (1998) which is represented by the following five main spheres, namely:

1. The motivational sphere – needs, motives, orientations of a personality (the system of attitudes, value orientations);
2. The cognitive sphere – the system of knowledge and peculiarities of the course of cognitive processes (perception, attention, memory, thinking, etc.);
3. The volitional sphere – moral and ethical norms, conscience, convictions, humaneness, emotional states and experiences, feelings, attitude to the surrounding world, to a person's actions, etc.;
4. The interpersonal (social) sphere – interpersonal interactions, relations, social status, etc.;
5. The practical (creative) sphere – skills and habits, the sphere of activity.

As we can see, one of the components of a personality is the interpersonal (social) sphere which is realized only when a person exists in a society and which defines his social nature.

The social component is acquired by a personality only as a result of his commitment to a certain community, social group, social environment. A man can become a personality only as a result of acquiring a social essence (sociality). In other words, a personality is a social individuality or a social quality of an individuality which cannot appear beyond the limits of a society. At the same time the process of a man's development as a personality as a result of his involvement in different social communities is a socialization of a personality.

Socialization takes place in social groups in which a man is constantly involved during his life. The influence of social environment on a man via social groups is realized by a person's individual and psychological qualities – the type of his neural activity, inclinations, temper, abilities, character, value orientations (as we have mentioned it above). It is through the interaction of these sources – the individual (mental and physiological), psychological and social that a personality is formed.

Thus, a personality is a complex dynamic unity of individual, psychological and social qualities of a man which is the basis and vector of his socialization during life.

In the sphere of social, psychological and pedagogical sciences, it was proved long ago that the vector of a personality's socialization (pro-socialization, asocialization, desocialization, aberrated socialization, etc.) is

realized under the influence of macro-, meso-, and micro-social factors and individual and psychological characteristics of a personality at a certain age stage.

There is no secret that traditionally in every society (state) even provided that there is a stable development, special conditions, social and governmental institutions are created at macro- and meso-levels for an intentional obtainment of desired results of socialization – pre-school and secondary school establishments, universities, social institutions of different profiles, mass media, etc. As a rule, they form a collective and individual consciousness with the help of various progressive means – education, upbringing, social and psychological support, etc. However, the history of the development of any society has also experienced regressive means of influence on a collective and individual consciousness – means of informational and psychological impact – aimed at “modifying” people’s behavior. These include manipulation, mass instillation, hypnosis, misleading information, lie, suppression, fact distortion, spreading rumors and myths, brainwashing, “deception” aimed at ensuring loyalty, formation of a typical personality easy to control by the ruling minority. For example, in conditions of totalitarianism, socialization is realized by means of a global spying for people, psychological influence, instillation or fear to be punished for deviation from the accepted standards, for heterodoxy, psychical violence including the use of psychogenic and psychotropic influence, etc.

In our opinion, deformation of personalities of a significant part of the population in conditions of hybrid warfare does not only depend on an artificially perverted social reality by means of informational psychological influence but also on the level of the individual (psycho-physiological) and psychological development of a personality in the basis of which lies the level of the development of his psychological stability, flexibility, development of introspection and self-regulation, the presence of value orientations as well as on the level of the development of externality (a man’s inclination to explain everything that happens to him exclusively by external circumstances) and internality (inclination and readiness to take responsibility for his own life, behavior and actions).

Psychological science states that a man with a low level of psychological stability, with a weakly developed introspection and with a highly developed externality can easily become a victim of inducement – direct instillation at which he can be transformed into a creature that can be readily controlled and manipulated that may lead to his making crimes in the name of some “chief” or an artificially created idea (Eysenck, 1997).



These individual and psychological characteristics of a part of the population in the east of Ukraine were used by the enemy that had unleashed an informational and psychological war there long before the military intrusion.

## Results

After a mathematical processing the received results were entered into Table 1 according to the designed form.

**Table 1** - Results of estimation the level of deformation of children's personalities as a consequence of the hybrid warfare in Ukraine

Criteria of assessment  Criterion features	Index of satisfaction	
	self-evaluation	experts' evaluation
<b>1. Motivational</b>	<b>+ 0.39</b>	<b>+ 0.26</b>
1.1. Presence of life values and orientations in life (education, profession, family, employment, etc.)	+ 0.33	+ 0.20
1.2. Striving for self-perfection (desire to self-improve, to be useful for the society, to be realized in favorite work)	+ 0.30	+ 0.23
1.3. Readiness to satisfy the needs (in food, in dwelling, in material well-being) in the process of useful activity by socially approved means	+ 0.55	+ 0.36
<b>2. Cognitive</b>	<b>- 0.20</b>	<b>- 0.38</b>
2.1. Development of psychical processes (attention, perception, memory, thinking, imagination, etc.)	- 0.58	- 0.65
2.2. Profoundness of knowledge, erudition, quick wits, progress in studies	- 0.21	- 0.33
2.3. Striving for receiving new knowledge	+ 0.20	- 0.15
<b>3. Volitional</b>	<b>+ 0.02</b>	<b>- 0.23</b>
3.1. Sense of patriotism, civicism, commitment to the Ukrainian nation	+ 0.15	+ 0.12
3.2. Recognition as heroes the Motherland defenders (the Armed Forces of Ukraine, voluntary units)	- 0.38	- 0.67
3.3. Negative attitude to asocial behavior for the sake of survival (easy money, violation of moral standards)	+ 0.25	- 0.15
<b>4. Interpersonal</b>	<b>+ 0.15</b>	<b>+ 0.34</b>
4.1. Presence of strong links with relatives and friends	+ 0.36	+ 0.47
4.2. Skills to prove a thought with the necessary arguments, to get mutual understanding, to positively solve conflicts, to ask for help	- 0.10	+0.23
4.3. Integratedness in a collective (class, group of peers)	+ 0.19	+ 0.32
<b>5. Creative</b>	<b>+ 0.21</b>	<b>+ 0.39</b>

Deformation of Personality as a Consequence of a Hybrid Warfare  
Olena KARAMAN, Yaroslava YURKIV

5.1. Presence of a hobby	+ 0.65	+ 0.53
5.2. Possibilities to realize the skills at school and the Foundation	+ 0.28	+ 0.56
5.3. Positive attitude to the socially useful work at school and at home	- 0.29	+0.1
<b>Average results</b>	<b>+0.11</b>	<b>+0.07</b>

Let us analyze the data given in the Table above. According to the methodology of assessment of the general index of satisfaction, the range of satisfaction of the level of development of a personality at all his spheres varies between +1 (maximal satisfaction) to -1 (maximal dissatisfaction). Thus, the level of deformation of children's personalities will be higher if the index of satisfaction approaches -1 and vice versa, it will be lower if the index reaches +1. Zero index (0) shows an indifferent attitude, i.e. non-formation of a certain sphere of a personality or its feature. It is obvious that none of the criteria of deformation received an extremely negative assessment (close to -1). On the other hand, the average level of the development of children's personalities happened to be rather low (+0.11 – the index of self-evaluation and +0.07 – the index of the experts' evaluation). This, however, means that the foundation for the development of a personality has been laid and under favorable conditions higher results can be achieved.

On the basis of the received results, we can try to make up a social and psychological portrait of a child's personality that suffered deformation at all the structural spheres as a consequence of the hybrid warfare: in the motivational one (lack of aims in life and possibilities to plan the future, lack of motives of socially useful activity, lack of life values and misrepresentation of the sense of life, loss of self-identification, etc.); in the cognitive one (impairment of attention, perception (carelessness for the environment, lack of consideration for people), memory (absent-mindedness, irresponsibility), mental skills (intellectual backwardness, improvidence, superficial thoughts, illogical actions), non-criticality of thinking, poor imagination, cognitive dissonance, lack of progress in studies, etc.); in the volitional one (mistaken, irrational understanding of the standards of morality and law, irrational evaluation of the situation, inability to make independent decisions and to fulfill them, aggressiveness, cruelty, psychic instability, affective agitation, sense of defenselessness, fear of rejection (identification be the enemy), anger, search for "external enemy", the state of a victim, low self-evaluation, sense of blame, etc.); in the interpersonal one (loss of family ties, links with friends and relatives on the

basis of ideological differences and displacement, reaction of emancipation (striving for violation of the established rules, laws and habits), grouping on the basis of criminal romanticism, reaction of imitation (imitation of behavior of a certain person or an image of heroes created by criminal propaganda), inability to defend a point of view, to get mutual understanding, to solve conflicts, to ask for assistance, to resist the influence of a group or manipulations, etc.); in the creative one (lack of hobby and interest in any activity, entering criminal terroristic groups due to the ruined economy and lack of employment, striving for getting easy money obtained from illegal activity, etc.).

Our research aimed at establishing the level of deformation of children's personalities as a result of the hybrid warfare in Ukraine at the individual (psycho-physiological) level was arranged to detect most striking indices – the levels of uneasiness and the level of aggressiveness.

The level of uneasiness at children was calculated with the help of the methodology developed by Ch. Spielberg which differentiates between the personal and situational uneasiness. Personal uneasiness is a stable individual characteristic of a man; it is activated when a child finds himself in a situation of threat to his reputation, self-respect and self-evaluation. Situational uneasiness is revealed in stressful situations and is accompanied by tension and nervousness. Thus, the higher the level of uneasiness is, the more deformed a child's personality becomes. According to the results of our diagnostics represented in Table 2 a standard uneasiness had 12% of children (61 persons), the high one was found in 88% of cases (447 persons).

**Table 2** - Results of estimation of the level of uneasiness at children as a consequence of the hybrid warfare in Ukraine

Uneasiness	Indices (in%)
Standard	12
High	88

The level of aggressiveness was determined with the help of Buss-Durkee Inventory which allowed revealing a high level of aggressiveness at 84% of children (427 persons) which shows the presence of hidden destructive tendencies and possibilities to transform into an explicit aggression (Table 3). It also shows a deep deformation of children's personalities as a result of the war.

**Table 3** - Results of estimation of the level of aggressiveness at children as a consequence of the hybrid warfare in Ukraine

Aggressiveness	Indices (in %)
Standard	15.7
High	84.3

Besides the mentioned above standard methodologies, we also used other diagnostic methods: observations, surveys, expert evaluations, self-evaluations, biographical method, interviews, etc. aimed at finding an objective picture of deformation of a personality at the individual (psycho-physiological) level.

As a result, we received a psycho-physiological portrait of a child's personality that suffered deformation as a consequence of the hybrid warfare in the east of Ukraine. At the individual level it represents the following: interchange of stable and critical states of different physiological systems, mainly the nervous one (irritation, disobedience, caprices, rebellions, conflicts with adults, stubbornness, negativism, suppressed moods, affects, anxiety, embarrassment, etc.); psychical processes (easy perception of false information, mistaken understanding and beliefs, non-critical thinking, etc.); psychical qualities (sharpening of certain features of character, accentuations of character, distorted world outlook, knowledge, convictions), mechanisms of social development (following negative examples of behavior, copying the behavior of adults and friends, acquiring the behavior, social values and standards practiced by the parents as their own ones, suppression of certain patterns of behavior, etc.).

Thus, we have empirically proved the presence of such a phenomenon as deformation of a personality as a result of the hybrid warfare in Ukraine.

## Conclusions

The results of our theoretical and practical research of the influence of the hybrid warfare on a person have proved the presence of deformation of a personality that makes obstacles for a successful socialization and development of a person and jeopardizes his social, psychical and psychological health.

The theoretical analysis of the problem showed that a personality is a complex and dynamic unity of individual, psychological and social qualities of a man which make the basis and vector of his socialization during his life. The level of the development of a personality at the individual and psychological levels (psychological stability, flexibility, development of

introspection and self-regulation, the presence of value orientations and aims, externality and internality) predetermines the level of security of a personality and the ability to resist external social challenges.

The main component of the hybrid warfare in Ukraine is the informational and psychological war which represents a combination of means, forms, ways and methods of an implicit influence (manipulation) of the information in the informational space of the victim country aimed at destructing individual and collective introspection of people in order to deform personalities and to control their behavior and activities in a desired direction.

As a result of our research, it was verified the fact of deformation of personalities of a part of the population of Ukraine as a consequence of the hybrid warfare which is manifested at the individual (interchange of stable and critical psychical states, processes, qualities, mechanisms of social development. etc.) and psychological (negative changes at all the structural spheres of a personality – motivational, cognitive, volitional, interpersonal and creative ones) levels.

The results of our theoretical and practical research dealing with the estimation of deformation of a personality as a consequence of the hybrid warfare can be a thorough foundation for the development of social, psychological and pedagogical programs (projects) aimed at overcoming and/or minimizing negative personal deformations and further successful socialization and development of a personality.

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