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PROBLEMS OF DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE AND SOCIETY IN THE CONDITIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S WAR WITH UKRAINE: ECONOMIC AND LEGAL ASPECT

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the article is to study the economic and legal foundations and identify the problems of the democratic development of the state and society in the conditions of the Russian Federation's war with Ukraine. The results of the research made it possible to establish that there are problems with the democratic development of the state and society in Ukraine, which arose even before the start of the military confrontation between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and the full-scale invasion of the territory of a sovereign state only deepened the existing destructive changes in the state and society. The problem of the preservation and development of democracy has become extremely acute in modern realities and requires proper attention and in-depth research. It was revealed that in Ukraine the development of the state and society takes place under the democracy of the hybrid regime. Downward trends have been established for the indicator that characterizes the level of state instability, which indicates the consolidation of the efforts of the state and society with the aim of the effective counteraction to the external enemy in the extremely difficult conditions of waging war and mobilizing resources to preserve democratic values. It has been proved that the quality of public administration in Ukraine is too low, which requires a review of the existing policy and the development of additional measures to combat corruption in the public sector. The study of the influence of factors on the level of the quality of life of the population revealed that the growth of the index of democracy and the quality of public administration leads to an increase in the quality of life of the population (respective regression indicators $r=0.854$ and $r=0.211$), while the increase in state instability reduces it ($r=-0.332$). It is proposed to develop a set of special measures to strengthen the interaction of state authorities with the public on the basis of transparency, openness, and access to information, guarantee the rights and freedoms of people and citizens, as well as intensify the process of preventing and counteracting corruption.

Keywords: state, society, democracy, democratic development, political stability, social relations, legal relations, impact of war

JEL Classification: H79, H10

INTRODUCTION

The latest challenges, threats, and dangers caused by the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation onto the territory of sovereign Ukraine led to the strengthening of the destabilizing factors of the democratic development of the state and society. Under the conditions of socio-political and socio-economic crises, the problem of consolidation of the state and society has become more acute in order to overcome destructive changes and ensure sustainable development and growth of parameters of indicators characterizing statehood and quality of life in society. It is obvious that the war in Ukraine significantly affected the implementation of democratic principles, and preserving democracy at the pre-war level is becoming a problematic task. At the same time, the development of society in the conditions of a global crisis and war significantly slows down its pace and indirectly guarantees the preservation of the rights to realize the interests of the public, which does not correspond to the principles of ensuring democracy and goes beyond the borders of the country where hostilities are taking place.

Therefore, the problem of global preservation of the democratic foundations of the development of the state and society acquires significant importance, which raises the outlined issues to the international level and causes the need for the participation of other democratic countries of the world in the resolution of the armed conflict in Ukraine, and the chosen topic of the study acquires special acuteness and relevance.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The strengthening of the processes of globalization and reformatting of the world economic order poses a significant threat to the democratic development of the state and society since they could not deny the development of authoritarian regimes, and the establishment of democracy did not take place in such a way as to ensure the sustainable development of states and protect the interests of citizens on the basis of individual autonomy and equality. Janeway W. [1] believes that the internationalization of social relations destabilized the development of the state and society and, at the same time, caused a global crisis of democracy. It is obvious that the democratic development of the state and society under the influence of the challenges of globalization and the war in Ukraine causes additional difficulties in ensuring democracy, among the most important of which D. Ziblatt [2] singles out intense political polarization, migration factors and the formation of multi-ethnic democracies, economic inequality and public dissatisfaction, the need for institutional reforms.

Mutual trust between countries and the merging of international markets of goods and capital led to the intensification of the struggle for spheres of influence, as a result of which highly developed countries gained significant advantages, and countries of the transitive type turned into commodity appendages. Accordingly, the former followed the path of democratic development, while the latter could not decide on the main vectors of their development for a long time. In this context, V. Kozuyuk [3] claims that the establishment of democracy is able to stabilize international processes and ensure the growth of opportunities for the state and society. Bahmani J. [4] is convinced that only by achieving harmonious interaction between the state and society it is possible to implement the principles of their democratic development and quickly adapt to the changing conditions of the external and internal environment. At the same time, it is worth stating that the permanent changes of a military nature, which are currently taking place in Ukraine, require the search for a new model of the development of the state and society, capable of ensuring the preservation and development of the principles of democracy and preserving the basic freedoms of citizens. The Analytical Center "Observatory of Democracy" [5] analyzed world practices and explored possible solutions to the problem that is becoming more acute in the modern state creation of Ukraine, as a result of which it proposes the existing model of Israel's policy and considers it acceptable for Ukraine. The main idea of the proposed model is the independence of the judicial power, the high social prestige of the army, the establishment of powerful interstate ties, a high level of self-organization of the population, significant investments in human capital, positioning the lives of citizens as the highest value, ensuring one's own subjectivity, military, and economic power and active participation of voters in the electoral process.

Annan K. [6] claims that in the modern world there are various forms of democratic development of the state and society, which depend on the conditions of the functioning of the state and the level of development of society. At the same time, the scientist singles out the mechanism of conducting elections as not so important as taking into account the will of the people for them and proves the need for the development of society within the framework of a man-centered concept.

Honyukova L. [7] emphasizes the need for the development of a democratic society through the broad involvement of the public in the socio-political processes taking place in the state and links the democratic development of the state with the activation of society's influence on the government. The validity of such a position is proved by D. Leonhardt [8], who, using the example of the USA, proved that one of the biggest threats to democracy is the state's failure to take public opinion into account when formulating state policy, with which D. Kirika and A. Bodnar agree [9, p. 26], who, in addition to the above, give great importance to the control of society over the activities of the state.

Along with this, Yu. Lutsyk, S. Korotin, O. Kuchmieiev and I. Yakymenko [10, p. 159] are convinced that the level of development of the state and society depends significantly on economic factors, because such destructive changes in the economy as tinization, corruption, legalization (laundering) of proceeds obtained through crime, the deficit of the state budget and the growth of external debt do not contribute to increasing the level of democracy, and social deformations are increasing as a result of social inequality, the growth of poverty, unemployment, and other negative factors.

If we examine the state of the national system for ensuring the democratic development of Ukraine and Ukrainian society, it should be noted that the state provides a powerful legislative and regulatory basis for the implementation of the principles of democracy, and a valid political regime is a legitimate source of power. In particular, Art. 1 of the main Law of Ukraine, the Constitution [11], stipulates that Ukraine is an independent, sovereign, democratic, social and legal state, the main tasks of which are aimed at expressing the will of the people, ensuring the rights and freedoms of man and citizen,

developing and strengthening democracy, and the people are recognized as the bearer of sovereignty and the only source of power.

At the same time, the Law of Ukraine "On National Security of Ukraine" [12] regulates protection against threats to every citizen and society and provides for public supervision of the activities of state authorities and local governments. Thus, it is stated that democracy in Ukraine is a process of interaction between the state and society, which allows ensuring the protection of human and citizen rights, ideals of freedom, universal suffrage and transparency of the electoral process, freedom of thought, and its expression, freedom of conscience and free religion, as well as the rights to peaceful events, meetings and participation in public organizations. Undoubtedly, the achievement of effective democratic development depends significantly on the position of the public and the willful decisions of the authorities.

The study of trends in the democratic development of Ukraine allows us to identify certain gaps in its state-building, which were manifested in the low level of public interest in the processes of state administration, which is proved by the low turnout at the elections and, as a result, a kind of usurpation of power. However, the Revolution of Dignity in 2013–2014 proved the indomitability of Ukrainian society and its ability to defend the right to the democratic development of the state and society. The events of subsequent periods are characterized by a protracted socio-political crisis and the gradual establishment of democracy. Taking into account certain successes in this direction and the gradual inability of the Russian Federation to influence the political and social processes in Ukraine and a number of other factors, Russia launched a full-scale war against Ukraine, and the armed confrontation turned into a global military conflict. The majority of domestic and foreign scientists are inclined to think that the current events taking place in Ukraine testify to the global struggle for the preservation of democratic values.

It is obvious that ensuring the democratic development of the state and society in the conditions of a full-scale war cannot take place without problems, however, significant efforts should be directed to the establishment of effective interaction between state authorities and the public, because, as J. Holm, P. Molutsi and G. Somolekae prove [13], the influence of society on a modern democratic state occurs through public organizations and by means of close interaction with state authorities of various levels, and the presence of public associations indicates the existence and democratic development of society. At the same time, Kauffman C. [14] claims that democratic development requires ensuring the sustainable socio-economic development of the state and society, and the establishment of a hybrid regime democracy is characteristic of countries of the transitive type, including Ukraine, and is due to the incompleteness of the processes of transformation and transition to a market economy. Kansime N. [15] also connects the development of society with the type of country and the level of ensuring the democratic foundations of development, and also proves that in countries with a low level of sustainable socio-economic development, there are frequent cases of violation of the fundamental rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, not protected by legislation, and participation in the electoral process is limited.

At the same time, Z. Wazir [16] states that in the last decade, under the influence of globalization, there has been a decrease in the level of democracy in most countries of the world, and the problems of ensuring democratic development are constantly increasing. At the same time, the scientist claims that military conflicts that periodically break out in different parts of the world lead to a decrease in global security parameters, which, in turn, destabilizes the situation at the national level of each country. Ukraine was no exception, which, in fact, has been in a state of war since 2014, and in 2022 is forced to fight not only for territorial integrity but also for the preservation of the European development vector and democratic values.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the article is to study the economic and legal foundations and identify the problems of the democratic development of the state and society in the conditions of the Russian Federation's war with Ukraine. To achieve the set goal, it is necessary to solve the task of identifying the problems of the democratic development of the state and society in the conditions of the Russian Federation's war with Ukraine; analysis of the dynamics of the democracy index, the state instability index, the integral indicator of public administration and the quality of life index; determination of strategic priorities of the democratic development of the state and society.

METHODS

The methodological basis of the research is built on the use of general scientific and special methods of economic analysis. In particular, methods of scientific abstraction, analysis and synthesis, observation, and system analysis were used to determine the essence of the democratic development of the state and society; conducting empirical studies of the state

and trends in the development of the state and society in Ukraine was based on the methods of statistical and correlation-regression analysis (using the Statistica 7.0 software); in order to outline the strategic priorities of the democratic development of the state and society, a functional and systemic approach was applied; the formation of conclusions and research results was based on generalization and systematization methods.

RESULTS

Ensuring the democratic development of the state and society in the conditions of war with the Russian Federation is one of the most difficult tasks at both the national and international levels. It is obvious that the war does not contribute to the establishment of democratic principles and values, which leads to a decrease in the general well-being of the state and society. Under such conditions, we consider it reasonable to conduct empirical studies of the state and trends of the democratic development of the state and society in Ukraine, because only the evaluation of the main parameters can testify to the changes taking place and their consequences.

The main indicator that characterizes the level of democratic development of the state and society is the democracy index. At the international level, a special methodology for assessing the level of democracy in the country has been developed and the calculation of the democracy index as a comprehensive indicator that certifies the parameters of the electoral process and pluralism in the state, the quality and efficiency of government functioning, the level of political participation, political culture and the provision of civil liberties, has been provided. At the same time, the gradation scale provides full democracy on the condition of assigning 8.01 points out of a possible 10, imperfect democracy in the case of scoring in the range of 6.01–8, hybrid regime democracy – on the condition that the state scores 4.01–6 points, and authoritarianism at scoring less than 4 points. In Figure 1 we display the dynamics of changes in the democracy index in Ukraine for the period of 2013–2022.

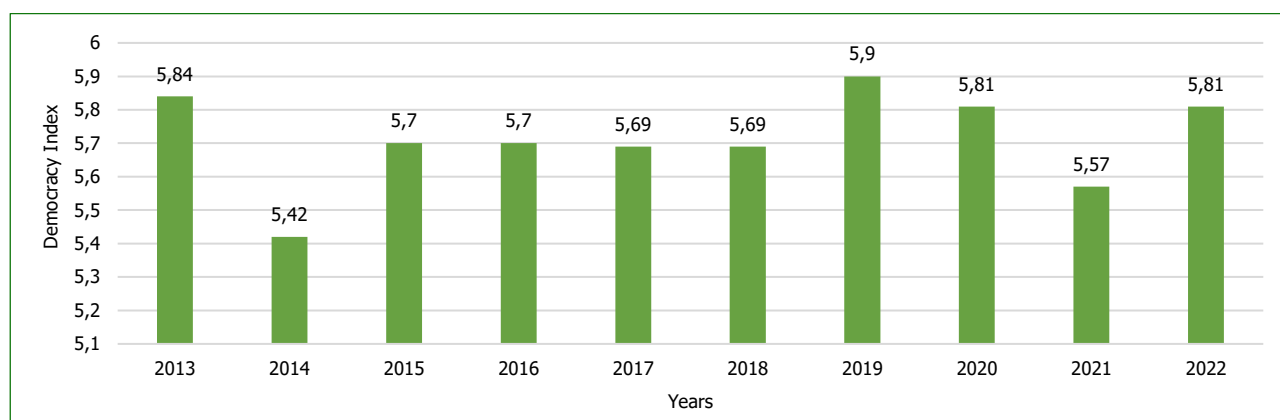


Figure 1. State and dynamics of the democracy index in Ukraine in 2013–2022. (Calculated on the basis of: [17; 18])

As evidenced by the obtained results, the index of democracy in Ukraine during the period of socio-political and financial, and economic crises has a tendency to decrease, which is evidenced by the value of the studied indicator in 2014 and 2021. It is worth noting that in the conditions of military confrontation with the aggressor country, Ukraine managed to maintain a fairly high level of democratic development, which, in fact, corresponds to the pre-crisis value of 2020 (5.81). At the same time, the type of democracy in Ukraine throughout the analyzed period is characterized as a democracy of a hybrid regime, which requires increased attention to ensuring the principles of democratic development of the state and society, increasing the political literacy of the population and overcoming legal nihilism by carrying out appropriate reforms.

At the same time, the study of the index of state instability for the same period (Figure 2), which is designed to assess the vulnerability of the state to conflicts or the possibility of disintegration by ranking the data of the states, is extremely relevant in the conditions of the Russian Federation's war with Ukraine, as it allows to measure the state of the security environment of the state, fractionalized elites, economic decline, and poverty indicators, unevenness of sustainable development, loss of human potential, legitimacy of state power and the quality of services provided by public administration bodies, protection of human rights and the rule of law, the demographic situation, the state of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as the level of external interference in state affairs.

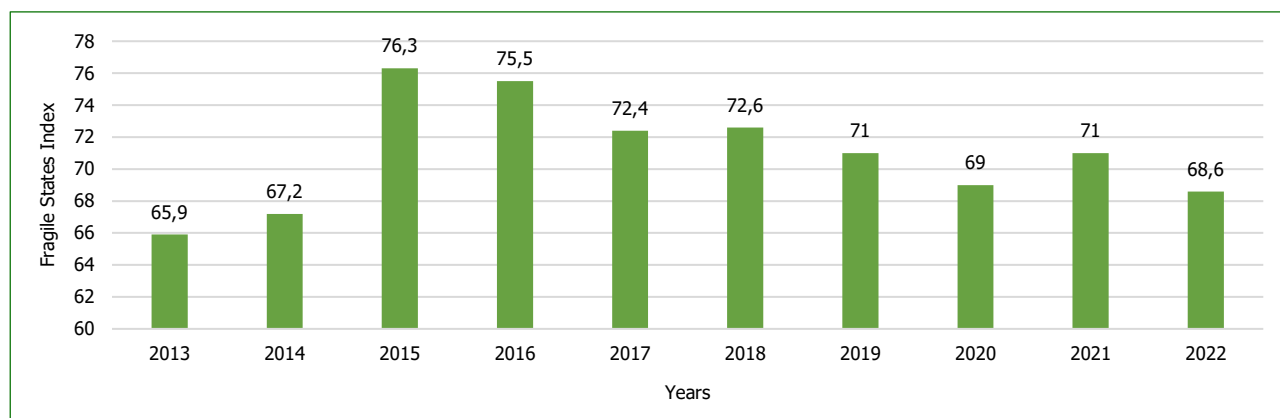


Figure 2. State and dynamics of the index of state instability in Ukraine in 2013–2022. (Calculated on the basis of: [19–27])

The results of the analysis of the index of state instability during 2013–2022 allow us to note such a regularity that in periods of crisis for the state and society, the value of the indicator significantly decreases, in particular, in 2013–2014 (a period of socio-political crisis and the Revolution of Dignity) to 65.9 in 2013 and 67.2 in 2014. In 2020, the financial and economic crisis caused by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic led to a decrease in the index of state instability to 69, and in the conditions of 2022, with a full-scale russian war with Ukraine, its value further decreased to 68.6, which, in fact, almost reached the mark of 2014. Such trends testify to the strengthening of political instability and state the imbalance of the state administration system. However, paradoxically, downward trends in the index of state instability are observed precisely in periods of crisis, which indicates Ukraine's ability to unite efforts and mobilize all available resources and stand up for democratic values and show readiness for effective interaction both on the part of the state and society in non-standard crisis conditions, which is proved by the realities of today.

Equally important within our research is the description of the state and dynamics of the Integral indicator of public administration in Ukraine in 2018–2021 (Figure 3), which is built on the basis of identifying indicators of the implementation of the right to vote and accountability in the state, ensuring political stability and the absence of violence, the efficiency of the government, the quality of legislation, the rule of law and the control of corruption.

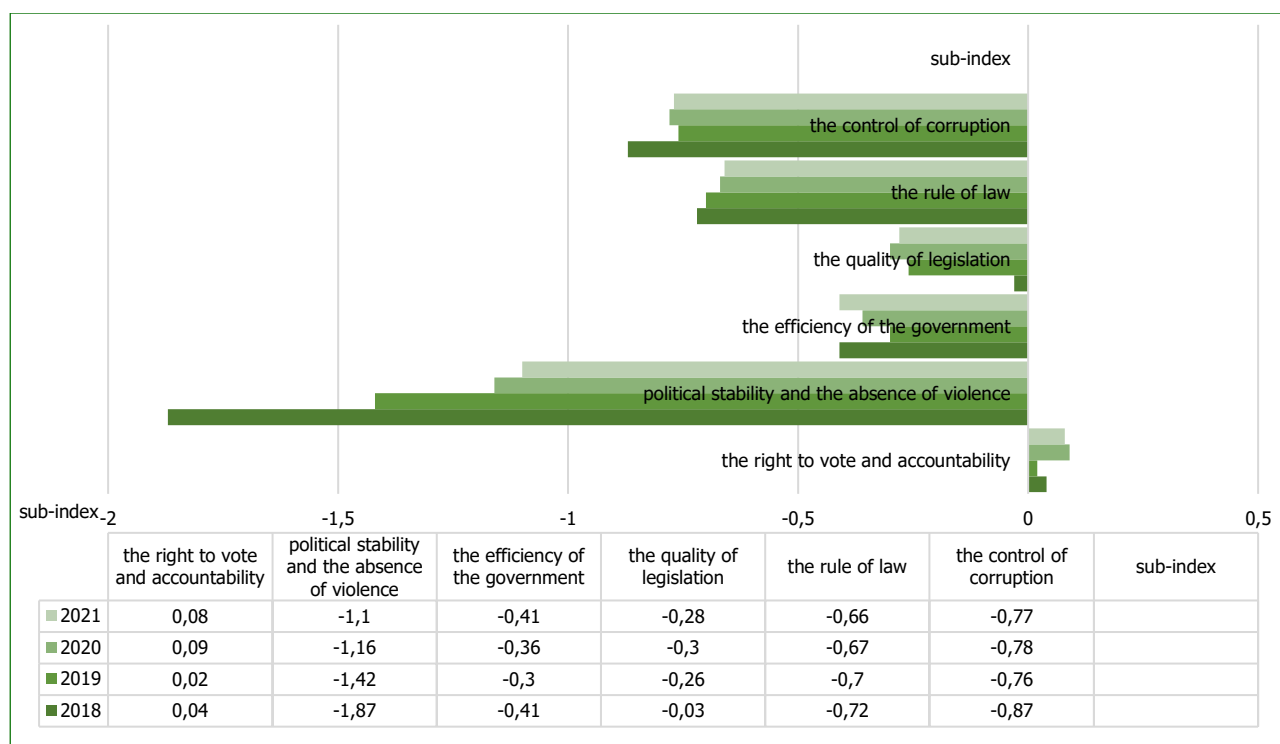


Figure 3. State and dynamics of the Integral indicator of public administration in Ukraine in 2018–2021. (Calculated on the basis of: [28])

The conducted studies of the state and dynamics of the Integral indicator of public administration in Ukraine in 2018–2021 testify to extremely negative trends for Ukraine. Most of the indicators are in the crisis state and require the development and implementation of a complex of special anti-crisis measures. More in-depth calculations made it possible to reveal that the value of the sub-index "right to vote and accountability" testifies to the realization of the will of citizens not to the full extent, which is confirmed by the unique facts of falsification of election results at various levels of the election process, dishonesty and bad faith in the conduct of pre-election campaigns and non-fulfillment of promises made by political structures.

Critical values were recorded in Ukraine for the "political stability and absence of violence" sub-index, which indicates a high probability of destabilization of the activities of state bodies, the use of violence during the change of power that took place in 2013-2014, as well as frequent changes in the state's political course. Although slight positive changes are noted in this area, which is evidenced by the increasing trends of the subindex value from -1.87 in 2018 to -1.16 in 2020, however, it was partially possible to overcome established illegal methods.

The evaluation of the government's efficiency gives reasons to state the low quality of service provision by the executive authorities and their certain dependence on business structures. As for the quality of legislation in Ukraine, it is at the stage of formation, harmonization and implementation with norms, regulations and standards of international law. At the same time, the increase in the level of crime in Ukraine indicates a low level of development of the legislative and regulatory framework, which would contribute to the democratic development of the state and society, and the level of trust in national legislation is quite weak.

At the same time, growing trends are observed regarding the corruption of state power and society, and the effectiveness of the fight against corruption shows sufficiently low indicators, which poses a significant threat to both the state and society. In addition, a significant number of high-profile corruption scandals have been recorded and fairly loyal types of responsibility for illegal acts of corruption have been established.

Nevertheless, existing problems regarding the development of the state and its provision of democratic foundations are not limited to the state sector, but go beyond it and have a significant destructive impact on society. Undoubtedly, the emergence of socio-political imbalances creates social tension and lowers the quality of life of the population. Therefore, the study of the state and dynamics of the quality of life index of the population, which we conduct in Figure 4, is justified.

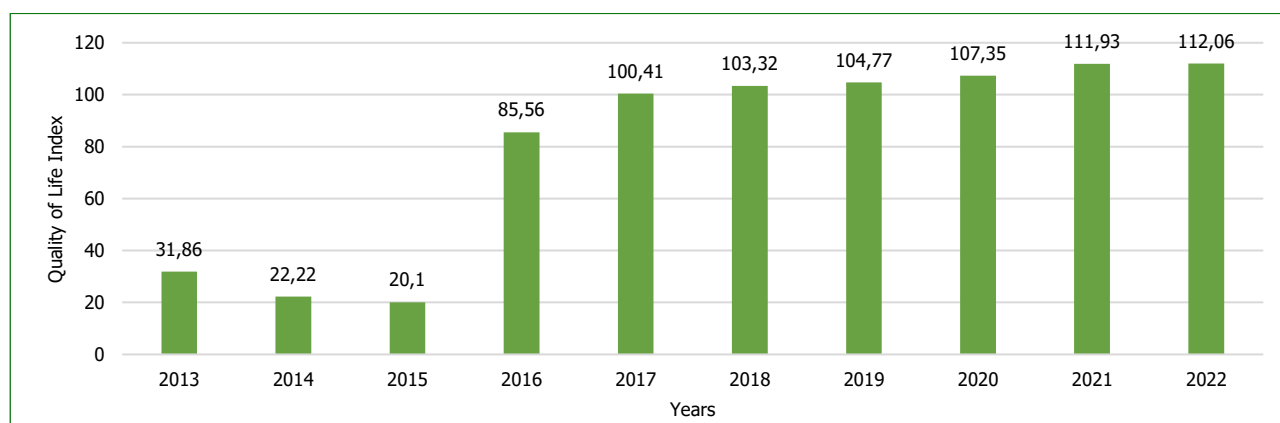


Figure 4. State and dynamics of the quality of life index in Ukraine in 2013–2022. (Calculated on the basis of: [29])

The results of the study of the quality of life index of the population during 2013–2022 allow us to state that negative crisis trends had a destructive impact on society only during 2013–2015. Subsequently, a steady growing trend in changes of the analyzed indicator is observed, which confirms its relationship with the growth of the democracy index. However, we consider that the existing conditions of functioning of Ukraine and the life of the population in society have been significantly affected by the conduct of hostilities on the territory of the country, the annexation of significant territories and the forced relocation of the population to safe regions for living and are not so optimistic. We consider it expedient to question the value of the quality of life index in Ukraine in 2022 and, taking into account the impossibility of conducting proper surveys and assessing the real situation in the occupied territories due to the impossibility of access to them, to appeal for the need to clarify the data and recalculate the quality of life index.

At the same time, we suggest deepening our research in the direction of identifying factors that have the greatest impact on the quality of life in society. For this, we use the technology of correlation-regression analysis and Statistica 7.0 software.

Carrying out the relevant calculations requires the determination of the effective indicator, which is the index of the quality of life of the population (Y) and the indicators-factors, for which we take the index of democracy (x_1), the index of state instability (x_2) and the Integral indicator of public administration (x_3).

Based on the calculations (equation 1), it was possible to establish that there is a strong relationship between the analyzed indicators, confirmed by the correlation coefficient $R=0.831$. At the same time, the statistical significance of the model is proved by the value of Fisher's F-test $F(3.5) = 3.228$.

$$Y = 43,10 + 0,854x_1 - 0,332x_2 + 0,211x_3 \quad (1)$$

$$R=0,831; R^2=0,618; p<0,050,$$

Y is the index of the quality of life of the population; x_1 – democracy index; x_2 – index of state instability; x_3 – Integral indicator of public administration.

Therefore, the analysis of the influence of factors on the level of the quality of life of the population allowed us to identify both positive and negative effects of the selected factors on the result indicator, which is considered to be the index of the quality of life of the population. Based on the obtained results, it can be concluded that the growth of the quality of life of the population depends significantly on the growth of the democracy index and the Integral indicator of public administration (respective regression indicators $r=0.854$ and $r=0.211$). The relationship between the state instability index and the quality of life index is characterized by an inversely proportional dependence: when the state instability index increases, the quality of life index decreases, as evidenced by the regression index $r= -0.332$.

As a result of the conducted research, it can be concluded that ensuring the sustainable democratic development of the state and society in the conditions of the russian federation's war with Ukraine is extremely problematic and significantly depends on internal and external factors.

Getting out of the crisis situation and ensuring the sustainable development of the state and society on the principles of democracy becomes possible under the condition of the cessation of hostilities on the territory of Ukraine, the restoration of its territorial integrity and the stabilization of all socio-political and financial-economic processes.

DISCUSSION

The study of the economic and legal foundations and the identification of the problems of the democratic development of the state and society in the conditions of the russian federation's war with Ukraine allows us to identify the main problems of ensuring such development, among the most common of which are:

- increased conflict in the political system of the state, competition between political structures and a low level of their activity in taking into account the opinion and interests of the public;
- low level of interaction between state authorities and the public;
- non-transparency of activities of state authorities and limited access of citizens to the results of such activities;
- low level of democratic culture in politics and public consciousness of the population in society;
- inconsistency and nonconformity of the current legislation of Ukraine with the norms of international law;
- growth of corruption indicators and its spread to all branches of power.

In the process of researching the economic and legal foundations of the development of the state and society in the conditions of the russian federation's war with Ukraine, it was established that society is the basis for the progressive development of the state and the initiator of rational changes, because only a developed society is capable of ensuring the democratic development of the state. It is obvious that the democratic principles of the development of the state and society provide for the strengthening of democracy as a process of ensuring the supremacy of human rights and freedoms.

At the same time, the state of development of society in Ukraine is characterized by signs of marginalization, which are associated with the presence of significant social problems, which, as noted by M. Vinichuk [30, p. 117], are caused by a decrease in the level of social security of the state and violate the principles of democratic development. Therefore, strengthening the social protection of the population on the part of the state and taking into account the opinion of the public when making relevant decisions are justified.

Empirical studies of the main indicators characterizing the level of democratic development of the state and society allowed us to reveal that Ukraine has established a hybrid regime democracy, the political system is unstable, and the quality of public administration needs improvement. Moreover, the destabilizing factors caused by the military aggression of the Russian Federation further deepened the negative processes and phenomena observed in the state and society and caused the emergence of new challenges and threats.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, summarizing the results of the conducted study of the economic and legal foundations and the identification of the problems of the democratic development of the state and society in the conditions of the Russian Federation's war with Ukraine, it can be stated that there are significant problems of ensuring and developing democracy in Ukraine, which arose long before the beginning of the military conflict and armed confrontation with the Russian Federation, which lie in the low level of interaction of the public with state authorities, the achievement of a level of democracy that meets the criteria of a hybrid regime, the strengthening of indicators of state instability, social inequality and tension in society, the low quality of the provision of services by state authorities, as well as in the growth of corruption indicators. It has been proved that in modern conditions, the level of the quality of life of the population in society depends on ensuring the democratic foundations of its development and the development of the state ($r=0.854$), as well as on the efficiency of public administration ($r=0.211$). At the same time, it was established that strengthening the state instability leads to a decrease in the quality of life of the population ($r=-0.332$). In order to overcome the significant destabilizing factors of the democratic development of the state and society in the conditions of Russia's war with Ukraine, it is proposed to strengthen the interaction of state authorities with the public on the basis of transparency, openness and access to information, guarantee the preservation of the rights and freedoms of man and citizen, take into account the opinion of the public when making management decisions by state authorities and provide all-round support to the population, as well as take appropriate measures to prevent and counteract corruption.

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ПРОБЛЕМИ ДЕМОКРАТИЧНОГО РОЗВИТКУ ДЕРЖАВИ Й СУСПІЛЬСТВА В УМОВАХ ВІЙНИ РОСІЙСЬКОЇ ФЕДЕРАЦІЇ З УКРАЇНОЮ: ЕКОНОМІКО-ПРАВОВИЙ АСПЕКТ

Метою статті є дослідження економіко-правових засад та виявлення проблем демократичного розвитку держави й суспільства в умовах війни Російської Федерації з Україною. Результати проведеного дослідження дозволили встановити, що в Україні існують проблеми демократичного розвитку держави й суспільства, які виникли ще до початку воєнного протистояння України Російській Федерації, а повномасштабне вторгнення на територію суверенної держави лише поглибило наявні деструктивні зміни в державі й суспільстві. Проблема збереження та розвитку демократії надзвичайно загострилася в сучасних реаліях та потребує належної уваги й поглиблених досліджень. Виявлено, що в Україні розвиток держави й суспільства відбувається за демократії гібридного режиму. Установлено низхідні тенденції щодо показника, який характеризує рівень державної нестабільності, що свідчить про консолідацію зусиль держави й суспільства з метою ефективної протидії зовнішньому ворогу в надскладних умовах ведення війни та мобілізації ресурсів для збереження демократичних цінностей. Доведено, що якість державного управління в Україні є надто низькою, що потребує перегляду існуючої політики та розроблення додаткових заходів щодо боротьби з корупцією в державному секторі. Дослідження впливу факторів на рівень якості життя населення дозволило виявити, що зростання індексу демократії та якості державного управління зумовлює підвищення якості життя населення (відповідні показники регресії $r=0,854$ та $r=0,211$), а посилення державної нестабільності його знижує ($r=-0,332$). Запропоновано розробити комплекс спеціальних заходів щодо посилення взаємодії органів державної влади з громадськістю на засадах прозорості, відкритості та доступності до інформації, гарантувати права та свободи людини й громадянина, інтенсифікувати процес запобігання та протидії корупції.

Ключові слова: держава, суспільство, демократія, демократичний розвиток, політична стабільність, суспільні відносини, правові відносини, вплив війни

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