



International Conference on Education, Psychology and Humanities

Hosted Online from Moscow, Russia

Date: 28th June, 2026

Website: <https://econferencia.com>

MILITARY EDUCATION: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

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Annotatsiya:

ushbu maqolada harbiy ta'limning kechasi, buguni va kelajagi xususida fikr yuritiladi. Bundan tashqari maqolada tashqi va ichki siyosiy omillar ta'sirida transformatsiyasi masalasi va uning yechimlariga o'ziga xos holda yondashilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: harbiy ta'lim, mudofaa, doktrina, harbiy boshqaruv, siyosiy jarayon, harbiy-siyosiy vaziyat, xavfsizlik, raqamlashtirish, strategiya, texnologik savodxonlik, kiberxavfsizlik, tahliliy qobiliyat, integratsiya, tarbiya, gibrid tahdid, vatanparvarlik ruhi, sun'iy intellekt, mustaqil fikr, psixologik tayyorgarlik, intellect, tarixiy tajriba.

Annotatsiya:

В статье рассматриваются прошлое, настоящее и будущее военного образования. Кроме того, в статье своеобразным образом рассматривается вопрос трансформации под влиянием внешних и внутренних политических факторов и подходы к его решению.

Ключевые слова: военное образование, оборона, доктрина, военное управление, политический процесс, военно-политическая ситуация, безопасность, цифровизация, стратегия, технологическая грамотность, кибербезопасность, аналитические способности, интеграция, воспитание,



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гибридная угроза, патриотический дух, искусственный интеллект, независимое мышление, психологическая подготовка, интеллект, исторический опыт.

Annotation:

The article examines the past, present and future of military education. In addition, the article deals in a peculiar way with the issue of transformation under the influence of external and internal political factors and approaches to its solution.

Keywords: military policy, internal factor, external factor, smart army, people's army, modernization, subjective factors, objective factors, digital technologies, army, concept, trend, forecast, transformation.

Military education plays a vital role in ensuring the defense capability, national security, and sovereignty of any state. The independence of a country, its territorial integrity, and the peaceful and stable life of its people largely depend on the level of knowledge, combat readiness, patriotism, discipline, political and legal awareness, and the ability of military personnel to understand modern security threats. Therefore, military education is not limited to weapons training, drill exercises, or combat practice. In a broader sense, it is a system for preparing military personnel who are ready to defend the Motherland, are morally mature, physically fit, technologically literate, capable of strategic thinking, and able to make responsible decisions in complex situations.

The content of military education has evolved alongside the development of society. In ancient times, military training was primarily associated with physical strength, weapon-handling skills, horseback riding, marching in formation,



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maintaining combat order, and obeying commanders' instructions. In later historical periods, military education expanded to include strategy, tactics, engineering, communications, military management, cartography, intelligence, technology, and military psychology. Today, the scope of military education has broadened even further. Modern military personnel are expected to possess not only combat skills but also competencies in information technologies, cybersecurity, unmanned aerial systems, elements of artificial intelligence, electronic warfare, analysis of the international military-political environment, and rapid decision-making.

In the context of Uzbekistan, military education is closely linked to the country's defense policy, national security interests, and peace-oriented foreign policy. The Law "On Defense" states that defense is understood as "a set of political, economic, military, social-legal, informational, organizational, and other measures aimed at ensuring the protection of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, peaceful life, and security of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan." This approach demonstrates that the defense system is based not only on military power but also on political, economic, social, informational, and organizational measures.

Today, military-political processes around the world are becoming increasingly complex. Geopolitical competition, armed conflicts, terrorism, extremism, cyberattacks, information warfare, hybrid threats, and transnational security challenges are intensifying in various regions. Under such conditions, military education must prepare military personnel not only for the battlefield but also for the broader security environment. Military professionals should be capable of understanding the nature of modern threats, assessing political developments, and deeply recognizing their responsibility for safeguarding national interests.



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The “past” of military education teaches us historical experience, combat traditions, and the spirit of patriotism, while its “present” state reflects modern defense policies and military education reforms. The “future” defines the technological, scientific, digital, and strategic directions of military education development.

The historical roots of military education date back to the earliest periods of human civilization. With the emergence of states and societies came the need to protect them, preserve territorial integrity, and ensure public security. This necessity led to the development of military training, the art of warfare, command and control, defense systems, military discipline, and strategic management. In ancient times, military education was primarily based on practical experience. Young warriors learned from older generations how to use weapons, hunt, ride horses, move in formation, observe combat discipline, and carry out commanders’ orders.

Throughout history, the primary purpose of military education was not only to prepare individuals for combat but also to cultivate courage, resilience, dedication, discipline, loyalty, and a spirit of service to the Motherland. The essence of military service places the interests of the nation and the state above personal interests. Therefore, military education has always been closely connected with moral and ethical upbringing. A warrior’s strength was reflected not only in the weapons he carried but also in his psychological stability, ability to overcome fear, loyalty to orders, and sense of responsibility.

In the history of Central Asia, military education and military administration have held a particularly important place. Since this region was located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, it became a meeting point of various states, political forces, and military interests. As a result, issues such as defense, military command, border protection, combat discipline, intelligence gathering, and



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strategic planning have always been of great significance. In particular, during the reign of Amir Temur, the organization of the army, the training of military commanders, military discipline, mobilization, combat formations, and command culture reached a high level of development. The experience of this period demonstrates that military education was important not only from a practical perspective but also from organizational and political standpoints.

Historical sources indicate that the personal qualities of a commander were considered highly important in military leadership. A commander was expected not only to possess combat skills but also to be fair, determined, wise, farsighted, capable of understanding the psychology of soldiers, and able to make sound decisions in complex situations. Thus, leadership, loyalty, responsibility, and strategic thinking occupied a central place in military education during ancient and medieval times.

By the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the content of military education became increasingly complex. Industrial development and the emergence of new weapons, artillery, railways, telegraph systems, aviation, radio communications, and mechanized forces transformed the nature of military knowledge. Military personnel were now required to possess not only physical fitness but also technical expertise, the ability to use communication equipment, map-reading skills, engineering knowledge, tactical thinking, and an understanding of complex military operations. During this period, military schools, military academies, and specialized command training institutions experienced significant development. Political processes also played a major role in the historical evolution of military education. The military education system of each era was closely connected to the political structure, security requirements, external threats, and methods of state governance of that time. For example, during the age of empires, military education was shaped by the need to govern and control vast territories, whereas



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security, and peaceful life. Military personnel must regard the defense of the Motherland as their highest duty, remain loyal to the interests of the people, be capable of making responsible decisions in emergency situations, and adhere to the legal and ethical standards of military service.

Contemporary military-political developments are placing new demands on military education. In today's world, the concept of security is no longer limited to conventional military attacks or border threats. Information warfare, cyberattacks, terrorism, extremism, transnational crime, the illegal trafficking of weapons and narcotics, migration-related risks, hybrid threats, and psychological influence operations have all become factors affecting national security. Therefore, modern military education must prepare military personnel to operate within a broad and complex security environment.

Today's officer should not merely be an executor of combat orders but also an analyst of situations, a leader of personnel, an evaluator of information, a user of advanced technologies, a psychologically resilient individual, and a capable leader. An officer must be able to rapidly assess military situations, anticipate threats, manage the morale of personnel, understand modern weapons and technical systems, and comply with the norms of international law and the requirements of military ethics.

These reforms are aimed at organizing military education within a unified, systematic, and modern management framework. The integration of military educational institutions into a single system makes it possible to harmonize curricula, strengthen scientific and methodological approaches, improve the quality of personnel training, and develop modern military specialties. In particular, the inclusion of a training center for specialists in unmanned aerial systems within this framework demonstrates the growing importance of modern combat and reconnaissance technologies in military education.



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Today, digitalization is becoming one of the key priorities in military education. Within the section “*Reforms to Strengthen the Security and Defense Capacity of Our Country*” of the **Uzbekistan–2030 Strategy**, specific tasks have been identified to enhance the digital capabilities of the Armed Forces, ensure information security, and improve military personnel’s knowledge and skills in the use of modern information and communication technologies.

Digitalization plays a crucial role in military command and control, communications, surveillance, information exchange, rapid decision-making, and security assurance. Therefore, the study of information technologies, digital management systems, cybersecurity, electronic mapping, simulation-based training, and automated command-and-control systems has become a priority in modern military education.

The **Uzbekistan–2030 Strategy** also identifies the continued implementation of a policy based on the principle of a “Safe and Peace-Loving State” as a major strategic priority. The Strategy emphasizes the consistent implementation of the foreign policy of New Uzbekistan based on the interests of the people and the state, as well as the continuation of an open, pragmatic, active, and good-neighborly foreign policy in a complex international environment.

Within the section “*Reforms to Strengthen the Security and Defense Capacity of Our Country*,” the Strategy also sets objectives for the continuous improvement of the system for training highly qualified military personnel and for the broader introduction of modern military training methods into educational processes. This demonstrates the close connection between military education, foreign policy, and national security. Military personnel must understand not only their internal military duties but also issues related to regional security, international cooperation, national interests, and the principles of a peace-oriented foreign



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policy. Military education therefore serves as an important intellectual foundation of the state security system.

Thus, military education in modern Uzbekistan is developing on the basis of historical traditions, national defense needs, and contemporary military-political processes. It is aimed at preparing personnel who are loyal to the defense of the Motherland, possess modern knowledge and skills, are technologically literate, politically and legally competent, and capable of operating effectively in complex security environments.

The contemporary military education system of Uzbekistan is designed not only to provide military knowledge and practical skills but also to comprehensively develop the personal qualities of military personnel. Today's service member must deeply understand their duty to the Motherland, remain faithful to the military oath, demonstrate discipline, maintain psychological resilience, effectively use modern technical equipment, and make sound decisions in any complex situation. Therefore, theoretical instruction, practical training, physical preparation, moral and educational development, and psychological training are conducted as an integrated system within the military education process.

The current military-political environment demonstrates that ensuring state security is determined not only by the size of the armed forces or their technical capabilities. One of the most important factors is the level of knowledge of military personnel, their ability to understand modern threats, and their capacity for rapid response. For this reason, modern military education teaches cadets and trainees not only tactics and strategy but also international security, geopolitical developments, information security, cybersecurity, counterterrorism and counter-extremism measures, and emergency management.

The role of practical training in contemporary military education is becoming increasingly significant. Theoretical knowledge becomes genuine professional



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competence only when it is applied in real military situations. Field exercises, tactical training, military-sports assessments, simulation exercises, and scenario-based combat situations help cadets develop skills in rapid decision-making, precise execution of orders, teamwork, and responsibility. As a result, the practical preparedness of future officers and sergeants is significantly strengthened.

Technological literacy is becoming increasingly important in modern military education. Today's military sphere makes extensive use of communication systems, surveillance technologies, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), digital mapping systems, computerized command-and-control systems, and information technologies. Consequently, developing cadets' technical thinking, enhancing their knowledge of modern military equipment and weapon systems, and building their skills in working with digital technologies have become essential priorities for military educational institutions.

Contemporary military-political developments require military education to be continuously updated. In an era of rapidly evolving security threats, it is impossible to rely solely on traditional methods. Military education systems must continue to improve by taking into account the experience of modern warfare, international security trends, technological advancements, and national defense requirements. Only then can military education effectively contribute to strengthening the country's defense capabilities, training professional personnel, and ensuring the security of Uzbekistan.

The future of military education is directly connected to changes in the modern security environment. Today's world is characterized by rapidly evolving military-political processes. Alongside conventional forms of warfare, hybrid warfare, information warfare, cybersecurity threats, drones, artificial intelligence, robotic systems, space-based surveillance technologies, electronic warfare, and



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psychological influence operations are becoming increasingly widespread. Therefore, the military education of the future must extend beyond traditional combat training and develop in technological, scientific, analytical, and innovative directions.

One of the most important future directions of military education will be the strengthening of digital and technological preparedness. Military personnel must acquire comprehensive knowledge of modern communication systems, digital command-and-control platforms, unmanned aerial vehicles, electronic intelligence, cybersecurity, information analysis, and automated decision-support systems. In today's security environment, military personnel who lack technological competence cannot operate effectively within complex combat and information environments.

Specializations related to unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) will hold particular importance in the future of military education. Recent international military developments have demonstrated that drones have become essential tools for reconnaissance, surveillance, communications, logistics, and combat operations. Consequently, increasing attention is being devoted in Uzbekistan to the training of aviation specialists and UAV operators. The development of this field within the military education system will enhance the adaptability of the armed forces to modern security threats.

Cybersecurity will also occupy a central place in the future of military education. Modern warfare is conducted not only on land, in the air, or at sea, but also in cyberspace. Cyberattacks targeting government administration, military communications, strategic infrastructure, energy systems, financial institutions, and information networks can pose serious threats to national security. Therefore, military education should place special emphasis on the fundamentals of



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cybersecurity, network security, information system protection, cyber intelligence, and information warfare.

Strategic thinking and analytical capabilities will become increasingly important in the future of military education. Military personnel should be developed not merely as executors of orders but as leaders capable of assessing situations, anticipating threats, and making sound decisions. To achieve this, greater attention must be given to subjects such as history, geopolitics, international relations, security studies, military diplomacy, military psychology, and management culture within military education programs.

The future of military education should be based on the integration of science and practice. Military higher education institutions should not only serve as places where cadets receive instruction but also evolve into centers for defense-related research, the development of new tactical approaches, the testing of advanced technologies, and the integration of practical military experience with theoretical knowledge. In this regard, the establishment of the University of Military Security and Defense can be regarded as an important step toward achieving these objectives.

Moral and ethical education will also retain its significance in the future of military education. No matter how advanced technology becomes, the most essential qualities of military personnel will remain loyalty to the Motherland, responsibility to the people, fidelity to the military oath, discipline, courage, honesty, and dedication. One of the primary goals of military education is to develop individuals who possess modern knowledge and skills while remaining firmly grounded in national values and the spirit of patriotism.

Preparation against hybrid threats is one of the key directions of future military education. Hybrid threats may not appear in the form of direct armed attacks but can manifest through information pressure, disinformation, psychological



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influence, economic coercion, cyberattacks, and efforts to increase social instability. Therefore, military personnel must be able to analyze information, distinguish false information from reliable sources, withstand psychological pressure, and develop a strong culture of information security.

International cooperation will also play an important role in the future of military education. Uzbekistan's Defense Doctrine is based on a peace-oriented approach, according to which the country builds relations with all states on the principles of national interests, equality, mutual benefit, non-interference in internal affairs, and the peaceful resolution of disputes. This requires military education to provide in-depth instruction in international law, military diplomacy, peacekeeping, regional security, and international cooperation.

The strategic importance of military education lies in the fact that it creates the intellectual foundation of a country's defense capability. Modern weapons and military equipment are important; however, without knowledgeable and professional personnel capable of using them effectively, no defense system can be truly strong. Therefore, every innovation introduced into military education contributes to enhancing national security, strengthening the combat readiness of the armed forces, and increasing the overall defense capacity of the nation.

In the future, military education will also continue to play a significant role in fostering patriotism among young people. Military education is not intended solely for professional military personnel; it also serves to strengthen values such as national defense, civic responsibility, discipline, courage, and national pride throughout society. Through military education, the younger generation gains a deeper understanding of the value of independence, the importance of peace, and the fact that safeguarding state security is the responsibility of every citizen.

In the future, military education will make even greater use of artificial intelligence, digital command-and-control systems, simulation-based training,



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and virtual training grounds. Such technologies provide opportunities to prepare military personnel in conditions that closely resemble real combat situations, assess risks in advance, model various military scenarios, and develop rapid decision-making skills. In particular, the ability to operate effectively in complex environments, make correct decisions within limited timeframes, and efficiently manage personnel will become some of the most important professional requirements for future officers.

One of the key objectives of future military education is to cultivate independent thinking and initiative among young military personnel. In modern combat environments, not every situation unfolds according to a predetermined plan. Therefore, military personnel should not merely be executors of orders but individuals capable of accurately assessing situations, making rational use of available resources, demonstrating initiative when necessary, and taking responsibility for their decisions. This requires military education to place greater emphasis on creative thinking, analytical approaches, and rapid leadership and management skills.

Future military education must also further strengthen psychological preparation. Military service is a demanding and highly responsible profession that requires considerable mental resilience. Military personnel must be able to maintain psychological stability under conditions of stress, danger, uncertainty, information pressure, and rapidly changing circumstances. For this reason, military education should devote significant attention to developing psychological readiness, stress resilience, team spirit, leadership qualities, and self-management skills.

The future strategic importance of military education lies in the fact that it creates the human and intellectual foundation of a country's defense power. Even the most advanced weapons and equipment cannot produce the expected results



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without knowledgeable, disciplined, and patriotic personnel capable of using them properly. Therefore, the development of the military education system is an important factor in ensuring Uzbekistan's security, the combat readiness of the army, and the protection of state independence.

In future military education, patriotic upbringing will also remain a central priority. Along with knowing modern technologies, thinking strategically, and making decisions in complex situations, military personnel must possess qualities such as loyalty to the Motherland, a sense of duty to the people, fidelity to the military oath, national pride, and dedication. The ultimate goal of military education is not only to train qualified specialists but also to educate mature individuals who love their country and are ready to defend its peace and independence.

Thus, the future of military education will be based on the harmony of technological modernization, digital knowledge, psychological resilience, strategic thinking, scientific research, and patriotic upbringing. This approach will serve to strengthen the capacity of the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan, reinforce national security, and ensure the peaceful and stable development of the country. In conclusion, military education plays an important role in ensuring the defense capability and national security of every state. Its historical roots are connected with ancient combat traditions, discipline, courage, loyalty to the Motherland, and command culture. While the past stage of military education was based on practical combat skills and military discipline, its present stage is being enriched with modern technologies, strategic analysis, information security, and an understanding of international military-political processes.

In modern Uzbekistan, military education is closely connected with the country's defense policy, national security interests, and peace-oriented foreign policy. Uzbekistan's Defense Doctrine is defensive in nature; the country does not regard



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any state as its enemy and supports the peaceful resolution of disputes. Therefore, the main purpose of military education is not aggression, but the training of personnel capable of defending the Motherland, ensuring public security, and protecting state sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the future, military education will become an even more complex and multidimensional system. Digital technologies, cybersecurity, unmanned aerial vehicles, artificial intelligence, information analysis, psychological resilience, strategic thinking, and international cooperation will occupy an important place within it. Military personnel must be not only physically strong and disciplined but also knowledgeable, technologically literate, patriotic, morally mature, and capable of making responsible decisions in complex situations.

Therefore, the topic “**Military Education: Past, Present, and Future**” requires an in-depth analysis of historical experience, contemporary military-political processes, and future strategic tasks. The consistent development of the military education system will serve as an important guarantee for strengthening Uzbekistan’s defense power, educating the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism, and ensuring the security of the country.

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