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POLITICAL ACTIVISM: CONCEPT, FACTORS AND FORMS

This article analyzes the main approaches of modern science to the phenomenon of «political activism». The author conducts a comprehensive study of the phenomenon of political activism taking into account its existing discrepancies. Describes the existing approaches to the definition of the main factors that influence the formation of political activism. Presents modern forms of political activism as an illustration to the definition of the theoretical and conceptual content of the concept. The author considers researching of Ukrainian, Russian and American political scientists in this studies. The different levels and of political activism is studied. The researcher considered the advantages of legal political activity and disadvantages of illegal political activism. Psychological and social aspects of political activism is also mentioned by author.

Key words: political activism, political activities, political life, political process, factors and forms of political activism.

Statement of the problem. In modern political rhetoric the term of the “Political activism” became popular and it has such synonyms as: “political activity of citizen”, “politics”, “political movement”, “political participation”, “lobby” and other. In point of view of spreading of the term “political activism” in political discourse the problem of more detailed research of this definition becomes actual.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The enough quantity of researches in political science, sociology and political psychology are devoted to the problem of political activism. The most wide theoretic base for such problem represented in the works of mentioned scientist: Y. Averianov, I. Bilous, A. Derkach, A. Zhuravliov, L. Kyiashko, O. Levchenko, Y. Melnyk, M. Mordovets, D. Olshanskyi, G. Semigin, P. Fridman, A. Chetveryk, Y. Shemshuchenko and other.

Objectives of the topic. The objective of the topic is term analysis of political activism concept and it's forms and factors.

The body of the study. Nowadays, the term of “political activism” is used very often and is treat differently. The participation in politics of own country by different social groups and interest to political events is often mentioned by this term. The individual and group political activism is widely presented in such humanitarian knowledge as philosophy, history, political science, sociology and political psychology.

This definition is written in political science vocabulary-it's social groups or individual activity, which is directed to change or improve social, economic and political institutes. The individual political activism is an aggregation of vital activity, which expresses its ambition to take part in politics and maintain it's own rights and interests¹.

According to “Political science encyclopedia” political activism is the form of political activity, which matter is an affect on political decisions and lobby of own interests. The political activism is determined through the activity phenomenon, the specific of which consists of actions aggregation both of individuals and social groups (classes, parties, community organizations etc.) which are directed on realization of their political interests, firstly on the conquest, retention and using of power².

Activism in politics is mentioned as professional politics activity of MP, high level officials, political parties and organizations leaders and its members, nations and even states.

M. Mordovets says that political activism is an activity, which is done disinterestedly, by internal motivation as: supporting minorities rights and political parties, fighting with discriminations, nature defense, etc. Activism consists of efforts of impeding or promotion of social, political, ecological and economic changes or stagnation. Activism is able to have wide form range from writing of letter to

¹ Аверьянов, Ю.И. (1993). *Политология: энциклопедический словарь*. Москва: Изд-во Моск. коммерч. ун-та, 431.

² Шемшученко, Ю.С. (2001). *Політологічний енциклопедичний словник*. Київ: Основні цінності, 723.

newspaper to political campaigns and economic activity, such as boycott, meeting, strike, hunger-strike¹.

A. Zhuravliov explains political activism as all forms and facilities of political subject influence on objective world and the other political subjects. The political activity variety is shown in its different forms and in influence on people who are under control².

D. Olshanskyi determines political activism as political groups or individual activity, connected with the formation and expression of own demands and interests with the ambition to change political, social and economic system and appropriate institutions³.

L. Kyiashko explains political activism as subject participation in political process intensity generally and in separate forms of political activity. Author says that political activism is aggregate of persons vital forms which reveal its aim to take active part in political process and maintain own rights and interests⁴.

I. Bilous treats political activism as mental process, which is based on persons demands and interests and is realized in the system of aims and values scale that exist as readiness for the action and regulate individual behavior⁵.

So, the political activism is multifaceted definition, which reveals the action aggregate, output of individual and social groups' energy, which are directed on changing of their political status and encirclement. Political activism is considered in unity of 2 components: material (real change of political relations) and spiritual (accumulation and translation of political knowledge and experience, information exchange, coordination between individuals and groups). Political activism reveals in political forms of activity, speaking, behavior and can be directed both on constructive reform of political situation and destroying of old political forms. The personal activism is directed on displaying of vital activity ways which assist persons involving in active political process participation that touches its interests and values.

Political activity has 2 levels. Political participation, that is realizing through elections, meetings, manifestations, strikes etc. is the lowest level of it. The higher level is professional political activity.

It's necessary to stop on considering of factors that affect political activism, if we would learn it as phenomenon.

So, scientists mark out such factors that effect political activism:

Macro-level factors (world mainstream, political regime character, moral and political conditions in the country);

Middle level factors (individual wealth, relations in collective, marital status);

Micro-factors (education, life experience, will, motives, temperament, identity)⁶.

There is controversial contact between citizen political activism and the efficiency of political system. The increasing of citizens and social groups that are involved in political process which is displaying in growth of political parties and movements, politicization of ethnic minorities, strikes, demonstrations leads to reduction of political system efficiency and may even paralyze it. On the contrary, political activism helps to increase political system efficiency, if it's regulated by law.

A. Derkach divides efficient factors on the activity character and its features on internal (political subject is it's carrier) and external (surrounding influents political subject). Author says that such dichotomy should be the source of political activism determinants classification⁷.

The Political encyclopedia by G. Semigin redaction gives aggregate of political activism factors according to opinion of Russian political scientists. Political activism is noted as a result of some deals of government institutions, political organizations and mass-media. It's wonder that different actions is connected with the demonstration of mass emotions (instead of participation in solving of a problem)⁸.

¹ Мордовець, М.В. (2013). Політична активність VS політичного активізму: особливості концептуального розрізнення. *Панорама політологічних студій*, 11, 43-52.

² Журавлев, А.Л., Резников, В.П. (2002). *Социальная психология*. Москва, Пер Се, 350.

³ Ольшанский, Д.В. (2002). *Политико-психологический словарь*. Москва: Академический проект, 576.

⁴ Кияшко, Л.О. (2013). *Політична участь молоді сучасної України: психологічні чинники активізації*: монографія. Київ: Міленіум, 216.

⁵ Білоус, І.М. (2007). Політична активність молоді: форми вияву та особливості трансформації. *Соціальна психологія*, 2, 101-112.

⁶ Мельник, Ю.П. (2013). Політична активність громадян як запорука формування демократичного суспільства. *Нова парадигма*, 115, 124-135.

⁷ Деркач, А.А., Жуков, В.И. (2001). *Политическая психология: учебное пособие для вузов*. Москва, Академический Проект, 858.

⁸ Семигин, Г.Ю. (2000). *Политическая энциклопедия*. В 2 т. Т. 1. Москва: Мысль, 750.

A. Chetveryk says that political activism factors classification may be presented in the following way.

External factors:

1. Political regime; historical dynamics of political regime; modern mechanism of participation in formation of government institutions; complex of political compulsion resources; informational field of regime.

2. Social and economic situation a state.

3. Subjects place in the social structure of society; individual socialization mechanism;

Internal factors:

1. Political and cultural; psychological type; character.

2. Religion and ethnicity.

3. Biography: age, sex, occupation¹.

O. Levchenko says that factors which determine political subject activity or passivity may be presented in such way:

1) Frustration, which is expressed as weakness, impossibility to change own life and organization as in country altogether. This feeling of weakness isn't able to be an objective expression of life reality. The objective analysis shows, that even if the situation is rather difficult there is always some liberties which aren't used by the subject of politics. So, frustration feeling is characterizing not only individual and social situation of person, but also it's perception of this situation.

2) The features of consciousness, which may "block" the manifestation of activism by the political subject. We may distinguish such features of consciousness as:

A) Deindividualization. Many people, who live in societies under reformation, are characterized by the not enough feeling of their own personality. It's defined by the features of the education and socialization system, special style of activity, mind, life. As researching show, the feeling of deindividualization (it's similarity between people) brings increasing of cruelty and demands mutual help trends.

B) The weakness of the group's attachment. Although the individual is included in many groups, this inclusion isn't always presented on mind. People don't feel themselves as citizens, inhabitants of their cities, members of class or nation. Of course, the feeling of attachment exacerbates in extreme time, but we can't live in permanent crisis conditions. People identify themselves with their enterprise very seldom, even their family membership is nominal. Many reasons contribute such situation. Firstly, it's an imperfection of political structures that interferes real involving in them for their members.

C) The originality of depersonalization. Depersonalization is forming and displaying as actions in some situations, when they attach their own features to somebody, not to themselves. Such situations may be not only extreme, but also usual, which are connected with doing of own obligations. This ability allows to person who has lied think about itself as "honest". It's necessary to pay attention on the feeling of dependence when the person can't change the main circumstance of own life-job, family, accommodation. The difficulty of these changes are real and serious, but they're exaggerated.

D) Individual features of consciousness.

3) The regulation of own wishes and necessities, that determines freedom and political activism level. Many people not only do anything to achieve their own aims-they even don't want anything and refuse to obtain their aims. The values of calm and stability exceed all other possible "bonuses" and as a result individual refuse all material and spirit welfares that exceed elementary minimum to guarantee calm and stability. That's why welfares aspiration for which is an external motive for activity depreciate in subjects mind and can't be as a refreshment.

4) Hard ethical system. The ideology of maximalism which is based on principle "Everything or nothing" leads not to high-level morality, but to passivity. Every activity is compromise; the individual, who can't treat is going to be passive².

So, political activism is people and social group virtue that makes them able to function efficient in different conditions. The political activity of political subject is displays in the most different forms.

¹ Четверик, А.Ю. (2009). Політична активність у структурі політичної культури, зовнішні та внутрішні чинники її прояву. *Наукові праці Чорноморського державного університету імені Петра Могили*, 97, 100-105.

² Левченко, О. (2008). Щодо визначення категорій політична активність, політична діяльність, участь та поведінка: критерії розбіжності. *Сучасна українська політика*, 13, 70-75.

Such forms of political activism are distinguished:

- international (diplomatic, social)
- society (regional, local, collective)
- personal (dismissal, hunger, collective)

Political activism can be legal and illegal. In first case its official politics activity-from the President to member of local party organization. It's also includes legal opposition and allowed activity of citizens. In the second case activism includes "irreconcilable" opposition political activity (for example, "Red Brigades"). The base of political activism is extraordinary psychological and social merits of subject (strong will, character, choleric and sanguine types of temperament) or extravert and excessive claims by the other classification.

Peter Fridman, an American researcher, has structurally separated political activism on "traditional" (folk activism) and "post-traditional". So, "post-traditional" is a new type of political activism which is based on aspiration to do for implementation of thought strategy, not only to do everything. P. Fridman says that nowadays "stupid politics" is a result of "traditional" activism which is based on instinct that requires achievement of political aims by the way of cooperation¹. Author says that society should modify by experiments on the system of stimulus which condition political behavior and found the new institutes that would concurrent with the universal political standard-democracy, which is wrongly thought as the best regime.

We should say that uncertainty of political activism definition isn't decrease even after consideration of it's phenomenon by different authors. For example, voting is considered by some authors as form of political behavior (O. Shestopal, L. Milbright, G. Diligenskii), the other-as the form of political participation(A. Marsh, N. Smelzer), other-as political activism form during the elections(N. Kolmakova, G. Badzagua, V. Barynova and others). Meetings are although thought as form of political participation by some authors (A. Marsh, D. Olshanskyi), other-as political behavior (L. Milbright), other as active political actions (V. Zhukov, B. Krasnova), B. Marienko - as political activity form.

Except given typing there're another criterions of allocation of political activism forms.

By the subject:

- 1) Individual political activism. The separation on social groups is also able to divide: by sex (male, female) and by age (youth, middle-aged, retired);
- 2) Mass-activism (political parties, movements, groups of interest, lobby).

By organization: purposeful, situational, spontaneous.

By the level:

- 1) International(diplomatic, social);
- 2) Society(regional, local, collective);
- 3) Personal(dismissal, hunger, absenteeism).

By intensity: active and passive political activism.

By the form of displaying:

- forms are absent (activism is undeveloped);
- primary forms: political thoughts, ideas, knowledge of political situation, reading of political literature, watching of TV-programs, web-sites and forums visiting etc.;
- middle forms: participation in elections, referendums, plebiscite, electioneering, petitions, etc.;
- highest forms: participation in meetings, strikes, actions, riots, demonstrations, political parties, movements, groups of interest, professional politics.

By time: permanent, protracted and temporary.

By tension: dynamic (radical), moderate and formal.

The above-mentioned forms of political activism may be considered as classic. But we have to say that mentioned forms is changing and perfecting with founding and development of new technologies and using them in politics. The development of Internet reaches new abilities of involving society to politics. Nowadays it's possible to speak with political party candidate or even leader in Internet, not only on meeting. Speaking with comrades and party leaders in the Internet, charity etc. is accompanied to born of new form of political activism.

Conclusion. So, the political activism may be considered as a form of people activity. It's an object

¹ Фридман, П. За пределами традиционного активизма. *Библиотека Свободы на сайте InLiberty.ru*. <<http://www.inliberty.ru/library/study/845/>> (2015, July, 29).

of research by different social sciences, each other of them is studying some aspects of it. Big diversity of political activism definitions is determined by using of such categories as political activity, participation and behavior in political researches. It's reasonable to consider this term more wide than all above-mentioned. Considering features of political culture and education of person or group, political activism determines model of political behavior that practically displays in different forms of political activity, participation and functioning. The above-mentioned forms and factors of political activism allows to refine non-studied aspects of this phenomenon and research features of different social groups in political process and to construct an integrative model of political behavior.

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