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THE INFLUENCE OF SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL VALUES ON NATIONAL IDEOLOGY

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Abstract: The significance of spiritual culture is a key factor in the formation and development of national ideology. This scientific article considers spiritual culture as a value, emphasizing that spirituality and culture are interconnected and inseparable concepts. In addition, the role and influence of spiritual culture in the development of national ideology is analyzed from scientific and philosophical perspectives. The content is presented through the concept of axiology, which is the philosophy of values. During the research process, concepts such as axiology, value assessment, value-based approach, and the moral qualities of a spiritual person were used.

Keywords: National Ideology, Philosophy Of Values, National Idea, Axiology, Spiritual Heritage, Spiritual Culture, Individual Spirituality, Social Values, Social Culture, Human-Society Relations, Human Qualities.

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Introduction

Value refers to the objective significance of the diverse components of reality, the content of which is determined by the needs and interests of social subjects. The concept of value is closely related in meaning to such notions as “need,” “interest,” “good,” and “usefulness,” but it is not reducible to them and has its own independent significance. The value-based assessment of spirituality serves as a criterion for the degree of development of a person's spirituality and culture. Human conceptions of the significance of various phenomena in the material and spiritual life of society are accumulated in value orientation. The determination and explanation of the value of anything, including aspects of spirituality, can only be approached from the standpoint of a science such as axiology[1].

Methods

Axiology is the philosophy of values. The concept of values indicates the characteristics of various objects in both material and spiritual life. The notion of value reflects objective reality. From the perspective of axiology, the highest value is the human being, their life as the supreme creation of evolutionary development. The entirety of human activity, especially labor, constitutes value. A person's value orientation expresses their worldview and civic position. It is part of the motives and incentives behind all forms of human behavior, not only defining but also guiding the meaning of modern human actions.

Results

Value orientation serves as a core element that permeates spiritual culture both vertically and horizontally. Unlike other components of spiritual culture, it reflects the overall trend of development and functioning of spiritual culture at different levels: theoretical and socio-psychological. In our view, value orientation acts as a regulator of the relationship between the objective foundation and the subjective aspects of culture. Values express the unity of the material and the ideal in an individual's spiritual culture. Value orientation is highly responsive to changes in social relations, which characterize the interaction among various carriers of spiritual culture. It determines the activity of a person in life, their actions, and motivations. It guides the individual toward recognizing and adopting the most important values that contribute to the progressive development of society and the individual. Value orientation is inseparable from social values. It represents the subjective perception by the individual of the achievements of material and spiritual culture. Essentially, it entails a conscious choice of values and the ability of a person to subordinate themselves, in certain circumstances, to the broader social purpose[2].

Spiritual values play a critical role in the lives of both individuals and society, as they collectively represent knowledge, feelings, and aspirations. They not only help a person comprehend the meaning and purpose of life but also contribute to self-assertion as a creative personality. Spiritual values shape an individual's life stance toward all aspects of social life. They allow society to evaluate the real merits of a person and the true value of each stage of social development within overall progress. Without understanding the meaning and content of a person's spirituality, it is impossible to comprehend the nature of an individual's spiritual culture, moral qualities, or chosen value orientation.

Values are always functionally significant, reflecting human spiritual aspirations and guiding behavior and concrete actions. Spiritual and moral qualities can regulate interactions between people and between individuals and society. Spiritual values gain social significance and influence personal behavior when deeply understood by both the individual and society. If a person lacks harmony between their value orientation and its social meaning, their spiritual qualities remain unfulfilled, potentially causing conflict between individual and societal value orientations[3].

The process of developing needs and formulating values is complex. Individuals often experience difficulties, doubts, and hesitation when choosing from among a diversity of value orientations, which can lead to misalignment in realizing certain values in life—a phenomenon often observed historically. Historical processes are not automatic; they are realized through the actions of value-oriented individuals, masses, social parties, and movements. Consequently, the progress of civilization directly depends on the spiritual qualities of humans, which comprise a complex of individual traits and socially derived values accumulated through historical experience. Studying individual value orientations as drivers of behavior allows us not only to reveal essential human qualities but also to explain patterns in consciousness, behavior, and the distinctive features of societal development.

The formation of value orientation occurs through socially oriented human activity. Results of human activity are objectified and become part of society's culture, encompassing tools,

communication methods, spiritual heritage, traditions, artistic works, and moral norms. Not all human activity becomes part of culture; only socially significant outcomes that meet public needs do. Value is therefore an objective significance of components of reality, determined by the needs and interests of social subjects. Social significance may be positive or negative, but in the concept of value, the emphasis is on positive significance.

Values are not inherent in objects themselves but emerge through social relations. The development and change of values depend on transformations in value relations, highlighting the dialectical interplay between absolute and relative aspects of value. Societal changes alter both values and value orientations; yesterday's values may lose relevance today, while new values may emerge alongside a revival of past ones. Existing material and spiritual values influence the individual directly and allow humans to acquire social experience and engage with spiritual culture. In the course of cultural development, humans create new values and preserve old ones, which in turn affect further cultural development[4].

The value of actions, thoughts, or objects of a particular historical period lies in their contribution to social progress and personal development. Distinctions between material and spiritual values are crucial. Spiritual values exist not only as tangible forms but also as acts of activity inseparable from spiritual production. Value and value orientation reflect the most important aspects of spiritual and moral relations, encompassing moral, political, and worldview values that shape perception and civic position. Value orientation is embedded in motives for all types of moral behavior, regulating individual and societal action. It is a conscious choice of values, guiding individuals to navigate circumstances with societal appropriateness[5].

Societies with diverse values challenge individuals in selecting the correct value orientation. Therefore, during moral and value formation, individuals must rely on fundamental social, political, moral, and cultural values representing societal ideals, justice, and honor. Historical practice confirms that value orientations regulate human behavior, though the strength and direction of influence vary. Values and value orientations derive from social reality; thus, value orientation reflects objective social relations and serves as a determinant of its content.

Historical practice shows that value orientations regulate behavior, although their impact differs. Psychologically, value orientations often appear as unsystematized attitudes guiding behavior to satisfy individual needs beyond daily life, relying more on emotional factors than logical reasoning. Hence, in social psychology, value orientation cannot be directly applied to spiritual culture or serve as a criterion for evaluating moral, political, or legal behavior. Value orientation reflects objective social relations, acquiring deep social meaning and shaping worldview and civic positions[5].

Conclusion

Although social progress occurs through the interaction of diverse cultures, each possessing unique spiritual values and its own national value orientation, integration trends coexist with efforts to preserve and develop traditional national values, rituals, customs, language, and lifestyle. In this context, cultures may seek a certain degree of isolation. Various cultural programs and value systems reproduce in the consciousness and behavior of individuals value orientations linked to specific carriers of spiritual values.

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