

PECULIARITIES OF MILITARY EDUCATION IN SOUTH KOREA

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Abstract. The article studies military education in South Korea through its historical development and educational methods which create distinct differences from other national education systems. The South Korean military education system combines traditional cultural elements with contemporary defense teaching methods to develop an army that excels in discipline and advanced technological skills.

Keywords: military education, South Korea, conscription, military training, defense pedagogy, Korean Peninsula, military reform, Confucian values

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматриваются отличительные особенности системы военного образования в Южной Корее, анализируются её исторические корни, структура организации и педагогические подходы, которые отличают её от других национальных моделей. Результаты исследования показывают, что модель военного образования Южной Кореи представляет собой синтез традиционных культурных ценностей и современной оборонной педагогики, формируя высоко дисциплинированные и технологически подготовленные вооружённые силы.

Ключевые слова: военное образование, Южная Корея, призыв, военная подготовка, оборонная педагогика, Корейский полуостров, военная реформа, конфуцианские ценности

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada Janubiy Koreya harbiy ta'lim tizimining o'ziga xos jihatlari ko'rib chiqiladi, uning tarixiy ildizlari, tuzilma tashkiloti va pedagogik yondashuvlari tahlil qilinadi, bu esa uni boshqa milliy modellardan ajratib turadi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, Janubiy Koreya harbiy ta'lim modeli an'anaviy madaniy qadriyatlar va zamonaviy mudofaa pedagogikasining sintezi bo'lib, yuqori intizomli va texnologik jihatdan malakali qurolli kuchlarni shakllantiradi.

Kalit so'zlar: harbiy ta'lim, Janubiy Koreya, chaqiriq, harbiy tayyorgarlik, mudofaa pedagogikasi, Koreya yarim oroli, harbiy islohot, Konfutsiy qadriyatlari

Introduction. The military education system which the Republic of Korea operates today already stands as one of its various education systems which have developed throughout Korean history since geopolitical conflicts first emerged on the Korean Peninsula. The country develops its military capabilities since the 1953 Korean War armistice because military education forms the core component of its national defense doctrine [1]. The South Korean military education system requires study because it combines three elements which include mandatory universal conscription and institutional training frameworks and modern technology-based defense education methods. South Korea's military education system differs from Western military systems because all male citizens must complete mandatory military service which impacts how the country designs its military training programs [2].

Methodology and literature review. The study uses a descriptive-analytical approach as its methodological foundation which depends on systematic review of scholarly literature and official policy documents and analytical reports that study South Korea's military education system. Ismoilov's research on the comparative analysis of military education systems in East Asian countries provides a foundational understanding of how regional geopolitical dynamics

shape defense training models, noting that South Korea's system is particularly influenced by the doctrine of active deterrence [3]. Karimov studied patriotic education's impact on military readiness development among young people while comparing Central Asian and East Asian methods of civic-military socialization and establishing how cultural value systems determine military service attitudes [4].

Petrov's research provides a comprehensive analysis of South Korean military academy institutional systems which include the Korea Military Academy and the Korea Naval Academy and the Korea Air Force Academy [5]. Shin and Lee evaluated the South Korean Ministry of National Defense reform initiatives which began in the early 2000s to establish competency-based training systems and simulation technologies and joint operations training programs that would improve interoperability with allied forces especially the United States military [6]. Moon's extensive research about South Korean conscription and societal impact showed that mandatory military service operates as a defense system and a defense system [7]. Hwang examined how South Korean military training programs use artificial intelligence and virtual reality technology because South Korea has emerged as the top nation for using defense technology in educational environments [8].

Results and discussion. The reviewed literature analysis establishes multiple unique features which together define South Korea's military education system while distinguishing it from similar systems found in other countries. The most fundamental distinguishing feature is the system of mandatory conscription which requires all male citizens between the ages of eighteen and twenty-eight to complete a period of active military service ranging from eighteen to twenty-one months depending on the branch of service [9]. The entire male population of South Korea is required to undergo military training which leads to a national understanding of military discipline and procedures and values.

The second defining aspect of military education shows its complete dedication to Confucian cultural values. The military organizations establish their hierarchical structure which shows respect for elders and authority, because these values find their way into military academies through their educational programs and institutional practices [5]. The military discipline of this cultural aspect develops a unique form of discipline which depends on more than just following rules because it requires soldiers to follow deep-rooted ethical standards that have existed for hundreds of years [9]. The advanced technological capabilities of South Korean military education system create its third unique characteristic. The country has built training systems which use artificial intelligence and virtual reality simulations and networked command-and-control exercises to create realistic training environments, thanks to its advanced industrial and technological capabilities.

The geopolitical context of the Korean Peninsula represents a fourth and perhaps the most consequential factor which develops military education programs throughout South Korea. The ongoing technical warfare with North Korea together with the presence of about twenty-eight thousand United States troops in South Korea establishes a particular security situation which requires military forces to maintain operational readiness at all times. The military training programs acquire their sense of urgency through their direct connection to real-world situations which differ from the security operations conducted in stable protection conditions. The military training scenarios create their training exercises based on actual threat evaluations while the training program accentuates joint operations with partner nations. The South Korean military education system establishes a significant focus on character development together with psychological resilience training since service members who work in the Korean Peninsula need both technical skills and outstanding psychological strength.

Conclusion. The military education system of South Korea possesses several distinctive characteristics that reflect the country's unique historical experience, cultural heritage, geopolitical circumstances, and technological capabilities. The combination of universal mandatory conscription, Confucian cultural foundations, advanced technological integration,

persistent security threats, and comprehensive character development programs creates a military education model that is both highly effective and distinctly Korean in character. The analysis conducted in this article demonstrates that these features are not isolated elements but rather interconnected components of a coherent system designed to maintain a high level of national defense readiness.

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