

TRANSFORMATION OF UKRAINE'S CULTURAL HERITAGE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CHANGES: INTERNATIONAL ASPECT

A TRANSFORMAÇÃO DO PATRIMÔNIO CULTURAL DA UCRÂNIA NO CONTEXTO DAS MUDANÇAS HISTÓRICAS E CULTURAIS: ASPECTO INTERNACIONAL

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buscam destruir a cultura ucraniana. O objetivo do artigo é estudar a transformação do patrimônio cultural ucraniano no contexto das mudanças modernas e aspectos interestaduais. Os resultados destacam as peculiaridades da definição de objetos de patrimônio cultural na prática jurídica ucraniana e internacional. O autor analisa os principais aspectos da cooperação internacional da Ucrânia com

Abstract: The protection of cultural heritage in today's globalized world is gaining additional importance. It is especially relevant for Ukraine, which is waging a war against Russian aggressors who also seek to destroy Ukrainian culture. The purpose of the article is to study the transformation of Ukrainian cultural heritage in the context of modern changes and interstate aspects. The results highlight peculiarities of defining cultural heritage objects in Ukrainian and international legal practice. The author analyzes the main aspects of Ukraine's international cooperation with international structures, including the context of the unprecedented Russian aggression. The author emphasizes the importance of cultural heritage in modern diplomatic policy, in particular, the use of soft power instruments, and the understanding of cultural heritage as a basis for building good neighborly relations. It is important to highlight the digitalization of current processes of cultural heritage, which plays an important role in its preservation and contributes to the dissemination of information about the country around the world. The conclusions emphasize that modern Ukraine is making gradual progress in all these areas. The author also emphasizes the possible need to resolve the issue of returning Ukrainian cultural property that is or has been stolen on Russian territory.

Keywords: Cultural heritage. Digitalization. Russian-Ukrainian war. Diplomacy. Interstate relations. Interethnic communication.

Resumo: A proteção do patrimônio cultural no mundo globalizado de hoje está ganhando importância adicional. É especialmente relevante para a Ucrânia, que está travando uma guerra contra os agressores russos que também

estruturas internacionais, incluindo o contexto da agressão russa sem precedentes. O autor destaca a importância do patrimônio cultural na política diplomática moderna, em particular, o uso de instrumentos de soft power, e o entendimento do patrimônio cultural como base para a construção de relações de boa vizinhança. É importante destacar a digitalização dos processos atuais de patrimônio cultural, que desempenha um papel importante na sua preservação e contribui para a disseminação de informações sobre o país pelo mundo. As conclusões enfatizam que a Ucrânia moderna está fazendo progressos graduais em todas essas áreas. O autor também enfatiza a possível necessidade de resolver a questão da devolução de bens culturais ucranianos que são ou foram roubados em território russo.

Palavras-chave: Herança cultural. Digitalização. Guerra russo-ucraniana. Diplomacia. Relações interestatais. Comunicação interétnica.

1. Introduction

Contemporary cultural processes taking place in the post-Soviet space reflect, among other things, the political realities of today. The hegemonic aspirations of the Kremlin regime, aimed at restoring Soviet domination, raise questions about the viability of the national cultures of the former Soviet republics. Ukraine has found itself in a difficult situation due to the military actions against it unleashed by the Russian authorities and deeply supported by Russian society. On the one hand, physical destruction, the destruction of infrastructure, and the threat to the lives and health of Ukrainian citizens put the development of culture on the back burner. At the same time, the war and the challenges associated with it are intensifying the desire of Ukrainians to demonstrate their separateness from Russian aggressors, including through the use of the cultural factor as a powerful national identifier.

The preservation of cultural heritage has recently become an important aspect of policy for many international actors. The growing attention to this problem stems from changes in civilization processes that have led to the emergence of new threats to the world's cultural heritage. This significantly affects the approaches to cultural protection activities, both in international organizations and in the countries of the world. Therefore, the preservation of cultural heritage, the development of effective approaches to its preservation, conservation, and popularization have become a priority of Ukraine's current domestic and foreign policy.

The actualization of ties with the European cultural space against the background of Ukraine's intensified European integration aspirations demonstrates important prospects for research. In particular, first of all, it is important for Europeans to become better acquainted with the culture and achievements of the Ukrainian people and to pursue a corresponding policy. However, along with the Western vector, it is important to cooperate with international

organizations at the global level, to harmonize the legislative framework, and to represent Ukrainian culture at the interstate level in all countries.

The purpose of the article is to analyze the transformations of Ukraine's cultural heritage against the background of historical and cultural changes through the prism of the international aspect. To realize this goal, the following tasks need to be accomplished:

1. Identify international mechanisms for regulating the protection of cultural heritage.
2. Analyze certain aspects of Ukraine's international cooperation in the protection of monuments.
3. Describe current models of cultural heritage transformation through the prism of international experience.

2. Theoretical framework and literature review

The issue of preserving cultural heritage has repeatedly been the subject of research attention. Scholars have discussed various aspects, focusing on important areas of heritage preservation in various ways. In particular, the work on the protection of architectural monuments and other religious objects was analyzed by BILASH, KARABIN & SAVCHYN (2021), emphasizing the relevance of international Ukrainian-Polish cooperation. SINKEVYCH & MOROZOVA (2021) actualized the controversial issues of restitution of cultural property that exist between Ukraine and Poland at the present stage. The issue of legal practice discussed by the researchers will require additional study.

GHILÈS (2022) drew attention to the military challenge of the Russian-Ukrainian war for the European community as a whole but also pointed to the principles of cultural diplomacy that are relevant to contemporary political relations. According to BETLII (2022), the Russian-Ukrainian war has demonstrated not only how the Kremlin has used historical heritage as a weapon, but also how Ukraine can fight back by developing historical ties. Her article emphasizes that in 2022 Ukraine is developing a new heritage identity strategy, focusing on the decision of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory, and the Kyiv City Council regarding valuable cultural sites related to Soviet heritage. A similar issue was addressed by MICK (2023), who identified elements of propaganda in the Russian information field that relied on cultural heritage. KARL (2019) also noted that the right of every state to its heritage is a fundamental part of modern international law, which focuses on cultural heritage during wartime. International instruments focus on the protection

against the looting of cultural property and define that cultural heritage is an intentional target during armed hostilities.

GORBUL & RUSAKOV (2022) traced the experience of cooperation in the field of digitalization of cultural heritage on the examples of Ukraine and the Baltic countries. However, they primarily focused on the processes before 2022, i.e., before the full-scale Russian offensive, although the digitalization of cultural monuments became especially relevant after that, so the researchers' conclusions will require further consideration. Similarly, MALYSH, SHEVCHENKO & TKACHUK-MIROSHNYCHENKO (2021) highlighted the main aspects of Ukrainian state policy in the field of cultural heritage management (though primarily summarizing the current experience of 2017-2021). MANCINI (2017), KLITGAARD (2020) elaborated on the basic principles of understanding cultural heritage at the present stage, pointing out the main prospects for the development of this process in the future.

In modern scientific literature, there are many interpretations of the concept of “cultural heritage” based on different methodological principles (KLITGAARD, 2020). Cultural heritage refers to a set of tangible and intangible elements that reflect cultural, historical, or aesthetic value for society (Karl, 2019). It is a unique heritage that is passed down from generation to generation and is an important component of the identity of countries, peoples, and communities (KLITGAARD, 2020). The phenomenon of cultural heritage can include a variety of objects that can be divided into tangible and intangible (See Figure 1).

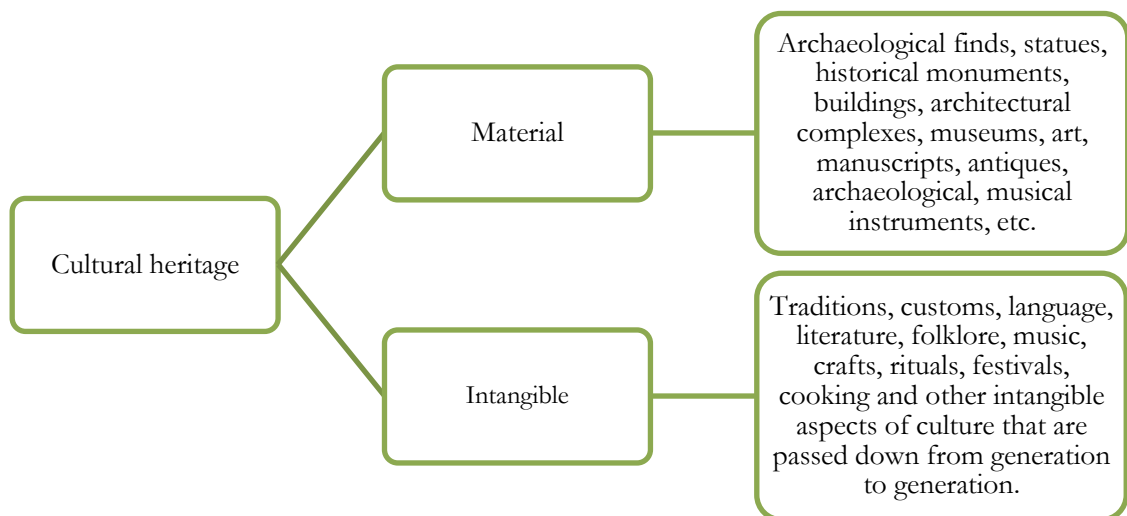


Figure 1. Echoes of Tradition: Exploring Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage

Source: author's development

Accordingly, all cultural heritage objects are of historical, architectural, artistic, or scientific significance (VANDEPUT & KÖSE, 2012). Preserving and protecting cultural heritage is an important task for building historical and cultural significance, as well as for the development of tourism, education, and cultural industries. Organizations such as UNESCO promote the protection and preservation of cultural heritage by including objects and phenomena in the World Heritage List and developing programs for the protection and promotion of cultural values. In modern conditions, it is possible to use cultural heritage with the involvement of society through the implementation of various strategies, projects, and different approaches to preserve and transmit it to future generations (SARNAVSKA et al., 2021).

In the adopted legislative documents of the Council of Europe, the terms “cultural heritage” and “cultural property” are used, which need to be specified. In particular, some scholars equate them (BUNCH, 2022). However, others argue that these concepts are close in meaning, but not identical (BELJANSKI-RISTIC, VUKANOVIC & KREL, 2015). Ukrainian legislation (the Law of Ukraine “On Culture”) distinguishes between the terms “cultural property” and “intangible cultural heritage”. For example, Article 1 of the mentioned legal act states that the term “cultural property” should be understood as objects of material and spiritual culture that have historical, ethnographic, artistic, and scientific significance and are subject to reproduction and protection. It should be noted that in modern scientific literature, such concepts as “cultural heritage monuments” and “cultural heritage site” are often used synonymously (BILASH, KARABIN & SAVCHYN, 2021). These names are also in line with current international legislation. Over the years, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has issued many international conventions, recommendations, and declarations that help regulate international cultural activities. The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the “Hague Convention”) and the Implementing Regulations (1954) were the first important UNESCO documents that regulated the protection of cultural heritage in general (UNESCO, 1999). Ukraine, as a member of UNESCO since 1954, has been actively involved in the activities of the Organization. The measures taken by UNESCO to create legal mechanisms for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage contributed to the creation of a legal document - the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. It was adopted on November 16, 1972. At the same time, Ukraine ratified this document in 1988.

Nevertheless, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (adopted in 2001) also plays a significant role. In 2006, the document was

ratified by Ukraine. The Convention specifically describes the importance of underwater cultural heritage, which is an important element of the cultural heritage and history of modern nations and peoples.

In addition, the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, the UNESCO Recommendations, and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO, 1981) play an important role in preserving cultural heritage. The ratifiers of these documents recognize certain threats and the interdependence of tangible and intangible historical culture that can lead to the disappearance or deterioration of cultural heritage in general. On June 19, 2018, the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Protection of Cultural Heritage” was adopted on the preservation of cultural heritage monuments, which defines the following concepts: a World Heritage Site of Outstanding Universal Value, the nomination of a cultural heritage site 14 to the UNESCO World Heritage List, etc. Amendments to the Law intensified the work on nominating national sites to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

In 2018, the Law of Ukraine On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine On Protection of Cultural Heritage on the Preservation of Cultural Heritage Monuments was adopted, which defined the following concepts: nomination of a cultural and historical heritage site, a World Heritage Site, etc. Certain legislative changes have intensified the activities to nominate Ukrainian sites to the UNESCO List.

3. Research design and methods

This article uses a wide range of general scientific research methods, such as analysis, synthesis, induction, and deduction. These methods were used to analyze the place of international cultural heritage protection in socio-cultural perception in Ukraine and to study certain aspects and features of digital tools and activities, legislative initiatives for the preservation of cultural monuments in the realities of military operations. Also, through analysis and synthesis, it was proved that modern technologies are being integrated into the cultural life of Ukrainians, especially after the quarantine measures related to the fight against COVID-19, as well as due to Russian aggression.

The research was carried out in several stages (See Figure 2).

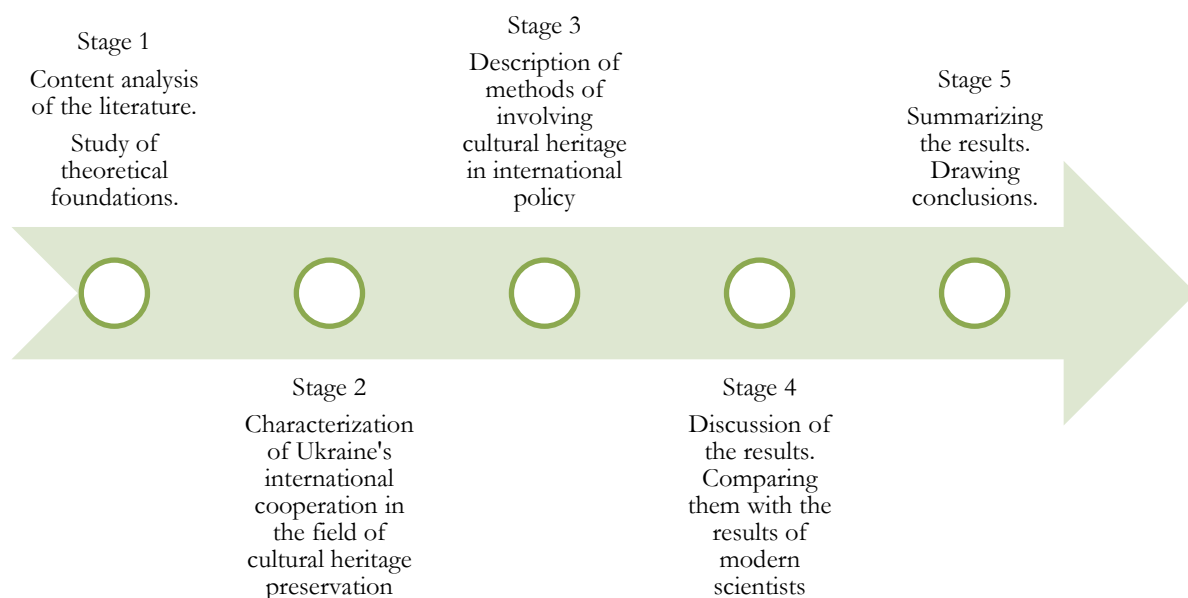


Figure 2. The research procedure

Source: authors' development

The study also used special methods, including abstraction, specification, and comparison. Abstraction made it possible to consider the peculiarities of the formation and development of mechanisms for the protection of cultural heritage in Ukraine and to identify the emphasis in models of protection policy that can be applied in other countries. Concretization made it possible to establish the circumstances of the formation of interest in the cultural life of Ukraine against the background of the Russian invasion.

4. Results

International cooperation of Ukraine in the field of cultural heritage preservation

As a member of UNESCO, Ukraine expands the boundaries of international cooperation in the fields of education and culture and participates in the activities of this organization. Ukraine's active cooperation with UNESCO influences the development of international cooperation of Ukrainian institutions and promotes the integration of Ukrainian intellectual potential into international cultural processes. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) plays an important role in the preservation and development of historical and cultural heritage in Ukraine. This organization actively cooperates with the International Research Center for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (the so-called Rome

Center), UNESCO, and other organizations (Vigneron, 2016). Since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the Ukrainian National Committee of ICOMOS (UNC ICOMOS) has been active in the field of cultural heritage preservation. This is an organization that operates in Ukraine in accordance with the Committee's Statute and actively cooperates with various organizations to develop the historical and cultural heritage of Ukraine.

However, in the context of war, Ukrainian monuments and values are being destroyed (either completely or partially). In particular, as of February 2023, at least 2,000 cultural and religious institutions suffered direct damage. According to current experts, the total amount of damage is estimated at \$1.5 billion. The total number of damaged buildings of cultural significance is 2,148. Among them are palaces of culture, religious buildings, theaters, etc. (See Table 1).

Table 1. The most damaged categories of facilities

Type of institution	Losses, \$ mln.
Historical buildings	792,4
Houses of culture	357,6
Religious objects	111, 1
Libraries	87,2
Theaters	74,4
Museums	57,6
Art schools	48
Cinemas	15,3
Memorials	3,2
Monuments	0,2

Source: authors' development

The largest number of cultural and religious sites were destroyed in the following regions: Kharkiv (38.3%), Donetsk (16.2%), Luhansk (7.2%) (See Figure 3).

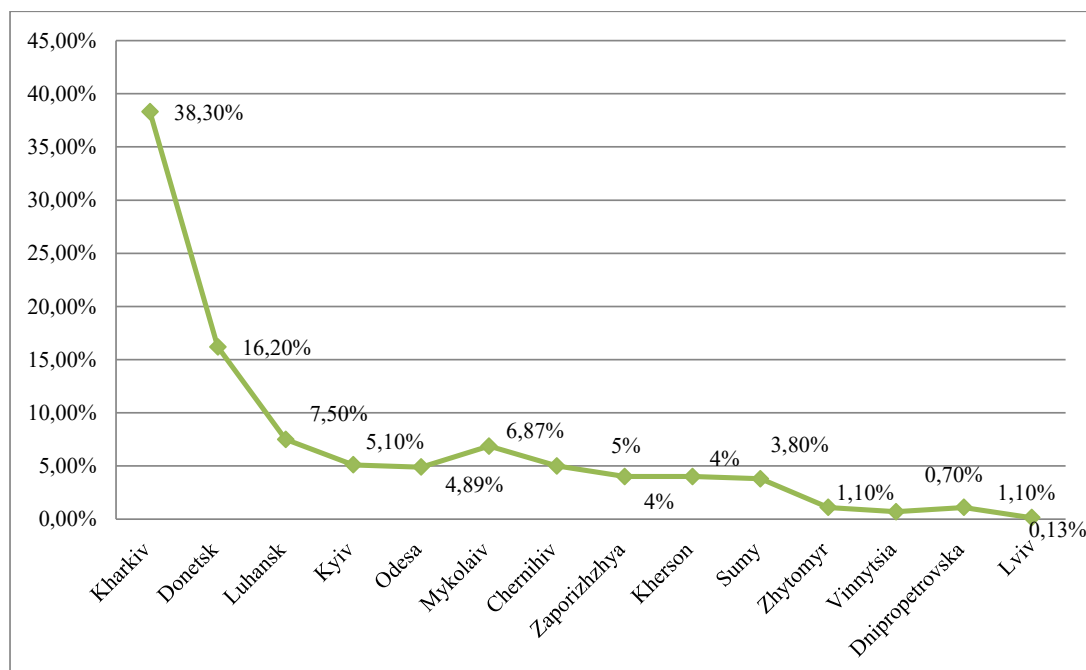


Figure 3. Diagram of the most affected regions of Ukraine (by cultural heritage sites)

Source: Mick (2023)

In the difficult conditions of the occupation of certain territories of Ukraine against the backdrop of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the importance of Ukraine's cooperation with the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) is growing significantly. The ICBS is an international organization founded by the International Council on Archives, the International Council on Museums, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, and the 23rd International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. The main goal of the organization is to protect cultural property during armed conflicts and to develop interethnic communication. Today, ICBS national committees operate in individual countries (WEGENER, 2014). In Ukraine, the National Committee of the Blue Shield was established on February 21, 2014. The International Secretariat of the Blue Shield has organized several research missions to Ukraine (the most recent one took place from January 13 to 27, 2023). At the request of the Ukrainian government, including the Ministry of Culture, Blue Shield continues to promote the implementation of humanitarian law (generally the 1954 Hague Convention) on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed war (WEGENER, 2020). During the first visit of the Blue Shield in 2022, the main consequences of the war for Ukrainian historical and cultural heritage were described and certain recommendations were made to the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine for further protection of cultural property. At the same time, the second visit of the

organization's representatives was focused on assessing the main barriers and challenges to the effective and efficient implementation of the principles of the Hague Convention during the war. In addition, with the assistance of representatives of the Ukrainian side, documented information related to Russian crimes against the national heritage of Ukraine was handed over.

Methods of involving cultural heritage in international relations

At the present stage, the promotion of cultural sites and the national and natural heritage of Ukraine is seen primarily not only as technical procedures for recording individual monuments in international lists, but also as a process of popularizing bright elements of national culture, artistic trends, tradition, and certain philosophical and ideological visions that are inherent in Ukrainian regions. Cultural heritage sites have become certain embodiments of creative concepts and human practice that belong to the national fund (KULAKOVA, 2021; ABYZOV, 2019). Preserving cultural achievements at the present stage has become a global challenge, a kind of goal, the realization of which for the international community should involve new approaches and methods that are gaining popularity (See Table 2).

Table 2. The main methods of involving cultural heritage in international relations

Title	Main countries
Cultural diplomacy	France, Germany, Poland, Canada
“Soft power”	China, USA
Digitalization of cultural heritage	EU countries, USA, Canada
Aggressive use of cultural heritage	Russia

Source: authors' development

In particular, the emphasis on the preservation of cultural heritage and intercultural relations in international politics makes it possible to address other issues more broadly. Today, researchers emphasize that the problem of the place of cultural heritage in society, through the prism of certain isolation (quarantine and military), which has become a global challenge to global security, has emphasized the need to develop links between common cultural heritage, universal values, national characteristics and color (ALADEKOMO, 2022).

The leading trend in modern politics and diplomatic relations is to build international communication on a common cultural basis (MANCINI, 2017). This tool, for example, is often used by French government officials. In particular, France is a demonstration of how state structures act as key coordinators of cultural diplomacy policy. The use of cultural diplomacy in this country is actively financed through cultural programs, and all instruments of international communication are united under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The development and popularization of France's cultural heritage fully realizes certain manifestations of public diplomacy in the context of the policy of the 21st century (MEADE & SHAW, 2021). First of all, we are talking about the possibility of increasing information about the country, creating a positive reputation in the international arena, spreading ideas and beliefs inherent in the French, attracting tourists and students, making goods more popular in the domestic and foreign markets, resulting in additional foreign investment, attracting new political sympathizers, etc.

Particular attention is paid to the problems and difficulties on the way to the return of material cultural objects, in which the relevant government agencies, including the French presidents, are actively involved. At the present stage, the problem of returning cultural heritage items is solved not only by transferring them for lifetime use but also on a temporary basis or through cultural exchange and interethnic communication. According to researchers, the restitution and repatriation of cultural heritage objects aims to change attitudes toward the perception of cultural heritage, and the main thing in this process is its social significance (SEIS, 2023).

Another current trend in the preservation and dissemination of cultural heritage at the international level is the widespread concept of soft power. This theoretical concept was developed based on the eponymous forms of political organization of power, which is based on the implementation of tasks through voluntary complicity, mutual sympathy, and attractiveness. First of all, it should be noted that the term “soft power” is not new in interstate relations. It was first introduced into scientific use in the United States by Harvard University professor J. Nye, who defined the term in his work “Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power” (SCHUBERT, 2022).

For this reason, we also note that the concept of soft power is relevant, but not innovative. According to many researchers, the sources of this diplomatic phenomenon are known as far back as ancient Chinese philosophers. In addition, in the 1930s, this concept was used for his developments by the Italian thinker A. Gramsci, who substantiated the theory of

“cultural and ideological hegemony.” According to his views, the culture of a particular country should gain popularity outside its borders through the tools of strong and influential state institutions that aim to increase their position through a certain cultural expansion of ethnicity (STRYJEK & KONIECZNA-SALAMATIN, 2021). Thus, soft power is primarily expressed through the prism of a country's language and cultural achievements, which are extremely relevant for establishing intercultural communication, as they directly or indirectly allow influencing political decision-making and establishing business contacts.

For this reason, cultural diplomacy, with its ability to influence the functioning of international institutions by improving the country's image and authority, is becoming an integral tool for spreading soft power. According to many researchers, the most powerful influence of soft power is realized through mass culture, including through such mechanisms as the media, television, and the Internet (online platforms, social networks, etc.).

“Soft power” as a separate element also has other manifestations. First of all, it refers to the tools of intercultural communication and financial support for the work of various cultural spheres - research, film production, theater tours, etc. At the same time, the formation of this concept is a very time-consuming process that depends on established contacts between countries, between society and state institutions, financial status, and opportunities to use the support of patrons, foreign sympathizers, etc.

A current trend in modern international relations is an innovative approach to working with digital culture as an object of cultural heritage. With the transition to the virtual world and the plunge of cultural realities into “nothingness,” a new context for cooperation is emerging. Researchers believe that digital education and science are key aspects and the first step in the construction and development of tangible heritage. The use of digital heritage has numerous advantages, such as access to metadata, the possibility of using virtual soft power, and others. Archaeological sites, museums, cultural spaces, international organizations, nation-states, and actors of paradiplomacy have become the basis of ideas about the heritage and preservation of ethnic cultural heritage. The dichotomy between inflation and the destruction of cultural heritage, as well as the expression of traditions, experiences, and ways of doing things, have constantly evolved. Understanding the mechanisms of this expansion of the topic has contributed to the formation of new assessments of cultural heritage at the national and international level.

5. Discussion

Contemporary researchers emphasize the significant loss of certain cultural property and objects as a result of Russian aggression (MICK, 2023; KULAKOVA, 2012; RIDEI, 2021). Given that the hostilities are ongoing, it is impossible to fully assess the extent of the destruction and determine whether it is final. It is obvious that prolonging the military confrontation will lead to greater losses of the Ukrainian cultural fund, especially against the backdrop of Russian chauvinists' statements about the non-existence of Ukrainian ethnicity.

In the context of hostilities, work with cultural monuments has become especially important for Ukraine, as it helps to familiarize the world community with the identity of the Ukrainian people. This important aspect attracted the attention of specialists who tried to use the most modern experience when working with heritage (GHILÈS, 2022; GORBUL & RUSAKOV, 2022). Researchers have emphasized that cultural heritage is a fairly universal object for diplomatic policy (KARL, 2019). This thesis can be confirmed by the Ukrainian experience of using cultural opportunities to promote and present Ukraine in the world and to build interethnic communication. In particular, the precedent of the “Scythian gold” was important: the Ukrainian side sent an artifact of Scythian culture from Crimean museums for presentation in the Netherlands. When the Crimean peninsula came under Russian occupation in 2014, a legal question arose as to whom the treasures should be returned: to the occupied Crimean museums or the Ukrainian side. Thanks to a resolute position and a long legal dispute, in June 2023 it was decided to finally transfer the “Scythian gold” to Ukraine. In this regard, it is worth highlighting the importance of the restitution of Ukrainian cultural heritage against the backdrop of Ukraine's diplomatic success in the legal sphere amid the unfolding of Russian aggression (SINKEVYCH & MOROZOVA, 2021). Another important aspect of the preservation of cultural heritage sites is digitalization (GUMENNYKOVA et al., 2023; TYTOVA; MERENIUK, 2022). As a result of the Russian aggression in Ukraine, more than 1500 cultural heritage sites and cultural infrastructure have been damaged or destroyed. The Ukrainian government is currently actively working on the digital transformation of museum collections. Due to the outbreak of a full-scale war, the need for digital markup of museum resources has become extremely important. Along with the shelling, looting, and destruction of museums, records containing valuable information about museum assets are being lost (MANOLEA, 2021; MICK, 2023;). In this context, Ukraine has called for increased cooperation between relevant authorities, including international ones (strengthening intercultural communication), to exchange information and identify illegally

exported cultural property. Therefore, in general, we can agree with researchers who consider mechanisms of cooperation with international cultural and protective institutions an effective way to preserve the heritage and counteract its looting (MALYSH et al., 2021; ALADEKOMO, 2022).

The Ukrainian experience of cooperation with volunteers and non-governmental organizations is currently poorly understood. Some researchers doubted the effectiveness of involving volunteers in the preservation of cultural sites (MARTZ, 2022). In particular, in Europe and the United States, private support is primarily about patronage (CLAESSEN, 2021). At the same time, the military realities in Ukraine have demonstrated that private contacts with those interested in providing assistance can be effective. In particular, today we are talking about creating backup copies of already digitized materials that were available online on the websites of libraries, archives, and museums, as well as digital collections that have been digitized in recent years. More than 1,300 volunteer professionals in the field of cultural heritage, including librarians, archivists, researchers, and programmers, have joined the initiative. They work around the clock to save as many websites as possible. First and foremost, they are saving data from the websites of libraries, museums, and archives in Ukraine, but there are opportunities for further rescue of other cultural materials, such as historical documents, manuscripts, literature, music, theater, and more. The availability of digital copies makes it possible to maintain access to all information. Therefore, private international initiatives are also extremely important in preserving cultural heritage.

6. Conclusion

Therefore, the problem of protecting cultural heritage is extremely relevant. As a result of the analysis, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Modern international organizations and governments (including the Ukrainian one) define in legal documents that all cultural heritage sites have historical, architectural, artistic, or scientific significance. They influence the sustainable development of the self-identity and ethnicity of any people. Preserving and protecting cultural heritage is an important task for the formation of historical and cultural value, as well as for the development of tourism, education, and cultural industries. Organizations such as UNESCO promote the protection and preservation of cultural heritage by including objects and phenomena in the World Heritage List and developing programs to protect and promote cultural values. In modern conditions, it is

possible to use cultural heritage by involving society through various intercultural communications (strategies, projects, and approaches to its preservation and transmission to future generations).

2. Other international organizations provide effective support for the protection of cultural heritage in Ukraine. Since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the Ukrainian National Committee of ICOMOS has been active in preserving cultural heritage. This organization operates on the territory of Ukraine in accordance with its Charter and actively cooperates with various organizations working on the development of the historical and cultural heritage of Ukraine. In the context of the occupation of some Ukrainian territories during the Russian-Ukrainian war, the importance of Ukraine's cooperation with the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) is growing significantly. The ICBS is an international organization founded by the International Council on Archives, the International Council on Museums, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, and the 23 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. The main goal of the organization is to protect cultural property during armed conflicts.

3. It is determined that cultural heritage is an important element of modern diplomatic life. In particular, it is part of the “soft power” strategy used by many European and other leading countries. Cultural heritage is also important in justifying a common foreign policy platform based on the past. Cultural diplomacy has a significant impact at the international level by improving the country's image and credibility. Digitalization of culture is also a current trend. In all of these areas, Ukraine has its own international achievements. At the same time, an important aspect for further research is the issue of restitution of cultural property from Russian territory, which may become an important subject for discussion at the international level.

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