

**DOI: 10.52363/passa-2023.2-2**

**УДК 351/354:37**

*Berezynskyi L. - associate Professor of the Department of Educational Management, State Policy and Economics, Communal Institution of Higher Education “Dnipro Academy of Continuing Education” of Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council.*

*ORCID: 0009-0003-3387-4601*

## **THE PLACE AND ROLE OF THE POLITICAL AND CULTURAL FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE SPECIFICITY OF THE POLITICAL REGIME**

*The article analyzes the place of the political and cultural factor in determining the specifics of the political regime in the state. It was determined that the implementation of an innovative management model involves the democratization of the political system, the expansion of feedback channels, the communication space, and the introduction of new technologies such as the digital state. When studying issues about the development of communication technologies, it was determined that changing the main directions for the implementation of an effective management model requires changing the appearance of the current government, making it more open, accessible for communication with the people through the created feedback system. When analyzing the data, they concluded that the terminology related to the concept of “democracy”, “democratic regime” and definitions related to them occupy a strong niche in the lexicon, the rhetoric of representatives of the authorities, fully corresponds to constitutional principles, and leads us in the right direction to an effective democratic system in our country.*

**Keywords:** *democracy, political regime, public administration, political elites, digital state, political culture.*

Formulation of the problem. In the conditions of aggravation within the framework of the modern international community, the factor of stability acquires special importance

in relation to the development of the state as an element of the political system, preservation and strengthening of its international status, integrity, constitutional system; protection of the resource base, ensuring the well-being of the population. One of the most important elements of the political system is public administration. Only an effective democratic system of the political system is able to implement the main directions of modernization, accordingly, the construction of such a system is one of the priority tasks of the government at the current stage.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The number of versatile publications in the field of studying the political and cultural factor in the formation of a political regime indicates an urgent need to improve the existing ones and the feasibility of developing and implementing new approaches to the study of this system. The works of specialists Nagorna L. Baklanova N. M. Avksentiev O. L. are devoted to the study of the problems of the formation of political regimes.

Presenting main material. In the context of the evolution of the public administration system at the current stage of development, the introduction into practice of new principles, methods, approaches, dictated by the need to develop a new format of relations between the government and society in the conditions of the expansion of the communicative space, socio-cultural changes in society, the strengthening of globalization trends, etc. Also, taking into account the peculiarity of Ukrainian modernization, carried out "from above", it is appropriate to raise the question of the essence of the modern Ukrainian political regime as one of the most important forms of public administration, its adequacy to the goals of modernization and the requirements of the time.[3]

The implementation of an innovative management model involves the democratization of the political system, expansion of "feedback" channels, communication space, introduction of new technologies, etc., practice, construction of a "hybrid regime". The last option seems to be the most likely, which finds practical expression in the construction of a national model of democracy. The second point emerges from the above-mentioned circumstance, related to the problem of correlation of

democratic principles and values with the political and cultural, national features of society, electoral assimilation of democratic values by Ukrainians, and the specifics of the functioning of democratic institutions on Ukrainian soil. As a result, there is a third point related to the search for an optimal model of the political system that meets the needs of modernization, on the one hand, and is able to follow innovative trends and adequately respond to them rooted in national traditions, on the other hand.

The political regime as "a set of ways, means, techniques and methods of exercising power in a specific state, a system of formal, political and legal institutions and informal norms and relations" gives an idea of how state power is exercised, of the ways and mechanisms by which institutions interact with each other with one and society, shows the degree of individual freedom and the degree of real participation in the life of society. [1] In this sense, the political regime can be considered as one of the most important forms of governance.

The political regime is built and functions in accordance with the set goal that has developed in the conjuncture of a specific stage of development. The formation of a certain type of political regime is also due to the complex influence of a number of objective and subjective factors. First, it must take into account the territorial and natural-geographic features of the country. Secondly, it is determined by the development of socio-political traditions prevailing in society, the level of development and intensity of socio-political processes, the structure of the ruling elite, which dominates society by the type of legitimacy.

An important role is also played by the level of political consciousness and legal awareness of the population, political culture in general. Historically, a model of relations between government and society, a type of political behavior, has developed. Thus, the political regime appears as a system based on social, cultural grounds, which cannot be transformed only through the action of legal mechanisms, it can only happen if socio-cultural grounds are taken into account. Therefore, the regime cannot have a future outside its own cultural space. Together, the above-mentioned circumstances form the nature and character of the functioning of the political regime. Taking into account the above, we

proceed with regard to the specifics of the political regime from the consideration of the existence of two approaches to determining its essence - a formal-legal one, with the presence of certain institutions, procedures, principles in the state, and a broader (socio-cultural) one, based on accounting for informal ties between the state and society, subjective factors.

The combination of the above-mentioned approaches made it possible to objectively approach the study of the nature of the modern Ukrainian political regime, to reveal its dualism. The study of the essence of the modern Ukrainian political regime dictates the need to highlight and clarify the basic theoretical concepts, characteristic features, principles of functioning of the main types of regimes. In this regard, it is appropriate to study and systematize a number of political concepts that reveal the phenomena of "democracy" and "authoritarianism".[4] In particular, the most complete idea of the authoritarian type of political process was reflected in the concept of L. Pai, who singled out the following attributes: the sphere of politics is not sharply separated from the spheres of social and personal relations; political parties tend to claim to be an expression of the public worldview; the political process is characterized by a predominance; the leadership of political groups has considerable freedom in determining strategy and tactics; emotional and symbolic aspects of politics relegate the search for solutions to specific issues and common problems to the background; the great role of charismatic leaders; the political process takes place mainly without the participation of political "brokers" and others.

As for the concept, despite the variety of theories and concepts accumulated over the centuries-long history of studying this phenomenon, scientists still disagree about the range and scope of the political attributes of democracy. The following "ideally standard criteria" have been identified, according to which the political process should be evaluated: 1. "Effective participation" (throughout the decision-making process, citizens must have adequate, equal opportunities to express their preferences: regarding the final result, in setting issues on the agenda) . 2. "Equality of voting at the decisive stage of collective decision-making" (every citizen should be provided with an equal opportunity

to express his choice, which would be recognized as equivalent to the choice of any other citizen). 3. "Enlightened understanding" (in order to know what the people want or what is better for them, they must be educated at least to a certain extent). 4. "Control over the agenda" (the demos should have the exclusive ability to decide how problems should be placed in the general list of problems to be solved through the democratic process). [2]

When searching for appropriate standards of democratic behavior, it is suggested to go beyond the idea of democracy as an ideal structure, and create your own standards, based on specific tasks. Both the government and society are invited to rethink these tasks and understand that democracy is not only about receiving benefits and services, but it also involves effort, responsibility, sacrifice, and dedication to society. Similar ideas that "there are no perfect democracies", that this type of political system varies from country to country, depends on economic resources, demographics, geographical location, historical experience, etc. Democracy should mostly be implemented through indirect participation in the development of the political course, the more citizens participate in determining the political course, the more influential their decision is, the more democratic the system is.

In the light of the formal and sociocultural approaches mentioned above, which are used in the analysis of the political regime, the concepts of "formal" and "effective" democracy need clarification. The essence of "effective democracy" is related to the expansion of human rights and opportunities, and it is not about quantitative, but about qualitative indicators, about the extent to which existing civil and political rights are respected in society, respected by officials. persons; the presence of resources and values in society that allow citizens to effectively and efficiently exert pressure on the elite. An important condition for this is the formed values of self-expression, which are professed by at least 45% of the population.[5]

Therefore, a distinction should be made between formal and effective democracy. The latter is not limited to the presence of institutional and legal forms, it assumes the initiative of the society, readiness to protect and realize its political rights, developed and working mechanisms of political participation, and the presence of social prerequisites.

From the above, it can be stated that most of the formally legal principles, mechanisms, and institutions of the functioning of Ukrainian democracy were conceptualized even in the Constitution of Ukraine, fixed in the regulatory and legal basis of the following period. In the course of overcoming the negative consequences of the 1990s and the transition from stabilization to development, the trend of democratization and further modification of the political regime intensified and was associated with attempts at decentralization, liberalization of the party system, depersonalization, ensuring the openness of the functioning of the regime, etc. Among them are institutes of public hearings, public expertise, "electronic government" and others.

Concepts and ideas related to the concept of democracy, which fully correspond to the principles declared in the country's Constitution, occupy a strong niche in the rhetoric of government representatives. Based on the results of using the quantitative content analysis method, we were able to identify its attributes most often in the language turns of Ukrainian political leaders. [4] Content - speeches of the first persons of the state, articles were subjected to analysis. On the basis of the collected text materials, the main indicators were selected and, through quantification, the entire collection of the studied texts was converted into a digital expression. The analysis of the presented data allows us to conclude that the terminology associated with the concept of "democracy", "democratic regime" and definitions related to them occupy a strong niche in the lexicon, the rhetoric of government representatives, fully comply with constitutional principles. The government's initiatives to expand the possibility of political parties on the territory of Ukraine are related both to the desire to strengthen the fabric of civil society, which is being built, and to the development of political competition as one of the basic principles of the new management strategy.

The authorities in their official statements and documents have repeatedly declared the usefulness of the development of real political competition and the preservation of the opposition in society. As part of the course to liberalize the modern Ukrainian political regime, it is worth highlighting a policy direction related to the implementation of the idea of "feedback", ensuring trust, openness, and accessibility of government to the population

with the help of Internet resources. [1] Basic principles (openness, reliability, accessibility, freedom of search), means of ensuring citizens' access to information, forms of its provision, responsibility for violation of the access procedure, forms of control over this process are regulated by legislative acts.

The development of communication technologies has qualitatively changed the appearance of the current government, making it more open, accessible for communication with the people through the created system, Internet pages, official Internet sites of state institutions, and the electronic government system. Thanks to the information and technological Internet support of the public administration process, it was possible to bring the government closer to the people, but not to increase the interest of officials in solving the personal problems of citizens. Many appeals, although they receive a response from officials, are of an exclusively formal nature. In addition, the spectrum of political channels has expanded significantly over the last decade.

Conclusions. Thus, it can be stated that from a formal and legal point of view, the Ukrainian political regime meets Western standards of democracy. But the real essence of the regime, as was mentioned above, is determined not so much by a set of declared principles as by the presence of specific mechanisms for their implementation in the practical plane; methods that are preferred in management; the possibility of social control, the position of a person in the state; participation of society in the political process.

Those forms of activity that can bring dividends to the government and affect the fundamental foundations of the political course are allowed and encouraged. Another aspect of social and political life, which sheds light on the essence of the modern Ukrainian political regime, is the tactics of relations that the government builds with the extra-parliamentary opposition. The tendency to imitate democracy in Ukraine is caused by a number of factors: the lack of objective prerequisites for democratization – the problem of poverty, social differentiation in society; the circumstances of the subjective plan, political and cultural specificity, a special perception of power, the ruling elite's awareness of the ineffectiveness of authoritarianism under the conditions of the

development of the modern world system. After all, the modern Ukrainian political regime is characterized by an obvious desire to dominate the political process.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the above. First, the Ukrainian regime does not fall under the theoretical concepts of democracy constructed by the West. Its specificity is largely determined by the political and cultural features of society, associated with a peculiar perception of democracy and its basic principles, with a special attitude of society towards power. Secondly, Western-style democracy is not a panacea for Ukrainian society with its political and cultural specificity. Taking into account the challenges of the time, it is expedient to democratize the political system through partial adaptation, taking into account the political, cultural and historical features of society. Whatever the name of Ukrainian democracy, one thing is clear: effective functioning of the regime is possible if it is rooted in traditions, able to find the optimal balance between traditions and innovations. In our opinion, the model of national ("sovereign", "managed") democracy tested today in Ukraine is perhaps the most optimal and effective at the current stage. Thirdly, despite the fact that many institutions of democracy in Ukraine are currently imperfect, democracy works. This fact is partially confirmed by the events that occur periodically on the Maidan. Fourthly, the assessment of the political regime in the light of the past elections and the events that followed the announcement of their results (compared to the events in Europe) allows us to conclude that Ukrainian democracy does not fundamentally differ from Western models (at least in terms of external parameters). the same problems of absenteeism, the same dissidents, arrests of activists, similar pre-election technologies, etc. for example, high mobilization potential. The limited use of authoritarian control elements is appropriate in certain historical stages of development. Sixth, a universal model of the political regime cannot be developed due to the fact that all countries have their own cultural, historical, natural, and religious specificities, and a unique system of values (mentality, national character) developed on their basis; specific economic structure, etc. It is necessary to develop one's own organic model of political development.

## References:

1. Avksentiev O. L. Deiaki osoblyvosti neopatrymonialnykh politychnykh komunikatsii. Visnyk KhNU imeni V. N. Karazina, seriia «Pytannia politolohii», vyp. 37, 2020. S. 41-46.
2. Baklanova N. M., Bukach V. M. Katehoriia «politychnoi kultury» v naukovomu ta publichnomu dyskursakh. Politicus. Naukovyi zhurnal. 2022. № 1. S. 94-102
3. Zminy politychnykh rezhymiv i perspektyvy zmitsnennia demokratii v Ukraini: monohrafiia / avt. kol.: H. I. Zelenko (kerivnyk, nauk. red.), T. A. Bevz, S. H. Brekharia, M. S. Karmazina, V. O. Kovalevskyi, O. Yu. Kondratenko, N. V. Kononenko, T. M. Liashenko, O. M. Maiboroda, Yu. Zh. Shaihorodskyi. Kyiv: IPIEnD im. I. F. Kurasa NAN Ukrainy, 2021. 416 s.
4. Nahorna L. Politychna kultura i kultura polityky: etnichni aspekty. Politychnyi menedzhment. 2009. № 6. S. 14-24.
5. Politychnyi protses u nezalezhnii Ukraini: pidsumky i problemy. Kyiv: Instytut politychnykh i etnonatsionalnykh doslidzhen im. I. F. Kurasa NAN Ukrainy, 2021. 704 s.