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Studying the Interaction of Art with Sociocultural and Political Processes

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Abstract

The article aims to study the interaction of art with sociocultural and political processes. The relevance of this study is determined by the transformations that are currently taking place in Ukraine in the social and cultural spheres. Even during the war, art should develop; therefore, government bodies and political leaders must work hard to ensure the development of culture and art. The role of politics in this process is extremely important since the well-coordinated work of the state mechanism, reasonable use of funds, certain influence on cultural processes, and their preservation and enhancement can help to achieve coordinated work in the cultural and political spaces. This article the authors have studied the influence of material and intangible culture on society's development. They also searched for ways of interacting between culture and art in the sociocultural space. The study described the feasibility of developing and supporting art during the war in Ukraine.

Keywords: *Art, Culture, Politics, Society, Sociocultural Processes, War.*

Introduction

The art has always been an essential criterion for society's development. As it reflects and influences the social and political realities of a given period, art perpetuates ideas, principles, and social achievements of its development. The development of the arts has always been thorny: works of art were destroyed, and the writing, creating, speaking, and singing were all banned.

After Ukraine gained its independence, the cultural and creative life of the country did not have much of a boost. Even though the Soviet regime ceased to exist, the political elite was not too concerned with the development and support of the cultural sector. One of the main reasons for this was a lack of funding for any cultural sphere, control in this area, and little overall support.

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Literature Review

The issue of studying the impact of art's interaction with sociocultural and political processes has received very little attention. Delving into the deeper content of the study, it is worth noting its importance in the context of the transformations currently taking place in the country.

Thus, the study by A. M. Tormakhova (2022) reveals a detailed analysis of the problems of interaction between art and politics in the context of contemporary culture. The author's research outlines the peculiarities of art formation under the influence of various political processes that can affect human consciousness. T. Yasiuk (2023) examines the role and place of cultural and artistic projects, as well as their impact on the formation of Ukraine's sociocultural space and communication globally.

P. Sarakun (2016) reveals the essential components of cultural policy, its advantages, and the ways of implementation within the subject matter of social philosophy. The author explores the main vectors of the state's cultural policy in the context of cultural and political changes. Ukrainian scholar V. M. Hudz (2021), while revealing the sociocultural factors of human development, analyzes modern approaches to interpreting the concepts of culture and sociocultural development and their role in socio-political processes.

V. Kupriychuk (2022), A. Onishchenko (2019), L. Pivneva (2006), N. Yefreni (2014) and others should also be included among the researchers who made a significant contribution to the study of art and politics. Their works became an important development, an expression of their own position on the specified issue.

This article to describe the impact of art interaction on socio-cultural and political processes. The general scientific method made it possible to reveal the research of Ukrainian researchers on the influence of art on socio-cultural and political processes. The method of systemic analysis reveals the connections between various elements of art, socio-cultural factors and political processes. At the same time, this method makes it possible to consider the socio-cultural system as a structurally organized system where political, economic and moral components are interdependent and influence each other. The normative-value method helps to determine the socio-cultural vision of humanity, to reveal the peculiarities of value attitudes, their development and formation in the context of socio-cultural development.

Results

The concept of social development and culture is studied in various scientific disciplines. A.V. Onishchenko notes that art is a critical sphere of societal influence. It is a system of non-material signs that subconsciously refer a person to real objects but with a certain individual content (Onishchenko, 2019: 69). Art is a vital sphere of social life, as it influences its development and serves as an identifier in the sociocultural space. Studying art as a category, A.M. Tormakhova emphasizes that art cannot exist by just itself. It serves as an expression of certain cultural and political processes occurring in society. The art forms a certain worldview, serves as a means of struggle, and is a carrier of certain ideologies (Tormakhova, 2022: 67).

Examining the interaction of art with sociocultural and political processes, it is worth emphasizing that these processes influence not only the formation of social consciousness but also the changes that occur in the political space. Politics and culture are interdependent,

although they have different vectors of development. Such interdependence is manifested not only in the artistic interpretation of cultural and political changes but also in the process of sociocultural development.

The category of "culture" is a multifaceted concept. It helps to clarify problems in various spheres of social life. The concept of "culture" should be examined through the prism of its division into material and non-material aspects.

Non-material culture is a broader concept since it includes abstract relationships in society that are transmitted from generation to generation. Components of non-material culture include knowledge, traditions, beliefs, non-material values, etc. The types of non-material culture include the traditional, mass, folk, elite, and political cultures (Pivneva, 2006: 74-75).

N. M. Yefteni notes that political culture is a variety of cultures. The author believes that it is a way of spiritual and practical activity and relationships that reflect and consolidate national values and interests, shape political views and values, and provide knowledge and skills for participation in the socio-political life of society. At the same time, political culture is a system of values and arguments that ensure the unity of the political system, political institutions, and organizations. It is worth emphasizing that such features characterize a society with developed political culture as political activity, high political culture, and pluralism (Yefteni, 2014: 268).

As an essential element of the cultural heritage, art reflects the cultural values of the past, mastering them, which contributes to changes in society's mentality. Political processes occurring in society cannot be characterized by prolonged formation, as is possible in the process of art development. Each era contributes to the artistic heritage, which is shaped by various sociocultural and political transformations. L. P. Sarakun emphasizes that the changes that are occurring in the world today significantly affect all spheres of public life and are characterized by powerful transformational features, integration, and globalization. However, the sociocultural challenges facing humanity are mainly caused by the absence of national unity, which has simply eroded and hindered development for decades (Sarakun, 2016: 4).

V. V. Hudz notes that it is not advisable to abandon national interests and peculiarities in Ukraine today; on the contrary, efforts should be made towards its development. Activities aimed at developing cultural traditions should not only aim at forming their own system of values but also at the foundations of national identity, gradually consolidating it in the public consciousness (Hudz, 2021: 36). Yu. V. Solovyova notes that Ukrainian art has always been distinguished by its moral and aesthetic potential (Solovyova, 2017).

V. M. Cherepanin points out that no one currently advocates for the total subordination of politics to art or art to politics, finding aesthetic boundaries between these two categories. It is worth noting that both the artist and the politician are driven by the will to succeed. The long path to the Olympus of both takes a significant time, and when they finally achieve results, they can acquire leadership qualities, attracting the energy of others. However, the boundary between art and politics is determined precisely by which institutions this energy is channeled to and how artists and politicians use these opportunities to develop their skills as they progress (Cherepanin, 2006: 92).

Famous Ukrainian architect, musician, and art collector PavloGudimov said in an interview that it is not politics that rules but rather conscience, dignity, honor, and consciousness. Gudimov notes that most conscious artists are beyond politics because they are creative, archaic, and free in their views. In fact, we will never meet any artist without their own opinion.

According to Gudimov, if we talk about the political career of artists, it will be a caricature. Currently, there are no politics, such as in Ukraine, as from the perspective of Western scholars, politics is proper social management supported by the development of certain strategies. Politics in Ukraine is a business that is only about making a profit. When artists get involved in politics, they lose their spiritual sense and start dancing to the highest bidder, sometimes even betraying their own interests.

According to PavloGudimov, the state does not interfere with or influence the art. Therefore, it is possible to create freely in Ukraine, which is a big advantage. In addition, Ukraine does not have a coherent mechanism that could prohibit or allow something or order anything. Artists feel free to express their thoughts and their creativity. According to Gudimov, many critics are now using the term renaissance of contemporary Ukrainian art. Actually, there is a great diversity of not just professional but sincere art in Ukraine, endowed with unique and inimitable features. Ukrainian art is an elitist environment that is entirely different from politics. According to Mr. Gudimov, art should be completely separate from the state (PavloGudimov's interview, 2014).

It is worth emphasizing that the aforementioned interview with PavloGudimov was conducted in 2014. Yet, 10 years later, it has maintained its relevance. The state still doesn't care much about the art. Corruption schemes have infiltrated not only politics but also the cultural sphere. The fact that big money decides who will organize an exhibition and who will pay for it doesn't surprise anyone.

Rostyslav Derzhipilsky, the theater's ideological inspirer, theater's director and artistic director, and the winner of the Taras Shevchenko National Prize of Ukraine, shares the same opinion as P. Gudimov. Derzhipilsky believes that sometimes art turns into a money-making race. In this case, the authenticity of everything is lost. Some people forget that art heals and strengthens the spiritual well-being of a person on the same level as faith and religion. R. Derzhipilsky notes that theater is a common story of the person on stage and the person in the audience. It is an exchange of energy and a co-existence. Based on the Ukrainian mentality, traditions, and culture, and combining them with European intelligence and knowledge, it is possible to get something that is fascinating and creative.

At the time of the publication of the interview with R. Derzhipilsky, Ukraine was undergoing minor reforms in Ukrainian culture at the ministerial and governmental levels in 2020. The financial support for actors was being revised, and some legislative issues were being improved. On the question of whether theater and politics coexist, the artist noted that theater cannot stand aside from political processes. Instead, theater must be at the forefront of them and lead society. This manifests the great mission of art (Derzhipilsky, 2020).

While analyzing the impact of politics on national art, it is worth emphasizing the fact that, no matter how paradoxical it may sound, the long and protracted war has had a positive impact on the development of art and culture in Ukraine. Over the past few years, culture has become a defining component of Ukraine's image worldwide. As a result of the war, Ukrainian artists have become widely known and recognized all over the world. Previously, it was not an easy task to get permission to hold an international exhibition or organize a concert for an average celebrity.

Nowadays, the world is eager to get involved with Ukrainian talent. The commercial side attracts some people, while others really want to demonstrate their own talent and thereby glorify Ukraine. Only recently, some artists felt that they were in demand or essential in their home country. As a result, they were forced to leave their homeland and seek their fortune far away from home.

According to various estimates, there are up to several thousand artists in the world. It's great when an artist, in a difficult time for Ukraine, feels like an ambassador responsible for the constant promotion of Ukrainian culture and creativity. Such artists actively help to destroy the enemies of the Ukrainian people. However, not all artists are conscious. Some, in their usual thirst for money, even forget where they come from and where their motherland is. "The art is out of politics," is said by those who have already succumbed to the temptation of easy money. They have disgraced not only themselves but also the country of their origin. However, does this statement really have the right to live? (Kuziy, 2023)

When exploring the issue of the interaction between art and politics, the opinion of I. Yasiuk becomes quite interesting. The author emphasizes that the biggest challenge today is sustainability and consistency since the success of cultural diplomacy can be achieved mainly through faith in one's own strength, in one's own state, and in one's own recognition. The principle of an open society should also be considered a key factor. Simplification of bureaucratic procedures helps to implement cultural and art projects in Ukraine. Ukrainian culture is fascinating and diverse. The performances of national bands, solo actors, musicians, as well as theater and film artists, have become a real discovery for many countries around the world. It once again confirms that the Ukrainian nation is extremely talented (Yasiuk, 2023: 223).

Discussion

The stability of any state is based on three determining factors: economic, political, and spiritual. The destruction of at least one of the mentioned factors threatens the loss of balance for the entire society. All these factors aim to bring productive creative work into the life of society. It is worth emphasizing that it is impossible to form a political compromise without spiritual unity. The same goes for economic development in a country without political stability (Kuzmuk, 2023).

V. Kupriyчук, in this case, argues that the development and implementation of a motivated state policy, which would define the goals of its cultural development, will contribute to the growth of human potential and the reaching of new societal frontiers (Kupriyчук, 2022: 43-44). The impact of policy can also be viewed through the prism of forming a new integrated model of cultural-informational space management. These processes will help with the following tasks:

- to shape a unified cultural and informational space;
- to ensure adequate protection of cultural heritage;
- to improve mechanisms for preserving cultural landmarks.

At the same time, the efforts of the state and its political potential should be directed toward improving the legislative framework and seeking ways of effectively regulating the protection of authors' rights (Troshchynsky, 2016: 44). According to P. M. Berest, the state programs currently being actively implemented, though designed before the war, do not fully take into account the achievements of the centuries-old Ukrainian culture (Berest, 2021: 4). Ye. V. Polyarush adds that the democratized development of society is one of the goals of cultural sphere reform. Political processes in the country contribute to constructing new cultural hubs and preserving identity and cultural-historical values (Polyarush, 2021: 27).

At each historical stage of development, art, in addition to internal problems, performs a certain social role or assumes this function. In today's world, art is in a difficult situation due to the

presence of competitors, such as media, television, the Internet, advertising, social networks, and even politics, since all these processes are extremely important for image formation. With these new realities, art must constantly rethink its space and look for ways to attract the attention of the audience. Although art, on the one hand, is a unique human activity, it does not have a specific goal, but constantly adapts to changes in society (Sklyarenko, 2017).

T. V. Senko points out that there is an urgent need in Ukraine to establish legal organizations dealing with cultural violations. It is necessary to shape cultural infrastructure rather than merely pass ineffective regulatory acts at the ministry level, which practically lacks influential power. Addressing priority issues will not only enable the implementation of an effective mechanism for funding cultural services at the state level but also contribute to elevating the cultural level in society (Senko, 2021: 31-32).

Interestingly, during peacetime, there wasn't as much attention given to cultural matters in our country as there had been during the war period. Currently, any topic for creative development is relevant. Ukraine positively welcomes projects that glorify our country worldwide. Many artists, singers, musicians, and actors remain in Ukraine and resist Russian aggression as much as they can. After the annexation of Crimea and the war in Donbas in 2014, there was a need for the imposition of a ban on entry into Ukraine for individuals who supported or continue to support the Russian government. Ukraine's policy did not change during the full-scale war but intensified (Ruptash O., 2020: 192).

As former Minister of Culture Oleksandr Tkachenko rightly pointed out in an interview in July 2022, war is the engine of the unknown narratives of art to us. In art, a person can find reflection and reinterpret the reality of when it emerged. Art born during a war is capable of speaking longer than we live. Current state policy should focus on documenting, collecting, and passing on to future generations (Tkachenko, 2022).

Kateryna Yakovlenko, a journalist from the "Suspilne. Kultura" television channel, suggests delving more deeply into the state processes that significantly influence art in her research. She emphasizes that, first and foremost, it is worth stressing that funding for culture should not be perceived as a business that should return profits. Primarily, it is an investment in the future and the image of Ukraine (Yakovlenko, 2023).

The opinion of Ukrainian poet, prose writer, and essayist A. Lyubko is quite interesting. While researching politics and its influence on culture and art, the author expresses rather harsh views on the concept of the "cultural theatre of war." The author notes that unquestionably, culture is essential, but not during the war when significant funds are spent on culture while the front lacks the most critical supplies. War is the destruction that ruins plans, creates chaos, and takes lives. War provisioning is not peace.

Peace is not an intermediate point between war and its true antonym. After all, if war is destruction, then the antonym of war is the creation of culture. Now it is high time for the battlefield, where the best people of the nation are dying and where there is so much pain, fear, sorrow, hatred, and fire. Right now, the army is fighting for the time of culture and creativity that will come to our people after the war (Lyubko, 2023).

Producer Ihor Kondratyuk sheds light on his own opinion regarding art and politics. He notes that art cannot be outside politics during the war. When there is no war and peace reigns in the country, the phrase "art is beyond politics" is one hundred percent accurate. However, during the war in Ukraine, everyone tries to help as much as possible. Musicians take up arms,

performers give free concerts, collect donations, and thus support the army. Everyone helps as much as they can. However, unfortunately, some artists continue to entertain the aggressor even during wartime. These are not artists - they are collaborators (Kondratyuk, 2021).

Therefore, should we say that culture is outside of politics? This statement may not be appropriate. Culture and politics always coexist in a close circle and are interdependent on each other (Fig. 1).

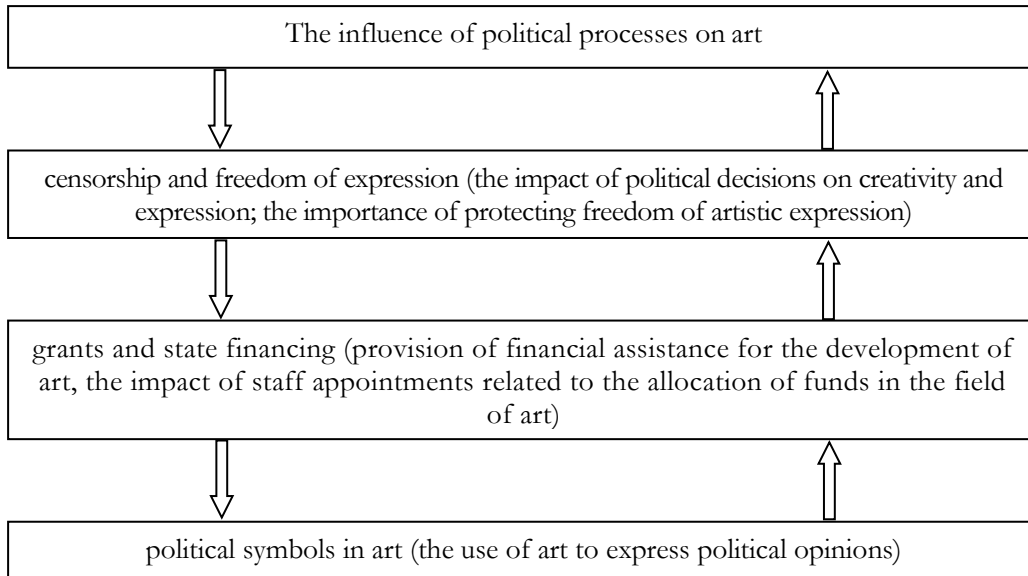


Fig. 1: Interdependence of Culture and Politics.

Based on the allocation of public funds when planning the budget for 2024, it is worth emphasizing the importance and priority of certain areas of the country's cultural life. Political decisions made at the governmental level and other political structures determine the level of support for the most important areas of cultural development of the state.

Conclusion

So, after investigating the interaction of art with socio-cultural and political processes, their close connection and interdependence was established. In the context of modern changes that are taking place in Ukraine, the study of this issue is important, because even during the war, art should develop, glorifying the talented Ukrainian state to the whole world. It should be emphasized that an effective state policy is the key factor that should provide conditions for the development and support of art. Such a symbiosis between art and politics contributes not only to the preservation of cultural heritage, but also to the development of society as a whole, forming a favorable cultural and political environment for development and self-expression.

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