

ESSENTIAL AND FORMAL ASPECT OF THE STATUS OF MILITARY SCIENCE

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Abstract: *The relationship between essence and form and the terms derived from them - essential and formal, is one of the key questions of philosophy and science, which reflects on the practice of every human activity. In order to show this difference as plastically as possible in reality, the expression - a suit does not make a man - is often used. It does not take much wisdom and knowledge to understand that the suit does not make the man, but apparently (formally) our perception of the person we see will start from his suit.*

This work is an attempt to outline the development path of military science in our country, in the period of half a century, that is, since the first Symposium on Military Science in 1970. The basis of the hypotheses in this work is as follows: The status of military science in our country is more formal than essential. In confirming the mentioned hypothesis, the required number of scientific works were used, as well as the personal experiences of the author of the work, who in his professional military career performed important duties related to military science.

Key words: *form, essence, military science*

1. INTRODUCTION

In considering any phenomenon or process, the question usually arises - where (temporally) to start. Such an approach is also applied in the determination (location) of the research problem, when it comes to the methodology of scientific research. For this reason, in this paper, the beginning of consideration of the status of military science in our country is placed in 1970, that is, the time when the first Symposium on Military Science was held. In the period after that symposium until today, military science, essentially and formally, was not established in our environment, and it ranged from attempts to identify, define and classify, through denial of existence, renaming it as defense sciences, to attempts to establish it based on law. The reference points of our analysis are the few scientific gatherings on military science (defense science), between which various processes of legal, organizational and functional foundation of military science (defense science) took place. All this points to the fact that we have not entered into the essence of military science, and, therefore, all the appearances (forms) have only the surface character of futile attempts. The attitude of politics towards the army was

directly reflected in the attitude towards military science. The status of military science was the least asked by those who deal with it, be it formally.

2. ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF THE STATUS OF MILITARY SCIENCE

Essence, essence or essence (Greek ουσία [ousia], Latin *essentia*), is the basic property of a being or phenomenon that can explain various special and complex events. Essence is that by which something is exactly what it is; the nature of things, that without which it would not be what it is. A thing cannot lose its essence without ceasing its existence. (<https://sh.wikipedia.org/wiki/Su%C5%A1Sustina>).

Essence constitutes the permanent nature of a thing, the foundation of its determination and a constant source of essential properties. In relation to the changing states of a thing, the essence is that which is true and real which remains unchanging. In contrast to existence, the fact that something is, essence marks what that something is (lat. quidditas – "goodness"). Essence is that general and necessary that transcends all individual things, although there is no separate existence outside of individual beings. In the logical sense, essence is the inner first principle that allows something to exist, and its concept is expressed by definition.

Heidegger determines the essence of a thing in relation to its source: "The source means that from where and with what a thing is what it is and what it is." We call the fact that something is, the fact that it is as it is, its essence. The source of something is the source of its essence." As an example, Heidegger states that the artist is the source of the work of art, but the work of art is also the source of the artist, it makes it what it is. And the source of both of them is art. (<https://sh.wikipedia.org/wiki/Su%C5%A1Sustina>).

Thus, as Hegel said: "...the absolute determination of the essence must be found in every experience, in everything that is real, as well as in every concept".

In 1970, a strong initiative was launched in the then SFR Yugoslavia to establish the foundations of military science. The State Secretariat for National Defense played a key role in this. The introductory paper on military science at the symposium was presented by General Stevo Ilic. He expressed the opinion that "all sciences, scientific disciplines, scientific theories that study the specific problems of preparing and conducting ONOR can be included in one single system of sciences". (Ilic, 1971:189) with us, it has a double meaning - a narrower and a wider sense. Military science in the narrower sense of the word ("general military science") means the so-called pure military sciences: strategy, operations, tactics, and under military science in a broader sense, apart from general military science, all scientific disciplines studied by ONOR are understood, regardless of which parent science they belong to (Figure 1).

This rudimentary understanding of the system of military sciences, although it did not attract the attention of the scientific public in the SFRY, nevertheless, took root in the armed forces of the SFRY and practically lasted until the collapse of the state. Although from the beginning of the disintegration of the SFRY, in 1991 until the NATO aggression on the FRY (1999), the focus was on war, discussions on military science did not stop. On the contrary, it was precisely in that period that there were the most of them. More significant activities in that period were the symposiums on military science in 1994 and 1997, as well as the project of the Institute of War Art "History of War Art" completed in 2000.

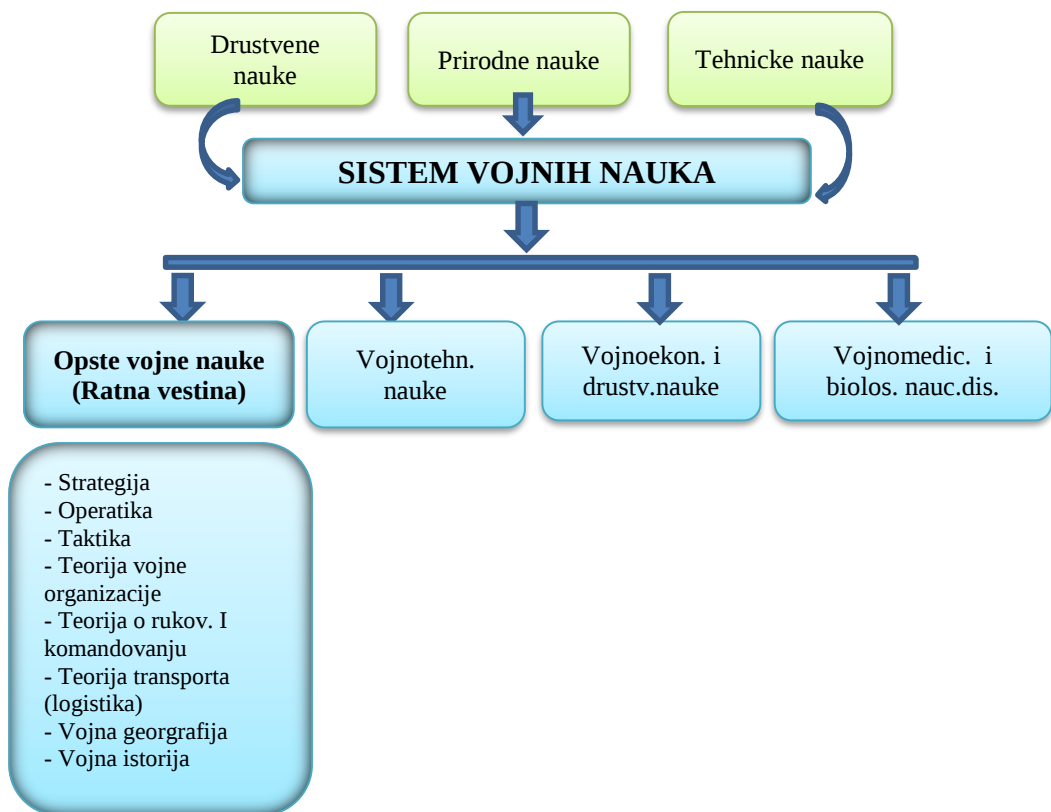


Figure 1. Classification of military science systems

Source: (Ilic, 1971)

Was the scientific thought about military science rounded off in the mentioned period? It's not. Why? So no consensus was reached on the key questions: What is military science; What is the name of that science (Warcraft, Polemics or...); Is it a systematic science or a system of sciences; What is the subject of military science (war, armed struggle or military activity, or armed forces or something else) and other basic questions, without which there is no science. Also, the scientific public in FRY, SC, and later in Serbia was not very interested in military science. From the mentioned period, the year 1997 is significant, when the scientists of the Institute of War Skills gave two classifications of military science systems (Visnjic, Kovac, Jan, 1997 and Kovac, Jan, 1997). For reasons of adapting that system to the system of sciences in Serbia, we will present only one approach (Figure 2).

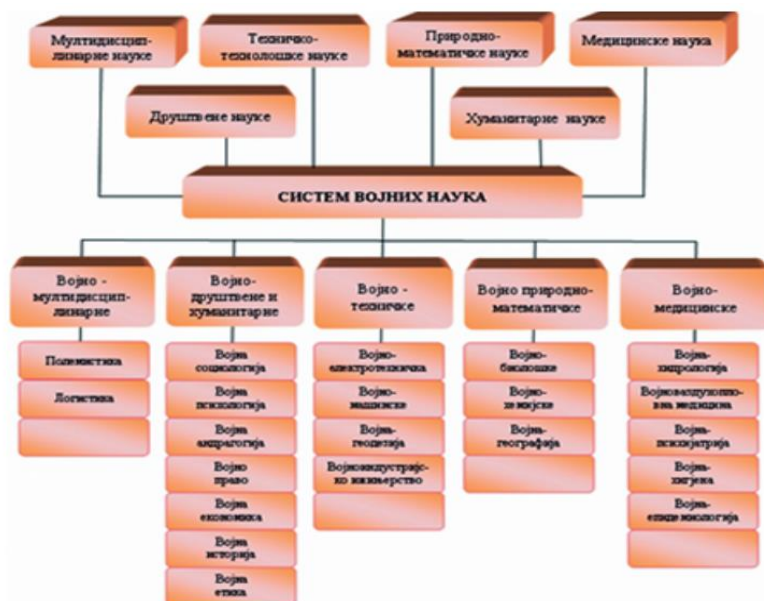


Figure 2. Militarac, Marcek, 1997)

Before of the NATO aggression on the FRY, the Institute of War Skills began work on the project "History of War Skills", which was completed and the results published in a three-part edition in 2000. Therefore, the project related to the history of a (military) science. For the results of the project, the Institute received the "Transplantation of Wisdom" award at the book fair in Nis in 2000. Few people today even mention that project.

After the NATO aggression against the FRY and the dissolution of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro (2006), when Serbia became an independent and independent state, the fact is that few people deal with military science and its status in society. Military science had the same status as the army in our country.

However, more concrete moves towards defining military science and its status in society have been made since 2010, when the Law on Higher Education in Serbia was passed, which did not recognize military science. In a magical way, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development accepts the suggestion of the Ministry of Defense to change its attitude towards military science. And, look at the miracles - the point of the Law is changed, but instead of being called military science, the phrase defense science is used. As if by default, the most ardent advocates of military science accepted the new name wholeheartedly, and everything they understood as military science was called defense science. In practice, the University of Defense is even being formed (the second and successful attempt) and the Symposium on Defense Sciences - SIMNOD 2011 is being held.

As it happens in our country, despite the symposium held, the formation of the University of Defense and the recognition and status of scientific workers in the Army and the Ministry of Defense, "someone" thought of bringing back military science. This is especially so after the adoption of the Law on Military Education in 2018.

What is military science (military science), what is the subject of those sciences, how are they classified and many other questions await answers. Of whom?

Essentially, military science does not exist in our country!

But let's not worry too much about the fact that military science does not exist in our country. The representative of the Czech Republic, which we looked up to when forming the Defense University, at SIMNOD 2011 said: "Definitions of military science that can be found in dictionaries and encyclopedias are quite general and are not very helpful for understanding the nature of those sciences. Military sciences, as such, do not exist. They are just a combination of "normal" sciences, used in a military context to achieve military goals. This enables military researchers to engage in (inter)national scientific cooperation in the field of those general sciences. By combining the findings and scientific results of those groups, as well as their application in a much narrower, military context, it is possible to achieve specific military and political goals that are set at the national level" (Lodowyckx, 2011:78).

3. FORMAL ASPECT OF THE STATUS OF MILITARY SCIENCE

The word "form" is of Latin origin and has the following meanings: shape, appearance, figure, exterior, outer side; mold, model; established appropriate behavior. The question of the form of individual things and phenomena is one of the earliest questions that people discussed. According to Aristotle, the general in things is form, and it, together with matter, is the basic principle of every individual thing. In philosophy, form is what sets a formless thing into a shaped being, i.e. that which brings a being into being, whether it is the form of an inanimate body or an organically living one. The modern natural-philosophical notion of form says that matter (as a shaped being) is actually energy that appears as form: (<http://www.enciklopedija.hr/Natuknica.aspx?ID=20136>).

The attribute "formal", derived from the word "form", has several meanings, including: legal, express, principled, determined and others. However, the word "formal" is also used to emphasize that something is being carried out beyond the essence, for the sake of order, as our people would say. The just-mentioned folk definition of the word formal (for the sake of order) is the subject of our view of the status of military science in our country.

Thus, after the aforementioned Symposium on Military Science in 1970, military science received a certain legal organizational and functional form. In the system of military education, master's studies in military sciences are introduced and a scientific staff begins to be created, although, as we have already shown, it is not completely clear what military science is, nor is it formally recognized by society, even if it exists. Simply, the young man of military science understood it according to the prevailing attitude at the specific moment. Of course, that young scientist had a benefit only in the military environment, the obtained diplomas are not recognized in society.

But inertia has its own laws. The flywheel of the introduction of military science received its legal aspect with the adoption of the Law on Military Schools and Military Scientific Research Institutions, but only after the dissolution of the SFRY ("Official Gazette of the SFRY", no. 80/94, 85/94-ispr I 74/99; "Official Gazette SCG", no. 44/2005). Unrecognized in society, the system of military science values itself. Thus, the title of assistant professor, associate professor and professor in the field of military science - War skills could be obtained by a person in the Army who is not a doctor of science, if he graduated from the School of National Defense and has published works. Later, that aspect was slightly modified, and a person who completed the School of National Defense with the preparation of additional work at the level of a master's degree could obtain the academic title of Doctor of Science. Certainly, persons who were masters of military sciences had the opportunity to defend doctoral dissertations in those sciences as well. The number of unrecognized scientists in society multiplied. Thus, in the military education system, but only in it, we had a somewhat complicated situation. Namely, there was the so-called career and scientific training. This led to such a situation that

quite a few people took advantage of the opportunity to complete the highest levels of both forms of training (School of National Defense and Doctorate in Military Sciences).

And then one of the turning points. Since 2011, the higher education system in the country has been "accepting" defense sciences in the socio-humanistic field, which is the reason for the formation of the University of Defense. However, that state system of higher education only accepts the accreditation of Defense Management, which has its specifics only in the Military Academy - Military Management. Nonsense upon nonsense. An entire science (military science, revalued as defense science, was "stuffed" into defense management). Blagojevic and Starcevic write about this: "Such a solution led to the devastating fact that the military scientific theory from which the field of management arose was classified in the narrower scientific field of military management." Military management further incorporated all primary military subjects such as tactics, operations, strategy, leadership and command, defense logistics. The study programs were unnaturally harmonized, so that they contain the required number of courses that have the term management in the title, which resulted in the introduction of the following subjects: management basics, security management, crisis management, human resources management, at the expense of primary military or other important social subjects. (e.g. philosophy, political system, constitutional law, sociology of war and the military, history of war art, rhetoric, international relations)" (Blagojevic, Starcevic, 2019:170).

However, this is not the end of the nonsense. When it comes to elections for teaching positions, the Rector of the University of Defense, by his decision in 2012, "cancels" (puts out of force) the still existing (therefore valid) Law on Military Schools and VNIU and "determines" that the election is carried out according to the Law on higher education in Serbia. Otherwise, the Law on Military Schools and VNIU will remain in force until 2018, when the Law on Military Education was adopted ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 36/2018). Thus, in military education until 2018, a dual law (military and state law) was in force.

And then comes Bologna. The military education system is collapsing. The School of National Defense and the later formed Higher Studies of Security and Defense, which were considered the highest level of training in the defense system, are losing their primacy, which is given to basic academic studies at the Military Academy. Mentorship of the graduation thesis of military academy cadets (Targeting at night and in conditions of low visibility) is more valued than the final thesis of students of the National Defense School (Geostrategic position and security challenges of the Republic of Serbia, for example). And until 2018, those who graduated from the School of National Defense could become assistant professors, part-time or full-time professors. No comment needed.

If Bologna brought anything good, it was the differentiation of the so-called career from scientific training at the Military Academy and the University of Defense. But, there was a race to acquire references for selection into teaching positions, because, objectively, military science was not recognized in society for a long time. Thus, the catchphrase was born - **"who chases M does not wear a helmet"**. Objectively less valued teaching staff (undergraduate studies) are given primacy over extremely experienced and proven teachers at the School of National Defense and at the Advanced Studies in Security and Defense. But, that staff from basic studies "has time" to achieve references, while proven teachers from the School of National Defense are not in that position, nor does their age allow them. It is not difficult to judge what is the essence and what is the form.

However, the choice of the current rector of the University of Defense shows that the helmet is still important for military science. Namely, a general was appointed to that position, who at the time of appointment did not have an academic title higher than assistant professor. And

it is known that the rector is chosen from among the regular professors. Thus, a new slogan was created - "**from doctor to rector in two years**". Given that the current rector's working life is being extended two by two, and there are also elections for higher positions, he will probably reach the rank of full professor.

In the constellation of new political relations towards the Army, certainly positive in the last few years, there is also a new approach to military science, with the intention of establishing it in the defense system, i.e. the University of Defense and the Military Academy. The work is in progress, so this is not the time to comment on this initiative, except for the real desire that this time the effort will succeed. But essentially, not formally.

4. CONCLUSION

Essence carries form, just as a man wears a suit, and form does not carry essence, just as a suit does not carry a man.

Essentially, military science does not exist in our country. Formally, both in the legal, organizational and functional sense, military science, under various names and concepts, took root. The attitude towards military science depended on the attitude towards the Army (armed forces). In this sense, some legal, organizational and functional solutions were really (and still are) only a form, without real substance.

Now comes the essence. At least we hope so.

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