

Article

The Formation of Ukrainian National Identity in the Context of Russian Aggression: A Philosophical and Psychological Analysis

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Abstract

The Russian military aggression has brought significant changes to Ukrainian social life. The article aims to analyze the formation of Ukrainian national identity in the conditions of Russian aggression based on philosophical and psychological analysis. The implementation of the proposed goal was based on the use of the PRISMA scientific approach. The processing of the collected information was carried out using content analysis and comparison synthesis. The results show that the Russian aggression against Ukraine significantly influenced the activation of the cultural, ethnic, and political self-awareness of Ukrainians. It was established that until 2014, the institutional development of Ukrainian national projects occupied a secondary place in the policy of the state authorities of Ukraine. Among the features of the impact of the war on the processes of self-identification, one can identify the awareness of the value and importance of preserving Ukrainian culture and cultural memory, the growth of support for the Ukrainian language, and the gradual change in historical memory. The conclusions note that the formation of national identity in war conditions was significantly activated due to the growth of self-awareness in Ukrainian society.

Keywords: National identity, Cultural memory, Language, Philosophical foundations

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Introduction

National identity plays a fundamental role in the self-determination of the people, as it is formed under the influence of historical, socio-cultural and political factors. In the context of Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine, the issue of the peculiarities of national identity formation has become particularly relevant, as military actions, propaganda, and active information manipulation are aimed at destroying Ukrainian subjectivity and distorting Ukrainian historical memory (Kaunert & de Deus Pereira, 2023). For this reason, conducting a philosophical and psychological analysis of this phenomenon is especially important. Such an analysis will reveal the mechanisms of formation and transformation of national identity. The philosophical analysis of identity comprehension is related to the questions of the nation's existence, self-understanding, and historical continuity. At the same time, the psychological aspect will include the study of the collective consciousness and emotional reaction of society to the threat and adaptation in war. The main problem of the study is identifying the key aspects of the formation and development of Ukrainian national identity in the context of war. The current challenges caused by the war have changed the self-perception of Ukrainians and strengthened patriotic sentiments. However, they have also led to the emergence of new psychological barriers and traumas. Therefore, this problem requires a detailed scientific understanding and analysis.

The study will focus on the philosophical and psychological analysis of the peculiarities of national identity formation. From a philosophical point of view, a detailed analysis of the essence of national identity, its dynamics, and its role in the people's self-determination processes is planned. In addition to the psychological aspect, the key mechanisms of psychological response to war, collective trauma, and social consolidation will be studied (Hodes, 2023; Danilyan et al., 2021). Thus, by analyzing the formation of the national identity of Ukrainians with the help of philosophy and psychology, it will be possible to identify the main trends and factors contributing to the formation of national consciousness.

Therefore, the primary purpose of this study is to clarify the main mechanisms of the formation of Ukrainian national identity in the context of Russian aggression and to reveal its main philosophical and psychological dimensions. For this reason, the main research questions are as follows:

1. What factors influence the formation of national identity in the context of Russian aggression?
2. What are the peculiarities of the war's impact on identification processes?

3. How have the dynamics of Ukrainian national identity changed from 2014 to 2024?

For this purpose, several hypotheses have been formed, which must be confirmed or refuted during the study. The first hypothesis concerns the consolidation of society. It is proposed to prove whether Russian aggression has strengthened the national identity of Ukrainians by consolidating society and forming a single historical narrative. The following hypothesis is that active hostilities and psychological consequences can influence the emergence of identity fragmentation and the emergence of crisis phenomena in the public consciousness. These hypotheses will require proof or refutation.

Literature Review

Contemporary scholars have drawn attention to various aspects of the formation of the national identity of Ukrainians. Scholars have tried to comprehend the very concept of national identity. In particular, the concept of national identity is widely defined in the works of several authors. The nation is interpreted in modern studies as a separate social construct formed and developed through historical narratives, cultural traditions, and political factors (Kostytsky et al., 2020; Kuzio, 2016). Some studies support A. Smith's position emphasizes the role of ethnic communities in the process of nation-building (Kuzio, 2016). Several other works explain that identity is the conscious self-determination of a social subject. At the same time, identification is determined by a peculiar process of emotional or other self-identification of an individual or social group with another individual or group (Mishalova et al., 2024). Krasnoseletskiy (2015) stated that national identity is influenced by language policy. The author pointed out that an important strategic concept for solving the problem of ethno-cultural diversity and political disunity in Ukraine is the policy of Ukrainization, which will affect the integration of Ukrainian society based on language, culture, traditions, and historical identity of the Ukrainian ethnic group (Krasnoseletskiy, 2015). At the same time, scientific works indicate that the adoption of a particular identity mediates a close connection between identification as a process of formation, functioning, and development of identity and signification, that is, a particular process of realization of this identity in social practice (Kuzio, 2016; Mishalova et al., 2024).

Scientific studies indicate that wars or armed conflicts catalyze transformational changes in the national consciousness of societies. Aladekomo (2022) and Boichak & Jackson (2019) state that military events have influenced the strengthening of national identity through the so-called mechanisms of "*othering*". These are processes when

society is forced to consolidate against an external threat. From the perspective of Ukrainian realities, after the beginning of the Russian attack in 2014, researchers focused on analyzing the main changes in the national identity of Ukrainians, as seen in Averianova and Voropaieva (2019). Kulyk (2016) in his research pointed to a significant increase in pro-Ukrainian sentiment, a reassessment of the Soviet heritage, and growing support for independence. At the same time, some studies have pointed to the historical aspects of the formation of national identity and its transformational changes under the influence of the war (Devterov et al., 2023; Asadzade & Izadi, 2022; Kordan, 2022).

The ongoing information war has significantly impacted the process of forming the national identity of Ukrainians. The study by Hai-Nyzhnyk (2022) presents the historical foundations of the outbreak of the war and characterizes its main periods. Kyrydon & Troyan (2022) also addressed the issue of the war, describing the causes and preconditions for the development of the war. Some philosophical and psychological foundations of the development of this war with a focus on the psychology of the Russian elite were outlined by Forsberg & Pursiainen (2017). Some philosophical foundations of the war's development are also described in the study by Zayarnyuk (2022). In addition, scholars have identified the significant impact of digital technologies on social mobilization processes and emphasized the importance of media resources in shaping public perceptions (Malovana, 2024; Chayinska et al., 2017; Halukha, 2024a). Other scholars have identified the peculiarities of the formation of Ukraine's historical policy and emphasized the importance of its formation (Halukha, 2024b; Moseiko, 2022). Thus, modern scholars have drawn attention to the theoretical aspects of national identity and described the key moments of its development and formation. However, this was primarily done through the prism of historical science. However, this process's philosophical and psychological foundations are still not fully covered. This study will fill this gap, describe the main mechanisms of the formation of Ukrainian national identity in the context of Russian aggression, and reveal its philosophical and psychological aspects.

Materials and Methods

Research Design

This research is a mixed-methods study that combines qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The qualitative data were used to analyze scientific concepts, while the quantitative analysis involved secondary processing of sociological data. The type of research is descriptive and analytical, using a

comparative analysis of the transformation of the national identity of Ukrainians from 2014 to the present.

Sample and Materials

The study used purposive criterion sampling, which included different scientific sources: articles, monographs, and materials from conflicts. The criteria for including scientific materials were based on the following aspects:

1. The study characterizes the philosophical and historical foundations of the formation of the national identity of Ukrainians
2. The paper describes the psychological impact of the war on the formation of the national identity of Ukrainians
3. Date range: The research was written during 2014 - 2025.
4. Language of writing: Ukrainian, English. Ukrainian-language sources are included only if they have an English-language abstract.

The results of sociological studies were selected for inclusion to assess the dynamics of changes in national identity. The primary sampling parameters of these studies included:

1. Inclusion of representative all-Ukrainian surveys of the adult population
2. Data should be included for periods after 2014 and February 24, 2022.
3. Thematic indicators: identification as a citizen of Ukraine, language self-identification.

Instruments and Procedure

The PRISMA methodological approach was used to attract scientific sources. This approach is recognized as effective in modern scientific discourse, so its use is quite acceptable. First, scientometric databases were selected: Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. The following keywords were included in the search queries of these databases: national identity, philosophy, philosophical and psychological foundations, history, Ukraine, and changes. A total of 2459 positions were obtained. After removing duplicates, 2103 items were subjected to strict screening. First, all materials unrelated to Ukraine were rejected by checking annotations and keywords (-658). After that, all publications were analyzed rigorously, and articles irrelevant to the research were rejected (-878). After that, all articles were checked for compliance with the inclusion criteria, and those that did not meet the criteria were rejected. Figure 1 shows the main stages of source collection and screening.

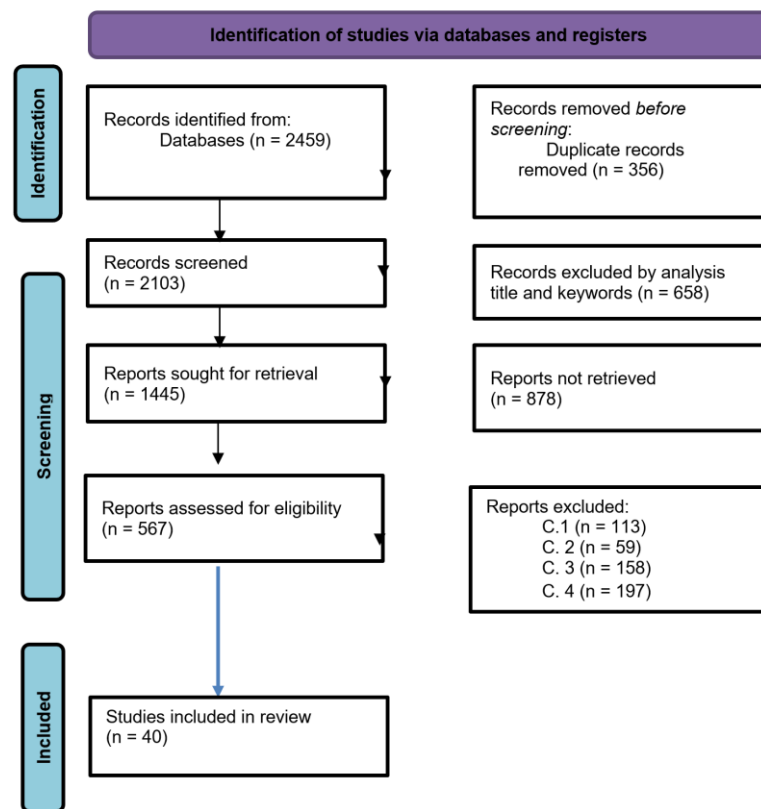


Figure 1. Stages of source identification and screening according to PRISMA

Source: Author's development

Data Analysis

Google Sheets was used for data analysis. This software was chosen because of its ease of use and value for descriptive research. Several tables were created that allowed for a systematic analysis. The first table contained the author, year of publication, characteristics of the concept of national identity, the presence of philosophical foundations, and the main identified changes. After that, another table was made, including the author, publication year, psychological context, and conclusions. This made it possible to systematize all the works that dealt with the psychological aspects of the war's impact. After that, the sociological surveys were also processed. A comparative analysis of respondents' answers over the years was conducted. After that, the data was visualized to present changes in public attitudes.

Results

The formation of Ukrainian identity is a complex and lengthy process that has occurred in several stages and has achieved some success. Undoubtedly, the full-scale Russian invasion played a role in the intensification of cultural, ethnic, and political identity. However, the war's impact began earlier, when the Kremlin regime occupied

the Crimean Peninsula and began actively supporting pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine, gradually replacing them with its proxies (Kaunert & de Deus Pereira, 2023). At the same time, until 2014 (when Russia's creeping aggression in Crimea and Donbas began), the institutional development of Ukrainian national projects was a secondary concern in the policy of the Ukrainian government. Implementing the process of strengthening Ukrainian national identity in the context of the spread of Russian aggression is related to certain key factors (see Table 2). The formation of Ukrainian identity is a complex and lengthy process that has occurred in several stages and has achieved some success. Undoubtedly, the full-scale Russian invasion played a role in the intensification of cultural, ethnic, and political identity. However, the war's impact began earlier, when the Kremlin regime occupied the Crimean Peninsula and began actively supporting pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine, gradually replacing them with its proxies (Kaunert & de Deus Pereira, 2023). At the same time, until 2014 (when Russia's creeping aggression in Crimea and Donbas began), the institutional development of Ukrainian national projects was a secondary concern in the policy of the Ukrainian government. Implementing the process of strengthening Ukrainian national identity in the context of the spread of Russian aggression is related to certain key factors (see Table 1).

Table 1. Philosophical factors of Ukrainian national identity assertion in the context of the Russian invasion

№	Factor	Description
1	War is a catalyst for national consciousness	Despite all its destructive impact, Russian aggression has contributed to a stronger sense of consolidation among Ukrainians and to the gradual creation of unifying values and narratives that can withstand the pressure of enemy propaganda. There is a gradual glorification of Ukraine's defenders, a transition to the revival of historical symbols, and a rethinking of history, national consciousness, and historical memory.
2	Language and culture as factors of identification	Since February 2022, the massive transition to the use of the Ukrainian language has intensified, which has become a powerful means of self-identification against the backdrop of countering the concepts of the "Russian world." This process has also popularized Ukrainian culture, which, through the influence of literature, art, music, and cinema, has successfully asserted itself and become a tool for countering Russification. One can observe the final decolonization of Ukrainian culture, which has achieved serious success in the international arena (victories in the Eurovision Song Contest, an Oscar for the Ukrainian film <i>20 Days in Mariupol</i>).

3	Information war and media	The information policy of the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian media, which includes individuals (social media users and bloggers), OSINT researchers, and foreign opinion makers, is important for shaping collective memory and a solid narrative about the war. Countering the spread of fake news and propaganda helps to strengthen trust in Ukrainian state institutions and civil society. The activity of volunteers and civil society organizations accelerates the creation of horizontal ties in society, contributing to forming a common and sustainable public perception of Ukraine and Ukrainians.
4	Collective trauma	The war and its devastating consequences also create new elements that will influence the national memory of future generations. Undoubtedly, the process of comprehending past crimes committed by the Russians will create new challenges for historical memory and national consolidation.

Source: Author’s development based on Pavlyshyn (2016), Kaminsky (2024)

Thus, the devastating Russian aggression has caused Ukraine enormous damage. However, it has also strengthened Ukrainian national identity and contributed to realizing the value and importance of preserving culture and cultural memory. The growth of national consciousness can be traced to the support for the Ukrainian language as the only state language, a rare phenomenon in Ukrainian society. There was no political consensus on this issue even after 2014. Today, there is a consensus on the status of the Ukrainian language, which is evident even when comparing statistics on the number of Ukrainians in the regions (see Figure 2).

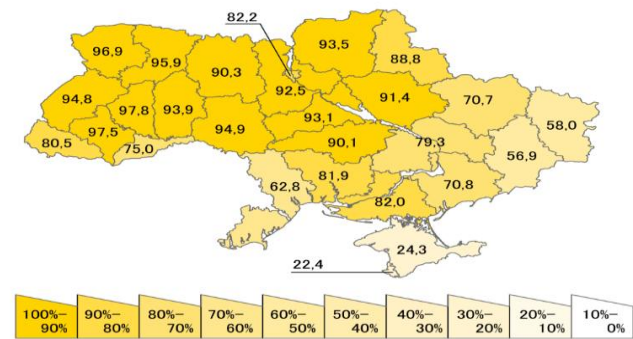


Figure 2. Number of Ukrainians in selected regions according to the 2001 census (in %)

Source: All-Ukrainian Population Census (2001)

Instead, Ukrainian is the only state language recognized in all regions of Ukraine, regardless of the number of Ukrainians who previously identified themselves as such (see Figure 3). Accordingly, the Russian invasion has strengthened the self-identification of Ukrainians based on their use of the Ukrainian language (Figure 3-4).

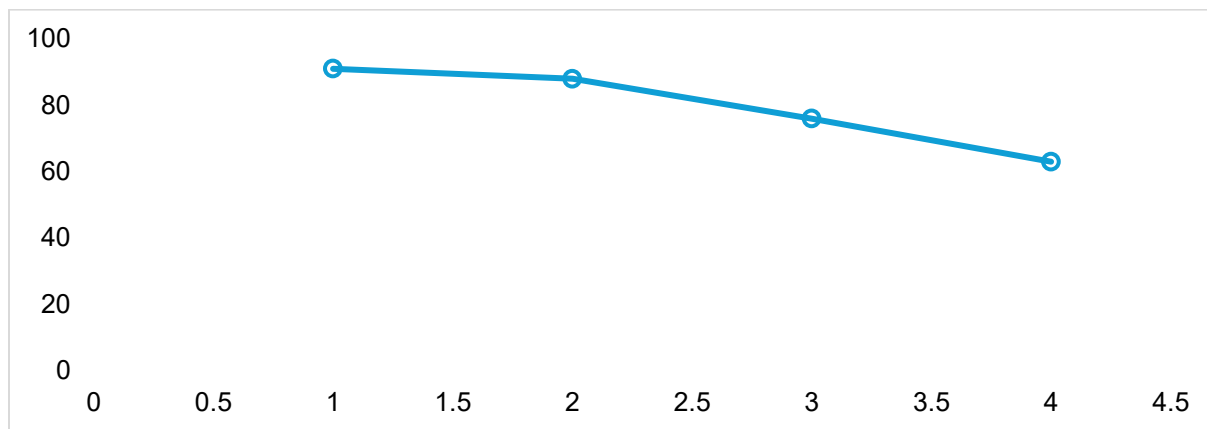


Figure 3. Level of support by Ukrainians for Ukrainian as the only state language
Source: Group Rating (2022)

Notably, the situation has also changed regarding the role of the Russian language (KIIS, 2022b). Back in 2016, 60% of respondents considered Ukrainian the primary language in all spheres of communication, compared to 33% who favored bilingualism. In 2024, 80% of respondents supported using the Ukrainian language in all areas of use, while supporters of bilingualism halved to only 15%. The number of people who recognized the exclusive status of the Russian language in 2017 was less than 2%. Thus, there has been a noticeable increase in self-identification (See Figure 4).

Dynamics of language use in Ukraine



Figure 4. Dynamics of language use in Ukraine
Source: Ukraïner (2021)

Self-identification is a key concept in philosophy, as it defines the process of an individual or community's realization of itself, its belonging and the meaning of existence. Philosophical approaches to this issue can be viewed through several main concepts. Existentialists believe that a person forms his or her identity through choices

and actions. During the war, Ukrainians made a conscious choice about their nationality, even if they had not thought about it before. Russia's aggression forced Ukrainians not only to defend their territory but also to rethink themselves as part of a community that defends freedom. Basic sociological measurements confirm these data.

According to hermeneutics, identity is unraveled through narratives - the society's stories about itself. Russian aggression has changed the Ukrainian narrative. This is evident in the shift from a multi-layered post-Soviet identity to a clear national self-identity built on historical memory.

At the same time, pragmatic philosophy believes that ideas and practical measures determine identity. The massive adoption of the Ukrainian language, as shown in Figure 3, and the revision of historical figures have become an important part of the new practices that consolidate Ukrainian national identity. The growth of Ukrainian self-identification has also been documented based on other measures. For example, depending on the methodology and time of the survey, 85% or 72% of Ukrainians consider themselves citizens of Ukraine. In any case, these figures are a historical high. There are many stages in developing Ukrainian identity, mainly war and revolution. Between 1992 and 2004, the share of predominantly Ukrainian people did not exceed 50%. After the Orange Revolution of 2004, a historical milestone was crossed. The subsequent increase occurred after the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war and the Revolution of Dignity, after which the 60 percent barrier was overcome. The beginning of the massive Russian assault led to the Ukrainian society exceeding the 70% mark.

The typical military cause of countering Russian aggression has become a decisive consolidating factor. In May 2022, 78% of respondents donated money to the Armed Forces of Ukraine, 58% donated to humanitarian causes, 56% donated clothes and other items for internally displaced persons, and 51% participated in volunteer activities, demonstrating how the internal content of identity is developing and becoming more effective. The philosophical paradigm indicates that a person will usually not contribute to a common cause if he or she believes that his or her contribution is insignificant, considering the scale of the problem, but that the benefits of success can be obtained regardless of whether he or she has made this contribution or not. However, obligations are also imposed by identity itself. For example, regardless of whether an individual contributes, the Armed Forces of Ukraine protect all Ukrainians.

The development of mutual trust is also demonstrated by the decline of such a philosophical category as social cynicism, or disdain for widely held beliefs (e.g., the

belief that one can lie for financial gain, act morally only when one fears punishment, etc.) 55% of Ukrainians mainly were cynical in July 2022, but the percentage fluctuated between 63% and 71% between 1999 and 2021. Of course, some people are completely skeptical, but it is deficient, 16% in July 2022 and 12-17% in 1999-2021. That is, the share of those who were “in the middle” and could not decide has increased.

Changes in historical and philosophical memory are also associated with changes in the value sphere. For example, in July 2022, 64% of respondents negatively perceived Stalin, but the percentage varied between 37% and 42% between 2012 and 2021 (KIIS, 2022a). The percentage of Stalin’s supporters also dropped to 5% but fluctuated between 14% and 23% between 2012 and 2021. This is important because Stalin was a representative of certain ideals even after 1991, which clarifies the dynamics of Ukrainians’ perceptions of him. Stalin was primarily associated with anti-democratic ideals, so if the early 1990s were a time of de-Stalinization, the late 1990s and early 2000s were a time of destalinization in Ukraine, driven by both material and social insecurity of large segments of the population and disillusionment with democracy (KIIS, 2022a). De-Stalinization began again in the mid-2000s, slowly and then abruptly (after 2014). Stalin was the embodiment of authoritarianism and a special identity of the time. Thus, the changes in Stalin’s image after February 24, 2022, are a logical continuation of a process that began a decade and a half ago. These changes are also in line with the canons of pragmatic philosophy, which state that identity is determined not only by ideas but also by practices. The massive revision of historical figures and the past has become an important part of the new practice, consolidating Ukrainian national identity.

Discussion

The destructive impact of Russian aggression against Ukraine has become one of the bloodiest pages of the twenty-first century. At the same time, it has become a real challenge for Ukrainian society, which has responded by strengthening national unity. This article analyzes the formation of Ukrainian national identity in the context of Russian aggression based on philosophical and psychological analysis. To achieve this goal, the author identified the factors influencing the formation of national identity in the context of Russian aggression, the peculiarities of the war’s impact on identification processes, and changes in the dynamics of Ukrainian national identity from 2014 to 2024. It was proposed to prove whether the Russian aggression influenced the strengthening of the national identity of Ukrainians by consolidating society and forming a single historical narrative. The following hypothesis is that

active hostilities and psychological consequences can affect the emergence of identity fragmentation and the emergence of crisis phenomena in the public consciousness.

The proposed results indicate that the full-scale Russian invasion played a role in activating the cultural, ethnic, and political identity of Ukrainians. From the point of view of philosophical reflection, war and external aggression can be a catalyst for rethinking identity. At the same time, until 2014 (before the start of Russian aggression in Crimea and Donbas), the institutional development of Ukrainian national projects was a secondary issue in the policy of the Ukrainian government. This confirms the findings of other researchers who analyzed sociological data on the national identity of Ukrainians and concluded that the actualization of national memory acquired more established features only after 2004, but, due to several circumstances, was not transformed into a large-scale policy (Akaliyski & Reeskens, 2024; Bilous, 2022; Hordiichuk, 2023; Artemchuk et al., 2024). In the context of the Russian invasion, some factors of the assertion of Ukrainian national identity have been identified. In particular, the war became a catalyst for national consciousness due to the heroization of defenders and the revival of historical symbols. The Ukrainian language and culture became important unifying factors, as they were a robust response to Russification. Ukrainian self-identification was strengthened by the information war, which emphasized the importance of supporting Ukrainians, countering disinformation, and forming a collective memory. At the same time, collective traumatic events can also contribute to the formation of the national identity of Ukrainians, which will be important for future generations. These results confirm the findings of other scholars who argue that Russian aggression significantly impacts the formation of Ukrainian national identity (Hordiichuk, 2023). In addition, researchers emphasize that the military invasion significantly accelerated the processes of nation-building and self-identification, even among those citizens who used the Russian language and were indifferent to the ideas of Ukrainian independence (Lunov et al., 2022; Melnyk, 2022). It was even proposed to consider the beginning of Russian aggression in 2014 as a starting point for a new stage of national Ukrainian self-determination (Hai-Nyzhnyk, 2022). Such conclusions can also be agreed upon, which, in general, allows us to confirm the proposed hypothesis that Russian aggression has influenced the strengthening of the national identity of Ukrainians by consolidating society and forming a single historical narrative. Moreover, as the modern scholars note: *“Russia’s hybrid perception of Ukrainians as people similar to Russians, but at the same time subordinate to Russia, has shaped the features of Ukrainian identity, including a culture of protest and resistance to oppression and enslavement, which explains Ukraine’s decisive response to Russian aggression”* (Khylko & Khylko, 2024, p. 28).

The proposed results also identify specific features of the war's impact on self-identification processes. Russian aggression has contributed to realizing the value and importance of preserving culture and cultural memory. The growth of national consciousness can be traced to supporting the Ukrainian language as the only state language, a rare phenomenon in Ukrainian society. This is in line with the canons of pragmatic philosophical thought. Ukrainian is the only state language recognized in all regions of Ukraine, regardless of the number of Ukrainians who previously identified themselves as such. Notably, the situation has also changed in relation to the role of the Russian language, with less than 2% recognizing the exclusive status of the Russian language in 2017. These results align with the findings of other scholars who emphasize the language issue, which is hugely relevant to Ukrainian realities (Kryvyzyuk et al., 2021; Group Rating, 2022). Pro-Russian political forces in Ukraine have openly speculated on this issue, trying to divide society for their political dividends, not without success. Some scholars argue that the war has demonstrated the irrelevance of the language issue soon, as Ukrainian society is so consolidated that it will not agree to a different status for the Russian language (Pakhomenko et al., 2018). Although such views require additional substantiation, they can be generally agreed with. Although such views require additional substantiation, one can generally agree. The proposed results indicate the low popularity of Russian culture in general.

Based on a study of the dynamics of the formation of national identity of Ukrainians, it was demonstrated that 72–85% of Ukrainians clearly define their citizenship, which is a historical maximum (KIIS, 2023). The joint military cause of countering Russian aggression has become a decisive consolidating factor. In May 2022, 78% of respondents donated money to the Armed Forces of Ukraine, 58% to humanitarian purposes, 56% to clothing and other things for internally displaced persons, and 51% participated in volunteer activities, demonstrating how the internal content of identity is developing and becoming more effective. Indicators of social cynicism have decreased. According to Mereniuk and Parshyn (2024), there has been a gradual change in historical memory. These thoughts are also supported by the study by Hurska and Parshyn (2023) and Pakhomenko et al. (2018), which shows the transformation of Ukrainian historical memory. The example of Stalin shows the transformation of social representations: if the early 1990s were a time of de-Stalinization, then the late 1990s and early 2000s were times of destalinization in Ukraine. A new de-Stalinization began again in the mid-2000s, at first slowly, and after 2014, much faster. This confirms the opinions of other scholars who believed that the process of national self-identification occurred gradually and quite fragmentarily (Shchepetylnykova, 2023; Lunov et al., 2023). At the same time, it significantly

accelerated after 2014, allowing us to confirm the second hypothesis proposed in the study partially.

However, despite the theoretical value of this study, it has certain limitations. In particular, the literature selected for analysis is exclusively that of English-speaking authors (in some cases, Ukrainian-speaking authors), but foreign-language works are wholly ignored. Therefore, these works are not considered in comprehensively describing this problem. At the same time, certain conceptual limitations should also be considered. Since the definition of national identity is multidimensional and depends on theoretical approaches, the philosophical and psychological concepts used in the study cannot but cover all possible aspects that arise in modern digital realities. There is a limitation of interdisciplinary analysis. Since this study combines philosophy, psychology, and sociology, it did not fully consider certain economic or legal aspects that may also affect the development of national identity in Ukraine. These aspects only open new directions for future research. Future studies should consider taking a broader interdisciplinary approach and describe in more detail important economic or legal aspects that may also influence the development of national identity in Ukraine.

Conclusions

Therefore, Russian aggression against Ukraine has had a significant impact on the activation of the cultural, ethnic, and political identity of Ukrainians. In fact, until 2014 (before the start of Russian aggression in Crimea and Donbas), the institutional development of Ukrainian national projects was a secondary concern in the policy of the Ukrainian government. Among the peculiarities of the war's impact on self-identification processes is realizing the value and importance of preserving Ukrainian culture and cultural memory. The growth of national consciousness can be traced to the support for the Ukrainian language as the only state language. Ukrainian is the only state language recognized in all regions of Ukraine, regardless of the number of Ukrainians who previously identified themselves as such. Notably, the situation has also changed concerning the role of the Russian language, with less than 2% recognizing the exclusive status of the Russian language in 2017.

The study found that self-identification is a complex and dynamic process determined by the interaction of the individual, society, and historical context. The philosophical analysis determined that the war became a catalyst for rethinking identity and distancing oneself from imposed narratives. Through the prism of existential philosophy, Ukrainians consciously chose a national identity in response to the threat. The narrative structure of hermeneutics showed that the war changed the historical discourse and strengthened Ukrainian national memory. The pragmatic philosophical dimension determined that self-identification was consolidated through

active language, culture, and social changes. Based on the study of the dynamics of the formation of the national identity of Ukrainians, it was demonstrated that 72-85% of Ukrainians clearly define their civic affiliation, which is a historical maximum. There has been a gradual change in historical memory. This confirms the idea that the process of national self-identification was a gradual and somewhat fragmented movement. At the same time, it accelerated significantly after 2014.

Ethical Considerations

This study was conducted following ethical research standards and academic integrity principles.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest concerning the authorship or publication of this article.

Disclosure Statement

The authors confirm that they have no competing financial, professional, or personal interests that could have influenced the results or interpretation of the study.

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Data Availability

The data supporting the findings of this study consist of publicly available scientific publications and secondary sociological datasets retrieved from open-access sources. Due to the nature of the study, no new primary data were collected. The complete list of sources and the results of the screening and inclusion procedures conducted following the PRISMA guidelines is available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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