

**MORAL ELEMENT OF MILITARY POWER:
THE UKRAINIAN MILITARY RESISTANCE IN THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to examine the moral component's role in the structure of military power, a component that is poorly understood in twenty-first century conflicts, and, more particularly, to reveal how the Ukrainian army applies the moral component to its operations in the Russia-Ukraine war. Most military and academic writings tend to focus on the physical components of military power such as manpower, high-tech weapons, etc. Considerable attention is given to the material components of military power due to its' quantitative nature and relatively easy measurement methods (Biddle, 2006). The significance of military power's intangible components such as moral or conceptual elements is widely recognized in academic and military literature (i.e., Biddle, 2006; Farrell, 2005; Allison & Zelikow, 1999; Rosen, 1996), but these factors are frequently taken out of consideration when calculating military power. In the twenty-first century, the moral component of military power is often overlooked and given a lack of attention, which is the reason why this research investigates its significance. The Russia-Ukraine war, particularly the resistance of the Ukrainian army against the Russian power, has shown and proved that the moral element plays an extremely important role in the war. The purpose of the study is to analyse the role of the moral component in the structure of military power and specifically in the Russia-Ukraine war, by demonstrating how the Ukrainian army utilized the moral component in combat. The study relies on the assumption that the moral component can be used to balance out the asymmetrical differences between Russia and Ukraine and helps to explain why Ukraine is able to resist a far more powerful enemy.

The presentation is divided into three sections. The first section examines theoretical notions of military power and the significance of the moral element in the structure of military power. A case study of the Ukrainian military resistance in the Russia-Ukraine war is provided in the second section. It reveals how the Ukrainian army employed the moral component in war, arguing that, at least to some extent, the moral component helps to balance the asymmetry of the military capabilities of the two countries. Based on the Ukrainian army's experience, the last section discusses the moral element's relevance in defense policy.