Research Article

THE ESSENCE OF NATIONAL UNITY AND INFLUENCING FACTORS

[1],* Ideshnorov Demberel and [2]Tamjiddorj Bayarsaikhan

[1]Researcher, chief of research and innovation division, The National defense university of Mongolia.
[2]Magistrate of the security studies, Mongolia.

ABSTRACT

National unity is essential for societal stability, economic growth, and global influence. Achieving this requires addressing internal divisions and external pressures through inclusive policies, cultural preservation, and equitable development. A shared national identity and commitment to common goals are crucial for overcoming challenges and fostering unity. Governments play a pivotal role by implementing policies in education, language preservation, legal systems, and economic advancement to promote cohesion.

Keywords: National Unity, Influencing Factors, Corruption and Dishonesty, Poverty and Inequality, State Instability, Political Crisis.

INTRODUCTION

Mongolians have a history of fostering the development and prosperity of their homeland, improving the livelihood of their people, and strengthening the independence of their nation through unity. Democracy, freedom, and solidarity are values that the people should cherish. Without unity, even the strongest sense of nationalism is futile. Political and social analysts caution that our country faces risks of division and fragmentation that threaten national unity. This division manifests in various ways, including ethnicity, regional affiliations, social background, living standards, education levels, party and religious loyalties, ideologies, property, income, and power dynamics.

In such a sensitive period, ensuring national security hinges on strengthening national unity. To enhance national unity, it is crucial for the government, political parties, politicians, and every citizen of Mongolia to prioritize and safeguard the fundamental interests of the nation. There are many examples where division, factionalism, partisanship, and conflicts over resources, power, and self-serving behaviors have undermined national interests. These conditions establish a hierarchy of inverted priorities, disrupting equitable income distribution, justice, and legal enforcement, leading to declining living standards, increased poverty and unemployment, weakened government capacity, corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, loss of consistency in foreign policy, and economic dependence. Such issues result in widespread public frustration and loss of trust, pushing the country toward social, economic, and political conflict and crises.

Citizens are losing faith in the path of democracy and a free market economy, which are core national values, and are becoming increasingly disillusioned about the future. National unity is a process that contributes to uniting social and cultural groups. National cohesion aids in creating social order and developing the core principles and values of society. At the national level, unity strengthens the stability of the country, supports development and prosperity, and serves as a means of unifying the nation. Unity is rooted in fostering social and cultural cohesion to build a strong, unified country based on national interests.

*Corresponding Author: Ideshnorov Demberel,
1Researcher, chief of research and innovation division, The National defense university of Mongolia.

National unity is vital for national stability, and stability is essential for the successful implementation of social and economic development programs.

"In the concept of national security of Mongolia" Human rights and freedoms are ensured, constitutional institutions are strengthened, the rule of law, the continuity of the Mongolian state and national unity are respected, the government is strengthened, political parties, civil society organizations, free supporting media development and ensuring social order and stability is the basis of internal security", while emphasizing the role of social psychology in ensuring national security, "Ensuring the unity of social morals, psychological development and values is the basis of national security, It will be the basis for ensuring unity and consensus. expressed that.[1]

Political corruption, economic degradation, unemployment, poverty, malnutrition, drug addiction, education and health decline, exposure to information-psychological attacks, ecological destruction, civilization and genealogy in the social moral and psychological sphere. Many problems such as pollution, in other words, the existence or non-existence of the country will be solved.

Why is national unity important in any country? When answering this question, social scientists highlight the following four phenomena. With national unity firmly established in a country:[2]

1. Conflicts and struggles between nations and ethnic groups are reduced, fostering harmony among the different nations and ethnicities living in one country.
2. A sense of patriotism is cultivated. People understand themselves as citizens of one country rather than merely representatives of different nations and ethnic groups, fostering a love for their homeland.
3. Peace is achieved. As a result, opportunities for everyone to work and live peacefully in all corners of the country open up.

4. Intermarriage between different ethnic and racial groups is encouraged. This elevates and strengthens national unity to a higher level.

The fundamental tenets for strengthening national unity include:

- National cohesion is a goal of state policy aimed at enhancing mutual understanding between different ethnic, racial, and religious groups.
- Cohesion is a process of creating a united group defined by common norms, values, and interests.
- The concept of national unity is a process that unifies society and the nation under a national ideology, which can instill a sense of shared values and common interests among citizens.
- The government needs to convey three fundamental concepts of integration to society, which include cultural uniformity, cooperation, and pluralism.

National unity is based on patriotism. Patriotism motivates and supports the people to unite and work together for the welfare of their country. National unity aims to create cohesion despite the diverse cultural, social, physical, linguistic, religious, political, ideological, and psychological differences.[3]

MAIN FACTORS STRENGTHENING NATIONAL UNITY

In today's globalized world, various factors such as migration, economic crisis, armed conflict, and interreligious tensions have led countries to prioritize national unity in their security policies and actions. This pursuit has given rise to new national characteristics and values that unite the people. In European countries, the presence of numerous immigrants and refugees has encouraged the search for new values that emphasize multiculturalism in order to maintain national unity. This focus seeks to foster coexistence among people of different religions, skin colors, ethnic backgrounds, and languages, highlighting the importance of creating and promoting shared values for harmonious living within one country. For nations to avoid internal decay, fragmentation, conflict, and confrontation, it is critical to have a unified set of values that advances the development of a country collectively. This has prompted countries composed of immigrants, refugees, and various ethnic groups to redefine their national identity.

To strengthen national unity, forming a distinct national character is of utmost importance. If a national character is not developed, social divisions and fragmentation will persist, influenced by ethnicity, social class, and groups. There is currently a lack of a unified understanding of what it means to be a Mongolian citizen, including aspects related to education, upbringing, lifestyle, beliefs, and aspirations. Mongolians should take pride in their history while also striving for forward-looking ambitions, with significant roles played by state policies, particularly in the education sector.

National identity, characterized by unique aspects that differentiate one nation from others, is defined as the individual sense of belonging to a specific country or nation. From a psychological perspective, this can manifest as a tendency to identify with a group as "we" in contrast to "them," recognizing distinct differences. One of the key factors influencing national unity is the elevation of national distinctiveness. In today's rapidly advancing world, where science and technology are evolving, having a unified set of values strengthens a country's cohesion.

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[3]The National Security Concept of Mongolia, 2010

According to a study conducted by the Pew Research Center, based in Washington, D.C., the concept of national identity—what unites a nation and allows individuals to identify as "Mongolian" or "American" no matter where they are in the world—was analyzed in terms of four key aspects. These include:

- **Native Language**
- **National Customs and Traditions**
- **Place of Birth**
- **Beliefs and Religion**

Preserving, protecting, and developing a nation's history, language, culture, heritage, and traditions are fundamental to its survival and serve as critical safeguards. National identity, which binds a nation together and distinguishes it from others, can generally be defined by its language, writing, culture, traditions, and customs. Maintaining and passing down these distinguishing features across generations with pride and respect is essential to ensuring national unity and is a cornerstone of national security.

In countries where diverse ethnicities, languages, cultures, religions, and lifestyles coexist within the same territory under a shared sense of national identity, factors such as language, education, law, economy, and social elements play significant roles in fostering national unity.

Language and National Unity:

The native language of a nation is crucial to strengthening unity. At first glance, the concept of national unity may appear to be a political tool for governance. However, it is also an inseparable aspect of internal policy that creates a cohesive society.

In 2016, the Pew Research Center conducted a survey on "National Identity" involving 14,514 participants from 14 countries. The results revealed that the majority of respondents viewed proficiency in their native language as essential:

- 70% in the United States
- 77% in European countries
- 70% in Japan
- 69% in Australia
- 59% in Canada

These findings highlight the importance of native language as a guarantee of a nation's continuity and security.

The threat of instability is a challenge faced by every society, and building a prosperous nation without obstacles is impossible. The native language is essential in overcoming such challenges.

The role of language is categorized into four primary functions:

1. **Cognitive Function**
2. **Instrumental Function**
3. **Integrative Function**
4. **Cultural Function**

Language not only serves as a crucial element of national unity and the process of nation-building, but it also plays a significant role in the social and political spheres. In various contexts, language influences social and political processes in diverse ways. Some notable examples include:

- **Indonesian Language**: Adapted from a neutral base language, Malay, to unify a linguistically diverse population.

- **Hebrew Language**: Revived as the primary language of the Jewish people, becoming a key to their national unity after it had faded over time.
- **Polish Language**: Survived even when Poland was politically erased from the map, maintaining a connection to Polish society.

The Indonesian Language

Before Indonesia's independence, over 300 ethnic groups with distinct languages and cultures coexisted within its borders. Political struggles and conflicts among these groups posed significant threats to national unity. After 300 years of Germanic influence and Dutch colonization, Indonesia declared its independence during the revolution of 1945–1949.

To consolidate national unity, Indonesian leaders recognized the importance of a single unifying language. Given Indonesia's geographic diversity—comprising over 13,000 islands, 240 million people, and more than 400 languages—the process of uniting the nation under one language was particularly challenging.

Post-colonial nations had to make decisions about their official language. Indonesia's leaders faced several options:

- **An international language**, such as German (the colonizer's language).
- **A local language**, such as Javanese, spoken by the majority ethnic group.
- **A regional language**, such as Malay.

Ultimately, they chose to develop a new Indonesian language based on Malay, rejecting both the colonizer's language and the dominant ethnic group's language, as both options posed barriers to national cohesion. In 1945, Indonesia enshrined this decision in its constitution, designating the Malay-based Indonesian language as the national language. It became the primary tool for uniting Indonesia's diverse ethnic groups.

Language as a Tool of Nation-Building

Malaysia's government similarly recognizes that developing and localizing a national language is crucial to the foundation of a sovereign state. Language is not only a powerful tool for individuals to express their beliefs and opinions but also a critical force for fostering a collective national consciousness.

Israel and the Hebrew Language

Hebrew was the spoken language of ancient Israel, but due to harsh historical circumstances, it became a dormant language for some time. Despite this, the language—dating back to the 12th century BCE—persisted among the Jewish people and was eventually revived. In 1953, the Israeli government established the Hebrew Language Academy. Today, Hebrew is the primary language of Israel, spoken by 5 million people.

The Hebrew language has been a cornerstone of the survival of the Jewish nation, uniting Jews worldwide and ensuring their cultural continuity.

Polish Language

Polish belongs to the West Slavic language group. Even during the 123 years when Poland lost its sovereignty, the Polish language played a critical role in maintaining the unity of the Polish people. Poland experienced three partitions: the first in 1772, the second in

1793, and the third in 1795, which resulted in its territory being divided among the Russian Empire, Austria, and the Kingdom of Prussia. Despite this, the Polish people dedicated themselves to preserving their language and culture, making the Polish language a vital element of national unity. It became a key tool in their struggle for freedom and independence. The Polish language is an exemplary case of how a language can preserve a nation's identity and spirit.

The Role of Education in National Unity

The education system is essential in strengthening national unity, preparing future leaders, training the workforce, and uniting diverse ethnic groups with different religions, languages, and cultures. Education systematically disseminates shared ideas and values, shaping the unified outlook of future citizens. For this reason, countries often use schooling to foster national cohesion and instill shared ideals in their populations.[4]

The Role of Law in National Unity

A single legal framework enables diverse ethnic groups within a country to build a common future and work towards shared goals. Laws serve as a unifying force by protecting the rights of all and providing a foundation for national cohesion. For instance, the Constitution of Mongolia emphasizes:

"We, the people of Mongolia,"

Affirming our nation's sovereignty and independence, upholding human rights, justice, and national unity, cherishing our statehood, history, and cultural heritage, and respecting the achievements of human civilization, commit to building a humane and democratic society in our homeland.

The Constitution establishes the principles of a unified and sovereign nation as fundamental elements of national unity.

The Role of the Economy in National Unity

Economic stability fosters peace and harmony among citizens. A nation's economy is driven by its people, who must meet basic needs such as food, housing, and a safe environment to raise children. When these needs are unmet, societal unrest and instability often follow. Thus, economic stability is a cornerstone of national unity.

The National Security Concept of Mongolia highlights:

- Ensuring economic independence and sustainable development.
- Promoting a diversified and balanced economy, implementing sound investment policies, and safeguarding financial security.
- Adopting effective policies for energy, resources, and international trade integration.

Singapore: A Model of Economic Stability and Unity

Singapore's transformation from a small, resource-scarce island to one of the world's wealthiest nations is a testament to the power of economic stability in fostering national unity. Before World War II, Singapore served as a naval base for Britain. After gaining independence, it faced significant challenges due to its lack of natural resources, including drinking water, and its ethnically diverse population of Chinese, Malays, and Indians.

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[4]*The Journal of Modern African Studies, 5,3 (1967),* pp.323-324 **"Education and National Integration in Nigeria"** Alan Peshkin, Cambridge University Press (1967)

Under the leadership of Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore pursued a unique path of development, prioritizing national unity and economic growth. Lee's principles emphasized fairness in sharing the benefits of economic development. Singapore created stable jobs, promoted savings, ensured access to quality housing and healthcare, and improved education standards. These policies enabled citizens to reap tangible benefits, strengthening their unity and sense of belonging. During Lee's tenure, Singapore experienced continuous job growth, rising prosperity, and a quality of life comparable to the wealthiest nations. His philosophy—"A strong leader and a robust economy keep citizens at home, where they can live well"—underscored Singapore's success.

SOCIETY AND NATIONAL UNITY

The social policies of any country must prioritize the well-being of its people, as the nation's development and prosperity are directly tied to human development. This area of state policy encompasses all social groups, including women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and youth. It addresses a wide range of issues, such as providing healthcare, education, social welfare, and protection services, as well as reducing unemployment and poverty.

Social policy refers to a broad sector of government policy aimed at developing social infrastructure, delivering various social services to citizens, and ensuring normal living conditions, including reproductive and general well-being. Through social policy, nations aim to uphold and implement the guarantees of human rights and freedoms outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and their respective constitutions.

To remain effective, social policies must evolve and be refined in accordance with the economic and social conditions of the time. In other words, policies must be based on specific circumstances, monitored and evaluated during implementation, and adjusted and improved as needed.

As social life becomes increasingly interconnected and complex, it requires that individuals' lives and activities reflect diverse and holistic characteristics. A society that ensures its social policies reach every citizen foster stability, development, and strengthened national unity.

The world to globalization, becoming a connecting bridge, information that provides the opportunity to condense time and space, culture, and civilization to the second and minute, and the advancement of technology that transmits it. The girls were not raped by Mongolian youths. However, more and more computers can receive, distribute, and transmit information about all aspects. Nowadays, free access to information technology communication has influenced the development of many social phenomena that are important for our society.[5]

FACTORS AND DANGERS AFFECTING NATIONAL UNITY

The primary threats to national unity are various forms of disputes, conflicts, and crises. In modern times, the root causes of conflicts include ethnicity, religion, economic factors, and demographics. Concurrently, issues such as shared water resources, clean air, natural disasters like earthquakes, and ecological pressures are increasingly likely to become sources of global conflict in the future. A detailed breakdown of these factors includes:

- Territorial and boundary disputes.

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[5]SOME ISSUE OF THE IMPACT OF INFORMATION FLOW ON

- Ownership and distribution of natural resources.
- Nationalist and racial ideologies.
- Religious conflicts.
- Traditional lifestyles and customs.
- Extreme nationalism.
- Economic interests (e.g., control over raw materials).
- Competition for control over information sources.

These crises and conflicts often arise due to the influence of external nations or internal instabilities within a country.

EXTERNAL THREATS TO NATIONAL UNITY

External factors that threaten national unity encompass a wide range of influences. The main subjects of international political conflicts are independent states and their alliances or coalitions. However, organizations representing these nations, such as socio-political entities (similar to socialist internationals), trade unions, ideological movements, and religious organizations, can also serve as key actors in these conflicts.

There are many classifications of international political conflicts based on the nature of the conflict, its characteristics, political and strategic objectives, scope, means employed, and the ideological stances of the participants. Political content is particularly critical within these classifications. Therefore, the following categories are commonly used:

1. **Conflicts between states with different socio-political systems:**

   These conflicts aim to weaken or eliminate opposing systems while imposing their own way of life. Such ideological conflicts were particularly significant during the 20th century, when opposing systems like socialism and capitalism coexisted.

2. **Conflicts over regional dominance:**

   These occur between states (whether from the same or different socio-political systems) aiming to establish political and economic control in specific regions of the world.

3. **National liberation or subjugation conflicts:**

   These involve struggles between nations to either enslave or liberate one another.

4. **Territorial disputes:**

   These conflicts are based on the desire to seize foreign territories or reclaim previously occupied lands.

5. **Religious conflicts:**

   While these disputes often occur within domestic political frameworks, many historical international conflicts have also arisen from religious disagreements.

In addition to these categories, a wide range of objective and subjective conditions contribute to the onset of international conflicts, including specific causes and underlying opportunities.

Ethnic and Religious Conflicts

A **nation** is the highest form of ethnicity that encompasses groups unified by a common territory, civilization, language, culture, and ancestral lineage. **Ethnic conflicts** arise between one or more opposing ethnic groups within a society. Such disputes are often instigated by individuals seeking to elevate the status of their ethnicity within the social structure.

A clear example of **religious conflict** can be observed in the crises of the Middle East. Initially, divisions within Islamic states were rooted in religious ideologies. Over time, these evolved into disputes over territory and geopolitics, eventually involving external powers, which led to the rise of terrorism with political motives. The ongoing conflict between the Sunni and Shia branches of Islam exemplifies this. Although Shia Muslims represent only 10% of the global Islamic population, they have historically been resolute and strong in their struggles. Tragically, armed uprisings stemming from religious disputes have claimed the lives of thousands of civilians.

Political Crises

Political crises refer to situations where existing conflicts deepen, and state stability deteriorates sharply. This concept is essential in analyzing disputes that challenge the state's institutional and political structures.

Political crises can be categorized as:

1. **External political crises**, stemming from international disputes and conflicts.
2. **Internal political crises**, originating within a country's domestic issues.

Internal crises are often more dangerous to national unity than external factors. In Mongolia, internal political crises remain a pressing issue.

For instance, former Minister of Foreign Affairs L. Purevsuren emphasized this in an interview with the *Daily Newspaper*:

L. Purevsuren: I served as the President's National Security and Foreign Policy Advisor for 10 years. During that time, many people asked me, "What are the factors influencing Mongolia's national security?" Most often, they sought external culprits—Russia or China. I always gave one answer: it doesn't depend on these two. The primary influencing factor is internal unity. Without domestic unity, we cannot achieve a coherent foreign policy. Even past governments struggled to present a unified front in foreign relations, particularly in dealing with our two neighbors. Ministers say one thing, while members of parliament express entirely different positions. Such disunity plays directly into the hands of foreign powers.[6]

This highlights that domestic disunity undermines both national cohesion and foreign policy effectiveness, leaving the nation vulnerable to external exploitation.

Government Crisis

A **government crisis** occurs when a government loses credibility, and its directives are not implemented by subordinate organizations. This is a common phenomenon in political systems. If the government fails to overcome such challenges, the parliament may withdraw its support and dismiss the cabinet. Government crises often lead to changes in leadership and shifts in governance structures.

Parliamentary Crisis

A **parliamentary crisis** arises when the decisions made by the parliament do not align with the majority of citizens' expectations, leading to shifts in the balance of power within the legislative branch.

Such crises typically result in the dissolution of parliament and the announcement of new elections.[7]

Parliamentary crises are especially likely when opposing political forces within the legislature are nearly equal in strength. This deadlock can obstruct decision-making and render the legislative process ineffective. Consequently, dissolving the parliament and holding fresh elections becomes necessary.

Constitutional Crisis

A **constitutional crisis** occurs when the implementation of the country's primary legal framework comes to a near halt. During such crises, the constitution loses its legitimacy, and a comprehensive review or complete overhaul of the legal framework is required.

These crises reflect profound instability within political systems, impacting governance, legislative processes, and legal foundations, thereby endangering national cohesion and effective administration.

Political crisis

The legitimacy of governance structures deteriorates, and interactions between various centers cease. One center imposes obstacles and restrictions on another, resulting in reduced effectiveness of socio-political coordination and control, alongside diminished political opposition. The forms of political resistance progressively emerge in identifiable phases. Depending on the causes of the political crisis and its manifestations, political science distinguishes the following forms. These primarily include crises akin to legitimacy and crises regarding political participation and penetration.

A legal or juridical crisis: arises when the goals and values of the ruling regime conflict with the public's perception of the norms of good governance, political regulations, and form. This crisis is directly related to the subjective side of the conflict. Precisely for this reason, even if the reality improves, it may lead to a crisis if it does not compare favorably to what the citizens have been hoping for, potentially resulting in open social resistance or even revolution.

Crisis of Homogeneity: It arises from the breakdown of the values and ideals that were dominant in the political culture of society. This manifests as individuals seek to understand their position in society and how it relates to the government, often searching for a philosophical direction. Particularly during times of major reform, skepticism arises regarding whether the new social and political norms provided are sufficient to enhance individual living conditions, which intensifies the crisis of homogeneity. The crisis of political involvement is characterized by the deliberate obstruction of politically active groups, who announce their ambitions to gain power, by the ruling elite, especially in conditions where the political engagement of conflicting interest groups is rapidly increasing, leading to heightened concerns about territorial integrity, national unity, and political stability.

Amid the expanding political framework, the diversification of interests among groups competing for power becomes evident. Concurrently, the development of a system that represents social interests is weak, and the political structure fails to align fully with the demands and aspirations of the citizenry. The ruling authorities show insufficient courage in thwarting the actions of political extremists and radicals, exacerbating the overall political situation, leading to unpredictable consequences for governance and society as a whole.

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[6]Minister of Foreign Affairs L. Purevsuren: "We must maintain internal unity and implement foreign policy through a single framework," *Udriin Sonin* (Daily Newspaper), May 14, 2015.

4.Social Studies by Simiyu Wandibba, pp. 231-233.

The crisis of implementation manifests: As a decline in the government's ability to execute its decisions across various sectors of social life. The reason for this phenomenon is related to the disparity between real policies and the goals proclaimed by the government. The crisis of implementation primarily affects the vertical relationship between central and local authorities. Additionally, the lack of political experience among citizens and the low level of public consciousness significantly contribute to the misinterpretation of central decisions, playing a considerable role in the emergence of this phenomenon.

Internal Political Conflict: The characteristic of internal political conflict is the struggle among any social class, political party, movement, or group for political interests and leadership. The ways to avoid internal political conflict include, first and foremost, social and political maneuvering, political manipulation, integrating negative elites, weakening the system's opposing forces, as well as tactics such as coercive suppression.

CONCLUSIONS

- National unity is the cornerstone of societal stability, economic progress, and global standing. Countries must address internal divisions and external pressures by prioritizing inclusive policies, preserving cultural heritage, and ensuring equitable development.
- A shared national identity and collective commitment to mutual goals are vital to overcoming challenges and fostering unity.
- Governments play a critical role in fostering unity through policies in education, language preservation, legal frameworks, and economic development.

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